Chapter V

CONTRIBUTION OF NRGs IN BANASKANTHANHA DISTRICT

Banaskantha is the third largest district of Gujarat and is located in the North eastern region of the Gujarat. The region is presumably named after the West Banas River and shares its border with the neighbouring State of Rajasthan. There are 11 talukas in the district with Palanpur, as its district headquarters, Deesa, Danta and Amirgarh being its important and developed talukas of the district. Banaskantha has 1246 villages. It is known for its ‘Vadhiyar’ buffaloes and ‘Kankrej’ cows. It contributes significantly to Agricultural production of the State and ranks first in the production of potatoes in India. The district is also known for its diamond and ceramic industry. In Banaskantha agriculture is the occupation chosen by the populace for sustaining the needs of their day to day living. Diamond is one of the industrial products found here and there has been no paucity of 'marble quarries' and copper in this district.

Ambaji, Kumbharia, Balaram Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary are some of the important tourist places of District. Ambaji has emerged as the second most popular tourist destination in Gujarat. The economy of the district is based on agro and food Processing, tourism, textile and mineral based industries. “The district ranks 1st in the production of vegetables contributing nearly 17.67% of the total vegetable production of the State.”

It is one of the leading producers of
Isabgul in the country. Traditionally, the district is known for its food processing industry, especially for vegetable oils. “Banaskantha is the 3rd largest producer of oil seeds in the State after Junagadh and Jamnagar.”\(^2\) Bajri, Maize, Tobacco, Castor oil, Jowar and Psyllium are some of the other major crops of the district. A major part of the district receives scanty rainfall and is therefore, chronologically affected by drought conditions. However, it has some area under irrigation mainly due to the Dantiwada major irrigation project constructed on the river Banas. “Banaskantha district has around 1,983 primary schools, 153 secondary schools, and 56 higher secondary schools.”\(^3\) The district has a good network of technical training institutes like ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes) and Polytechnic institutes. It has got prestigious agricultural university named Sardarkrushinagar University Dantiwada. Chandrakant Bakshi is a famous Gujarati writer was born in Palanpur. In respect of demography, there are some noteworthy features. The district has thus predominantly rural characteristics.

The migration from Banaskantha district began in second half of the 20th century. A number of people belonging to different communities like Patel, Chaudhari, Jain, Prajapati, Goswami and Bohra migrated from Palanpur, Vadgam, Deesa, Tharad, Dhanera, and Danta. The first phase of migration in Banaskantha is mainly dominated by the Jains as Kirtilal Mehta was the first migrant from Banaskantha district for exploring diamond business. The Jains of Banaskantha migrated to Belgium which entirely controls the global polished diamond market in the world. They went to Antwerp in 1970s and 80s where 90 percent of the world’s diamond trade is concentrated. The Jews controlled this diamond trade for the last 500 years. Now the Jains from North Gujarat control 65 percent of this diamond trade of Antwerp undoing the monopoly of the Jews within twenty years. It is estimated that 80 percent of all the polished diamonds sold worldwide actually pass through Indian hands. In fact, seven of top ten diamond merchants of Antwerp, are from North Gujarat, breaking the 500-year old monopoly of the Jews. The Jewish traders did not stand half a chance faced with the competitiveness of the Palanpuri Jain traders.
The Muslim community of Banaskantha mainly from Kanodar village has migrated to all over the world. They flourished mainly in Gulf region, Australia, USA and the UK. They have occupied positions as teachers and educators in Muslim countries. They are important components of their host countries providing yeoman service in sectors as diverse as retailing, Medicine, Engineering and IT industry. Most of the Muslims Banaskantha migrated as labourers to the Gulf Countries. Moreover, some Patels have migrated as labourers and professionals during the time of oil and IT boom in the USA, the UK and Gulf region. They are mostly from villages like Gadh, Kumbhasan, Sasam, Bhavisana, Laxmipura, Madana, Madhupura and Ganeshpura, etc. Apart from Patels, Jains and Muslims, some Goswamis and Prajapatis also have migrated to Australia and New Zealand. The Chaudharies from various villages of Banaskantha district migrated to distant countries like the USA, the UK, New Zealand, and Australia and even in Gulf countries. Palanpur and Vadgam regions largely dominate the migration of Chaudharies. Today the migration from Banaskantha to the various regions of the world is wide-ranging simply because students of the district migrate to new countries like China, Germany and Sweden, with a view to getting higher education and settle down there for bright future. One of the significant ways in which the diasporic community contributes to the homeland is by their philanthropic engagement in various fields. Indian Diaspora in North America and Europe is one of the most economically successful groups. Their contribution towards India has been significant. For example, PIOs in the Gulf send about 70-80 percent of remittances of the total Diaspora remittances to India bringing socio-economic development back home. The NRGs of Banaskantha district have deep attachment to their homeland. Education sector plays vital role in strengthening linkages between NRGs and their homeland. NRG Jains, Patels and Chaudhrries of Banaskantha have remitted a lot for the development of education sector for building of new residential schools and colleges in Banaskantha.
Overseas people of Banaskantha district always share a strong bond with their mother land and many of them return to live and work for homeland. Though they reside in host countries, their love for their mother land is alive and they try to help in one or the other way to the people of their own land. Highlighting the contribution of the Non-Resident Gujaratis of Banaskantha, an attempt has been made to analyze the role Gujarati Diasporas in the development of the Banaskantha district in this chapter. The study is based on the fieldwork conducted by the researcher in Banaskantha district.

