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Title of Paper: **NEW URBANIZATION TRENDS IN PUNJAB,
PAKISTAN AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE LAHORE
METROPOLIS**

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BIOGRAPHY

Professor Zaidi is currently serving as a tenured Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his Ph.D. degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Birmingham, U.K. in 1990. He obtained his M.Sc. degree in Human Settlements Planning from AIT, Bangkok in 1982 and B.Sc. degree in City and Regional Planning in 1975 from UET, Lahore, Pakistan. He was awarded the Best University Teacher Award by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in 2002. Prof. Zaidi, has more than 40 research publications published in the national and international journals and proceedings of the conferences.

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NEW URBANIZATION TRENDS IN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN AND THEIR EFFECT ON THE LAHORE METROPOLIS

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan with a population of 170 million (in 2008), is one of the fastest urbanizing countries of the world. Punjab is one of its largest and the most developed province. Lahore Metropolis, with a current population of 7 million is the capital of Punjab province. At the time of independence in 1947, only 15 percent of the population of Pakistan lived in urban areas. Today, the urban proportion of its population is above 40 percent. It is expected that by the year 2030 the majority of its population will be living in urban areas. However, our urbanization study indicates that most of its urban population will be living in the large cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. This is mainly due to the trend of shifting of rural population to the large cities bypassing the middle order towns. In Punjab province, 5 cities will become metropolises having a population of more than 4 million each. Lahore's population will rise to above 15 million by 2030. Although these cities will rise in population ranking, but the question is weather their "livability ranking" will improve or slide down. The current trends indicate that their livability ranking will slide down

tremendously if nothing is done to improve their environments. Traffic jams, high air pollution levels, lack of parking spaces and poor law and order situation are all indicative of this trend. Thus, it is imperative to make corrective efforts and carry out planning for sustainable development of these cities. It means that the city administrators and planners will have to make sustained efforts to improve the quality of life (QoL), to decrease cost of living and to reduce pollution levels in these cities so that a peaceful living environment is ensured in future. The urban sprawl and the resultantly increased average trip length for job, schooling, and shopping is another important issue on which planners have to dwell their efforts. Cities are the engines of the economic growth. Recent research also suggests that cities attract human capital and talent by offering a range of lifestyle amenities. Thus, city rankings are becoming more and more important with the passage of time and this makes planning intervention in cities more relevant.

This paper will present an analysis of the current urbanization trends in Punjab and, taking the example of Lahore Metropolis, it will explore the city ranking indicators that need to be improved through proper urban planning.

KEY WORDS: Urbanization trends, Rank Size Analysis of Cities, Livability Ranking, Quality of Life (QoL), Planning for Sustainable Development.