

CULTURAL PROFILE OF URBAN CENTRES OF GUJARAT: LINGUISTIC ASPECT

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ABSTRACT : Cities and towns reflect the cultural profile of residents who live there. "Culture" is a complex system of a set of values, beliefs and distinct attitude towards life. Diffusion of knowledge through contacts and information is responsible for making culture dynamic and complex in nature. Language, as a means of communication, is an important channel for diffusion of culture. Culture is reflected on the behaviour pattern of residents. It is important to know the cultural background of residents in order to have an understanding of their behavioural pattern.

This paper focuses on the linguistic diversification of all urban centres of Gujarat in 1971. The paper attempts to classify the centres by the method of Diversification Index, based on the concept of "Entropy". The paper analyses the factors responsible for linguistic diversification. It is found that, towns tend to be diversified in nature, if they are large in size, or located on the main corridor of connectivity or near the coast; or those are planned cities or have grown complex by historical reasons or if the composition is of tribal population. The eastern section of Gujarat and the south-western coast of Saurashtra have more linguistic diversification and diffusion of culture in towns compared to those located in Kutch, north Gujarat or in the mainland of Saurashtra.

Introduction

Cities and towns of any area reflect the cultural pattern of residents who live there. It is not simple to define or measure 'culture' which is a complex system of a set of human values, belief and a distinct attitude towards life. These values often get reflected in human behaviour. In order to understand the behavioural pattern of residents in terms of their life-style, social interaction and interaction with the environment, it is important to know the cultural background of residents. Residents, settled in areas with diversified culture will have a complex behavioural pattern than

that at monocultural one. Language is one of the important means of diffusion of culture. Religion, income, education, race and caste system are other aspects of cultural diversification.

The objective of this paper is to focus mainly on the linguistic diversification of urban centres of Gujarat, as language is the main factor of diffusion of culture. Diffusion of knowledge through contacts and information is responsible for making culture dynamic and complex in nature. A city or a region is expected to have a complex cultural pattern if it is diverse by many linguistic groups. This paper attempts to find out the

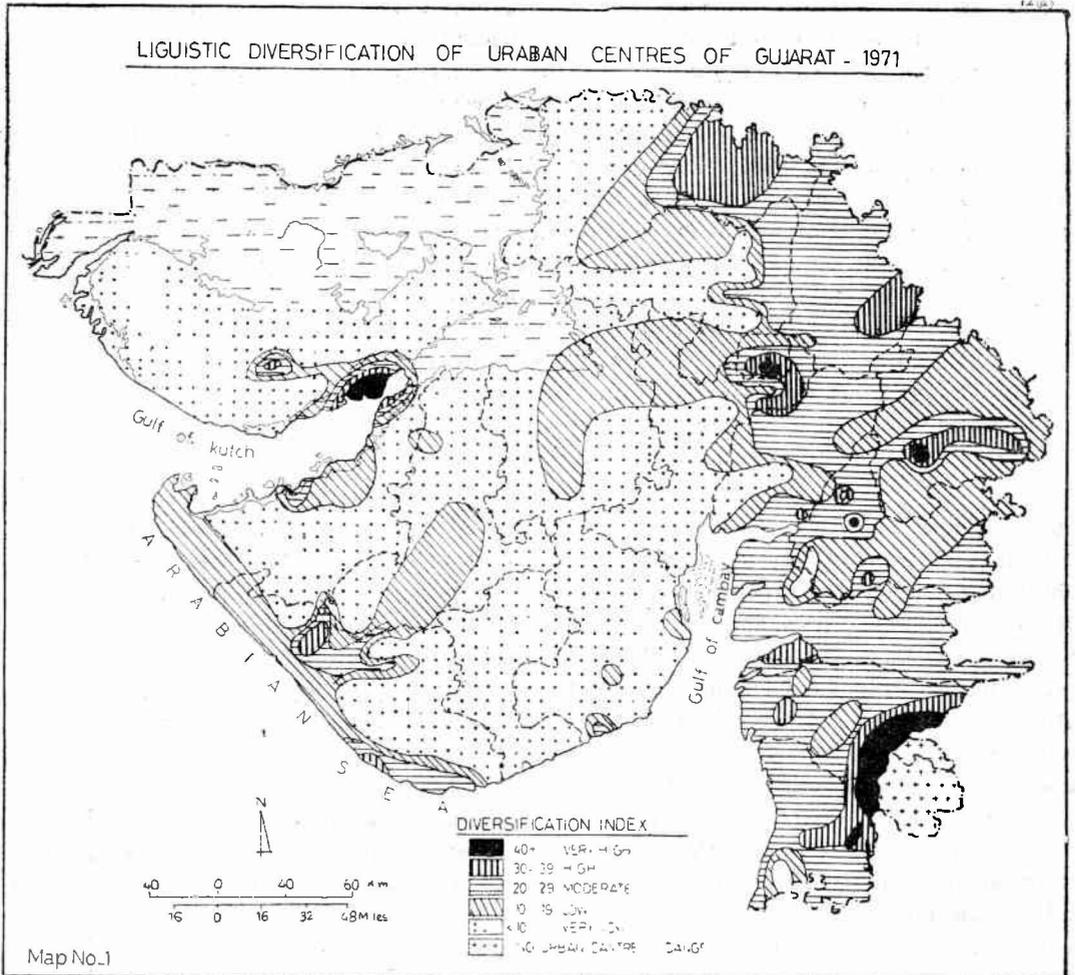
level of linguistic diversification of all urban centres (about two hundred in number), of Gujarat in 1971. It also attempts to analyse the factors of linguistic diversification and to classify urban centres of Gujarat on the basis of diversification.

