CHAPTER 6

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6.1 VALIDITY OF HYPOTHESIS

The details exposed in the third, fourth and the fifth chapter; provides an overview of the nature and magnitude of the development that has taken shape over the period of time. In general, there is a perception that Kachchh is a backward border area. The general perception is many a time reflected in administration, considering the district as a center of punishment, by the top level bureaucrats. The history of the last four decades, also support the view that the propensity to spend for the development is lacuna in this district. This general perception is now gradually changing in itself. The natural disaster, in the form of earthquake, has definitely touched the lives of the native Kachchhis. It is equally true that, the disaster paralyzed the structure and functions of the district economy, at large. There was a strong and legitimate decent against the administrative operations, carried out in the district, as a part of follow-up development process. The on-going scenario of development was therefore examined in light from the available past records.

A quick analytical short study, however, has enough strength to throw light on the changing dimensions of development. In the parts to follow, it is to be proved that, “Old order changeth, yielding place to new”. An average Kachchhi also, from the bottom of the heart, calls this disaster as “Blessing in Disguise”.

6.2 MAJOR KEY FINDINGS

1) The study was undertaken with some hypothetical perceptions. The first, was regarding basic economic scenario. The pre and post disaster scenario itself, shows that there has been considerable change in the pace and nature of the economy, after disaster. Three important economic areas are found to have exploded with much pace and with more diversity. The regular business operators travelling from beyond the district have expressed clearly, regarding changes in the economic scenario. Unofficial reports from the toll gates known as the “Gate-way of Kachchh” also confirm to the view that, there is consistently trend of, in and out migration in the district. From amongst 75 business operators surveyed beyond the district, almost 62 have strongly observed phenomenal changes in the economic scenario. The change in the economic scenario is reflected:

1. In terms of change in the magnitude and nature of the demand operations.
2. Intense diversification in economic operations.
3. Average propensity to spend.

Now, it is not only Gandhidham and Bhuj that are economically growing, but there is a slow and steady change in the economic scenario of small centers too. Percentage ratio in aggregate, subscribe to the view that there is a significant amount of change in the basic economic scenario, hence the hypothesis for the study in this case is proved to be false.

2) The post-disaster period, in comparison with pre-disaster period has undergone significant change in the sectoral economic operations. Geographical locations have not changed much, in relation to the sectoral operations; but intensity in diversification of sectoral operations is precisely reflected. There has been completely up-swinging change in Gandhidham, Anjar and Mundra regarding industrial operations. One finds explicit change, in the occupational pattern more in these areas. It is the sectoral diversification, which has resulted into diverse economic strength and skill of the people. Globalization, as a concept was not much intensified, prior to the disaster. It is the post-disaster operations, which make the localities possible to be in contact with the people abroad. This has resulted into considerable change in the cropping intensity particularly in Anjar and Nakhatrana. The sectoral diversification as viewed by the respondents is observed highest by way of intensive growth, in the services such as real state, private insurance, private transport, telecommunications, banking etc. The post-disaster operations have laid strong seeds of rapid service sector development in the district. Chi-square ($\chi^2$) results of the respondent’s observations and secondary data confirm to the view that there is much sectoral diversification observed in the district, post-disaster.

3) The last official census was carried out in 2002, in the early post-disaster time. It was delayed only because of the natural disaster of earthquake. Taking into consideration the last census report, it is explicitly found that, the process of rehabilitation of the population or reshaping of the economy has not lead to the process of urbanization. The unofficial data shows a little change towards urbanization, but in aggregate the pace of urbanization in respect of aggregate change is not observed in the district. Two things are observed in this regard: Even today an average Kachchhi household prefers domestic settlement to outside settlement. It is the mentality which works as major obstacle to the process of urbanization. It is also the distance which restricts the scope of urbanization. Unlike other plain area districts,
Kachchh is a widely scattered area with the least density observed in respect of India or State. This has turned into concentration of economic operations in few selected pockets, mainly in Gandhidham, Anjar, Mundra and Bhuj. It is also observed and reflected in the respondent’s reviews, their least tendency for adaptability to change. They do confirm that Kachchhi’s settled outside Kachchh are more prone to the changes in comparison to natives. This tends to have an impact on the process of urbanization.

