

CHAPTER - IV

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Five essential conditions of nation building are :

1. Adequate capital;
2. Enough goods and services to ^{e/}persuade people to contribute the personal effort that development requires;
3. Adequate skills for management, administration, production and citizenship;
4. A willingness and ability to curb a rapid population increase;
5. A unifying sense of national purpose with effective communication between the people and their leaders.

- Chester Bowles

(" The Making of a Just Society")

CHAPTER *
* FOUR

MEHSANA DISTRICT : A BACKGROUND

STUDY IN PERSPECTIVE

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4.1 Introduction

Though the present investigation seeks to assess the impact of the Panchayati Raj System on primary education, its data are drawn from one of the districts of North Gujarat, Mehsana, which is neither very advanced nor very backward in a number of vital dimensions. The investigator has thought it worthwhile to preface the data presentation, analysis and interpretation with a brief but meaningful background. This background will have variegated matrix, i.e. demographic social, cultural, economic, administrative, political and educational. The presentation and discussion will be mainly education, and these too, primary education.

4.2 Location and Physical features

Boundaries and Natural Divisions : Mehsana^{is} one of the 19 administrative districts of Gujarat State. It forms a part of the North Gujarat region. It lies roughly between 22° and 24° north latitude and 70° and 72° east longitude. It is bounded to the north and north-west by the Banaskantha district a backward district of the State, to the West and South west by the Rann of Kutch, which is also one of the most backward districts of the State, and to the south by Dasada Taluka of the Surendranagar district of Saurashtra region and Virmangam, Sanand and Daskoi talukas of Ahmedabad district, a very advanced district of the State. The river Sabarmati forms the natural boundary of the district in the east, across which lies the Sabarkantha district, which, too, is a backward district.

Configuration : The district is, for the most part, a plain sloping from north-east to south-west, the only uneven land being in the eastern parts of its Kheralu taluka. The eastern portion of the district is rich in vegetation but westwards it passes into salt and sandy waste conspicuously missing big shady trees. The area of the district is 3,603.5 sq. miles and its population is 20.92 lakhs. In geographical area it covers 4.61 percent of the total area of the State and in the State population, the population of the district constitutes 7.48 percent.

The important rivers of the district are the Sabarmati, the Rupen and the Saraswati, of which only the Sabarmati is perennial.

The soil in the district is sandy loam but differs in richness and contents in parts of the district. In Vijapur, Visnagar, Kalol and Mehsana talukas, the soil is rich and the sub-soil water is also sweet. In parts of Kadi, Kalol, Chan^ama and Harij talukas, the soil is interspersed with medium black soil suitable for cultivation of paddy and cotton. In parts of Sami, Patan and Harij talukas the soil is poor and saline and the sub-soil water is brackish.

The climate of the district is warm, nevertheless healthy, The cold season following monsoon is brisk lasting from November to February. Summer is the season of oppressive heat and extends from March to June.

The South-west monsoon brings rains to this district. The rainy season, with the exception of occasional thunderstorms, is confined to the four months from June to the middle of September. Monsoon is notoriously irregular in the district.

The western portion of the district near the Rann of Kutch receives scanty rainfall even in good years. Moreover, the remaining parts of the district are also subjected to frequent scarcity. The sub-soil water level in some parts is high and irrigation by means of tube-wells, especially in

Vijapur taluka, relieves the effect of untimely and irregular rainfall to some extent.

According to the report¹ of the Fact Finding Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay in 1958-60, Vijapur, Visnagar, Kheralu, Kadi and Northern parts of Kalol Talukas were better so far as land and irrigation facilities were concerned. Between 1948-58 no village under Vijapur taluka was declared scarcity area, though a few villages of Kheralu and Visnagar talukas were adversely affected. The progress of agriculture, in the opinion of the Committee is not solely dependent on average rainfall ~~bha~~ on timely monsoon and sub-soil water as well. Although the villages of Kadi, Kalol, Mehsana, Visnagar and Kheralu talukas, have ~~an~~ an average comparatively more rainfall than other parts of the district, they also were found to be under the effect of scarcity during the survey of the Committee. Its ill effects were, ~~however~~, minimised due to fertile soil and sufficiency of sub-soil water which made irrigation on a large scale possible and enabled raising of crops like tobacco, cotton and cumin.

According to the information collected from official sources and the Census Report of 1971 the area of forest in the district is found to be 17.30 sq. miles, out of which 12.38 sq. miles are reserved forests and the remaining 4.92 sq. miles are unclassified forests.

TABLE : 4-1 : Comparative Vital Statistics of Gujarat
State and Mehsana District (1971)

Dimension		Gujarat State: Mehsana Dis- : trict.	
1. Population	: Male	13.8	1.07
(in Million)	: Female	12.9	1.02
(a) General	: Total:	<u>26.7</u>	<u>2.09</u>
(b) Urban -			
Rural Population	Rural:	19.2	1.7
(in millions)	Urban;	0.75	0.039
(c) Decennial increase			
in population (1961-1971)	+ 29.39		+ 28.14
(d) Density of population	136		232
(e) Percentage of Urban Population	28.08		18.58
(f) Sex-ratio (population of			
women per every 1000 male)	934		958
2. Literacy (percentage):	Male :	46.11	49.77
	Female:	24.75	27.46
	Total:	<u>35.79</u> ⁴³	<u>38.46</u> ⁶²
3. Workers(economically)	Male:	51.24	48.85
	Female:	10.26	6.70
	Total:	<u>32.45</u>	<u>28.27</u>
4.a) Farmers(percentage)	43.12		45.39
b) Farm labourers(percentage)	22.48		24.31
c) Other workers(percentage)	34.40		30.30
5. Population of Harijans			
to the total State population.			
(percentage)	6.84		8.96
6. Total Population of			
Tribal to the state			
(percentage)	13.99		0.44
7. Villages:(a) Habitations	18,275		1,084
(b) Non-habitations	422		11
Total:	<u>18,697</u>		<u>1,095</u>
8. Urban Habitations	216		23

