

CHAPTER IV

THE SETTING OF THE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

In order to have a comprehensive understanding about the study, it is necessary to give a brief outline regarding the context in which the information was collected and analyzed. This Chapter is a discussion regarding the setting of the study.

4.0 THE STATE OF GUJARAT.

Gujarat is situated in the western zone of India. Its capital city is Gandhinagar and it is well known as an industrially advanced state. It is also renowned for its textile, diamond and agricultural products, both in India and abroad.

The State of Gujarat came into existence on the 1st of May, 1960, as a result of the reorganization of the Bombay State into two new States called 'Gujarat' and 'Maharashtra'. It is situated on the west coast of India and extends from 20° 7" – 24° 43" North latitude to 68° 7" – 74° 29" East longitude. It falls under the Tropical zone and is geographically surrounded by Pakistan in the North-west; Rajasthan in the North-east; Madhya Pradesh to the East and the State of Maharashtra to the South-east. Physiographically, it comprises The Great Rann, alluvial plains and hills.

As per the 2001 India Census Reports, the total population of The State of Gujarat was 50,671,017 of which the rural population was 31,740,767 and the urban population was 18,930,250 – this accounted for 4.9 percent of the country's total population. The State consists of 25 districts, 226 talukas, 242 towns, 18,539 villages.

The Literacy rate for the State as per the 2001 reports was 69.14 per cent (M-79.7 %, F - 57.8 %). This Literacy rate was higher than the national average of 64.8 per cent in the 2001 census.

THE STATE OF GUJARAT

CENSUS, 2001



Source : <http://www.censusindia.net/results/2001maps/gujarat01.html>

4.1 THE EDUCATIONAL SCENE AT GUJARAT.

Since Independence, Gujarat, then a part of the Bombay State, has made considerable progress in Education, especially Primary Education.

In keeping with the policy of Decentralization, the responsibility of the management of the Primary School education system is assigned to local bodies – namely the Village Panchayat system and The Municipal Corporation bodies. The State Government is primarily in charge of the overall functioning of this system which includes the prevailing overall academic standard, formulation of the grade wise syllabi and curricula, preparation of the textbooks in accordance with these criteria and finally the conducting of examinations.

4.2 VADODARA CITY – AN OVERVIEW.

The city of Vadodara is one of the more well known cities of Gujarat and referred to as the Cultural Capital of Gujarat. It is the administrative headquarters of the Vadodara District.

Vadodara is located between latitude 22-17-59 and longitude 73-18-18 on the map of India. The 2001 census statistics indicate a total population of 1305546 (683803 Males and 621743 Females). The literacy rate of Vadodara as per Census 2001 was 70.8%

The city is situated on the banks of the river Vishwamitri and the presence of an abundance of banyan trees gives it its name – *Vadodara* city. It is a cosmopolitan city and is home to people belonging to different parts of the country as well as the globe due to the educational and economic opportunities that it offers to its citizens. Despite the sweeping forces of modernization and the gradual industrialization of the city, cultural and religious traditions are still practiced and cherished.

The official language of Vadodara city, being in Gujarat is Gujarati, but as in other Indian cities, the use of English, Hindi and Marathi is prevalent in all industrial and educational organizations. The medium of instruction in the schools run by the Municipal Corporation in the city are Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi and Sindhi catering to the educational needs of the local population.

Major industries include petrochemicals, engineering, pharmaceuticals, and plastics.

Modern Vadodara city is a fitting memorial to its erstwhile ruler Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III (1875-1939 AD) and to the dream he envisioned for the city – i.e. to make Vadodara into an educational, industrial and commercial centre. Vadodara city has a rich historical background with the Gaekwad dynasty having ruled over it for a very long period of time from 1734 to 1949 A.D. The accession to the throne by Maharaja Sayajirao III in 1875 was the commencement of a golden era in the history of Vadodara. He was a foresighted Administrator and initiated futuristic policies for the industrial development of the city and the present status of Vadodara may well be attributed to this visionary leader. He introduced a number of social reforms and gave importance to *education of the masses* - the making of Primary education compulsory was a significant endeavor in this direction. The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda is the outcome of the visualization of the importance of education in the process of social reformation.

Today, Vadodara city occupies a place of prominence in the educational, cultural and industrial map of India.