4) The theoretical perception in aggregate suggests that, with the growth of the economy propensity to save tends to be less in the initial period; which over a period of time, becomes hectic. The economic rational of consumption and saving does not hold true, at all times in all places. Looking at the respondent’s reflection, in terms of their saving baskets, it is found that in a district like Kachchh the disaster has influenced a little to the saving and consumption pattern. However, the pattern of saving is not found to have much changed, in respect of the sectoral growth. Though sectoral diversification has taken place and employment potentials have increased, there is not much change either in the form of changing or in the mode of investment. A large group of Kachchhi’s still depend more on bank deposits and post-offices. Equity markets and gold have not attracted much, unlike real estate. There is a positive relationship between the rise in the level of income and rise in the real estate. This is particularly found in Gandhidham, Anjar and Mundra. Settlers in these areas have in general, made a point to settle and save through land operations. The local trading community serving in these pockets, confirm to the view that in certain pockets in these areas; the real estate market has swung up very high; in comparison with the major areas of the big cities. Certain pockets in Adipur, Anjar and Mundra have picked up a level at par with prominent areas of the state economic capital - Ahmedabad. However, unlike other major centers, the tendency towards equity market is not found to have swung up in this area, as much as the other areas. Rural Kachchhi’s still have the preference for Post-office and Nationalized bank schemes. It is because of the regular flow, in the form of NRI deposits too.

5) Economic development is stated as a continuous process. Conceptually, it is understood that the combined interaction of developmental forces, stimulates the growth process of the economy. An attempt was made to understand and examine the significance of the concept in this area, after the disaster period. There is a considerable change observed in respect of perceptions and operations for growth. Chi-square results and observations subscribe to the view that a new wave of change is
sweeping across certain areas of Kachchh; though not entire Kachchh. It is because of
the influential intervention of several leading NGO’s, strengthened by the Govt.
agency operations, that we find distinctive change in the life styles after the disaster.
The young generation, is explicitly for spending more and spending for diversified
products. Educational changes have begun to expand the horizons of upcoming
generations. NRI factor had its role even before the disaster, but the influx of rapid
industrialization widened up the opportunities more, yielding influential impact on the
mode of living. The cost of living indicators also, in combination with change in
income suggest that, there is significant amount of variation under the post-disaster
period in comparison with the pre-disaster period.

6.3 SOME OBSERVATIONS

The Gujarat earthquake has given a sort of ‘National wake up call’ to look within;
and introspect again on the state of disaster preparedness of the country. There should
be a national learning to take appropriate or specific steps for disaster reduction,
mitigation, prevention and preparedness. This earthquake can be regarded as an
opportunity to learn from this disaster and to work to never let it happen. There is a need
to learn lessons from this event and a plan must be designed for the areas located in the
high earthquake risk zones to mitigate the impacts of future earthquakes. Development
and disaster should go hand in hand. Development models must have in-built
components of disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness.

The 2001 earthquake resulted in huge calamity and destroyed many villages &
towns. This showed that lessons were not learnt in Anjar even after the tragedies of
1819 & 1956 earthquakes. The construction in the market area was so bad that the
collapse of buildings buried about 300 children who were marching with Republic Day
flags, when the buildings fell on them from both the sides of the street.

In the prevalent professional setting in India, it is too expensive to face earthquake
disasters. The huge loss of life and colossal economic set back (up to Rs.25,000 Crores)
was too much for the society to bear after the earthquake. Perhaps, it is the architect
who can make the first significant difference to the dismissal plight of the ever-increasingly number of seismically vulnerable constructions, or perhaps it is the
structural designer who can make significant changes in the seismic design and
detailing, or perhaps it is the common man who can start the entire system to stand up to
answer the one question “Is my building safe against damaging earthquakes?”

As part of field operations, the impressions gathered can be summed-up as under:
1) The entire process of change under the disaster seems to have put the district at cross roads of development. There is a growing amount of inquisitiveness towards change, but this is not accordingly backed by the economic capacity and institutional operations. On one hand, the post-disaster period has brought forth rays of hope for vibrant Kachchh; but on the other hand it has raised many institutional issues to cope with. Even today, the Gate-way of Kachchh is found scarcely beautiful. Barring few industrial houses, the entire Rapar area has yet to begin the development operations. Gap in the gender literacy, social institutional interventions, hesitation and little in difference in political approach; has in combination slowed the progress of the Gate-way of Kachchh.

