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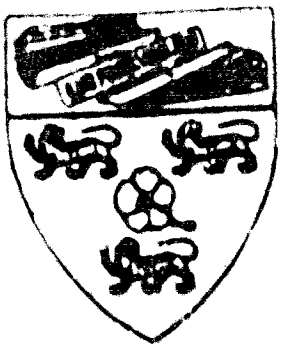

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TANJONG KARANG SURVEY - PHASE II

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY OF SAWAH SEMPADAN

A STUDY OF MALAY POPULATION

OF BLOCKS A-W

by

Sheikh Othman b. Sheikh Salim

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A Graduation Exercise presented to
the University of Malaya in
part fulfilment towards the
Degree of Bachelor of Arts
with Honours in Economics

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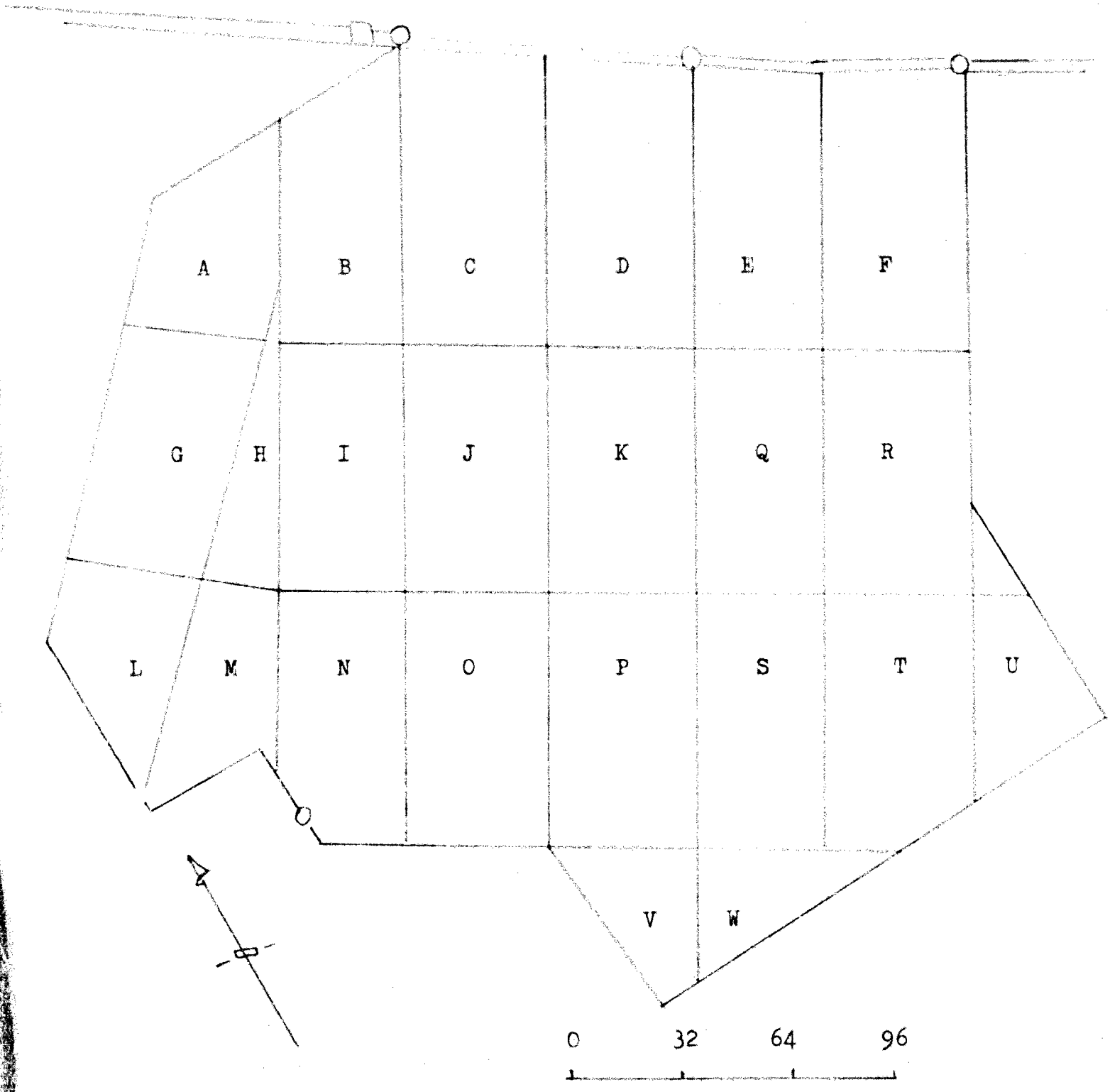
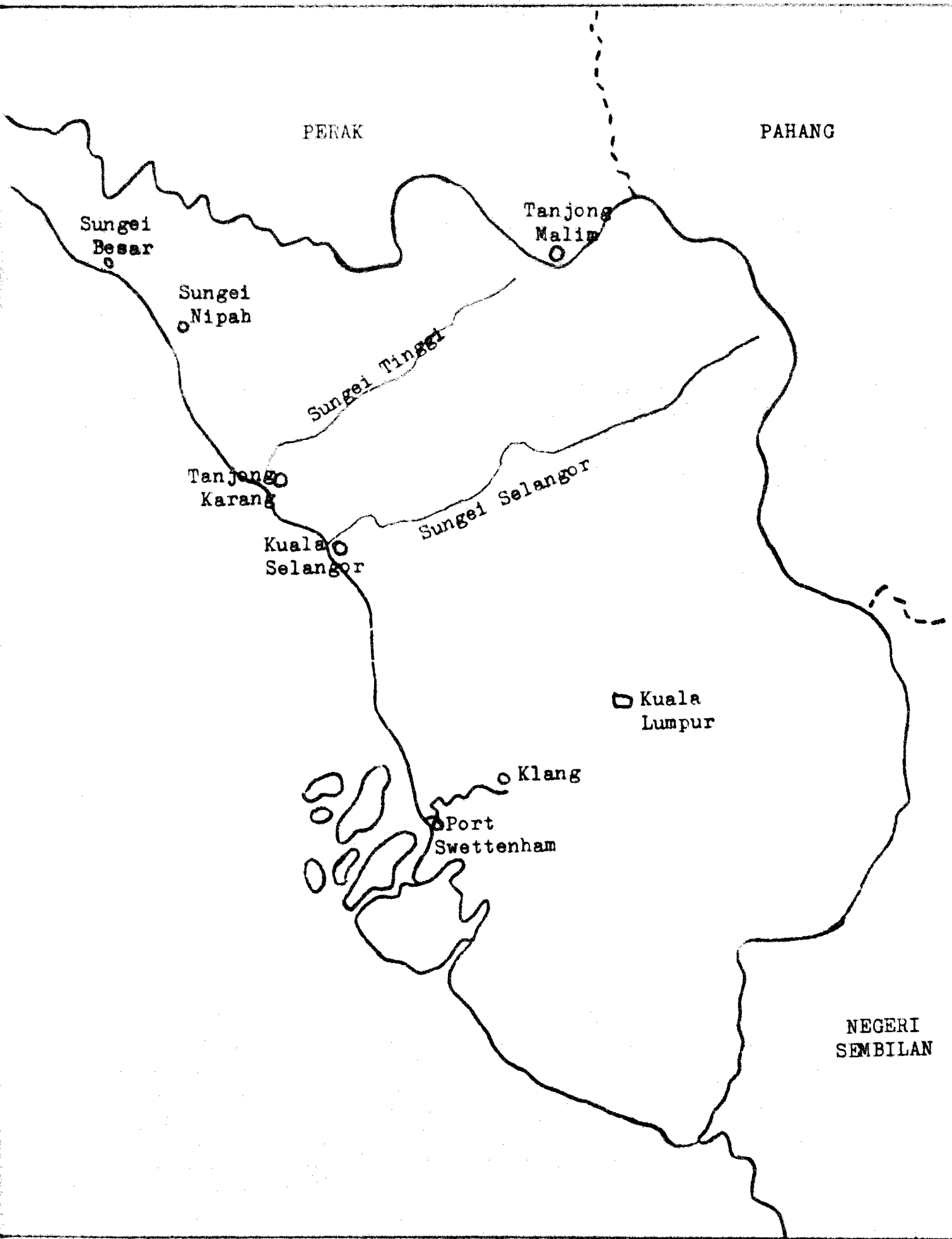
SAWAH SEMPADAN