Methodology and Data Aspect

In this study, nearly 125 mother tongues have been considered for 199 urban centres of Gujarat from the District census Handbook, 1971. Data are of one point of time, as 1981 Censur data are not yet published.

Initially all languages have been grouped into nine main classes, depending on their affinity to each other (Appendix I). Those

groups are as follows : (1) Gujarati/Kutchi, (2) Rajasthani/Marwari, (3) Hindi/Urdu (4) Sindhi/Punjabi, (5) Marathi/Konkani, (6) Bengali/Assamese (7) Dravidian, (8) Miscellaneous (Tribals), (9) Foreign languages. Then linguistic diversification of each urban centre has been calculated, tabulated and mapped, using the concept of entropy, that is disorganisation ; $D. I. (Diversification Index) = \sum P_i \log (1/p_i)$ where P_i stands for fractional population of groups of languages. The D. I. varies between 0 to 1. It the D. I. is low, the town has a low level of linguistic diversification and vice versa. The D. I. value of towns tends to be low if their population



bad, Bharuch and Valsad all are located in the eastern plains, on the connecting routes from Delhi to Bombay. The districts in Saurashtra, e. g. Amreli, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and in north Gujarat, e. g. Sabarkantha, have low percentage of non-Gujarati population. It may be noted that Kutchi is considered here as a dialect of Gujarati, so Kutch area is having an average level of diversification.

(b) By Size of Urban Centres

It is expected that, non-Gujarati population has a concentration in urban centres and more so in large urban centres. The reason is that, migrants from other states generally like to settle in large cities which

offer more job opportunities and educational facilities compared to those of smaller centres. As expected, larger cities (class I and II) have a higher average level of linguistic diversification than those of smaller centres (Table II). The Diversification Index, following the concept of entropy, (stated in the section of methodology), is proportional to the size of urban centres.

(c) Factors Other than Size

The size of urban centres is not the only factor of control for linguistic diversification. Other factors are the location of centres, their level of connectivity, composition of tribal population or their historical background. If the centres are classified in

Table I
Linguistic Diversification by District, 1971
Percentage of non-Gujarati Population

Low 2.57%	Average 2.58% to 8.51%	High 8.52% and above
1 Amreli (.98)	1 Mahesana (2.81)	1 Bharuch (9.40)
2 Surat (.99)	2 Panchmahal (3.06)	2 Vadodara (9.72)
3 Surendranagar (1.31)	3 Gandhinagar (3.43)	3 Ahmedabad (19.95)
4 Bhavnagar (1.34)	4 Jamnagar (3.54)	4 Valsad (21.96)
5 Sabarkantha (2.35)	5 Banaskantha (3.64)	
6 Rajkot (2.45)	6 Kheda (4.10)	
	7 Kutch (4.17)	
	8 Junagadh (4.78)	
	9 Dangs (5.38)	

Source : Census of India, 1971.

N. B. (a) Districts have been ranked in each group starting with a district having low % of non-Gujarati population to that with high % of non-Gujarati population.

(b) \bar{X} of % of non-Gujarati for 19 districts = 5.54

S. D. " " " " " " = 5.94

(c) Classification is based on $1/2$ S. D. of \bar{X}

(d) % of non-Gujarati population has been given for each district in parenthesis.

