

CHAPTER : II

General Background :

The people who are staying in this area originally were Bhils or Tribals. The river Narmada was not fordable either within the limits of Chhota-Udaipur State or in Sankheda Nawab State.¹ Almost the entire traffic was on pack animals (bullocks). The local trade was carried on by Vanias (merchant community) a few Boharas and Parsi shopkeepers. These petty traders advanced money on seeds to the peasants and were paid in grain when the harvest was taken. These agricultural products were either sold in the district or sent to the market towns of Gujarat. This trade was also extended to Rajputana (Rajasthan), Central India (MP) and Khandesh (part of Maharashtra). The intra regional trade was carried on by the better class of peasants or by people from the district of Panch Mahals, Kaira, Surat and Broach. They came in large numbers during the harvest and bargained with the local Bhils for rice and pulses. In return they gave cloth, tobacco, molasses, salt and spices. Besides these traders there were the peddlars (locally known as Vanzaras) who came from Malwa, Khandesh and Awar with their pack bullocks laden with salt. They also carried on a small trade with the local Bhils paying them either cash or bartering bullocks or buffaloes for their grains and pulses. It was for the benefit of the peddlars that the stepwells of Bhatpur and Khorla (near Vaana) were built.

Important Resources : The important resources of the region are found cotton, grain, chiefly rice, millet, Indian corn (Maize), pulses, oilseeds, clarified butter (ghae), forest product, timber, firewood, bamboos and Mahuda flowers and the Songir stones.

Characteristic Features : Bhatpur, Kachindra and Vaana are the three central villages in the region. Their centrality is gauged by their service areas etc. The influence exerted by them on the surrounding territory consisting of several villages. The four main services of

Source : 1 Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency Vol.VI. Pages 50, 51

these central villages are (1) Economic activity (2) Public utilities, (3) Social and Cultural activities (4) Administrative services

Bhatpur : (Chart 1)

Bhatpur as a central village, has influence on 25 surrounding villages.

1) Development of Economic Activity - It is an important activity of the central village. It is also a functional work by the central village for the surrounding villages.

The real development of Bhatpur started in the year 1875 when cart tracks were improved for the transport of cotton, rice and pulses. Due to this transport facility the Vaniyas came from other places and started 4 shops in 1885. These shops are of general and also selling the cloths. In 1920 outside of Bhatpur at Bahadarpur and Badeli, three ginning factories were started. In 1920's carpenters, barbers and potters started to come in the village. They were followed by tailors in the 1930s. These are the primary services rendered by these people to the village folks. At the same time the blacksmiths, goldsmiths and shoemaker came to the village for livelihood. For the services rendered by these professionals, they were given in kind, like rice, pulses,. In 1934, ginning of cotton was done in Bhatpur due to the railway facilities. It was near the railway station. There were 100 charkhas (ginning machines). In addition, the oilmill was started in the village in 1935. Oilseeds were grown in the village and also grown in surrounding area. Rice mill (locally known as Huller) and flour mill also started in the ginning centre. In 1940s water works and another oil mill, flour mill were started near the step well (locally known as Vav) of the village, where people frequented daily.

Source : Gazetteer of Baroda State Vol.1 page 55

The sequence of occupance in Bhatpur¹²

	types of occupance	development of cultural items	material resources
1980	Services	higher secondary school, 1979	
1975		phone in P.O., 1978	
		primary health centre gr. II, 1977	
1970	commerce	banks, 1973	
		milk coop. Society & electricity, 1968	Scooter, 1970
1965			
1962		panchayat raj - talati office, 1963	tractor, 1962
		branch P.O., 1962	S.T. bus services, 1960
1955		family planning centre, 1958	canal irrigation, 1957
		veterinary centre, 1955	
1950	services		well irrigation - kharia kuwa & cycle, 1952
1945			
1940	Services	co. op. society, 1942	
		secondary school, 1940	
1935		primary health unit, 1937	
		rice, oil & flour mills, 1936	
1930	services	ginning factory - loo charkha, 1934	
1925	transport services		pvt bus services between bhatpur - wasna - Kosindra, 1928
1920			narrow gauge rly. line + 1922
1915			
1910		lib. library, 1908	
1905		primary school, 1905	
1900			
1895	services		
1890		letter box, 1893	
1885	commerce		
		4-shops - General & cloth, 1985	
1880	services	village included, 1880	
1875	com. agriculture cotton, rice & pulses		cart-tracks put in order for the transport of cotton, rice & pulses, 1875, for export
1870		residence	

