CHAPTER 4    RESEARCH SETTING

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GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF
RAJASTHAN

GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF
BIKANER

GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF
LOONKARANSAR

CLUSTER WISE PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN STUDY AREA
CHAPTER IV - RESEARCH SETTING

This study has been carried out in the villages of Loonkaransar Tehsil of Bikaner District in the state of Rajasthan in India.

GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

About Rajasthan

Rajasthan was formed on 30 March 1949, when all erstwhile princely states ruled by Rajputs, known as Rajputana merged into the Republic of India. It has a total of 32 districts. Bikaner is one of the 32 districts, where the data collection has been done.

Rajasthan is the largest state of the Republic of India by area. It encompasses most of the area of the large, inhospitable Great Indian Desert (Thar Desert), which has an edge paralleling the Sutlej-Indus river valley along its border with Pakistan.

Boundaries: The state is bordered by:

Pakistan to the west

Gujarat to the southwest

Madhya Pradesh to the southeast

Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to the northeast

Punjab to the north.

Rajasthan covers an area of 342,239 km. The proportion of the state's total area to the total area of the country is 10.41%.

Jaipur is the capital and the largest city of the state. Geographical features include the Thar Desert along north-western Rajasthan and the termination of the Ghaggar River near the archaeological ruins at Kalibanga of the Indus Valley Civilization, which are the oldest in the Indian Subcontinent, discovered so far.

One of the world's oldest mountain ranges, the Aravali range is also in Rajasthan. Eastern Rajasthan has the world famous Keoladeo National Park, near Bharatpur, famous for its bird life and is a World Heritage Site and two famous national tiger reserves, Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserve.

Traditionally the Meenas, Rajpoots, Yadavs, Jats, Bhils, Gurjars, Bishnois and other tribes made a great contribution in building the state of Rajasthan.

The main geographic features of Rajasthan are the Thar Desert and the Aravalli Range, which runs through the state from southwest to northeast, almost from one end to the other, for more than 850 km.

The north-western portion of Rajasthan is generally sandy and dry. Most of the region is covered by the Thar Desert, which extends into adjoining portions of Pakistan. The Aravalli Range does not intercept the moisture-giving southwest monsoon winds off the Arabian Sea, as it lies in a direction parallel to that of the coming monsoon winds, leaving the north-western region in a rain shadow.

The Thar Desert is thinly populated; the town of Bikaner is the largest city in the desert area of Rajasthan. This region receives less than 400 mm of rain in an average year. Temperatures can exceed 45 °C in the summer months and drop below freezing in the winter.

The main language of the state is Rajasthani, Marwari which is a dialect of Hindi Language. The state accounts for a majority of Hindu population. There are also Muslims, Sikhs, Jains and Sindhis in the state.
CHAPTER 4  RESEARCH SETTING

**Flora and Fauna**

A large percentage of the total area is desert, and even though there is little forest cover, Rajasthan has a rich and varied flora and fauna. The natural vegetation is **Northern Desert Thorn Forest**. These occur in small clumps scattered in open forms. Density and size of patches increase from west to east following the increase in rainfall.

Some wildlife species, which are fast vanishing in other parts of India, are found in the desert in large numbers such as the **Great Indian Bustard**, **the Blackbuck**, **the Indian Gazelle** and **the Indian Wild Ass**.

The **Desert National Park, Jaisalmer**, represents the ecosystem of the Thar Desert, and its diverse fauna. **Great Indian Bustard, Blackbuck, chinkara, desert fox, Bengal fox, wolf, desert cat** etc. can be easily seen here. Seashells and massive fossilized tree trunks in this park record the geological history of the desert. The region welcomes **migratory and resident birds** of the desert. One can see many **eagles, harriers, falcons, buzzards, kestrel and vultures**. **Short-toed eagles, Tawny eagles, spotted eagles, Laggar falcons and kestrels** are also very common.

The **Ranthambore National Park** located in Sawai Madhopur, is one of the finest Tiger Reserves in the Country which became a part of Project **Tiger** in 1973. The **Sariska Tiger Reserve** located in Alwar district, was declared a National Park in 1979. **Tal Chappar Sanctuary** is a very small sanctuary in Sujangarh, Churu district, is home to **Blackbuck**. **Desert fox and desert cat** are also spotted here.