**Contribution of NRGs in Various Sectors:**

1. **Religious and Cultural Sector**

   Religion has served as a major symbolic resource in building community and professing ethnic identity. NRGs have retained their religious identity that they carried with them during the time of migration. Their connection with other religious groups has successfully transplanted their religious traditions and customs in the world. Ethnicity is the cultural characteristic that connects a particular group of people to each other. Latest communication and internet has provided an easy way for NRGs to keep in touch with both the homeland as well as the host country. The best collections of Indian newspapers and magazines have circulated among the Indians in foreign. Another feature of their religious practice is their faith in preachers and saints of various sects. During last five decades, it is observed that several spiritual gurus have extended their spiritual preachings across all over the world through establishing centers such as Swaminarayan, Sachidanand Swami, Mahirsi Mahesh Yogi, etc. NRGs attend religious seminars, discourses, symposia, workshops, and contribute in charitable works. Having faith in a particular Hindu sect, they regularly meet for prayer and religious programmes. One of the important aspects of Diasporic study is the feelings of migrated people towards their native land, their attachment and their contribution. Even after getting settled in a foreign country, remote from their native, in an unknown place, they tend to preserve their
cultural values in a strange land. There is a strong tendency to preserve the emotional bond of attachment with the area and people of their native. In spite of being far from their native place, having no desire of coming back, they keenly feel intimacy and affinity with the native land. The NRGs of Banaskantha District have shown keen interest in the development of their native land. They contributed a lot in the field of Religion, Education, and community welfare. Patosan is a small village situated fifteen km away from Palanpur. It has population of over 2500 people. Patosan village has all the basic facilities available like post office, dairy, bank, hospital for animals, etc. It has its own Gram-Panchayat. The main castes living in this village are Chaudhary, Patel (Leuva), Thakore and Harijan. Moreover there are some Vaghri, Suthar, Luhar, Nayee, Panchal, Prajapati, Brahmin, Raval, etc. Patosan is renowned for its donation history. The main occupations of people are agriculture, animal husbandry and diamond. Some of them have occupied in government or private jobs in different sectors like banking, diamond industry, defence, education, engineering and medical. Some from village have joined the Indian Army. Around four families from the village have migrated to foreign countries for better economic prospects.

People of this village are very religious. There are some temples of different deities like Lord Shiva, Rama and Krishna, Ogadnath, Ramapir, etc. There is a Derasr in the centre of the village. People of this village have established different organizations. They have ‘Navratri Mandal’, ‘Yuvak Mandal’, etc. Some people from Patosan have proved themselves generous donors who have donated a large amount of money for the development of their village as well as of their communities and entire district. For instance, Mr. Girishbhai and Mr. Virsangbhai have donated over Rs.4 crore for the development of various sectors in the district.

Mr. Girishbhai Ratubhai Patel was born in very small village named Patosan. His parents were farmer. He has finished his primary education at his native village. He received his Bachelors degree from Science College Palanpur.
The people of his village helped him by contributing as much money as possible to fulfil his dream of migrating abroad. After completing his study, he tried to adjust in a strange culture and people of the U.S.A. Then he was married with Nistraben in the U.S.A., who served as a teacher in Elementary School, U.S.A. Girishbhai has one daughter named Sarah and one son named Dinesh. Girishbhai has been working as a Chemical Engineer in Royal Dutch Shell Oil Co.

Mr. Girishbhai donated Rs. 24 lac for various purposes like building walls of the temples and garden as well as electrical and musical instruments for Prayer in various temples of his village. He has also donated money for the educational development of his village as well as of Banaskantha. Lord Rama Temple and Lord Shiva temple are commonly found in almost every villages of Gujarat. Besides these there are also the temples of community deities in most of the villages. As the present study shows NRGs donate huge heartedly for the construction, renovation and maintenance of the temples. Mr. Girishbhai Chaudhari donated Rs. 3, 00, 000/- for the renovation of Ramjimandir. He has also donated Rs. 15, 00,000/- in Gurumandir and Rs. 6, 00,000/- in Lord Shiva temple.

Kanodar is a village on the bank of river Sabarmati in Palanpur Taluka. Majority of the population more than 95% are Muslims and they are shia isna ashari faith. The history of Kanodar is about 900 year old. Most of the people from Kanodar were skilled cloth labourers and because of their expertise and workmanship the village is famous as Manchester of Banaskatha district. The people are industrious and adventurous and are always eager for exploration and adventures. And it was only because of their nature that they have the tendency to visit different parts of the world. Some of the merchants are also settled in the remote parts of Africa. Handloom items and textiles dominate the economy of this Kanodar town. Developing the market of revamping jeeps is a recent phenomenon in Kanodar. The chief attraction of Kanodar is the Husain Tekri. It has gained popularity for holding 'Azadari programs'. Azadari programes have been feted on '22nd of Safar', the 2nd month of 'Islamic calendar'. Momin Samaj of Kanodar is the people who are converted to Muslims from various Hindu
communities by saint Kabaruddin before many years. Even after passing many years as converted Muslims, they have preserved some of their Hindu traditions and customs in their daily life. According to Dharmsastra there are twelve Samsakara in life. Many of these Samsakara are seen in the houses of Momin of Kanodar village. Whether the occasion is of happiness or sorrow, the influence of Hindu society can be seen in their routine life. They celebrate all Hindu rituals like babyshower, bismillah, engagement, jiyru, mameru, name ceremony, etc.

