CHAPTER - VII

Municipal Markets

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Introduction

Municipalities and Nagar Panchayats are the 'local self government bodies' which are functioning in towns and cities. Nagar Panchayats are run under the provisions of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1964 in towns having population upto twenty thousands. Municipalities - which are larger than Nagar Panchayats - are classified according to population of a city
and are run under different Acts, viz., towns and cities having population above 20,000 are known as 'Municipalities' and are governed by the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963; and the Bombay Municipal Corporations Act.

Under the Gujarat Panchayats Act the Gujarat Municipalities Act, 1963, Nagar Panchayats and Municipalities are responsible for organizing, controlling and providing facilities to the markets of various commodities including livestock. Livestock markets controlled by Nagar Panchayats as well as Municipalities are termed as 'Municipal Markets' in this study.

**Organization and Management**

(Vide Map 7.1)

At present, there are only two cattle markets which are governed by local self government bodies, viz., cattle market of Ahmedabad which is controlled by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the cattle market at Dhoraji (Rajkot District) is governed by Dhoraji Nagar Panchayat. There were six more municipal cattle markets in Gujarat in the year 1956, but they were taken over by the respective APMCs as shown below in Table 7.1.

**Table 7.1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Cattle Market</th>
<th>Taken over by APMC of</th>
<th>Year in which taken over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Vadodara</td>
<td>Vadodara</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Gondal</td>
<td>Gondal</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Halol</td>
<td>Halol</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rajkot</td>
<td>Rajkot</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chhota Udepur</td>
<td>Chhota Udepur</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dhaniwadi-Kwant</td>
<td>Zalod</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source: Survey of India Map
Govt. of India - 1969

Indicators
- Municipal Markets

MAP OF GUJARAT
Showing Municipal Cattle Markets
Of these markets, the cattle markets at Rajkot and Vadodara were initiated and started by the then princely States of Rajkot and Vadodara respectively. The Vadodara market which has been in existence for more than 120 years and by now, it has been the oldest one in Gujarat. The Ahmedabad cattle market was referred to have existed in the beginning of this century and has been mentioned as early as 1905 as weekly market held on every Friday. This market was taken over by the municipality some 32 years before. The Dhoraji market which was initiated in April 1959, was closed down temporarily with effect from 28-8-'63 and had again started its functioning from 14-2-'65.

The local self government bodies have been empowered, under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, the Gujarat municipalities Act or the Municipal Corporation Act, to frame rules for running, controlling and managing the respective cattle markets which are locally known as 'Dhor Bazar' or 'Pashu Bazar'. However, both the municipal cattle markets - Ahmedabad Cattle Market and Dhoraji Cattle Market have not framed any rules, excepting resolving for the place of market, entrance fee to be collected, facilities to be provided and such other matters but, there did not exist any specific rules regarding the working, the constitution and the management of the markets. The concerned local self government authority provides a market place where sales and purchases of

2. Replies to questionnaire. The reasons given were : (i) obstructing the traffic; (ii) disturbance to the school; (iii) complaint that animals were sent to slaughter houses.
animals take place. The working of Dhoraji cattle market is being looked after by the Tax Inspector of the municipality. There is no separate committee or sub-committee to look after its working but is directly supervised by the chairman and the secretary of municipality. Ahmedabad cattle market is being looked after by Superintendent (cattle) and is directly under the Chief Officer and the Secretary. There is no separate committee for the cattle market.

**Periodicity**

Of the two existing municipal cattle markets, while Ahmedabad Cattle Market is the daily market, Dhoraji market is the weekly one, which is being held on every Sunday. Though Ahmedabad is a very big centre for purchase and sale of all categories of cattle and buffaloes, it has been a big market for buffaloes. To satisfy the growing demand for livestock, this market has been converted from weekly market into a daily market in the year 1965. The Cattle Market at Dhoraji has been a weekly market from its inception.

**Coverage**

Livestock brought to the municipal markets are from far and near-about places, depending upon the extent and nature of demand.

