SUMMARY

India is an agricultural country. Its towns are categorised as towns merely because of their large populations. Their rural character is still evident particularly in the small towns. In many of these towns there is a large population dependent on agriculture while the industrial workers are those engaged in agro-based industries. Trade generally consists of retail selling to meet the requirements of the large consuming population in the town itself. The basic functions of the town which gives it the urban character are still in their rudimentary stage in the Indian towns. Towns have grown from village to urban centres as population grew and adjusted themselves to the slow changing demands of their economy. The old self-sufficiency of Indian towns and villages has been projected into the modern period with no outstanding economic revolutions so that the regional contacts of the town and its cultural influence on the region are weak and haphazard.

Kapadwanj is such a town which had its origin in a few hamlets. It derived its early raison d'etre to its location on the trade route from the fertile plains of Malwa to the Gujarat ports. A nucleated settlement evolved early enough on this route. Kapadwanj had the advantage of commanding a gap in the eastern hills being at the junction where the Mal region (upper floor) merged with the Charotar region (lower floor).
Kapadwanj was situated on the frontier area of two powerful States, Malwa and Gujarat, so that it functioned as a defence frontier town on an important road used by the troops during periods of clash between the two kingdoms. The town also became an administrative centre at least during the early Muslim period.

During the British period, when commercial agriculture was ushered in with the increasing demand for cotton and transport lines were improved to draw the cotton to the small administrative centres of the Talukas and Districts, Kapadwanj had the uniqueness of being situated on the dividing line between the black soil region (thà Mal) and the light soil region so that it commanded a cotton region stretching to its east and a groundnut region extending to its west. As the Taluka headquarters it had adequate transport lines converging on it to become a collecting and distributing centre for both these products. The transport of semi-finished products and consumer goods being more economic than that of raw material Kapadwanj was compelled to develop cotton pressing and ginning factories and oil crushing industries. With the increasing population and change in the way of life, other services such as education, medical services, administrative services, restaurants, hotels etc. also began to take root in the town and Kapadwanj grew into a collecting and distributing town manufacturing oil and baled cotton with sizeable service
function for its own population as well as the population of the region. As the demands of the town grew its influence over the economy of the region also became more effective. Chapter I is an analysis of the evolution of the town and its adjustment to the changing demands of the region.

Chapter II deals with the present functions of the town. Kapadwanj has retained all its old functions except that of defence which function was centralised during the British period except for the maintenance of a police force in the different administrative centres. The trade of Kapadwanj is, at present, not a transit trade from Malwa to Gujarat but one mainly with its own region. The raw material for its industries are the agricultural products of the region although the demand from its industrial units is extending the region of procurement to distant areas. The semi-finished products and consumer goods find their way to a vast area depending on the efficiency and frequency of the transport lines converging on the town. The other functions of the town are administrative and service. Kapadwanj has evolved into a town with multifarious functions on a modest scale. The rural character of the town however is still evident.

With modern industries, commerce and other functions the population of Kapadwanj grew, which though mostly a natural growth, was also partly due to a rural-urban
migration over the decades. Chapter III gives the details of the growth of population since 1872, its present distribution and density, occupational structure, sex ratio, literacy, density of houses etc. The unit of study here is the Ward, the smallest administrative area within the town limits for which the Census reports maintain data. The study gives an interesting pattern of congestions in the old town area, the segregation of occupational groups, such as the concentrations of the old occupations by caste and the new occupations based on education, the crowded living patterns conditioned either by socio-economic needs or by lack of facilities in the outer limits of the town and other features of the population.

Chapter IV is the outcome of a socio-economic survey conducted on 200 families (1296 people) making 3.4% of the total number of families. The purpose of the survey was to discover the way of living of the people, number of earners and dependants, their income, expenditure, debt, property holdings, their social contacts etc. These factors have a powerful influence on the morphology and function of the town as well as the contact of the town with the region. The survey is based on 6 occupational groups given in the municipal records, namely Agriculture, Commerce, Employee, Graft, Labour and Miscellaneous and the samples are distributed fairly over the groups according to the number in that group. The study revealed that the Miscellaneous
group has the highest per-capita income followed by the Commerce group while the Craft group has the lowest income per capita, lower than that of the Labour group. The average per capita income in the town is Rs.651, varying from Rs.169 in the Craft group to Rs.1052 in the Miscellaneous group. Nearly 40% of the people have debts, the interest varying from 8% to 25%. The Agricultural group, despite their comparatively higher per capita income has a large number of families with debt, almost 65% of the total in that group. The major source of income is still from land and the commerce of the town is also dependent on land. But the plight of the agricultural population seems to be none too encouraging.

