CHAPTER 3
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Till 2007, Surat was one of the districts in Gujarat, and it had 15 Talukas. In September 2007, ‘Surat’ district was split into two new districts viz. ‘Surat’ and ‘Tapi’. Surat city remained as the headquarters of Surat district while Vyara became the headquarters of Tapi district. Tapi district is located in the southern part of Gujarat. It is now one of the 26 districts of Gujarat state. The newly constituted Tapi district consists of five Talukas, viz. Vyara, Songadh, Uchchal, Nizer, and Valod. Tapi district is known for dense forests with majority tribal population. The present study intends to focus on the empowerment of tribal women through Self Help Groups (SHGs), It examines the performance of SHGs and micro finance scenario in different parts of 5 Talukas of Tapi district, and bank linkages in selected villages in Tapi. It also examines the impact of SHGs on empowering women and gives relevant suggestions for further action. Hence, it is necessary to understand various related aspects and these have been discussed in the later part of this chapter. This chapter mainly covers the profile of Tapi district, including population, population growth trends, population density, urbanization, overall literacy and female literacy etc.

3.1.1 Taluka-wise Villages & Gram Panchayats of Tapi District

It is very important to understand the Village as well as Gram-Panchayat structure in the Talukas before doing any analysis of the tribal population residing in the same. The following Table 3.1 gives the information about the same. The data has been extracted from Census of India, Sub District Details 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka =⇒</th>
<th>Nizer</th>
<th>Songadh</th>
<th>Uchchal</th>
<th>Valod</th>
<th>Vyara</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Particulars</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Count</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram Panchayat</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villages</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India Sub District Details 2011, http://censusindia.gov.in/population India

As we can see in Table 3.1 there are altogether 504 villages and 283 Gram-Panchayats in Tapi District. The Taluka wise breakup shows that the highest number of villages i.e. 171 (33.9 percent) are in Songadh Taluka, followed by 148 (29.4 percent) in Vyara, 87 (17.3
percent) in Nizer, 58 (11.5 percent) in Uchchal and 40 (7.9 percent) in Valod Taluka. As far as Gram-Panchayats are concerned the highest number of Gram-Panchayats i.e. 113 (39.9 percent) are in Vyara followed by 73 (25.8 percent) in Songadh, 38 (13.4 percent) in Nizer, 35 (12.4 percent) in Valod and 24 (8.5 percent) in Uchchal. This table shows that Vyara is the largest Taluka followed by Songadh and others. (Tapi District Panchayet, 2014)

3.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF TAPI DISTRICT

Table 3.2 provides detailed information about the population in Tapi District. It also provides the comparison between figures of 2001 and 2011 i.e. before and after it became an independent district.

Map 3.1: Gujarat State

Map 3.2: Tapi District

(Source: Google Maps)
### Table 3.2 Tapi Population Census 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Population</td>
<td>7,19,634</td>
<td>8,07,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3,60,467</td>
<td>4,02,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3,59,167</td>
<td>4,04,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decade Growth</td>
<td>14.78 percent</td>
<td>12.07 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area (Sq. Km.)</td>
<td>3,435</td>
<td>3,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density per Sq. Km.</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Gujarat Population</td>
<td>1.42 percent</td>
<td>1.34 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>1004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literates(Number)</td>
<td>3,54,064</td>
<td>4,90,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literates(Number)</td>
<td>2,05,118</td>
<td>2,69,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literates(Number)</td>
<td>1,48,946</td>
<td>2,21,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy</td>
<td>57.05</td>
<td>69.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literacy (%)</td>
<td>66.23</td>
<td>76.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literacy (%)</td>
<td>47.91</td>
<td>61.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Child Population (0-6)</td>
<td>99,008</td>
<td>89,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Child Population</td>
<td>50,753</td>
<td>45,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Child Population</td>
<td>48,255</td>
<td>43,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Proportion (0-6 years)</td>
<td>13.76 percent</td>
<td>11.04 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child sex ratio</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India Sub District Details 2011, http://censusindia.gov.in/population India

#### 3.2.1 Tapi District Demographic Overview

The official Census 2011 details of Tapi District have been released by the Directorate of Census Operations in Gujarat.

The Census Data shows that Gujarat state has a total population of 6.03 crore which is approximately 4.99 percent of the total Indian Population. The total population of Gujarat
according to the 2011 census was 60,383,628 out of which 28,901,346 were females and 31,482,282 were males. (Gujarat State Portal, 2014)

In 2011, the population of Tapi District was 8,07,022, of which 4,02,188 were males and 4,04,834 were females, while in the 2001 census, the population of the district was 7,19,634 consisting of 3,60,467 males and 3,59,167 females. According to the 2011 census, Tapi District population constituted 1.34 percent of the total population of Gujarat while in the 2001 census this figure was at 1.42 percent of the total population of Gujarat, (Census of India, 2011)

3.2.2 Population Growth Rate
The district showed a growth in the population by 12.07 percent as per the 2011 census, as compared to the previous census. In the previous census of 2001, Tapi had recorded an increase of 14.78 percent in its population compared to the 1991 census. (Census of India, 2011)

3.2.3 Population Density
The initial provisional data released by Census of India 2011 shows that the population density of Tapi district was 257 people per sq. km., while in the 2001 census data the population density was 222 people per sq. km., indicating a rise in population density. Tapi district administers 3,435 square kilometers of area. (Census of India, 2011)

3.2.4 Literacy Rate
The literacy rate in Gujarat has seen an upward trend and is 79.31 percent as per 2011 population census, compared to 69.14 percent in the census of 2001. Of that, male literacy stands at 87.23 percent while female literacy is at 70.73 percent (Gujarat State Portal, 2014).

As per the population census 2011 in Gujarat, female literacy rate worked out at 70.73 percent which was higher than the all India level which was 65.46 percent (Gujarat Social Infrastructure Development Board Society (GSIDBS) 2012).

The literacy rate (excluding children in the age group 0-6 years) for Gujarat state has increased by 10.17 percent from 69.14 percent in census 2001 to 79.31 percent in census 2011. The male and female literacy rates are 87.23 percent and 70.73 percent respectively in census 2011; whereas the same were 79.66 percent and 57.80 percent respectively for males and females in census 2001. The net increase in literacy is more in female population
(12.93% points) than male population (7.57% points). Still there is gap of 16.5 between the literacy rates of men and women. The state will have to put in concerted efforts to ensure education for all, with special focus on the education for the girl child, as on one of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goal) (Jethmalani, 2012).

The average literacy rate of Tapi district in 2011 was 69.23 percent compared to 57.05 percent in 2001. Gender wise analysis shows that male literacy was 76.86 percent and female literacy was 61.69 percent in year 2011 while in the 2001 census, the corresponding figures were 66.23 percent and 47.91 percent respectively. The total number of literates in Tapi District was 4,90,036 of which 2,69,007 were males and 2,21,029 were females.

The literacy rate of Gujarat as per the provisional population totals of census 2011 is 79.31 percent. Analysis on rural and urban basis showed that in the rural areas the literacy rate was 73.00 percent while in urban areas it was 87.58 percent. The decadal change works out to 10.17 points. Tapi district recorded 69.23 percent literacy rate in 2011. The district has a male-female literacy gap of 15.17 percent as against 16.50 percent for Gujarat state. Efforts towards increasing inclusion focus in mass education programmes are recommended to develop a quality workforce in Tapi district. (NSDC India, 2012)

### 3.2.5 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio of Gujarat state according to the 2011 Census stands at 918 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio is 880 for urban areas and 947 for rural areas. It is observed to be lower than the national sex ratio of 940 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio of Gujarat has reduced significantly from 934 as per 1991 data to 920 in 2001 data and further to 918 in 2011 data. The Dangs and Tapi districts in South Gujarat have the highest sex-ratio of 1007 and 1004 respectively, while Surat district has the lowest sex ratio of 788. Child sex-ratio is 886 (2011). The decreasing trend in the child sex ratio was observed to be reversed in the 2011 census with an increase by 03 points as compared to census2001. (Jethmalani, 2012). The Sex Ratio in Tapi district stood at 1004 females per 1000 males. It has improved compared to the 2001 census figure of 996 females per 1000 males. While evaluating child gender ratio it was found that in the 2011 census, child sex ratio was 953 girls per 1000 boys compared to the figure of 951 girls per 1000 boys in the 2001 census. (Census of India, 2011, Tapi District)
3.2.6 Child Population

In census enumeration data regarding children under 0-6 age were also collected for all districts including Tapi. There were 89,075 children under the age of 6 as per 2011 data, against 99,008 in the 2001 census. Of these i.e. 2011 figures) 45,619 were boys and 43,456 were girls. The Child Sex Ratio as per census 2011 was 953 girls per 1000 boys compared to 951 girls per 1000 boys in census 2001. In 2011, children under 6 formed 11.04 percent of the total population of Tapi District, compared to 13.76 percent as per census 2001. There was a net change of -2.72 percent during the ten-year period between the two census reports. (Gujarat Social Infrastructure Development Board Society (GSIDBS), 2012)

As per SRS Bulletin for the year 2010, Female Infant Mortality Rate worked out to 44 as against 47 at all India level.
3.3 RURAL-URBAN DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN TAPI DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population percent</td>
<td>90.15 %</td>
<td>9.85 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>7,27,535</td>
<td>79,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Population</td>
<td>3,61,548</td>
<td>40,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Population</td>
<td>3,65,987</td>
<td>38,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years)</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Population</td>
<td>80,048</td>
<td>9,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Child Population</td>
<td>40,887</td>
<td>4,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Child Population</td>
<td>39,161</td>
<td>4,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Percentage</td>
<td>11.00 %</td>
<td>11.36 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Child Percentage</td>
<td>11.31 %</td>
<td>11.64 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Child Percentage</td>
<td>10.70 %</td>
<td>11.06 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Literates</td>
<td>4,30,376</td>
<td>59,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literates</td>
<td>2,36,734</td>
<td>32,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literates</td>
<td>1,93,642</td>
<td>27,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy Percentage</td>
<td>66.47%</td>
<td>84.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Literates percent</td>
<td>73.83%</td>
<td>89.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Literates percent</td>
<td>59.25%</td>
<td>79.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.census2011.co.in/census/district

3.3.1 Urban Population 2011

As per 2011 census, only 9.85 percent out of the total population of Tapi District lived in urban areas while the balance, 90.15 percent lived in rural regions. In terms of numbers, of the 79,487 people living in urban areas 40,640 were males and 38,847 were females. The urban sex ratio of the district is 956 as per 2011 census data. Similarly child sex ratio in Tapi district was 908. Child population (0-6 years) in the urban region was 9,027 of which males and females were 4,732 and 4,295 respectively. This child population figure of Tapi district constitutes 11.64 percent of the total urban population.
The average literacy rate in Tapi district is 84.67 percent. There were 89.88 percent male literates as against 79.26 percent female literates. In numbers 59,660 people are literate in the urban region of which male and female numbers are 32,273 and 27,387 respectively.

3.3.2 Tapi District Rural Population 2011

As per 2011 census, the majority i.e. 90.15 percent of the population of Tapi district lives in rural areas of the district. The total Tapi district population living in rural areas is 7,27,535 of which males and females are 3,61,548 and 3,65,987 respectively. In rural areas of Tapi district, sex ratio is 1,012 females per 1,000 males. However, child sex ratio of Tapi district is 958 girls per 1,000 boys. Child population in the age 0-6 is 80,048 in rural areas of which 40,887 were boys and 39,161 were girls. The child population comprises 11.31 percent of the total rural population of the district. Literacy rate in rural areas of Tapi district is 66.47 percent as per census data 2011. Gender wise, male and female literacy stood at 73.83 percent and 59.25 percent respectively. In total, 4,30,376 people were literate of which 2,36,734 were males and 1,93,642 were females respectively. (Tapi District: Census 2011 data (n.d.)

3.4 GEOGRAPHY OF TAPI DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3.4 Geography of Tapi District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographical Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Rain Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Head-Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talukas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram Panchayats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Socio-Economic Review Gujarat, 2009-10)

Tapi district covers an area of 3,434.64 sq. km. It is located 73.5 degrees to 74.2 degrees East (Longitude) and 21.0 degrees to 21.2 degrees North (Latitude). The district receives an average rainfall of 1,926 mm. and the maximum temperature rises up to 45 degrees centigrade. Tapi district is bordered by four rivers, Tapi, Midoda, Puma, and Ambika. Vyara
and Songadh in Tapi district are known for dense forests with a major production of bamboos. There are various tourist destinations including Fort of Songadh, Gurumukhi Dosavada Dam, Hindustan Bridge, Tapi River and Ukai Dam. The district shares a border with Maharashtra.

3.5 TALUKAS IN TAPI

The newly constituted Tapi district consists of five Talukas, viz. Nizer, Songadh, Uchchal, Valod and Vyara. Valod is the smallest Taluka of the district. Earlier, it had the status of a Mahal, a sub-division of the Bardoli Taluka. It acquired the status of a Taluka in 1972. It consists of 40 villages, where nearly 72 percent of the population is tribal.