The Azadari Programme is arranged by Anjumane Aza-e-Husain since 1964. There are three holy shrines (Shabih) 1.Hazarat Imam Husain 2.Hazarat Abbas 3.Sani-e-Zahra Janabe Zainab, Mosque (Masjid), Rooms for Zairin and a big shade for Majlis-e-Aja in Husain Takeri Campus. The monument of this mosque is just like the mosque in Makka. Mr. Ahmedbhai Gulambhai Moknejiya, residing in Dubai, donated huge heartedly. Another donor Mr. Hasanbhai Umetiya donated immensely for the construction of this mosque at Hussain Tekri. Besides these many people from the community who are residing in Bombay and Ahmedabad also donated for the construction of this mosque. In the early part of twentieth century the village became very popular and known to almost all the Momins of India. The village is visited by renowned Ulema, Zakerin and Momins from whole of India to salaam and pay respect to the place called Hussein Tekri on the outskirts of kanodar. People of the village feel great honour and blessing bestowed upon them because of this pilgrim and pious place in their village.

Jamat is very important place for social and religious gatherings of Muslim community and it was founded on 22nd April, 1921 in Kanodar. Oldest religious centre known as “old masjid” was constructed about 200 year back in the village. Abbas takri small tomb was constructed in 1945. There is also a new masjid or jama masjid in the village. The foundation ceremony of this mosque was held in January 1941. The foundation was laid by late Maulana Ashfaq Husein Sahib. The construction was completed in January 1951. Total expense incurred in this mosque is around Rs. 2,00,000/ rupees. The architect was Mr. Thariani of Bombay and engineering and designing work was done by the
designers and skilled workers from Jaipur. For the construction of all this monument and sustenance of these palaces NRGs from the village donated huge heartedly.

Valibhai Musa founder trustees, the framer of Constitution and Chairman of the first Board of the local NGO - “The Guardian Trust, Kanodar says;

The Mo’mineen (Muslims) of Kanodar have spread all over the world with their own identity that they live with love with others, accept others with their differences and make their contributions in their social lives wherever they live. This Trust will encourage the individuals and various organizations of this peculiar community to continue to set an example to other communities to respect everybody’s dignity and rights and to carry out social responsibilities for the common good of people.4

To build up integrity and reputation of the village, many honorable personalities have contributed in past and present leadership also is on the same track walking on the footprints of the former devoted Chiefs. In 1920, Madrasa-e-Tarakkia-e-Islam was constructed with the purpose of imparting education (Dini Talim) and for holding Majlis programmes. Around 50 years back, they built Jumah Mosque which is also called Minar of Hidayat. As the families grew in number of their community, Madrasa-e-Tarakkia-e-Islam was renovated in 1975. At present, about 500 children are getting Dini Talim in this Madrasa. In 1982, with a view to educate in higher Education of Quran and Hadis (Aalim), Hauz-e-Ilmiya was constructed with the facility of a hostel. Hauz-e-Ilmiya is located at Husain Tekri Road. Many NRIs from the village donated immensely for the renovation of it but they believe in Gupt Dana so they do not show the exact amount of donation.

In 1989 the Jafari Youth Federation, Kanodar Unit, was formed for the improvement of the youth and engaged themselves in social and religious activities by the people who are residing in the village and the NRIs from the village. With the success of a lot of religious activities, they started the Jafari Radio Channel in 1998. This channel broadcast Islamic Programmes every morning and evening with connections to approximately 400 families. Another outfit named Jafari Education Society established the Jafari English School of
Kanodar in 1994 with the help of NRI's living in Saudi Arabia. As the people of Kanodar are living in almost every part of the world, they know the importance of English and Computer knowledge. The knowledge of only Quran is not enough in this age of information and technology and the people of the village know it very clearly. So they give opportunity to their children to grow at the pace of world without any kind of bias for a girl or a boy. They have English Medium School with all the basic facilities constructed by NRIs from the village.

Kanodar village is unique in itself. Hindu Muslim discrimination is not found in the village. Hindu Muslim riots occurred several times in India but the village is never affected by this kind of inhuman behaviour. During the time of internal conflict the people of the village got more united and make group to save the village. They remain awake throughout the night, so any kind of inhuman act is not performed in the village. Most of the people may be familiar with the name of Swami Sachchidanand. He is a Karmyogi Saint of Gujarat engaged in social, literary and spiritual activities. Some years past, he was invited to the opening ceremony of the local High School for its starting of Science stream. Swamiji had never visited this village but while on his way from Petlad to Kanodar, he was given some briefs and feedbacks about the village. Endowed with sharp intellect, spirituality and own intuition, he knew everything about the village and its people as if he had visited the village previously and lived here. While delivering his speech he said, “If the Lahore Conference for the discussion of partition of India would have been organized at Kanodar, India would have remained united.”

These words are the best compliments to the village and at the same time making conscious to the natives of Kanodar to remain firm and deserving for the preservation of conception of integrity of not only our village, but wherever they live. Generally, Swamiji was being honoured with donation to his Ashram wherever he was invited, but here he donated Rs.25,000/- to the High School from the funds of his own Trust.
There are around 45 people from Dhanera and Bhabhar Taluka migrated to various part of the world. They are from Jain, Thakkar Soni, Patel and Chaudhari community and generally migrated to Saudi Arabia, USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Dubai, Bangkok, and Qatar. Half of the migration occurred recently for higher education and some of the migration occurred as a worker so contribution by these migratory birds is not possible till the date but they will surely donate as they become prosperous in their respective host countries. Only a few of people from Jain community migrated before twenty to twenty five years and earns lots of money. They have their own business of Diamond in the host land. They are always ready for any kind of financial and expatriate support to their native land. These wealthy migratory birds donate whole heartedly in some education and religious projects.