Subsistence agriculture
Legendary

bhils & tribal people

Step well built by vanzaras

Chart: 1

Source: gazetteer of baroda state vol. II, p. 519-524

Under the farm services, in 1942 the co-operative society was started in the village which looks after the supply of chemical fertilizers, seeds, grains, sugar, matchboxes and clothes. This society later gave loans to the farmers, for purchasing agricultural implements, fertilizers, good seeds, pesticides. In return cotton was sold through this co-operative society. But in later part of 1970s society stopped advance loans to the farmers, because farmers were not able to return their debts of the co-operative society. Bhatpur milk co-operative society was started in 1960 as a result of the establishment of the Baroda Dairy. And when in 1974, the bridge over Ursang between Sankheda and Behadarapur was built (Photo 33) the road traffic in fair weather was started with the village and in 1978, the all weather gravel road (metalled) started with Bhatpur via Indral, Songir which at present is used by the trucks that come for milk collection. It is an important economic activity of the village and of the surrounding villages. Even in monsoon milk from Vagatha, Vatvatia, Chorangle, Kuberpara, Jarvan and Kanakuwa is coming by horse back and even by bullock carts coming to Bhatpur which is the collecting centre of milk of the villages. In 1980 Bhatpur Dudd Ghar (Bhatpur milk collecting centre) was built near the Panchayat office (Photo 22), due to the failure of monsoon in 1970s cotton crop was affected badly and this lowered the economic condition of the people. They took up to selling of milk to subsidise their income which continues to be an economic activity till today.

2. Public Utilities (Chart-1). The real development of Bhatpur started in the year 1875 when cart tracks were improved for transport of cotton, rice and pulses to the markets. In 1893, the postal facilities were introduced into the village with the provision of a letterbox.¹ But the major change in Bhatpur was in the year 1922, when the narrow gauge railway between Motipura (at present Chhuchhapura) - Tankhole was constructed. The movement of a traffic was facilitated by the introduction of the railway. In 1928 a

Source : 1 Gazetteer of Baroda State Vol. II page 524

2 page 367

r facility was added with the east when private buses began to ply between Bhatpur-Kosindra via Vasna by an enterprising brahmin of Kosindra. The entire traffic of Kosindra and Vasna was thus channelled towards Bhatpur.

Another public utility was started in 1936 when the Primary Health Unit was opened in the village, which also serves surrounding villages. In 1958 this was added by the construction of the family planning hall in addition to government hall, which was constructed by a Patel of Bhatpur. In 1977 this Primary Health Unit was raised to grade-II with an allopathic practitioner. In 1955 the only veterinary centre was constructed on the Gayner-Station road, for treating the animals of the sub-region.

In 1960, the state transport bus was started on the Bhatpur road upto Sankheda. This bus services was between Bhatpur-Vasna-Kosindra-Bodali-Chhotaudepur only in fair weather. In 1970 the private bus service was closed between Kosindra-Bhatpur, which is not economical. The first tractor in the village was obtained in 1962 by a Patel of the village. At present there are three tractors for public use.

Upto 1962 postal facility was offered by only the presence of a letter-box which was looked after by the Headmaster of the Primary School. Later on a branch post office was set up and a telephone facility was added in 1978.

In 1968 electricity was introduced in the village. The electrification of the houses were done in 1969. While in 1970 electricity was given to the water pumps in the fields. But well water was found not suitable for cultivation (brakish) and hence till today well water is not used for irrigation purposes, except few wells north of the Bhatpur village.

In 1973-74, two banks were started in the village. Now these banks are giving advance loans to the farmers for cotton cultivation, purchasing of buffaloes, etc. The branch of State Bank of India and the Baroda District Central Co-operative Bank are located (opposite Panchayat office) on the Gayner road (Photo-22).