In Dhoraji market, a large number of Kankrej bullocks and youngstock are brought to it by their owners/holders and cattle-traders because agriculture in that tract is well-developed and the farmers are fond of having distinguished pair
of Kankrej bullocks. Hence, good bullocks are brought from Kutch district and North Gujarat tract and reach this market through the markets of Morvi, Rajkot and Gondal.

In Ahmedabad market, though animals of all varieties are found, bullocks, youngstock and buffaloes had dominating position and these animals are mainly drawn from surrounding areas and from North Gujarat tract.

**Layout**

Ahmedabad has a good market place with four constructed shades, having capacity of about 200 animals at a time. The market is having a rectangular piece of land of 100 mtrs by 20 mtrs area. This place belongs to the local panjarapole of Ahmedabad and is being used for the last 30 years. The market place is covered by barbed wire-fencing. The market is located on the road leading to Maninagar and is situated near the Kankaria lake.

In Dhoraji there is no special area or place for the cattle market, but it is being held on the road-sides at the crossing of roads leading to Jetpur. Animals are kept on the road-side foot-paths on the four sides of the crossing. A lengthwise area of 50 metres on the road-side foot-path is used for keeping the livestock which are tied to the trees. There is one constructed shade admeasuring about 70 square metres, with iron-sheet roofing and having capacity of accommodating about 30 heads of livestock. This shed is rarely being used, as the livestock holders prefer to keep the animals in open under
Amenities

Amenities to be provided are of three categories, viz., general amenities, amenities for market functionaries, buyers and sellers of animals and amenities for the livestock.

General amenities provided by the municipalities include land for the market, trees for shed, drinking water, buildings and electricity. The local self government bodies of Ahmedabad and Dhoraji do provide most of these amenities.

Ahmedabad cattle market has land for the market, two large iron and ironsheet sheds, and facilities for drinking water and electricity. However, there are no sufficient buildings for offices except a room wherein the market supervisor sits to collect the receipts on account of sales.

Since Dhoraji market does not have separate land or space for the market, the market is being held at the cross-roads outside the town where the animals have to stand on the footpaths. Planted trees serve as sheds for the animals. Of course as stated earlier, one pacca constructed shed accommodating about 30 heads of livestock is made available by the authorities. But this shed is rarely used for keeping the livestock. Weekly character of the market, absence of specific area earmarked for the market and disinterestedness of nagar panchayat authorities for proper development of the market can be regarded as the major causes for absence of bare amenities in Dhoraji market.
Amenities for persons visiting the market to be provided by the municipality cover drinking water, lodging and boarding, banking facilities, entertainment, tea and refreshment rooms, resting places and toilets. It was found that both the bodies did not provide such facilities as needed to the persons visiting the markets. In Ahmedabad cattle market, drinking water facility was provided. Private vendors providing beds, beddings and cots on payments were available. In Dhoraji, no facilities of these kind were available to persons visiting the cattle market. Thus, persons visiting both these markets have virtually to arrange themselves for their lodging and boarding facilities.

Amenities for the livestock include tying pegs, drinking water, sheds, feeds & fodder and veterinary aids. In Ahmedabad, there were four cattle-sheds and three water troughs and private vendors were providing fodder. There was complete absence of veterinary aid in both the markets. In Dhoraji market, water troughs, road-side tree-shed and tying pegs were available. Fodder and cattle food were sold by persons residing in and around the area.

Negligence and indifferent attitude on the part of municipal authorities were mainly responsible for the availability of very poor amenities at both the market places.

Seasonality and Working Hours

Municipal cattle markets are held in all the seasons of the year. Ahmedabad market is a daily market but it has more arrivals on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Dhoraji market is a weekly market, being held on every Sunday.
Working hours in both the markets are ordinarily from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. However, the business transactions start from early hours in the morning. Peak hours of transactions were normally from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

**Arrivals**

Animal arrivals in the markets are from near and distant places and areas are adjusted to the nature and extent of demand. While demand for quality bullocks did exist at Dhoraji market, bullocks, youngstock and buffaloes were in good demand throughout the year at Ahmedabad market. To meet the demand of well-to-do farmers of Dhoraji tract, 'Kankrej' bullocks were brought to Dhoraji market from the Kankrej tract of North Gujarat which are brought through the markets of Morvi, Rajkot and Gondal. The arrivals of bullocks and youngstock in Ahmedabad market were from surrounding tracts and from North Gujarat where buffaloes of Mehsani breed arrived from Mehsana, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts, Surti buffaloes were brought to it from Charotar tract and near and round-about areas of Ahmedabad. During his visits to these markets, the author noticed that at both the Dhoraji and Ahmedabad markets, there did not exist steadiness in animal arrivals. Of all the seasons, arrivals were at their peaks during winter (December to March), moderate during summer (April to June) and low in monsoon (July to November).

