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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BRIEF HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF GUJARAT STATE

(A) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STATE OF GUJARAT

(B) A BRIEF HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN GUJARAT
CHAPTER-III

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BRIEF HISTORY
OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF GUJARAT STATE

INTRODUCTION

With a view to having a proper and adequate background for the study of the problem in the following few pages, it is discussed a historical background of the State of Gujarat followed by a brief history of higher education in Gujarat.

(A) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STATE OF GUJARAT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The present day Gujarat State is a unilingual state which came into existence in 1960. Before this it did not exist as one entity. After a long drawn struggle and after passing through various administrative changes, all regions speaking Gujarati came together to form one state. A short history of these events will help to understand the background and the uneven growth of educational activities of the State.
3.2 GUJARAT OF 1947

In the year 1947 when India achieved freedom the present day Gujarat regions were under different administrations. In 1947, the then Bombay Province was in existence. The area of the province was 76,443 square miles i.e. 1,95,694 square kilometers and its population was 2,08,49,840. Out of this the Gujarati speaking population was 30 percent. The Province comprised only twenty districts. Of these five districts belonged to Gujarat territory. The names of the districts were Ahmedabad, Kaira, the Panchamahals, Broach and Surat (including present Bulsar).

The Bombay Province of 1947 though industrially advanced had 60 percent of its population depending on agriculture. All the five Gujarat Districts also had practically the same pattern of vocations.

Saurashtra, which then was known as Kathiawad was made of five districts and was composed of number of princely states. It had 218 small states, 452 units, 31 jurisdictional states and 14 sultate states. The total area covered by these states was 31,885 square miles i.e. 81,625 square kilometers and it had a population of 3.52 million.
Kutch was also a princely state. It covered an area of about 16,724 square miles i.e. 42,813 square kilometers and had a population of 5,67,606. Kutch touched the boundaries of Sind, a province of Pakistan in North, British Gujarat in the East and North, Kathiawad in the South and the Indian Ocean in the West. Kutch was practically a backward area with Feudal economy. There were 296 villages in the State with four towns. It is worth noting that the major portion of the State is desert. In 1956 it became a State in the Indian Union.

3.3 POSITION IN 1948

In the year 1948, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India, persuaded many states of old Gujarat and Saurashtra to merge into the Indian Union forming bigger units. Practically all the princely states of old Gujarat merged into the Bombay State. The rulers of these states agreed on March 17, 1948 that there should be a merger of their states with adjoining, Indian territory. Thus 114 states, estates and talukas and thanas with an area of 17,680 square miles or 45,260 square kilometers and a population of 2.7 million and having total revenue of Rs. 16.5 million merged with the old Bombay State.
The Government of Bombay took over the administration of these states on June 10, 1948. Within a short time the state like Danta and the Dangs, certain agencies and states like Sirohi also merged with the Bombay State. Baroda State with an area of 8236 square miles i.e. 21,084 square kilometers and a population of 3 million was the biggest state to merge with the Bombay State. With these the state of Bombay became a state with 28 districts. The number of Gujarati speaking districts rose to eleven. Thus, between 1947 and 1956 all small and big princely states of old Gujarat merged into the Bombay State.

The year 1948 was also important for the Saurashtra region. There were 15 salute states, 17 non-solute states, and 191 pretty princely states, estates and talukas exercising varying degree of sovereignty. It was a huge task to handle them. Some states like Junagadh and Manavadar made their accession to Pakistan but the people revolted and made accession of the states to Indian Union. After a prolonged strife and struggle the unification of Saurashtra states came into being and new Saurashtra was born on 15th June, 1948 as Part B State. The new Saurashtra State had five districts with an area of 21,451 square miles or 54,915 square kilometers with a population of
The names of these districts were Zalawad, Rajkot, Gohilwad (Bhavnagar), Halar (Jamnagar), and Sorath (Junagadh). There were 63 talukas, 91 small municipalities and 4,361 villages. This State also had predominantly agricultural economy. Amreli District which was part of old Baroda State merged into Bombay State.

3.4 LINGUISTIC STATES IN 1956

The year 1956 was an important milestone for the old Bombay State because in that year the new State of bilingual Bombay came into existence as a result of reorganisation of territories. The new State had an area of 1,90,832 square miles i.e. 4,88,529 square kilometers and a population of 4,82,65,221. The area and the population of the new State represented 15 percent and 13.4 percent respectively of those of the Indian Union. The new State had 43 districts. Four of its old districts were transferred to Mysore. The new State had 24 districts of old Bombay State, 8 districts of old Madhya Pradesh, 5 districts of Hyderabad and 5 districts of Saurashtra and Kutch. This State had 613 towns and 238 villages. Because of the rival claims of both Maharashtrians and Gujaratis over Bombay City, Bombay State was made bilingual.
Thus in the 'new Bombay State' the Gujarati speaking population with historical, cultural and geographical background came under common administration. The eleven districts of old Gujarat, 5 districts of Saurashtra and Kutch became part of the bilingual state of Bombay.