In Bhabhar there is a beautiful temple of Lord Shiva situated near Subhas Chowk. The temple is very beautiful and big. All the twelve shrines of lord Shiva is in the premises of this temple so this temple is known as Jyotirling temple. A private house is allotted to the pujari of the temple. There is mineral water facility available in the temple. There are some rooms constructed in the premises of the temple for the visitors from faraway places. There is also one big Yagna mandap in auspices of the temple. Many people visit the temple and took the blessings from lord Shiva or Bholenatha. Mr. Nanubhai Jethabhai Doshi migrated to Africa before many years. He has his own business of diamond in Africa. Now he is of 67 years old and led almost a retired life. His son takes care of his business. So he has enough time to visit his native land, whenever he is at Bhabhar he contributes one way or the other. He has donated 25,00,000/- rupees for the construction of the Lord Shiva temple. His donation is half from the total expense occurred for the construction.

There is a beautiful temple of goddess Hinglaj at Dahnera and One NRI donated immensely for the construction of the temple. Hinglaj Mata, also known as Hinglaj Devi, Hingula Devi and Nani Mandir, is a Hindu temple in Hinglaj, a town on the Makran coast in the Lasbela district of Balochistan, Pakistan, and is the middle of the Hingol National Park. It is one of the Shakti Peethas of the
goddess Sati. It is a form of Durga or Devi located in a mountain cavern on the banks of the Hingol River. Hinglaj Mata is said to be very powerful deity who bestows good to all her devotees. Temples dedicated to her are also found in neighbouring Indian states like Gujarat and Rajasthan. The local Muslims also hold Hinglaj Mata in reverence and provide security to the shrine. They call the temple as the "Nani Mandir". The goddess is herself called Bibi Nani. Bibi Nani may be the same as the goddess Nana that appears on Kushan coins and was widely worshipped in West and Central Asia. Local Muslim tribes, following an ancient tradition, also join the pilgrimage group and call the pilgrimage as the "Nani Ki Haj".

Mr. Tarachand Bhakarji Khatri is residing in Canada but still maintains his emotional attachment to his native land. His love for the mother land is clearly seen in his donation made for the development of Dhanera Taluka. He is now leading a retired life. He is a great follower of Goddess Hinglaj. When he heard about the reconstruction of Hinglajmata temple on phone through his brother, he showed his interest for donation. His brother talks about this matter to the village chiefs and they agreed upon to take donation from Mr. Tarachand. He has donated Rs.15,50,021/- rupees. The temple is situated near Reliance Petrol Pump, Dhanera. The temple is made up of yellow stone or Jeslmeri stone of Rajasthan. The Jyot of the temple was brought from the main Shakti Pith of Hinglajmata i.e. from Balochistan. It is a great sight of religious attribute.

Kumarbhai Javeri was born in Gadh, one village of Palanpur Taluka. Later on his family migrated to Bombay and settled down there. He took his basic education in Bombay. He was interested not in study but in business. He joined his father’s business of diamond and to extend it he migrated to United States. He earned lot of money over there but his feelings for homeland never vanished from his heart. He is always ready to contribute for the various developmental projects in his native land. He has contributed around 39 crore for development of his native land. He has also donated for the religious development of his native land. He has donated 5,00,000 rupees for the maintenance of Jain Derasar in his village.
2. Social and Healthcare Sector:

Overseas people are actively involved in the social development of their native land. Due to their active involvement many villages are very well developed. In terms of social contribution, NRGs have been keen to donate for various kinds of social infrastructure. They have donated for various kinds of social activities like collective marriages, social gatherings of various castes, running Anakshetras. They are also helping financially for upliftment of the family. They have also donated for drinking water facility and twenty four hours light facility. Sometimes they have also organised tours for senior citizens.

Kanodar village is a best example of progressed village because of the huge fund received by the NRIs from the village. In 1995, Taha Muslemin Trust was established with the aim to build houses, to assist sick community people, and to assist poor students in higher education with financial aid. Shia Ithna Ashari Momin Jamat Kanodar purchased a building at Shahpur, Ahmedabad for businessmen, students, sick people, etc as a facility for their stay in Ahmedabad. For the long term requirements of social and religious activities, like Imamwada, Mehfil, Musha-e-ra, Majlis-e-Aja, prayer of Jumah and Eiden, Hospital, Library, Sports, Marriage Ceremony, they have purchased land from four land-owners in the centre of Kanodar town with an approximate area of 1,32,000 Sq.Ft. for a sum of Rs.90,00,000/-. The cost of developing this land is approximately Rs.1,10,00,000/-. The estimated total cost would be Rs.2,00,00,000/-. To get a public opinion on this project, Shia Ithana Ashari Momin Jamat, Kanodar held a General Meeting. The General Meeting passed this project without any objection. For achieving the target, the general meeting has decided to collect the required funds through donation. To follow the principle "Charity begins at home", an on the spot collection was carried out. They got a donation of Rs.12,75,353/-, 15 Tola (150 Gram) Gold and 500 Gram Silver. Kanodar Oman Brothers donated 4,00,000/- rupees for this project. In Kanodar there is a library. This library is constructed by NRGs migrated from the village. They have donated lots of money for the construction of Adarsh Sarvajanik Library. People
read various kinds of books, magazines and news papers in library. Mr. Miyajibhai Valibhai Musbji and Mr. Mahendibhai Miyajibhai Sahu donated 50,000/- rupees each for the construction of the library. They thought that this is probably the best way of giving joy to the villagers as well as it is also useful for the village people. Another donor Mr. Mehbubbhai Gulambhai Sunsara and Mr. Kurban Hasanali Sunsara donated 50,000/- rupees to purchase various books for the library. Many people visit the library and read Newspapers and various kinds of books.

