Chapter - I

INTRODUCTION

India is predominantly a country of villages which comprises more than eighty per cent of her population. The traditions of India are rooted in the villages and it is the transformation of social life at the village level that can really contribute to change in Indian Society as such. Since the early 1950's Indian, American and British Anthropologists have been studying rural communities in India. Most of these studies are descriptive in nature and are centered around facets of culture and/or social structural elements, rather than the study of situations as part of the ongoing interaction processes within the Indian Society. Collections of reports on such village studies have been published in three important books: (i) India's Villages: Edited by M.N. Srinivas (1955); (ii) Village India : Edited by McKim Marriot (1955); and (iii) Rural Profiles ; Edited by D.N. Majumdar (1955).

No doubt some of these studies do give an account to the reader, a grass root view about villages.

Some insightful civil administrators of the East India Company made several on the spot studies of Indian rural communities. Even few economists have drawn their attention to village studies. They have published valuable account of Indian rural life. (Mann, Aiyyar and Mukhtya).
But these studies, although comprehensive, depict only a partial picture of rural life. They give detailed account of agricultural and economic aspects leaving aside the social matrix of the rural life. Also we have published reports on research studies sponsored by the Research Programmes Committee, Planning Commission. These studies cover various facets of Indian Society. During the past few years a number of sociologically oriented studies have appeared on changes that are taking place in the villages of India.

In order to acquire a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the nature, content and direction of such changes, many more village studies are still required, because rural society in India has a traditional economic, political and religious structure. The traditional village system has been undergoing structural and functional transformation as a result of various forces. This transformation has been quickened after Independence, which has played a decisive role. The leading sources of change in India's countryside after the independence have been planning, land legislation and urbanization.

An investigation into the village life, in general, covering such aspects as health, housing, education, ceremonial and customary practices, land tenure, family, caste organizations, leadership and panchayats, and the changes
that have taken place in the structure and function of the village organisation can be helpful in properly planning of rural society. Studies covering such aspects are many. Social change in the village has been the focus of study in many village studies. In such studies one or two factors either endogenous or exogenous or a combination of both are taken into consideration, for example, the impact of irrigation on economic and social organization has been studied both by Epstein (1962) and Orenstein (1965) villages Wangala in Mysore State and Gaon in Maharashtra respectively. In both these authors have studied how irrigation has changed the economic and social organizations of these villages. Orenstein has mentioned "irrigation helped to produce a new attitude towards time and the organization of work." Even the introduction of a new commercial crop in the village brings change. The study of Haria village in South Gujarat region by V.H. Joshi (1966) states that "with the advent of ahus (Alphonso) cultivation, money became the chief medium of exchange and money economy was becoming more and more prominent."

In India, after independence large scale industries have been set up and are constantly expanding. The expansion of industrialization brings about changes in rural communities. Very often occupational changes increase the material wealth of the village community. Agricultural labour will be replaced and sometimes supplemented by factory labour
as Kapadia and Pillai (1972) in their study of 'Atul' have shown how factory workers have been drawn from nineteen different surrounding villages. Establishment of a large scale industries results in the displacement of large number of families from their land. Not infrequently, the government forces the sale of land to the factory through Land Acquisition Department. Similarly in case of constructing a multipurpose irrigation project outtees have to lose their land, employment and place of residence. In such cases, compensation is always less than villager's expectation and payment is delayed.

In the case of an irrigation project villages face submergence. Government makes efforts to rehabilitate them elsewhere. This problem has attracted the attention of the researchers to study such situations. Center for Social Studies, Surat has done good number of studies in this regard.

The setting-up of a new factory or town on village land has the same displacement effect. A good example of displacement without absorption occurred at Rourkela and Durgapur with the construction of the new government-sponsored steel plants. Vithal Babu reports that in the four years prior to October, 1958, land acquisition took 20,488 acres, affecting 32 villages, of which 16 were fully evacuated. Babu reports "out of the 2,400 displaced families, nearly
800 families have been resettled in the Jalda Colony and about 400 in the Jhirpani Colony. The rest of the 1,200 families are still in the villages which were partially evacuated till November 1958, while a few families have gone to the twelve reclamation colonies in the interior forests. It was found that only old people are going to the reclamation areas to carry on agriculture while able-bodied men and women are either in urban resettlement colonies or in the surrounding areas in search of job opportunities.

Thus oustees, displaced or evacuees have their problems of adjustment in the new settlement. In Gujarat near Baroda a huge complex of IPCL (Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited) has come-up. It has a big residential colony also. The village Dhanora nearby this complex has been taken-up by this complex. The village comprises 241 households with a population of 1,319 (1961). In the initial stage villagers agreed to move to the new settlement which was constructed by the government costing Rs. 45 lakhs. The villagers of Dhanora unitedly decided not to move from the original place. According to the Lokesatta a Gujarati daily (24-6-1985) their protests are as follows:

(i) There are 150 youths in the village who are still unemployed, should get employment in IPCL.

(ii) Those who own cement concrete buildings cannot take the material with them, like those who own old houses can sell the tins and timber as second hand material.
(iii) The new houses are not according to their specifications and it is difficult for big families to live in small quarters."

Rural-urban migration of the population has also swept the hilly tribal people in India and they are found scattered in adjoining areas of industrial and urban centers in Bihar (Ranchi, Bokaro, Sindri, Jharia), West Bengal (Chittaranjan, Jamshedpur, Durgapur, Raniganj), Madhya Pradesh (Bhillai) and Orissa (Rourkela). These and many other industries have affected the villages and migrants. Like industrialization, urbanization is also an important factor which has brought about changes in the village structure.

The following three studies are different from the above studies because these studies deal with the fringe villages or with the rural area in an urban setting.

M.S.A. Rao's (1970) study of Yadavpur village which is situated at a distance of seven miles from Delhi, and well connected with the city both by roads and railway. The total no. households are 201 which comprise 18 different castes with the total population of 1170. The growth of the city of Delhi created diversified opportunities of market gardening, dairy and poultry farming, trade and transport and urban employment stimulating economic changes in Yadavpur.
The economic opportunities that the developing city offered and initiated a series of new activities for the villagers, signalling a point of departure from their traditional activities. The range of alternatives became wide and diverse permitting the villagers a large scope for exercising choice. Ahirs took to vegetable gardening in preference to dairy farming. Poultry farming was only a theoretical possibility since Ahirs were vegetarians. Ahirs of Yadavpur considered dairy farming as less prestigious. Although the constraint of tradition operated against market gardening as there was no tradition for growing vegetables for market, they were able to overcome these because they were attracted by the economic gains. Urban employment and occupational mobility have initiated a process of differentiation in the traditional status system based on ownership of land. There are new criteria of differentiation based on income, occupation and education. Modern urban occupation has a prestige element and some are more prestigious than others. The processes of change that have occurred in the economic activities of the people of Yadavpur bear a close relationship with the changes that have occurred in the political organization.

