

HINDU FAMILIES

IN

GUJARAT

**(BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR DOMESTIC,
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE).**

BY

R. B. GOVINDBHAI H. DESAI,

B. A., LL. B., F. R. A. I.,

NAEB DEWAN AND FIRST COUNCILLOR (retired),
BARODA STATE.

1932

Printed at the Baroda State Press
BARODA.

PREFACE.

The idea of having a book like this prepared originated with His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, III. who, while in Europe in 1929, happened to see a French book on the organization of a family in France, and with his usual solicitude for the encouragement of literature on social and economic subjects, was pleased to order that a book on similar lines should be prepared with regard to Hindu Families in Gujarat and that the work should be entrusted to me. I am very grateful to His Highness for this kind thought of me; and have endeavoured in the following pages to give effect to his wishes.

The difficulties confronting one who undertakes such a work can well be realised when it is borne in mind that geographically the province of Gujarat extends from Mount Abu to Daman, a long tract of land, and includes also Cutch and

the peninsula of Kathiawad where the Gujarati language is spoken. The manners, customs and mode of living of the Hindus living in such a large area and comprising many castes and creeds, have many local variations. But in spite of this the main features of life are the same and it is only these that can be taken notice of in a book like this. Even these common factors have been undergoing a rapid change under the influence of education and absorption of Western ideas. No one need therefore wonder if what is written to-day is found to have been materially changed before it is published.

I have fully utilised all the available materials on the subject and especially the various Census Reports and Gazetteers, to the authors of which I owe a deep debt of gratitude.

Baroda,
19th January 1932.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. GUJARAT	1
II. HINDU POPULATION	17
III. FAMILY LIFE	26
IV. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES	93
V. CASTE	174
VI. MARRIAGE	273
VII. WIDOW MARRIAGE	291
VIII. DIVORCE	313
IX. PREGNANCY AND CHILD BIRTH ...	326
X. DEATH	347
XI. FESTIVALS	363
XII. AMUSEMENTS	386
XIII. THE PERSONAL LAW OF THE HINDUS	396
XIV. POSITION OF WOMEN	317
XV. SOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ...	438

CORRECTION

On page 23, line 21, delete the figure 445.