4.3 THE EDUCATIONAL SCENE AT VADODARA CITY.

The city has been an important cultural and educational part of Gujarat State while also being a pioneer in the field of Primary Education. The patronage of education commenced with Maharaja Sayajirao III and the city has built further, the academic edifice initiated during his tenure. Today, Vadodara is synonymous with Education. Educational Institutions of repute feature on the educational map of the city. The most well known is The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, the only University in Gujarat with English as the medium of instruction. The University caters to over a lakh of students. In addition to this, the city's educational horizon is replete with reputed schools offering quality education together with state-of-the-art infrastructure.

4.4 STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN GUJARAT & VADODARA.

In Vadodara, the endeavor towards free, compulsory and Universal Education may be attributed to Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III of Baroda State in the early twentieth century – 1906. Convinced that Primary Education was essential for the future betterment of his subjects, he introduced the same, purely on a voluntary basis from 1881 to 1892. In 1893, the same was introduced in Amreli Taluka, one of the backward areas of Baroda State. This experiment proved promising and thus, he generalized it for the

entire State in 1906 by the Baroda Compulsory Primary Education Act, with subsequent modifications in 1910, 1916, 1926.

However, in spite of all the efforts made by this foresighted ruler, the experiment did not succeed due to a general lack of awareness among parents regarding their children's Education.

Today, the very same endeavor is being realized through the efforts of the State in the form of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Majority of the population has been provided with Primary Education facility as a result of the countrywide drive to achieve Universalisation of Education.

4.5 ORGANISATION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN VADODARA CITY.

Vadodara city has been an important cultural and Educational part of Gujarat state while also being a pioneer in the field of Primary Education.

There are variations in the management of education in the city's education scenario, namely schools which are Private Aided, Private Unaided, Municipal School Board, Central School and State Board Schools.

The Vadodara Municipal Corporation schools (VMC) are totally financed by the State Government and are governed by their rules and regulations. The State Government makes provision for all the requirements – be it physical or financial. These schools are under the Municipal School Board which was formed on the 9th of November, 1953 with the goal of providing Primary education to the children in the age group 6-14, in the city of Vadodara.

The Nagar Prathamik Shikshan Samiti (NPSS) was set up in 1953 in and for the education of citizens of Vadodara city. The responsibility of primary education of Vadodara city was taken up by NPSS which still functions as per the Mumbai Prathamik Shikshan Adhiniyam -1947. The Samiti comprises of a total of fifteen members of which twelve are elected members of the Municipal Corporation and the other three are State Government representatives.

In Vadodara city, the Nagar Prathamik Shikshan Samiti runs a total of 124 Primary schools comprising 40356 students and 1193 teachers. The medium of instruction in the

schools run by the Municipal School Board (NPSS) in the city are Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi and Sindhi catering to the educational needs of the local population.

The number of schools offering the different medium of instruction is as follows –

Table 4.1
MEDIUM WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS IN THE CITY

Medium of instruction	Number of schools
Gujarati	106
Marathi	05
Hindi	11
Sindhi	01
Deaf and Dumb school	01
Total	124

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2006.

The table below shows the area wise organization and layout of the Primary Education system in the city of Vadodara, Gujarat. As may be seen there is provision for students to study in their own mother tongue at the Elementary level and accordingly, schools of different medium of instruction are present and very often in the very same localities.

Table 4.1

MEDIUM WISE DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS IN THE CITY

		G	H	M	S
SAYAJIGUNJ	1. Sayajigunj/Jetalpur	2	--	1	--
	2. Fatehgunj	3	2	--	--
	3. Nizampura	4	1	--	--
	4. Gorwa/Subhanpura	3	1	--	--
	5. Wadiwadi/Laxmipura	3	--	--	--
	6. Akota/Haripura	4	1	1	--
	7. Navayard	1	1	--	--
	8. Sama/Chani Jakatnaka	3	1	--	--
	9. Gotri	8	--	--	--
	10. Tandalja	2	--	--	--
BABAJIPURA	11. Atladra/Vishvamitri	3	1	--	--
	12. Navapura/Khanderao/Madanzampa	5	--	--	--
	13. Manjalpur/GIDC/Vadsar	5	--	--	--
	14. Makarpura/Maneja/Jambua	7	--	--	--
RAOPURA	15. Raopura/Nagarwada	5	--	--	--
	16. Salatwada/Central Jail	3	--	--	--
	17. Karelibaug	2	--	--	--
CITY	18. City	2	--	--	--
	19. Chipwad	2	--	--	--
	20. Mangalbazar/Ladwada/Gendigate	5	--	--	--
FATEHPURA/ WAGHODIA ROAD	21. Haathikhana/Mangaleshvarjhampa	4	--	--	--
	22. Tulsiwadi	2	--	--	--
	23. Harni	2	--	--	--
	24. Warasia	1	1	--	1
	25. Waghodia Road	4	--	--	--
AJWA ROAD	26. Kisanwadi	3	--	1	--
	27. Panchalnagar/Ektanagar	4	--	--	--
WADI	28. Moghal Restaurant/Panigate	3	--	--	--
	29. Gajrawadi	3	--	--	--
	30. Pratapnagar	4	1	1	--
	31. Danteshwar/Tarsali	5	1	1	--