Table II
Diversification by Size of Towns, 1971

Urban Centres by Class	Total Towns	X of D. I. by class	6 of D. I.	No. of towns by D. I.		
				$< \bar{X}$	$= \bar{X}$	$> \bar{X}$
I	8	.24	.14	—	5	3
II	17	.23	.10	3	11	3
III	37	.20	.14	6	28	3
IV	65	.12	.11	2	52	11
V	61	.11	.12	8	50	9
VI	5	.14	.14	2	2	1
Total	199			21	148	30

Source : Census of India 1971

D. I. = Diversification Index = $\sum P_i \log (1/P_i)$

N. B. (a) Towns have been divided into three groups based on S. D. of each class.

(b) Overall \bar{X} of D. I. for all centres = .15

Table III
Classification of Urban Centres by Size and Diversification, 1971

D. I.	Towns by class	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total Towns
		.40 + Very High	1	1	3	2	3	
.30 — .39 High	2	4	5	3	2	1	17	
.20 — .29 Moderate	1	7	9	11	6	0	34	
.10 — .19 Low	4	3	10	16	20	2	55	
.10 Very low	0	2	10	33	36	2	83	
Total Towns	8	17	37	65	67	5	199	

Source : Census of India, 1971

D. I. = $\sum P_i \log (1/P_i)$ where P_i stands for groups of languages; D. I. varies between 0 to 1.

a bivariate table by size and Diversification Index, it is seen that, both small and large centres have higher level of diversification (Table III); though on average the level of diversification follows by size of urban centres (Table II), that is, larger is a centre, higher is its D. I.

In towns of Class I, Vadodara has a higher linguistic diversification though it is smaller in size compared to that of Ahmedabad and Surat. This can be attributed to the influence of Marathi kings of Vadodara as a princely state. Relatively higher diversity is noticeable in Nadiad which offers industrial opportunity for in-migrants. Rajkot being located in the interior of Saurashtra, has a low level of linguistic diversification though it is a Class I city by size.

Among Class II cities, some cities have a higher level of diversification compared to the average value for that size class. These are Mahesana and Kalol in Mahesana district, Dohad and Godhra in Panch Mahal district. Industrial opportunity of Mahesana district and tribal population in Panch Mahal district are responsible for the diversification of these towns.

Among towns of smaller size, the level of diversification can be high if towns have higher percentage of tribal population, like Vyara and Songadh in Surat district, Dharampur and Bansda in Valsad district, or if towns are planned by the government, like Ukai in Surat district. Jawaharnagar and Fertilizernagar in Vadodara district. Towns which are ports or nearer to ports, like Kandla and Gandhidham in Kutch and Ankleshwar in Bharuch, tend to have mixed population with a higher level of diversification. Some smaller towns being located nearer to the border of Rajasthan, M. P. or Maharashtra, have a relatively higher mix of population compared to their size, e. g. Deesa, Palanpur. Coastal towns like Veraval, Mongrol, have a moderate diversification due to the settlement of fishing community from South India.

A spatial distribution of levels of diversi-

fication by size of towns can be visualised in Map No. I and (data are given in Appendix II). The Gujarat Plain and the southern coastal area have a moderate to high levels of linguistic diversification, whereas the north Gujarat, Kutch and the mainland of Saurashtra have a low level of diversification, based on the concept of entropy. The interior location and the aridity of Kutch may be responsible for such a low level of diversification, suggesting low level of diffusion of culture.

(d) Diversification in Class I Cities

The level of diversification appears to be same by rank for Class I cities when they are arranged in terms of weighted or unweighted non-Gujarati population or by the method of Diversification Index (Table VI). Unweighted index relates to the simple percentage of non-Gujarati population to total population, while weightage is given to language groups of non-Gujarati population depending on the affinity of a language to Gujarati (Appendix I). The weighted index has changed the percentage of non-Gujarati population much higher in all cities (Table IV), especially in Class I cities; but the rank of cities remains the same by weighted, unweighted or by entropy method.

Among Class I cities in Gujarat, the most diverse city is Vadodara, followed by Ahmedabad and Surat. In Vadodara, the largest percentage of non-Gujarati population is Marathi, followed by Hindi-Urdu and Sindhi group of people (Table V). Ahmedabad has the highest percentage of Hindi-Urdu speaking population, followed by Sindhi and Marathi group. In Surat, Hindi speaking group predominates, followed by Marathi and Sindhi. Due to historical reasons, Marathi group of people has settled in Vadodara with the patronage of Maharaja of Vadodara. Similarly, a large proportion of Urdu speaking population has settled in Ahmedabad since the days of its inception in 1411, when it has set up by the Mohamadan king, Ahmad Shah.