**There are a total of 32 districts in Rajasthan, namely:**

Out of these 32 districts, some districts are beneficiaries to government intervention and NGO intervention for Reproductive and sexual health. These districts are Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Ajmer, and a few more. For the purpose of this study we are looking at the district of Bikaner, block Loonkaransar.
BIKANER

Bikaner\(^91\) (Rajasthani: बिकाणो) is a District in the northwest of the state of Rajasthan in northern India. It is located 330 kilometres northwest of the state capital, Jaipur. Bikaner city is the administrative headquarters of Bikaner District and Bikaner division. It was formerly the capital of the princely state of Bikaner. The city was founded by Rao Bika in 1486 and from its small origins it has developed into the fourth largest city in Rajasthan.

The Ganga Canal completed in 1928 and the Indira Gandhi Canal completed in 1987 has allowed the farming of crops such as mustard, cotton, groundnut, wheat and vegetables. Other industries include wool production and the mining of Gypsum, plaster of Paris and bentonite.

Bikaner is situated in the middle of the Thar Desert with very little rainfall and extreme temperatures. In summer, temperatures exceed 50 °C and during the winter it dips to freezing point. The climate in Bikaner is characterized by extreme variations in temperature. In the summer season it is very hot when the temperatures lie in the range of 28–48.5 °C (82–119 °F). In the winter, it is fairly cold with temperatures lying in the range of 5–23.2 °C (41–74 °F). Annual Rainfall is in the range of 260–440 millimetres.

CHAPTER 4  RESEARCH SETTING

FIGURE 4.2 MAP OF BIKANER DISTRICT
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

ADMINISTRATION

For administration and development, the district is divided into eight sub-divisions i.e.


It has further been divided into eight tehsils, i.e. 1) Bikaner, 2) Kolayat, 3) Nokha, 4) Loonkaransar, 5) Khajuwala, 6) Chhattargarh, 7) Poogal, 8) Dungargarh.


There are 893 villages and 219 Gram panchayats. There is one independent Sub-Tehsil Bajju situated in Kolayat tehsil for better administration.

DEMOGRAPHY

ACCORDING TO THE 2011 INDIA CENSUS, DATA FOR BIKANER

- Bikaner has a population of 2,367,745.
- Males constituted 53% of the population and females 47%.
- Bikaner has an average literacy rate of 66%, higher than the national average of 59.5%.
- Male literacy of 76.90% and female literacy of 53.77%.

\[92\text{SOURCE- CENSUS OF INDIA, 2011}\]
CHAPTER 4  RESEARCH SETTING

TABLE: 4.1 DEMOGRAPHY OF BIKANER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>BIKANER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION</td>
<td>2,367,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE POPULATION</td>
<td>1,243,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE POPULATION</td>
<td>1,123,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX RATIO</td>
<td>903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERACY</td>
<td>65.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE LITERACY</td>
<td>76.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE LITERACY</td>
<td>53.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD POPULATION (0-6 YR)</td>
<td>394,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOY CHILD POPULATION (0-6 YR)</td>
<td>207,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIRL CHILD POPULATION (0-6 yr.)</td>
<td>187,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD SEX RATIO</td>
<td>902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total population of Bikaner is 2,367,745 as per latest provisional figures released by Directorate of Census Operations in Rajasthan. This shows increase of 41.42 percent in 2011 compared to figures of 2001 census. The initial figures of data shows that male and female were 1,243,916 and 1,123,829 respectively.

Bikaner District of Rajasthan comprises an area of 30247.90 sq.km. As per census 2011, density of Bikaner District per square km is 78 compared to 63 per sq.km of 2001.

Sex ratio of girls in Bikaner district per 1000 boys was recorded at 903 i.e. an increase of 13 points from the figure of 2001 census which puts it at 890.

In 2011 census, data of Bikaner district regarding child under 0-6 age were also collected. There were total 394,396 children under age of 0-6 against 326,680 of 2001 census. Of total 394,396 male and female were 207,364 and 187,032 respectively.