A panchayat is needed for every town and village. Most of the decisions of the development of the village are taken in Gram Panchyat. NRIs of Banaskantha district also take initiative for the construction and facilitation of gram Panchyat offices. Mr. Alibhai Rajabhai Palasra donated Rs. 4,00,000/- to renovate and facilitate the gram panchayat office in Kanodar. There is a big Kabristan or cemetery or burying ground in the village. NRIs from the village donated huge heartedly for the establishment of Kabristan. Mr. Hasanbhai Mulbhai Marediya donated with open heart to built shed for it. Mr. Maidihussain Miyajibhai Sahu and Mr. Mustufali Mohamadbhai Mukhi also donated for the construction of this grave yard. During the time of war or any other natural calamities NRGs are always there to help the Native people or victims. Mokrji Ahmedbhai Gulambhai donated 5 to 6 lac to the flood victim of Kashmir. He is residing in Australia from 10 yrs. Another donor Mr. Mohsin Mohmadbhai Mukhi also donated ample amount of money for the shelter of flood victims of Kashmir.

Majadar is a very small village of Vadgam Taluka situated on Ahmedabad Palanpur highway. Majority of the population are of Muslim community in the village. Many people from the Muslim community of village migrated to the various part of the world and particularly to the gulf countries. Many of them migrated as a labourer so they cannot donate much. Though some of the NRIs from the village are very wealthy and contributed lots of money for the development of the village. Mr. Mohmad Faruk is residing in Dubai from 25 year. He has his own business over there. He has a keen desire for the
development of his village. He donated Rs. 25, 00, 000/- rupees in the collective wedding of the community organised in his village. In collective marriage the burden of expenditure is shared collectively by the community and not by an individual alone. It is therefore a good step towards amelioration of poverty. Mr. Mohmad Faruk also donated 10,00,000/- rupees to organise various medical camps in his village. Many people from his village and surrounding area took the benefits of these medical camps. He has also keen desire to built 20 to 25 houses for the poor and needy people of his village.

In any planned city, emergency services are considered very important. To ensure health and safety of the people in the region availability of good hospitals are very necessary and for running these hospitals smoothly and satisfactorily all the required facilities like blood bank, Operation Theatre, Ambulance Van, I.C.U and many other are very important. Mr. Sureshbhai Pethani knows the value of Blood Bank during the critical condition of patient in hospital, so he donated 7, 00, 000 rupees for the establishment of Blood Bank in Palanpur. He named it as Mafatben Uttamlal Pethani Blood Bank. This is the first Blood Bank of Banaskantha district. He also donated for digging ponds to the various villages of Deesa Taluka as water is the basic requirements of life. Ponds digging are commonly found from the very early stage of human life as they are big source of water reservation. This reserved water would become very useful during drought for agriculture. These are also useful for animals and birds.

The Javeri family is one of the most leading families in Gadh. The ancestors of the Javeri family offered the biggest contribution to the development of Gadh. They established schools, hospital, library, village road, temples, inn etc. The felling of serving society genetically comes in Mr. Kumarbahi Javeri from his fore fathers and he even exceeds them by donating more than them. He donated around 39 crore rupees for the development of Banaskantha district.

Kumarbahi Javeri went to New York for diamond business. In New York, he started diamond factory named ‘Summit Diamond Pvt. Ltd. In a very short
span of time, his success started touching the peaks and he started earning a handsome amount of money. At present, he is the owner of Sumit Diamond Pvt. Ltd, New York. One of his branches is also available in Bombay. His company is covering the market of Japan, China, Belgium, Singapore and India. In spite of living in the host country, the feeling for the native land is always there in his heart. He contributed in various social and healthcare projects of his ancestral land. Library is very important in any village or city to develop the reading skills among the citizens. Many elderly people visit the library to read various religious scriptures and newspapers. Students also use it for their extra reading. Mr. Kumarbhai though he was not interested in study knows the value of advanced library. He donated 15,00,000/- rupees for the construction of this library in the village. Bus stand is one of the basic requirements of any village. Mr. Kumarbhai found that the people of his village face many hardships due to the lack of Bus stand. So he donated 6,00,000/- rupees for the construction of Bus stand in the village.

Vadis, Community hall and Inn are commonly found in every villages of North Gujarat. NRIs of the area also donated huge heartedly for the construction and maintenance of these kinds of public houses. These cost too much money so it is very difficult to erect without the generous donations of NRIs. Though Mr. Kumarbhai is Jain, he is not bounded to donate only for the welfare of Jain community. He always donates whenever it was desired and required by the village people. One of such example is his donation in Arbuda Bhavan. He donated 16, 00, 000 rupees for the construction of this Bhavan. He has also donated 12,00,000/- rupees to build Jain inn in the village.

Banaskantha district has 64 primary health centers and 422 sub-centers. It has a well knit network of private medical care institutions and trust hospitals. The district also has Government hospital at Vadgam which is 20 bedded Primary. A mobile ayurvedic dispensary has also been sanctioned in Banaskantha district under special Component Plan.6

Sheth Shri Jethalal Nanchanddas Javeri started a hospital in Gadh before twenty five years. Many people from the village and surrounding villages whether they
are residing in India or abroad donated handsome amount of money for the
development of hospital. Mr. Kumarbhai Javeri donated 4,00,000/- rupees for
the x ray section in the Hospital. Another prominent donor of the district Mr.
Sureshbhai Pethani donated 3,00,000/- rupees for the Operation Theatre. The
hospital is very neat and clean. Every month the medical camp is organized in
the hospital. There are different wards in the hospital like children’s ward,
emergency ward, ladies ward, and general ward. There is a permanent doctor in
the hospital. Many specialists come to visit the patients on Sunday. This hospital
is open for 24 hours. Many advanced surgical tools are available in this hospital.
For any kind of emergency enough stock of medicines is available. Hospital is a
great facility and help to the people of the village as well as the people of nearby
villages. Earlier, when there was no hospital in the village, people from the
village went to Palanpur for getting the medicines. This problem is now solved
after the construction of this hospital. This hospital is great help for the poor
people of the village as all the medicines are given free to the patients. Even the
food is also provided by the hospital. Many people from the nearby villages
come to take the medicines from the hospital.

