Merger of Rajpur with BMC implies that formally the village has become a non entity. However, informally the community settlement remains with its order now facing new forces competing with the traditional order creating situations in which the traditional structure gets exposed to new-urban order. The urban technical order and the rural agrarian order operate as competing forces. This naturally affects some of the basic institution such as economy, caste, kinship, family etc., and results into redefinition of roles in these institutional spheres.

Qualitative change in the pattern of life rural to urban however imposed, is bound to affect individuals. For some, who can foresee the trend and adjust accordingly, if may open up new opportunities leading to betterment of life while those who cannot adjust to the new situation it may affect them adversely. The following cases reveal these trends in terms of "Hopes" and "Despairs."

1. Case of a landlord Patidar -- days of despair:

In the year 1963 JP was 41 years old and was staying with his parents. He owned (jointly) 100 acres of land. JP
had three sons and one daughter and their respective ages were 9, 7, 5 and 4 years. JP himself was educated upto 7th standard but he had great desire to educate his children. He, therefore, sent his children to Baroda city for primary education, where, in his belief, they can get better education and training.

Both, JP and his father (60 yrs. old) were looking after agriculture. They were taking the crops of cotton and tobacco. Most of their land was irrigated with tube-well which was owned by his brother, who was staying separately. The main source of family income was agriculture. JP had three buffalos and milk was consumed by the family members and whatever surplus was sold to four migrant families. JP had a very big old house and also a separate cattleshed. Two village Bhil families were working on his farm — the women of these families were doing household chores. Agricultural labourers were easily available in those days.

By 1983 JP had become old and his two sons and daughter were already married. JP's father and mother separated from them and have taken their share of land. Within a period of 20 years JP incurred expenditure on building a big house, installation of a tube-well of his own and gave dowry to his daughter and spent big amount in marriage. All the three sons of JP could not study further, they discontinued their studies after doing one year of the college. They could
not even engage in any other activity except supervising their agriculture. They forced JP to buy one scooter and one moped on which they visited their farms. Due to these vehicles the frequency of visiting city increased. JP often used to ask their sons either to take any job or undertake business but they did not hear him. On the other side JP was finding difficulty in doing agriculture, he has become old, shortage of labourers and crop-protection are the main problems. The family expenditure has increased but the source of income has remained only agriculture. JP's puzzling problem is that Government has given him notice under the Urban land ceiling Act to take away 25 acres of excess land. JP has gone to the court for justice. His biggest worry is that what will happen to his sons if the entire land will be taken. According to JP merger has affected his agriculture.

2. Case of a Patidar — from top to bottom a downward mobility:

This is the case of a Patidar who now doesn't have land to cultivate. CN is 58 years old and educated up to 3rd standard. He had 20 acres of land in 1963. CN was staying with his elder brother MN who is now 63 years old. It was a joint family as both married brothers were staying with their widowed mother.
Both the brothers with the help of Chakar were cultivating the land. This 20 acres of land was near the road. It was the single plot of 20 acres, so they could plough it conveniently. They were hard workers and cultivated the crops of cotton and tobacco. They were not very rich but were living the life comfortably.

RN had 2 daughters and 2 sons, of which the elder daughter was of marriagable age. CN had no children at that time. Now it so happened that during 1968-69, consecutively for two years the yield of cotton and tobacco was poor. Thus, the family had money crisis. RN’s worry was about his daughter and he wanted to celebrate the marriage with conspicuous display. His family had the status in the village. The process of selling the land was going on. AR ex-Sarpanch and Talati approached RN and discussed the matter about selling his land. RN was convinced but CN was reluctant. In the meantime an industrialist offered a good amount for the land. It was Rs. 10,000 per acre. AR convinced his mother and asked her to pursuade CN. AR and Talati increased their frequency of meetings with CN and ultimately he had to succumb.

In 1970 the entire plot of 20 acres passed on from CN and RN to industrialist. The amount they got was Rs.2,00,000. The family decided to build a good new house, for this contract
was given to a contractor. The new house was designed in such a way that it can be rented out. They had very big old house with adjoining enclosure which was demolished for constructing a new one. As both brothers had no idea about buying the materials, contractor got good margin out of this contract. The house was ready by 1972, they (both brothers) accommodated in two rooms which were very big and other eight rooms were rented out to eight different non-Gujarati migrant families. The rent was fixed at Rs. 60/- per room. Thus, the total rental income was Rs. 480/- per month. In those days it was considered a good amount in the village.

