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Ram Nagar : A Village Survey

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CENSUS OF INDIA
1961



Ramnagar

A VILLAGE SURVEY

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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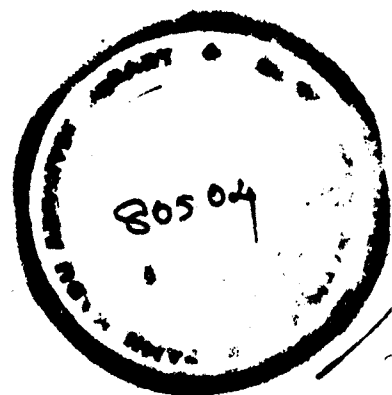
VILLAGE SURVEY MONOGRAPHS

6. RAMNAGAR KANJAR COLONY

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FOREWORD

Apart from laying the foundation of demography in this sub-continent, a hundred years of the Indian Census has also produced 'elaborate and scholarly accounts of the variegated phenomena of Indian life, sometimes with no statistics attached but usually with just enough statistics, to give empirical underpinning to their conclusions'. In a country, largely illiterate, where statistical or numerical comprehension of even such a simple thing as age was liable to be inaccurate, an understanding of the social structure was essential. It was more necessary to attain a broad understanding of what was happening around oneself than to wrap oneself up in 'statistical ingenuity' or 'mathematical manipulation'. This explains why the Indian Census came to be interested in 'many by-paths' and 'nearly every branch of scholarship, from anthropology and sociology to geography and religion'.

In the last few decades the Census has increasingly turned its efforts to the presentation of village statistics. This suits the temper of the times as well as our political and economic structure. For even as we have a great deal of centralisation on the one hand and decentralisation on the other, my colleagues thought it would be a welcome continuation of the Census tradition to try to invert the dry bones of village statistics with flesh-and-blood accounts of social structure and social change. It was accordingly decided to select a few villages in every State for special study, where personal observation would be brought to bear on the interpretation of statistics

to find out how much of a village was static and yet changing and how fast the winds of change were blowing and from where.

Randomness of selection was, therefore, eschewed. There was no intention to build up a picture for the whole State in quantitative terms on the basis of villages selected statistically at random. The selection was avowedly purposive: the object being as much to find out what was happening and how fast to those villages which had fewer reasons to choose change and more to remain lodged in the past as to discover how the more 'normal' types of villages were changing. They were to be primarily 'type studies' which, by virtue of their number and distribution, would also give the reader a 'feel' of what was going on and some kind of a map of the country.

A brief account of the tests of selection will help to explain. A minimum of thirty-five villages was to be chosen with great care to represent adequately geographical, occupational and even ethnic diversity. Of this minimum of thirty-five, the distribution was to be as follows:

(a) At least eight villages were to be so selected that each of them would contain one dominant community with one predominating occupation, e. g., fishermen, forest workers, jhum cultivators, potters, weavers, salt-makers, quarry workers etc. A village should have a minimum population of 400, the optimum being between

(iv)

(b) At least seven villages were to be of numerically prominent Scheduled Tribes of the State. Each village could represent a particular tribe. The minimum population should be 400, the optimum being between 500 and 700.

(c) The third group of villages should each be of fair size, of an old and settled character and contain variegated occupations and be, if possible, multi-ethnic in composition. By fair size was meant a population of 500-700 persons or more. The village should mainly depend on agriculture and be sufficiently away from the major sources of modern communication such as the district administrative headquarters and business centres. It should be roughly a day's journey from the above places. The villages were to be selected with an eye to variation in terms of size, proximity to city and other means of modern communication, nearness to hills, jungles and major rivers. Thus there was to be a regional distribution throughout the State of this category of villages. If, however, a particular district contained significant ecological variations within its area, more than one village in the district might be selected to study the special adjustments to them.