2) The ending border areas of Kachchh are found to be least benefited, under the development operations. It is true, that these were not severely affected earthquake areas, but in the development science, once an opportunity arises, one must seize it. It is in this respect, that political entrepreneur should have dynamism to seize an opportunity, for upbringing the otherwise going to be remained backward areas. It is found that the growth process is exclusively concentrated in mainly the triangle of Gandhidham, Anjar and Mundra. This has resulted into lop-sided growth of the district.

3) The post disaster operational mechanism is observed to have resulted into corrupt practices, raising the cost of economic operations. Several business houses in confidence have opined the fact that there is considerable rise in the administrative corruption. This is likely to affect, investment operations in the future.

4) The native people do have regional affinity. This calls, for righteous claim for legitimate development; but in contrast this is not found practiced in large operations. Industrial operations have expanded the opportunities to some extent for local people. But lacuna in meeting with the competence hampers to an extent the growth of local talent. There is on one hand, talent crunch observed in economic operations and on the other hand a demandful force seeking lower strata jobs. Higher education spectrum has just begun in the area. It is too early to arrive at the impacts of higher education operations.

5) The dynamic thinkers traveling far and wide perceive distant gap in between developmental operations and approaches of New York and Mumbai. To them, Mumbai, the economic capital of India, is lagging far behind New York. Having observed Kachchh geographically, it appears that even within Kachchh there is a distant gap. The intensive cosmopolitan area of Gandhidham seems to be lagging far
behind than Bandra-Kurla complex or Vashi of Mumbai. In that comparison again, even the closed door neighbors like Bhachau and Rapar are found to be lagging far behind than Gandhidham. From the development theory point of view, this trend leaves many a questions unsolved.

6) Having viewed the entire district from the development perspective, transport and communication are still a missing link. Even today, neither Bhuj nor Gandhidham have a single super fast railway service towards Mumbai – the place where the other Kachchh is living. Unfortunately, railway mechanism is found very restricted inspite of hectic development operations under the post-disaster period. Borders are not found to be appropriate and intensively covered under the development process. Vighacot, has ample and equal opportunity to be treated at par with Wagha border of Amritsar. This needs to be concentrated by the Union Govt. of India, but local demand vigilance is also lacking in this respect.

7) Desert, handicraft skill, largest coastal area and very popular religious centers; every thing is found in Kachchh; but developed the least from tourism perspective. An attempt is made currently, by the State Govt. highlighting the area in form of Rann Utsav. Unfortunately, this is treated as more of a political advantage rather than seeking economic gains. If enough awareness for the areas amongst the entrepreneurs is brought forth, there are plenty of growth potentials.

8) Last but not the least, the drawbacks observed in the methodological updating process; there are many a meritorious points of Kachchh, but they are hidden; as the extension activities have not reached in real sense and the documentation also is not appropriately found providing data for methodological process for progress. The district is found to be ill-equipped, in respect of technological changes to be brought about to seize the opportunities of development. This calls for, policy operations combined with ventures will.

The last three years in the economy of Kachchh, precisely reveals the fact that; there has been considerable change in economic operations. This is particularly revealed in case of farming operations. The professional agriculturists, have subscribed to the view that in the last two years the farmers have tend to become progressive; as a result significant improvement is found. In Mandvi and Anjar farmers are cropping dates, as it is found beneficial. Some leading farmers have provided an illustrious example, arranging workshops for bringing awareness amongst the farmers for such a change. (Economic Times 11th October 2009)
Some agriculturists have learnt a lot from their visits abroad, and they in turn also provide necessary guidance for bringing professional changes. In Abdasa cotton producers, are expected to gain much as a part of their professional interactions. There is some problem found taking place in the transport sector. However, attempts are on way to arrive at some positive solutions through authoritative negotiations.

