

Indian Village Studies No. 14

# SAHNUSAR

(SIKAR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN)

A VILLAGE ECONOMY IN SEMI-ARID REGION

Suresh B. Saxena

AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE  
(FOR GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN)  
SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY  
VALLABH VIDYANAGAR

1968

Indian Village Studies No. 14.

SAHNUSAR

(SIKAR DISTRICT; RAJASTHAN)

A VILLAGE ECONOMY IN SEMI-ARID REGION

SURESH B. SAXENA

AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE  
(FOR GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN)  
SARDAR PATEL UNIVERSITY  
VALLABH VILLYANAGAR

1 9 6 8

## FOREWORD

In the arid and semi-arid parts of Rajasthan, the people follow cultivation as their main economic pursuit inspite of scanty, irregular and undependable rainfall. However, agriculture in these parts is highly unstable characterised by widely fluctuating yields and predominance of inferior cereals and pulses. In order to impart a measure of stability to their economy, the people rear livestock, mainly dairy cattle and sheep and goats. Studies conducted at the Centre have revealed that livestock is indeed a remarkable stabilising force in the economic life of the region. It has also been observed that while in some parts dairying is an important ancillary occupation, in the rest of the arid and semi-arid tract, rearing of sheep and goats is the main subsidiary activity of the people. It is, therefore, appropriate that the Government of Rajasthan have, for some time, been seized with the problem of developing dairying and sheep and wool industry in these parts. If the people of the region are properly encouraged and induced to develop these industries, not only a large part of the uncertainty and instability in incomes of the people can be reduced but a lever can be provided which can, in the long run, help achieve a fairly rapid economic development of the region.

With a view to assessing the impact of sheep and wool industry development programmes, by means of repeat surveys, the Centre selected two villages, Sahnusar and Harsawa, in the Sikar District of Rajasthan. The present report on Sahnusar village is a bench mark report depicting economic conditions of the village at the time (1962-63)

/2/

when the development programmes had just been initiated. It is intended to make a similar assessment after a reasonable period of time so that the impact of the development programme will have been felt markedly. It is hoped that the finding of the present report will be of interest to policy-makers as well as academic researchers.

V.S.Vyas

Vallabh Vidyanagar  
November 14, 1968.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our grateful thanks are due to:

The Block Development Officer, Panchayat Samiti,  
Fatehpur.

The School Teacher, Primary School, Sahnusar

The Sarpanch, Village Panchayat, Sahnusar

Our Respondents

\*\*\*\*\*

PROJECT TEAM

Project Leader

Suresh B. Saxena

Field Assistance

A.L.Purohit

Tabulation Assistance

V.S.Dharap

J.M.Patel

B.H.Shah

J.V.William

Stencilling

B. C. Patel

Mimeographing

Joseph R.Christian

Shri K.M.Choudhary rendered valuable assistance in organizing and supervising collection of data.

Shri B.M.Desai gave many useful comments and suggestions on an earlier draft.

## C O N T E N T S

	<u>P A G E</u>
FOREWORD	i - ii
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTORY	1 - 18
CHAPTER II: VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS	19 - 29
CHAPTER III: CASTE & SOCIAL STRUCTURE	30 - 38
CHAPTER IV: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	39 - 54
CHAPTER V: OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS	55 - 60
CHAPTER VI: LAND, LIVESTOCK & IMPLEMENTS	61 - 76
CHAPTER VII: PRODUCTION & DISPOSAL	77 - 93
CHAPTER VIII: CONSUMPTION PATTERN AND LEVELS OF LIVING	94 - 104
CHAPTER IX: FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS	105 - 113

\* \* \* \* \*