RN spent nearly fifty thousand rupees after the marriage of his daughter. The real trouble started when their mother died, and CN became father of a daughter. People started telling him and his wife about the future of their daughter. The conflict within the family started and ultimately both brothers separated. Since the land was sold away the only property left for division was the house. As a result of division each brother got 4 rooms occupied by tenants and a rental income of Rs. 240/- per month.

RN's son was a very mediocre student who left studies after his primary education. He wanted a job. RN approached the same industrialist to whom he had sold his land on which the big chemical industry was established by the
industrialist. RN requested the owner of the factory to give job to his son. He offered a job of a worker as RN's son had no degree.

CN's economic position was worst in 1983, he had three more children. They were six members in the family, CN, his wife, 2 daughters and 2 sons. The only income was from the rent. CN requested his tenants to pay him more rent but they flatly refused, on the contrary they claimed the ownership as they were old tenants. CN has no bullock or buffalo. He has sold away the agricultural implements also. It is not possible for him to lease in the land for cultivation. He also approached the same factory owner for the job but he was offered the labourer's job. CN has joined the factory with great despair. He thinks it is below dignity to work in this position but there is no way out.

CN is repenting a lot for the mistake he committed along with his brother. He says "once I was the owner of the land and with pride and dignity I was cultivating it. Today on the same land I work as a labourer, I never dreamt such miserable days."

3. Case of a Patidar — Struggle for maintaining the position:

DB a Patidar landholder had 15 acres of land in 1963 but sold away nearly 6 acres of land to a factory owner. He
renovated his house from the money he got by way of compensa-
tion. He is now a medium cultivator. There are 3 adult males in the family, himself, his two elder sons. Formerly, he employed one Bhil chakar to work on the farm. Now he has to employ labourers on daily wages.

Bhils of Rajpur now do not want to work as full time chakars, so DB invited one migrant tribal Bhil family from outside. He wanted to train this tribal chakar with the routine work of agriculture but he left the village. Thus, in the absence of permanent labourers (chakars) he has make it with daily wage labourers. He and his sons also have to look after the agriculture.

DB and Tamboli are good friends, even DB knows that the cultivation of vegetables is more paying but he has his own limitations. Tambolis are staying on the farm and they work themselves. DB's sons at the most supervise the agriculture but they do not work on the farm. Under such constraints DB is taking the crops of vegetables. He was narrating his difficulties in carrying out the agriculture in the present situation. Once his entire crop of brinjals was destroyed due to leakage of chemical gas from one of the nearby factories. The brinjals were about to mature, but the crop suddenly failed because of the gas leakage from the factory.
He approached the owner of the factory for compensation but he did not care to hear him. DB wanted to agitate for this but he did not get support from Patidars and Barias, as particularly they were not the sufferers. DB again approached the owner and requested for the compensation but the owner was firm, he only agreed to give the expenditure which DB incurred on it.

Next year he selected the other farm for the crop of cauliflower and the yield was good, but labourers were not easily available to transport it to the market and the prices were low. As population pressure on the outskirts of the village is much, it has become difficult for the cultivators to protect their crops from petty thefts. DB and his two sons have to continuously watch the crop, even during night time he has to sleep on the farm.

DB has not rented his house so the expenditure he incurred on the renovation of house by selling 6 acres of land is not compensated. He faces constraints of merger in carrying out the cultivation.

4. Case of a Baria — from landlord to landless labourer:

This is the case of a big landholder from Baria caste whose family's economic position is now poor. RB the head of the family was holding more than 20 acres of land in
1963. His entire land was goradu (yellowish) and the main road was little away from his fields. He was the only son of his father and he had only one son and a daughter. Due to the limited family members he was not interested in cultivating his own land, he leased out the part of the land. Whenever he needed money he resorted to mortgaging his land. The other important thing was that RB was also a factory worker. He was happy with his resources.

RB had a dominating personality and was very aggressive in temperament. Drinking and gambling were the two vices he indulged in. He was known as mischief-monger and so the Patidars used to avoid him. Barias were taking the advantage of RB's temperament by putting him against Patidars.