Source : Gujarat Through Maps, University Granth Nirman
Board, Gujarat Census 1971)

The district has the population of Hindus, to the extent of 92.52 percent. Around 97^{per cent} of people^{are} Gujarati. It enjoys a fairly good production of food stuff, in Bajari, Jawar, and wheat. The farmed land begins to increase in area as one moves away from city to the interior. Some comparative vital statistics of Gujarat State and Mehsana District are compiled in table 4.1 which gives a fairly meaningful picture of the district in various dimensions in the total perspective of Gujarat State,.

Such is the brief picture of Mehsana District in geographical and demographic dimensions.

The district has a total^{of} 1,084 habitations. Of them only 56 habitations have primary health centres. Only 13 habitations have hospital facilities and only 3 have child-welfare centres. Per 100 sq.km. the Vijapur taluka has the most medical service facilities, and the least is in the Sami Taluka. The talukas having medical facilities, next to the Vijapur taluka are Kalol, Mehsana, Visnagar and Siddhpur in descending order.

There is not much electrification of rural areas in the district. It has taken place only in 25.4 percent of the villages. In the talukas of Sami, Harij, Patan and Kheralu, the number of villages having electricity is small, whereas the number is comparatively better in Mehsana, Visnagar,

Vijapur and Kalol Talukas. The number of villages having electricity gets decreased as the distance from the neighbouring city goes on increasing. Around 38 percent of villages situated within a distance of 5 km., 35.44 percent of villages in the distance range of 6-10 kms., 28.02 percent in the distance range of 11-15 km., 11.11 percent in the distance range of 16-25 kms., 11.57 percent in the distance of 26-50 kms. have been electrified, but villages that are beyond 50 kms., from cities do not have electricity.

In the Mehsana District, pakka- durable roads are provided for only 321 or 29.12 percent villages. As the distance of a village from a city gets increasing, the facilities for durable and permanent roadways get decreasing. Only 35.17 percent of villages in the district have pakka roads within a distance range of 5 km. from a city. That the percentage of villages enjoying this essential facility goes on decreasing is seen from the following figures from Census 1971.

TABLE : 4-2: Percent of Villages in terms of distance
Range from city Area Having Pakka Road
Facilities.

<u>Distance range from</u> <u>a city in</u>	<u>P.C. of villages</u> <u>having pakka roads.</u>
0 - 5 km.	35.17
6 -10 km.	31.65
11 -15 km.	22.84
16 -25 km.	18.39
26 -50 km.	11.57 ^b
beyond 50 km.	Nil.

After the broad over-view of Mehsana District, an attempt will now be made to touch upon some important dimensions of the district which have a vital bearing on the administration and development of education providing details which would help in a comprehensive understanding of the determinant factors of the working of the Panchayati Raj in general and of development of primary education in particular. In this connection, the following facets or dimensions of Mehsana District are proposed to be dealt with in subsequent sections:

- (a) Population : Trends and other Dimensions;
- (b) Administrative Units.

4.3 The Demographic Dimensions:

Population Trends

In the Mehsana District, the population has been steadily increasing. The percentage of increase in district population has been particularly noteworthy since 1951. The trend of increase in district population is shown in the following decennial statistics :

TABLE : 4-3: Trends in Population Growth in the Mehsana District. (1901 - 1971)

Year	Population in lakh.	Decennial Increase in population in P.C.
1901	8.34
1911	8.31	- 0.37
1921	8.99	+ 8.32
1931	9.94	+10.64
1941	11.27	+13.38
1951	13.46	+19.08
1961	16.33	+21.63
1971	20.992	+28.14

It will be seen that in the district the increasing trends in population have been in evidence after 1911. They have been particularly noticeable after 1941.

In 1971, the urban population was 3.89 lakhs as against the rural population of 17.03 lakhs. Thus, the proportion of urban population and rural population in the district is 18.58 : 81.42. The population density in urban areas is per sq.km. 1,507 as against the density of only 194 in rural areas. Earlier researches by Professor D.M. Desai, J.P. Naik and others point out that it is easier to provide facilities for primary education and ensure its development in urban areas than in rural areas.

In the matter of density of population in rural areas, the position of the Mehsana District in comparison to other districts of Gujarat is shown in the following table.

TABLE : 4-4 : Population Density in Rural Areas in the Mehsana District in Comparison to other Districts of Gujarat State (1971)

District	Population Density (Rural Areas)	Rank	Population Density (Urban Areas)	Rank
1	2	3	4	5
1. Gandhinagar	298	1	424	18
2. Kheda	284	2	1490	9
3. Valsad	229	3	2368	5
4. <u>Mehsana</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1507</u>	<u>8</u>

contd...

Table 4:4 contd...

