

CHAPTER III

THE STUDY DESIGN

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Urbanism has been conceived as a way of life emerging out of the process of urbanization. In order to examine the mode of urbanism in a particular society, one has to study the life and behaviour pattern of urban dwellers in their entirety. It implies the study of interactions of the people in different facets, namely, family and kin groups, economic and political associations, social and cultural organizations, work and leisure, neighbourhood and friendship circles etc. A summated analysis of interaction patterns in these different facets can provide an integrated view of the prevailing urbanism while a multi-faceted study may be ideal for delineating the mode of urbanism. For the present study housing and neighbourhood relations have been treated as the base-indicator to explain the nature of urbanism at a particular place and over a particular period of time and also to understand the urban social situation in India.

A precise assessment of the quality and quantity of housing and neighbourhood relationship may go a long way in exposing the true nature of urbanism. Urbanism as a way of life may be explicated by the interplay of a few variables like length of stay in the city, socio-economic status, and the neighbourhood pattern. It is these variables which influences housing pattern and neighbourhood relationships. An examination and analysis of these independent variables in conjunction with the dependent variables of housing and neighbourhood relationships will provide an analytical insight into the dynamics of urban housing pattern and neighbourhood relationships which in its turn may offer empirical and theoretical leads into the understanding of urbanism as a way of life. Besides this theoretical rationale, a factual knowledge and understanding of the housing, the neighbourhood interaction and relationships with traditional collectivities such as caste, kin and native people, the nature and extent of people's participation, the role of formal and informal groups may furnish an adequate basis for planning the development of urban communities.

Thus, an analysis and measurement of housing pattern and neighbourhood relationships in urban life may be a useful indicator of a community's potentialities, its structural weakness and strength as also its general preparedness for development and growth. In brief this study of housing and neighbourhood relationships would spell out the influence of certain important variables on housing and neighbourhood relationships, the dynamics of housing and neighbourhood relationships would unravel the nature of urbanism in the Indian situation to a considerable extent and also provide an adequate planning base for any programme of urban community development.

Objectives

1. To know the existing pattern of housing and homogeneity/heterogeneity continuum in terms of economic status, religious groups, lingual groups, and caste concentration.
2. To trace the neighbourhood knowledge in terms of familiarity, facility, and tendency in the neighbourhood and the problems associated with neighbourhood interaction.
3. To measure the neighbourhood perception in terms of responsibility, quality and safety and the influence of independent variables on neighbourhood perception.
4. To find out the overall neighbourhood preference in terms of religious, caste, and lingual groups.
5. To assess the neighbourhood relationships and the influence of independent variables on neighbourhood relationship.

The Universe

The study has been carried out in the city of Coimbatore, the Manchester of South India, an industrial city, and a commercial entrepot. It is the third largest city in Tamil Nadu after Chennai and Madurai. The expansion of Coimbatore has resulted in status and jurisdictional change over time. It was made a special grade municipality in 1963 and has grown substantially and is now a corporation. The city had a population of 2,86,305 in 1961 and 8,16,321 in 1991. In absolute terms, the population of Coimbatore

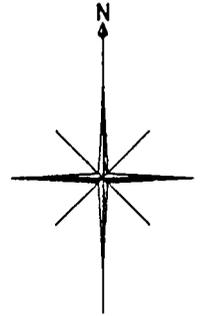
in 1991 was more than 15 times of what it was at the beginning of the century. As the population increased in response to the development of industries and trade; new residential colonies were developed in Rathina Sababathi Puram, Ram Nagar, Gandhipuram and Tatabad. But after 1960, new residential areas like Sai Baba Colony and Ramalinganagar have sprung up. The residential land use of the city is along the pattern common to most towns in Tamil Nadu - high densities in older parts and low densities in many planned developing areas. The South, South-west, South-east, North-eastern parts of the city comprise of the poor and working class; whereas the west North-west and old European areas in the central Eastern parts of the city account for the upper middle class and affluent sections of population. Hence for purpose of this study middle class residential areas like Ram Nagar, Gandhipuram, Tatabad / Sivanandha Colony, Sai Baba Colony (K.K.Pudur/ Bharathi Park) and R.S. Puram have been selected (Table 3.1.).