RB's debt was increasing because of the vices of drinking and gambling. He was not in a position to take back his mortgaged land. He was advised by AR and Talati to dispose off the land so that he can be debt free. He agreed and sold away the entire land. He did not get much compensation because his fields were scattered and the main road was quite away from his fields. The total compensation amounted to was nearly Rs. one lakh and fifty thousand. He paid off his debt. The rest of the amount he utilized for building a house. He constructed a small house with two storeys. He rented the upper story to a migrant family from
RB's son who did not study further became a rickshaw-driver. Once his son was caught red-handed by the police when he was indulging in bringing illicit liquor from a nearby village in his rickshaw. RB's trouble increased because he had to pay bribe to the police. RB also continued his habits of drinking and gambling. RB's tenant (Upians) was advancing loan and gradually this amount was increased upto Rs. 40,000. This migrant family had better economic condition in its native place. This family was in need of a permanent house in the village. RB mortgaged the entire house to his tenant. In his sixties he became the patient of HB and retired from his job. His son was not earning much and he had the same habit of drinking. The migrant family prepared the legal documents and asked RB to vacate the house, nobody came to his rescue. He vacated the house and is now staying in a hutment colony. He got this place because of the Baria Corporator. His son and daughter are still unmarried. He is not able to work, his wife and daughter are now agricultural labourers.

RB was motivated to sell away the land and migrant family took away the possession of house. Few Barias have taken the lesson from RB and struggle to maintain and organize whatever land they have.
5. Case of a Baria — Systematic Planning — happy days

A medium landholder turned into small landholder and is happy with the position. This is the case of a Baria who was medium landholder in 1963. HS had nearly 10 acres of land which was cultivated jointly. HS and his younger brother (both married) were staying together with their widowed mother. HS had three children and his brother had four. In all 12 family members were depending on income mainly drawn from agriculture. The very little subsidiary income was drawn from two buffalos. The family owned two bullocks and all agricultural implements. Both brothers were cultivating the land. As agriculture was the only main source of income it was difficult for the family to cover family and social expenditures.

All the 10 acres of land was under the dry cultivation as there was no water facility nearby for irrigation. The main crops cultivated were cotton, paddy and kodra. The yield of cotton, paddy and kodra was not steady and cotton prices were staggering. Thus, family had to adjust with economic situation. After the death of their mother around 1970, the family was separated, land was divided and the house was partitioned into two blocks. The pair of bullocks and implements were also divided. HS after division of the family became more active and organized his family activities in the following manner.

Two sons of HS who were now grown up joined the factory jobs. The jobs they are doing are hard and laborious
but they started earning. Thus, both the sons earn Rs. 29/- per day. HS formed the pair of bullocks by exchange with one of the Vankers. HS knows all the agricultural operations, first he cultivates his and his partner's farm. As and when he finds spare time during cultivation he does the ploughing work in other's field. He charged (now) Rs. 30/- per day and makes the extra earning. According to his estimate he earns nearly Rs. 600/- during the monsoon season. He cultivates paddy and tuver, he discontinued cultivating cotton as he doesn't get advantage and no fodder is gained out of this crop. HS's wife now looks after 4 buffalos, she takes proper care. HS has constructed the small cattleshed on the farm where he keeps his bullocks and buffalos. He earns good income from milk, on an average every 10 days he collects Rs. 250/- from the Milk Co-operative Society. In this dairying work his elder daughter is helping her mother.

According to HS his economic position is better compared to the one while living in joint family. He says "today I get cash in my hand through I can buy any other goods or things. Formerly, it was income for maintaining the family, we were not in position to buy better and sufficient clothes for the family members. Today we have better clothes, I have renovated my house, brought radio and cots. My sons like to buy better things. I will be able to spend good amount for my daughters' and sons' marriages. The only thing is that we will
have to work round the clock. My brother's position has not improved much because he has no planning like me. His sons do not like to work in the factory. They look after agriculture but they are too many to subsist on the small holding.

According to him "so long as land remains there will be no problem but if land will go, (by acquisition) our dairying will be affected."

6. Case of a Valand -- From barbery to agriculture:

The Barbers in the village Rajpur had no direct contribution to make to the agricultural pursuits of the Patidar and Baria landowners. Their services were required so often by the agriculturists, especially in their socio, religious ceremonies and rituals connected with birth, marriage and death.