93 SOURCE: CENSUS OF INDIA 2011 PROVISIONAL DATA
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 902 compared to 916 of census 2001. Children’s proportion in total population was around 3.45 percent. This figure was around 2.96 percent as per 2001 census.

In education sector, Bikaner District is having average literacy rate of 65.92 percent. Male literacy and female literacy were 76.90 and 53.77 percent respectively. In all, there were total 1,300,806 literates compared to 766,862 literates of 2001 census.

TABLE: 4.2 DISTRICT AT A GLANCE – BIKANER DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 GENERAL INFORMATION</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Geographical area (Sq. Km)</td>
<td>30247.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Division (As on 31.3.2007)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Tehsils</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Blocks</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (As per 2011 Census)</td>
<td>2,367,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Annual Rainfall (1986-2005) in mm</td>
<td>287.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 GEOMORPHOLOGY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Physiographic Units</td>
<td>Older alluvial plains, Sandy undulating aggraded Alluvial Plains, Flat Interdunal Plains, Sandy undulating interdunal plains, Flood plane, Aeolian complex, Stabilized Sand dunes, Active Sand dunes, Gravelly aggraded alluvial plains, Eroded rocky surface, Saline depressions, Sandy Plain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Drainage</th>
<th>No Major Drainage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 LAND USE (sq. km)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Forest Area</td>
<td>812.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Net Sown Area</td>
<td>13789.61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

94 SOURCE: CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD Ministry of Water Resources Government of India
### DISTRICT AT A GLANCE – BIKANER DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN (Cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 MAJOR SOIL TYPE</th>
<th>Loam, Clay loam, pebbly &amp; stony and sandy loam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 AREA UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS (As on 2004-05)</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kidney bean</td>
<td>205831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Seeds</td>
<td>121348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>73466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>91288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jowar</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>3416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spices</td>
<td>6228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bajra</td>
<td>35189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 MAIN PROBLEM</th>
<th>WATER SCARCITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

As can be seen from the table above, the main problem of this district is water scarcity. Since the livelihood is dependent upon agriculture and animal husbandry, people have to struggle a lot to keep the crops standing and animals alive. Canal irrigation in most parts here has brought some respite though but still there are areas which are monsoon dependent.
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

LOONKARANSAR

Geographical Location: Loonkaransar, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India
Geographical Coordinates: 28° 30’ 0.0072” North and 73° 45’ 18.7272” East.

Loonkaransar\(^{95}\) (लूणकरणसर) is a town and tehsil of Bikaner district in Rajasthan, India. It gets its name from salt (Lun in Hindi) Water Lake. Loonkaransar is Railway Station on the Abohar-Bikaner rail route.

Loonkaransar is a small, closed, dry basin surrounded by dunes at the north-eastern margin of the Thar Desert. The lake levels were very shallow and fluctuated often in the early Holocene and then rose abruptly around 6300 carbon-14 years before the present (14 C yr. B.P.). The major Harrapan-Indus civilization began and flourished in this region 1000 years after desiccation of the lake during arid climate and was not synchronous with the lacustral phase. \(\text{Source- Jatland.com}\)

Boundaries:

North villages: Udana, Bhadera, Tejan Bas, Piperan

South villages: Saijarasar, Khana, Khari, Rajpura, Bhanipura

East villages: Thari, Dhinigania, Kaluwas, Nathwana, Kishnasar, Kalu, Bassi, Rajpura

West villages: Bara Delana, Khera

ACCORDING TO THE 2001 INDIA CENSUS, DATA FOR LOONKARANSAR

Loonkaransar is a tehsil of Bikaner district in the Indian state of Rajasthan. The following table depicts the demographic profile of Loonkaransar block.

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\(^{95}\) [www.jatland.com](http://www.jatland.com)
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

**TABLE: 4.3**

**DEMOGRAPHY OF LOONKARANSAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rajasthan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Bikaner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tehsil</td>
<td>Loonkaransar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>174293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>47.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Male</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Female</td>
<td>31.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Population</td>
<td>21.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST Population</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table depicts the demographic features like population, literacy etc. of Loonkaransar. The total population of Lunkaransar, as per the 2001 Census is 174293. 236 are Scheduled Tribes (STs). 37000 are Scheduled Caste (SC). The sex ratio of the population in Lunkaransar is 917 females per 1000 males. The literacy rate in the city is 47.96 per cent, 63.2 for males and 31.27 for females.