Vyara and Songadh are situated on the northern line of Dang. Vyara is a small but beautiful village. Songadh means the border and is the window of Gujarat from Khandesh in Maharashtra. A small hill and a small castle are seen here. Slightly ahead from Navapur begins the border of Maharashtra. The throne of the Gaikwad kings was first established at Songadh and later shifted to Vadodara. Vyara and Songadh are known for dense forests with a major production of bamboos. The unit of Central Pulp Mills is located in Songadh Taluka. The place is better known these days for the timber trade and also for Ukai Dam is the main dam on the river Tapti and the power stations very near to Songadh (Vyas 1988).

Nizer stretches from the eastern to the upper south part of Gujarat. Nizer is 65 Km. away from Vyara District HQ of Tapi. In the north it touches the boundary of Maharashtra. In the Northwest it is bordered by the Narmada district of Gujarat and Songadh Taluka of Tapi. In the south east it shares a boundary with Maharashtra state and it is connected with Tapi district only from the western side. Most parts of Nizer and Uchchal Taluka are hilly with green forests and only some parts are plane. Hence this block is geographically tough and different from the rest of the district. Connectivity of roads and communication in Nizer is very poor.

It was observed that due to remote areas and mixed culture of communities, the involvement of people in socio economic development is very poor. Nizer and Uchchal Talukas are 99 percent Tribal areas. Agriculture is the main occupation here. Cultivation of sugar cane, rice, and other agricultural products is the source of their livelihood. (Community surveillance project, Nizer block 2011) The rate of industrial development is also very poor. Government primary schools have been established at village level but S.S.C. and H.S.C. level schools are
there at Taluka level only. Socio-economic development is very poor as compared to other parts of Tapi district. (Community surveillance project, Nizer block, 2011 3.5.1 Taluka wise Population in Tapi District)

Table 3.5 below gives information about the Taluka wise, gender wise and urban-rural breakup of the population in Tapi district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>District's Share</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nizar</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,29,969</td>
<td>16.10 %</td>
<td>64,433</td>
<td>65,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1,29,969</td>
<td>16.10 %</td>
<td>64,433</td>
<td>65,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songadh</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,29,782</td>
<td>28.47 %</td>
<td>1,15,185</td>
<td>1,14,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1,90,084</td>
<td>23.55 %</td>
<td>94,689</td>
<td>95,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>39,698</td>
<td>4.92 %</td>
<td>20,496</td>
<td>19,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uchchal</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88,416</td>
<td>10.96 %</td>
<td>43,670</td>
<td>44,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>88,416</td>
<td>10.96 %</td>
<td>43,670</td>
<td>44,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valod</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90,566</td>
<td>11.22 %</td>
<td>45,565</td>
<td>45,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>90,566</td>
<td>11.22 %</td>
<td>45,565</td>
<td>45,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00 %</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyara</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,68,289</td>
<td>33.25 %</td>
<td>1,33,335</td>
<td>1,35,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>2,28,500</td>
<td>28.31 %</td>
<td>1,13,191</td>
<td>1,15,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>39,789</td>
<td>4.94 %</td>
<td>20,144</td>
<td>19,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapi District Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,07,022</td>
<td>100.00 %</td>
<td>4,02,188</td>
<td>4,05,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>7,27,535</td>
<td>90.14 %</td>
<td>3,61,548</td>
<td>3,65,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>79,487</td>
<td>9.86 %</td>
<td>40,640</td>
<td>39,047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.census2011.co.in/census/district

The total population of Tapi district is 8,07,022 out of which 7,27,535 (90.14 percent) people reside in rural areas and only 79,487 (9.86 percent) people reside in Urban areas. Gender wise breakup shows that 4,02,188 males and 4,05,033 females reside in Tapi district out of which 3,61,548 males and 3,65,986 females reside in rural areas and 40,640 males and 39,047 females reside in urban areas of the district.
Vyara being the largest Taluka in Tapi district it is home for 2,68,289 people which comprises of 33.25 percent of the total population of Tapi district. It is followed by Songadh and Nizar housing 2,29,782 (28.47 percent) and 1,29,969 (16.10 percent) people respectively. Valod and Uchaal being in remote areas have a lower population amongst all and are home to 90,566 and 88,416 people respectively.

In Nizer, Uchaal and Valod Talukas the entire population reside in rural areas. Whereas in Vyara more than 85 percent i.e. 2,28,500 people, lived in rural areas and only 39,789 people stayed in urban areas. Similarly in Songadh more than 82 percent i.e. 1,90,084 people had their habitat in rural areas and only 39,698 people were in urban areas.

Gender wise breakup does not show much variation in any of the Talukas and the division is almost equal in all Talukas.

3.6 EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROFILE OF TAPI DISTRICT

This section presents a detailed analysis of socio economic factors such as school education, higher/vocational education, dropout rates, healthcare indices, domestic product, per capita income, labour force participation, worker participation rate, migration, primary, secondary & tertiary sector profiles at state and district level.

Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index of diverse indicators related to human well-being. The HDI value for Gujarat was 0.479 against 0.472 for all India for 2001. The rank of Gujarat among all states of India was 4th in the year 1981 but as per HDI of year 1991 and 2001, Gujarat has slipped to the 6th rank at the national level (Jethmalani, 2012).

According to HDI 2007-08 (as on March 2014) Gujarat falls in the medium HDI i.e. 0.527. But the rank of Gujarat at the national level has further slipped to the 11th rank at the national level (Wikipedia article on Human Development Index).

The first Human Development Report of Gujarat, titled "Gujarat Human Development, 2004" (Hirway and Mahadevia, 2005) was brought out by the Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad, in collaboration with the Centre for Development Alternatives (CFDA), Ahmedabad. This report has computed Human Development Indices (HDI) for Gujarat as well as for 15 other major states of India. These indices indicate that though Gujarat is doing well in terms of economic growth, it is lagging behind in a few indices. It has to improve its
performance in the field of health and nutrition, literacy and education and development of the marginalized groups of the state.

The report has highlighted the priority areas of action and suggested modifications in the development process so as to translate economic growth into human development more efficiently and meaningfully. The report has also examined the status of human development in different districts and regions of Gujarat. Several human development indices have been computed for different districts in Gujarat. These indices should help in prioritizing the activities in the areas of health, nutrition, literacy, education and gender development etc., in the coming years (Hirway and Mahadevia, 2004).

As per the Human Development Report 2011 published by the Planning Commission of India, the Human Development Index value of Gujarat has increased from 0.466 in 1999-2000 to 0.527 in 2007-08; a gain of 13 percent over the period, which is a good sign. In income, health and education sector it has gained 15 percent and 13 percent respectively over the period of 1999-2000 to 2007-08 (Development Programme 2013-14, 2013).

Tapi was bifurcated in 2007 from Surat hence the HDI of Tapi was not shown in the Gujarat Human Development Report 2004 (Hirway and Mahadevia, 2004). The Draft Reports of District Human Development Report (DHDR) for selected five districts – Tapi, Panchmahal, Bharuch, Banaskantha and Kheda are in progress (Socio-economic Review, 2013).

A committee has been appointed to prepare the Drafts of ‘District Human Development Report (DHDR)’ for selected five districts covering figures up to 2007-08. But the government now wants the Directorate to use data up to 2011 and revise the report (Indian Express, 2012).

3.6.1 Education

Education is clearly the primary agent of transformation towards Human Development, giving an impetus and increasing people’s capacities to transform their visions for society into reality. Education provides the motivation, justification, and social support for pursuing and applying them. Importantly, education can be the building block for people to take their own decisions and realize their enshrined constitutional and human rights for improving their quality of living and in case of discrimination, injustice, raise voice in such circumstances to assert their cultural and human identity (Jethmalani, 2012).
Further, education has a multiplier effect on other social sectors like health, women’s development, employment, child development, labour etc. It plays a vital role in economic growth and development. Besides improving the quality of people’s lives, education opens up further opportunities for progress (Socio-economic Review, 2013).

**Primary Education in Gujarat:**

The number of institutions imparting primary education in the state was 40,943 in 2011-12 as against 40,723 in 2010-11. The number of pupils enrolled in these schools was 83.76 lakh in 2011-12 as against 81.45 lakh in the previous year (Socio-economic Review, 2013).

**Primary Education in Tapi:**

According to the district Primary Education office, Vyara, in 2013, there were 798 schools in Tapi under Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan. Of the total of 798 primary schools, 112 schools were in Nizar, 85 in Uchchal, 257 in Songadh, 264 in Vyara and 80 in Valod. (Tapi District primary Education Office, 2013)

According to the same report, in 2012-13, there were 55,970 students in Tapi between the age group 6-11. Of these 28,325 were boys and 27,645 were girls. Total enrolment of S. T. students was 51,323, i.e. 26,051 boys and 25,272 girls. Taluka-wise distribution of enrolment of ST students is as follows. Total enrolment in Songadh was 15,323, followed by Vyara 14,237; Nizer 9,782, Uchchal 8,125, and Valod 3,853. (Tapi District Primary Education Office, 2013)

**Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in Gujarat:**

The number of institutions imparting secondary and higher Secondary education and the students enrolled in these institutions in the state were 9879 and 29.97 lakh respectively in 2011-12 as against 9844 and 31.05 lakh during the year 2010-11.

**Secondary and higher Secondary Education in Tapi:**

There were total 108 secondary and higher secondary schools imparting education in Tapi district (Tapi District Higher Secondary Education office, n.d.). (Data up to 30-09-2013 taken from unpublished documents Vyara -Tapi) Out of these 73 were secondary schools and 35 were higher secondary schools. Total enrolment of students was 33,060 of which 16,577 were boys and 16,483 were girls. Out of the total of 33,060 students 243 students were availing
education through central government, 2,199 students were studying in state government schools, 1,062 students were benefited by Samaj Kalyan Agency, 27,880 children were availing the educational facilities through private aided schools, and 1,676 students were getting through private unaided schools (Tapi District Education Department, Secondary and higher education, 2013-14).

**Ashram Shalas and Utter Buniyadi Ashram Shalas - Gujarat:**

In Gujarat there are 450 Ashram Shalas and 97 Utter Buniyadi Ashram Shalas imparting primary and secondary education to children. Ashram Shalas provide education from 1st to 7th std. and Utter Buniyadi schools provide education from 8th to 10th std. In Gujarat in 2009-10, 77,609 students were studying in these schools.

**Ashram Shalas and Utter Buniyadi Ashram Shalas - Tapi:**

There were 62 ashram shalas providing secondary and higher secondary education to Tribal children in Tapi. (Office of Ashramshala officer, Vyara, Tapi, 2013). Total number of students approved by the government was 7,890. In all 6,268 students from all 5 Talukas were benefited by these ashram shalas in Tapi. Taluka-wise distribution of students was as below. Valod 472, Uchchal 638, Nizer 462, Songadh 1,700, and Vyara 2,996.

Some secondary Schools are especially granted as residential schools. They are known as Uttar Buniyadi Ashram Shalas. Total 14 Uttar Buniyadi schools were imparting education to Tribals in Tapi. In 2013-14, 1540 students i.e. 770 in 9th standard and 770 in 10th standard, were benefited by these Ashram Shalas (Office of Ashramshala officer, Vyara,Tapi, 2013).

The institutions imparting specialized education were limited in number. Besides 108 secondary and higher secondary schools only two colleges and 5 ITI schools (Industrial Training Institutions) are there in the district. One Arts and commerce College and one BCA college is located in Vyara. (District Panchayat, Tapi, 2010, our vibrant Gujarat on Dec. 08, 2010, Vibrant summit 2011-District Profile Tapi)

Total 1,048 Anganwadis were working in Tapi (Office of Tribal Development Programme, Songadh, 2011-12) i.e. 348 in Vyara, 299 in Songadh, 172 in Nizer, 115 in Uchchal and 114 in Valod).
3.6.2: Dropout rate in Gujarat

According to 2010-11 Districts of India data for Std. I to V the dropout rate in the state was 2.09 (2.08 for boys and 2.11 for girls). Similarly for Std. I to VII it was 7.95 (7.87 boys and 8.12 girls). (www.districts of India.com/Tapi ND).