Second study is of Y. Subhashini Subrahmanyan's study (1975) of Davapurum the village lies in the East Godavari District of Andhra. The main town Kakinada is at a distance of 6 kilometres with the population of 2721.
There are 15 castes among which 367 are Kapus (agriculturist) 27% are Setti Balji (toddy tappar caste). The main emphasis of the study is to examine the overall changes in different spheres with their implications in the existing social structures. The villages at Devapuram are finding that being a Brahmin is no longer important. At Kakinada they find that education has provided a means for occupational mobility irrespective of caste. Prestige is attached to the white collar jobs achieved through education. Ascribed statuses are losing relevance. Devapuram can also be bracketed along with these villages experiencing change in the sense that exogenous forces have initiated change which has been accelerated by other economic motivations arising within the village. These economic motivations find expression at Devapuram due to its fringe location.

Third study is about Rural Population in Indian Urban setting by Jakka Parthasarathy (1984). The study aims at delineating the life of people in an old village settlement in an urban environment. In the north-west sector of Mysore city, there is an old village settlement, called Paduvarahalli. This was a village settlement some forty years back and was about 3 kms. from Mysore city. The development of Mysore city in the last forty years has engulfed Paduvarahalli. This study is good contribution to the field of social anthropology. The author has studied 289 households by way of sampling. There was no baseline data available for
this study for comparison. The study shows that though the people lost their lands during the expansion of Mysore city, the cultivators of Paduvarahalli managed to retain or buy lands outside the Municipal boundary and continued to depend on agriculture. It indicates further that the people of Paduvarahalli continue to practise a traditional occupation like agriculture, because of lack of sufficient, suitable economic opportunities in the urban centres. The traditional village panchayat, continues to exercise its power and authority, on the socio-economic, political and religious spheres of the settlement. Caste disputes and petty quarrels often crop up in the settlement, which are settled by the village panchayat. New settlers do not participate in the affairs of the grama panchayat. The village Rajpura has quite different empirical situation, compared to the above studies. This village is under the impact BMC. Villagers still have the land to cultivate. Thus, culturally, socially and economically the village provides an entirely different situation for study.

The Present Study

The present study departs from the above mentioned studies in the sense that it aims at analysing the rural community, which became a part of Baroda Municipal Corporation on 1st December, 1973, due to its merger with the city boundary (see Map No.II). The pen-name of this rural
community is Rajpur. Which is 9 kilometers away from Baroda. It formed part of Baroda Taluka in 1965 (see Map No. 1). After the merger village is under the jurisdiction of Baroda Municipal Corporation. Instead of Rajpur village it became the administrative unit of Ward No. 6 of Baroda City. The Village Panchayat has been dissolved. In 1981 District Census, Hand book of Baroda District the village Rajpur will cease to exist in the list of village directory because it has become an urban area. In this sense it is a merged village.

A puzzling question for a researcher is that, how then it is called a village? Though it is the part of an urban area and under the jurisdiction of Baroda city, still however, researcher ventures to call it a village because of its sociological reality. Economic organization based on agriculture is still persisting. Out of 1355 acres of arable land, still villagers have 855 acres of land under cultivation. The entire land has not gone for urban use. Secondly, primary relations based on hierarchically arranged caste groups are still pivotal in day-to-day social interactions. Due to these core or dominant institutional orders one can say that Rajpur is still a village.

In course of time such villages become full fledged urban complexes. This is so, for example in Baroda like Nizampura, Nagarwada, Wadiwadi where the huge buildings,
colonies and shopping centres have come-up. According to
1951 Baroda District Census, these were the villages, with
agricultural land to till (Appendix Table: 1 ). At present
it is very difficult to locate or identify the original
village contours.

Thus, before the village Rajpur becomes a part
of the fullfledged urban complex it is significant to study
this village because the process is still not completed. In
future this may be transformed into urban complex.

It is the general assumption that urbanization
brings modernization and development. This is true in the
case of village Rajpur. Today in the village Rajpur there
are neonlights on the streets, broad, neat and clean tarball
road laid throughout the village. Water and drainage system
is perfectly working. A number of new houses have been
constructed and most of the old ones are renovated (see
Map No. V). Urban facilities such as post and telegraph,
Bank and City bus service have been extended. Different
industries have opened the avenues of job opportunities.
Obviously, one can easily say that Rajpur is developed, even
villagers 'feel' that they have become 'Shaheria' (urbanized).

These physical changes in terms of infrastructural
facilities are the observable facts. For whom are these
things useful? Which groups of this village are exploiting
these facilities? Even many more questions can be raised if
we look into the social structural aspects of Rajpur village. There are 14 main and 29 sub-castes which are hierarchically arranged. There are different categories of land holders like marginal, small, medium and big. There are households of Suthar, Iuhar, Kumbhar and Valand who were giving their services based on Jarmani System. The weaker sections like Vaghari, Bhil (ST) and Scheduled Castes (Vanker, Khalpa and Bhangi) who were agricultural labourers once. The village panchayat was functioning in its traditional way. The main question to be examined is therefore what happens when such a typical Indian village merges into a big city?

If we glance at the census figures of last three decades, it clearly indicates that bigger cities have become more and more bigger. Thus in the near future, more and more villages surrounding large cities will be engulfed by them. This type of study will therefore be significant in bringing out what happens to the traditional structure when it is merged into a big city.

In order to set the present study into proper perspective the following sections have been taken into consideration.
Urbanization and urban growth, though conceptually interrelated, are defined with different connotations. Urbanization is more commonly used to imply the process of becoming urban, moving to cities and corresponding changes in behavioral patterns. Thus in this process of urbanization urban values are diffused, people move from rural areas to cities. While urban growth implies the whole process of social change involving the development of a series of physical and non-physical phenomena which characterize an urban system. In the process of urban growth surrounding areas are developing and producing the new physical structures of human agglomerations in the form of townships.

If we glance at the existing literature in the area of urbanization it indicates very clearly that most of the authors have conceptualized urbanization in terms of demographic aspects of city growth. Even it is true that no worthwhile analysis of urbanization can afford to be isolated from the demographic or the industrial contexts.