As is evident from the above facts in the year 1960 Gujarati speaking population which did not have unilingual state of their own could hardly show uniform progress as a unit. Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutch regions of Gujarat were at different levels of development. These regions had their own administrative problems also. Since it did not exist as one entity, it is difficult to get a complete picture of these regions.

3.5 GUJARAT OF THE DAY

The State of Gujarat came into being only on the 1st May, 1960 as a result of bifurcation of the bilingual Bombay State. It is only after this day that the separate data of Gujarat are available. The data from 1947 to 1961 are not uniformly available from its subsections.
3.6 GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF GUJARAT

The State is situated on the West coast of India between 20.1° and 24.7° North latitudes and 86.4° and 74.4° East longitudes. On its West coast is Arabian Sea in the North is the Gulf of Kutch, the Eastern side is wholly covered with forests. The State has an area of 72,137 square miles i.e. 1,84,671 square kilometers and a population of 2,06,12,285. The area and population of the State represent 6.4 percent and 4.7 percent respectively of these of the Indian Union. There are 181 towns and 19,017 villages in the State.

3.7 CLIMATE OF GUJARAT

The tropic of Cancer passes through the Northern part of the state and so it would suffer from extremes of heat and cold, but the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Cambay make the climate bearable and healthy. The rainfall in the State is not the same every-where. It ranges from 40 centimeters to 250 centimeters. The Northern region has rainfall varying from 50 centimeters to 100 centimeters. The Kutch region has scanty rainfall.
In 1960 the State had in all 17 districts as follows:

1) Surat (including present Bulsar District)
2) Broach
3) Dangs
4) Baroda
5) Kheda
6) Ahmedabad
7) Panchmahals
8) Sabarkantha
9) Banaskantha
10) Mehsana
11) Amreli
12) Surendranagar
13) Bhavnagar
14) Junagadh
15) Jamnagar
16) Rajkot
17) Kutch

In 1974-75 the State has the following 19 districts:

1) Surat
2) Bharooch
3) Dangs
4) Valsad
5) Vadodara
6) Kheda
7) Ahmedabad
8) Panchmahals
9) Sabarkantha
10) Banaskantha
11) Mehsana
12) Amreli
13) Surendranagar
14) Bhavnagar
15) Junagadh
16) Jamnagar
17) Rajkot
18) Kutch
19) Gandhinagar

(The map is given in the next page)
3.8 INTRODUCTION

Having seen a brief history of the State of Gujarat here is a short review of Higher Education in Gujarat. For the purpose of discussion that follows, the State of Gujarat will mean the state having all the 19 districts of the present day Gujarat State. The history will be divided into the following two phases:

(a) Progress of Higher Education in Gujarat during the British period having the following stages:
   i) Progress before 1900
   ii) Progress during 1900 to 1920
   iii) Progress during 1920 to 1940
   iv) Progress during 1940 to 1947

(b) Progress of Higher Education in Gujarat after Independence during 1947-48 to 1948-49.

3.9 PROGRESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN GUJARAT DURING THE BRITISH PERIOD

3.9.1 Progress before 1900

The collegiate education of the modern type can be said to have commenced in Gujarat in 1861 when the first
college was established in Ahmedabad with the help of a public donation of Rs. 72,5000/-\(^1\). However, the college had soon to be closed down because 'no sufficient number of students were forthcoming' and the expenses exceeded income. The college was reopened in 1879. The enrolment in the college rose very slowly and could reach only 214 in 1900. With the establishment of a college at Baroda in 1879 and at Bhavnagar in 1885 the situation in higher education in Gujarat improved a little and the total enrolment in colleges rose to 563 towards the closing of the last century.\(^2\)

The names of the colleges etc. are given in Appendix-A.

3.9.2 Progress during 1900 to 1920

From Appendix-A it can be seen that the number of colleges became five in all during the period. It is noteworthy that all the colleges were Arts, Science colleges and affiliated to the University of Bombay. Two of these colleges were situated in Saurashtra and one each at Ahmedabad, Baroda and Surat.

The enrolment during the period rose to 1,008 registering an average annual increase of about 50 students.
It was during this period that the idea of establishing a University at Baroda started engaging attention of the former Government of Baroda State in 1909.

In 1911 Robertson, the Principal of Gujarat College also felt the need for the establishment of a separate university for the region of Gujarat for the progress of Higher Education of the region. He expressed his views and tried to create public opinion.

3.9.3 Progress during 1920 to 1940

This was an important phase. There was national awakening during the period. The people started understanding the need for education. The Indian National Congress accepted the office at the provincial level and was trying to promote the cause of education at all levels.