1	2	3	4	5
5. Panchamahals	188	5	1832	7
6. Vadodara	181	6	3318	3
7. Surat	156	7	4616	1
8. Sabarkantha	149	8	745	14
9. Ahmedabad	117	9	4327	2
10. Junagadh	116	10	922	12
11. Amreli	105	11	564	17
12. Bharuch	102	12	1949	6
13. Banaskantha	91	13	767	13
14. Rajkot	91	14	2636	4
15. Bhavnagar	89	15	1181	10
16. Surendranagar	61	16	000	19
17. Dang	56	17	632	15
18. Jamnagar	52	18	930	11
19. Kutch	14	19	600	16

It will be seen from the above statistics that in rural population density, the Mehsana District occupies the fourth rank. This shows that in the matter of getting children from rural areas, the district is comparatively better placed than the other 15 districts of the State. In urban population density, its rank is comparatively lower - it is the eight out of the possible nineteen. In urban areas, the District can have sufficient number of children to fill its primary schools.

The district has 8.96 percent of its population belonging to the scheduled castes. In this, the district ranks fifth in the State. The district does not have significant size of tribal population - it has only 44 thousands in all of tribal population. Therefore, the district does not face much problem of providing primary education to tribal children.

4.4 The Social Dimension

The bulk of the population can be said to belong to the high-caste social groups. From the inquiries made by the investigator and from the documentary evidences that he could collect he found that nearly 19 lakhs out of the total district population of 20.62 lakhs belonged to the high caste Hindus such as Brahmins, Banias, Jains, Patidars and others. Its population of the Harijans was found to be around 1.88 lakhs and other low castes around, 10,000. Socially, the advanced talukas are Vishanagar, Siddhapur and Vijapur, the backward talukas are Sami, and Harij and the remaining talukas can be grouped under the category of medium. The Same classification of talukas also holds true in the economic dimension of the district. Vijapur, Vishnagar, and Siddhpur, in the same order are economically the leading talukas and Sami and Harij are at the bottom in the economic ladder of the district. Even educationally the same grouping holds true - Vishnagar (46.20 percent), Viajpur (44.14 percent) and Siddhapur (43.83 percent) are the advanced talukas, Harij (22.50 percent and Sami(15.77

percent) are the backward districts. The figures given in the brackets indicate the literacy percentages. All other talukas fall within the 'medium' or 'intermediate' group, their literacy percentages range from 31.76 for Kheralu Taluka to 42.53 per cent for Mehsana taluka.

4.5 The Economic Dimension

Economically the district appears to be of the average type, neither rich nor poor, but more leaning towards 'poor' category in rural areas. In habitations with a population range of 50,000 to 99,999, the annual per capita income is Rs.36.84, of which Rs.16.20 come from cess and taxation. In the habitation slab of 20,000 to 49,999 population, the annual per capita income shows only a slight decrease - the per capita income is Rs.35.32 with Rs.12.87 resulting from cess and taxation. In the third group of habitations where the population range is 10,000 to 19,999, the per capita annual income falls down considerably - it is only Rs.20.91 with Rs. 9.43 having been contributed by income from cess and taxation.

It will be seen that the per capita income goes on sliding down as the population gets decreasing. It is comparatively higher in well populated urban areas and lower in rural habitations under the Panchayat Administration.

In the lowest population slab - one of 19,999 to 10,000 the annual per capita income is Rs.20.91 as against the annual per capita expenditure of Rs. 9.96. This shows that as the population range goes on decreasing, the per capita expenditure on essential and welfare services also goes on decreasing.

In economically productive work, the economically active population in the Mehsana District seems to be largely drawn to agriculture. Therefore, the district can be said to be having agriculture economy. Among the economically population of the district, the following categorisation is illuminating.

TABLE : 4-5: Economically Active Population of the Mehsana District Category-wise.

Economic Activity:	Total:	Male	: Female	Percentage of workers.
1	2	3	4	5
Workers	590,620	522,052	68,568	100.00
1. Farmers	268,069	253,221	14,848	45.39
2. Farm labourer	143,615	102,428	41,187	24.32
3. Cattle rearing, Forest, Fisheries, Garden-agriculture etc.	10,840	9,882	958	1.83
4. Minerals and Mining.	2,317	2,100	217	0.39
5. (a) Cottage industries	20,185	18,530	1,655	3.42
(b) Production other than cottage industries.	33,340	31,883	1,457	5.64
			contd...	

Table 4.5 contd...

	1	2	3	4	5
6. Construction		7,018	6,462	556	1.19
7. Trade and commerce		16,033	15,790	243	2.71
8. Transport and Communication		16,033	15,790	243	2.71
9. Other services		46,986	41,530	5,456	7.96
10. Non-workers		1501,848	546,539	955,309	...

It will be seen that nearly 3 out of every 4 economically active persons are engaged in agricultural economy and only 1 person is engaged in either industrial, trade and commerce and other non-agricultural economic productive activities.

In the district there are 13,300 industrial organisations including cottage industries. In these organizations the number of persons engaged are around 41000. There are only 18 industry groups, some of them are shown below.