In Ahmedabad market, there did not exist the system of recording animal arrivals and hence, it was not possible to get exact numbers of animals arriving in the market. However, as reported by the Ahmedabad market authorities, on an average
300 heads of livestock arrived daily. According to the survey carried out by Co-operative Officer (Marketing), prior to the application of GAPM Act, 1963 to Ahmedabad, 1,000 to 1,200 cattle were coming to market every week and their yearly arrivals were estimated at about 52,000. Insofar as the Dhoraji market was concerned, the figures of the yearly arrivals of bullocks and other animals are presented in Table 7.2, the analysis of which would show that the bullocks found the dominating place and that their number ranged between 951 (in 1964-'65) and 8,944 (in 1975-'76). The market showed a good prospects for further development if it is managed in a better way.

Table 7.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bullocks</th>
<th>Cows</th>
<th>Buffaloes</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Goats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1964-'65</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-'66</td>
<td>6,519</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966-'67</td>
<td>7,779</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-'68</td>
<td>7,556</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-'69</td>
<td>6,614</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-'70</td>
<td>6,108</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-'71</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-'72</td>
<td>7,490</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-'73</td>
<td>7,091</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-'74</td>
<td>9,507</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-'75</td>
<td>8,173</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-'76</td>
<td>8,944</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Separate data not available.

3. Based on the replies to questionnaire.
Market Functionaries

Market functionaries working in the markets are broadly classified into two categories: (i) Traders and (ii) Dalals.

(i) Traders: Twenty five traders were operating in Ahmedabad Municipal Cattle Market, of which about 10 traders were regular visitors of the market. In Dhoraji market, only five traders were functioning and they were also attached to other nearby markets of Gondal, Rajkot and Morvi.

The traders in Dhoraji market are not required to obtain any licence, nor they are required to pay any licence fees. Hence, any trader is free to operate in the market. However, the nagar panchayat authorities have stated that they were to implement rules for the cattle market laying down formalities for traders.

The traders in Ahmedabad market are not governed by any rules, hence there is no provision for obtaining licences for them or for paying any licence fees.

During his frequent visits to these markets, the author could ascertain that the margin of profit of cattle traders varied from transaction to transaction and it ranged between Rs. 5/- and Rs. 200/- per transaction, depending on (a) demand for cattle, (b) quality of cattle, (c) age of cattle, (d) structure of cattle and (e) anxiousness of the purchaser to have it.

Both the market authorities did not maintain any list of traders in livestock.
(ii) Dalals: Dalals are the persons who act as intermediaries between buyers and/or sellers. In the year 1975-'76, 40 and 5 dalals were functioning in Ahmedabad and Dhoraji markets respectively. As the rates of brokerage have not been fixed by the market authorities, the dalals charge anything between Rs. 5/- and Rs. 50/- as brokerage for each transaction and brokerage varies from person to person, from animal to animal and from transaction to transaction.

The dalals in the Ahmedabad as well as Dhoraji market are not required to obtain any licence for functioning in the markets.

Methods of Sale

Two methods of sale are generally prevalent at municipal markets: (a) Direct Sale, and (b) Sale through brokers. Of the two, the former was predominating in both the markets. Under this method, the animal is open for inspection by the concerned buyer and the price is settled between the buyer and the seller directly after a lot of higgling, jiggling and negotiations. In some cases, the services of brokers are being engaged by the buyer or the seller or by both at mutually agreed rates of brokerage.