The main source of income and employment is agriculture, animal husbandry and agricultural labour. Mostly families have either their own land on which the whole family works, or they work as agricultural labourers on other’s land. During the harvesting season, all the families from villages migrate to Dhanis (small hamlets outside village in the farm where farmer lives with family to take care of their crops). They stay at Dhanis till the harvesting is done. School going children too join their parents to the Dhanis.

**The main crops grown in this area are-** Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Kidney Beans, Oil seeds, Pulses, Barley and Spices

The produce is not enough to feed the family through the year, thus the Government is running many schemes to benefit the people to help them during slack season of agriculture. During the slack season of agriculture every family gets guaranteed
employment (one member per family) under NREGA and various other schemes. People work in the projects of PWD (Public Works Department) for road construction, digging wells etc. There are 29 schools (primary, secondary and senior secondary) in the whole tehsil of Loonkaransar.

**VILLAGES OF LOONKARANSAR SELECTED FOR THE STUDY**

**NAKODESAR**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS**-

1) *RSH educated girls*- 10
2) *Non RSH educated girls*- 7
3) *Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls*- 9
4) *Peer of RSH educated girls*- 5
5) *Non RSH educated men*- 5

Nakodesar is a village situated 36 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 1197. Out of which 625 are males and 572 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 265. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 165 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are *CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES*. There is a Government Primary and Upper Primary school in Nakodesar. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

RAVASAR

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) RSH educated girls- 16
2) Non RSH educated girls- 5
3) Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls- 12
4) Peer of RSH educated girls- 5
5) Non RSH educated men- 5

Ravasar is a village situated 30 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 947. Out of which 475 are males and 472 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 141. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 130 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Primary and Secondary school in Ravasar. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

CHANDSAR

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) RSH educated girls- 6
2) Non RSH educated girls- 7
3) Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls- 11
4) Peer of RSH educated girls- 5
5) Non RSH educated men- 5

Chandsar is a village situated 34 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 290. Out of
which 153 are males and 137 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 101. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 38 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Upper Primary school in Chandsar. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

NATHUSAR

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) **RSH educated girls**- 5  
2) **Non RSH educated girls**- 2  
3) **Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls**- 5  
4) **Peer of RSH educated girls**- 0  
5) **Non RSH educated men**- 0

Nathusar is a village situated 27 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 666. Out of which 337 are males and 329 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 318. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 109 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Primary school in Nathusar. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

4 SLD

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) RSH educated girls- 4
2) Non RSH educated girls- 0
3) Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls- 2
4) Peer of RSH educated girls- 5
5) Non RSH educated men- 5

4 SLD is a village situated 130 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 477. Out of which 250 are males and 227 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 0. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 55 families in this village. Type of houses is KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, PULSES and WHEAT. There is a Government Primary school in 4SLD. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

1 SLD

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) RSH educated girls- 10
2) Non RSH educated girls- 0
3) Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls- 5
4) Peer of RSH educated girls- 5
5) Non RSH educated men- 5

1SLD is a village situated 130 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 1145. Out of which 615 are males and 530 are females. Total population of people belonging to
Scheduled Caste is 568. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 162 families in this village. Type of houses is KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, PULSES and WHEAT. There is a Government Primary school in 1SLD. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

**MAHADEV VALI**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-**

1) *RSH educated girls*- 3  
2) *Non RSH educated girls*- 5  
3) *Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls*,3  
4) *Peer of RSH educated girls*- 5  
5) *Non RSH educated men*- 5

Mahadev vali is a village situated 70 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 2411. Out of which 1279 are males and 1132 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 477. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 303 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Primary and Secondary school in Mahadev Vali. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.
507 HEAD

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) RSH educated girls- 0
2) Non RSH educated girls- 2
3) Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls- 3
4) Peer of RSH educated girls- 5
5) Non RSH educated men- 5