(1962:3)

According to Kingsley Davis "Looking at urbanization from a demographic point of view - that is, as the proportion of the population living in towns and cities - we know that India is in the midst of a gigantic urban increase."
Her situation in this respect resembles, at least in a general way, the stage that other countries either are in now or have passed through at an earlier time. We know this because an increase in urbanization is closely linked with industrialization, or overall economic development. " This can be substantiated by looking into the provisional population totals of 1981 census. The following figures of urban population give an idea about urbanization in India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Urban population (in mil.) to total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>10.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>11.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>12.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>14.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>17.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>18.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>20.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>23.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus urban population as percent to total population is fast increasing, along with this a notable feature of urban development in India has been rapid growth of cities and large metropolitan centres. Demographic concepts like rural, urban, town, urban area, urban agglomerations, standard urban area varies from country to country and from one census
year to another. For example census definition of 'town' remained more or less the same for the period of 1901 to 1951 and that it was only in 1961 that several modifications were made. Again in 1971 the concept of urban agglomeration was introduced. An urban agglomeration is by definition the continuous urban area consisting of a core town and its adjoining urban outgrowths which may be either urban in their own right or rural. It would be appropriate to look into the census tables given below, which give an idea of expansion of towns or cities, both at all India level and at Gujarat level also.
Table: No. 1

Number of urban agglomerations and towns in India 1901 - 1981 (Excluding J & K and Assam)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I 1,00,000 &amp; above</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>216</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II 50,000 to 99,999</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>270</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III 20,000 to 49,999</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>739</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV 10,000 to 19,999</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>1048</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V 5,000 to 9,999</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>1146</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>742</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI Less than 5,000</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total I to VI</td>
<td>1834</td>
<td>1776</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>2049</td>
<td>2210</td>
<td>2844</td>
<td>2330</td>
<td>2531</td>
<td>3245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table No. 2

Number of Urban agglomerations and towns in Gujarat 1951-1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size Class</th>
<th>1951</th>
<th>1961</th>
<th>1971</th>
<th>1981</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total I to VI</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Urban units are, for the purposes of analysis, categorized into the above six distinct classes.

The above tables show that, in case of class I urban agglomerations and towns the population in such units increased quite rapidly after 1941 and by 1981 this population is nearly 14 times larger than that in 1901. Gujarat is one of the leading urbanized states in India. Maharashtra with urban population of 35.03 per cent ranks first amongst all the states followed by Tamil Nadu with 32.78 per cent and Gujarat with 31.08 per cent. Thus Gujarat ranks third in urbanization in the total states of India. The Table No. 2
indicates that there is an increase of Class I cities in Gujarat. In 1951 there were 6 big cities while as in 1981 it reached upto 13. Thus cities over one lakh population are 13 in Gujarat. Even within Gujarat, Ahmedabad District has the highest 71.54 per cent urban population of course is because of Ahmedabad city. The Dangs is the only district in Gujarat which has no urban population.

Thus broadly speaking, gradual growth of industries led to a steady expansion of urban areas. During British rule in India this process of urbanization increased but it got momentum after independence as a result of development, planning, market forces and technology.

Expanding cities and merging villages — a new area of research

It follows from the above data that expanding cities do influence the surrounding region in the wider sense. Based on a number of studies five different situations of urban influence can be identified for explaining the relationship between the city and its hinterland or surrounding area. (Ghurye: 1963, Karve: 1965, Rao: 1970, Sarikwal: 1978). The first instance of urban influence can be observed in those villages which are located in the proximity of an expanding urban center. The process of urban development absorbs the villages. The agricultural village is incorporated into the city as an outlying neighbourhood nucleus, but not a suburb.
in the western sense. In the second situation, urban impact occurs in those villages which are faced with the inevitable consequences of industrialization, such as influx of workers demand for housing, reordering of the market and steep rise in the cost of living. Thus the economic consequences of urban and industrial growth upset the basic stability of village life thereby necessitating problems of adjustment in social relations and cultural life. The third situation of urban influence can be observed in those villages where a sizable proportion of population has sought employment in distant cities. The village migrants have left behind their families which are supported by their regular remittances. In these villages, nature of urban employment and the states of the city in which an emigrant is employed become additional criteria of status differentiation. These villages are characterized by the feedback effects of urbanization even if direct contact with the urban centre is absent. The fourth type of urban impact occurs in those villages which are economically dependent on the city. Majority of the population of these villages is engaged in those occupations which are directly related with the city-based industries. In those villages direct contact with the city for commercial, educational and political purposes account for significant changes in their social and culture life. And, finally, rural villages, situated near cities are affected by an overflow of urban dwellers who flee the city for the calm, quiet, safety and lower cost of living. However, this trend of moving towards the periphery of the city, gives rise to costly localities in the commuters zone which itself becomes a vital point.
for radiation of urban values in the remote areas of the region. The varying patterns of urbanization hint at the fact that with the expansion of urban boundaries the whole surrounding region undergoes a process of social and cultural transformation. By surrounding region means the whole urban region which consists of the suburbs (both industrial and residential), fringe, hinterland and remote rural areas comprising a number of villages which have direct or indirect contact with the central city.

Before we go into the details of a merged village it would be quite appropriate to mention briefly rural-urban dichotomy and/or rural-urban continuum. No doubt these are most discussed topics. Compared to Western Society this phenomenon is recent in Indian Society. Western Sociologists had enough discussions on rural-urban fringe dichotomy. Without going into the controversy, one should accept the fact that rural-urban relationships should be examined in its socio-cultural and regional context. In Indian society rural-urban continuum can be best explained with the help of a village which is at the fringe of any growing city. This area of research is increasingly becoming popular. The villages which are exposed or opened to urban influences become the focus of study. This type of studies give clear idea about the changing villages. What areas of rural society change and what remain unchanged as a result of closeness to the town or city, could be explained through such studies. The study of villages Yadavpur by M.S.A. Rao, Devapuram by Y. Subrahmanym, Paduvarahalli by J. Parthasarathy are the good examples in this area.
Thus the situation of a merged village has opened the new avenues for research. We have quite a few studies on evacuated and rehabilitated villages due either to submergence or erection of a huge industrial complex. Even we have studies about fringe villages which have given us theoretical clarity, but we have no available documentation on a merged village.

Why the study of a merged village?

The answer to this question will also show the significance of this study. The social situation of a merged village is entirely different from the situation of the villages which are rehabilitated. In a merged village external forces impinge upon the social structure of the village. Migrants from other places come and stay in such villages. Industrialists install small or large scale industry in the vicinity of merged villages. In case of administration the rules and regulations are thrust upon from the top.

The present researcher had an opportunity to observe closely the merged villages in Baroda. This observation helped envisaging the following few possible types of merged villages.

One, the merged villages with the distance of two kilometers from the major city become fully merged with the city and as time passes become the fullfledged urban area. The social structure vanishes so rapidly that the original village cannot be traced. The only remnants one can find are the village temple.
and pigeon hole (because in Indian Society these are not easily demolished). The village Nizampura (see Map No. II) was the census village till 1961 and had 433 acres of land. At present this area has been totally absorbed in the city. Nobody is holding arable land and agricultural activities have ceased to operate. Even village panchayat ceases to function.

Mangalpur (see Map No. II) is another type of village which had village panchayat. The entire village arable land has turned into flats, tenements, row-houses and colonies. Building contractors purchased the land at their own and have transformed the entire village land into fully developed urban area.

Rajpur is the third type of merged village where village panchayat does not exist but villagers still have few acres of land under cultivation. In this village cultivation is still going on, but the village is merged and village administration is run by the Baroda Municipal Corporation.