During the field-work, the author could ascertain that when cattle traders were a party to any such deal, they had an upper hand in negotiating prices as compared to livestock owners who were buyers or sellers. The astonishing fact has been that the municipal authorities did not have any machinery or agency
of their own to supervise the purchase and sale operations of
the cattle-dealers. Both the parties were left to their luck
and consequently the agriculturist-cattle-buyer or seller had
to be a sufferer of the prevailing market-malpractices.

Inspection and Delivery

Cattle and buffaloes are thoroughly seen and inspected
by the prospective buyers from various aspects including age,
colour, health, appearance, number and condition of teeth,
similarity of pairs, years under plough, auspicious and
inauspicious marks, temperament, good and bad habits, capacity
to draw the plough and the cart, quickness in work, milk yield
and stage of lactation.

Bullocks are inspected and verified by the buyers over
such points which may result in the attainment of assessing their
capacity to give work. Cows and buffaloes are inspected and
verified by the buyers in regard to their milk yielding capacity
for which they are generally milked once before finalizing the
deal with the seller. There is an established practice of fixing
the price of cows and/or buffaloes on the basis of milk yield.
For example, in Ahmedabad market, a cow or a buffalo yielding
one litre of milk may be quoted at ₹. 200/- and if a buffalo
gives 5 litres of milk, its price will be somewhere around
₹. 1,000/-.  

Price is settled after inspecting the animals thoroughly.
As soon as the price is fixed, transaction is settled and payment
is made, the animal is delivered to the buyer by handing over the
reins of the animal.
In both the markets, sale transactions are not recorded by the municipal authorities. So also payment and delivery are not made in the presence of any office-bearer of the markets.

Market Charges

In the existing municipal markets of Ahmedabad and Dhoraji, entrance fee as stated in Table 7.3 is the only fee charged for bringing animals in the market.

Table 7.3

Rates of Market charges in Municipal Cattle Market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Rs. 0.30 ps. per animal per day</td>
<td>Recovered from person bringing the animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhoraji</td>
<td>Re. 1.00 per animal</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As stated by the organizing authorities entrance fee is levied by them to meet the expenditure for providing facilities in the market. Ahmedabad municipality had stated that though income from the entrance fee was inadequate, it didnot propose to increase its rates.

Dhoraji nagar panchayat is incurring expenditure on water, lighting (which is hardly utilized for market since the market is held during day time) and for tying the pegs. It was reported that it did not pay extra remuneration to the staff for looking after the market. Thus, it can be clearly seen that
Dhoraji nagar panchayat treated this fee as its normal source of revenue but did not provide any appreciable services to the users.

The Ahmedabad municipal corporation was paying Rs. 30/- p.m. to each of its staff who looked after the cattle market. All the staff members were permanent employees of the municipality.

**Method of Payment**

Payments are made on the spot after the sale is settled. Sale on credit or by instalment - payments are generally not in vogue. The deal is being settled by both the parties through mutual direct contacts.

**Disputes and their settlement**

With regard to the disputes taking place in the market, both the organizing authorities had stated that, disputes did not arise in the cattle markets, and as such there was no need of creating any machinery for their settlements. What an ideal situation! Price fixation, payment of sale proceeds, defects in cattle sold/purchased, rates of brokerage, quality of animals, etc., are some of the issues on which disputes are bound to arise in some of the cases. Though the municipal authorities are not taking due care of such incidents, the parties at disputes had to settle them either mutually or mutually acceptable intermediary agencies. Party in commanding position would stand to gain in the process of settling disputes.

4. There existed one Superintendent (cattle), two Permit Inspectors, one Chowkidar and four Sweepers.
General Observations

While the local self government legislations do contain provisions for authorizing/empowering the local bodies to organize and run cattle markets along with other markets in their areas of operations, the authorities of such bodies did show practically no interest in undertaking this activity. A few such markets for cattle that could be found in Gujarat are rather exceptions. Though, at the most two markets, one at Ahmedabad and the other at Dhoraji existed, they have been ill-organized, badly managed from the viewpoint of marketing and donot serve any useful purpose. Only purpose they serve is that they provide a market place for cattle trading with the minimum of amenities. Sooner the better, if both the municipal markets are converted into regulated markets.