Social & Cultural Activities :- There was a slight setback in the development of the village with the Great Famine (Chhepania)¹ of 1903. But in September 1904, local Self Government Act listed the duties of the Taluka Boards. The construction of roads, tanks, wells, waterworks, managements of Dharmshala (Inn) Dispensaries, Markets, the supervision of vaccination, sanitation, primary education and understanding of relief measures on a small scale in times of famines etc. were handed over to local government. The Primary School was opened in 1905,¹ compulsory education being part of the policy of the old Baroda State. In 1908 the library was opened². In 1940 some people of the village started the secondary school in private house. After the formation of village Panchayat Raj (1963) Nursery (Kinder Garden) was started in the village. There is a separate building for the purpose (Photo-26). The Higher Secondary classes were started in 1979 in the secondary school (Photo-23).

Religious activities and festivals are looked after by the religious associations (locally called Bhajan Mandal) formed by the men and women of Bhatpur. There are three main temples in the village. The Ramji temple, Shiv temple and Rencchodji temple. Apart from that there are two Bhathuji temples.

4. Administrative services :- In 1880, Bhatpur was a village in the Sankheda Mahal. In 1904 under the local self government the Panchayat Office (Photo 22) (locally known as Chora) was built in the village. Before the Panchayat Raj, the whole administration of the village was under the Headman of the village (locally called Police Patel) Every five year, the headman is rotated. After 1963 the Talati's (person-in-charge of land and revenue of the village) office was started in the village.

In 1950 the village had water works scheme and public taps were built near the village tank. The water pump was installed on the old stepwell (Vav) of the village. The water tank of a 13 meters height

Source 1 Gayeteer of Baroda State Vol. II page 228

1 & 2 Gayeteer of Baroda State page 519

built to supply the water to the houses. Every street (Falis) has its own water post having 4 to 6 taps. But today these waterpost are not working but mostly all houses have the home connections of taps. In 1952 the village people utilised the available water resource of the well Khania kuwa (salty well) for certain area of the village i.e. south of the railway station. But water of this well was found on-suitable for irrigation purposes. It was brackish so this scheme was closed within 10 years. But in 1957 the canal irrigation was introduced into village, under the Heron river project. It irrigates the eastern fields of the village. This canal irrigation facilities, has changed the agricultural pattern of the village.

Vasna: (Chart 2)

The name of Vasna village came from Vas (Bamboo in gujarati language) to the west of the village there was a forest of the Vas. The Bhils and Tribal people were the natives of the village. In 1875 the cart tracks and commercialisation of agriculture in Vasna and its region was encouraged. The main products were cotton, rice and pulses, the village was included in 1880 with Sankheda Mehel. In 1882 three shops were opened by the local merchants (Vanias) in 1892 the police chowky (police station)¹ was opened because of its location between Kosindra and Bhatpur. It was also situated near Sankheda than Kosindra. In 1892 a letter box² was installed in this village. The primary school was opened in 1905 and the library was opened in 1910. Due to the facilities of the railway station at Bhatpur (Photo 27) a private passenger bus was started in 1928 between Kosindra Bhatpur via Vasna. But it was plied only during the fair weather. While during monsoon, the passengers were coming to Bhatpur on horseback or bullock carts. The road between Vasna and Bhatpur is still metalled. In 1935 the library building was built and in 1936 the secondary school was opened and in 1937 the dispensary was opened. The rice, oil and flour mills were opened in 1945. Before that the husking was done by manual

Source : 1,2 Gayatree of Baroda State Vol.II page 524

The sequence of occupance in Vashna¹⁷

types of occupance	development & cultural items	material resources
1980	phone no: 6, 1979	
1975	milk co-op Society, 1976 bank of baroda, 1974	
1970	electricity, 1969	
1965		tractor, 1966 e. state highway no: 5
1960	panchayat raj, 1963, talati office	water supply & bridge near bodeli, 1960
1955		canal irrigation, 1957 cycle, 1955
1950		
1945	rice, oil & flour mills, 1945	
1940		
1935	dispensary, 1937 Secondary school opened, 1936 library building built, 1935	
1930		
1925		pvt. bus service between Kosindra - Vashna - Bhatpur, 1928
1920		
1915		
1910	library, 1910	
1905	primary school, 1905	
1900		
1895		
1890	letter box, 1893 police chowky, 1892	
1885		
1880	3-mix shops by Vashnas, 1882 village included, 1880	
1875		cart tracks put in order for the transport of forest product cotton, rice & pulses for export, 1875
1870	residence	
subistence agriculture legendary	bhils & tribal people	forest of bamboos (Vas) & river water