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2005.

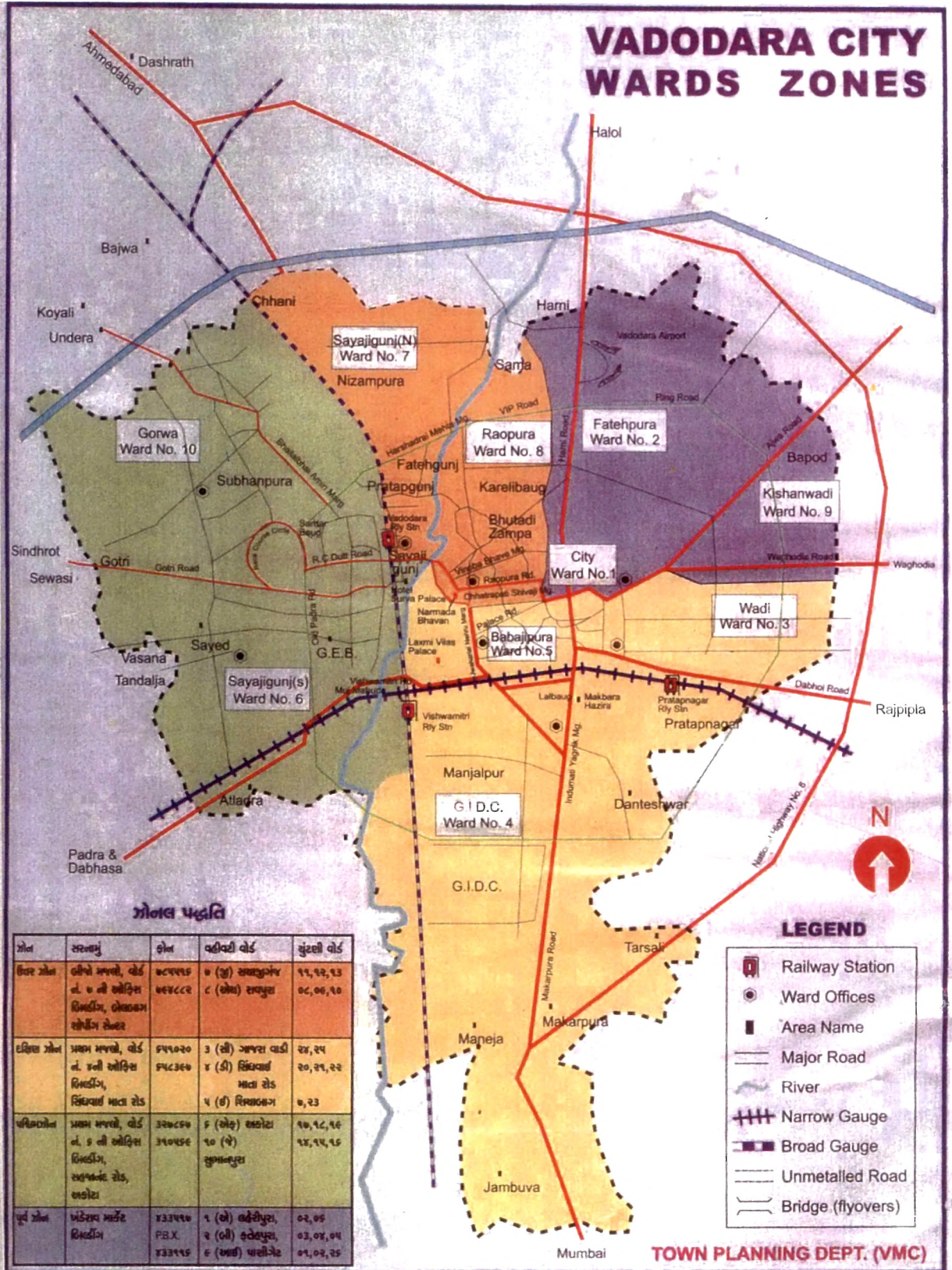
Also, these schools are categorized into Kumarshala (boys), Kanyashala (girls) and Mishrashala (boys and girls). There are sixty-five (65) Balwadis wherein three thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine children (3969) are enrolled prior to entering the primary section with a total of ninety-five (95) teachers to attend to these pre-schoolers.

