

Appendix VI

About the Research Setting

The Gujarat State

According to Census 2011, the total population of Gujarat is 60,383,628 comprising of 31,482,282 men and 28,901,346 women. The percent decadal growth rate of population during 2001-2011 is 19.17. The female sex ratio for the state of Gujarat is 918. The literacy rate is 87.23 for men and 70.73 for women. Out of the total population of the state, 42.58 percent population stays in urban areas. The population in rural areas comprises of 17,802,975 (9.10%) men and 16,867,842 (9.37per cent) women; and 13,679,307 (35.87per cent) men and 12,033,504 (35.78per cent) women reside in the urban areas (census 2011).The state has an elderly population of 3,489,009 which is 6.9 of the total population of Gujarat. Of these, men and women comprise 46.5per cent and 53.5per cent respectively (Govt. of India (Census), 2001).

Vadodara District

According to Census 2011, the total population of Vadodara District is 4,157,568 of which men are 57.1per cent and women are 42.9per cent. The population of Vadodara district is 6.89 percent of the total population of the state of Gujarat and it ranks 3rd by population size. The percent decadal growth rate of population of the district during 2001-2011 is 14.16. The female sex ratio is 934. In the Vadodara district the male and female literacy rates are 87.59 and 74.40 respectively. The district ranks 10 among the 25 districts of Gujarat for the literacy rate of the population (Census, 2011).

The length of the Vadodara district from north to south is about 109.3 km and from east to west is 148.1 km. It is bounded in the North and West by Kheda and Anand districts, in east by Panchmahals and Dohad districts and in the south by Bharuch and Narmada districts. Also the boundaries of the district touch the boundaries of States Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The area covered by the district is 7,550 sq.km. Vishwamitri and Mahi are principal rivers of the district. The climate is characterized by a hot summer and dryness in the non-rainy seasons. Economic resources are an important means for subsistence of the working people of the district. The economic resources are from the important sectors such as forestry, minerals and mining, soil and cropping pattern, land and land use pattern.

The Vadodara City

The ancient town of Vadodara was once called *Chandanvati* after the name of Raja Chandan of the *Dor* tribe of Rajputs who wrested it from the Jains. The name of *Chandanvati* that meant the 'City of Sandalwood' was afterwards changed to *Viravati* meaning the 'Abode of Warriors' and then again to '*Vatpatra*' which means the 'Leaf of the banyan tree'. One belief is that the flourishing Ankottaka (Modern Akota) developed one of its suburbs on the left bank of the Vishvamitri where Banyan (*Vad*) trees were in predominance. The suburb near the 'Banyan Tree' means *Vadapatraka*. Much of the old walled city area was developed during the successive Muslim rule. The Moghal rule over the city came to an end in 1732, when Pilaji brought the Maratha activities in Southern Gujarat to an end and captured it.

Except for a short break, Vadodara continued to be in the hands of the Gaekwads as their capital town from 1734 to 1949. Maharaja Sayajirao III (1875-1939) who did not come from the direct line of the ruling Gaekwad dynasty was the architect of modern Vadodara. It was the dream of this visionary ruler who was educated under English tutors and local teachers, to make Vadodara an educational, industrial and commercial centre. Under his rule Baroda showed tremendous progress and constructive achievements in all fields.

Sayajirao initiated a series of bold socio-economic reforms. He attached great importance to economic development and started a number of model industries to encourage initiative, and then handed over the industries to private enterprise. He started model textile and tile factories. It is as a result of his policy of industrial development that Vadodara is today one of the most important centers for textile, chemical and petroleum industries. He introduced a number of social reforms, more so in the field of education. He introduced compulsory primary education and a library movement (the first of its kind in India) to augment his adult education scheme. He also visualized a general scheme of development in all branches of knowledge at different stages, with the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodara at the apex. Modern Vadodara owes its beauty, its educational institutions, cultural uniqueness and architectural masterpieces to the insight and vision of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. Vadodara is also popularly called as a 'Sanskar Nagari', that is, a 'city of culture'. It is also referred to as 'the cultural capital' of Gujarat. The city has rich traditions of composite culture and is cosmopolitan in nature.

Unique Features of the Vadodara City

Cosmopolitan and cultural diversity: Vadodara is considered as one of the intellectual hubs in the state of Gujarat and is considered a cultural center. The city has welcomed a wide variety of people from all over India and also from all over the world. The city upkeeps rich cultural traditions and people have quite a full and hectic cultural life throughout the year. Thus, the culture of the city is not just history or heritage; it is dynamic, ever-changing and alive.

Prominence of education: Vadodara is synonymous with education. The patronage of education started with Maharaja Sayajirao and the city has built further on the academic infrastructure established by him. Maharaja Sayajirao University is the only university in Gujarat with English as the medium of instruction. It has 13 faculties and 17 residential hostels, 4 of them for women students. The university caters to over 30,000 students.

Industry & commerce: Vadodara enjoys a special place in the state of Gujarat. Till the early 1960's Vadodara was mainly considered to be a cultural and educational centre. Now the industrialization of Vadodara has attracted entrepreneurs not only from Baroda but also from all over Gujarat and India. The first modern factory (Alembic Pharmaceuticals) was established in Baroda in 1907 and subsequently companies such as Sarabhai Chemicals, Jyoti, etc., came up in the 1940s. By 1962 there were 288 factories employing 27510 workers. In 1962, Baroda witnessed a sudden spurt in industrial activity with the establishment of Gujarat Refinery. The discovery of oil and gas in Ankleshwar and North Gujarat led to the industrial development of Gujarat in a big way. Vadodara is no exception and the city and the surrounding areas are today humming with industrial activity.

Migration to other countries: In order to pursue higher education or starting business, increasingly more individuals from the state of Gujarat and especially from the Vadodara city have been migrating to other countries. The presence of the Gujarati diaspora in countries such as UK, South Africa, USA, Canada, and Australia is phenomenal. Most of them eventually take citizenship and settle abroad by becoming Non Resident Indians (NRI) and their frequency of visiting India becomes less over a period of time. Hence, this is seen as one of the important factors influencing the living arrangements of the older generation in the state and in India in general.