3. Educational Sector:

“Banaskantha district has around 1,983 primary schools, 153 secondary schools,
and 56 higher secondary schools.” The district has a good network of technical
training institutes like ITI and Polytechnic training institutes. The ITIs offer
courses in engineering, textile and automobile areas.

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(Table 1 Educational institutes in Banaskantha).
People of Palanpur are residing in foreign countries like Belgium, Russia, the U.S.A., Canada, Japan, Singapore, and Hong Kong. In spite of staying in the host countries, the NRGs have deep attachment to Palanpur. They always try to develop the areas of Palanpur and do their best for the development of education in Palanpur. They give much donation in the field of education. Many leading institutions in Palanpur are established and get sublime progress through the money and brain of NRGs. The most appropriate example is Adarsh Vidya Sankul in Palanpur. The long sighted and the eminent Anjana Patel People of Banaskantha district wished to do something for good education. Today Anjana Patel Kelavani Mandal is the fruit of it. They understood the importance of education before fifty five years. For the good education of the children they established the Kelavani Mandal in 23rd May 1955. The Sankul was awarded “THE PRESTIGIOUS SANKUL AWARD” in the category of Educational institutes of Banaskantha by Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August 2008.

NRGs from the Anjana community contributed lots of money for the development of the Sankul. Various courses and facilities are started through the contribution of society’s people. The chief donor of the Sankul is Mr. Girishbhai Patel.

Mr. Girishbhai Ratubhai Kathrotiya is residing in USA from 40 years. With a view to provide education to the students of Banskantha, Mr. Girishbhai Patel declared Rs. 16,15,115/- as a donation for the establishment of Smt. Hetiben Ratubhai Kathrotiya Primary School. The college is affiliated to Hemchandraya North Gujarat University, Patan. The trustees, who believed in value based education put in their best efforts to make Nestara P. Patel Mahila Arts College, Palanpur a full- fledged and well managed institution. Shrimati. Nestara P. Patel of Patosan village generously donated for a noble cause of education Rs. 51,15,225/- and hence this college is named as Nestara P. Patel Mahila Arts College, Palanpur. He also donated Rs. 25,00,000/- for the boys’ hostel in the memory of his elder brother late Shri Chelabhai. Moreover, he donated Rs. 8,11,225/- for the establishment of fitness centre. He has also donated Rs. 11,25,225/- for the Central Library named as Nistara G. Patel
Central Library to encourage women’s education. He has also declared Rs. 51,000/- donations with a view to awarding the student of Nistara Arts College getting the highest marks in the University Exams. The Adarsh Vidya Sankul is rich with almost all the facilities like water tank, hostels, dining hall, community hall and temple of Arbuda Devi, canteen, and transportation facilities due to the generous donation of Mr. Girishbhai Patel. At present under this Anjana Patel Kelavani Mandal various educational institutions are working and they are doing their best. Following is the details of the donation given by Mr. Girishbhai Patel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of department</th>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>H.R. Kanthoriya Primary School</td>
<td>Rs.16,15,115/-</td>
<td>Girishbhai Patel, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nistara P. Patel Mahila Arts College</td>
<td>Rs. 41,00000/-</td>
<td>Girishbhai Patel, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nistra P Patel Central Library</td>
<td>Rs.11,25,225/-</td>
<td>Girishbhai Patel, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>C.R. Kanthrotiya Boys’ Hostel</td>
<td>Rs. 25,00000/-</td>
<td>Girishabhai Patel, U.S.A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The campus has started Commerce College before two years and they have recently started Science College. Both the colleges have their own campus. Science College has advanced laboratories. World class laboratories are available in the Science College. In this campus there are three hostels- two are for boys and the other one is for girls. About 590 students are accommodated and adequate facilities are given.

In Adarsh Vidya Sankul, 34 staff quarters have been constructed for teaching or non teaching employees of the schools and colleges. There are 20 quarters having facilities of one bed room, a hall, kitchen and 14 quarters having two bed rooms, hall kitchen etc. Moreover, eight quarters are made for
subordinate staff, thus, all facilities have been offered for the employees and for visiting teachers.

In this Sankul all students in each faculty are provided each and every facility. Every year an industrial or educational tour is arranged for the students. And they are provided knowledge of various industries and interesting places. Each faculty has its syllabus based library, a computer room, a laboratory room etc. The students of the Adarsh Vidya Sankul take part in the various competitions and are awarded at the district level, state level and national level. Moreover, every year, students make efforts to get the highest rank in the University exam and Board exam and through their hard work they achieve their goal.

Shri Banaskantha Anjana Patel Kelvani Mandal provides education from Balmandir to college level students. This campus not only provide education but supports students by providing other facilities like accommodation, food, Canteen, central library, Gymnasium, Guest house, Community hall, Pure drinking water, traveling facility for students by School bus etc. Moreover, Girishbhai has donated Rs. 8 lac for the Primary School, in his village Patosan. He has provided facilities like computers, benches, sports tools, water tank, etc. in this Primary School. He has also tried to increase the education ratio by distributing free dresses, books, pens, bags, etc to the students of primary school in his village. Another such donor is Mr. Umedbhai Hirabhai Chaudhari he has donated Rs.25 lac for the establishment of U.H. Chaudhari Arts College in Vadgam of Banaskantha district. Many students get the benefit of this education institute. Earlier the students of Vadgam Taluka have to go to Palanpur for higher education but with the generous donation of Mr. Umedbhai this problem came to an end.