507 HEAD is a village situated 90 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 370. Out of which 142 are males and 128 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 0. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 50 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Primary school in 507 HEAD. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

BAKHUSAR

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) RSH educated girls- 14
2) Non RSH educated girls- 22
3) Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls- 21
4) Peer of RSH educated girls- 5
5) Non RSH educated men- 5

Bakhusar is a village situated 70 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 943. Out of
which 502 are males and 441 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 326. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 142 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Primary school in Bakhusar. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

**RAMBAGH**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS**-

1) *RSH educated girls* - 3  
2) *Non RSH educated girls* - 0  
3) *Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls* - 3  
4) *Peer of RSH educated girls* - 5  
5) *Non RSH educated men* - 5

Rambagh is a village situated 45 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 1476. Out of which 755 are males and 721 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 410. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 228 families in this village. Type of houses is a mix of both PUCCA houses and KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES. There is a Government Primary and Secondary school in Rambagh. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

SABANIA

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS-

1) *RSH educated girls* - 4
2) *Non RSH educated girls* - 0
3) *Married Female relatives of RSH educated girls* - 1
4) *Peer of RSH educated girls* - 5
5) *Non RSH educated men* - 5

Sabania is a village situated 95 KM from Loonkaransar town. This village is connected to Loonkaransar by a pucca road and bus. Total population of this village is 1660. Out of which 862 are males and 798 are females. Total population of people belonging to Scheduled Caste is 926. There are no people belonging to Scheduled Tribe and Backward classes in this village. There are approximately 212 families in this village. Type of houses is KUCHHA houses. Main source of livelihood is AGRICULTURE and ANIMAL HUSBANDARY. The main crops grown here are- *CLUSTER BEANS, MILLETS, and PULSES*. There is a Government Upper Primary school in Sabania. There is a government run HEALTH SUB CENTRE in the village.

Some of these villages have an advantageous location in terms of distance from block head office, like Nakodesar, Ravasar, Chandsar, Nathusar. Whereas some of these villages are situated much faraway from Loonkaransar, like- 1SLD, 4SLD, Sabania, 507HEAD, Mahadev vali and Bakhusar. All of these villages have a government run Health Sub Centre. There is a constant problem with the availability of medical staff and medical supplies at these centers. These centers take active part in the health camps organized by the health department from time to time. These health camps include the sterilization camps, copper T camps and immunization camps.

Education infrastructure in terms of buildings is present in all villages. Some villages like Nathusar, 4SLD, 1SLD, 507 HEAD and Bakhusar have only the primary schools. Nakodesar, Chandsar, and Sabania have Upper Primary schools too. Ravasar, Mahadev
vali and Rambagh have secondary schools. The problem of “teacher absenteeism” is quite rampant in this part of the country. The corporal punishments and non-interesting teaching methodologies, have led to a high drop-out rate in this region. There are many young girls who had to drop out of the school after completing primary school. Because the upper primary school is not in their village and parents are not keen on sending the child to another village for schooling. Similar is the case with children who have completed Upper Primary school. Many of them had to drop-out because the secondary school is not in their village. Distance from school is not the only reason for dropping out, but is one of the main reasons.

Most of these villages have a mix of *pucca and kachha houses*. Only 1 SLD, 4SLD AND Sabania are the villages where the houses were Kachha. These also happen to be the villages with higher proportion of SC population.

Most of the families have *joint family system* where three or more generations are living under one roof and eating from one kitchen. The *gender-roles* are very clearly demarcated, where the men are the primary bread winners and women take care of house, cooking and taking care of children and helping in farming, animal care and home based industries (weaving cloth etc.).

*Caste system* is followed very strictly. An inter-caste marriage is a rarity here. Marriage by choice or popularly known as “love marriage” is not quite welcome and is discouraged. Children are often married off while they are quite young. The houses and pockets of families belonging to SC are usually separate from the rest of the houses. But with very active interventions by the government and NGOs the socio-economic status of the SC families is gradually improving. The children from these villages are going to school. These families are gradually getting not only the access to education, health, political infrastructure, but also a control over them.