Stock market operations do not show much significant presence as part of growing ventures capacity. Some of the operators have either suspended the operations or are planning for a switch over, due to uneven and negative impacts of last year’s recurrent fluctuations. Lead bank has a full-fledged and active presence in the district, so far as the rural development trend is concerned. Lead bank presence is noticed by way of some important indicator expansion, particularly credit expansion, more particularly in private sector, agriculture credit, etc. The district holds its dominance in respect of NRI deposits. It is because of this type of deposit that volume of deposit growth always overtakes and compensates advances growth and does not allow CDR to increase, with increase in advances.

As part of the inclusive growth policy, financial inclusion is also taken into consideration; for that especial attention is paid towards advances to minority communities, women beneficiaries and self-help groups.

Some positive changes however in turn brought forth some negative externalities. The boom observed in the real estate market, particularly from Samakhiyali to Mundra has brought forth mixed impacts. The hectic rise in the estate market, has given a way to hidden economic players to hide their black money. This has directly resulted into exorbitant hike in the price of land - both, for commercial and residential purpose. A parallel economy in the name of estate market has taken strong hold of the entire economy. Like other metro cities, this area is also now hot favorite for estate players. Any respective citizen, with some limited capacity, having inclination for home; has now only to dream for such a home. It is true, that financial sector operations have turned up heavily in the last 4 to 5 years; but a large group of people with very limited incremental wage structure are not in a position to meet with the whooping prices. At present, it appears that absolute free market economy prevails more in the estate market. This has also added value operations to the already existing mechanisms.
6.4 CONSTRAINTS OBSERVED IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS

(I) Lack of monitoring the financial flow:

Almost every body will agree to the fact that Kachchh did receive the sympathy from the people across the world. Lot many did in the form of cash and kind. However the aid and the support were not found in tune with the development. The pace and the nature of development were such that the Govt. machinery could not monitor the whole task. It is because of the lack of monitoring, that in subsidy and foreign aid the real affected or needy could not be served and less needy or people having very little requirement was found to have benefited.

(II) Lack of Coordination:

Some fundamental principles of management should never be ignored in a huge task like this. Unfortunately “Coordination” was found most missing between the group agencies and within the group at various levels, which resulted into duplicating, overlapping and wastage of resources. Funds could have been more appropriately and effectively utilized had there been strong, efficient, effective linkages and coordination maintained. This was precisely found in physical task of rehabilitation more.

(III) Lack of Transparency in Execution:

All kind of support ultimately was to be chanalized through public administration. This in built mechanism was highlighted maximum in construction of public administration buildings and irrigation construction. The reports of official inquiries came up highlighting clear involvement. It resulted into misuse of the fund against the purpose and discouraged the spirit of the task and the moral of the diligent workers.

(IV) Lack of professional training:

Disaster management in itself is a very complicated area. Right from Rescue part till the completion of Rehabilitation it demands appropriate decisions with sharp intellect. Inter disciplinary knowledge and its application skill is highly required at the top and middle level of management. Unfortunately this element was overlooked in general and in Kachchh in particular.

(V) Lack of effective leadership:

In order to gear up, the whole administration and to mobilize and integrate people’s participation at various levels - there is a need for strong, vibrant dynamic leadership.
Some one should be strong enough to link the several groups. This kind of leadership was unfortunately not visualized into action. Political leadership in the institutional way was never found that active in this regard. Govt. policy can not have its deep routed impact without influential and vibrant leadership.

6.5 SUGGESTIONS

As part of studying the development process under the post-disaster period, some major missing links have been summed up in the earlier part. This part now carries significance in respect of suggestions towards policy-operations.
1) There is a strong and urgent need for integration and co-ordination of the existing schemes and programmes. Several respondents from the villages did not have an idea regarding the developmental approaches, carried forward by the Govt. It is also admitted by agency level workers that undue target oriented competitive actions need to be revamped and rearranged to the orders of priority. The areas like Rapar, Bhachau, Lakhpat and Abdasa need special attention even from the basic development point. The existing programmes and policy operations need to be reframed with topmost priorities.

Literacy drives, basic health care services, dignified employment opportunities, training for marketing and professional skill for education; are the major areas of concern towards which systematic efforts are required immediately. Let there be an organizational structure framed at least for a longer period of time; to cater to the changing orders of priorities. A wide gap of economic operations need for such distinctive structure. An organizational structure must consist of dynamic field workers having real insight of development and intense intimacy with the rural culture. The organized efforts put in by the Lead Bank institutions need to be appreciated, but this is also having resource limitations.