Kanodar has four Gujarati primary-middle and High schools, one English medium school that teaches up to the twelfth grade, and one Gujarati medium-secondary school. A computer study is a part of the curriculum in these schools. The Jafary Education Society came into existence after many hardships during first phase of migration of people from Kanodar during which they were settled
in Saudi Arabia for earning purposes. The people foresaw the well being of the next generation who they thought would suffer as the older generation were suffering and facing problems. Henceforth, in 1989 fourteen and fifteen persons gathered and talked about the establishment of an educational society. After some time, a management committee was formed.

The aim of this society is to provide knowledge and education to their native people. They started a typing class in 1989 because typing was a subject in S.S.C. and in Kanodar there was not any typing class. In this class, all students of S.K.M. High School, Kanodar took part in the nominal fees. After 5 years, the craze of typing came to an end. In 1994 bright idea came in to existence. The idea was Computer Class or English Medium School. English being the window language in this advanced and technological era, the emphasis was placed on running one English Medium School right from K.G., thus The Jafary English School came into being in 1994. Initially, people were hesitant to provide support to the school on account of the new medium of education and new management. But the responsible persons of this society gave full enthusiasm, support and guarantee to the parents. After being convinced, 29 parents showed their readiness to have their children admitted into this school.

The Institution occupies an estate of approx. 15,000 sq ft(Pri-Primary Campus, at present) and 40,000 sq ft(Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary School, at present) and 1,00,000 sq.ft. centrally situated in Kanodar. Its wide-ranging facilities are housed in large and imposing buildings gifted over the years. There around 25 teachers serving in the school. The school has all the modern facilities. Both the school buildings are connected with the Wi-Fi facilities.

Mr. Mahmadhussain Kadivala is serving as the campus director. He is one of the founding members of Jafary Education Society. He was residing in Saudi Arabia earlier. He wanted to become PSI but because of economical crisis, he was not able complete his education. He started job in Palanpur and the salary was that of 125 rupees at that time to remove the economic struggle of his family he migrated to Saudi Arabia as labourer. He proposed many people from the
village to settle in Saudi Arabia as a driver, car painter, welder etc. Because of his efforts 300 people within five years of his migration settled in UAE. Most of them are not well educated so they face the problem of English language. So they decided to build the English Medium School in their village and Jafary Education Society came into existence. Till the moment this school is managed, facilitated and run by the NRIs from the village residing in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mahmadhussain Kadivala returned to his native land at the age of 60 with a purpose to do something in the native land.

Mr. Sureshbhai Pethani donated Rs.38 lac for providing primary education. The Adarsh Primary School is known as Smt. Mafatben Uttamlal Pethani, Adarsh Primary School. In the beginning, there was no facility for the transportation of students. So he also donated 6 lac for the transportation services. The aim for giving donation for the transportation was to provide transportation facility to the students who used to reside in the surrounding villages or at Deesa town.

Mr. Sureshbhai Pethani has not only given a grand donation, but every year he visits the school twice regularly in a year. Due to the donation of Mr. Sureshbhai Pethani, the school was named as ‘Smt. Mafatben Uttamlal Pethani Adarsh Primary School’. The institute has created its unique identity in providing virtuous education, making all round development of children, their inner potentials and making them better citizens. The students, who got education from this institution, have become ideal citizens and many of them have become professionals like doctors, engineers, teachers and also successful businessmen. Many students have become class I and class II officers. This is the pride for the institution. The institute has its focus on imparting qualitative education, providing high quality teaching learning process, adequate infrastructure and rich learning resources. The school has all the modern facilities like library, laboratory, computer room, audio visual room, art room. Besides this he has also donated Rs. 4 lac and Rs. 6 lac respectively for the establishment of Takarvada Primary School and for the development of Raner.
High school of Banaskantha district. He has also donated approximately 4,000 benches to the schools of different villages of the district.

Gadh is one of the villages of Banaskantha district. There are many small villages around it. So Gadh is the centre of education for the people who are residing near it. In Gadh, many educational institutions are established and developed. The literacy standard of Gadh region is increased due to the availability of educational institutions. Most of the people get education and become literate on account of educational facilities available in their own village. To provide English education and higher education, various institutions are started by education loving people. People of Gadh are kind hearted and education loving. They emphasize on the development of education in the Gadh village. Many people from the Jain community migrated from the village to the developed countries like Japan, U.S.A., Canada, Singapore, and Belgium. Overseas Gujarati from the village have strong emotional attachment to their native land and due to their emotional attachment and to show the villagers that though they are away from the village, the memories of the village did not fade away from their heart and mind donate enormously for the development of the village. They donated more in the field of education. Many institutions are developed through the money of NRGs in the village. The Javeri family has played an important role in the development of education in Gadh.