In 1963 FM was following his traditional occupation of barbery. He had in his share a few families of Patidars and Barias as their customers. FM had five acres of land which he leased away to one of the Barias, FM's mother was a known dai (mid-wife) in the village. She was attending on all women except untouchables at the time of delivery. She was getting pucca food from Patidars and Kaqhha from Barias. She was not charging anything from Bhils.
FM had three sons, the elder one was in S.S.C. and two younger sons were studying in Primary school. FM was attending and giving his services to Patidars and Barias at the time of marriage and death rituals. He had to visit thrice a week at the customers place for shaving and hair cutting. As FM had few customers to attend he was also doing agricultural work during the rest of the time.

In 1983 the economic condition of FM was changed. He left his traditional occupation. His elder son passed the S.S.C. examination and did the diploma in technician. He is now in the Faculty of Science, M.S. University of Baroda, working as laboratory assistant. He is proud of this job because it is a university job. He did not like his father's occupation not only that but he didn't learn it and never helped his father in his work. The other two sons have also studied upto S.S.C. One of them is working in the factory and another one is helping his father in agricultural operations.

FM is keeping one bullock and two buffalos. He is cultivating his land and also leasing in the land of Barias. At present he has 10 acres of land. His elder son has opened the small retail shop which he keeps open in the morning till 10.00 a.m. and in the evening after 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. The income of the family has increased and all the members live a better life than before. FM doesn't get time for his
traditional occupation he has now left it. He cultivates land with enough care and gets good yield out of it.

7. Case of a Bhil from Chakar to Push cart owner:

During 1963 and even before that TC's father, his brother and himself were serving as chakars at Brahmin family. TC's father served as Chakar for more than 20 years at Brahmin's place, after he became old TC continued at the same Brahmin's place. TC's brother separated and joined as Chakar at Patidar's place. TC and his wife working at Brahmin's house were treated as family members. Getting-up between 4.30 a.m. to 5.00 a.m, they invariably reached at Brahmin's house in the early morning. His wife's routine started with cleaning the cattle-shed and then to clean house, chowk and utensils. She had to bring water from the well and also wash clothes. Both were given break-fast (tea and rotla) in the morning. TC was given his two time meals, whereas his was given the left over food. In this way TC and his wife had to perform routine work of agriculture and also the household work. In this way TC passed more than 15 years of his life as chakar and that too only with Brahmin family. The present researcher had observed TC and his family very closely in 1963. The clothes they used to put on were second hand and torned. His three children 2 sons and 1 daughter were roaming about half-naked. His residence was a small hut with very few utensils of brass and aluminium.
The following change was found in the family in 1983.

TG's two sons have grown up and married. His elder son has become a peon in Government Office and is getting good salary and fringe benefits. Due to this position he got married with a girl who has passed 10th standard and trained in tailoring and cutting. Her father gave a sewing machine to her in marriage. In fact among Bhils, instead of dowry, bride-price is the prevailing practice. When she brought sewing machine with her, Bhil women assembled to see it, this has raised the status of TG in his community. His daughter-in-law is stitching clothes and derive extra income. TG's second son is doing a job in a nearby factory. His wife is 6th standard pass.

TG has purchased a push-cart and selling patty things like parched corn, piperment, berries etc. He takes push-cart near the school and sits from morning 8.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. He earns Rs. 20 to 25 a day and is happy with the new job. He keeps small diary and maintains account. TG has renovated his hut with the extension of two rooms. He has purchased two cots, radio, table fan, tube-light, moped, alarm clock and few stainless steel utensils. His status has raised in his community.

8. Case of a Vanker family — intergeneration mobility:

The present researcher has seen the four generations of this Vanker family within the span of 20 years. In 1963,
the head of the family IB, was 81 years old whom the researcher had interviewed. IB and his wife were old and were passing their old age. His son KI who was 55 years old was a factory worker and his grand son HK was (B.Com.) Accountant in G.E.B., and great grand son NH 7 years old. NH was in 3rd standard, MH was in 1st standard. All these members were staying together. IB and his wife were agricultural labourers and were supposed to help khalpa in dragging the dead cattles. They were getting handful of corn and dead cattles' flesh to eat. This was discontinued after independence. In 1963, IB was enjoying the status of old respected man in Vanker fallia and was proud of his son KI and grand son HK because they were doing jobs. His grand son HK was the only Commerce Graduate in the entire village. This was the matter of pride for him. HK was taking keen interest in the education of his children. IB has a good house but had few utensils and no furniture in the house.

