

# **ROLE OF SMALL TOWNS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN PUNJAB**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The big cities all over the world as well as in Pakistan are expanding rapidly and their sprawl is resulting into manifold problems for the state as well as for the peoples. The investment on development project is unequal and there is disparity and uneven development pattern throughout the Punjab province of Pakistan. There is high concentration of basic facilities of education and health in metropolitans and other big cities. Therefore, the migration from rural to urban areas is vibrant and uncontrolled one. There are some medium to large size small towns located in between the hierarchy which can play very vital role to lesson the burden of big cities if properly developed and provided with basic facilities like education, health, employment and daily shopping. The present study was designed to identify and assess the role of these small towns that they can play in the rural development regarding health and education. Two small towns namely Farooq Abad and Khanqah Dogran in district Sheikhpura were selected randomly for this research study. The results of the study revealed that these towns are performing very good role regarding education facilities and health services and community is satisfied from their role except some improvement in the provision of basic facilities in schools and health services are needed.

**KEYWORDS:** Small Towns, Rural Development, Dynamics, Hierarchical, Satisfaction Level, Sprawl