Chapter V deals with the Morphology of the town, the ground pattern or the areal distribution of the buildings, establishments, roads, shops and the like. Kapadwanj evolved perhaps from a linear hamlet along the river Mohar, on a trade route between Gujarat and Malwa. The Solanki town of the 11th century was better planned with vavs and Kunds (tanks) to serve the Vanzaras (traders) on their long journey by caravan to the coastal ports, but it was still open to the plains. The walled town came into existence only during the early Muslim period when Ladan Bibi made it the place of her residence. It was planned to meet the requirements of the town and each caste, following particular occupations, were located in the different
Wadas of the town. Each Wada had its own wall and gate and the castes lived in exclusive areas although performing the duties assigned to them for the larger town community. A rigidity of caste-function zoning came into existence which could not be wiped out even with the super-imposition of commercial and industrial economy of the modern times. Large parts of the Solanki town and Ladan Bibi's town still exist. The town forced itself outside the walls in the 19th and 20th centuries when the usual structures of the British India administrative town, such as the railway station, cotton ginning factories, schools etc. came to be located outside the town walls. The town extended along roads connecting the old core with new extensions. The core shifted from the old administrative area in the north to the new shopping area to the south and the Industrial area to the east. Chapter V also includes an areal survey of the Main Bazaar Area of Kapadwanj. Many Indian geographers have imported the idea of the C.B.D. (Central Business District) of Western towns to the commercial area of Indian towns. The features of the C.B.D. are all but absent in the commercial area of Indian towns particularly in the small towns of 50,000 and less. In these towns the Central Business District is the Main Bazaar Area, an area of small shops engaged generally in retail selling to the town community. A survey of the Main Bazaar Area (M.B.A.) revealed that it was a residential area, a retail selling
area, a manufacturing area, as well as a service area. It had schools, industries, recreation centres and also accommodated a large population. Methods used for the analysis of the C.B.D. of the Western towns cannot therefore be applied to Indian towns.

The influence of the town on the region increases with the functions of the town. The self sufficiency of the old towns, necessitated by lack of transport facilities, permitted very little contact with the region. The products of the crafts of the town were generally not beyond the consuming needs of the town. The villages had all the crafts that the town posseased and their dependence on the town was limited to special luxuries which was met by a weekly market or annul fair held in the town. The need for cotton and the improvement of transport during the British period brought the first contact of the town with the region. Commercial agriculture replaced subsistence agriculture and bulk transport of goods was facilitated by the railway and truck. The baling of cotton in central places became an economic necessity and Kapadwanj began to develop cotton pressing and ginning factories which had to be fed by the cotton of the region. She also modernised her oil crushing industries on a factory basis and began to draw the groundnut of the region. Other services like education, medical and recreation also took root in the town as the demand increased. However it was found that the size and shape of the urban field of
Kapadwanj are restricted by inadequacy of transport, rival centres of industry and commerce in the same region, social and cultural factors and historical factors. To measure the intensity of the influence of the town and its waning importance outward, six institutions of the town were studied and their influence mapped, which revealed that the area of greatest influence of Kapadwanj is confined to only 2 villages in the vicinity while a waning influence is seen up to a radius of 25 to 30 km. A town with a population of more than 30,000, influences intensively an area of less than 5 km. radius. This fact forcefully reveals the lack of basic functions in the towns of India.

The last chapter is a suggestion for the better planning of the town. The haphazard growth of several centuries has left its marks on the townscape. The poverty of the people, the imbalanced economy during the British period, the decline of the handicrafts have all left problems which require solutions. The beauty of the landscape of a town depends on the prosperity of its people. Unless a fair per capita income is assured, no plan can be implemented. However some suggestions have been made to meet the immediate requirements of the town community, such as diversion of traffic to avoid congestion in the residential areas, removal of slums, widening of roads, better living conditions and the like.

The study is based on personal survey and Government records and reports.