Chart: 2

Source: gazetteer of baroda state vol II, p. 519-524

labourers. The cycle was introduced in 1955. In 1957 canal irrigation was started. In 1960 the village water works was installed. Before that people were using the river water for daily requirements. In 1963 the introduction of the Panchayat Raj necessitated the appointment of a talati's office. The major change came in 1964 when the Eastern State Highway No.5 was opened for traffic. It is only one kilometre away from the village. Ten private tractors were introduced in the village. Electricity came to the village in 1969. The milk co-operative society was established in the village in the year 1976. And a branch of the Bank of Baroda was opened in 1976. In 1979 the telephone services were extended from Kosindra to Vasna and the village now has 8 private telephones.

Kosindra : (Chart 3)

The Shila and Tribal people were the native of this village. The main source of water was the Heran river. In 1875 the cart track was improved which as in Bhatpur and Vasna encouraged the cultivation of commercial crops, such as cotton, rice and pulses. In 1880 the village was included in the Sankheda Mahal. The first (letter box³) was started in 1893 and in 1895 four village shops were started. The primary school was opened in 1905⁴. And in the year 1910⁵ the library was opened. Private bus services were introduced in 1928, plying between Kosindra to Bhatpur via Vasna. The railway station at Bhatpur encouraged the flow of traffic to that village. But the service was only during the fair weather. Both the Unch river in north and Heran river in south got flooded in the rainy season, which circumstances forced people to go towards west to Bhatpur for going elsewhere in the State. The secondary school was opened in 1939 and the co-operative society in 1942 canal irrigation was started in 1957. Private cycles were introduced into the village in 1958. The branch post office was started in 1963.

But the year 1960 saw a major change in the village when the bridge (Photo 3) over the Greeng River near Bodali was built and the Eastern State Highway No.5 passed through the village (Photo 12 & 16). Due to the

Sources: 1 Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency Vol.VI page 48

3,4,5 Gazetteer of Baroda State Vol.II page 524.

The sequence of occupance in Kosindra

types of occupance		development of cultural items	material resources
1980		higher secondary school, 1978 phone no. 42, 1978	
1975	Commerce	banks - 2, milk co-op. society, 1974	scooter, 1975
1970	Services	veterinary centre open built drainage system, 1972	
1965	Services	electricity, dispensary & family planning centre 1963	tractor, 1967 S.C. bus services, 1965
1960	Services	branch post office, 1963	bodeli bridge, 1960 cycle introduce, 1958 canal irrigation, 1957
1955			
1950			
1945			
1940	services	co-op society, 1942 secondary school, 1939	
1935			
1930			
1925			pvt. bus services between Kosindra - Vashna - Bhatpur, 1928
1920			
1915			
1910	Services	library, 1910	
1905	services	primary school, 1905	
1900			
1895		Four mixed shops, 1895 letter box, 1893	
1890			
1885			
1880	Services	village included, 1880	
1875	com. agriculture cotton, rice & pulses		Cart-tracks put in order for the transport of forest product, cotton, rice & pulses, 1875, for export
1870		residence	
Subsistence agriculture legendary		bhils & tribal people	forest, river water potential

Chart: 3

Source: gazetteer of baroda state vol. II pp. 519-524

ilities of the highway, Kosindra developed its commerce. The farmers could now sell their cashcrops to distant markets. The cash crops, were cotton and banana. In 1966 the tractor was introduced in the village for purposes of commercial farming (Photo 11). At present there are 15 tractors. Electricity came to the village in 1968. Since then many private wells were constructed and electric pumping sets were installed for irrigation (Photo 7). Intensive cultivation of cash crops became the pattern of cultivation. Unlike in Bhatpur the water in Kosindra is good for irrigation. The veterinary centre was opened in 1972. Village has an open drainage system but well constructed in 1972. The Baroda District Central Co-operative Bank and a branch of the State Bank of India started functioning in 1974. The Milk Co-operative Society was started in 1974 due to Baroda Dairy. Due to these facilities cattle rearing has become an important occupation of the village. There are 100 motor cycles in the village. These vehicles are used by farmers to supervise cotton and banana cultivation (Photo 7) Telephone services are introduced in the village recently and there are 42 telephone connections in the village, which shows its economic superiority over the other two central villages. The higher secondary classes were introduced in 1979 in the Secondary School.