

CHAPTER IV

OCCUPATION

In this section of the study, before discussing about the distribution of occupations by groups of Blocks, I would first like to bring to notice, that as we have seen in Table 4.1, the total population is 2,929, whereas in all the previous Tables the number is 3,021. This is because in the original Graduation Exercise dealing with Blocks, A, G, L, H and M, it is found that in its Table 16, the figures are as illustrated in this Table 4.1. Instead of being 368, the total given by Table 16 is 274. The total thus falls short of 94. Nowhere in the Graduation Exercise can I find the reason for the difference.

Similarly in Blocks C, J and O, the total figure is increasing by two, from 571 in all the previous Tables to 573 as shown in this Table 4.1. This figure 573 is transferred from Table 14 in the original Graduation Exercise, Blocks C, J and O. All percentages in this Table 4.1 are calculated on the basis of the total figures as given in this Table. I therefore in this Chapter study the occupations of 2,929 people only.

Secondly, for the sake of simplicity, I have rearranged and reduced the number of occupational groups from the original maximum of ten to nine.

As I have already explained in the introduction of this Graduation Exercise, I make no attempt to give a new definition for each of the nine occupational groups used here. The definitions have already been given and the figures have already been calculated against them.

However, it may be useful to furnish definitions where necessary as given by students as an illustration.

Farmer is defined as a person engaged in doing any form of farming activities. He is a person who uses the land (not necessarily his land) for his farming operations at least once in a year, either during the main-season or off-season. It is he who takes the responsibilities and decisions regarding his padi farm.

With regard to housewives, different students use different terms, such as houseworker, and housekeeping. But they all mean the same thing, that is a young unmarried girl of ten years and above, or a married female, or a widow, who spends the greater part of her time maintaining household duties or who strictly doing the work of a housewife.

TABLE 4.1

DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPATIONS BY GROUP OF BLOCKS

Occupation	Number										Percentage					
	AGLUN	BIN	C-JO	DMPV	EOSW	FRTU	Total	AGLUN	BIN	C-JO	DMPV	EOSV	FRTU	Total		
Farmer	170	236	296	296	146	100	1,327	82.2	46.3	51.7	43.1	33.9	46.4	45.3		
Housewives	0	4	22	95	25	36	160	2.9	0.8	3.6	16.3	5.7	8.1	6.9		
Student	61	111	110	126	107	107	652	33.3	21.0	19.2	13.6	24.4	24.0	22.3		
Teacher	1	4	1	-	-	1	7	0.3	0.8	0.2	-	-	0.2	0.2		
Labourer	1	5	-	-	-	1	7	0.3	0.9	-	-	-	0.2	0.2		
Employee	-	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	1.4	-	-	-	-	0.2		
Inactive Population	-	143	-	167	121	-	441	-	28.0	-	24.3	29.8	-	15.1		
Others	3	-	20	3	27	2	55	1.0	-	3.5	0.4	6.2	0.4	1.9		
Nil	-	-	124	-	-	119	243	-	-	21.6	-	-	26.7	6.3		
Total	274*	510	573*	687	439	446	2,929	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

* This figure is from Table 16 in the original Graduation Exercise A, G, L, N, H. The figure should be 368.

* This figure is also from the original Graduation Exercise, Table 14. The figure increases by two.

A labourer can either be an agricultural labourer or a casual labourer.

An employee is one who works for regular income received either daily, weekly or monthly. In Sawah Sempadan it is found that some men are employed as D.I.D. workers, clerks, and factory workers.

Inactive population refers to minors (six years of age and below), dependents such as children who neither working nor schooling, old persons, invalids, the sick and persons temporarily out of jobs.

I think 'Nil' as given by Blocks C, J, O, and Blocks F, R, T, U, means the same thing as inactive population, as it includes also the same type of persons such as infants, non-schooling children, the aged and people who are completely and permanently out of jobs owing either to sheer laziness or sheer disability.

Other occupations by whose nature could not be included in any of the above eight occupational groups already mentioned, and occupations the number of workers of which in each type is very small, are added and lumped together under one category - others.

Others include one driver and one midwife in Blocks A, G, L, H and K. In Blocks C, J and O, there are ten mixed occupations and ten odd-jobbers under Others. A person doing mixed occupations means doing more than one job, and he does not necessarily do them simultaneously everyday.

The occupation of those three persons under others in Blocks D, K, P and V has not been determined.

In Blocks E, Q, S and W, there are six odd-jobbers, one shop-keeper, one carpenter, one midwife and 18 farm-helpers who provide the farm with labour during planting and harvesting season. They may be paid or unpaid family workers such as children and relatives.