These types of changing village situations attract different scholars from different disciplines for studying such situations. Such as Human Ecologists who are interested into geographical properties of the situation, while demographers are concentrating on demographic features like male-female ratio, working non-working population, and economists study economic development, land speculations, employment pattern etc.
These scholars have to usually rely on the census data or secondary type of data on which their studies are based.

Sociological perspective of studying about such a situation is quite different. Here the former social structure of the village (i.e., before merger) undergoes transformation after merger. Sociologists are interested in studying the changes in the core or dominant institutions. Lockwood (1964) suggests that "a society can be viewed as having changed from one type to another if the core or dominant institutional order may vary from one type of society to another, and the identification of such institutional orders would seem to be first and foremost way of defining what is meant by saying that a society has changed.... therefore, the primary concern of the sociologist who studies change should be to locate the core institutional order of the system under observation." In the study of merged villages the land based agrarian economy is the core aspect of the rural community. Keeping this perspective in mind the situation of merged villages can be empirically explicated in the following manner in the Indian context.

Majority of India's population reside in the villages. One of the objectives emphasised by the Planning Commission has been to initiate a process of development which will raise living standards. Sixth Five Year Plan accorded high priority to agriculture and rural development with the
main objectives of stepping-up agricultural production, generating substantial employment and income opportunities in the rural areas and strengthen the impulses of modernization for achieving self-reliance. Even, we have evolved the concept of Integrated Rural Development which has been conceived essentially as an antipoverty programme. In order to achieve these goals at the regional, district, taluka and village levels broad goals are articulated in the draft plan. There are various agencies which are structurally inter-related with the villages to help the marginal and small farmers in agriculture (SFDA). Even agricultural labourers are covered under MPAL agency. Introduction of scheme of the crop insurance policy for marginal and small farmers is also envisaged. Vadodara Urban Development Authority (VUDA) in its draft plan has mentioned "in the paramount national task of liquidating poverty and unemployment, whether it be in the rural sector or in urban sector, there is a need for evolving an integrated development strategy. Development in rural areas obviously means urbanizing the rural areas. It is a process directed towards providing social and economic infrastructure facilities at the door-steps of village."

On the other side urban areas are fast developing, and hence we have concepts like 'urban development', 'urban planning' etc. If we take the example of Gujarat, Urban Development Authority has been constituted under the provision of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development
Act, 1976. The six major cities of Gujarat have been covered under this act are, Vadodara, Surat, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Jamnagar. These cities have their authorities known as VUDA, (Vadodara Urban Development Authority), SUDA, AUDA, BUDA, RUDA and JUDA. The expansion of these cities is very rapid and surrounding villages are merging. Thus between 1951 to 1971 Vadodara has engulfed 15 villages, Surat has 8, Ahmedabad 23, Bhavnagar 3, Rajkot 4, and Jamnagar 4.

Thus on the one side we talk of rural-development and the other side urban expansion is encouraged, rather it has been officially accepted and planned. How enormous would be this expansion can be explained with the help of Standard Urban Area. Ashish Bose (1978) "The Standard Urban Area is defined as the projected growth area of the principal city or town as it would be in 1991, including not only towns and villages that will be merged with it but also the intervening rural areas which are potentially urban. The Standard Urban Area will bring under it all extra municipal urban growth such as suburbs (industrial and residential), railway colonies, civil lines, cantonments and also those villages and towns which are likely to get urbanised by 1991. The Standard Urban Area is identified by the municipal administrative unit which encompasses, and its boundaries are the administrative boundaries, the peripheral rural or urban administrative units." If we take only those six cities (mentioned above) we can get an idea about the future of the
surrounding villages. According to district censuses of 1971 of these cities, Baroda has covered 39 villages as Standard Urban Area, Surat has 17, Ahmedabad 54, Bhavnagar 7, Rajkot 9 and Jamnagar 10. In brief all these villages at least by 1991 will be declared as urban area.

Slowly and gradually agricultural activities supplemented by non-agricultural activities brings about transformation in the shape of the village community. It is likely that the interests of migrants (through association of rentiers), industrialists (they have their colleagues), slum dwellers through pressure tactics) may become dominant and local farmers, tenants and agricultural labourers will have to suffer. Thus local groups are pushed in background. Besides, arable land is decreasing, so what alternatives land holders and agricultural labourers have to pull on their life. This study will reveal the empirical reality.

In order to curb haphazard growth of surrounding areas of the city, urban authority has stopped land transaction through Urban Land Ceiling Act. In reality thousands of hutments have been erected under the pretext of solving the problem of housing for the poor. The latent outcome of such activity is the creation of rural slums. Second implication of this act is that land cannot be sold by farmers as we know that land is considered as the valuable asset which in the time of crisis land holder can sell and can get ease out of tension. This creates despair among the village landholders.
We do not have documentation about what happens when Municipal Corporation imposes rules and regulations about public health on the villagers without taking village reality into consideration. Villagers have their own life style, many families share living quarters with cattles, disposing of manure, open defecation, taking bath in open, driving bullock cart on the road in their own mood etc. How do villagers accommodate with the expected urban life-style would be sociologically significant to study. Village has merged with city but the process of complete assimilation has yet to be reached. This on going process will provide the problems and issues emerging out of this situation.

In sociological literature rural-urban continuum becomes relevant when one examines the impact of urban influence on rural society. This type of study may provide the empirical understanding about the village which has merged. The villagers of Rajpur have closed network of face to face relations and have relatively rigid caste structure. The social situation of merged village has opened the avenues of social interactions of villagers with outside migrants and municipal personnel. The second important factor is that different industries are at the door-steps of the village, which made different castes-groups more mobile.

Thus, this study may provide potentiality of conceptual clarity and policy guidelines and clues for planners about the development of different groups.
Last but not the least is the methodological significance of this study as the village was studied in 1963 and again it is studied in a totally changed situation by the same researcher.

Why the study of Rajpur Village?

One can raise the simple question like why Rajpur village has been selected and not other village out of 15 merged villages? The rationale behind the selection of this village can be explained with the following few considerations.

(i) the first and foremost consideration is that, during 1963, the present researcher had an opportunity to work in Rajpur village in one of the research projects undertaken by the Department of Child-Development, M.S. University of Baroda. This prompted the present researcher to study this village again in 1983 so as to grasp the village situations at the two different stages i.e., the village before merger (1963) and the merged village (1983). This may help in understanding the nature and direction of change because the systematic background data of 1963 was available.

(ii) Village Panchayat is an important institution in the village and it is interesting to study what happens to power structure when a village is merged with a
Village Rajpur had a long history of its Panchayat so it gives an idea of how traditional power structure was functioning in the village.

(iii) Village Rajpur was a multistate village and can be called a typical Indian village. Compared to other population of the village, the population of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes was sufficiently large. Thus, it was interesting to know what happened to these weaker sections when the village was merged in the urban complex.