(6,100 ACRES)



SKETCH MAP OF THE STATE OF SELANGOR



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Rice Farming Areas of Tanjong Karang

Tanjong Karang is situated about 50 miles north-west of Kuala Lumpur, in the district of Kuala Selangor. The area is important for the extensive rice farms located in Sawah Sempadan and Sekinchan, about 8 miles apart.

The rice farms of Sawah Sempadan combined together cover an area of 6,100 acres, while those at Sekinchan comprise 5,100 acres.[1]

A significant difference between the two rice farm areas[2] is the composition of the farm population of the areas. In Sawah Sempadan the bulk of the population belong to two major ethnic groups - Javanese and Malays. Mingled with these two ethnic groups are some Banjarese, Menangkabaus and Buginese. In Sekinchan, the farm population is predominantly Chinese who speak various dialects.

Historical Background

The Tanjong Karang Padi Scheme was started by the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Federation of Malaya, in 1940. The effort of the scheme was one of converting some 50,000 acres of useless jungle swamp into productive padi land. Although the scheme was started as early as 1940, most of the work was lost in the Japanese occupation. However, after the liberation from the Japanese, the Drainage and Irrigation Department tackled the job afresh and launched an extensive programme of rehabilitation.[3]

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[1] See map of Tanjong Karang.

[2] The word 'farm population' is intended here to refer to all those farmers and members of their households residing either on sawah lots or in surrounding areas, who depend on the farm as a major source of income.

[3] From Pamphlet, "The Story of Tanjong Karang" published by the Department of Information in collaboration with Drainage and Irrigation Department, (1951).

Today, Sawah Sempadan combined with Sekinchan form one of the most important rice bowls of Malaya.

During the past few years, the Federation of Malaya Government has attempted to introduce double-cropping and experiments have been carried out in a few Blocks to determine the feasibility and problems of double-cropping.[4]

The success of these double-cropping experiments and the eventual double-cropping of the whole of Sawah Sempadan and Sekinchan rice areas would enhance the importance of the State of Selangor as a rice-producing state in the Federation of Malaya. It would also be a step nearer the objectives of raising the level of income of the rural people and of achieving ultimate self-sufficiency in rice in the country. Both these objectives have been envisaged in the First and Second Five Year Plans of the Federation of Malaya.

Note on the Graduation Exercise

Arts students reading Economics as a specialist course are required in their final year of study to submit to the University of Malaya a graduation exercise based either on prescribed topics or on a particular research work that has been undertaken by the Department of Economics.

The graduation exercises presented during the 1963/64 Academic Session collectively constitute an analysis of data collected in two field investigations of the Sawah Sempadan padi-farms.

Each graduation exercise deals with data on three or four Blocks of the rice-farms of Sawah Sempadan.

Attention has been focused on the socio-economic aspects of the farm population and in particular on the age, sex and ethnic group structure of the farm population, size and composition of households, and comparison of these classified data within and between Blocks. The graduation exercises referred to also contain some discussion on the employment pattern and land-ownership in the areas.

To maintain uniformity in the comparison between Blocks, the analysis in each of the graduation exercises has been restricted to data concerning households located in sawah lots within the boundaries of each individual Block or clustre of Blocks. Farmers

---

[4]For administrative convenience, the rice farms are divided into several Blocks identified by the alphabets. The 6,100 acres of rice farms in Sawah Sempadan are divided into 23 Blocks designated by the alphabets A-W.

Experiments on double-cropping have been carried out in Sawah Sempadan in Blocks I and J.

and members of their households whose farms are situated within the individual Block or clustre of Blocks but whose places of residence are outside the boundaries of the Block(s) have been excluded from the analysis of the graduation exercises.