Table No. 3.1. Area and Proportion of Sample

Area	Number of Households	Percentage of Households	Sample Households
Gandhipuram	227	3	12
Tatabad/Sivanandha Colony	335	4	16
Sai Baba Colony (K.K.Pudur)	4426	53	212
Ram Nagar	348	4	16
Sai Baba Colony (Bharathi Park)	2125	25	100
R.S. Puram	914	11	44
Total	8375	100	400

Figure 1 :

Districts of Tamil Nadu

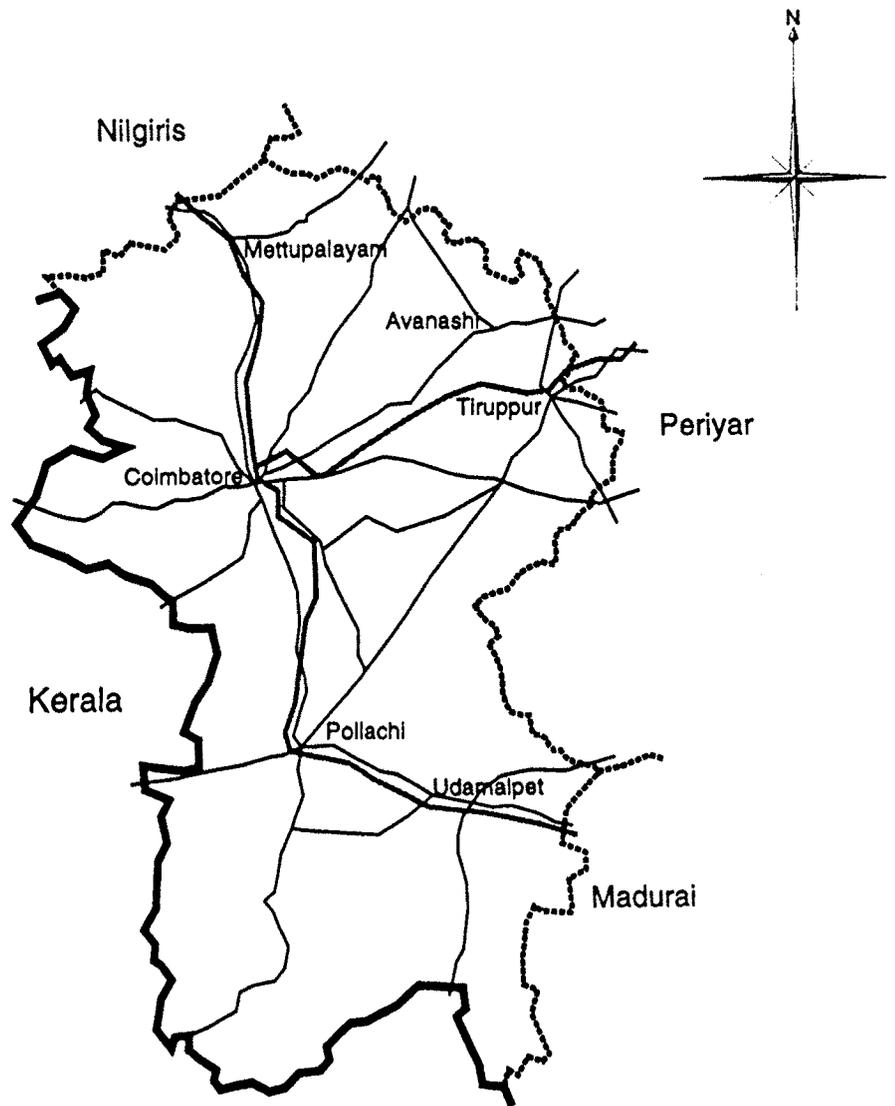


0 80 Km

A horizontal scale bar with a vertical tick at the left end labeled '0' and another vertical tick at the right end labeled '80 Km'.

