

CHAPTER IV

Occupation by Ethnic Group and Blocks.

There are 7 types of occupations shown in Table 17-a. They are as follows:

1. Economically Inactive
2. Farmers
3. Students
4. Housewives
5. Teachers
6. Labourers
7. Employees

The first three types of occupations absorb a greater proportion of population. The other four types constitute only about 5% of the population. The first type of occupation includes those people of 19 years old and under, who are neither schooling nor farming. As there are twelve people only who are in advanced age and physically unfit for work, they are also classified as Economically Inactive.

For this first type of occupation (Economically Inactive) it seems that in Block B as well as in Block I the percentages are more or less same for the three ethnic groups. In Block N there is always a great difference between the percentages of Malay and Javanese. Block B has a greater proportion of people who are Economically Inactive than either Block I or Block N.

TABLE 17(a)

Occupation by Ethnic Groups and Blocks

(Absolute)

OCCUPATIONS	BLOCK B				BLOCK I				BLOCK N				GRAND TOTAL
	Ethnic Groups				Ethnic Groups				Ethnic Groups				
	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	
Economically Inactive	17	85	8	110	14	16	86	116	4	-	49	53	279
Farmers	26	124	16	116	21	24	113	193	3	-	72	75	434
Students	9	46	3	58	12	14	58	84	2	-	50	52	194
Housewives	0	7	0	7	1	2	2	5	0	-	2	2	14
Teachers	1	2	0	3	2	1	4	7	0	-	0	0	10
Labourers	1	3	0	4	1	0	4	5	0	-	1	1	10
Employees	1	4	0	5	1	2	3	6	0	-	4	4	15
Total	55	271	27	353	52	59	305	416	9	-	178	187	956

Employees:

3 D.I.D. workers
 3 clerks
 3 factory workers
 1 watchman
 1 coffee shop servant
 1 storekeeper
 1 peon
 1 mechanic
 1 surveyor

Labourers = Agricultural workers + casual labourers.

Housewives include two midwives.

Farmers include a barber and 4 rubber tappers.

TABLE 17(b)

Occupations by Ethnic Groups and Blocks

OCCUPATIONS	(Percentage)												
	BLOCK B				BLOCK I				BLOCK N				GRAND TOTAL
	Ethnic Groups				Ethnic Groups				Ethnic Groups				
	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	
Economically Inactive	30.9	31.4	30.0	31.2	27.0	27.1	28.2	27.9	45.0	-	28.0	28.2	29.2
Farmers	47.3	45.8	59.0	47.0	40.0	40.7	48.5	46.3	33.0	-	40.0	39.9	45.4
Students	16.4	16.9	11.0	16.4	23.0	23.7	19.0	20.0	22.0	-	28.0	27.6	20.3
Housewives	0	2.6	0	2.0	2.0	3.4	0.6	1.2	0	-	1.0	1.1	1.5
Teachers	1.8	0.7	0	0.9	4.0	1.7	1.3	1.7	0	-	0	0	1.0
Labourers	1.8	1.1	0	1.1	2.0	0	1.3	1.2	0	-	1.0	1.1	1.0
Employees	1.8	1.5	0	1.4	2.0	3.4	1.1	1.7	0	-	2.0	2.1	1.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-	100	100	100

A farmer in this analysis is defined as a person who uses the land (not necessarily his land) for his farming operations at least once in a year, that is, either during the main-season or off-season. It is he who takes the responsibilities and decisions regarding his padi-farming operations.

There is a greater proportion of Javanese farmers in all the three blocks (59%, 48.5% and 40% respectively). The Malay and Javanese farmers constitute about same percentages in Block B and Block I. The total percentages for farmers in Block B and Block I are also approximately same (47% and 46.3% respectively). Block N has less proportion of farmers (39.9%) than either Block B or Block I. Unlike the Malays and Banjarse, it seems that the Javanese adults (20 years and above) in Block B have no other source of occupation than farming. Similarly for the Malays in Block N, farming is the sole occupation of the Malay adults.

But, on the other hand, the proportion of students in Block N (27.6%) is greater than that of either in Block B or Block I. The Banjarese have the greatest proportion of students in Block B and Block I. But the proportions of Banjarese students in these two blocks are more or less same as that of the Malays. It is only in Block N where proportionally Javanese have more students than the Malays.

There are very few housewives, teachers, labourers and employees in the three blocks. Block B and Block N have no Malay housewives. There are only 7 Banjarese housewives in Block B - about 2% of Banjarese population. The housewives constitute a very small percentage in Block I (1.2%) as well as in Block N (1.1%). This is also true for the other types of occupations - all Teachers, labours and Employees absorb a negligible proportion of population in each block.

