

CHAPTER IV

Socio-Economic Profile of Vadodara District And The Sample Villages

For the purpose of our study ten villaes from Vadodara Taluka of the district of Baroda were selected. The socio-economic profile of the Baroda district, Vadodara Taluka and sample villages is given below, for providing environmental background to our analysis.

BARODA DISTRICT:

Baroda, also known as Vadodara, is considered to be one of the most beautiful and prominent cities of Gujarat. It was the capital of the former Baroda state. The ancient city of Baroda was called Vatpatra. It has beautiful palaces, gardens, institutions for education and a number of petrochemical and other industries.

PHYSICAL FEATURES:

The district lies between 21'-49' and 22'-49' North latitude and 72'-51' and 74'-17' East longitude. It forms part of the main land of Gujarat. Except for the eastern portion of the district which contains hillocks, the rest of the district is comprises of or less level land.

The district is served by two major rivers, Narmada and

Mahi. The climate of the district is hot and dry in summers and hot and moisty in the rainy season which is confined to four months from June to September. Winters are moderate.

The normal rainfall for Vadodara is 938 m.mms. The soil and climate of the district is most suitable for cultivation of bajri, tobacco, orchard, and cotton.

Demographic Features

According to the 1981 census the total population of the district was 2,558,092 of which 1,335,338 were males and females were 1,222,754 giving the sex ratio of 916. The corresponding ratio for Gujarat was 942. The percentage of rural and urban population was 62.84 and 37.16 percent respectively.

RURAL PROFILE

The larger part of the district of Baroda is rural as is the case with most of the districts in India. The area, number of households and population of the Baroda District(rural), Vadodara Taluka and sample villages are given in table 4.1

TABLE 4.1

AREA, HOUSEHOLDS, AND POPULATION
OF SAMPLE DISTRICT, TALUKA AND VILLAGES

	Area sq.kms	No.of Households	Population
Baroda District (rural)	7551.9	280459	1607565
Vadodara Taluka	538.5	38448	202022
<u>SAMPLE VILLAGE</u>	<u>Area hectares</u>		
Varnama	1761.79	857	4283
Raghavpura	370.24	130	705
Hansapura	192.94	43	207
Untiya (Mehdad)	368.57	108	553
Ramangamdi	283.33	114	525
Por	715.14	634	3196
Ankhi	376.93	163	918
Fajalpur (Ankhi)	191.14	83	467
Ramnath	288.32	115	766
Rasulpur	148.36	13	50
Total (Sample Villages)	4696.76	2260	11670

Source: District Census Hand book, Census of India series - 5, Parts xiii- A & B, pp.20-21

As shown in table 4.1 the rural portion of the district of

Baroda was confined to 7551.9 sq. kms and the total rural population was 1,607,565. The number of households in rural Baroda were 28,0459.

According to the 'Socio Economic review of Baroda District', published by the statistics branch of District Panchyat, Vadodara, the average distribution of the rural population showed that about 20 percent were in the age group of 5-14 years, about 34 percent were in the age group 15-44 years and about 41 percent were in the age group of 45-59, Those above 59 plus were about 5 percent.

Vadodara Taluka

As shown in table 4.1 the Vadodara Taluka covered an area of 538.5 sq.kms. The total number of households in the taluka were 3,8448. i.e., about 13.71 percent of the total households of the rural Baroda. The taluka had a population of 202,022, comprising of 12.57 percent of the population of rural Baroda.

SAMPLE VILLAGES

As shown in table 4.1 the ten sample villages together constituted an area of 4696.76 hectares, The average area for the villages turns out to 469.68 hectares. The total number of households in all the villages taken together was 2260, with an average of 226 households per village. The highest number of households was 857, in Vernama, and the lowest number of

households was 13, in Rasulpur. The total population of the villages was 11,670. Average population for the villages works out to 1,167.

DEFINATIONS AND CONCEPTS

Some basic concepts relevant to our study are defined below. According to the district census handbook, 1981 prepared by the Director of census operations Government of Gujarat, the following concepts were defined as:

Rural areas: the basic unit for rural areas is a revenue village which has a definite boundary and may comprise of several hamlets.

Households: A household is a group of persons who commonly live together and would take their meals from a common kitchen unless the exigencies of work prevented any of them from doing so. There may be households of persons related by blood or a household of unrelated persons or having a mix of both.

Scheduled castes /scheduled tribes: The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes as notified under the constitution of Gujarat state have been treated as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Literates: A person who can both read and write with understanding in any language is taken as literate. A person who can merely read and can not write is not literate.

Main Workers: The main worker is a person who works for major part of the year in any economically productive activity by major part of the year, that is the person worked for 183 days or more. It means, if he has worked in a particular activity for six months or more is considered a main worker.