In Gujarat the dropout rate of children of Std. I to V is continuously and significantly decreasing. It decreased from 20.50 percent in 2001-02 (20.46 percent boys and 20.53 percent girls) to 2.07 percent (2.05 percent boys and 2.08 percent girls) in 2011-12. Similarly for Std I to VII the dropout rate decreased from 37.22 percent (39.16 percent boys and 35.28 percent girls) in 2001-02 to 7.56 percent (7.35 percent boys and 7.82 percent girls) in 2011-12. (Socio-Economic Review, Gujarat State, 2012-13)

Drop-out Rate in Tapi:

In Tapi, according to Districts of India data of 2010-11 for Std I to V, the dropout rate was 4.76(4.91 boys and 4.59 girls). Similarly for I to VII it was 3.08 (3.16 boys and 3.00 girls.). (www.districts of India.com/Tapi)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dist. Vs. State</th>
<th>Standard (I to V)</th>
<th>Standard (I to VII)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapi</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>4.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.6: Dropout Rate of Primary Education (Standard I-V and I-VII) in Gujarat (2010-2011)

Source: www.districts of India.com/Tapi
If we compare the dropout rate of Tapi with Gujarat from standard I to V the overall rate for Gujarat is less than that of Tapi. But if we compare dropout rate of from standard I to VII, of Tapi with Gujarat, the overall dropout rate was more in Gujarat than in Tapi. In Tapi, girls’ dropout rate from I to V and I to VII was less than that of boys.

**Dropout Rate in Tapi, Taluka-wise:**

According to documents published by District Primary Education Officer, District Panchayat-Tapi, Vyara, 2013, overall dropout rate in Tapi was 2.34 percent. Nizer was on top in dropout rate (2.95 percent) followed by Songadh (2.88 percent), Vyara (2.24 percent), Uchchal (1.89 percent) and Valod (1.75 percent). (Tapi District Primary Education Office (2013)

**Dropout rate of ST girls in Tapi:**

The Gujarat Council of Elementary Education (GCEE) is the state level implementing agency for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission (SSAM) in all the 26 districts and 8 Municipal Corporations in the State. The dropout rate of ST girls was 25.09 percent in Nizer, 11.68 percent in Songadh, 20.00 percent in Valod, 21.64 percent in Uchchal, and 13.28 percent in Vyara, in December 2013. (Tapi Taluka Panchayat office, 2013). The data reveals that dropout rate was highest in Nizer Taluka, which is far away from the main center Vyara. Drop-out rate of girls in Songadh was the lowest.

**SC/ST Drop-out rate in secondary& higher secondary education in Gujarat:**

For the year 2008-09, in Secondary Education (Std 8 to 10) S.C. population has recorded higher dropout rate for girls i.e. 28.35 percent compared to 24.73 percent for S.T. and 26.09 percent for General Category. For the year 2008-09, in Higher Secondary Education (Std. 8 to 12), S.T. students recorded higher girls’ dropout rate i.e. 56.65 percent than S.C. (54.26%) and General Category (46.93%). (Socio-economic and demographic status of women in Gujarat-, 2012).

The state government has taken various innovative initiatives for effectively checking the dropout rate amongst the school going children; the special focus here is on the girl child and children belonging to ST and SC and other backward communities. Various schemes have been adopted to enhance education among the children. The state government has launched the following schemes for checking the dropout rate in Gujarat in all 26 districts.
Primary Education, Vidya Laxmi Bond Yojana, Vidyadeep Yojana, Chief Minister’s Girl Child Development Programme, School Health Checkup Programme and Training at the Primary Education Level.

The Gujarat Council of Elementary Education (GCCE) is the state level implementing agency for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission (SSAM). It also implements Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Yojana under which, residential elementary schools with boarding facilities are set up for girls belonging to the disadvantaged groups of SC/ST/OBC/ Minority and BPL in scattered areas. The state government has introduced Vidya Deep insurance scheme to provide insurance coverage for accidental death of students studying in primary school. The scheme of Vidya Laxmi Bond has been introduced to encourage the parents to send their girl children to school and provide education at least up to primary level. (Socio-Economic Review, Gujarat State, 2012-13)

3.6.3 Health indicators for Gujarat

If we examine selected health indicators for Gujarat State we can see a positive change in those indicators compared to the last decade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.no</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>Current Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Crude Birth Rate(CBR) (per 1000 population)</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>21.3 (SRS2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22.9 (R), 19.0 (U)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Crude Death Rate(CDR) (per 1000population)</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.7 (SRS2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.4 (R), 5.7 (U)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2.5(SRS2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maternal mortality Ratio(MMR-Per lakh live births)</td>
<td>202 (SRS-1990-2000)</td>
<td>148 (SRS2007-08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(160 in 2004-06)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate (IMR-Per '000 live births)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>41(SRS2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48(R), 27(U)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Child(0-40 Mortality Rate (Per '000 live Births)</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>12.9(SRS2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Current contraceptive Use-any method</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>66.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NFSH-II (NFSH-III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Life Expectancy at birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.Male</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Female</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Socio-Economic Review, Gujarat state, 2012-13
3.6.4 CBR, CDR and TFR in Gujarat and Tapi

In 2001, Crude Birth rate (CBR) of Gujarat was 24.9, the Crude Death Rate (CDR) was 7.8, and the Total Fertility Rate(TFR) was 2.9, and in 2011, CBR was 21.3 (SRS 2011), CDR was 6.7 (SRS 2011) and in 2010; TFR was 2.5 (SRS 2010). In all indicators positive there are changes compared to last decade in Gujarat.

In 2011 Crude birth rate in Tapi (CBR) was 16.3, Total fertility rate (TFR) in 2001 was 2.5, and in 2011 it has come to 1.8. However Crude Death Rate in 2011 was not available for comparison. (Guilmoto & Irudaya, 2013). Compared to CBR of Gujarat (21.6) CBR of Tapi (16.3) was less; Compared to TFR of Gujarat (2.5) TFR of Tapi (1.8) was also less. CDR of Gujarat was 6.7 but for comparison CDR of Tapi was not available.

According to the report published by Population projection for India and States 1996-2016 – Registrar General India, for the period 2006-11, CBR of Gujarat was 18.96, CDR was 7.14 and NGR was 11.82. Projected CBR, CDR and NGR for 2011-16, are expected to be17.53, 6.97, and 10.56 respectively.

3.6.5 IMR AND MMR in Tapi -2013

Maternal Mortality ratio (MMR) measures the number of women aged 15-49 years who die due to maternal causes per 1,00,000 live births. Survey data on MMR is available from the Report of Registrar General of India Sample Registration System (RGI-SRS) at three year intervals and is not provided every year. The available data on MMR is for the period 2007-09. During this period, the MMR of India was 212 per 1,00,000 live births. (Vital Statistics Division, 2012)


In Gujarat IMR per 1000 live births was 60 in 2001 and 41 in 2011. Child mortality rate in 2001 was 18.5 percent and in 2010 it came down to 12.9 percent. (Economic review, Gujarat State 2012-13)
Table 3.8 below shows the IMR / MMR in Tapi district. The information has been extracted from Vyara Taluka Panchayat District Health Report (2013) and is very recent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3.8: IMR and MMR status of Tapi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taluka ==&gt;</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still Birth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Health Report, Vyara Taluka Panchayat office 2013

In Tapi District a total of 7,332 live birth took place out of which the majority were in Vyara with the count of 2,854 (38.9%) followed by Nizer 1,532 (20.9%), Songadh 1,500 (20.5%) and Uchaal 798 (10.9%), while Valod reported the lowest live birth of 648 (8.8%). About 9 Maternal deaths were reported, the highest being in Songadh, where 3 maternal deaths took place. Nizer and Vyara reported 2 each while Uchaal and Valod reported 1 each, which gives the MMR of 131 in Nizer, 200 in Songadh, 125 in Uchaal, 154 in Valod and 70 in Vyara. Tapi as a district records MMR of 123 at the district level.

Similarly the table also shows that there were 174 infant deaths in the district of Tapi, out of which highest were reported in Songadh i.e., 56, followed by 47 in Nizer, 38 in Vyara, 17 in Uchaal and 16 in Valod. Hence the IMR (per 1000) recorded was 31 in Nizer, 37 in Songadh, 21 in Uchaal, 25 in Valod and 13 in Vyara. Tapi as a district recorded IMR of 24.

In Tapi district a total of 116 Still Births were recorded, the highest being in Nizer i.e. 50 (43.1%) followed by 27 (23.3%) in Vyara, 25 (21.6%) in Songadh, 8 (6.9%) in Uchchal and 6 (5.2%) in Valod. Compared to MMR of Gujarat (148), MMR of Tapi was better (123) and compared to IMR of Gujarat (41) IMR of Tapi (24) also was better.

**Specific Health issues in Tapi:**

As per the recent CAG report on Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Gujarat has registered very high improvement on the malnutrition index. As on March 31, 2007, the State had a high rate of 70.69 percent malnourished children. But the figure had gone down to 38.8 percent in 2011, leaving the national average of 41.2 percent behind. The department is
committed to providing medical facilities of the highest level, keeping pace with rapid technological developments in the field of Healthcare.

Department of Health and Family Welfare have committed to ensure accessibility, affordability and quality of healthcare throughout the state of Gujarat. (Vibrant Gujarat, 2013, And PS Public Health & Family Welfare Government of Gujarat)

There are 5 community health centers and 30 primary health centers available to the tribal population in Tapi. In a community health center 170 beds were available, and in a primary health center 180 beds were available for tribal. (MIS Rural Health report, 2011 details required). In 2010-11, 4256 and 4531 women delivered babies in the Government and private hospitals respectively. Another 2940 women delivered babies at home.

Total 1,93,442 children were examined in the School Health Checkup Programme in Tapi in 2010-11 out of which 18,991 were treated on the spot and 1,362 were provided referral services, and 1317 children were provided free spectacles (Vital Statistics Division, 2012). As many as 369 school children were advised to see a pediatrician, 741 children were advised to go to an ophthalmic surgeon, 181 to a dental specialist, 69 to a dermatologist, and 02 others in the health checkup programme.

In the district in 2010, altogether 4546 students were treated for anemia, 3485 for worm infections, 648 for ear discharge, 1276 for skin disease, 1149 for vision problem & 2565 for dental problems. Moreover, 45 children with heart problems, 20 with kidney problem, and 01 with cancer were provided super specialty care under School Health programme. There was no case found of death by Gastroenteritis, Viral Hepatitis, enteric fever and cholera. (Vital Statistics Division, 2012)

3.6.6 Leptospirosis: Gujarat

Tapi district has been affected by the problem of leptospirosis and many farmers have died/died due to this disease. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease and is widely prevalent among agricultural labourers in the district. The disease spreads during the monsoon season (July-September) while farmers work in the field, and is proving to be fatal. The data on how many males and females are affected by this disease is not available (Agriculture & Cooperation Department, Government of Gujarat, 2013). While the overall access to health services is
improving in the state, ensuring access to health services in the interior rural areas and for the disadvantaged sections is still a challenge.

**Sickle cell Anemia problem in Tribal Gujarat:**

The sickle cell anemia problem has received inadequate attention throughout the years, but Gujarat is the first State in the country to incorporate sickle cell anemia control program in the existing health services of the state government, thus transforming the project to programmatic mode. The current program is based on public private partnership. The goals of this programme are: No sickle cell disease childbirth by 2020; Prevention of death from sickle cell crisis; To improve health status and quality of life of sickle cell anemia patients.

Gujarat has 61.62 lakh tribal population and is expected to have at least 10,00,000 sickle trait and 1,00,000 sickle disease patients. The Dhodia, Dubla, Kukna, Gavit, Chaudhary, Halpati, Varli, Kokni, Kathodi, Kolcha, Kotwadia etc. are among the major tribes in Gujarat in whom sickle cell problem has been observed. 20 percent of the sickle disease children die by the age of two. According to one survey by ICMR amongst the primitive tribes of south of Gujarat, viz; Kolcha, Kotwadia and Kathodi, 30 percent of children with this disease die before they reach adulthood (14 years) and the remaining 70 percent die by the age of 50 (National Rural Health Mission, Sickle Cell Anemia Project, 2005-2012).

India has very huge populations of tribal communities, i.e., about 18 crore, and is expected to have 1.80 crore cases of sickle cell trait and 14 lakhs of sickle cell disease. This shows the big burden on the public health programmes in India. (Sickle Cell Anemia Control Project, 2012)

Gujarat is the first State in India to incorporate Sickle cell anemia control programme in the existing health services of State Government. This comprehensive program fulfills the guidelines on Sickle Cell Anemia recommended by WHO, by agenda item 11.4, A59/9, at 59th World Health Assembly.(Sickle Cell Anemia Control Project, 2012)

**Sickle Cell Disease in Tapi District:**

The National Rural Health Mission (2008-2012) has taken up the ‘Sickle-Cell Anemia Project, keeping the three goals in mind:

- To improve health status quality of life of sickle cell anemia patients.
- No sickle cell disease childbirth by 2020.
Prevention of death from sickle cell crisis.

Integration with general health services along with the active participation of different sectors, NGOs and the community were the thrust areas under this program. All the twelve tribal districts, having a network of health institutions were covered under the program to be implemented during the year 2011-12.