Figure 2:

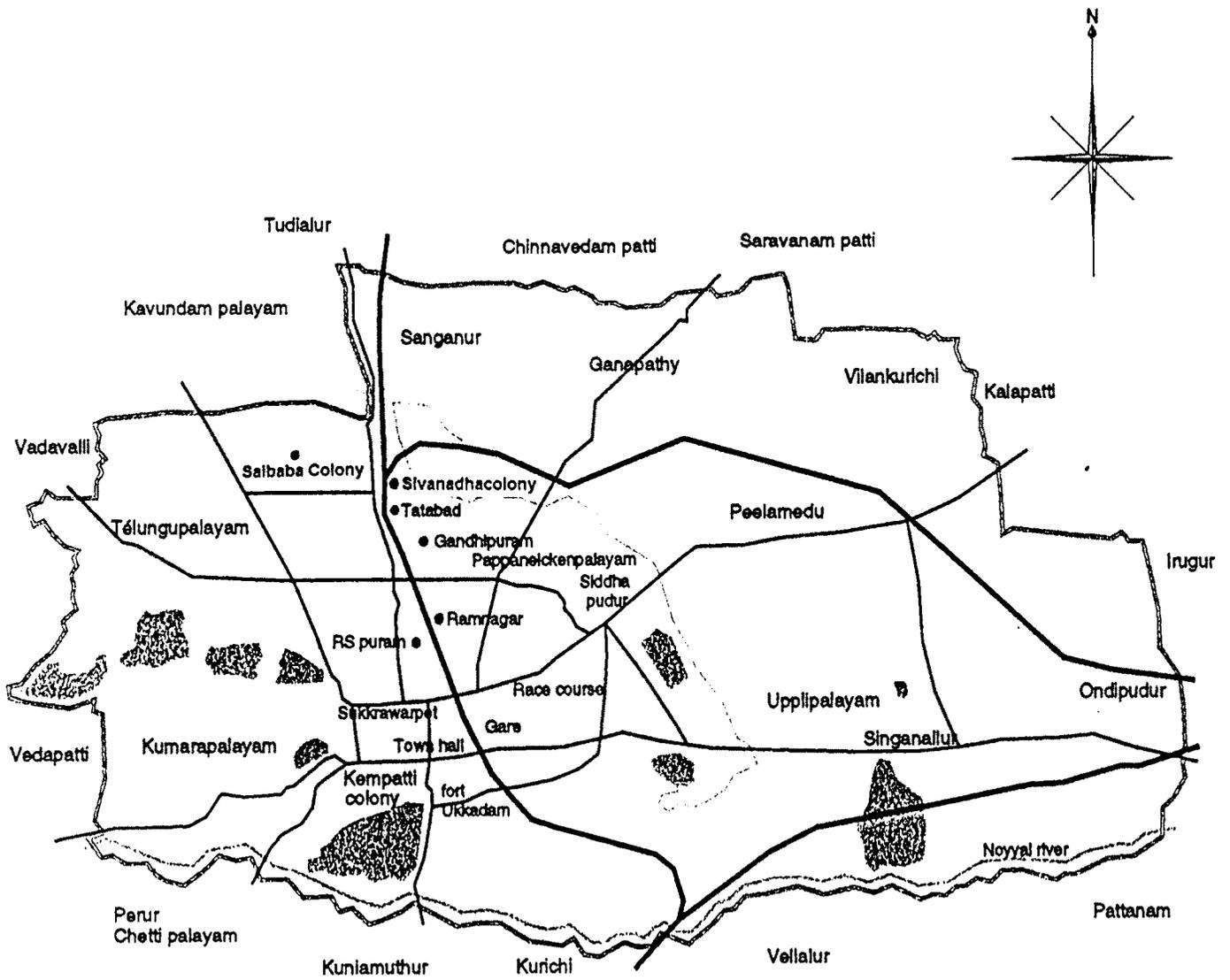
Coimbatore District (Tamil Nadu)



0 — 10 km

Figure 3 :

Corporation of Coimbatore



0 1 Km

The Sample

Since the purpose of this study is to relate housing and neighbourhood relationships with a number of variables determinative of neighbourhood relations, the research design permits the availability of a sufficiently large number of respondents for the purpose of analysis. In all, 400 respondents have been interviewed forming about 4.8 per cent of the total households of these residential areas. While purposive sampling was resorted to in the selection of the neighbourhoods, the sample of households was drawn up through random sampling with the help of Random Numbers Table.