Thus, a brief description of the contents and scope of the graduation exercises based on surveys of Sawah Sempadan padi-farms in Tanjong Karang area has been attempted.

The analysis that follows in subsequent pages is similar in nature to that of the graduation exercises already described, but differs in certain respects.

First, this analysis, itself a graduation exercise, covers the whole of the Sawah Sempadan area and not merely a few Blocks as has been the case with each of the previous graduation exercises.

Second, it is confined only to the analysis of Malay population of the Sawah Sempadan area. The other predominant ethnic group, the Javanese, are excluded as they are dealt with in another graduation exercise. For convenience, a third ethnic group, the Bugis, will be incorporated under the heading 'Malay'.

Third, this graduation exercise, unlike the previous ones analyses data on population, household and occupation. The chapter on land - ownership is here left out as more detailed study of it is made elsewhere.

Finally, this analysis is based on the graduation exercises presented to the Economics Department during 1963/64 session, for its material. The graduation exercises themselves derived the information from primary data collected in surveys of the padi-farms of Tanjong Karang.

CHAPTER II

POPULATION

Population Classification by Locality

The farm population of Sawah Sempadan area can broadly be classified into two categories - kampong residents and sawah residents.[1]

The kampong residents are distributed in the villages surrounding the Sawah Sempadan rice farms: kampongs Ulu Tiram Burok, Ujong Permatang, and Kunchi Ayer Buang, Parit Serong, Batu Empat, Batu Lima to name some.

Majority of the farmers who have preferred to reside in kampongs are concentrated in kampongs adjacent to the Blocks in which their farms are located. This is most probably not coincidental but rather the result of planned alienation of land by the Government. Original settlers of Tanjong Karang whose applications for lands were approved, were each given 3 acres of land for padi cultivation and an additional acre of kampong land for residence and the cultivation of other crops, such as coconuts. Where possible, a farmer was given kampong land in a village nearest to his farm.

These kampong residents are, however, excluded from the analysis that follows.[2]

The sawah residents are scattered about in the various Blocks. Included in this study are a total number of 2,798 Malays who are residents of sawah lots in all Blocks within the boundaries of the Sawah Sempadan rice farm area.

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[1]Kampong residents refer to those farmers and members of their households who have their permanent place of residence in a kampong. Likewise, sawah residents are those farmers and members of their households whose permanent residence is on a sawah lot.

[2]See 'Note on the Graduation Exercise'.

Classification of Population into Malays and Others

Table 2.1 shows the relative sizes of Malay and total population of Sawah Sempadan rice farms. As shown in the Table, the total population of 5,819 sawah residents are made up of 2,798 Malays and 3,111 'others'. The latter group, however, almost exclusively comprises the Javanese. For the analysis that follows we are interested only in the Malay population. It is necessary to explain the classification of the Sawah Sempadan farm population into the two ethnic groups - Malays and Javanese.

TABLE 2.1

MALAY POPULATION AND OTHERS

Total (All Blocks)	Malays	Others (Javanese)
5,819	2,798	3,111

Since this analysis is based on secondary data, classification of the population into Malays and Javanese has been prepared by students writing the graduation exercises in the previous year. The present writer merely adds up the number of persons in each Block already prescribed as Malays in the compiled data. However, it is found that decision on the classification of the individual resident into either Malay or Javanese has been based on the following considerations.

From the information set out in schedule 1 (sheet 2) of the questionnaire forms used in the survey of 1962.

If the head of an household is indicated to have been born in Java, then he and all the other members of his household are assumed to be Javanese.

In cases where the head of an household was born in Malaya, Sumatra or anywhere else outside Java, then the criterion which determines the classification of the household into a particular ethnic group is taken to be the major language(s) spoken. If Malay is the only language spoken by the head of the household, than that is considered sufficient evidence to classify him and the other members of the household as 'Malay'. Where Javanese is stated in the form as one of the languages spoken - and in practically all such cases Javanese is the principal language spoken - the head and members of his household are considered to be Javanese.

