SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
AND
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The main findings of the present study are as under:

(1) The greater proportion of urban population and socio-economic facilities are concentrated in larger towns and higher administrative categories having high density of population per sq. km of urban area.

(2) The high growth of population in terms of absolute population size is associated with higher level of development as recorded by the rank size categories.

(3) It is observed that the size of the city, shows positive association with the levels of social and economic development and is well reflected in the varying proportion of social and economic facilities among the towns of different size categories and administrative status.

(4) The city size and the proportion of literate population show positive association in case of urban Gujarat. Like the proportion of male literacy, the female literacy also shows an increase with the increase in the rank size categories of the towns.

(5) The study brings out the extent of inadequacy of housing units which becomes more intense with the increase in city size.

(6) The average size of family is large in case of larger towns and cities compared to medium and small sized towns.
(7) In urban Gujarat, only about 22 percent of the cities and towns (49 in number) have underground sewage system. The sewage disposal is a most common problem among the towns of Gujarat. Rajkot city which is one of the major cities of Gujarat is without underground sewage system, which is partly linked with its another problem of water shortage.

(8) Except the industrial notified towns of rank size category V, all the other towns of remaining rank size categories show a positive association between the per capita water availability and the rank size categories of towns. However, the sample survey of 13 towns which was carried out, subsequently show severe problem of drinking water, including larger towns (due to the subsequent widespread drought condition all over the State).

(9) The availability of civic amenities such as water, latrines, bathroom, underground sewage, garbage containers and electric power connections in the sample towns show conformity with the average conditions prevailing in other towns of Gujarat.

(10) The survey of sample towns by rank size categories show wide variations in the quality of roads, number of sheltered bus stops, police protection and services and quality and rate of milk.

(11) More than 50 percent of the towns showing low level of development are situated in Saurashtra and Kachchh region due to a number of geographical constraints.
Policy Recommendations :-

(1) Out of a total of 255 towns, 138 towns (54 percent) are developed in terms of demographic and socio-economic facilities. But the remaining 117 towns (46 percent) on the basis of rank difference, are less developed in terms of these aspects. Out of these 117 towns, 57 towns were demographically, socially and economically less developed (Refer appendix I). The majority of these towns are weak in terms of female literacy, female participation in work, drinking water supply, underground sewage system, disposal of sewage, pucca roads, street lighting facility, telephone facility and industrial development. 21 towns were less developed in terms of demographic and social development, 17 towns were less developed in terms of social and economic facilities, 13 towns in terms of demographic and economic indicators, while 2 towns in terms of social facilities, another 2 towns in terms of economic facilities and the remaining 5 towns were in the process of attaining higher literacy, greater work participation including female participation, absolute increase in population size and the like. The spatial pattern of these less developed towns show greater affinity to (more than 50 percent of the towns) the Saurashtra and Kachchh region. Again on the basis of the State average, the towns with low level of development were identified. Thus, the towns identified by both the methods may be used in formulating urban development policy for the entire State.
(2) The sample respondents have indicated their first priority to the development of schemes related to the better and efficient water supply and underground sewage system. Majority of the towns of Gujarat are facing the problems of civic amenities. The level of civic services in Urban India is among the lowest in the World. This is evident from the per capita expenditure on such services which ranges from Rs. 8 in Bihar to Rs. 74 in Delhi. Due to lack and neglect of such services, most of the urban settlements in India, can be hardly labelled as 'urban' in the real sense of the definition. Gujarat spends more than Rs. 40 per capita for the urban services (Aggarwal, S.K. 1987). Though, Gujarat with high industrial economic base spend more on the municipal services, majority of its towns do not get all these facilities. Therefore, a fresh thinking on the neglected aspects of towns is desirable, if at all we expect to achieve better living conditions and social justice.

(3) The study shows that the growth and development of towns up to a population size of 5 lakhs can get a variety of benefits and advantages but beyond that the per facility population and cost increases considerably.

(4) Population density is found to be positively related with per capita expenditure on civic services like water supply and liquid waste disposal. Thus, the city with high density avail better services since the operational and maintenance cost are shared by more people, living in small areas. So the State Government and local self government
should formulate and enforce urban landuse policies to discourage horizontal expansion of the towns beyond certain limit.

(5) The size of the city should not be allowed to expand if the city cannot provide the essential services in the newly developed areas and its old areas. Ahmedabad and other towns of Gujarat are expanding rapidly, but their local self governments have meagre funds to provide sufficient civic amenities. For this purpose, the State should have some legislative enactment to control urban sprawl.

(6) Due to the lack of funds, Nagar Panchayat and Village Panchayat cannot provide civic and social facilities to their residents as the residents of towns are not willing to pay taxes, but insist for certain urban civic facilities.

(7) Keeping in view, the National Urbanization Policy, the less developed small and medium sized towns of Saurashtra and Kachchh region need the attention of the town planners and the civic administrators in developing them as growth centres.

(8) There is a greater need for minimising the disparities in the levels of development among the towns of each of the rank size category and between the towns of rank size categories. Similarly, the balanced urban development over space needs to be achieved by developing the urban centres of Saurashtra, Kachchh, North Gujarat and Eastern Hilly areas.
Thus, the above suggestions and recommendations based on detailed study may serve as useful guideline for framing long term policies to achieve healthy urban growth and development in Gujarat.