The general trend in the whole of Rajasthan is of *“CHILD MARRIAGES”*. The scenario in these villages is no different. People just marry their children off very young, especially the daughters. The main reason is Poverty, custom and tradition, Droughts,
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

Group Marriages etc. sometimes children are married off as young as 5 years of age. Usually the daughters are married off at much younger ages than sons. This has led to a big age difference between the couple. There is another trend which is seen here about GAUNA. GAUNA means sending the daughter to live with her husband at the marital home. The trend here is not to do gauna immediately after marriage. The girl stays with the maternal family after marriage and goes to her marital house mostly after her menstruation has started. Sometimes, even after menstruation the girl is not sent to stay with the husband for too long and spends most of her time at her maternal house. The reasons are this practice are many, like physical, sexual, emotional maturity, family and community pressure, the family structure and rituals of the husbands family etc. Many girls, who attended the RSH training at URMUL SETU, were either already married at the time of training or got married within a year or two of the training.

SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There are many government and non-government initiatives being undertaken in Rajasthan and Bikaner for the betterment of people’s lives. These initiatives are part of the Centre and state implemented programs as well as NGO interventions.

Government initiatives:

- Welfare of SC/ ST and backward classes
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Vocational training
  - Financial assistance for setting up business
  - Protection of civil rights
  - Improved latrines
  - Social security
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

- Elementary and primary education
- Senior and higher education
- More authority to panchayats
- Improvement of habitat conditions
- Providing social security
- Self-help groups
- Health, maternal and child health
- Strengthening of health infrastructure
- Increasing employment opportunities
- Employment during droughts
- Strengthening small scale industries

Non-Government Organizations (NGO)

A number of NGOs (National and international) are working quite effectively in Rajasthan and Bikaner, Loonkaransar.

URMUL (Uttar Rajasthan Milk Union Limited), CARE, SAVE THE CHILDREN, PLAN INDIA, RANGSUTRA, PARIVAR SEVA, CONCERN INDIA FOUNDATION

These are only few of the many organizations focusing mainly on health, education, livelihood, sanitation and social justice. Many are getting funding from various international and bi lateral funding agencies like UNICEF, UNAIDS, USAID etc.

As part of the RSH program and under the funding of various international organizations, a local NGO is conducting the RSH education programs in these villages. RSH education is a part of the Kishori Preerna Manch KPM. At the village level KPMs have been set up for girls between the age group of 12 to 20 years where the girls come together, meet and hold discussions on issues that affect them. There are 58 girls’ forums in this area.

- **Orientation about KPM** - Young girls are imparted training so that they can enhance their capabilities and get life skill education. The new girls who join the forum
CHAPTER 4 RESEARCH SETTING

are imparted basic knowledge through training so that the girls may have an understanding about the aims of the forum, role of girls associated to the forum and its benefits. After such training, strong girls forums have come up at village level.

As part of the RSH education program, a Module is followed for imparting training. This module was especially indigenised and designed keeping in mind the local culture and traditions. This module has stories and narrations with characters that have names similar to those used by the people in Loonkaransar. Thus the girls are able to relate and associate with the problems. All the trainers who conduct the training have undergone a TOT (Training of Trainers) for this module.

The RSH training of these KPM girls is conducted over a span of five days. There is a Pre-test and post-test methodology to evaluate and assess the outcome. These trainings are conducted in batches of 15 to 25 participants. There are no refresher classes after the initial training.

The components being covered in this training are-

- General health
- Balanced diet
- Common diseases and precautions, treatment
- Changes during adolescence.
- HIV/ AIDS, STD (sexually transmitted diseases)
- Conception
- Contraception/ family planning methods
- Safe motherhood, healthy pregnancy
- Safe childhood, immunization
- Abortion and MTP act
- PNDT Act, pre natal diagnostic techniques prohibition act.

The study intended to understand the impact of these trainings on the Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) of married female relatives of the RSH educated girls and to understand how the RSH educated girl has been able to utilize the knowledge in her life after marriage. For this purpose it was thought that since the data collection was going to
take place in 2009, it would be best to consider only those girls who completed the training in 2008. This gives us enough time to study the above mentioned issues.

In the following chapter we are see a detailed profile of all the respondents.