In some cases, the population has been classified into Malays, Banjarese and Javanese. For our purpose, those classified

as Malays and Banjarese have been incorporated in one classification 'Malays'. It must be pointed out that in the case of the Banjarese, Malay is generally also a spoken language of the households in addition to Banjarese.

From the explanation given above, it appears that the place of birth of the head of an household or the language(s) spoken by him is the deciding factor for determining the ethnic group of the entire household concerned. To justify this, it might be necessary to clarify here that in practically all cases, the questionnaire forms reveal that other members of an household, except the very young, also speak the major language spoken by the head of the household. A possible explanation is that inter-marriage is extremely rare in Sawah Sempadan. Members of the household who are not children of the head and his wife, or of both are in all cases either blood-relatives of the husband or of the wife or of both, or their in-laws who are of the same ethnic group.[3]

From Table 2.1 it can be calculated to show that almost half of the total population of 5,819 for the combined Blocks of Sawah Sempadan (48.08%) are Malays.

The size of the Malay population in each individual Block is shown in Table 2.2. Numerical comparison on the size of the Malay population between one Block and another can be made. The same data are reproduced in part of Table 2.3. This latter Table also gives the break-down of the Malay population in each Block as a percentage of the total Malay population in the whole farm area, thereby facilitating more satisfactory comparison.

Reverting to Table 2.2, it can be seen that this Table also provides the figures of total population in the individual Block and the percentage of the Block Malay population over the individual Block total population. It is learnt from this Table that Block B has the highest percentage of Malay population, the percentage being 92.35. On the other extreme, Block V has no Malay residents while Block N with 9 Malays has a Malay population comprising only 4.81% of its total population.

Of the 23 Blocks, 9 Blocks have more than half their population consisting of Malays. The remaining Blocks have Javanese majority. The randomness of the distribution of Malays and Javanese in the various Blocks suggests the possibility that this ethnic group composition of the population is merely incidental and not due to any specific government policy of land alienation. This suggestion needs be confirmed.

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[3]The word 'in-laws' includes son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, etc.

TABLE 2.2

RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF MALAY AND TOTAL POPULATION BY BLOCK

Block	Malay Population	Total Population	Percentage of Malay Over Total
A	70	203	34.48
B	326	353	92.35
C	184	395	46.58
D	135	416	32.45
E	156	274	56.93
F	38	141	26.95
G	294	360	81.67
H	23	140	16.43
I	111	416	26.68
J	167	391	42.71
K	161	368	43.75
L	89	122	72.95
M	45	64	70.31
N	9	187	4.81
O	95	231	41.13
P	189	356	53.09
Q	223	343	65.01
R	138	225	61.33
S	210	389	53.98
T	84	302	27.81
U	38	76	50.00
V	0	32	00.00
W	13	35	37.14
Total	2,798	5,819	48.08

TABLE 2.3

DISTRIBUTION OF MALAY POPULATION BY INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS ACCORDING TO SEX

Block	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
A	27	43	1.99	2.99	70	2.50
B	156	170	11.48	11.81	326	11.65
C	105	79	7.73	5.49	184	6.58
D	77	58	5.67	4.03	135	4.82
E	70	80	5.15	5.56	150	5.36
F	18	19	1.40	1.32	38	1.36
G	130	164	9.57	11.40	294	10.51
H	9	14	0.66	0.97	23	0.82
I	45	66	3.31	4.58	111	3.97
J	83	84	6.11	5.84	167	5.97
K	85	76	6.25	5.28	161	5.75
L	44	45	3.24	3.13	89	3.18
M	25	20	1.84	1.39	45	1.60
N	7	2	0.52	0.14	9	0.32
O	45	50	3.31	3.47	95	3.39
P	93	96	6.84	6.67	189	6.76
Q	105	118	7.73	8.20	223	7.97
R	70	68	5.15	4.72	138	4.92
S	103	107	7.58	7.43	210	7.51
T	48[a]	48[a]	3.61	3.40	98[a]	3.50
U	16[b]	18[b]	1.18	1.25	34[b]	1.21
V	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
W	6	7	4.42	0.49	13	0.46
Total	1,358[c]	1,439[c]	100.00	100.00	2,798	100.00

[a] Elsewhere, the total Malay population for Block T is given as 84.