Communities living in the remote and disadvantaged areas especially tribal population and women are sometimes unable to access reliable and cost effective health care services. The state has 12 predominantly tribal districts viz. Surat, Tapi, Navsari, Valsad, Dang, Bharuch, Narmada, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Dahod, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha, with a total population of 89,12,623. There are different primitive tribes in this area. The main tribes residing in this area are Kukna, Kolcha, Kothvadia, Chaudhary, Kathood Bhil, etc. These tribal communities have their special health problems which are different from those of the non-tribal communities. The tribal areas of Gujarat stretch from Ambaji in the northern side to Dang in Southern side. Most of the area is hilly and forested, making it very difficult to provide adequate services due to problems of transportation (Sickle Cell Anemia Control Project, 2012).

This programme was implemented in 12 districts in Gujarat including Tapi. For this 6 counselors, 3 lab technicians and one data entry operator were appointed in Tapi under this programme. Epidemiological data 2010 indicated that, in all the 12 districts, screening of antenatal mothers and their husbands who were positive was taken up on priority basis. Every new born in the tribal population was screened for sickle cell anemia by dried card method. In Tapi sickling test was done, (DTT-Di-dithionite Tube Turbidity) under which 11,796 people were screened, 2,953 were found positive, (i.e. 25.03%) out of which 471 were sickle trait and 29 people were found to have sickle disease (National Rural Health Mission, Sickle Cell Anemia Project, 2005-2012).

Counseling is the key object of this program. In this program all the patients with Sickle Cell trait and Sickle Cell disease are counseled regularly by the trained counselors. Also, family counseling is done at the door step of this community. Further all the adolescents are counseled about their marriage and future pregnancy. All the tribal persons are given color coded cards according to their Sickle Cell Status, with the intention that it will help them in marriage decisions. After distributing the yellow cards, adolescents are advised to avoid
marriages between two yellow card holders to avoid birth of children with Sickle Disease (Sickle Cell Anemia Control Project, 2012).

3.6.7 Reproductive Health Concerns

Mother NGO Scheme:

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat has initiated several efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality Rates and is among the states nearing achievement of Millennium Development Goal. During 2006-2013, the Mother NGO scheme was implemented in the state of Gujarat. A total of 22 Mother NGOs, 91 Field NGOs implemented the scheme to reach a total population of 7 lakh in 667 underserved villages in 22 Districts of Gujarat State. Vedchi Pradesh Sewa Samiti (VPSS) was one of the mother NGOs that covered Surat and Tapi districts.

VPSS functioned in 43 villages, covering a population of 40,723 and 6,973 eligible mothers in Tapi. VPSS came across 691 deliveries; amongst them 658 were live births, and 33 still births, abortions, and miscarriages, 11 infant deaths and 03 maternal deaths. In April-December 2012, CHETNA RRC initiated a process to track deaths of women in the reproductive age group 15-49 years from these areas. Ten NGOs tracked 212 villages of 20 blocks in 9 districts of the state for deaths of women in the reproductive age group. The total population of these villages was 3,91,173. Maternal Deaths were reported in six districts where deaths of 90 women in the age group of 15-49 years were reported. From Tapi district VPSS covered 42 villages, and 40,124 people from Songadh, Uchchal and Nizer Block. Here VPSS found 21 deaths of women amongst which one was maternal death. It was from Songadh where she died of renal failure and she was only 20 years old (Bajpai, 2013).

In Tapi 11226 women had done early ANC Registration in 2010-11 (FW MIS 2010-11). The records of deliveries in 2011 in Tapi show that a total of 8,787 women gave birth to babies, of which 4,256 (36.29%) delivered babies in government hospitals, 4,531 (38.64%) in private hospitals and 2,940 (25.08%) at home. Altogether 11,727 deliveries were registered in 2010-11 in Tapi (Vital Statistics Division, 2012).

Tapi district is one of the tribal districts of Gujarat. Although there is consistent decline in home delivery it is still found that in 2-3 Talukas institutional delivery is hardly 50 percent. In Nizar & Ucchal Taluka the practice of home delivery continues due to lack of adequate
infrastructure and manpower. These Talukas being far from district head-quarters, there is poor private infrastructure, vacant positions of gynecologist and pediatrician at CHC/FRU, which contributes largely to frequent home deliveries. Although the government offers medical services, the cultural barrier has not been broken. A specific intervention for ASHA & DAI could bring about positive changes in this matter. Meanwhile outreach services (MAMTA SANDARBH) are being strengthened in both Talukas. (National Rural health Mission, District Plan, 2005-12)

**Chiranjivi Yojana:**

Government of Gujarat has initiated a scheme viz. Chiranjivi Yojana, involving private sector specialists for providing safe delivery services, primarily for economically weak sections. Under this scheme the obstetricians are paid Rs. 2,80,000/- for a package of 100 deliveries @ Rs.2,800 per delivery. The beneficiary has not to pay any charges related to delivery, medicine, anesthesia, laboratory investigation or operation.

When the performance of Chiranjivi Yojana was observed in Tapi, total 623 cases were found to be registered, of which 576 were normal, 47 were LSCS. There was no complicated case and 3 doctors were appointed (Socio-economic Review, Gujarat, 2012-13).

**Bal Sakha Yojana:**

Bal Sakha Yojana was launched in January 2009 to make expert care by private pediatricians accessible to all BPL and Tribal children born under the ambit of Chiranjivi Yojana or in Government Health care institutions. The scheme has given tremendous results in the first year after its launching (Socio-economic Review, Gujarat, 2012-13).

In Tapi a total of 1038 new borns were attended by Bal Sakha Yojana in 2010-11; of these 145 neonates were admitted to NICU-2 and treated, and 6 neonates were referred to NICU-3. Total 06 deaths took place. Only 06 doctors were treating. (FW MIS 2010-11)

**Janani Suraksha Yojana:**

Janani Suraksha Yojana is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). It is being implemented with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. It is a 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme. The Yojana has identified ANM/ASHA as an
effective link between the government and the poor pregnant women. (Socio-Economic review, Gujarat, 2012-13)

3.7 SOCIAL ISSUES

Even though education and health are the primary factors that impact the social life of people there are a few other issues too that effect that play an important role in building up the social surrounding. Following are some of the other issues faced by people in Tapi district.

3.7.1 Alcoholism

According to the members of the SHG, women from the working class are affected by this problem and a good part of their earnings are spent on their husbands for buying liquor, pushing them into poverty. They said that the illicit liquor not only affected the economic condition but also their health. The district administration and the police have come together in Tapi to revive Sakhi Mandals, the women's self-help groups that were so effective in curbing the liquor menace in Tapi, Navsari and Surat districts three years ago (2007). The anti-liquor movement was abruptly withdrawn in 2010 due to pressure from local politicians and the police who accused the leaders of the Sakhi Mandals of taking the law into their own hands.

The first Sakhi Mandal was formed in December 2008 by the women of Vehval village in Mahuva Taluka as several of them were being beaten up by their alcoholic husbands. Some were even widowed young as their husbands drank themselves to death. Sakhi Mandals began destroying liquor booths. The movement was a huge success and it spread to the neighbouring areas. By 2009, it had spread to Tapi, Surat and Navsari districts where thousands of women became members of Sakhi Mandals.

Tapi district collector RJ Patel decided to empower Sakhi Mandals. To avoid the problems from the police department or the local leaders, R J Patel had planned to give women a free hand to transform Tapi into a liquor-free district. Hasmukh Patel, Surat Range IG, who is known as an upright policeman, and the biggest enemy of bootleggers, pledged his support to the anti-liquor movement. Patel said that during his stint as district development officer (DDO) in various districts of Gujarat, he was witness to the misery of women whose husbands were alcoholics. They (women) are beaten up and many become widows at a young
age. Hence there is a need to revive the Sakhi Mandals to fight the liquor mafia in the Villages (Thomas, 2011).

In August 2012, Women in Bhitkhurd village of Tapi district swooped down on 10 breweries in the area and destroyed all of them on a Wednesday night. The breweries were making country liquor. Around 300 liters of liquor and raw material were destroyed by the women. The Sakhi Mandals started attacking the liquor breweries in south Gujarat following the rise in number of deaths of young men in the region.

There are nearly 1,200 widowed women in the age group of 25 to 45 in Tapi district. Their husbands died due to liquor addiction. "The large number of young widows showed the seriousness of the problem. To deal with the issue, district collector Mr. R. J. Patel decided to call the Sakhi Mandals who have successfully dealt with the issue in past. They were assured support by police and district administration and the movement would be carried out in entire district," said R J Patel, district collector, Tapi (Mehta, 2012).

### 3.7.2 Domestic Violence (Tapi)

Incidences of various crimes committed against women have significantly decreased in Gujarat. The number has reduced from 8,616 in 2008 to 7,966 in 2009. The Dangs district has recorded the lowest rate of crime against women i.e. 9 (0.11%) cases. Tapi is on the 2nd position in lowest incidences i.e. 20 (0.25%) cases. These 20 cases include 7 (0.09%) cases of rape, 4 (0.05%) cases of kidnapping & abduction of women & girls, 2 (0.02%) cases of Sexual Harassment and 7 (0.09%) cases of cruelty to women by husband or relative, totaling to 20 (0.25%) incidences (Gujarat Social Infrastructure Development Board Society (GSIDBS), 2012).

### 3.7.3 Change in consumption Pattern

**Consumption:**

In macroeconomics, the Engle curve describes how increases in income affect consumption. The theory explains that increase in income leads to increase in food consumption immediately and later it declines. Later non-food consumption increases. (Choudhari & Chintalapudi, 2011). Before joining SHGs they used to consume roots, cereals, pulses, sugar and occasionally non vegetarian food. After joining SHG they not only started consuming
more these items but also started consuming vegetables, milk, oil, eggs and more non-vegetarian food. They became aware about importance of organic food. Keeping in view the lower nutritional levels of rural people, this was a welcome feature. Kotwalias were only non-vegetarian now started consuming green vegetables.

### 3.7.4 Occupational Structure

The percentage of female workers to the total workers in Gujarat is continuously increasing and has shown an increase from 20.66 percent to 27.78 percent during the period 1981 to 2011. As per the Employment Market Information Scheme in Gujarat, as far as the organized sector is concerned, in the year 2011 there were around 22.19 percent females employed in the public sector as against 10.02 percent females in the private sector. (NSDC India, n.d.) Tapi district has very low level secondary and tertiary sectorial penetration resulting in high dependency on agriculture. Records show that a high proportion of the total workforce, i.e. 85 percent, is engaged primarily in agricultural sector. (NSDC India, n.d.) In Tapi in the main workers category there were 3,37,579 persons, amongst them 2,14,069 were males and 1,23,510 were females. In the non-working category there were 3,56,120 persons, amongst them 1,51,139 were males and 2,04,981 were females. And there were total 1,13,323 marginal workers (India Census Data, 2011).

### 3.7.5 Migration

The proportion of migrants is very low among the higher social tribal groups like Chaudharies, Vasavas, Dhodiyas, Patelia, Kukana. Etc. (Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission report, 2002-04). The children also go along with their migrant parents. Generally vulnerable tribal community (PTGs) and people living below poverty line used to migrate from Tapi in search of livelihood. These communities are landless communities. The livelihood of the villagers in Tapi depends mainly on agriculture (labourers) and animal husbandry so during the lean seasons they migrate to other parts of the state for daily wages. There are a few people who are engaged in services.

It was important to settle the primitive tribal groups and S T population living below poverty line who were forced to migrate in search of food and wages. A need was felt for focused and outcome oriented projects, so that migration could be reduced. The dairy project implemented by BAIF-GRISERV has served this purpose and fetched distinct positive results. Over the past 3-4 years, a good number of PTG settlements are successfully
practicing dairy. Loan repayments are steady, family income is on the rise, migration is checked, and the children have started going to school. (Vanabandhu Kalyan Yojana, n.d.)

3.8 ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PROFILE OF TAPI

3.8.1 Agriculture

The economy of the district is predominantly dependent on agriculture. The total geographic area of the district is about 5 lakh hectares. It is noteworthy that 47.78 percent of the area is under cultivation in the district. Valod Taluka has about 89 percent of its area under cultivation (Agriculture & Cooperation Department, Government of Gujarat, 2013).

Out of 164,123 hectares of cultivated land in Tapi district about 63,396 hectares (38.63%) is irrigated land, i.e. more than one third of the cultivated land is irrigated. The remaining 61.37 percent land is un-irrigated. In Valod Taluka the situation is very good as 91 percent of the land falls under ‘irrigated’ category. However, in Songadh Taluka, only 19 percent of cultivable land is irrigated, and nearly 1,12,974 hectares of land is fed by and dependent on rainfall (NSDC India, n.d.).

The general weather conditions are conducive to good agricultural harvest. The climatic and soil conditions favour the growth of cotton and paddy in the kharif period and to some extent groundnut as well. Paddy, Sorghum, Pulses, Oilseed and Cotton are the 5 main Kharif Crops grown over an area of 1,21,357 hectares. Paddy is the main crop covering 36 percent of area under Kharif crop, followed by cotton, pulses, sorghum and oil-seeds.