TABLE : 4.6: Main Industry Groups in the Mehsana District

Sr.No.	Main Industry Groups	Total Institutions.	No. of Production-workers
1.	Textiles	1,470	13,961
2.	Drinks, Tobacco and Tobacco products.	810	8,122
3.	Food products	1,960	4,839
4.	Wood and Products from wood including furniture.	1,391	3,553
5.	Production from cloth	2,579	3,533
6.	Other production industries	1,034	2,544
7.	Production of non-metal goods	886	2,299

4.6 The Political Dimension

Districts in Gujarat can be said to have picked up political tempo in the last two general elections. From the last general election of 1971, the New Congress party under the political leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi has come out as the leading and most vigorous political party in the district. However, in some talukas the hold of the Old Congress Party under the leadership of Shri Morarjibhai Desai has been in political dominance. The third big political party in India, Viz., the Jan Sangh has its hold only in one taluka. The table below shows the political party on the ticket of which the members in the State Legislative Assembly got elected in the last election.

TABLE : 4.7 : Political Parties represented in Gujarat State Legislative Assembly from the Mehsana District. (December 1973)

Sr.No.	Constituency	Party
1.	Kalol	New Congress
2.	Kadi	New Congress
3.	Jotana	Old Congress
4.	Mehsana	New Congress
5.	Mansa	Old Congress
6.	Vijapur	New Congress
7.	Visnagar	Old Congress
8.	Kheralu	New Congress
9.	Unjha	New Congress
10.	Siddhpur	Old Congress
11.	Patan	New Congress
12.	Chanasma	Jan Sangh
13.	Sami	New Congress

It may be noted that both the members elected to the Indian Parliament (the Loksabha) were elected on the ticket of the New Congress Party. The relative strengths of the political parties in Gujarat as well as in Mehsana District in the dissolved Gujarat Legislative Assembly are shown below :

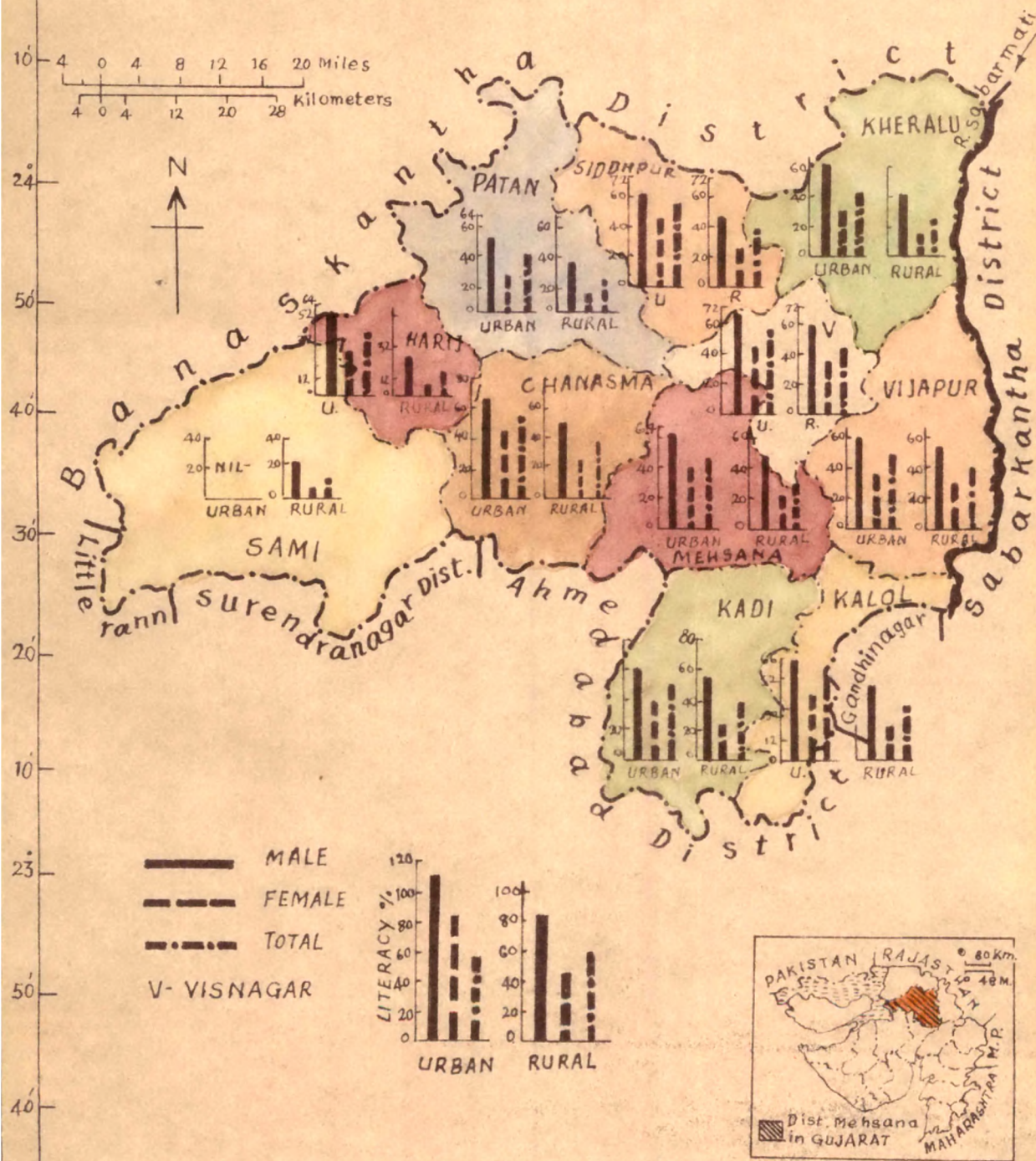
TABLE : 4.8: Relative Strength of Political Parties in Gujarat and Mehsana District.(1973)