The number of educational institutions rose from five to eleven during the period in Gujarat. The eleven colleges covered four faculties in all. They were divided as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Number of Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Arts Science</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Commerce</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above classification shows clearly that the State had colleges of liberal education only. Majority of the colleges were of Arts and Science.

It was during this period in 1927 that Setalwad Commission was set up for making recommendations for Baroda University. The Commission gave its verdict to start a residential teaching type university at Baroda. But the State ruler could not go further in the matter due to economic and other conditions of the State.

The rising demand of the regional university was knocked down by Setalwad during the discussion in the improvement of the University of Bombay Committee in 1933. The other members supported the demand. The attempts for the regional university continued by Gujarat Vernacular Society and in 1935 Ahmedabad Education Society was established for making constructive attempts in the direction.

3.9.4 **Progress during 1940 to 1947**

This was the period of progress of all round education. The people urged for the same. Political tensions were eased and facilities created for spread of education.

During the period of 7 years there was a rise of 10 institutions of higher education in the Gujarat State. Hence
in 1947, there were 21 institutions of higher education in Gujarat, all affiliated to the University of Bombay. All the institutions can be classified as below according to faculties.

**Table-3.1**

Facultywise number of colleges in Gujarat in 1947

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Faculty/ Faculties</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arts - Science</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This classification and Appendix-A show the following important points:

- The 21 colleges were covering 7 faculties. There were 18 colleges of general education and only three were professional.
- Majority of the colleges were Arts and Science colleges.
- There was no college of Engineering in the State.
- Out of these 21 colleges —
  6 were situated at Ahmedabad,
  4 in Kheda District,
  4 in South Gujarat,
  4 in Saurashtra region, and
  3 at Baroda.

It can be said that a considerable progress was made in Higher Education at the time of independence of the country.

In 1943 a strong demand was launched for a separate university by Gujarati Sahitya Sabha.

In 1946 the Congress Government was at the helm in Bombay Province. Education portfolio was with the then Chief Minister B.G. Kher. In 1946 he accepted in principle to establish three regional universities viz. Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

3.10 PROGRESS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN GUJARAT DURING 1947-48 to 1948-49

In 1947 there were 21 colleges in Gujarat. To this list two Engineering Colleges and one recognised institution
were added in 1943 to make the total number of colleges 23 in the year. The following table gives the facultywise number of colleges, number of teachers and enrolment of these 23 colleges for the year 1948.

Table-3.2

Facultywise number of colleges, number of teachers and enrolment for the year 1948

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Number for the year 1948</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arts-Science</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above table, the following points are evident.
1) From the point of view of the number of colleges, enrolment and number of teachers the faculties of Arts-Science topped the list. About 52.2 percent of the total colleges were colleges of Arts and Science. 73.3 percent of the total enrolment was the enrolment in Arts and Science colleges. This necessarily shows the trend of the students.

2) According to the number of colleges and the enrolment the Faculty of Commerce stands second. The enrolment in the faculty was 15.4 percent of the total enrolment. The student-teacher ratio was the highest i.e. 33.8 for the faculty.

3) The student-teacher ratio of the total enrolment to the total number of teachers was 18.4 in 1948.

4) There were twenty three colleges in 1948 covering 8 to 9 different faculties.

So far as the position in 1949 is concerned there was addition of only one college during the year. That was the college of Commerce. There were 24 colleges and one recognised institution in all in Gujarat in 1949. These 25 institutions can be classified in the Table-3.3.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Number of Institutions/Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arts-Science</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Research Institute</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 25

The figures were practically the same as were in 1948 except one change in the number of Commerce College. The number of Commerce Colleges rose from 3 to 4.

A point may be noted that the State had sufficiently large number of colleges to justify the claim for a regional university.
All these colleges up to 1948 were affiliated to the Bombay University. Appendix-B shows the names of all the colleges along with their enrolment and number of teachers for the year 1948.

It was in 1949 that the long standing demands for Universities for Gujarat and Baroda were satisfied. The State of Gujarat had two universities since 1949. One of them was Gujarat University at Ahmedabad started from November, 1949 and the other the Maharaja Sayajirao University at Baroda started from February, 1949. A short resume of each of the universities is given here.

**Gujarat University**

It was a teaching and affiliating type. In 1949, it had 21 colleges affiliated to it. It also had one recognised institute under its control.

**Maharaja Sayajirao University**

It had to be a residential unitary and teaching type university.

All the three colleges vide Appendix-A situated at Baroda became constituent colleges of the M.S.University, the remaining 21 colleges became affiliated to the Gujarat University.
Hence in 1949 the Gujarat State had two Universities and 24 well established colleges covering nine main faculties. From 1949 the progress of the university education is discussed universitywise. The chapters that follow discuss the progress of every university in detail.
REFERENCES