It is a unique feature of these village surveys that they rapidly outgrew their original terms of reference, as my colleagues warmed up to their work. This proved for them an absorbing voyage of discovery and their infectious enthusiasm compelled me to enlarge the inquiry's scope again and again. It was just as well cautiously to feel one's way about at first and then venture further afield, and although it accounts to some extent for a certain unevenness in the quality a coverage of the monographs, it served to compensate the purely honorary and extra-mural rigours of the task. For, the Survey

Villages selected for the Survey

<i>Village</i>		<i>Tehsil</i>	<i>District</i>
Rang Mahal	...	Suratgarh	Ganganagar
Mukam	...	Nokha	Bikaner
Mudh	...	Kolayat	"
Bajawa	...	Udaipurwati	Jhunjhunu
Bhangarh	...	Rajgarh	Alwar
Hasanpur	...	Tijara	"
Poonchhari	...	Deeg	Bharatpur
Aghapur	...	Bharatpur	"
Sanganer	...	Sanganer	Jaipur
Chimanpura	...	Bairath	"
Nangal Soosawatan	...	Amber	"
Abhaneri	...	Baswa	"
Shivpura Ghata	...	Beawar	Ajmer
Ramdeora	...	Pokaran	Jaisalmer
Bujawar	...	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
Kalijal	...	Jodhpur	"
Malar	...	Phalodi	"
Bhadwasi	...	Nagaur	Nagaur
Goriya	...	Bali	Pali
Tilwara	...	Pachpadra	Barmer
Ramsin	...	Pachpadra	"
Janvi	...	Sanchor	Jalor
Hotigaon	...	Sanchor	"
Nichlagarh	...	Abu Road	Sirohi
Bagor	...	Mandal	Bhilwara
Panarwa	...	Phalasia	Udaipur
Manpur	...	Phalasia	"
Kailashpuri	...	Girwa	"
Sadri Ranawatan			

CENSUS PUBLICATIONS

for

Rajasthan State

The Rajasthan 1961 Census Publications, which will have volume No. XIV in All India Census series, will be published in the following parts :—

Part I-A	...	General Report.
Part I-C	...	Subsidiary Tables.
Part II-A	...	General Population Tables (A Series) and Primary Census Abstract.
Part II-B (i)	...	Economic Tables (B Series, Tables I-IV).
Part II-B (ii)	...	Economic Tables (B Series, Tables V-IX).
Part II-C (i)	...	Cultural Tables (C Series).
Part II-C (ii)	...	Migration Tables (D Series).
Part III	...	Household Economic Tables (B Series, Tables X-XVII).

VILLAGE RAMNAGAR
KANJAR COLONY

TEHSIL BUNDI
DISTRICT BUNDI

CHAPTER I

THE COLONY

THE Kanjar Colony of Ramnagar lies in the territorial jurisdiction partly of the village Ramnagar and partly of the village Banga Mata of tehsil Bundi in Bundi district. It was established in 1933 A.D. for the reclamation of the Kanjars of Bundi State. Before its establishment the Kanjars used to lead a nomadic life. Their women and children were found living in improvised huts and squatting under trees. The male members used to commit theft, robbery and dacoity and to remain hidden in the forests for fear of the Police. After their rehabilitation they were governed by the Criminal Tribes Act of 1939 of the former Bundi State. They were given land, agricultural tools, implements and bullocks, and improved seeds were supplied to them. The Criminal Tribes Act of Bundi was repealed in 1956 and by the order of the President of India they were declared as a Scheduled Caste. The Social Welfare Department and the Vimukta Jati Sewak Sangh then started devoting their attention to the introduction of social reforms among the Kanjars. This colony was selected for the present survey to study the socio-economic life of the Kanjars in the past and the changes brought about in their condition during the post-independence period.

2. There is a Police post in the colony. Its main object is to keep an eye on the activities of the Kanjars. The nearest Post Office is at Gudha which is at a distance of 5 km from the colony. The headquarters of the Patwari is in village Ramnagar. The Telegraph Office, the Social Welfare Centre, the Higher Secondary School, the Degree College, the Cinema house, etc. are all situated in Bund