There is a growing amount of feeling of injustice for developmental operations. These need to be addressed, irrespective of political insight. Certain ambiguity and contrasts highlight the feelings of injustice for e.g. a border district ill-equipped and poorly strengthened with wide literacy gap is not earmarked as backward, by the ministry of Human Resources. It is learnt that as part of intensive regional development, some of the areas of the Nation have been considered of prime importance; and special packages and promotional skills to care for the areas, are in operation. Kachchh is the district having high sensitivity, both from coastal and land security point of view. The district is backward in terms of economic operations too.
Despite many odds found in the district, as compared to the north-east areas, no special incentives are yet provided. It would be of crucial significance to note that **all major developmental schemes introduced and applied in the area are, but the outcome of earthquake only.** The real natives are absolutely true, when they raise the question; regarding any of the major developmental approaches that have been in force, had there not been an earthquake.

There is a strong need for dynamic, political consciousness with leadership of commitment to stick to the development ideologies. Unfortunately, “development is not found as a prime concern in the political operations”. This, posity demands immediate redressal.

People are always the partners of progress. It is the people’s strength awakened with understanding that can bring about diversified changes. There is valor among the people but appropriate guidance is required. In these days of competitive strength, people must be injected with visionary zeal. This should be manifested in respect of participatory approach towards development. Functions of NGO’s do provide positive indication in this respect.

As referred earlier the reframed organizational structure must gaze at the opportunities through NRI influx. This is the right time for Kachchhi NRI’s to invest more in educational temples that lead them to human temples. All investments in human resource infrastructure are sure to strengthen the developmental spirit of Kachchh. This can be undertaken by way of training programmes, conducting quality workshops and statistical methodologies.

Human resource infrastructure, well equipped with technological infrastructure should serve as impetus. This calls for technological applications in implementing and initiating the programmes and monitoring the projects. What is important is not physical technology alone but also technological insight for application, integration and co-ordination of efforts.

A descriptive analysis of processes also proves the strengths and weakness of the process. Once weaknesses are found through the research, suggestions to overcome them and for reconstruction process should be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROCESS</th>
<th>FOR GOVERNMENT</th>
<th>FOR OTHER AGENCIES</th>
<th>FOR PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rescue and Relief</td>
<td>1) Any calamities of this magnitude should be declared as a national calamity.</td>
<td>1) Different agencies should be registered with the government. In case of any disaster</td>
<td>1) There should not be any panic during disaster situation. 2) All the agencies and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1) There should be enough medical treatment available in the district.  
2) There should be guidelines for people, what to do in case of injuries during disaster.  
3) The procedure of recording and payment of assistance should be simple and well prepared in advance.  
4) There should be a clear bifurcation of types of injuries and assistance.  
5) There should be a ready action plan for disaster psychosis. | 1) People should be aware of first-aid treatment and should have a kit for the disaster situation.  
2) Shift the injured people to the nearby hospital immediately.  
3) Should be aware of the proceedings required in disaster situation in case of injuries.  
4) Personal insurance should be taken. |
| 1) There is a need to educate the people in disaster management. They should know what to do in a panic situation.  
2) A program should be initiated to give training in first aid treatment, in emergencies to the people.  
3) There should be a program for psychological treatment of the injured people. | 1) People should be aware of the proceedings required in disaster situation in case of deaths.  
2) Personal insurance should be taken. |

2) It should be started within few hours of an incident like earthquake.  
3) There should be enough standby arrangements in each of the district.  
4) Relief materials should be distributed properly and quickly. A systematic procedure is needed to be developed.  
5) There is a need to develop a sense of self dependency and disaster management in the common people.  