[b] Elsewhere, the total Malay population for Block U is given as 38.

See Graduation Exercise for combined Blocks F, R, T and U.

[c] See foot-note for Table 2.4.

TABLE 2.4

RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE AND FEMALE MALAY POPULATION BY INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS

Block	No. of Persons		Percentage	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
A	27	43	38.57	61.42
B	156	170	47.85	52.15
C	105	79	57.07	42.83
D	77	58	57.04	42.96
E	70	86	44.87	55.13
F	19	19	50.00	50.00
G	130	164	44.22	55.78
H	9	14	64.29	35.71
I	45	66	40.54	59.46
J	83	84	49.70	50.30
K	65	76	52.80	47.20
L	44	45	49.44	50.56
M	25	20	55.56	44.44
N	7	2	77.78	22.22
O	45	50	47.37	52.63
P	93	96	49.21	50.79
Q	105	118	47.09	52.91
R	70	68	50.72	49.28
S	103	107	49.05	50.95
T	49[a]	49[a]	50.00	50.00
U	16[b]	18[b]	47.06	42.94
V	-	-	-	-
W	6	7	46.15	53.85
Total	1,359	1,439	48.57	51.43

[a] The total given as 84 elsewhere.

[b] The total given as 38 elsewhere.

See Graduation Exercise for combined Blocks F, R, T and U.

For uniformity, the figures for males and females for Blocks T and U in Table are considered as erroneous so that the totals for males and females are maintained at 1,359 and 1,439 respectively.

Table 2.3 shows the Malay population of the individual Block by sex. The Table reveals that Block B which has the highest percentage of Malay population also has the highest percentage of both males and female residents. This is to be expected. Likewise, Blocks H, N, V and W which individually has less than 1% of total Malay population also have male and female Malay population comprising less than 1% of total for each Block.

Table 2.4 offers similar information as the previous Table except that the percentage shows the relative distribution of the male and female population in the same Block. The proportion of male and female population of one particular Block can thus be compared with that of another. It can be noticed that only six of the 23 Blocks - namely Blocks C, D, H, K, M and N - have male majority. In four Blocks (Blocks F, L, R and T) there is an even distribution of male and female residents while in the remaining 13 Blocks, females comprise more than 50% of the population in the respective Blocks. Disregarding Blocks H and N which have too small Malay population so as to make any distinctive feature in distribution distorting or of insignificance, it can be said that generally the male to female ratio does not show wide disparity. The range in most Blocks fall within 10% disparity. Apart from the exceptional Blocks H and N, only in Blocks A, C, D and I does the disparity in sex distribution of population exceed 10%.

The 23 Blocks are regrouped into six combinations of Blocks as shown in Table 2.5. It will be seen later that for some of our purposes, no data referring to individual Blocks are avail-

TABLE 2.5

MALAY POPULATION BY SEX FOR VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF BLOCKS

Block	Number			Percentage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
A,G,L,H,M	235	286	521	45.11	54.89	100.00
B, I, N	208	238	446	46.64	53.36	100.00
C, J, O	233	213	446	52.24	47.76	100.00
D, K, P, V	255	230	485	52.58	47.42	100.00
E, Q, S, W	284	318	602	47.18	52.82	100.00
F, R, T, U	144	154	298	48.32	51.68	100.00
Total	1,359	1,439	2,798	48.57	51.43	100.00

able. Consequently, we have to be satisfied with data for combinations of Blocks. Table 2.5 shows the distribution of population by sex for each combination of Blocks.

The above Table is expanded in six Tables (Tables 2.6-2.11) to give the distribution of population by sex according to age. No information on this aspect is available for each individual Block. The six Tables show that between two-fifths to slightly more than half of the male and female population in each combination of Blocks are under fifteen years of age. The break up is shown in Table 2.12 in which the six combined-Block population according to sex is classified into three age groups. Tables 2.6-2.11 should be studied together with Table 2.12.

