

Method and Procedure of Field-workMethod:

A large part of the data for this study was collected by the field-work method which is commonly adopted by Social Anthropologists. In some cases such as agricultural operations, cultural activities and social and ritual functions data was collected by participant-observation method. In some special cases, however, case-history study method was adopted whenever it was possible to do so. Such cases were about master-servant relationships and family relationships. Whenever it was found necessary to quantify some of the data, specific schedules were used. Out of the five schedules two were comprehensive covering the entire village population. They were Family Census and Land Census of the village. The three others, viz. regarding Agricultural labour, Industrial (Atul factory) Labour and Emigrants covered some sections of the village population and that they were treated as 'open-end' questionnaires while eliciting data from the informants. Copies of these five schedules have been presented in Appendix B.

Procedure:

I started field-work by first going to the Atul factory, near Bulsar (district Surat). I went there with a view to find out its situation in relation to the surrounding rural areas and the possibilities of conducting further research there. I collected preliminary information about the residence, education, designation and salary of the workers of the factory. This data enabled me to find out the number of local workers in the factory and the villages from which they were drawn. Then I visited about twenty surrounding villages from where the local factory workers came. After touring these villages and collecting further information about their population, caste composition and distance from the factory, village Haria was finally selected for intensive field study mainly because it was (a) near the factory, (b) a medium-sized village and (c) fairly representative of the region. I stayed in Atul factory for about two months (January-February 1956) and later on in village Haria for over twelve months (between March, 1956 and July, 1957) for conducting field-work necessary for the present study.

3/6

Over and above the data collected by field-work. I, ~~however,~~ depended on some records for framing a picture of the traditional village community (i.e. before 1901 for my purpose). I got different past records of the village, Taluka and District from three sources:

- (i) Village Accountant (talati),
- (ii) Taluka Record Office at Bulsar, and
- (iii) Secretariat Record Office at Bombay.