Sugarcane is the main Rabi crop covering 90 percent of the area under Rabi Crops. This is the highest produced crop in the district thus paving the way for potential investments in the sugar processing sector due to raw material proximity (On an average, over 75,00,000 tons of sugarcane are produced). Another important Rabi crop is wheat. Amongst fruits, the Tapi region grows mango, sapota, papaya, custard apple and banana; with the production of banana being the highest. In short in Tapi District, paddy, pulses, oilseeds and wheat are the main crops, and sugarcane, cotton, soybean and sunflower are the major cash crops.

3.8.2 Minerals

The Tapi district is very poor in mineral based products. Major minerals are not present in significant quantities in the district. There are minor minerals like black trap, ordinary sand,
ordinary soil and hard muhrum etc. Tapi however is a major source of minor minerals like black trap and sand. Stone crushing units make up the main mineral based industry in Tapi. (NSDC India, n.d.)

3.8.3 Forests

The Forest area of Tapi district is spread over 9,37.24 sq.km., that is 28.94 percent of the total geographic area. Out of total of 9,37.24 sq.km forest area, 912.68 sq.km is reserved forest, 1.97 sq.km is protected forest and 22.59 sq.km is un-classed forest. Tapi forest is known as slightly moist teak forest. (Government of Gujarat, Gujarat Forest Statistics 2010-11, 2013)

In Vyara in 2010-11 there were 14 active forest labourer’s co-operative societies and 14 non-active societies. The total number of Adivasi members was 13,560 in 2010-11. There were 24 saw mills in Tapi in 2010-2011 (Government of Gujarat, Gujarat forest Statistics 2010-11, 2013)

3.8.4 Rainfall in Tapi

Normal South-West rain fall in Tapi district is 1536 mm. Normal rainy days are 58, (season June-September). (Agriculture Contingency Plan for District: TAPI, n.d.)

In 2008 rain fall in Tapi was 1,390 mm, in 2009 it was 924 mm, in 2010 it was 1,139 mm, and in 2011 it was 955 mm. (Socio-economic Review of Gujarat 2011-12)

3.8.5 Livestock

Cows and buffalos are the main cattle in the district, with cow population standing at 1,96,190. The number of buffaloes in the district is 1,56,508. The other domestic animals are goats and sheep. Looking at the number of cows and buffaloes in Tapi district, there is potential for producing organic manures and promoting organic farming in the district. However the task is not easy as the farmers will have to be convinced first regarding the advantages of using organic manures and practicing organic farming. They need to understand it in a long term perspective. Also, the need for integrating the animal husbandry with promotion of organic farming needs to be understood properly. (Agriculture & Cooperation Department, Government of Gujarat, 2014)
3.8.6 Horticultural Crops

The main horticulture crops in Tapi district are spices, fruits and vegetables. Area wise, spices are grown over an area of 2,080 hectares, followed by vegetables on 1,785 hectares and fruits on 1,378 hectares. (Agriculture & Cooperation Department, Government of Gujarat, 2014)

3.8.7 Industry

Analysis of regional distribution of investments in Tapi district indicates that the industrial development is concentrated in Valod Taluka (nsdeindia.org). Tapi district has a few agro-based industries like sugar manufacturing and paper based industries. Some textile industries have also cropped up with modern techniques like spinning with captive power generation and energy efficient textile processing method. These are engaged in manufacturing of fabrics.

3.8.8 Large Scale Investment Scenario in Tapi

In recent years, the state Government has initiated measures to further enhance the industrial growth in Valod through suitable incentives leading to an increased investment potential of these regions over the next decade. Details of region wise large scale investments in Tapi district till 2012 is presented in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Commissioned</th>
<th>Under Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Units</td>
<td>Investment Rs. in Cr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nizer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valod</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyara</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District wise skill gap study for the State of Gujarat (2012-17, 2017-22)

Table 3.9 depicts that six units are already commissioned in Tapi district. Out of these 3 are in Nizer with the investment of Rs. 31 Crores, 2 in Valod with investment of Rs. 53 Crores and 1 in Vyara with the investment amounting to Rs. 24 Crores. Besides these six units six
more units were in the implementation phase and the largest investment of Rs. 3883 Crores is planned in Valod with 3 new units.

3.8.9 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) investment in Tapi

Moderate growth of industrialization in the district has widened the scope for establishment of ancillary units in the MSME segment. As per the MSME investment, overall there are 179 units operating in the district attracting an investment of INR 4,001 lakhs in 2012. Investment outlook in MSME segment of Tapi district is presented in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Industry</th>
<th>No. of Units</th>
<th>Investment INR in Lakh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micro</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>1643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>4011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Industry</th>
<th>No. of Units</th>
<th>Investment INR in Lakh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Sector</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>3506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Sector</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>4011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District wise skill gap study for the State of Gujarat (2012-17, 2017-22)

The district has very low level secondary and tertiary sectorial penetration resulting in high dependency on agriculture. It is observed that as high as 85 percentage of the total workforce is engaged in the primary sector of farming. While the total worker participation rate is higher than the state average, high manpower requirements in agrarian activities due to low output efficiency would indicate significant under employment in this category. The district can only explore opportunities for sourcing trained manpower to industrial clusters of Surat and Vadodara considering the low levels of organized employment opportunities.
Comparison of workforce distribution scenario in Tapi and Gujarat is presented in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Labour force participation</th>
<th>Workforce Participation</th>
<th>Percentage of employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapi</td>
<td>72.56 %</td>
<td>49.80 %</td>
<td>87.94 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>59.27 %</td>
<td>41.95 %</td>
<td>59.34 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District wise skill gap study for the State of Gujarat (2012-17, 2017-22)

As seen in Table 3.11 and Graph 3.2 Tapi’s figures are more encouraging in comparison to overall Gujarat figures. While in Tapi 72.56 percent of the workforce was engaged in the labour category, in Gujarat the percent was only 49.80 percent. Similarly in case of skilled workforce Tapi recorded 59.27 percent while Gujarat reported 41.95 percent.

There are about 27 MSMEs functioning in Tapi district. Of them, 8 are textile based, 11 are sugar and forest based, 6 are mineral based and 2 units are other industries. Taluka wise distribution of MSMEs is shown below.
Table 3.12 MSME Scenario in Tapi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Number of MSMEs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nizer</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songadh</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uchaal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valod</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyara</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat.2010

Out of 27 MSMEs maximum 11 were located in Vyara which is the headquarters of Tapi district, followed by 8 in Songadh, 4 in Nizer, 3 in Valod and 1 in Uchaal. Following are some of the industries located in various Talukas.

Table 3.13: Some of the Industries in Tapi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mozzaterra Tile Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Vyara</td>
<td>Cement Mosaic Tiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deeprekha Impex Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Nizer</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukai Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandali Ltd.</td>
<td>Vyara</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri. Goverdhan Sugar Industry</td>
<td>Nizer</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valod Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandali Ltd.</td>
<td>Valod</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vin Textile</td>
<td>Valod</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.K. Paper Ltd.</td>
<td>Songadh</td>
<td>Paper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat. 2009-2010)

*Industrial Locations:*

Four industrial estates set up by Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) are located in Tapi district at Dosavada, Ukai, Vyara and Songadh. (Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat, 2010)
3.8.10 Infrastructure

**Transport:** Tapi district is well connected with rest of the Gujarat; the following paragraphs give some more insight about the same.

**Road-Rail Connectivity**

**Road:** Tapi is well connected with various locations within the state and outside through a net-work of national and state highways. Surat at a distance of 62km. from Vyara can be accessed by NH6 that connects to Mumbai and Delhi. The distance of Surat from Mumbai is 307 km. and from Delhi it is 1034 km. via NH8.

**Rail:** Almost all the Talukas of Tapi are well connected through rail net-work. Vyara is well connected with Valsad, Vapi, and Mumbai towards south and with Bharuch, Vadodara and Ahmedabad in the North. (Vibrant Gujarat, The Global Business Hub, 12-13 January, 2011)

**Power supply network:** Tapi has a well-developed net-work of sub stations and power stations in the district to cater to the requirements of electricity for industrial and residential purposes. There are two power stations in the district (one is thermal and one hydro at Ukai) and a 400 KV sub-station at Ukai. (Gujarat State Electricity Board, , 2010)

**Water Supply:** Water supply for industrial purposes in the district can be availed from these main sources, viz Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board (GWSSB), irrigation canals and Sardar Sarover Project. (Sardar Sarover Narmada Nigam Ltd., 2010)

3.8.11 Social Infrastructure

**Educational Institutions:**

**Education Status in Gujarat State and Tapi**

The number of educational institutions imparting primary education in the state was 40,943 in 2011-12 as against 40,723 in 2010-11. The number of pupils enrolled in these schools was 83.76 lakh in 2011-12 as against 81.45 lakh in the previous year.

Tapi district has around 888 K12 schools out of which there are 861 government schools with a share of 96.96 percent of total schools. Further, it has the highest share of K12 government schools among all districts (National skill Gap Development corporation. 2012-17).
Primary Education in Tapi:
According to district Primary Education office, Vyara 2013, there were 798 schools in Tapi under Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan. Of the total of 798 primary schools, 112 schools were in Nizar, 85 schools were in Uchchal, 257 schools were in Songadh, 264 schools were in Vyara and 80 schools in Valod (Source: Tapi District primary Education Office, 2013).

Secondary and higher Secondary Education in Tapi:
There were total 108 schools i.e. 73 secondary schools and 35 higher secondary schools imparting education to children in Tapi. Out of these 28 schools were run by Government, 30 schools were run on self-finance basis and 50 schools were granted schools. In Nizer 02, Vyara 06, and Valod 06, in all 14 schools were Utter Buniyadi Schools and 02 girls’ schools (Vyara and Songadh), 01 boys’ schools (Uchchal); in all 03 schools were Adarsh Nivasi schools. (Source: Tapi District Education Department, Secondary and higher education, Tapi, 2013-14)

Ashram Shalas and Utter Buniyadi Ashram Shalas-Tapi:
There were 63 ashram shalas providing secondary and higher secondary education to Tribal children in Tapi.( Office of Ashramshala officer, Vyara, Tapi, 2013) Of these, 01 was in Nizar, 06 were in Songadh, 08 in Uchchal, 15 in Valod and 33 in Vyara.

The institutions imparting specialized education were limited in number. Besides 108 secondary and higher secondary schools only two colleges and 5 ITI schools (Industrial Training Institutions) are there in the district. One Arts and commerce College and one BCA college is located in Vyara. (District Panchayat, Tapi, 2010, our vibrant Gujarat on Dec. 08, 2010, Vibrant summit 2011-District Profile Tapi)

Total 1,048 Anganwadis were functioning in Tapi. (Office of Tribal Development Programme, Songadh, Annual Report 2011-12); the Taluka wise breakup of these Anganwadis is as 348 in Vyara, 299 in Songadh,172 in Nizer, 115 in Uchchal and 114 in Valod.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools:
The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) were initiated in India by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, for providing free high quality education to meritorious tribal children. The Eklavya Schools Project was launched in Gujarat in 1999-2000. The quality of infrastructure, teachers and students are the three key aspects that distinguish
EMRS from other government initiatives. (Gujarat State Tribal Development Residential Educational Institutions Society, 2014) There are currently 17 EMRS schools in Gujarat and another 7 such schools are being proposed. Out of 3,570 students studying in these schools, 48 percent are girls. The Indian Government is imparting education to children of scheduled tribes from 6th to 12th std. under 275(1) Act to. Central government is providing subsidy to such schools. (Guideline for Welfare Schemes for S. C. and S. T., n.d.) One EMRS for girls is in Uchchal and one EMRS is in Nizer, i.e. only for boys. (Guideline for Welfare Schemes for S. C. and S.T., n.d.)

**Eklavya Girls Residential Schools (EGRS):**

Eklavya Girls Residential schools (EGRS) are the residential schools exclusively for tribal girls and are running across ten districts of Gujarat under the scheme of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India for strengthening education among ST girls. Initially in Year 2008-09, MoTA, GoI had sanctioned 36 Girls residential schools for Gujarat state, out of which 35 are functional, and 8 more EGRS were sanctioned in Year 2012. Currently there are altogether 35 Eklavya Girls’ Residential Schools run by the Society and are providing education from Std. VIII to X. These schools aim to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100 percent enrolment of tribal girls and reducing drop out ratio in low literacy blocks of Gujarat state. (Gujarat State Tribal Development Residential Educational Institutions Society, 2014) One EMRS for girls is in Uchchal and one EMRS is in Nizer, i.e. only for boys. (Guideline for Welfare Schemes for S. C. and S.T., n.d.) If we see the gender wise details of EMRS schools in Songadh, 34 boys and 37 girls i.e. total 71 students are taking education. In Nizer 174 boys and 182 girls, total 356 students are getting education.

