

Preface

Enrichment of quality of life is an important national policy issue in every country. A number of studies have been taken out on quality of life from a range of disciplines such as sociology, geography, economics, planning, psychology, and public health. The relevance of the topic has also moved a number of international organizations to publish cross-country and intercity comparisons on quality of life. With increasing urbanization, cities are facing resource crunches and deteriorations of socio-physical environment that affect the well-being of individuals. In many developing countries, provisions of services and amenities to city dwellers have been limited, fragmented, and unequal. Localities may vary greatly in terms of quality of life. Within a particular neighbourhood, level of satisfaction may also vary from one person to another. A comprehensive analysis of quality of life, therefore, should encompass both objective and subjective measures of quality of life. Another theme of the book is residential differentiation which is deeply intertwined with spatial variation in quality of life. Past studies have shown that cities are usually differentiated on the basis of socio-economic class, ethnicity, and family-related attributes. The present study is an attempt to seek and provide the underlying dimensions of residential differentiation in a hilly, medium-sized city with ethnically homogenous population in the remote eastern extension of Himalayan Mountains. It also covers the fast emerging theme on residential differentiation and vertical social differentiation.

The book is empirical and methodological. Multivariate statistical techniques such as factor analysis, principal component analysis, and cluster analysis were employed to observe residential pattern, variation in quality of life, and social areas of the study area, respectively. Spatial autocorrelation techniques such as global Moran's I and Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA) were also tested to see the spatial pattern of residential areas on the basis of their scores in quality of life. Apart from these, an in-depth survey on approaches and literatures pertaining to residential differentiation and quality of life from multidisciplinary perspective is also provided. The book, in its entirety, is the first-ever attempt to present the spatial pattern of both quality of life and residential differentiation in Aizawl city.

There are seven chapters in the book. Chapter 1 is an introduction of the study. Chapter 2 is a general discussion on the physical, socio-economic, and demographic characteristics of Aizawl city. Important physical and socio-economic characteristics which could be linked up with the main themes of the study are described and analysed. Chapter 3 deals with the methodology of the study. It consists of the whole design of the research including sampling technique, determination of sample size, scheme of preparation of schedule, and method of data collection. A detail description is also given on quantitative techniques such as factor analysis, principal component analysis, cluster analysis, and measures of spatial autocorrelation such as global Moran's I and Local Indicators of Spatial Association (LISA), all of which are employed in the study. Chapter 4 is an analysis of residential differentiation in Aizawl city. This chapter is subdivided into two parts. The first part is a factorial ecological study on horizontal pattern of residential differentiation while the second part is a study on vertical pattern of residential differentiation. Chapter 5 is a study on quality of life (QOL) in Aizawl city. It includes identification of dimensions and indicators of QOL, development of composite indices of QOL with the help of principal component analysis, as well as correlation analysis of objective and subjective QOL. In Chap. 6, spatial autocorrelation techniques such as global Moran's I and LISA were employed to find out spatial pattern of clustering and dispersion of residential areas in the study area. Moreover, social areas of Aizawl city are also identified with the help of cluster analysis.

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