

ABSTRACT

Shrine complex has remained an important feature of urban settlement since its inception. For *Zaireen*, it is a place of blessings of saint, point of power for political authorities and source of income for *Waqf* administration.

In first part of this paper, three types of influences acting at Muslim shrines have been studied to explore the charisma of life and institutional arrangement at *Khanaqah*. Ideological influences are purely concerned with *Shaykh* and his cult, devotees and their beliefs. Political influences deal with *Waqf* administration at government as well as private level and third, the Economic influences deal with sources and management of income from all sources at *Dargah*. The manner in which these three types of influences affect the building form and spatial configuration at shrine complex is focused in second part of the study.

1. INTRODUCTION

Shrine in a Muslim society is a great cultural and religious phenomenon in both urban and rural settlements¹. It needs to explore the charisma of life and changes as occur in shrine complex as the time ahead. This can be studied at two levels. One is religious, cultural and political level; that is social environment, whereas second is the space where this phenomenon happens; that is the built environment. Shrine of a Sufi has been declared here as a “Religious Magnet”² in urban settlement. It is the of the *Shaykh* that takes into control the *Zaireen* and attracts them when their wills and wants are fulfilled. In the magnetic field, the force acts and attracts the particles. Similarly, the Sufi or *Shaykh* has his own sphere of influence with a pull force that grips the visitors. This magnetic field of the Sufi is not bound to geographical limits. *Zaireen* and attracts them when their wills and wants are fulfilled. In the magnetic field, the force acts and attracts the particles. Similarly, the Sufi The actions and reactions of these forces create the drama of life at shrine complex that is created by *Zaireen* who pay their visitation and perform the rituals and ceremonies at shrines daily, weekly monthly and annually.³