Sr.No.:	Party	Mehsana percentage	Gujarat State Legislative Assembly percentage.
1.	Congress (New)	62	83
2.	Congress (old)	31	15
3.	Jan Sangh	7	2
Total:		100	100

4.7 The Literacy Dimension

In the matter of literacy, the district stands slightly higher than the State as a whole with its literacy of 38.86 percent. The literacy figures have been slowly but steadily increasing. The percentages of literacy were 24.63 in 1951, 33.88 in 1961, and 38.86 in 1971. Literacy figures have been increasing but rather slowly. In literacy percentage, the Visnagar Taluka tops the list and the Sami Taluka stands the lowest on the ladder. In urban areas of the district, the literacy figures are 52.16 percent as against the figures of

LITERACY OF MEHSANA DISTRICT



35.82 percent in rural areas. There is a wide gap between male literacy and female literacy in the district - the literacy percentage for male is 49.77 percent, for female it is only 27.46 percent. The male and female literacy figures show similar wide gap in urban and rural areas. In urban areas, male and female literacy percentages are respectively 62.20 percent and 41.34 percent respectively and in rural areas they are 46.88 percent and 24.35 percent respectively. Lower female literacy percentages are likely to affect more adversely the enrolment and retention of girls in primary education.

4.8 The Administrative Units Dimension

In Gujarat State, as in most other States in the Country, a district is a major unit of administration. A district is further divided into talukas. A taluka consists of a number of villages or habitations.

The Mehsana District, as stated earlier, is one of the total 19 districts of the State. In the matter of area, it ranks seventh among the districts, the biggest district being Kutch (45,612 sq.km.) and the smallest being Gandhinagar (649 sq.km.) The average size of a district in Gujarat State is 10,841.2 sq.km. Mehsana, with its area of 9,027 sq.km. is a little smaller than the average size of a district in Gujarat State. The average size of population of a district

in Gujarat State is around 14.45 lakhs. The Mehsana district is bigger in population than the average, as it has a total population of 20.92 lakhs. In population the district ranks third next to Ahmedabad District (29.10) lakhs. and Kheda District (24.51 lakhs).

The sub-administrative unit in a district is a taluka. The details about the 11 talukas of the Mehsana District, as revealed in Census of Gujarat 1971, are given in Table 4.2

In terms of the average area (820.6 sq.km.) for a taluka, five talukas, viz., Mehsana (791.4 sq. km), Siddhapur (670.9 sq.km.), Visnagar (488 sq.km.), Kalol (487.2 sq.km.) and Harij (407 sq.km.) are smaller than the average size of the taluka in the district. Only in three talukas, (Kheralu, Patan and Vijapur) the number of habitations exceeds the figure of a hundred. In this respect Kalol, Visnagar and Harij are smaller talukas. Excepting the Sami Taluka each taluka has one or two cities situated therein, indicating thereby that there is predominant rural population in each taluka. The large size of rural population in each taluka poses a greater problem in expansion and development of primary education. Difficulties regarding establishment of primary schools equipping them with furniture, staffing them with good teachers, and especially women teachers, providing student Welfare services and maintenance of quality of school

instruction at a satisfactory level always are more baffling and challenging in rural areas than in urban areas. The density of population is also an important factor in the development of primary education. From this point of view, the talukas of Sami, Harij, Chanasma, Kadi and Kheralu are not so well placed as are the talukas of Siddhapur, Kalol, Vijapur, and Mehsana talukas.

The Patan, Mehsana, Kalol and Siddhapur talukas have a comparatively higher percentage of urban population than the other seven talukas of the district. This can be seen from Table 4.3

4.9 Some Facilities in the District that have Implications for Education :

Education does not just develop in isolation and vacuum. Certain physical facilities help its development and increase its pace. In such facilities are included health services, electricity, and transport.

TABLE : 4.9 : Some Dimensions of Talukas of the Mehsana District

Administrative Unit: Taluka	Area (Sq.km.)	Population	Habitations:habita- tion. per Sq.km.	Average population of Popula- tion to the State popula- tion.	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mehsana District.	9,027.0	2,092,468	1,084	13	232	100.00
Mehsana	791.4	246,212	109	1	311	11.77
Kadi	829.7	182,674	117	1	220	8.73
Chanasma	886.7	174,284	111	1	197	8.33
Sami	1,509.8	97,858	97	.	65	4.68
Harij	407.0	55,161	38	1	136	2.64
Patan	1,047.4	254,117	138	1	243	12.14
Siddhpur	670.9	234,863	82	2	350	11.22
Kheralu	953.2	205,821	158	2	216	9.84
Visnagar	488.0	160,729	60	1	329	7.68
Vijapur	940.5	308,216	106	2	328	14.73
Kalol	487.2	172,533	68	1	354	8.24
Average	820.6	1,90,224	98.5	1.18	271	9.09