(iv) Rajpur provides the unique situation where 49 factories have been installed between 1959 to 1976 (see Map No.VI), thus, it is an industrially urbanized village. However, agriculture is still pivotal activity in the village. Thus, agriculture, industries and administration of the village by corporation of city are the three important factors which will shape the future social structure of the village Rajpur. As previously mentioned, this village provides an appropriate social situation for study. On the one hand farmers continue agricultural activities, on the other side industrialists hold the labour force and administration which is highly impersonal and formal. How all these factors operating at a time affect the traditionally rooted social structure is an interesting to study in the changing context.
(v) Rajpur which was merged on 1st December, 1973 with Baroda Municipal Corporation (see Map No. V) has an experience of one decade (study year 1983), which is sufficient time span to study social changes.

The Growth of Baroda City and its surrounding areas

It would be quite relevant to give an account of the growth of Baroda city and its surrounding region. This would provide the background perspective of the study of a merged village. When we talk of expansion or growth of a city or town it is not just an overnight phenomenon. In any growing town or city various factors contribute in the growth of city. The present study is about a merged village in Baroda city, hence it is quite appropriate to have an eyeview account of its growth.

The city of Baroda is situated in 20° 17', 59" in North latitude and 70° 15', 8" in East longitude. A small river, Vishwamitri passes in the South Western direction, through the western part of the city. It is an important junction on Western Railway. Till lately, the city was the capital of the state of Baroda under the Gaekwads. In 1949, the state was merged in Bombay the erstwhile state and since then the city is the headquarter of Baroda district. The ancient city of Baroda covered only a past of the present city.
Though the city was in the possession of the Gaekwads for over two centuries, it was only during the reign of Maharaja Sayajirao III, that the development of the city was seriously taken in hand. It was the work of Economic Development Committee constituted by Maharaja Sayajirao III changed Baroda into its present position. In place of narrow and muddy roads, wide trafficable roads were built. Buildings of great architectural beauty were built to house Government Offices, schools and colleges. Arrangements were made for drainage, sanitation, water supply and street lighting.

In 1905, the Department of Commerce and Industry was established and three years later (1908), the Bank of Baroda was founded. The Commerce and Industry Department was to conduct an enquiry into applications for loans to start new industries and to report to the Government. In 1914, the Maharaja appointed an Industrial Advisory Committee. As a result of generous industrial policy of the Government, business minded people began to take increasing interest in industry. Consequently many industrial establishments were started in Baroda, prominent among these being Textile, Chemical, Glass, Soap, Engineering and Rubber Works. Another important step taken in later years to stimulate the industrial development of the city was to launch "The Industrial Area Development Scheme" in 1945. The purpose of this scheme was to aid the development of an industrial zone outside the Municipal limits of the city. Between 1945 and 1949, a few industrialists took
advantage of this scheme and two industrial establishments were built in the proposed Industrial Zone. Sarabhai Chemicals and Alembic Chemical works were established in this zone. This process has led to the expansion of Baroda. Outside the limit of Baroda city but near to Baroda the following industrial development took place when Gujarat became a separate state it was realized that one of the most important inputs required for agriculture was fertilizer. Thus in 1962 a company called Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Limited was established just 14 kilometers away from Baroda. Adjoining to this the foundations of Public Sector Refinery, known as Gujarat Refinery, was established in October 1963. Gujarat Refinery is located at Baroda near the important oil fields which are surrounded by villages vis., Koyali, Ranoli, Dhanora, Karachi, Undera. In the initial stage the total area acquired for the refinery was 1800 acres of fertile land. Third important complex was established in 1969 was IPCL. As a result of these huge industrial complexes two large townships (Fertilizernagar and Jawaharnagar) with all modern amenities have come-up. The villages which have lost the land are Karachi 548 acres (entire), Dhanora 825 acres (entire) Koyali 677 acres, Undera 257 acres. Dashrath 400 acres and Ranoli 33 acres. Due to this development thousands of migrants have come from all over India, which resulted into population pressure. Thus Baroda city became famous both in India and abroad.

Looking from administrative point of view the Municipality of Baroda is the oldest. It began its work within
the city walls in 1830 A.D. and extended its area of operation beyond these limits in 1859. The Baroda Municipality with elected majority was formed in 1906 and was converted into Corporation from 1st April, 1966. Upto 31st March, 1966 the work of the municipality was carried on in accordance with the Gujarat Municipalities Act 1963. After the formation of the Corporation its work is carried on in accordance with Bombay Provincial Municipal Corporation Act 1949. The Corporation discharges its functions through different committees. The Commissioner is the executive head of the corporation.

One more factor which has affected the surrounding villages is VUDA (Vadodara Urban Development Authority). (see Map No. III). VUDA is constituted under the provisions of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act, 1976 and has started functioning from 1st February, 1976. The jurisdiction under the Urban Development Authority covers 714.56 sq. kms. including the area of Vadodara Municipal Corporation and part of Vadodara, Padra and Waghodia Talukas. In all it covers 104 village settlements. (Ref. map 3). VUDA has prepared the Draft Development Plan with a time frame of twenty years. Under this plan about 290,30 hectares of land has been reserved for the development of "Land Development Scheme." These areas shall be acquired and planned in a comprehensive manner by the Authority. This major step in a right direction will go a long way in meeting the housing
shortage of various income groups including those below poverty levels. The following seven places have been selected and shall be executed in a phased manner. Rajpur is one of them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the village</th>
<th>Land reserved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Gotri</td>
<td>76.60 Hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tandalja</td>
<td>21.90 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rajpur</td>
<td>28.50 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Farsali</td>
<td>31.80 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bapod</td>
<td>60.70 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sama</td>
<td>37.80 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Makarpura</td>
<td>33.00 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>290.30 &quot;</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UDA holds control over these 104 villages, that is nobody can sell or purchase land or nobody can do any sort of construction work without prior permission of UDA. This has been legalized by Gujarat Town Planning Act of 1976.

In order to get the clear picture of the growth of Baroda and its resulting effect can be seen from the following demographic data. The first census of the State of Baroda was taken in 1872. Nine years later, a second census was taken synchronously with the rest of India.
The above population figures show that between 1901 and 1911, a large number of stragglers who swelled the population figures in the 1901 census, left the city. Reduction in military personnel, and decrease in the jail population are other factors that have contributed to the decrease in the population of the city during this period. The demolition of dilapidated buildings for the purpose of street improvement deprived a good number of people of their houses in the city, during the period 1911-1921. These people left the city to seek residence in the suburbs, thus affecting a decline in the population figures for 1921. However, since 1921 we see that the trend is one of the steady increase. It is striking, to note that during a period of 30 years (1921-1951) the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>1,16,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>1,06,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>1,16,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>1,03,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>99,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>94,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1,12,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>1,53,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>2,11,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>2,98,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>4,67,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>7,53,656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
population of the city has more than doubled itself. Last three decades 1961, 1971 and 1981 are the decades of fabulous increase in the population. Thus increase in population, leads to the demand for more and more settlements which ultimately results into expansion of its boundaries. The limits are altered (extended) by giving notices to the concerned villages. The objections are received and noted by the Collector. If there is strong resistance of the entire village for not joining with the city, in such cases requests are made by the authority.