**Adarsh Niwasi Schools:**

These residential schools are imparting education from 8th to 12th std. Only those students who secure 60 percent in 7th standard are eligible to get admission in higher education science stream. Residential schools provide hostel facility, food, oil, soap etc. to the children. There are 3 Adarsh Niwasi schools in Tapi. One is in Uchchal, that is only for boys, and there are 2 Niwasi schools, one is in Vyara and one is in Songadh only for girls (Guideline for Welfare Schemes for S.C. and S.T., n.d.).
Health Care:

The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat has created a wide network of health and medical care facilities in the state to provide primary, secondary and tertiary health care. (Vital Statistics Division, 2012). Healthcare in Tapi is delivered through a few specialized hospitals that provide secondary and tertiary care services. There are also 5 community health centers, 30 primary health centers besides which there are 10 primary health centers that are operating on PPP basis (Tapi District Panchayet, 2010).

Gujarat State is at the forefront of establishing and maintaining good health infrastructure at various levels. In December 2012, 6 major Hospitals and educational Institutions, 24 District level Hospitals, 30 sub-district level hospitals, 3 class-II hospitals, 4 mental hospitals, 2 government dental hospitals, 1 Ophthalmology Hospital, 318 community Health Centers, 1,158 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and 7,274 sub centers were functional in the state (Socio-Economic Review, Gujarat State, 2012-13). There are 763 PHCs with AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) facility in Gujarat (National Health Mission, 2012). In Tapi there were 226 sub-centers, 30 PHCs, 11 PHCs offering 24x7 service, 5 CHCs, 1 district hospital, 3 mobile medical units, and 1 post-partum unit available to Tribals in 2012. There was no sub-divisional hospital available in Tapi (Rural Health Statistics, 2012). Ten primary health centers were operating on PPP basis (Tapi District Panchayet, 2010).

In Gujarat during the year 2011-12, 308.73 lakh patients were treated as outpatients while 39.07 lakh patients were treated as indoor patients through the above mentioned Government medical institutions. (Socio-Economic Review, Gujarat State, 2012-13)

In Tapi During the year 2010-11 about 4,38,760 patients were treated as outpatients of which 2,15,368 were treated in PHCs, 1,51,286 were treated in CHCs and 72,106 were treated in sub-district/district/civil hospital, while 51,595 patients were treated as in-patients of which 2,820 in PHCs, 30,619 were treated in CHCs and 18,356 were treated in sub-district/district/civil hospital. (MIS Rural Health Medical Services and Medical Report, 2010)

In the month of February 2012 the Regional Evaluation Team (RET) Patna carried out the evaluation work in Tapi district. According to this team Rogi Kalyan Samiti has been constituted at the DH, CHCs, and PHCs in the district. 36 Rogi Kalyan Samitis (RKS) have
been registered in 5 CHCs, 30 PHCs and the District Hospital in the district. Regular quarterly meetings of RKS were being conducted in the visited centers. 456 village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) have been constituted in the district. RET committee visited the district hospital and PHCs in Panchol, Jamkhadi and Alghat in Tapi. During the visit to the center the team observed that the meetings were being conducted regularly and VHSNCs were functioning smoothly in the district. The District Hospital at Tapi was functioning in a Government building. The team found that there was no Blood Storage Unit available in the Hospital. (Regional Evaluation Team Report, 2011-12).

**Financial Services:**

There were 47 Scheduled commercial banks in Tapi District of Gujarat as on 31st March 2014. Aggregate deposits and gross Bank Credit of all Scheduled Banks was Rs. 15,039 million and Rs. 4,804 million respectively (www.districtsofindia.com, supportteam).

There were 03 rural bank products, 11 district co-operative Bank products and 4 PLD branches functioning in Tapi District. (India. Ministry of MSME, n.d.). According to NSDC the district suffers from low penetration of financial services. (NSDC India, n.d., nsdcindia.org) a, n.d.)

**Tourism:**

Some of the important tourist destinations in Tapi are Fort of Songadh, Gaumukh, Dosvada Dam, Hindusthan Bridge, Tapi River, and Ukai dam. Besides the tourist destinations people also visit pilgrimage destinations in Tapi, which are Rokadia Hanuman Mandir, Parsuramji and Suryatapeshwar Mandir, Kalyanrai Mandir, Gayatrimata Mandir, Saibaba Mandir, Firangi Mataji-Jalaram Mandir, Marimata Mandir. (Tapi District Panchayet, 2010)

**Investment Opportunities:**

Agro-based industries, Sugar manufacturing, Paper-based industries, Textiles, Captive Power Generation, manufacturing of fabrics, Modern energy efficient textile processing all offer investment opportunities (Tapi District panchayat, 2010)
3.9 SHGs IN TAPI

In all there are 5 Talukas in Tapi district viz. Vyara, Valod, Songadh, Nizer, and Uchchal. Self Help Groups (SHG) working in these Talukas are promoted by various governmental and non-governmental Institutions. Promoters such as Bhasha, Sanshodhan & Prakashan Kendra, Vadodara, BAIF-GRISERV (NGO), Uthan Mahila Saving & Credit Co-operative Society, and Government of Gujarat- Sakhi Mandals Promoted by Anganwadi teachers-Gujarat Government Scheme, have promoted their SHGs in these five Talukas of Tapi. BAIF is working for Scheduled Tribes and Vulnerable Tribes with a network in all 5 Talukas. Bhasha Sanshodhan Kendra also has their networking in all five Talukas. Uthan Mahila Saving and credit Co-operative Society formed various Self Help Groups particularly in Uchchal, Nizer and Songadh Talukas and now has spread in all 5 Talukas of Tapi. Sakhi Mandals too have their SHGs in all five Talukas. Initially Vedchi Pradesh Seva Samiti-Udyogwadi Unit promoted Mahila Mandals in Valod and its surrounding area (1987). These women had taken the training in this institution and later started their own SHGs. Ms. Rekha Choudhari (co-coordinator) joined Bhasha Sanshodhan Kendra in 2005. Sakhi Mandals promoted various groups for BPL and APL people in all five Talukas. A sample of 300 SHG members was selected from all these institutions mentioned above. Respondents were from the different communities such as Chaudhari, Gamit, Kotwalia, Kothodia, Halpati, Valvi, Padvi, and Vasava.

An earlier study (2006-2009) done by this researcher on "Socio-economic Status of Tribal Women in Valod,” (Talmaki, 2012) indicated that members of women’s section –Udyogwadi-were involved in social, political and economic activities. They were either agricultural labourers, farmers or/and they had their milk co-operatives. Some worked in Lijjat Papad Unit while some were involved in Private Papad Udyog. They also worked in Panchayat etc. Today SHGs networking spread and developed in all 5 Talukas in Tapi. Undoubtedly the foundation work was started by Udyogwadi Unit in Valod (Tapi).

It is very interesting to see the impact of SHGs on the empowerment of these women. It was observed while conducting the earlier study that, changes in the empowerment of tribal women must have been brought through SHGs in Tapi.
3.10 NGOs IN THE STUDY AREA

Many NGOs have been active in the district of Tapi, working towards the development of the tribal women. Following are some of the NGOs

- BAIF – Bharatiya Agro Industry Foundation, by GRISERV (Gujarat Rural Institute for Socio-economic Reconstruction Vadodara)
- BHASHA – BHASHA Research and Publication Center.
- Uthan Mahila saving and Credit Co-operative Society
- Gujarat Government’s Sakhi Mandals through Anganwadi

3.10.1 BAIF - GRISERV

GRISERV is a non-political, secular and professionally managed organisation. The vision of GRISERV is to promote sustainable development in rural society, reduce child mortality, promote community health family welfare and better quality of life, and gender equity and gender equality. (Gujarat Rural Institute for Socio-economic Reconstruction Vadodara (GRISERV), 2014)

The 1,300 Self-help Groups promoted by GRISERV, spread in the 13 districts of the state, actively strive to revolve funds and sustain the livelihoods of poor rural and tribal women. In 1985, GRISERV, a sister concern of the Pune-based BAIF Development Research Foundation was established in Vadodara (Gujarat). Registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 and the Societies Registration Act, 1860, GRISERV actively strives to uplift the rural poor. GRISERV’s network has covered 10 percent of the villages in the state. GRISERV’s efforts continuously strive to motivate the rural community, overcome their barriers, irrelevant traditions and superstitions to bring about an attitudinal change, build their confidence levels to self-sustain rural societies. Mr. Manibhai Desai was the founder member of BAIF.

BAIF-GRISERV was founded in Gujarat in 1985 and in Surat in 1990. The first activity taken up by BAIF-GRISERV was Cattle-breeding. BAIF’s first tribal women’s SHG was started in 2001-02. According to the Report Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, Tribal Development Department, GOG, (Gujarat Rural Institute for Socio-economic Reconstruction Vadodara (GRISERV), 2014). There were altogether 3403 Kotwalia families and 1,312 Kathod families of vulnerable Tribes (PTG) in the project area, Tapi, as almost all PTGs are BPL families.
Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, Government of India (volume-II 2002-04) recommends that the BAIF should be assisted to help other PTGs to cross the poverty line (Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, 2002-2004).

BAIF-GRISERVE was founded in 2007 in Tapi. The first activity taken up by BAIF was Cattle-breeding. BAIF’s first tribal women’s SHG was started in the year 2008. There was a necessity to start SHG for PTG or Vulnerable Tribes as well. The PTG SHGs were started in the year 2009-2010. PTG SHGs give loans for day to day activities, Children’s education and income generating activities to their members. (D.K. Patel Officer BAIF, Vyara)

Due to the success of PTG SHGs, the migration rate has been reduced. According to D.K. Patel (Officer BAIF, Vyara), migration of 822 families has been stopped and the dropout rate has also been decreased. Due to the milk co-operative activity of BAIF, there has been tremendous change observed in the vulnerable tribal women. Family members of these women have started participating in the village Panchayat. Women have become members of the village society and they have become socially aware. The majority of them have accounts in Bank of Baroda. Many have bought their own vehicles. Now-a-days women make roti-sabzi at home. Earlier food rations were bought daily, now monthly rations are stocked. The profits earned from the products of one cow are used to buy another cow. When 60 percent of the loan given by GTDC is recovered, the members become eligible for another loan. Till today, approximately 300 SHG members have been able to repay their loans, according to Mr. D.K. Patel (D K Patel-Officer BAIF, Vyara)

3.10.2 BHASHA Research and Publication Center (BRPC)

Bhasha Research and Publication Center was established in 1996 in Baroda district, Chota Udepur Taluka, in Tejgadh Village. Dr. Ganesh Devi started BHASHA to develop Adivasi culture including their language, spread education, use of ayurvedic medicines, and to spread health awareness amongst the adivasis.

Bhasha Research and Publication Centre stands for ‘voice’ to Adivasi communities in India. The Adivasi Academy was founded by Bhasha at Tejgadh as an institute to combine the functions of the national academies, museums and literary bodies in the country, with respect to Adivasi culture, arts and literature. Bhasha is also trying to improve their habit of saving. The branch of BHASHA started its first SHG group on 1st May, 2005. It had 10 members. Members collect Rs.50 per member per month and give loans @ 1 percent interest to needy
members for non-income generating as well as for income generating activities (for livelihood). The main intention to start SHG in Tapi was to stop migration and get women silver jewelry back from the money lenders. BHASHA promoted SHGS provide loans of Rs.2,000/- up to Rs.5,000/- to members for various purposes. Members take loans for education, health, agriculture and for livelihood. SHGS promoted by BHASHA are working in all five Talukas of Tapi district. They have their accounts in Baroda Bank or District Cooperative Bank – Vyara.

The Adivasi Chaitanya Trust and Samveg Foundation were set up by BHASHA in 2007 to create a model of sustainable development whereby adivasi villages could become self-reliant (Bhasha Trust, n.d.).

3.10.3 Uthan Mahila Saving and Credit Co-operative Society

Eklavya Foundation has been instrumental in helping women develop and manage SHGs and co-operative savings and credit organisations, and providing skills that will enhance women’s collective strength in the market place. In the tribal districts of Tapi, Surat, Dang and Navsari the foundation engaged with women from tribal communities in a process of social engineering. Through this effort, Eklavya Foundation started 450 tribal women’s self-help-groups which were federated into Uthan Surat District Mahila Saving and Credit cooperative society with membership exceeding 2,000 women (www.eklavyafoundation.org/womens-self-help-groups-andcooperatives).

From 2002 to 2007, two tribal women Smt. Leelaben Gamit and Smt. Gopiben Gamit from Surat were associated with this Eklavya project. In 2008 they decided to start their own Mahila Bachat groups and with the help of Smt. Sonal Mehta they started building Mahila Bachat groups in Tapi. The main reason for doing this was to help women get freedom from money lenders and poverty. Gopiben and Leelaben were both members of the women’s section of VPSS from 1995 to 2002. An Adivasi woman, Smt. Leelaben Gamit, was a member of the gram panchayat for 5 years. She had also worked in DWACRA.

