# STUDIES IN URBAN GEOGRAPHY OF LATUR CITY OF MAHARASHTRA STATE OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GROWTH AND MORPHOLOGY

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Urban geography is a recently developed branch of human geography dealing with the study of compact non-agricultural settlements, mainly in towns and cities. Latur city is one of the fast growing cities in Aurangabad division in Maharashtra and to-date no systematic study has been done on urban geography. In the light of this situation this study was undertaken by the authors. Both primary and secondary data were collected for the study and the morphology of Latur city was analysed. The urban land of Latur has been put to various uses like agriculture, housing, roads, commercial buildings, public establishments, industries, education, recreation and health purposes, in the order of importance. The maximum utilization for commercial purposes is met with in Sector No. I. It is followed by Sector No. IV. The present investigation reveals that Latur is quite peculiar in many respects as out of total of 3255.95 hectares of urban land 575.93 hectares or 17.69% are utilized for various other purposes. When the various uses are critically diagnosed, 24.52 hectares is residential. It is followed by the industrial areas which occupies 281.97 hectares or 8.66% of the total area. This is the second largest utilization, only next to the vacant areas. When types of utilization are considered individually, maximum percentage of residential land is being concentrated in Sector No. 139.13 hectare followed by Sector No. X and IX as second and third respectively. The maximum utilization for commercial purposes is met with in Sector No. I of the total urban land. It is followed by Sector No. IV.

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