Those who worked for less than six months are known as marginal workers. The main activity of workers have been classified into four categories

a) cultivator: a person is working as cultivator if he/she is engaged either as employer, single worker or family worker in cultivation of land owned or held from Government or held from private persons or institutions for payment in money, kind or share. Cultivation includes supervision or direction of cultivation. Cultivation involves ploughing, sowing, harvesting and production of cereals and other crops.

(b) Agricultural labour: a person who works in another persons land for wages in money, kind, or share in crops is regarded as agricultural labourer.

(c) Household industry; household industry is defined as an industry conducted by head of the household himself/herself and or by the members of the household at home or within the village in the rural areas. It includes manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs etc.

(d) Other workers: all workers that is those who have been engaged in economic activity during the last year, who are not cultivators or agricultural labourers or in household industry are other workers.

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BARODA DISTRICT, VADODARA TALUKA AND SAMPLE VILLAGES

Gender distribution, Caste and Literacy

The sexwise, castewise distribution of the population of the district (rural part), taluka and the sample villages is shown in table 4.2. The table also shows the sexwise literacy standards of the respective populations.

TABLE 4.2
POPULATION CASTE AND LITERACY
IN THE SAMPLE DISTRICT, TALUKA AND VILLAGES

	POPULATION			CASTE		LITERATES	
	Total	Male	Female	S.C.	S.T.	Male	Female
BARODA DISTRICT (rural)	1607565	833385 (51.84)	774180 (48.16)	93501 (5.82)	609047 (37.89)	410109 (25.51)	192057 (11.95)
VADODDARA TALUKA	202022	106964 (52.95)	95088 (47.06)	16576 (8.21)	17604 (8.71)	64766 (32.06)	32117 (15.90)
SAMPLE VILLAGES							
Varnama	4283	2222	2061	530	685	1366	944
Raghavpura	705	379	326	65	63	249	149
Hansapura	207	111	96	19	76	50	28
Untiya (Mehdad)	553	302	251	37	101	321	104
Ramangamdi	525	251	274	44	40	133	88
Por	3196	1715	1481	222	288	1051	698
Ankhi	918	482	436	134	93	262	130
Fajalpur (Ankhi)	467	247	220	11	-	177	91
Ramnath	766	409	357	22	-	300	96
Rasulpur	50	29	21	03	25	10	06
TOTAL (Sample Villages)	11670	6147 (52.67)	5523 (47.33)	1087 (9.31)	1371 (11.75)	3919 (33.58)	2334 (20.00)

Source: District Census Hand book, Census of India series - 5, parts xiii - A & B, pp 20-21.

percent were agricultural labourers and those from household industry and other workers constituted about 40 percent. In the sample villages the percentage of agricultural labourers was still higher. Out of 4,264 main workers 46 percent were agricultural labourers, 24 percent were cultivators and about 30 percent were from household industry and other workers.

Out of 23,4154 cultivators at the district level the percentage of women was 5.36, out of 16,000 cultivators at the taluka level 4 percent were women and out of 1006 cultivators at the village level 1.69 percent were women. The number of agricultural labourers at the district, taluka and sample villages was 252,235, 26,134 and 1,957 respectively, out of which the percentage of women was 33 at the district and taluka level and 35 percent at the village level. The percentage of women in household industry and other workers was 10 percent and 8 percent respectively, at the district level, 13 percent and 6 percent at the taluka level, 3 percent and 5 percent in the sample villages.

The above analysis reveals that more than 85 per cent of the rural population in the rural areas of the district, sample taluka and villages depended on agriculture. A very small percent is engaged in household industry and other vocations. Women have almost a negligible representation in cultivators, they work mostly as agricultural labourers and some women are in milch cattle and household industry and other petty vocations.

As shown in table 4.2, the percentage of females in the Vadodara district (rural), Vadodara Taluka and sample villages was, almost same. SCs accounted for 9 percent of the population in the sample villages. This percentage was similar to the corresponding percentage of sample taluka and double of that of the sample district. The percentage of S.T. in sample village population was nearly 12, which was marginally higher than that of sample taluka, but less than one-third of that of the district under reference.

About 33.58 percent of males and about 20.00 percent of females were literates in the sample villages as compared to the 32.06 and 15.09 percent at the taluka level.

Activitywise Distribution

As stated earlier the majority of population in the rural areas is dependent on agriculture for its livelihood. There are hardly any avenues for alternative employments. Some percentage is self employed and the rest are idle for most part of the year.

According to the district census handbook, Vadodara District (census of India 1981) the total main workers in the rural part of the district were 575,772 of which, 41 percent were cultivators, 44 percent were agricultural labourers, those employed in household industry and other workers formed just about 15 percent. The taluka level picture shows a higher percentage of agricultural labourers than cultivators. Out of 70,416 main workers about 23 percent were cultivators and 37