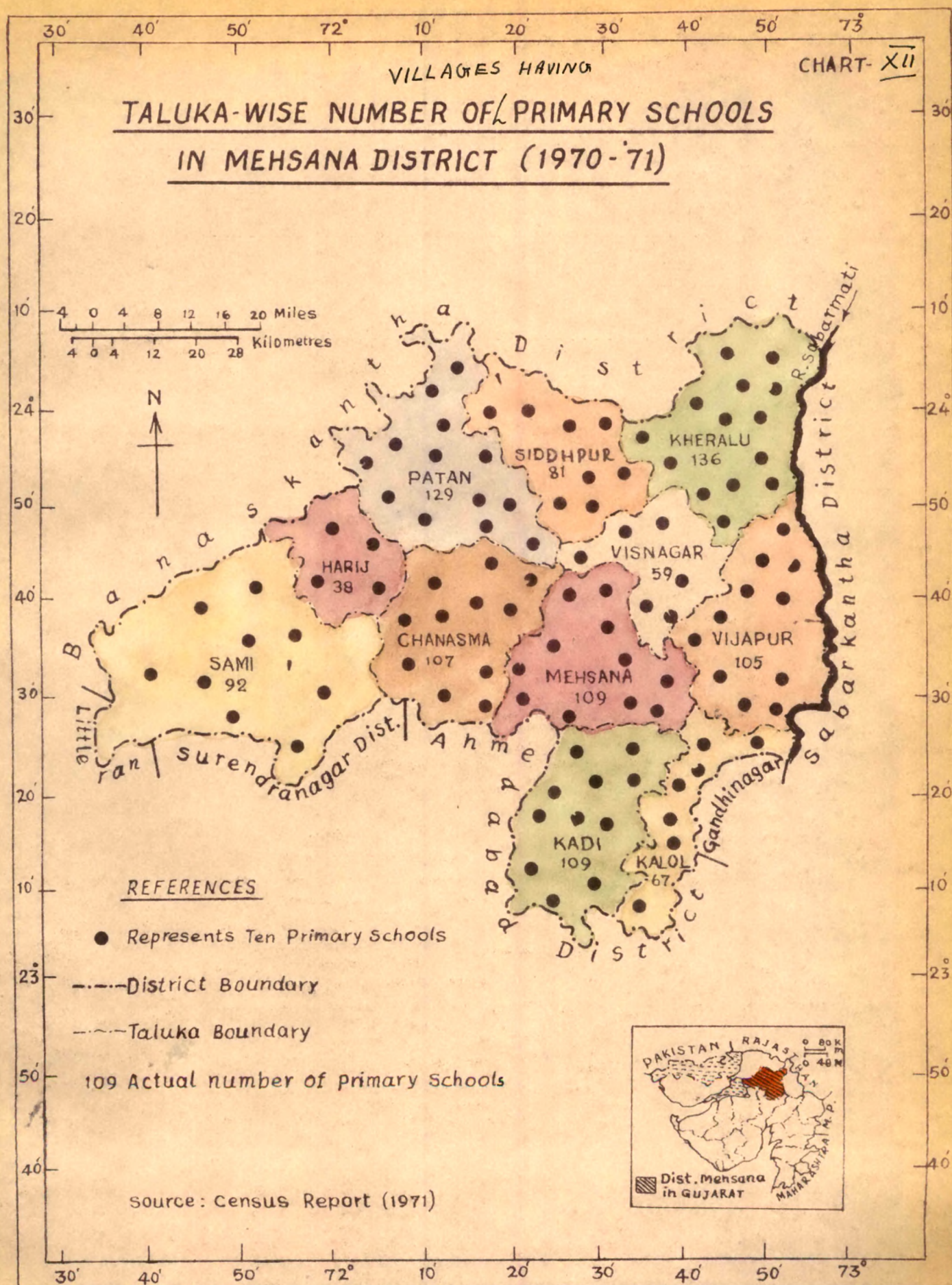
TABLE :4.10 : Population of Urban Areas in the
Mehsana District (1971)

(Figures in percentages)

Urban Area	Population	Percentage of urban population to the total District Population.
Total	389,075	100.00
Mehsana	51,713	13.30
Kadi	28,332	7.29
Chanasma	14,398	3.70
Harij	11,073	2.85
Patan	64,519	16.59
Siddhpur	41,334	10.63
Unza	27,179	6.99
Kheralu	13,881	3.57
Vadnagar	19,329	4.97
Visnagar	34,863	8.96
Vijapur	15,571	4.00
Mansa	16,362	4.21
Kalol	50,321	12.94

4.10. The Educational DimensionProgress of Primary Education in the Mehiana District

Inn 1960, when the State of Gujarat was constituted from the composite bilingual Bombay State, there were 17,527 primary schools in the district with an enrolment of 45.47 lakhs