There is no teacher in Block N. In Block I each ethnic group has at least an housewife, a teacher, a labourer and an employee. Block B has no Javanese housewife, teacher, labourer and employee. This is also true for Malays in Block N.

Occupation by Ethnic Groups - All Blocks together.

Table 18 shows the position of the three ethnic groups in the different occupations.

Of a total of 434 farmers, five people are found doing other jobs in addition to farming. Four of them are rubber tappers (2 Banjarese and 1 Malay in Block B, and 1 Banjarese in Block I) and the other is a Banjarese barber. As their main occupation is farming, they are represented as Farmers. There is only one barber among the 472 male population of the three blocks. It is interesting to know if all these males have their regular haircut by this barber. Assuming that this farmer has a monopoly in his trade in these three blocks (he may have his customers outside these blocks also), this particular farmer then has two steady sources of income, and this is very rare for farmers in the three blocks. This is evident from the fact that there are only four other farmers who have other sources of income by tapping rubber, presumably during off-season.

But this does not mean that the majority of the farmers are idle after the main-season crop has been harvested. Although double-cropping is not a common practice yet in Sawah Sempadan, there may be some farmers who continue growing padi, perhaps on a smaller scale, or grow some vegetables instead. Some farmers would go to nearby jungle to collect firewood for ^{home}house consumption.

The farmers constitute 45.4% of the total population. For this type of occupation (Farmers) there is no much difference in the percentages for the three ethnic groups.

TABLE 18

Occupations by Ethnic Groups - All Blocks together

OCCUPATIONS	ETHNIC GROUPS							
	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.	Mal.	Banj.	Java	Tot.
	No	No	No	No	%	%	%	%
Economically Inactive	35	101	143	279	30.2	30.6	28.0	29.2
Farmers	50	148	236	434	43.1	44.8	46.3	45.4
Students	23	60	111	194	19.8	18.1	21.8	20.3
Housewives	1	9	4	14	0.9	2.7	0.8	1.5
Teachers	3	3	4	10	2.6	1.0	0.8	1.0
Labourers	2	3	5	10	1.7	1.0	0.9	1.0
Employees	2	6	7	15	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.6
Total	116	330	510	956	100	100	100	100

In fact the distribution of percentages among the three ethnic groups for each of the different types of occupations is more or less same.

About half or 49.5% of the total population comprises the Economically Inactive and Students. The Housewives, Teachers, Labourers and Employees constitute only 5.1% in total.

There are only 14 housewives (1.5% of the total population). This is perhaps due to the fact that most of the female adults (20 years and above) are considered as farmers, when in fact some of them are also doing housekeeping work. It is doubtful whether these few housewives are not doing farmwork as well. It is a usual practice for female adults to do both farming as well as housekeeping. If we assume this to be the case, then the number of these housewives is not a real indicator at all. Their presence or absence from the table makes no difference. But in this analysis we regard these housewives as different from farmers. They are the female adults who strictly confine themselves to housekeeping work.

However, there are 2 Banjarese midwives included in the Housewives. The ratio of midwives to the female population of the three blocks is 1:242.

There is a greater proportion of Malays in the teaching profession (2.6%) than either the Banjarese (1%) or Javanese (0.3%), even though the Banjarese and the Javanese are the majority groups in all the three blocks. There are at least three teachers for each ethnic group.

The agricultural workers and casual labourers are grouped together as Labourers. They are all ten in number (1% of the total population).

Those people who are doing various types of jobs which are not in anyway connected with farms are represented as Employees. The Employees include, 3 D.I.D. workers (Drainage and Irrigation Department), 3 clerks, 3 factory workers, 1 watchman, 1 coffee-shop servant, 1 storekeeper, 1 peon, 1 mechanic and 1 surveyor. There are 15 people altogether doing nine different types of jobs. As the number of workers in each type of job is very small, it is easier if they are all added and lumped together under one category - Employees.

The Employees are distinguished from the Labourers in the sense that unlike the latter, the former are workers employed with regular fixed monthly income. Strictly speaking teachers are also employees. But the teachers are singled out just for the sake of interest.

The Malay housewives, teachers, labourers and employees together constitute about 6% of the Malay population, while for the same types of occupations the Banjarese and Javanese constitute 3.8% and 3.1% respectively. There is thus a greater proportion of Malay adults who are not farmers. But these percentages are negligible.

The distribution of population clusters around the first three occupational groups.