If villagers of a particular village protest strongly and remain unitedly, than such village is not merged. The village Undera near Gorwa for example is only half a furlong away from Baroda Municipal limit, but because villagers do not want to merge with the Corporation, they do not like interference of the corporation in the village affairs as also to preserve their identity.

Thus, the social structure of the village is very important. In case of the village Undera majority of the Patidars and Barias are small and medium land holders. They resisted merger in order to preserve their interest in land.

Thus, the Government of Gujarat after consultation with the Municipal Corporation of the city of Baroda, directed to extend the limit of the city of Baroda on
1st December, 1973. The following villages were given notices and ultimately all these villages merged with Baroda city.

If we glance at the Map No. II it clearly indicates that 4 villages (Gotri, Sayiad Vasma, Rajpur and Tandelja are on the Western part of the city, while as Maneja and Vadsar villages are in Southern part of the city. These six villages differ from each other, socially, demographically and ecologically.

These villages with the entire land and public institutions and places like primary schools, village panchayats, ponds, parks and open pastures etc., become the part of Baroda city. These villages are now considered as urban and hence their names in the list of District Census of 1981 will not be found.

The villages merged before 1971 were Akota, Danteshwar, Savad, Jetalpur, Manjelpur, Nagerwada, Nisampura, Subhampura and Wadiwadi. These villages were very near to the major city of Baroda. Today these villages are known as the urban area of the city of Baroda. Colonies and societies have covered the original villages along with big shopping centres in these areas. According to the Census of 1961 and Map No. I, there were 122 villages of Baroda Taluka, but in 1971 Census only 113 villages have been listed. It means nine villages ceased to be villages. This is how urban expansion is engulfing the surrounding villages.
The development of communication link between Rajpur and Baroda

While studying the merged village one should not only consider urban expansion but also how the village is responding to expansion. This is a two-way process. The village Rajpur was 9 kilometers away from the city boundary of Baroda in 1965, but gradual expansion from both the sides resulted into the merger with city. In this process of expansion infrastructure of rail and road play vital role.

Rail and road are the important means of communication to link village with the city. A village, if linked with city with a nearby railway station or bus-stop provides ample opportunities to its villagers for visiting the city quite frequently. In this way chances of interactions between city-dwellers and village dwellers are increasing. In such situation villagers put in constant exposure of the city environment.

The very first and significant event that took place on 1st July, 1897 was the instalment of narrow gauge railway between Pratapnagar and Padra by ex-ruler of Baroda. This railway line was passing through Rajpur village, but the train did not stop there because village was not a scheduled railway station. In 1949, a huge Swaminarayana Temple was constructed and devotees of this sect started visiting this temple. The number of devotees from nearby and distant villages slowly and gradually increased. In 1959 the trustees of
Swaminarayana temple approached the railway authorities for stopping the train at Rajpur. Railway authorities put one condition before the trustees, that per trip at least minimum of Rs. 15 should be the income out of tickets, this condition was on a trial base for six months. As the announcement was made of this condition, devotees took the advantage of the train. Thus in 1959 Rajpur became the scheduled railway flag station. Today train stops four times a day. Thus it took 62 years (1897 to 1959) for a train to stop at Rajpur village. Most of the villagers instead of going to Baroda via Vishwamitry prefer to go to Padra for their shopping which is cheaper.

Second major event took place in 1920, when a pucca road between Baroda and Jambusar was built. Rajpur is well connected with this road. Prior to this, people used to go to Baroda by bullock-cart or were going on foot. The road at that time was kaccha, which was not travelable during monsoon. After 1920, pucca road facilitated city paddlers and milk-men to come to the village for their respective traders. The first public bus started in 1930. This facilitated to villagers to go either to Baroda or to Padra. It was heard from the old people that villagers rarely used this bus. Only rich could afford to go by bus. The bullock-cart was the useful usual mode of transport. In this way these two links rail and road gave much exposure to Rajpur village. The first bicycle was purchased by a Patidar youth in 1935 and first scooter was purchased in 1960.
Third important factor is post and telegraph. The post-office was installed in a primary school and one of the teachers was handling this office. The post was delivered once a day, there was no telephone or telegraph facility. In 1973 after merger the separate post and telegraph office is working and clearance and delivery of post are done twice a day. The first telephone (two connections) was installed in 1961 one in the temple and another at Sarpanch's house.

Fourth factor which was important in development of Rajpur was the first factory of chemical industry started in 1959. The land was purchased by a factory owner from one of a Patidar land-owners. This Patidar had excess land. He sold away 10 acres of land to a factory owner. The amount of these 10 acres of land was Rs. 40,000. Land was fertile and was very near to the village, hardly one furlong away from the village (see Map No. VI). This Patidar constructed a big bunglow in the village for rental purpose. This has motivated other Patidars to sell their land.

These above factors led to the growth of Rajpur village. The Baroda Municipal Corporation went on extending its limits. The entire area of Rajpur and beyond it has been declared as industrial zone which resulted into the development of different small and large factories.

From the above analysis we can say that proxi­mity of a village to city and communication links accelerate
the growth process on both the sides.

The above framework of the development of Baroda and communication links would be helpful in setting the present study in its proper perspective.

The traditional village

The base of the present study is the village Rajpur of 1963. The present researcher has utilized some of the data from his previous study. This will give the picture of Rajpur village. In 1963, Rajpur village was 9 kilometers away from Baroda city. The socio-economic structure of the village was different from today. Rajpur was multi-caste village with a population of 1681 (894 males and 787 females) distributed over 332 households. There were 14 different castes which had their traditional occupations in the past, of these only thirteen traditional occupations of different castes were in operation in 1963. The different castes in the village were arranged in a ritual hierarchy. Barias constitute the single largest caste among the fourteen castes, with 45.99 per cent of the total population. The other numerically significant caste is Bhil (Scheduled Caste) forming 16.06 per cent. The other castes followed by Patidars 10.11 per cent are Vanker 6.43 per cent, Artisan and Servicing castes 3.91 per cent. All these castes were residing in one or more of their caste neighbourhoods which tend to be relatively concentric. The ritual distance between untouchables
and others was reflected in spatial separation. Thus the
neighbourhoods of Vanker, Khalpa and Bhangi were spatially
separated from the rest of the village. Bhils have their
separate street outside the village.