Mr. Kumarbhai Javeri knows the importance of education that the progress of the society depends on the quality of education imparted to children. With a purpose to helping the society, Mr. Kumarbhai Javeri, has donated Rs. 51 lac to renovate Smt. Maniben Tribhaovandas Javeri Primary School. For the higher education he has donated Rs. 46 lac. He has also Rs. 22 lac for the establishment of Smt. Vimalaben Sevantilal Javeri Secondary School. Then he donated Rs. 20 lac for the establishment of Smt. Neetaben Kumarbhai Javeri English Medium School to provide English education to the students. Many people got their wages because of the generous donation of Mr. Javeri. Along with this, he has also inspired many Gujarati Diaspora people for the development of education of their ancestral land Mr. Kumarbhai Javeri has also
given possible help to the fresh Diasporas of Gujarat in the U.S.A. This noble service of person from a very small and remote corner of India, both in his motherland and also in the host country, is really an excellent illustration of diasporic contribution to the motherland.

NRGs of Banaskantha district have shown their deep concern towards the education sector of their native land. They have donated generously not only in the urban areas but also in the small villages of this district. It shows their love for their native place, its people and surroundings. The philanthropic attitude of the NRGs especially Chaudhary and Jain communities has given new identity to Banaskantha district. Various branches of knowledge are opened and students are free to choose the stream of their interest. Through the donation of these NRGs, the students of the rural areas get good education in their own villages. Thus, the NRGs of Banaskantha district have contributed significantly in the field of education of their native land. Though they are far away from their motherland, their attachment and great bond of love for their native brothers and sisters remain in their heart. Consequently, they visit their homeland frequently and gave large amount of donation to uplift the standard of education in this district. They realize that education is the only sector which can change the society well. They also set an example to others as far as their love for their villages is concerned. In fact, it leads to the overall development of the nation.

4. **Industrial and Infrastructure Sector:**

   The economy of the Banaskantha district is based on agro and food Processing, tourism, textile and mineral based industries (ceramics). Bajri, Maize, Tobacco, Castor oil, Jowar, Psyllium and Potatoes are the major crops of the district. The district has rich mineral reserves including limestone, marble, granite, building stone and china clay. Banaskantha district accounts for almost the entire marble reserves of the State of Gujarat. Danta Taluka of Banaskantha district is known for its high quality marble production. “Banaskantha contributes 15% to the total production of limestone in Gujarat.” The food
processing and textiles industries existing in the district for last two decades are driving its economic growth.

The district has immense tourism potential because of the presence of pilgrimages like Ambaji and Kumbharia.

Around 43.3% of the tourist inflow in Gujarat was for Ambaji. Around 43.3% of the tourist inflow in Gujarat was for religious purposes and Ambaji has emerged as the second most popular tourist destination in Gujarat.\(^{10}\)

Apart from Ambaji, Banaskantha has other interesting places like Kumbharia which is a religious place for Jains, Balarm-Ambaji Sanctuary, Balram Palace Resort at Balrampur, Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary and Kedarnath Mahadev Temple in Jessore. Jessore also offer excellent trekking options through its hilly terrain and is famous for sloth bear sanctuary. The NRG Jains of Banaskantha help a great deal toward business and industry in Gujarat especially diamond industry. Besides direct investments, they also help by providing management and consultancy advice services. Looking to the space limitations Jain Diaspora from Palanpur engaged in Diamond Industry in Antwerp has not been included in present research work as the same has immense potentialities for a full-flaized research publication independent research will be brought out in this project. However Chaudhari NRGs of the District have not done any direct investment, through they have remitted a large amount of money for the homeland indirectly. Even the migrants, who are on student visa, also send Rs. 15 to 25 lac annually by working illegally in restaurants, food packing, etc. for the persons who are dependent on them. They also help their relatives to establish small business like garment, hotels, stock office, etc.

**Findings and Suggestions:**

Migration from Banaskantha district started after the independence of India. Poverty, unemployment, scarcity and irregularity of water resources were the reasons for their migration. They belong to various castes including Patel, Jain, Chaudhari, and Muslim. They migrated to United States of America, United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, Australia and Gulf countries. Majority
of the population from Muslim community migrated to Gulf region. Following chart clearly shows the area of their destination or settlement.

Generally, they are migrated under four different categories such as for business, chain migration, labourers and students. Following chart clearly shows that even though migration from the district started as a semi skilled worker and less qualified labourer but today they occupy prominent role as professionals and businessmen. Many of them are employed in several reputed American agencies. Around twenty seven percent of them are engaged in jobs and 3.93% are professionals in their respective host countries. Following chart shows their nature of occupation in the host countries.
Following Chart shows male female ratio of the emigrants from the Banaskantha district of North Gujarat. The migrants from the region surveyed are primarily from the category of young adults and the middle aged group of people. Majority of them are married. 80.90 percent of the emigrants are males and most of them are married. Half of the total emigrants are from the age group of 45-50 years, followed by the age group of 20-40.

A significant proportion of the emigrant population has taken the citizenship and Green card. Most of the migration from the district occurred on temporary basis. 43.82 percent from the total emigrants are permanently settled in their area of destination while other are working temporarily. Following chart shows the same.
Migrants from the district’s rural villages and small towns have contributed significantly towards the development of their villages or towns and communities. Diasporic people are playing vital role in the development of their villages or towns. Analyzing the development of the district, it is noteworthy that many NRIs have contributed immensely and donated a lot of money for the development of their native land. They also make a massive contribution in building up various educational institutes and temples. Following chart shows their contribution for the development of their ancestral or native land.
After examining the history of Gujarati migration to various countries from the district, it is clear that majority of persons who have migrated are Jains. Moreover, they have immensely contributed to the development of the religious sector of the district. After examining their donations for the development of various sectors of the district, it is noticeable that most of the donations are made to construct or renovate the temples of the gods and goddesses who are traditionally worshipped by them and building village Vadis.
References:

1. http://www.slideshare.net/vibrantgujaratsummit/banaskantha
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10. Ibid.