In addition to schools for the normal children, *the Samiti also runs a Special school for deaf and dumb children.*

In thirty seven (37) Samiti run Primary schools, Scouts and Guides activities are conducted which inculcate values such as self-discipline, cooperation, a sense of 'seva' (service) and social responsibilities. The Vadodara Corporation sponsored Continuing education programme too is conducted comprising thirty-eight (38) nodal centers and three hundred and seventy-five (375) Nirantar Kendras.

For the smooth administration of these 124 schools, the entire city is broadly classified into 3 zones and 28 wards depending on their localities; with the 124 schools distributed across these wards.

VADODARA CITY WARDS ZONES



4.6 STATUS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN VADODARA – SOME VITAL STATISTICS.

Recent data (31.08.2005) gives the following updated figures which show a remarkable improvement over the earlier scenario.

Table 4.2
STATUS OF SCHOOL BUILDING (ROOMS)

	Number of rooms
Nagar Prathamik Shikshan Samiti schools	947
Rental buildings	59

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2005.

The Table above shows the present status of the number of rooms owned by the Samiti and those which are on rent for the purpose of conducting the instructional activities.

Table 4.3
SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES (2005)

CRITERIA	Facility present in
• Electricity	120/124
• Sanitation	107/124
• Drinking Water	116/124
• Compound Wall	94/124
• Play Ground	85/124
Total number of schools	124

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2005.

The latest data (status as on 31.08.2005) with respect to school facilities shows the above figures – that out of the total 124 schools in the city today, hundred and twenty have electricity while the others probably went without the same due to functional problems as the observation of all schools in the first phase had revealed that all schools had electricity connection. The data revealed that appropriate sanitation facilities were

present in a hundred and seven schools and drinking water facility available in a hundred and sixteen schools. Ninety-four schools had a compound wall surrounding them and eighty-five schools had a play-ground within the schools.

The Tables given below indicate the student population in the MSB schools – sexwise and also grade-wise. The enrollment in the academic year 2006-07 gives a clear picture of the status of enrollment and also shows the increasing enrollment of girl students as an encouraging trend.

Table 4.4
TOTAL POPULATION – GIRLS & BOYS

Boys	21904
Girls	23169

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2005.

Table 4.5
NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS (2005)

STANDARD	STUDENTS
Std.1	7143
Std.2	6808
Std.3	6790
Std.4	6078
Std.5	6486
Std.6	6116
Std.7	5653
Total number - Std.1 to 7	45073

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2005.

Table 4.6
THE ENROLLMENT STATUS IN THE CITY OF VADODARA (2006)

STANDARD I	BOYS	3575	TOTAL	7320
	GIRLS	3745		
STANDARD II	BOYS	3021	TOTAL	6217
	GIRLS	3196		
STANDARD III	BOYS	2880	TOTAL	6143
	GIRLS	3263		
STANDARD IV	BOYS	2897	TOTAL	6024
	GIRLS	3127		
STANDARD V	BOYS	2751	TOTAL	5653
	GIRLS	2902		
STANDARD VI	BOYS	2848	TOTAL	5832
	GIRLS	2984		
STANDARD VII	BOYS	2592	TOTAL	5335
	GIRLS	2743		

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2006.

Table 4.7
NUMBER OF SCHOOL TEACHERS GRADEWISE

Std.1+2	310
Std.3+4	297
Std.5	166
Std.6	162
Std.7	157

Source : MSB, Vadodara, 2005.

For each individual child's development, the Samiti organizes Competitions, Bal melas, Educational exhibitions and Fairs.

This vast network is managed by a complex yet professionally managed administrative set-up. This together with the efforts under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has put Vadodara too in the national endeavor for U.E.E.