After attending various meetings, Leelaben and the other two women decided to help other Adivasi women to earn their livelihoods. They started Uthan Mahila Vikas Mandal by opening an account in Bank of Baroda under the name of their SHG. Initially they did not think of registering their NGO. But after learning about the various schemes implemented by the Government for the NGOs, they registered their NGO with the Gram Panchayat in 2007.
Women SHG members from all Talukas started contributing Rs. 50 per month to their SHGs. Uthan has its account in District Cooperative Bank in Vyara. After every member has contributed continuously for six months, they are eligible for a loan from their SHG. Initially Uthan had 500 members. Today they have 150 groups and more than 3000 members. The microfinance which is given to the members depends on their contributions.

On 16/5/2008, these three women decided to start their own credit society. Each member was asked to contribute Rs.100 as share capital for the credit society. This credit society has now been named as Uthan Mahila Saving and Credit cooperative society, and it has Rs. 9,00,000 in the district cooperative Bank-Vyara. The credit society has applied thrice for the Revolving Fund and has received Rs. 5,00,000 each time i.e.Rs.15,00,000 as revolving fund from the government. The installment of the revolving fund has been regularly paid to the government (Installment is generally of Rs.50,000).

Uthan gives microfinance for various purposes like health problems, education, and food ranging from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. All the members of the Uthan SHGs are now members of Uthan Mahila Saving and Credit society. Every member has been contributing Rs. 100/- since 2013. Uthan proved its credibility in the market. They also repay the government given revolving funds in regular installments and maintain a good record. Uthan Mahila Saving and Credit cooperative society gives loans upto Rs. 40,000 to its members for income generating activities on an interest rate of 6 percent depending on the saving balance (Today other women customers deposit as much amount they wish to save in this credit society and avail the loan from this institution as other credit institutions, even if they are not members of SHG).

3.10.4 Anganwadi – Gujarat Government’s Sakhi Mandals

Sakhi Mandal (SHGs) is a Scheme of Gujarat Government which has to be promoted by Anganwadi. With the revolving fund created by the Sakhi Mandal, rural families can get loans from the bank for economic activities, take up income generating activities and support national development. All women, above poverty line and below poverty line can benefit from this scheme. Creation of groups is the internal loans, Grading and revolving fund Credit linkage; Economic activities are the activities of Anganwadi workers. A Sakhi Mandal must be created with at least 15 members.
Each member must add at least Re 1 of her savings every day to the Sakhi Mandal’s account. When the fund of the Sakhi Mandal reaches Rs 5,000 then the Government adds Rs 5,000/- to the account as revolving fund. The total amount of Rs 10,000 will be linked up with banks to provide loans.

Members of the Sakhi Mandal can take loans from the bank for self-employment activities and can avail of the self-employment schemes of the government. In this way, by creating a Sakhi Mandal, building up savings and obtaining the revolving fund, poor families in villages can take up income-generating activities and also support national development. The Surat and Tapi Zilla Panchayat is implementing the Sakhi Mandal Yojana. All villages are encouraged to take advantage of this scheme, for progress, women’s development and rural development. (Zilla Gram Vikas Agency, Surat/Tapi, n.d.)

This project is being implemented aiming at formation and nurturing women self-help groups for creation of self-employment opportunities and employment of rural women. The women SHGs popularly called as Sakhi Mandals are given training for capacity building, infrastructure and credit support.

3.11 ROLE OF THE INSTITUTIONS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBALS IN TAPI

There are other institutions that have played a very important role in providing livelihood activities and education, capacity building and leadership training. These are Gandhian Institutions who created the awareness among Tribal people in Tapi (previously Surat).

A number of voluntary organisations were active in the tribal area in and around Valod for decades. They were established under the leadership and inspiration of a Gandhian worker Shri Jugatram Dave. The activities were the part of the Vedchi Intensive Area Scheme. Dave inspired a number of younger workers from the area to take up voluntary work for the welfare of tribal and other weaker sections of the society. Shri Babubhai Shah, Bhikubhai Vyas, Ballubhai Desai and Chhotumiya were some of the known activists in the area. (Baviskar B S, 1986) Later it was known as Vedchi Pradesh Seva Samiti-Valod (VPSS).

Late Sri Babubhai Shah and other Gandhian youngsters registered Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti in 1954 in Valod. It is working for the poor adivasis and their upliftment in 40 villages in Talukas in Tapi and Surat district. VPSS is involved in the economic, social and
educational development of the adivasis in all villages in Tapi and Surat. It also gives training of Panchayat Raj so that more and more women could take part in local self-government and become politically empowered.

Late Shri Jugatram Dave and his followers concentrated mainly on three activities during that period. They organized the tribal into jungle labourer’s cooperative societies to protect them from exploitation by the jungle contractors. The second major activity was educational and the third activity was social reforms.

The following are some of the Institutions actively involved in development of tribal in Tapi.

- Udyogwadi Unit – Valod, Vedchi Pradesh Seva Samiti’s Women's Section (Mahila Vibhag)
- LIJJAT Papad Griha Udyog – Valod
- Vedchhi Ashram – Vedchhi
- Sampurna Kranti Vidyalaya and Gandhi Vidyapeeth – Vedchhi
- SUMUL – Surat

3.11.1 Udyogwadi Unit Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti's Women's Section (Mahila Vibhag)

Women's Section of VPSS was started in 1986. Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti's Women's Section (Mahila Vibhag) organises various economic, social, educational programmes for the upliftment of tribal women in Valod, Vyara, Songadh, Mandavi, Mahua and Bardoli Talukas from Surat and Tapi district. Under this programme, VPSS's Mahila Section conducts various gatherings, awareness programmes, educational and health awareness programmes, and Training Programmes for women Self-Help Groups. VPSS imparts training for Panchayat, knowledge of milk co-operatives, leadership, legal provisions, youth development, self-awareness etc. A very important part of these programmes is to give training to tribal women in the respective areas and to make them empowered. They raise their voice against injustice and hence their self-confidence and leadership qualities have improved. VPSS has formed Mahila Mandals. These Mahila Mandals were then transformed into Self-Help groups. Due to the activities of Self-Help groups, the economic status of the women has also improved. Tribal women from VPSS started doing bank transactions and developed leadership skills. Many VPSS workers become Anganwadi workers. Many leaders
in the present study group are the product of VPSS. i.e. Rekha Choudhari (Bhasha), Gopiben Gamit and Leelaben Gamit (Uthan), Varshaben Halpati (Sakhi Mandal) etc. (Talmaki, 2012)

3.11.2 Lijjat Papad Griha Udyog

‘Lijjat’ Papad Griha Udyog was started on 15th March 1959 with a seed capital of Rs. 80. It is primarily a cottage industry, urban in origin, which has spread to the rural areas. (Kadapa-Bose, n.d.). It is considered as one of the most remarkable entrepreneurial initiatives by women that are identified with female empowerment in India. (Sharma & Sharma, 2005). In 1962, the name Lijjat meaning tasty was chosen by the group for its products. The organization was named Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad (http://www.lijjat.icmr.icfai.org).

In July 1966, Lijjat registered itself as a society under the societies Registration act 1860. The first branch of Lijjat outside the state of Maharashtra was established at Valod, Gujarat in 1968-69. Lijjat follows Mahatma Gandhi’s principles of self-reliance and trusteeship, and all of its member sisters have equal rights (Deepti Bhavnagar-Rathore, 2007). Vedchi Pradesh Seva Samiti played very important role in the establishment of Lijjat in Valod.

The lives of Lijjat member sisters have changed considerably after joining the organisation. This home based industry gave them job security and social independence. The sisters who had been deprived of education could attain literacy, with the help of scholarships awarded by Lijjat. It provides education to their children particularly to daughters.

The first ever Pucca (tarred) road in Valod to be built and inaugurated in 1979 was with the help of the Lijjat branch Valod (Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad. Lijjat Patrika, 1979) Today, Lijjat is not marketing only in India, but is also exporting its products abroad.

3.11.3 Vedchhi Ashram – Vedchhi

Vedchhi is the name of a village in Taluka Valod of Tapi (Previously in Surat district). Vedchchi Ashram is located here, which was working under the guidance of Shri Jugatram Dave, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi,. Jugatrambhai, a close associate of Gandhiji, initiated the activities of education and upliftment of tribal people of that area. He not only imparted training to the students, but also trained a number of teachers and activist workers, who eventually turned themselves into the branches of the huge banyan tree and extended the activities to the whole area. A successful experiment of Gandhian education has been shaped
here, which has spinning, weaving, agriculture and animal husbandry in its center (Vyas, 1998).

Swaraj Ashram Vedcchi was established by late Shri Jugatram Dave in 1930 and its influence has spread all over South Gujarat, especially Surat district. This process is named as ‘Vedchhi No Vadlo’ (Banyan Tree of Vedchhi). Swaraj Ashram Vedchhi is an educational institution. It has a Balwadi, secondary and higher secondary (10+2) school, residential school and primary teachers' training school (after 12th standard).

### 3.11.4 Sampurna Kranti Vidyalaya and Gandhi Vidyapeeth – Vedchhi

Mr. Narayan Desai is a founder and trustee of Sampoorna Kranti Vidyalaya, Vedchhi. ([http://vijaybhatt01.giving.officelive.com](http://vijaybhatt01.giving.officelive.com)). It is situated 1.5 kilometers away from Valod. There is one more institution – Gandhi Vidyapeeth – Vedchhi, which was established in 1967 by renowned Gandhian Shri. Jugatram Dave. Shri Jugatram Dave and other Gandhians had started ashram shalas and balwadis in the tribal areas of south Gujarat, providing education and training in accordance with Gandhian method, called Nai Talim (Aman Panchayat-Gandhian Constructive Activities in Gujarat). Since 1980 it has been offering a three years course of Bachelor in Rural Studies. The students of this vidyapeeth are the messengers and torch bearers of Gandhian values and thoughts promulgating harmony, peace, compassion, justice and equality in the society.

### 3.11.5 SUMUL

SUMUL or Surat Milk Union Limited (recently renamed The Surat District Co-operative Milk Union, Ltd) is one among the 12 district unions which act as manufacturing units of dairy products for Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., the marketers of AMUL and Dhara brands of products.

SUMUL was established in Surat in 1951 to address the lack of an organized sector, where private milk traders were dominant, leaving both the consumers and sellers vulnerable to an unreliable market. The consumers also suffered because unbridled adulteration of milk was practiced by private traders to meet the growing demand of milk in the city. SUMUL is connected with 1068 village level milk cooperatives, 85 percent districts are in tribal areas. There are 2,25,389 milk producer members. Bajipura (Valod), Uchchal, Navipada, Nizer are the main collection centers (SUMUL, 2010).
Dairy development is one of the most significant aspects in rural development today. Dairy is seen as an activity with great potential. Surat is considered a pioneer in milk cooperatives in India, where a large percentage of the population is tribal (Savara, 1986).

If we see the history of milk cooperatives in the district, the first one was set up in Surat district in Pal village of Choryasi Taluka. In 1949 another society the Takarama Milk and Vegetable Society Ltd. was also registered. In 1951 SUMUL District Co-operative Producers Union Ltd. was conceived and registered as a union of all the co-operative societies of Surat district. Choryasi did not join them. In 1966 Choryasi and several others joined and they registered a society, The Pal Gram Vikas Sahakari Mandal.

By December 1968 Choryasi decided to separate from Sumul. At that time milk producers were mainly non-tribal-the Patidars. Later the situation changed.

A few attempts at dairying had been made by church-based rural development organisations in the tribal area (Savara 1986). According to Baviskar (1986) Mandal village was the first to have a milk producers’ co-operative society in the tribal area of Surat. The society was established in 1972. The second village which was mentioned by Mr Baviskar was Khambla, which has the distinction of being the first in having a women’s milk co-operative in a tribal area (Baviskar, 1986). It was established in 1978 started with 36 women members initially (Savara, 1986).

During that period there was substantial increase in the amount of milk supplied by tribal in Surat. It was only possible because of the government, which subsidised the tribal to buy milch cattle. Various organisations were involved in this process, i.e. Small Farmer’s Development Agency, Gujarat Tribal Development Commission, Tribal sub Plans, The full Employment Programme and the Antyodaya Programmes. The rest of the money had come from loans from the nationalized banks.

The repayment level was 60-70 percent which was considered to be extremely good for the rural tribal areas. The main reason for the high recovery was the tie-up between the cooperative societies, bank and SUMUL. SUMUL is the district level federation of the primary co-operatives in the district. Any village with an independent revenue status is eligible to form a primary milk co-operative.

Besides marketing fresh milk, SUMUL offers other services to its members such as:
- An artificial Insemination Training
- The mobile Veterinary clinic programme
- Balanced, nutritious and scientifically formulated cattle feed, known as SUMULDAN
- Providing scientific methods of dairying.