Table IV
Weighted and Unweighted Non-Gujarati Population in Class I Cities (1971)

Population Rank	Diversification Rank	Cities	Unweighted non-Gujarati Index	Weighted non Gujarati Index	DI
3	1	Vadodara	.32	.50	.43
1	2	Ahmedabad	.31	.43	.39
2	3	Surat	.24	.33	.38
7	4	Nadiad	.12	.17	.22
5	5	Jamnagar	.09	.15	.18
8	6	Porbandar	.07	.09	.13
6	7	Bhavnagar	.06	.08	.12
4	8	Rajkot	.05	.08	.11

Source : Census of India, 1971

N. B. (a) Unweighted index relates to percentage, i. e. .32 can be read as 32%.

(b) Weighted index is related to a relative scale of language groups (Appendix I)

(c) D. I. = Diversification Index (Appendix II)

Table V
Pre-dominant Non-Gujarati Language Groups in Class I Cities (1971)

Class I Cities (Population, 1971)	Rank 1 Language % Group	Rank 2 Language % Group	Rank 3 Language % Group
1 Ahmedabad (1, 741, 522)	Hindi 19%	Sindhi 4%	Marathi 3%
2 Surat (493, 001)	Hindi 14%	Marathi 6%	Sindhi 2%
3 Vadodara (467, 487)	Marathi 14%	Hindi 11%	Sindhi 4%
4 Rajkot (300, 912)	Sindhi 2%	Hindi 2%	Marathi 1%
5 Jamnagar (227, 640)	Sindhi 3%	Hindi 3%	Marathi 1%
6 Bhavnagar (225, 974)	Sindhi 3%	Hindi 1%	Marathi 1%
7 Nadiad (108, 269)	Sindhi 5%	Hindi 3%	Rajasthani 1%
8 Porbandar (106, 727)	Hindi 4%	Sindhi 1%	Dravidian 1%

Source : Consns of India, 1971.

Conclusion

Cultural complexity is often brought about by linguistic diversification and diffusion of knowledge. In Gujarat, the urban centres in the eastern section and the south-western coast of Saurashtra are more diverse compared to that of Kutch, north Gujarat and the mainland of Saurashtra. As a result, residents on the eastern side are more cosmopolitan in behaviour than those in the interior area. Size of urban centres is one of the main reasons of linguistic diversification. Large towns with more job opportunities and facilities tend to attract non-Gujarati population from various areas. Other factors of control are

location, composition of population, physical factors and historical back-ground. In general, towns located on the main line of connectivity, with moderately good climate, towns planned by the Government, or ports of entry, are mainly diverse in nature. Historical factor is also responsible for diversification. For example, Marathi language group has settled in Vadodara due to the Maratha kings while Urdu speaking population is more in Ahmedabad which was set up by a muslim ruler. In short, towns have more diffusion of culture in the plain area of the east than that of Saurashtra peninsula of Gujarat.

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Appendix I

Language Groups with Weightage

- Group I :** Gujarati, Katchi, Kathiyawadi, Koli Gujarati
 Weightage : none
Group II : Rajasthani, Marwari, Mewari, Garhwali, Dungri.
 Weightage : 1
Group III : Hindi, Hindusthani, Urdu, Maithili, Banarasi, Bhojpuri, Bihari, Braj Bhasha, Bndelkhandi, Deswli, Islami, Bagri, Malvi.
 Weightage : 1.2
Group IV : Sindhi, Punjabi, Sikhi, Multani, Kashmiri
 Weightage : 1.5
Group V : Marathi, Konkoni, Khandeshi, Kokni, Koshti-Marathi
 Weightage : 1.7
Group VI : Bengali, Assamese, Nepalese, Oriya
 Weightage : 2
Group VII : Tamil, Telegu, Kanada, Malayalam, Andhra, Ceylonese, Mndrasi, Mangalorian, Karnataka
 Weightage : 4
Grhup VIII ; Miscellaneous and tribals ; 58 types
 Weightage : 3
Group IX : Foreign Language - 19 types,
 Weightage : 5.6

Appendix II
Diversification Index of Urban Centres by Size (1971)