The entire village economy was predominantly
based on agriculture. In any peasant economy, the ownership
of land determines, the kind of social relations between
different communities of the settlement. According to Talati's
record, the total land of Rajpur village was 1618 acres and
62 gunthas. Out of this the total arable land was 1355 acres
and 30 gunthas, whereas 263 acres and 32 gunthas land was non-
arable in which pastures, pond, waste land, rail and road
were included. Out of 332 households, 132 owned land. Though
Barias were in numerical majority, Patidars were holding the
majority of land. Generally, in this part of Gujarat Bhils
and Vankers are agricultural labourers. Barias are either
cultivators or tenants. It was found that majority of Bhils
were working as agricultural labourers for Patidar and Brahmin
farmers. Only few families of Vankers were agricultural
labourers. Thus Patidars were helping Bhils and Vankers both
in terms of cash and kind on such occasions like marriage,
death, illness etc. As such these two social groups were
under the command and control of Patidars and Brahmins. It
could be inferred that the marginal and small landholders
cannot own enough bullocks or all agricultural implements,
in such condition exchange of the bullocks, or borrowing the
implements become more common and frequent. Thus these groups interacted either with each other or with medium and big landholders. Suthar, Luhar, Kumbhar and Valand were giving their services to Patidars and Barias under the traditional patron client relations. Land is valued as an asset which gives prestige and power. In time of crises it could be mortgaged to meet the financial requirements. Most of the families had milche animals providing a secondary source of income. The milk-men from Baroda were coming to collect the milk. Thus social interactions centred around the agricultural activities.

When we take land into consideration we should see also what is produced. Around 1911-12 according to the villagers the main crops in the village were paddy, koddra, Tuvar and Pulses. In those days food grain was the main crop. It is obvious in a subsistence economy that crops of food grain become important. The villagers started growing a cash-crop in the village around 1940, since then an essentially subsistence agriculture turned into commercial one and an ever increasing trend towards raising commercial crops for the market.

Village Panchayat: At the village level the institution of panchayat performs many functions. In the former State of Baroda steps were taken to preserve the local self-government in the villages. Panchayats were constituted in villages, and
entrusted with some powers and duties. They were also provided with funds. In course of time a number of amendments were made. In Rajpur village till 1949, the Panchayat was nominally functioning in the sense that two Patidars and two Barlas were virtually controlling the village panchayat. In 1951 the old princely state panchayat was replaced by a new panchayat which was established under the Bombay Panchayats Act, 1933. The Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 was implemented with a view to make democratic decentralization operative. Patidars dominated the village panchayat till 1963. This was very easy and smooth because Bihils and Vankars were always supporting Patidars. Now, in the context of this brief outline of Rajpur of 1963 a brief narration of the important external forces which are operating on the village could be made. The influence of these forces have raised many questions to be answered by empiric study.

External Forces Operating on the Village:

(A) Industries

As mentioned earlier, the first factory was established in 1959, since then slowly and gradually other landholders started selling the land. Industrialists were buying the land, thus 49, both small and large scale factories have come-up around the village. These factories took away 200 acres of arable land from the villagers. This process of selling and buying the land continued up to 1976, it was stopped later on because of VUDA's ban on the transmision of
land. The layout of factories is not systematic, these have been spread throughout the arable land area (see Map No.VI). Secondly, chemical factories have been established in the midst of arable land located quite near the village. This phenomenon has some sociological implications. One can argue that factories nearby the village give ample opportunities for jobs to the villagers right to their door-steps. This might be true in one sense but from other perspective, this phenomenon resulted in the replacement of agricultural production by industrial production. The assumption is that this change might influence the network of social relations based on economic organization. As agricultural labourers and marginal farmers can take to industrial labour. They may become economically independent. Land seller gets money, but if he does not utilize it properly he becomes landless. He does not get the job guarantee from the factory owner. Those who have either constructed new buildings or renovated old ones for rental purpose may get rent fixed in a particular period. It is very difficult to increase rent with a big amount. Thus income becomes fixed. Those who sold away entire land become landless. Another dimension of this phenomenon is that, those who have land in the vicinity of factory face the problem of pollution as the disposal of the chemical waste affect the surrounding crops.
BMC is another external factor which has taken the administrative control of the village Rajpur. Village Panchayat ceased to function since 1973. Villagers' relations with the members of the village panchayat were mainly based on personal level and were informal. Now after merger the structure of social relations have changed. Villagers' relations with Corporation personnel became more impersonal and formal. Rules and regulations are interpreted and are strictly followed. Villagers have to rush to Baroda at Ward office for any permission or for lodging complain. Talati is now only revenue collector he is no more Secretary.

BMC has acquired nearly 500 acres of land both arable and non-arable for its use. The compensation for this acquired land was very low. The huge compost plant has been erected on this land. On pastures and waste land of Rajpur BMC has allowed about 800 poor and homeless families to erect huts. It is said that number of families of Bhal from Rajpur village have invited their distant relatives to settle on the land. In the villager's (landholders) eye this is an unwanted extra population pressure on the village. This population has created the problem of crop protection, petty thefts are very common. Moreover, they collect firewood from the nearby field boundaries or cutting trees stealthily, taking away cow-dung from cow-dung heaps.
(C) VUDA (Vadodara Urban Development Authority)

Urbanising the rural areas automatically leads to diffusing the intensity of the situation in the central city. The development of growth centers/growth poles/urban nodes, each covering a cluster of villages brings about diversion and diffusion of the forces of urbanization pressuring the core of the city. Thus VUDA has covered 103 villages in its proposed plan (see Map No. III). VUDA has also acquired 28 hectares of land at Rajpur village. It is said that slum quarters will be constructed on this land.

(D) Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation Act, 1976)

This is one more external force which has affected Rajpur village from land-holding point of view. The Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act, 1976, is aimed at socialisation of land distribution and land use pattern in various urban centers. The purpose of this Act is not merely to delimit the land ownership to 1500 square metres and regulates the construction of buildings, but also to see that land has been distributed to a large number of persons at a fair and equitable price. This would help to correct the existing concentration of ownership on urban land and stop speculative and profiteering transactions on land.

In the State of Gujarat under this Act six cities have been covered, these cities are Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar.
The village Rajpur is also affected because it is a part of Baroda city. Thus who so ever is holding more than 1500 sq. metres of non-agricultural land will have to declare it as an excess land, which will be taken over by Government. Now, the interesting part of this Act is that maximum amount of compensation will not exceed Rs. 2 lakhs. Again not more than Rs. 25,000 will be given in cash, rest of the amount will be paid in bonds of 20 years at the rate of 5% interest. In such cases landholders do not get sumptuous amount at a time.

(B) Migrants

Migrant population in the village has grown almost fourfold over the years. (This led one aged Patidar informant to remark, "it will be difficult, after 10 years to identify the original residents of the village. We (villagers) will disappear, for identification not names but full address will be required to meet the particular person.")

Outside the village on waste land and pastures thousands of hutments have been erected. These migrants are from lower-income group. BMC has provided water facility through hand-pump sets. There are drainage and toilets. There are different associations formed by these migrants, at the time of election these associations become more active. Some of the hutments are on the edge of river Vishwamitry and during floods these houses collapse. They ask for help from
Government and again they construct the mud-houses. It is said that lot of anti-social activities like bootlegging, gambling, petty thefts are going on. Police raids and open feuds are every-day events. For political parties these migrants are the vote banks.