Methodology

The overall methodological orientation of this study is descriptive in nature. Although the study is non-experimental, it tests causal relationships to a certain extent.

Preparation of the Study Tools - Schedule

Though the general orientation has been empirical and statistical, the analysis has been carried out in depth and supplemented by qualitative data wherever possible. A schedule was developed for the purpose of interviewing and collection of data on housing and neighbourhood relationships. The schedule consisted of questions on personal data about respondents, socio-economic status, housing and other civic facilities available, migratory status, leisure-time activities, residential information, neighbourhood relationships, formal and informal participation, neighbourhood preference and neighbourhood perception in terms of responsibility, quality and safety. Most of the questions in the schedule were structured though a few questions were also open-ended.

Scales

The structured research tool constructed for the study has scales to measure neighbourhood relationships and its related variables.

1. Neighbourliness Scale:

This scale is modified version of Jessie Bernard's 'Neighbouring Practice Scale'. The variable measured is the relative amount of neighbouring by different kinds of people. The scale consists of nine questions related to neighbouring practices and each question has five-point responses, each having been assigned different values. On the basis of these values, item-total scale scores have been obtained. Thus each respondent has secured a neighbourliness score ranging from nine to forty five.

2. Neighbourhood Environment Scale:

The scale consists of each 10 questions formulated to get the measure of neighbourhood environment in the dimensions of responsibility, quality and safety. Each question has five-point responses, each having been assigned different values. On the basis of these values, item-total scale score have been obtained for each dimension. Thus each respondent has secured a neighbourhood environment score ranging from ten to fifty for each dimension. With a view to test the validity of the scale and standardising it, inter-item correlations have been worked out. The reliability coefficient is 0.81 for neighbourhood responsibility, 0.89 for neighbourhood quality and 0.79 for neighbourhood safety.

Pre-testing

The schedule was pretested among a representative sample of respondents in the neighbourhoods. A sample of 20 respondents was interviewed and a preliminary analysis was made to critically examine various items of the schedule, their form, content and ordering. Some questions were modified and a few new ones were added.

Data Collection

The data for this study was collected between August and November 1999. During the process of interviewing the researcher experienced some difficulties in establishing rapport as the respondents suspected the researcher to be from Income-tax office,

Municipality, Housing Inspector, etc. The investigator also faced some inconvenience that many of the respondents were busy with their children for sending to schools or when they felt that the researcher was encroaching the time of employed respondents. The investigator experienced difficulties in getting particulars about plinth area, total number of houses in that area etc from the Housing Board.

Data Analysis

The entire data processing was done on the computer using SPSS package. Extensive use of Chi-square tests of significance has been made to establish associational relationships between the variables. Correlational analysis has also been made for supporting the associational relationships obtained through Chi-square tests.

Organization of the thesis

The first chapter deals with the introduction on housing and neighbourhood relationships. It also draws upon the importance on the value of a neighbourhood in housing and its relation with urbanization. Various aspects of literature pertaining to the study problem is reviewed in the second chapter.

The third chapter "The Study Design" portrays the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the universe and the sample, operational definition and explanations, preparation of study tools, and development of scales for measuring neighbourhood variables.

Research setting and background characteristics of the respondents are explained in the fourth chapter. Migratory status and settlement in the city are explained in the fifth chapter.

The sixth chapter depicts the household particulars, which includes the nature of housing, satisfaction regarding infrastructural facilities and basic amenities and overall

housing satisfaction. Influences of certain background characteristics on the above said aspects were analysed.

The seventh chapter has been divided into three sections. First section explains the neighbourhood knowledge in terms of familiarity, facility, tendency in the neighbourhood and the problems associated with neighbourhood interaction. The neighbourhood perception in terms of responsibility, quality, and safety and influence of certain independent variables on neighbourhood perception was also analysed. Second section gives the neighbourhood preference in terms of homogeneity and heterogeneity with regard to religious, caste and lingual, occupational and income groups are also ascertained in this section. Third section pertains to the interaction prevailing in the neighbourhood, neighbourliness and neighbourhood participation (formal and informal) in terms of social activities.

The last chapter deals with the summary of the findings, conclusion drawn and suggestions.