**Capstone Project: Choice of Neighborhood in Toronto for Punjabi Restaurant**

**Introduction:**

One of the largest South-East Asian ethnic groups to live in Canada are the Punjabis, hailing from the Northwestern parts of India and Eastern Pakistan. Punjabis first arrived in Canada during the late 19th century to work in the forestry industry. Primarily concentrated in the western province of British Columbia, the Punjabi population initially peaked in 1908 before an ensuing period of population decline and stagnation followed. In the mid-20th-century Canadian immigration laws were relaxed, fostering rapid population growth into the present day. Today, the largest Punjabi communities in Canada are situated in the province of British Columbia, concentrated in Vancouver, and the province of Ontario, particularly in Toronto. The dominant religion of Punjabis, Sikhism is the 7th largest in Canada, accounting for about 1.4% of the total population, roughly 500,000 people as of 2011. But numbers and statistics aside, it is the cultural influence of the Punjabis that has contributed much to the social entropy of the country. Although the largest settlement of Punjabis still remains in British Columbia, By the 1980s, the traditional Punjabi immigration patterns began to shift. Ontario soon became an important center of immigration to Canada. Large Punjabi populations began to appear across the Greater Toronto Area. Later in the 1990s, Alberta became another important immigration destination for Punjabis. Most concentrated in Edmonton and Calgary.

Today, the Punjabi population of Canada is 668,240 with the largest community still located in British Columbia. In addition, Punjabi is the third most spoken language of the Parliament of Canada. So it is quite imperative that there is a burgeoning demand for South-East Asian cuisines across the different neighborhoods of Toronto, and it is this prospect that draws many Punjabi youths from both India and Pakistan to immigrate to Canada, which is also reflected by the data pertaining to worldwide immigration to Canada over the last few decades. So for an aspiring Punjabi youth, qualified in culinary arts or hotel management to open a restaurant in Canada, Toronto is likely to come up as one of the foremost choices. This is where our program comes in, where we can analyze them and visualize the distribution of such region-specific restaurants across different neighborhoods in Toronto so that the person can have a tentative idea of the possible demand that will help him to better decide the final location of his enterprise.

Reference Link:

https://theprint.in/theprint-essential/sikhs-so-powerful-in-canada-its-not-about-numbers/314036/

**Brief description of the data to be used:**

The data to be used are obtained from Wikipedia, converted to an excel file named List 1.xlsx which contains a list of different neighborhoods in Toronto pertaining to the listed postal codes and their corresponding boroughs. The geospatial data containing the latitudes and longitudes for the corresponding postal codes have been obtained from a excel file called Geospatial\_Coordinates. The combined dataset with both the geospatial and neighborhood datasets were combined using pandas, and the specific neighborhoods of interest were obtained from Foursqare location data using the Foursqaure API, to obtain the data regarding various places of interests like restaurants, coffee shops, parks, toy stores etc. given a certain radius of interest. The areas of interest to be investigated as prospective locations for the restaurant were obtained from the Wikipedia page dedicated to Punjabi Canadians.

Links to referenced datasets or webpages:

Neighborhoods in Toronto: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_postal_codes_of_Canada:_M>,

Geospatial\_Coordinates:  [http://cocl.us/Geospatial\_data](https://cocl.us/Geospatial_data)

Wikipedia Page for Punjabi Canadians: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjabi_Canadians>