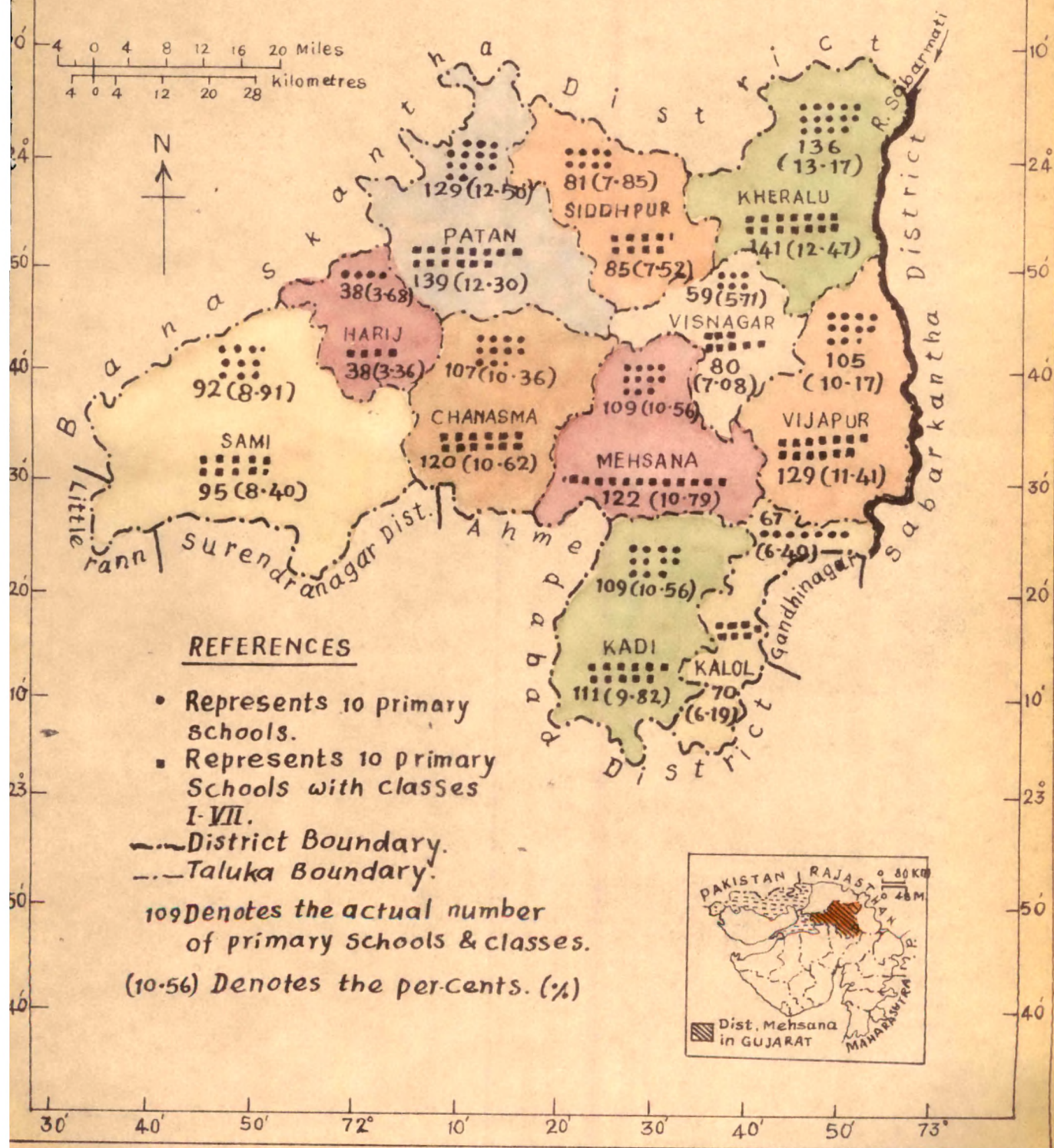
children in classes I to IV and 6.8 lakhs in Class V to VII. Since then, the primary education has made significant headway. In 1969, 99.30 percent of the total habitations in the district had primary school facilities in their own areas. The 1971 Census reported primary school facilities (Class I to VII) in almost all villages. Table 4. 11 below throws more light on this.

TABLE : 4.11 : Primary School Facilities in Villages in the Mehsana District(Taluka-wise)
(1971)

Sr.No.	Taluka	No. of villages having primary school facilities.	No. of primary schools (Classes I-VII)
1.	Vijapur	105	129
2.	Kadi	109	111
3.	Kalol	07	70
4.	Patan	129	139
5.	Mehsana	109	122
6.	Siddhpur	81	85
7.	Harij	38	38
8.	Sami	92	95
9.	Kheralu	136	141
10.	Chanasma	107	120
11.	Visnagar	59	80
Total:		1,032	1,130

The table reveals that 1,032 villages have among them 1,130 schools, showing thereby that each one of these villages has at least one primary school and some bigger

TALUKA-WISE NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN MEHSANA DISTRICT (1970-71)



villages have even more than one. There are not many talukas that have school-less villages. This can be seen from table 4.12 given below :

TABLE : 4.12 : Distribution of School-less villages
Taluka wise in the Mehsana District

Sr.No. Taluka	Number of school-less villages.	No. of unhabita- ted villages.
1. Mahesana	--	--
2. Kadi	8	--
3. Chanasma	4	--
4. Sami	5	--
5. Harij	1	1
6. Patan	8	--
7. Siddhapur	1	--
8. Kheralu	31	9
9. Visnagar	--	--
10. Vijapur	1	1
11. Kalol	1	--
Total: 60		11

Thus, there are only 71 villages that do not have primary schools. Of these 11 are unhabitated.

Another criterion of assessing the extent of school facilities is to determine the number of persons in every thousand of the population for which a primary school and a secondary school are provided. This is shown below in Table 4.13

TABLE : 4.13 : Given below Indicates school Facilities available at Specified distance from the neighbouring city area

S.No.	Distance from the Neighbouring city	No. of villages falling within the range.	No. of Primary schools.	Number of high schools.	No. of Colleges.	Others.
1.	less than 5 km.	145	142 (97.93)	14 (9.65)	2 (1.37)	15 (10.34)
2.	6 - 10 k.m.	316	306 (96.86)	68 (21.55)	-	46 (14.59)
3.	11 - 15 km.	232	225 (96.98)	40 (17.24)	-	35 (15.08)
4.	16 - 25 km.	261	246 (94.25)	34 (13.03)	-	23 (8.81)
5.	26 - 50 km.	121	107 (88.43)	7 (5.79)	-	5 (4.13)
6.	51 -100 km.	6	6 (100.00)	-	-	-
7.	101 -200 km.	-	-	-	-	-
8.	201 km. and above.	-	-	-	-	-
Total:		1081	1032 (95.46)	163 (15.01)	2 (1.37)	124 (11.47)

The table is self-explaining: It substantiates the thesis that there exists in the district pretty good primary school facilities. Even secondary school facilities are fairly satisfactory.