Occupations by Rows and Blocks.

All blocks in Sawah Semendan are divided into four rows, namely Row-1, Row-2, Row-3 and Row-4.

Table 19-a shows that Block B and Block I have more economically inactive people, farmers and students in Row-1 and Row-4 than in the two middle rows. In Block N this is true only in Row-1. In every block there are more people staying in Row-1 and Row-4 than in Row-2 or Row-3.

In Block I every row has at least a teacher, a labourer (except Row-4) and an employee (except Row-1). In the first row of Block B, there is no teacher, labourer or employee. Similarly Block N has none of these in its third and fourth rows. These three types of occupations are fairly distributed in all the four rows of Block I.

It is rather difficult to say at a glance which row in which block has the highest percentage in all the different types of occupations. In Block B for instance, a greater proportion of economically inactive people is found in Row-2 than in any other rows; in Row-3 there is a greater proportion of farmers and most of the students are found in Row-1. Similarly for Block I and Block N, the percentages for the different types of occupations vary in all the four rows.

TABLE 19(a)

Occupation by Rows and Blocks

(Absolute)

OCCUPATIONS	BLOCK B				BLOCK I				BLOCK N				Total
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R1	R2	R3	R4	R1	R2	R3	R4	
Economically Inactive	30	23	17	40	25	29	22	40	20	12	12	9	279
Farmers	40	26	39	61	51	35	47	60	20	13	14	20	434
Students	24	12	11	11	22	24	22	16	24	7	14	7	194
Housewives	2	1	0	4	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	14
Teachers	0	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	10
Labourers	0	0	0	4	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	10
Employees	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	3	3	1	0	0	15
Total	96	66	68	123	101	95	96	124	78	33	40	36	956

Occupational Groups by Sex and Age - All Blocks together.

Table 20 shows that about 100 school-age going children (excluding those under 6 years) are classified as Economically Inactive. They are neither schooling nor working. Their total number is about half of that of Students.

There are more farmers in 15-19, 20-24, and 25-29 year age-groups than in any other age groups. About 50% of the farmers are under the age of 29 years. There are more female than male farmers in the age group of 44 years and below. On the other hand there are more male than female farmers in the age-group of 45 years and above. In other words the number of female farmers is less than that of males in the higher age groups (45 years and above). In total, there is a small surplus of male farmers over female farmers. (220 and 214 respectively). Even if we regard all teachers, labourers and employees as farmers, thereby increasing the number of male farmers to 255, the surplus of male farmers over the females is still very small - about 15%. The small variation between the number of male and female farmers may be caused by the possibility of many young male adults leaving the farms in search of more secured jobs with better income.

There are few people who start their life as farmers at the age of ten, and few farmers who are 65 years old and above.

The rarity of farmers' children going for higher education is indicated by the fact that there are only two (one male and one female) out of 194 students who are still studying at the age of 20 years and above.

The teachers are young, their ages ranging from 15 to 29 years. There is an almost equal number of male and female teachers.

The labourers are found between the ages of 20-54 years. One of them is female (Agricultural worker) of 20.24 year age group.

TABLE 20

Occupational Groups by Sex and Age - All Blocks together

AGE GROUPS	OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS															
	Economically Inactive		Farmers		Students		Housewives		Teachers		Labourers		Employees		All Groups	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-4	66	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	05
5-9	37	42	-	-	37	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	87
10-14	15	20	0	13	50	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	74	75
15-19	1	1	39	41	5	13	-	2	3	2	-	-	5	0	53	59
20-24	-	-	25	26	1	1	-	2	3	1	2	1	1	0	32	31
25-29	-	-	24	26	-	-	-	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	28	27
30-34	-	-	19	23	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	26
35-39	-	-	15	22	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	0	1	0	18	24
40-44	-	1	19	23	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	0	21	26
45-49	-	1	12	9	-	-	-	0	-	-	2	0	2	0	16	10
50-54	-	1	15	14	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	0	1	0	17	18
55-59	1	-	15	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	7
60-64	1	-	17	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	7
65-over	2	5	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	8
Total	123	156	220	214	93	101	-	14	6	4	9	1	15	0	466	490

There are few farmers' children who work as employees at an early age. The youngest employees and farmers are found in 10-14 year age group. The youngest labourers on the other hand are found in the age group of 20-24 years.

There are few children who are farmers (between the ages of 10-19 years). The actual number of students would have been increased had it not been due to the fact that there are about 100 children (in the age group of 6-19 years) who are Economically Inactive (i.e. they are neither schooling nor farming).