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The Kanjar colony of Ramnagar being exclusively inhabited by the Kanjar community has its own importance in Bundi district. More than three decades have elapsed since it was established. The schemes that have been launched from time to time for the reclamation of this ex-criminal tribe and amelioration of its condition have been successful to a limited extent. There has definitely been improvement in their economic condition. Most of them have given up their traditional profession of thieving and looting and have taken to agriculture. Whatever criminality was ingrained in their nature through the past centuries, it will be readily admitted, will take many more years to get rid of completely. Segregation of their children, provision of residential boarding houses exclusively meant for them and their education in the schools jointly with the children of the caste people is showing favourable results. The situation of the colony in the vicinity of Bundi town has had a marked

influence on the community. They have opportunities of mixing with the people of other castes and taking tea and refreshments at the stalls and restaurants of the town. The Kanjar women have become sophisticated in their dress, habits and behaviour, and they try to earn a part of their livelihood by singing songs and dancing. The Cooperative movement initiated for their welfare also appears to be making steady progress. Much, however, remains to be done. The people belonging to other castes who reside in Ramnagar and other nearby villages have not yet taken kindly to them. They still consider the Kanjars as untouchables and do not freely mix with them. It is, therefore, a very difficult problem to bring them in closer social contact with



A view of Ramnagar Kanjar Colony



The shrine of Durga, the goddess of Kanjars.
Note the 'Trishul' the symbol of the goddess.
Such shrines are found in all the mohallas
of the Colony.

APPENDIX

CENSUS OF INDIA, 1961

Socio-Economic Survey of selected villages in Rajasthan

[A] HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE

Name of District

III. Duaration of Residence

1. Does the Household originally belong to the village ?
2. If so immigrated from where, when and why ?

IV. Settlement Pattern

1. How this house has been laid out in the scheme of the settlement ?

V. House Type and Household effects

1. What is the general ground plan of house ?
2. Is the house (a) owned or (b) rented or (c) owned but partly rented out ?
3. What is the condition of the house (a) properly maintained or (b) dilapidated ?
4. What materials have been used in the construction of—
 - (a) Outer walls
 - (b) Roof
 - (c) Floors
5. No. of room in the house used for—

B. Ornaments**3. Ornaments usually worn and description of material**

<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Name and description of ornaments	Material	Name and description of ornaments	Material
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

C. Hair style

B. Funerals—

9. Any peculiar rites observed on the occasion of death
10. Is feast held on death ? If so, estimated expenditure thereon and No. of persons participating in such feast

C. Inheritance

11. Any peculiar customs followed at the time of inheritance
How inheritance devolves on surviving members ?

XI. Beliefs and Superstitions

1. Belief in particular god or goddess
2. Belief in particular spirit etc.
3. Location of object of worship in the house and mode of worship
4. Does the household believe in particular customs associated with change of seasons, cultivation etc. ?
5. Whether certain days, plants, persons, animals, other objects or happenings are considered lucky or

People have installed pumping sets on their wells, run by power generated by electricity or diesel oil. The Government has been providing facilities to grant loan for improving agriculture and cottage industries. It would be interesting to find out what has been the effect of all such reforms introduced to improve agriculture and other types of trade carried on in the village.

Further attempt is being made to improve the social customs and life of the people in the villages. Untouchability is being removed, modern Health and Sanitary practices are being introduced and by the establishment of village panchayats, an attempt is being made to improve the village administration. People are being advised not to marry their sons and daughters at an early age and not to give feasts on the occasion of death of any person in the household. Anti-malaria campaign and B.C.G. campaign are the order of the day. It would be interesting for you to examine every type of Socio-economic reform that has been introduced in the village and to make inquiry to determine what has been its impact on the village life and its actual effect.

It is not possible to catalogue each and every item which you should observe and make inquiry about in connection with the study of village life from social and economic points of view. These instructions have merely attempted to single out important points on which you should direct your inquiry. You have to keep up a pioneer's attitude of mind who goes to an unknown place and tries to discover all that is beautiful and worth noticing there. You will surely succeed in your endeavour if you will exert yourself to the utmost and try to observe every thing and then make a detailed inquiry to reach at the truth. We attach much more importance to the Village Schedule than to the Household Schedule because the monograph for each village will be mainly based on your observations for the village as a whole.

ABOUT THIS MONOGRAPH

The Kanjar Community was classified as a criminal tribe in Rajasthan till 1956 when it was listed as a scheduled caste.

Efforts to rehabilitate it were also made in the past. This monograph studies the Socio-economic life of the community in a colony set up by the former Bundi State in 1933.

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