In 1983 the situation of the family has changed, IB and Mrs. IB died and KI retired from the factory job. Now the family consists of Mr. and Mrs. KI (in their seventies), their son HK 50 years old holding the position of Senior Accountant and their grand sons NH who is reading for M.D. and MH who is a steno-typist in G.E.B. KI who is now the head of the family is the oldest member in the family and in Vanker fallia. Whatever amount KI received after his retirement was given to HK for constructing a new house, in addition
to this HK took loan for making a better house. HK has purchased furniture. He has new steel locker, radio, scooter, stainless steel utensils and crockery. MH who is reading for M.D. at Surat is thinking to open his private clinic nearby city. MH who is steno-typist in G.E.B. is satisfied with his job because it is a Government job.

HK thinks that this sort of economic development of the family was possible only because of nearness of the city. The proximity of the city has given us education and jobs. We could stay in the village and can take the advantage of the city, otherwise it is very difficult to get the house and job in the city.

9. Case of a Khalpa family -- merger affected the occupation:

As reported by some of the elderly villagers there were 7 families of Khalpas who were carrying the dead cattles of the village. These families migrated to the nearby village some 60 years ago. Villagers had to inform these families about dead cattles and wait till they come from that village to Rajpur. In this way disposal of dead cattles was really a problem for the villagers, but later on around 1940 the present family of KB was settled in Rajpur. Villagers provided him the place outside the village, where he can stay and can do
the cleaning job. Since then KB is looking after the job of carrying the dead cattle.

As this was the only family of KHALPA, villagers forced Tankers of Bajpur to help KB in dragging the dead cattle. But after independence Tankers discontinued their help. KB had to seek help from the owner of the dead cattle, instead of dragging the dead cattle, a bullock cart was provided to take it away.

KB was serving in Yamuna Mills at Baroda where he served for more than 10 years. It was a hard labour job in the Mills, so he left it and came to settle in Bajpur village. He agreed to look after the traditional job of carrying the dead cattle. The place which was given by the villagers was very big, KB enclosed the entire area by creating the fence. According to KB he was happy with the job. He was getting food grains from the owner of the dead cattle for his services. He could get money out of selling the skin of the cattle. He was also a cobbler.

After the merger of the village Public Health Department of B.M.C. applied its rules and regulations to the village Bajpur. The rule regarding the dead cattle is that it should be removed within three hours after its death.
dead cattle should be hurried according to the B.M.C. rule
(i.e., in a particular place and hurried in a ditch of specified dimension). In case one applies for carrying away the
dead cattle the specified charge of Rs. 5 is levied from the
owner by the B.M.C. The carcassing of the dead cattle is
not allowed by the B.M.C. in a residential area. Thus, KB
was informed by the B.M.C. not to do the carcassing on the
village site. The specified place for this job was allotted
by the B.M.C. to KB which was one kilometer away from the
village.

It is now really difficult for KB to carry the dead
cattle to that place. Secondly, he has to carcass the cattle
and leave the skin for the city cobblers who are the contrac-
tors for taking the skin and selling it to the businessmen.
These contractors get Rs. 400/- per one cattle's skin. KB
doesn't get amount, he has to clean the skin for which he
gets Rs. 60/- only. Now KB has to carry away dead cattle
one kilometer away from the village and has to clean it. In
this way city contractor through B.M.C. comes in his way and
he doesn't get the chance to earn. KB requested the present
Corporator to construct the surrounding wall nearby his
residence, so that he can do the job of cleaning and can earn
money. He even requested the villagers in this matter but
nothing has happened. KB a factory worker turned to a
traditional caste job and the time came where he can earn due money, but to B.M.C. rules he has no chance to earn at least livelihood.

The above mentioned few case-studies indicate that changes which have occurred due to merger have affected different groups differently. Patidar landlords face the problem of labour shortage. Cultivation for this group is difficult now, they have to struggle with the situation. Those who sold away the entire land and could not utilize money for better source of income have become economically weak. The traditionally disadvantaged groups like Bhils and Tankers seem to have benefitted by the change, whereas Khalpa was to suffer due to merger. This process of transformation is still going on and in the long run it may bring still many more changes with hopes and despairs to many.