Table. 4.14 gives a still fuller picture of educational facilities taluks-wise in the district.

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TABLE : 4.14 : Talukewise Educational Facilities in the Mehsana District

S.No.	Taluka	No. of villages	No. of villages with primary schools.	No. of primary schools.	No. of primary schools with class I - VII	No. of villages with High schools.	No. of High schools.	No. of villages with college.	No. of colleges.	Other Educational Facilities.
1.	Mahesana	109	109	122	19	19	19	-	-	20
2.	Kadi	117	109	111	19	19	19	-	-	10
3.	Chanasma	111	107	120	16	16	16	-	-	16
4.	Sami	97	92	95	3	3	3	-	-	3
5.	Harij	39	38	38	1	1	1	-	-	1
6.	Patan	137	129	139	12	12	12	-	-	16
7.	Siddhapur	82	81	85	14	15	15	-	-	14
8.	Kheralu	167	136	141	16	16	16	-	-	4
9.	Visnagar	59	59	80	15	15	15	-	-	14
10.	Vijapur	106	105	129	35	36	36	2	2	21
11.	Kalol	68	67	70	13	13	13	-	-	9
Total:		1092	1032	1130	163	165	165	2	2	128

TABLE : 4.15 : Provision of a Primary and a Secondary School Per 1000 of population.

Sr.No.	City	Per every 1000 population			
		High school:	Rank:	Primary school.	Rank.
1.	Chanasma	0.208	12	0.208	5
2.	Harij	0.090	3	0.180	4
3.	Kadi	0.141	7	0.282	7
4.	Kalol	0.099	4	0.358	10
5.	Kheralu	0.072	1	0.144	2
6.	Mehsana	0.077	2	0.155	3
7.	Mansa	0.244	13	0.489	13
8.	Patan	0.139	6	0.217	6
9.	Siddhapur	0.145	9	0.290	8
10.	Unza	0.110	5	0.405	12
11.	Vadnagar	0.155	10	0.362	11
12.	Vijapur	0.193	11	0.128	1
13.	Visnagar	0.143	8	0.316	9
Average		0.139		0.272	

In the district as a whole, there is a primary school per 273 persons in every 1000 persons of the population. The talukas of the district can be arranged in provision of primary school facilities as below in a descending order from better provided to the lesser provided one. (1) Vijapur, (2) Kheralu, (3) Mehana, (4) Harij, (5) Chanasma, (6) Patan, (7) Kadi, (8) Siddhapur, (9) Vishnagar, (10) Kalol, (11) Vadnagar, (12) Unza, and (13) Mansa.

4.11 Conclusion

It will thus be seen that Mehsana is economically and educationally a medium level district. Politically it is dominated by the New Congress Party headed by Smt. Indira Gandhi but it has opposition from the Old Congress Party which helps in keeping the wheel of democracy moving. Socially, it has more dominance of the upper castes, particularly the Brahmins and Patidars. Its economy is predominantly agricultural but industrially it shows signs of development. The annual per capita income is sliding towards low, but in Indian villages the per capita income has been, over decades, low and inadequate. The district has only 18.58 percent of its total population residing in urban areas. About 77 percent of the total 1,081 villages in the district have S.T. Bus transport facilities, which can be considered, by Indian Standards, fairly good. The literacy figures of the district have been steadily going up. But, even then, 6 out of every 10 persons living in the district are illiterate.

The Mehsana District seems to have made appreciable progress in the sphere of lower primary education. In 1969, it was reported to have 99.30 percent of its habitations having primary school facilities either in the habitation itself or within one mile walking distance from the residence of the child, of the age-group 6-11. The percentage of enrolment of

girls in lower primary schools was to the extent of 63.8 percent. This was rather on a lower scale than 6 of the 19 districts of the State and even lower than the State average which was 64.0 percent in 1969. The wastage for girls between 1963-64 and 1968-69 was reported to be as high as 71.2 percent. But in the State as a whole the rate of wastage in the case of enrolled girls in classes I to IV was as high as 71.1 percent. In 1970, the percentages of wastage for boys and girls in lower primary schools were 46.74 and 57.35 respectively and in upper primary school classes, the percentages for boys and girls were 62.68 and 63.90 percent respectively.

The teacher-pupil ratio in lower primary schools in the district was 1:40 which was higher than 7 of the total 19 districts of the State.

The district had, in 1969, 87.6 percent of its total 6,502 teachers trained. The State mean for trained primary teachers was 87.8. It had a better standing in respect of trained primary teachers than nearly half the number of districts in the State. The Perspective Plan of Gujarat:1974-1984 had stipulated that in the Mehsana District the additional enrolment of children of 6-10 age group in primary school classes I-IV would be 0.99 lakh and in the age-group 11-13 it would also be to the tune of 0.99 lakh.

This is briefly the profile of the Mehsana District with some significant dimensions spelt out and described. It is expected that this background picture of the district would be helpful in understanding the Panchayati Raj institutions in the district and particularly their impact on primary education in the district.

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