No.	Size of Towns	Name of the Town	District	D. I. Eiplog (i/pi)
1.	Class I	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	.39
2.	"	Vadodara	Vadodara	.43
3.	"	Rajkot	Rajkot	.11
4.	"	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	.18
5.	"	Porbandar	Junagadh	.13
6.	"	Surat	Surat	.38
7.	"	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	.12
8.	"	Nadiad	Kheda	.22
9.	Class II	Bharuch	Bharuch	.21
10.	"	Patan	Mahesana	.17
11.	"	Mahesana	"	.30
12.	"	Kalol	"	.28
13.	"	Morvi	Rajkot	.08
14.	"	Dhoraji	"	.24
15.	"	Gondal	"	.10
16.	"	Junagadh	Junagadh	.23
17.	"	Patav	"	.11
18.	"	Wadhwan	"	.08
19.	"	Bhuj	Kutch	.37
20.	"	Navsari	Valsad	.26
21.	"	Valsad	"	.21
22.	"	Dohad	Panch Mahal	.37
23.	"	Godlira	"	.37
24.	"	Cambay	Kheda	.23
25.	"	Anand	"	.14
26.	Class III	Viramgam	Ahmedabad	.19
27.	"	Dholka	"	.18
28.	"	Shidpur	Mahesana	.33
29.	"	Visnagar	Mahesana	.10
30.	"	Kadi	"	.19
31.	"	Unjha	"	.06
32.	"	Dhabhoi	Vadodara	.26
33.	"	Padra	"	.03
34.	"	Rajpipla	Bharuch	.12
35.	"	Jambusar	"	.24
36.	"	Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar	.45
37.	"	Jetpur	Rajkot	.13
38.	"	Upleta	"	.09
39.	"	Wakaner	"	.05
40.	"	Mangrol	Junagadh	.10
41.	"	Una	"	.21
42.	"	Dhrangadhra	Surendranagar	.15

No.	Size of Towns	Name of the Town	District	D. I.
43.	Class III	Limbdi	Surendrangar	.05
44.	"		Bhavnagar	.25
45.	"	Sawarkundla	"	.02
46.	"	Botad	"	.03
47.	"	Palitava	"	.10
48.	"	Billimora	Valsad	.24
49.	"	Petlad	Kheda	.26
50.	"	Kapaduranj	"	.27
51.	"	Borsad	"	.25
52.	"	Umreth	"	.16
53.	"	Amreli	Amreli	.07
54.	"	Palanpur	Banaskantha	.33
55.	"	Deesa	"	.32
56.	"	Himmatnagar	Sabarkantha	.26
57.	"	Modasa	"	.31
58.	"	Okai	Surat	.54
59.	"	Gandhidham	Kutch	.54
60.	"	Mandvi	"	.02
61.	"	Anjar	"	.06
62.	"	Ankleshwar	Bharuch	.33
63.	Class IV	Sanand	Ahmedabad	.06
64.	"	Dhandlmka	"	.09
65.	"	Dehgam	"	.26
66.	"	Bavla	"	.07
67.	"	Vadnagar	Mahesana	.04
68.	"	Mausa	"	.03
69.	"	Vijapur	"	.27
70.	"	Chanasma	"	.01
71.	"	Kheralu	"	.05
72.	"	Harij	"	.03
73.	"	Chhotaudaipur	Vadodara	.25
74.	"	Kanjan	"	.13
75.	"	Amod	Bharuch	.07
76.	"	Jasdan	Rajkot	.01
77.	"	Khambhalia	Jamnagar	.05
78.	"	Dwarka	"	.11
79.	"	Jamjadhpur	Junagadh	.03
80.	"	Mithapur	"	.15
81.	"	Bharmad	"	.05
82.	"	Sikka	"	.23
83.	"	Salaya	"	.004
84.	"	Kalavad	"	.02
85.	Class IV	Dhral	"	.03
86.	"	Keshod	"	.08

