

CHAPTER : VII**CONCLUSION :**

A basic feature of the life and organisation of our societies is the cohesion of socio-geographic groups at various levels. The rural settlement, which is one aspect to this field of study, is selected for examination as a Central Place a focus of various activities and a service centre for a surrounding tributary area.

The method of study is based on the sphere of influence, influence exerted by the establishments of the central villages on the surrounding smaller villages. Three villages emerge as central place villages viz Kosindra and Vasna to the east and Bhatpur to the west of the study area. These two divisions of the study area are due to the effect of the drainage pattern. The main features of effects are gullies, forest and Lechhrae hills, which are found in the central part of the study. The two rivers Unch in the north and Heran in the south are also responsible factors for determining, the three central place villages. The number of establishments of three central villages exert influence on the surrounding villages at different levels. The regional approach to the study is based on level of contacts of the central villages with the surrounding area, i.e. the relationship between the central place villages and the surrounding villages.

In all there are 52 villages in the study area of which three can take the place of Central Villages. They are determined on location, quality of population, amenities and the facilities of transportation. Kadchhak and Parvata cannot be categorized as central villages because these villages lack transport facilities and do not have higher caste people who are rich and enterprising.

Till 1960, Bhatpur served as the central place village because the eastern part did not have all weather roads except a narrow gauge railway station at Bhatpur. People came to Bhatpur to board the train to go to different destinations in Gujarat.

The physiography and drainage pattern of the study area did not permit much development till 1960, because of gullies, hills and forests in the central part of the study area. The two main rivers Unch and Heran and Bherda Kotar are mainly responsible for the retarded development of the area. Construction of all weather roads were not economic due to the rugged topography.

Since 1960, there has been a slow and steady progress, with the construction of the bridge over Orsang river near Bodeli and a small dam on Heran river near Rajwasna, which feeds the Heran canal and eastern state highway No.5.

During the current year (1984), roads along the canals are made into all weather roads under the Heran canal road project scheme. This has helped the transport of agricultural products to the market. The western part of the study area which was lacking a good network of roads can now utilise the canal roads for transport and easy flow of traffic and agricultural products. This would come up in future to the level of development of the eastern part if adequate water is provided for agriculture.

Today the eastern division of the study area has progressed with adequate transport and irrigation facilities. So Kosindra has made commendable progress and attracted population considerably. This is reflected in the increase in the density of population, social character and the standard of living of the areas which Kosindra serves e.g. Banks, Telephones, Tractors, Scooters, New houses and housing society, gober gas plants in homes, built sewage system.

Bhatpur and Vasna are far behind Kosindra in many respects. Both land and human resources are available but the tributary areas of Bhatpur and Vasna do not have enough facilities and lack incentives from the government to develop the area and progress rapidly like Kosindra.

The development of dairy industry requires all weather roads. This in turn helps the farmers for obtaining regular weekly income from the sale of milk to distant settlements. Agriculture is based on pesticides, chemical fertilizers, irrigation, water, which are beyond the reach of poor farmers. So some of the farmers side by side have started rearing milk cattle for adding to their income. All the roads of the study area are expected to be made into all weather tar roads by the end of 1985. The villages in the eastern part like Kosindra, Vaena, Serghi, Desan, Rajbodali, Chikhodra are now developed due to the all weather tar roads, irrigation water by canal and wells, banks, and co-operative societies.

An analytical study of the three central place villages and their surrounding areas has revealed the clear distinction in the development of the western and eastern parts of the study area. The basic cause for this regional inequality may be attributed to the physiographic condition of the area which is mainly responsible for holding back a good net work of road system to develop here.

The villages which are to the north of Bhatpur are associated closely with Bhatpur than those which are to the south. This is because of the obstacles caused by the river Unch during monsoon for an easy movement of population. The villages which are to the south of Kosindra are closely associated with Vaena, as most of the fields are owned by people living in Vaena. The institutions of public utilities are located in Vaena and not in Kosindra. Hence, the attraction of Vaena is kept alive and people are compelled to go to Vaena for some administrative purpose.

An interesting revelation of study is that away from the central place villages, the percentage of scheduled castes and tribes increased. They inhabit villages where the topography is uneven and the soil is not very fertile and productive. They reside where water is available for drinking and washing purposes. They work as labourers in the fields of owners who reside in the central place villages, and commute daily for various purposes.

The accessibility of the villages, good transport system and irrigation facilities are responsible for the development of the rural community. "A regional approach to rural settlement studies" brings out various aspects which are necessary for the development of rural community and which can bring the villages closer to the Central Place Villages.