1) Can bring awareness regarding casualty management during disaster situation.  
2) Personal insurance should be taken.
| **Housing** | 1) There should be compulsory housing and personal insurance for the people living in the danger zones.  
2) For comprehensive insurance, subsidy or assistance can be allowed.  
3) Constructions should be strictly followed according to by-laws.  
4) No regularizations of illegal constructions. | 1) Bring awareness about the building construction and insurance.  
2) Bring awareness regarding modern housing techniques and laws.  
3) Transparency of activities and funding is required. | 1) Housing insurance should be taken.  
2) Construction should be done according to by-laws.  
3) Elevations and unnecessary constructions should be avoided.  
4) There should be more than one exit in the houses especially in danger zones. |
| **Livelihood** | 1) There should be revival plans for every sector.  
2) Information should be given to the people regarding different assistances.  
3) The procedure of recording and payment of assistance should be simple and well prepared in advance.  
4) There should be strict actions against corruption in the process. | 1) Bring awareness about the building construction and insurance.  
2) Transparency of activities and funding is required.  
3) There should be a program for sociological settlements. | 1) There should be insurance for business and premises.  
2) People should be aware of the proceedings required in disaster situation in case of losses to livelihood. |
| **Infrastructure** | 1) There should be comprehensive plans for reconstruction of each of the component.  
2) The reconstruction of infrastructure should be rational. | 1) Bring awareness about the reconstruction.  
2) Active participation in reconstruction. | 1) Should have the knowledge about reconstruction process. |
6.6 COMMENDABLE JOB

With various limitations, march towards development from disaster has been in general; a commendable one, though the challenging task is yet to be accomplished in full. This is an on going march, but it would be very important to note, that machinery could do it with active support of society at large. A small table is just an example of this fact.

Rehabilitation Magnitude and Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SIZE OF REHABILITATION</th>
<th>TIME (YEARS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>19/9/1985</td>
<td>7,20,000</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>17/8/1994</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobe</td>
<td>17/1/1995</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latur</td>
<td>30/9/1997</td>
<td>2,20,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>29/1/1999</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>26/1/2001</td>
<td>10,88,391</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: - “From disasters and Development, Constraints and challenges” Dr.Hathi
Gujarat Association, 36th Annual Conference 2006

It is evidently found from this table that the intensity of the earthquake and its effect was found highest in comparison with other centers in the recent past. While the time taken for re-establishment in relation to the task is found the least. It indicates the fact, that Govt. machinery has assorted the means and resources to the task. 29,000 missionary workers along with 6,000 engineers have been trained in the task. Rs. 225 Crores have been utilized only for retroficting 4000 buildings. Housing rehabilitation task recorded a commendable appreciation as 96% of it is completed at the cost of Rs. 8,800 Crores. Electricity board, irrigation department and public workers department; have efficiently overcome the task.

6.7 CONCLUSION

This study entitled: “CHANGING PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENT OF KACHCHH DISTRICT UNDER THE POST DISASTER PERIOD 2001-2007” was made to analyze the process of economic reconstruction after the earthquake in Kachchh district in Gujarat state. A comprehensive reconstruction program was initiated by the Government of Gujarat in association with different agencies. There were many problems associated with different processes and activities during the reconstruction. The study reveals the shortcomings and strengths of various processes
related to relief, injury, death, livelihood, housing, infrastructure and social rehabilitation.

However, all lapsed problems should not be and cannot be attributed to the Government machinery. After shocks had continued and consecutively famine was reported. Amidst this environment the task was to carry over with almost zeal and efficiency. It is true that more benefits could have been reported out of the flow of assistance or the sympathy the district or the state received, but whatever is achieved is equally important and commendable.

In a border area like Kachchh, developmental task demands more care and special touch. However, it is important to put a word of caution regarding what is required to be carried on. Let there be dispersion of activities at large, across the district. Let the efforts be made to bring these areas into the light by exploring the skill that they possess, through linking the areas with infrastructure and encouraging local people, to become masters with professional touch for sustainable development.

6.8 CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY

The earthquake of Gujarat of January 26, 2001 was largest in India. The losses due to earthquake were unparallel in terms of human losses, injuries and damage to properties compared to other disasters in India and Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat initiated a massive reconstruction program. The reconstruction program was comprehensive and first of its kind in India. Therefore the study of the reconstruction process after the earthquake in Kachchh was selected.

The study analyzes the whole process of economic and social rehabilitation. The study would give the strengths and weakness of disaster management and reconstruction plans. It can help in improving these plans. It can provide a basic model for managing all kinds of disasters. Lastly, it would provide great support to future research related to disaster management.