**Role of women in Dairy Production:**
Dairying was a completely new business for tribal. When Meera Savara tried to throw light on sexual division of labour in dairying, the responses in the villages were different. It varied from ‘men and women share the work’ ‘whoever is free does the work’, to ‘women do all the work’. Of course women (in better off class) were playing a supervisory role, but to milk animals was more likely to be women’s labour. In the agriculture labour class, the women were only able to combine wage labour with dairying if they lived in a joint or an extended family. Many women left their existing work, for taking care of animals.

The income from dairying was less than what the women would get for a day’s wage working for someone else. Getting work elsewhere was irregular and that is why many prefer a smaller regular income from dairying. Secondly they preferred this business because they could stay at home and take care of their children. Walking over 25 kms. Daily; with a load on one’s head was a lot of hard work which could be avoided by taking up dairying (Savara, 1986).

Women from Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable tribes have been covered in the study. Their customs, traditions, characteristics are discussed in the following part.

**3.12 COMMUNITIES OF THE WOMEN RESPONDENTS**

The main tribes found in this region are Vasava Bhil, Dubla, Gamit, Choudhri, Kokna, Dhodia, Warli, Bhil, Naika, Kolga, Kathods, and Kotwalia & Valvi-Padvi. The tribal in these regions are a heterogeneous people dialectically, socially and culturally. Each group has had a different history and a different rate of development during the last twenty years. In recent times one would observe that Choudharis, Gamits, Halpatis (Dhodias) have their own organizations which work for their own caste. (Joshi, 2003) It is very important to throw light on the communities included in the study. The communities which are involved in the study are as follows.
3.12.1 Chaudhari

People of this community primarily live in the region from Vapi, Navsari to Bharuch-Ankleshwar. On 2 October 2007, a new district Tapi was created by then Chief Minister Mr. Naredra Modi. This region includes villages like Vyara, Songadh, Valod, Ucchal, Nizar. These incidentally also happen to be the places where many of the Chaudhari live. While earlier, these were farming communities, many people sought employment in the government sector after the independence of India. The younger generation now has further diversified to find employment in government as well as private sector. Some are now competitive enough to prove themselves in this competitive world. Many however are yet to find their niche, skills and confidence to break the barriers and seek to move with the modern global India. (R.B Lal, et al. eds., n.d.)

Chaudharis, numbering 282,392, were found in Surat in Gujarat, in 2001 census, i.e. 3.8 percent, of the total ST Population of Gujarat. Chaudharis are also known as Choudhra. They speak Gujarati at home and with the other communities of the region. Settled cultivation is the main occupation of the Chaudharis. Their traditional community council (Panchayat) is headed by a karbhari and is constituted of elderly members. The Chaudharis are mostly Hindu, but some of them have embraced Christianity. They have derived benefits from the facilities provided by the government in the fields of education, health, medicare, and family welfare. Their women participate in social, ritual, and religious activities and contribute to the family income (Singh, 1998).

3.12.2 Gamit: Gamta, Gavit Mavchi, Padvi

Gamit, also known as Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi and Padvi, they migrated from their original home in Goa to Gujarat. In Maharashtra they call themselves Konkani Maratha and in Gujarat they have adopted the name Vasava. They speak the Gamit language. Presently they live in the hilly terrain and plains of the Surat, Tapi, Valsad, Dangs, and Bharuch district of Gujarat. Their population in Gujarat according to 2001 census was 3,54,362, i.e. 4.7 percent of the total ST population of Gujarat (http://censusindia.gov.in/Tables_Published/SCST/dh_st_gujarat). Women do the household jobs and also work as daily-wage labourers. Gamits are traditionally agriculturists. They have their own traditional community council. Most of the Gamits are Hindus but some of them have embraced Christianity. They have close relations with Dublas, and intercommunity marriages have taken place between the two communities.
The Gamit in Gujarat have their descent from solar clan. They hail from South Gujarat. The community is now found in districts of other region also. They speak Gamit language; and also now speak Gujarati, Hindi, and English.

The Gamit in Gujarat are found mainly in the south Gujarat region. Their settlements exist mainly in the hilly and forest terrain of the Satpuda range district including Dang, Tapi, Navsari, Surat, and Valsad. The Gamit are a community of farmers, with animal husbandry being a secondary occupation. They now most have high school and college education. They are monogamous and prefer adult marriage. Family planning programmes have elicited a favourable response from them (Singh,1998).

3.12.3 Halpati (Dubla)

Also known as Halpati, the Dublas are spread over the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and the Union Territories of Daman and Diu, and Nagar Haveli. Dubla are referred to as Halpati, hal meaning plough and pati meaning lord i.e. lords of the plough, referring to their occupation. Another interpretation is that hali means permanent agricultural labourer who ploughs the field of his landlords and his family also serves them. The name Halpati was given to them by Mahatma Gandhi to remove the stigma of bonded labour attached to them. (Singh, 1998)

Halpati, numbering 5,89,865, in 2001, i.e. 8 percent, of the total ST Population of Gujarat and 7,50,000 in 2011 are also found in Surat and Tapi. Their name is derived from Sanskrit durbala, a weakling. They are classed among the Kalipraja, i.e. dark race, a term commonly applied to the aboriginal tribes from Gujarat. (Gujarat State Gazetteers, 1961) Family welfare programmes are now very popular with them. In some instances they have received loans from banks for dairy farming. The Dublas were mobilized under the Halpati Movement to remove the bonded labour system. They were in bondage to the landowners till 1923 when agricultural slavery was abolished. Presently, they are marginal cultivators and mostly landless. A few Dublas who own land, carry out agriculture at subsistence level. Women play an important role in all aspects of tribal life-in agricultural operations, collection of fuel, bringing potable water, rearing of children and participation in social and religious rituals.
The Government of India has recognized five PTGs in Gujarat state, viz. Kotwalia, Kathodi-Katkari, Kolgha, Padhar and Siddi. Among these Kathodis and Kotwalia are included in the present study.

### 3.12.4 Kathodis

Kathodis are a primitive tribe probably of Bhil origin, also known as kathodis and Katkaris in the Thane and Kolaba districts. They are considered to be at the bottom of the tribal social ladder. Their name is derived from their profession of kattha or catechew making, the original occupation of the people now rarely pursued by them. Their peculiar dialect contains certain words common among Bhils and their customs, to some extent, indicate a Bhil origin. (Gujarat State Gazetteers, 1961)

In Gujarat, the Kathodis live in Surat, Tapi, Bharuch, Sabarkantha and Dang districts. They speak a corrupt form of Marathi at home. In Gujarat they work primarily as agriculturists and agricultural labourers. A sizeable section of them work as forest labourers. They also collect forest products like gum, honey, mahua, etc. and sell the same (Singh, 1998).

Kathodis are primarily animists. The percentage of literacy is very low amongst them. They are indifferent agriculturists. They gather fruits and to some extent they are hunters. They also prepare charcoal. Their women work hard, both as labourers and in bringing into market the head-loads of wood their husbands have gathered in the forests (Gujarat State gazetteers, 1961).

### 3.12.5 Kotwalia

Kotwalias in Gujarat are also known as Vitolia. They are nomadic in nature and wander about in bamboo forests. They are distributed in the plains and hills of the districts of Surat, Tapi, Valsad and Dangs of Gujarat. (Singh, 1998) Separate population figures for the Kotwalia are not available as they are grouped with Vitolia and Barodia. They speak the Kotwalia language among themselves.

Basketry is the traditional as well as the present day primary occupation of the Kotwalia. They have community councils to exercise social control. Their literacy rate was 17.19 percent according to 1981 census. They have positive attitude towards family planning. The
Kotwalia women participate in social and religious activities and also play an important economic role by contributing to their family income. (Singh, 1998)

Literacy-wise Kathodis are at the bottom with a combined-male and female literacy rate of 11.12 percent while the literacy rate of other communities was more or less equal, at about 26 percent. Most of these tribal groups are landless labourers eking out their livelihood by bamboo work and basket making, collection of minor forest produce (Kotwalia), cutting trees as forest labourers and making charcoal (Kathodi), agricultural labour (Kolgha), fishing and labour during monsoon season, cultivation and cattle rearing (Siddi) and labourers, digging roots as a food item (Padhar). It was also understood that Siddis are more vocal and articulate in getting the benefits of various schemes. This was so due to their lateral mobility. Some of them are working in the police, education and different district level departments. (Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, Government of India, n.d.)

3.12.6 Dhankan: Tadvi, Tetaria, Valvi

In Gujarat the Dhankan (ST) have three groups Tadvi, Valvi, and Tetaria, distributed over the Baroda, Bharuch, Surat, Tapi districts of south Gujarat.

Valvi are a forest tribe probably degraded sect of Gamit tribe. Economically they are perhaps the most depressed of the Raniparaj. (Gujarat State gazetteers, 1961) Their mother tongue is dhanki. They consume jowar, makai, bajra and wheat. Marriages are negotiated by the parents, but in some cases adults choose their partners. Widow, widower and divorcee remarriage is permissible. They are agriculturists; however the landless among them earn their livelihood as agricultural labourers, etc. They have their own traditional council. Their attitude towards family planning and allopathic medicine is positive. (Singh, 1998)

3.12.7 Vasava

Vasava is an early tribe, sometimes called Vasavada. They are found in Bharuch and Baroda. Enthoven calls the Vasava, ‘a subdivision of Dublas and Bhils’, and the Vasavda, ‘a synonym for Vasava Dublas’. (Gujarat State Gazetteer, p172, chapter III- The People and their Culture) The Vasava are a clan of the Bhil ethnic community found in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. They have scheduled tribe status. In Rajasthan, they are also known as Vasave. The Vasava in Gujarat trace their descent from Eklavya. They originally hail from south Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The community is now found in the districts of
Baroda, Surat, Tapi, Bharuch and Panchmahal. They speak Bhili language, although most can now speak Gujarati. (Lal, R. B. et al., eds., n.d.)

The Vasava of Gujarat is now an endogamous community and maintains village exogamy. They are traditionally a community of hunter-gatherers. Many are now agricultural labourers, and a few also own land. Those who own land grow paddy, sorghum, wheat, cereals and different kinds of pulses. The Vasava are Hindus, although they incorporate many folk beliefs. (Lal, R. B. et al., eds., n.d.)

3.13 CONCLUSION

Tapi district falls under Tribal Sub Plan Scheme as it is one of the economically backward districts of Gujarat. Education attainment levels in the district are significantly lower than the state average. As per 2011 estimates, the district has registered an overall literacy rate of 69.23 percent as against state average of 79.31 percent. Continuing regional and gender disparities in literacy rates is a key concern within the district. Similarly, the district has a male-female literacy gap of 15.17 percent as against 16.5 percent for Gujarat state. Efforts towards increasing inclusion focus in mass education programs are recommended to develop a quality workforce in Tapi district. (NSDC India, n.d.)

With regard to Sex Ratio in Tapi, it stood at 1004 females per 1000 males. It has improved compared to 2001 census figure of 996 females per 1000 males. While evaluating child gender ratio it was found that in 2011 census, child sex ratio was 953 girls per 1000 boys compared to the figure of 951 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census. (Tapi District: Census 2011 data, n.d.)

Tapi district is one of the tribal districts in Gujarat. Tapi shows improvement in CBR, TFR, IMR and MMR. There is consistent decline in home deliveries but still in 2-3 Talukas institutional delivery is almost 50 percent. In Nizer and Uchchal Taluka home delivery remains common due to lack of adequate infrastructure and man power. The Talukas being far from district head quarter, due to unavailability of private infrastructure and vacant position of gynecologist and pediatrician at CHC/FRU still contributes largely home deliveries. It is very difficult to break cultural barriers. A specific intervention of ASHA and DAI could bring about positive changes in this concern. Although outreach services
(MAMTA SANDHRBH) are being strengthened in both Talukas (Tapi District Profilepipnrhm-mohfw.nic.in/index_files/non/District percent20Profile/AD.pdf)

Studies have shown that hemorrhage is the single major cause of maternal deaths, especially in rural areas. Hemorrhage, puerperal sepsis, obstructed labour, abortions and toxemia account for more than three-quarters of maternal deaths in India. Anemia is the leading cause among the “other causes”, followed by pregnancy with TB/malaria, viral hepatitis and others factors. In Gujarat, 61 percent of pregnant women were anemic according to National Family Health Survey - NFHS-3 (apps.searo.who.int) (Title of the publication is required) (Development Environment in Gujarat since2005, Improving Maternal and Child Health in Gujarat: Initiatives for Achieving MDG 4 &5 N.D.).

With 30 primary healthcare centers, 5 community healthcare centers and 1hospital, Tapi is considered to be a highly penetrated district with regard to healthcare, with each institution being required to cater to an average of 20,163 people. (NSDC India, n.d.)

Due to constant efforts of the state government, in many HDI indicators Tapi has shown improvement. Women have become very active, assertive and are concerned with issues relating to them and their surroundings. For education, particularly secondary and higher education has to be improved. Home deliveries should be completely stopped. For that ASHA’s responsibility, infrastructural facilities, awareness among tribal women has to be improved.

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Map Reference: Gujarat & Tapi – Google Map