No.	Size of Towns	Name of the Town	District	D. I.
87.	Class IV	Bantwa	Junagadh	.30
88.	"	Vanthali	"	.23
89.	"	Manavadar	"	.15
90.	"	Kutiyana	"	.29
91.	"	Ranavar	"	.02
92.	"	Visavadav	"	.05
93.	"	Jhungadh	Surat	.04
94.	"	Halvad	"	.01
95.	"	Bardoli	"	.17
96.	"	Vyara	"	.41
97.	"	Mandvi	"	.16
98.	"	Kandla	Kutch	.52
99.	"	Bhachav	"	.07
100.	"	Sihor	Bharuch	.05
101.	"	Godhada	"	.004
102.	"	Gariadhar	"	.02
103.	"	Tajaya	"	.01
104.	"	Vapi	Valsad	.20
105.	"	Pardi	"	.09
106.	"	Gandevi	"	.23
107.	"	Dharampur	"	.36
108.	"	Luuavada	Panch Mahal	.12
109.	"	Halol	"	.11
110.	"	Devgadh Baria	"	.17
111.	"	Kalol	"	.15
112.	"	Balasinor	Kheda	.30
113.	"	Mehmdabad	"	.11
114.	"	Dakor	"	.12
115.	"	Vidyanagar	"	.19
116.	"	Kheda	"	.26
117.	"	Sojitra	"	.05
118.	"	Vaso	"	.01
119.	"	Bogasaro	"	.02
120.	"	Kodinar	"	.28
121.	"	Rajula	"	.04
122.	"	Dhari	Amreli	.04
123.	"	Ladhi	"	.03
124.	"	Radhanpur	Banaskantha	.12
125.	"	Idar	Sabarkantha	.19
126.	"	Prantij	"	.23
127.	"	Tolad	"	.12
128.	Class V	Barwala	Ahmedabad	.005
129.	"	Mandal	"	.15
130.	"	Ranpur	"	.16
131.	"	Sarkhej	"	.14

No.	Size of Town	Name of the Town	District	D. I.
132.	Class V	Nipol		.19
133.	"	Nandej	"	.15
134.	"	Siner	Vadodara	.36
135.	"	Sankheda	"	.12
136.	"	Vadhodia	"	.14
137.	"	Bodeli	"	.11
138.	"	Bhadharpur	"	.10
139.	"	Jawarharnagar	"	.62
140.	"	Fertilizernagar	"	.27
141.	"	Hansout	Bharuch	.32
142.	"	Palej	"	.05
143.	"	Jefalsar	Rajkot	.13
144.	"	Vouchhia	"	.005
145.	"	Jankara	"	.13
146.	"	Paddhari	"	.01
147.	"	Joliya	Jamnagar	.01
148.	"	Lalpur	"	.02
149.	"	Shahpur	Junagadh	.08
150.	"	Bilkha	"	.006
151.	"	Adityana	"	.15
152.	"	Mundwada	"	.01
153.	"	Malva	"	.03
154.	"	Jalala	"	.05
155.	"	Delwada	"	.08
156.	"	Patdi	Surendranagar	.13
157.	"	Lakhatar	"	.02
158.	"	Sayla	"	.009
159.	"	Chotila	"	.02
160.	"	Kharaghoda	"	.17
161.	"	Khathar	Surat	.10
162.	"	Kosamba	"	.15
163.	"	Songadh	"	.56
164.	"	Olpad	"	.26
165.	"	Madhopur	Kutch	.01
166.	"	Mundra	"	.03
167.	"	Rapar	"	.02
168.	"	Nakhatlana	"	.04
169.	"	Naliya	"	.03
170.	"	Vallabhipur	Bhavnagar	.01
171.	"	Ghogha	"	.005
172.	"	Vartej	"	.01
173.	"	Paliyad	"	.007
174.	"	Umrالا	Valsad	.013
175.	"	Umergaon	"	.27
176.	"	Bansda	"	.44

No.	Size of Town	Name of the Town	District	D. I.
177.	Class V	Chikhli	"	.20
178.	"	Santrampur	Panch Mahal	.16
179.	"	Pali	Kheda	.17
180.	"	Thasra	"	.08
181.	"	Vasad	"	.05
182.	"	Tharad	Banaskantha	.08
183.	"	J. Deesa	"	.23
184.	"	Bhobhar	"	.007
185.	"	Varahi	"	.05
186.	"	Kanadar	"	.01
187.	"	Khed Brahma	Sabarkantha	.27
188.	"	Dhansura	"	.16
189.	"	Baba	Amreli	.01
190.	"	Chelala	"	.02
191.	"	Jafrabad	"	.18
192.	"	Damngar	"	.02
193.	"	Vadia	"	.01
194.	"	Dwangar	"	.007
195.	Class VI	Hansol	Ahmedabad	.16
195.	"	Beyt	Jamnagar	.02
197.	"	Atul	Valsad	.37
198.	"	Udwade	"	.02
199.	"	Shivrajpur	Panch Mahal	.12