Table 4.1, thus gives a picture of various occupations employed by Javanese population. Although Sawah Sempadan is a padi area, there are only 1,327 out of 2,929 population (actually 3,021) or about 45.3% of the total who are really farmers. In Table 2.5 we have assumed that working age population to be within 20-54 year age group, in which there are 949 people. But Table 4.1 reveals that the number of working population is greater by 378 people. This difference may be due to the inclusion of some old people above 55 years old (in Table 2.5 analysis we exclude them) who are still farmers, and the inclusion of some young children as farmers when they should be students. This is obvious from the fact that in our analysis in Table 2.5, if we take 5-19 year age group to be the school-going age, there are 1,388 children or about

45.9% of the total population who should be schooling. But in Table 4.1 we notice that there are only 652 children who are really students. This number is about 22.3% of the total in Sawah Sempadan. Though the Javanese population is young, there are only very few children who really go to school to get the benefit of education.

Why there is such a small number of students in Sawah Sempadan? Is it due to poverty or indifferent attitude towards education of the rural people?

The answer to these questions I think lies in several factors. I do not think that they are indifferent. A farmer, like any other human beings, would certainly like to see his son and daughter given necessary education while they are still young if he has the means and opportunity to do so. As we know the rural farm income is very low. The income is low because the productivity is low. The low in productivity is caused by several factors, such as methods of cultivation, preservation, the types of equipments used, the system of irrigation, the number of persons working per acre, uncertainty of weather, and insufficient protection against pest and disease, and last but not least, the farmers themselves are usually illiterate and uneducated. All these factors have their influence on the volume of output produced, with a result that their income is more often than not uncertain and fluctuate from season to season. This may be an economic factor resulting in the small number of students going to school in Sawah Sempadan. This factor has been intensified by the fact that a school, if there is, is usually situated at quite a distance. The road during rainy season is muddy, and it is very difficult to go even by bicycle. Bicycle is a very valuable asset to a farmer. Very few farmers own extra bicycles so as to enable their children to go to school by them. But the majority of them own one or two bicycles for farm use. If they send their children on bicycles to and from the school everyday, bearing in mind the distance of the school, this may mean that they spend less hours in farm activities everyday. Less hours mean less labour, which in turn mean less output. Moreover sending children to school incurs current expenses. Imagine if a farmer has several school-going age children, he must have ready cash everyday for his schooling children. If they do go to school, the school itself is lacking in many educational facilities. Thus, there are many factors which discourage the children from being sent to school. The result we can see as illustrated by figures in Table 4.1.

Blocks E, Q, S, W, and Blocks F, R, T, U, have equal number of students, 107 in each group or about 24% of the total in the respective groups. Similarly Blocks B, I, N, and Blocks C, J, G, almost have equal number of students, 111 and 110 respectively, or about 21.8% and 19.2% of the total in the respective groups of Blocks. Though Blocks A, G, L, H and M have the greatest proportion of students, 33.3%, but this figure may be misleading as it is based on a total population of 274 and not on a true total of 368.

Of all the six groups of Blocks, Blocks D, K, P and V have the most number of housewives, 95 altogether or about 18.3% of the total in the Blocks. It seems that in the other groups of Blocks, there are very few females doing housekeeping chores. The figures or percentages are almost negligible. But the small numbers of housewives may be misleading, because it is in fact very difficult to distinguish farmer from housewife. The figures between these two occupational groups may be overlapping. One student for example may have a larger figure for housewives because he regards females who irregularly work in the fields as housewives. Another student may include them as farmers on the grounds that they spend much of their time on farms. As a result one may have more for farmers and less for housewives and vice versa. The difficulty to draw a demarcation line between these two groups of occupations arises from the fact that rural females usually engage both functions, farming as well as housekeeping, especially those females who have no children.

However, let us assume that housewives figures as depicted by Table 4.1 are true. This means that in all groups of Blocks there is a large use of female labour resources in farm activities. This is especially true if we take the figures for females of fifteen years and above. The females (estimated from Table 2.8) of this age group make up about 50% of the total population in each group of Blocks. But the housewives constitute very small percentages in Table 4.1.

There are several people in Blocks B, I and N who are teachers, labourers and employees. Such occupations are absent in other groups of Blocks, or if there is, the figure is very negligible. From Table 4.1 we can calculate that economically active population constitutes about 47.8% of the total population in Sawah Sempadan. Thus, dependency ratio is about 1:1.

The non-farming occupations make up very negligible percentage - 2.7%.