There are other migrant families who stay in the village in different streets. There are migrants from within Gujarat, and outside Gujarat. There are Punjabis, Keralians, Marathis, Upians and Bengalis. It is observed that high caste Gujarati migrant families prefer to stay in the houses of Brahmins and Patidars. It is equally true that Brahmins and Patidars do not give their houses to non-Gujarati tenants. They think non-Gujaratis are non-vegetarian. Thus, in Rajpur all the non-Gujarati migrants reside in the houses of Barias. There are two Marathi families and one Keralite family reside in Bhi Falia. No migrant stays in Venkar Falia.

There are two clear cleavages cutting across the village: 'outsiders' (migrants) and 'insiders' (villagers). Thus sociocultural milieu of Rajpur has become multifarious. Thus influence of outsiders on insiders and vice-versa is possible. In short villagers are exposed to the spectrum of different cultures.
The Problem

It is the general assumption prevailing among sociologists that any community study is not very illuminating unless it is linked with or studied within the broad frame work. In the context of urbanisation in India we have seen earlier that in Gujarat out of 13 big cities 6 cities are rapidly growing (Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar). As soon as the villages are merged in the city they are branded as urban.

Keeping in mind the traditional village and external forces operating on it, the present study is a modest attempt to analyse sociologically the merged village. Theoretically speaking, the entire rural community is under the influence of a number of forces emerging due to urban growth. We have to see how adjustments and accommodations are made in the traditional village social structure in this process. The network of social relationships is mainly based on primary relations. These relations survived around the agro-based economic organization. Thus the main thesis of this study is that, when external forces are operating on a particular social system (here in this case Rajpur), uneven changes do occur and these changes influence different social groups differently. This may help us in knowing how these changes are adopted or how adjustments or accommodations are made with the new situation, it is common knowledge that along
with economic organization power structure also undergoes change. This will be examined empirically by focussing on 332 households of Rajpur village.

It could be seen from the above that the entire internal economic organization of Rajpur is now under the influence of a number of external forces. The first question is what is the nature of economic organization in this changing context? The total arable land is decreasing and different factories have come-up, which may affect the internal organization of different castes of Rajpur village. The diversified occupational opportunities are available, thus how different groups exploit these opportunities?

BMC and VUDA are the formal organizations which have been transplanted into a social structure dominated by caste, family and kinship. Village Panchayat is now no more functioning. What is the nature of power structure? How power is wielded? Those who have more land can oblige landless labourers by way of giving them employment. Here, in case of Rajpur new bases of power like numerical strength, political party support become important. Bhils and Vankers who were formally agricultural labourers are now shifted to industrial labour. This brings about change in the interpersonal relations between different cases.

It is a general assumption that urbanisation and industrialisation bring development. In this particular case,
development for what? and development for whom? What are the hopes and despairs of the people who have now become part of urban area? These are the questions which could be answered in a more systematic way by studying the village Rajpur.

A Note on Field Methodology

Much has been written regarding the standard ways of collecting data in a community. Many and varied have been the techniques employed in field work, but the most important fact to be remembered is that they are all subject to alteration depending on field conditions.

This study is about the merged village, hence the basic unit of analysis becomes the village, which comprised 332 households. These households of 1963 were taken for study in 1983. In a study which aims at documenting the process of change in qualitative details one has to rely on a case study approach, however quantitative approach has not been ignored as interview schedules have been administered to all those households.

Case-study approach could be used in the study of any unit (be it a tribe, a village, a caste, a family or an individual), or in the study of any event (be it an innovation, crisis, a conflict), or in the study of any process. Case-study approach concentrates on the wholeness of the unit chosen for study. The selection of such units in case-study approach may not have been based on statistical considerations
of representativeness. Hence, the question of sampling does not arise.

Descriptive case studies are not limited to any one method of data collection, hence relevant information and data for the study were collected by employing different tools and techniques like observation and in-depth interviews. Written records are the important secondary source of data, records of Talati, Co-operative Society, Village Panchayat and Genealogical records were taken into consideration with due scrutiny and validation.

The respondents of the present study were:
(i) head of the family (male), (ii) in absence of male head of the family the eldest male member was chosen as the respondent, (iii) in case of disability of head, the eldest son or brother of the head was the respondent.

It was decided to study 332 households which were studied in 1963. (Ref. appendix Table: 2). The present study was taken up in 1983. Thus original list of 1963 was sought from the Department of Child-Development, M.S. University of Baroda. The house to house contact was made to locate the household covered in 1963 study. There are hundreds of migrant families who have come to Rajpur village. These families were not taken for study because they were not original settlers of the village. The emphasis was only on 332 families. During the contact the following picture
emerged. The total households in 1963 were 332 and total population was 1681. There were 15 main castes and 29 sub-castes. Out of 332 families 300 could be located. Thus 32 families were not traced because:

(i) 6 households had no son or daughter, those families were from Baria 5 and 1 Valand.

(ii) 5 households had no son but had daughter, and invited son-in-law to stay in the village to look after the land, house etc. In such cases son-in-law stayed for some time in the village and sold away the property and left the village. All these cases were from Baria caste.

(iii) 8 families left the village permanently because they were not the original settlers of Bagpur village. These families were 4 of these were from Patidar, 1 from Bharwad, 2 from Maratha and 1 from Phul groups.

(iv) 12 families, though original settlers of Rajpur village but left the village permanently for better jobs in the city. These families were 7 from Vaghari, 2 Muslim, 1 Suthar, 1 Kumbhar and 1 from Vankar caste.

(v) Lastly about 1 Muslim family nobody knows where the family has gone. This makes the total of 332 families covered in the 1963 study.

Thus out of 332 families 300 families remained for the study. To this were added 65 families which had
split up from the above 300 families during the past 20 years and distributed over the following castes. The following is the caste wise distribution of the 65 families:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of caste</th>
<th>No. of families added</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brahmin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patidar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosai</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachchia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baria</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhils</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamboli</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanker</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, the total number of families taken in the present study were 365.

Methodological significance of the present study is that the same researcher studied the same village at two different stages. The first study of the village was done in 1963 and again the same village was taken for study in 1983. In case if researcher remains completely away from the same village and if he visits after the lapse of 20 years, he may find certain difficulties. He may not be able to relocate certain respondents or may find difficulty in re-establishing
the rapport. This may happen if the researcher is an outsider or a foreigner.

In the case of present researcher there were no difficulties. It was not that he remained completely away from the village for 20 years. In fact, frequent visits to the village kept researcher in constant touch with the villagers. Attending the marriages occasionally, sitting with the gossip groups, meeting the youths and inquiring about their progress, kept the rapport alive.

On the other side villagers were knowing about the researcher's job. His caste was acceptable (from social interaction point of view) to the villagers. Besides, researcher hails from the same region and district but does not belong to the same village. All these factors have smoothen the task of eliciting the response from the villagers, have helped the researcher in articulating the facts in a most consistent manner.