TABLE 2.6

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX FOR BLOCKS A,G,L,H,K COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	34	46	14.47	16.08	80	15.36
5 - 9	27	37	11.49	12.94	64	12.28
10 - 14	32	47	13.62	16.43	79	15.16
15 - 19	28	40	11.91	13.99	68	13.05
20 - 24	19	25	8.09	8.74	44	8.45
25 - 29	11	15	4.68	5.24	26	4.99
30 - 34	12	17	5.11	5.94	29	5.57
35 - 39	11	20	4.68	6.99	31	5.95
40 - 44	15	9	6.38	3.15	24	4.61
45 - 49	9	8	3.82	2.80	17	3.26
50 - 54	10	10	4.26	3.50	20	3.84
55 - 59	8	3	3.40	1.05	11	2.11
60 - 64	7	6	2.98	2.10	13	2.50
65 & Above	12	3	5.11	1.05	15	2.88
Total	235	286	100.00	100.00	521	100.00

TABLE 2.7

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX
FOR BLOCKS B,I,N COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	31	40	14.90	16.81	71	15.92
5 - 9	28	48	13.46	20.17	76	17.04
10 - 14	32	35	15.38	14.71	67	15.02
15 - 19	31	26	14.90	10.92	57	12.78
20 - 24	12	13	5.77	5.46	25	5.61
25 - 29	12	13	5.77	5.46	25	5.61
30 - 34	11	10	5.29	4.20	21	4.71
35 - 39	8	10	3.85	4.20	18	4.04
40 - 44	7	14	3.37	5.88	21	4.71
45 - 49	9	9	4.33	3.78	18	4.04
50 - 54	6	7	2.88	2.94	13	2.91
55 - 59	7	4	3.37	1.68	11	2.47
60 - 64	9	3	4.33	1.26	12	2.69
65 & Above	5	6	2.40	2.52	11	2.47
Total	208	238	100.00	100.00	446	100.00

TABLE 2.8

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX
FOR BLOCKS C,J,C COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	42	35	18.03	16.43	77	17.26
5 - 9	52	44	22.32	20.66	96	21.52
10 - 14	28	23	12.02	10.80	51	11.43
15 - 19	20	33	8.58	15.50	53	11.88
20 - 24	19	19	8.15	8.92	38	8.52
25 - 29	12	14	5.15	6.57	26	5.83
30 - 34	13	12	5.58	5.63	25	5.60
35 - 39	11	12	4.72	5.63	23	5.16
40 - 44	12	7	5.15	3.29	19	4.26
45 - 49	5	4	2.15	1.88	9	2.02
50 - 54	10	6	4.30	2.82	16	3.60
55 - 59	3	1	1.28	0.47	4	0.90
60 - 64	2	2	0.86	0.94	4	0.90
65 & Above	4	1	1.72	0.47	5	1.12
Total	233	213	100.00	100.00	446	100.00

TABLE 2.9

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX
FOR BLOCKS D,K,P,V COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	46	42	18.03	18.26	88	18.14
5 - 9	54	37	21.17	16.08	91	18.76
10 - 14	33	36	12.94	15.65	69	14.23
15 - 19	21	29	8.23	12.60	50	10.31
20 - 24	17	17	6.67	7.39	34	7.01
25 - 29	9	18	3.52	7.83	27	5.57
30 - 34	15	10	5.88	4.34	25	5.15
35 - 39	14	14	5.49	6.08	28	5.77
40 - 44	13	7	5.09	3.04	20	4.12
45 - 49	7	4	2.75	1.74	11	2.27
50 - 54	7	4	2.75	1.74	11	2.27
55 - 59	6	3	2.35	1.30	9	1.86
60 - 64	7	5	2.75	2.17	12	2.47
65 & Above	6	4	2.35	1.74	10	2.06
Total	255	230	100.00	100.00	485	100.00

TABLE 2.10

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX
FOR BLOCKS E,S,S,W COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	47	52	16.55	16.35	99	16.4
5 - 9	43	45	15.14	14.15	88	14.6
10 - 14	46	43	16.20	13.52	89	14.8
15 - 19	29	26	10.21	8.18	55	9.2
20 - 24	21	42	7.40	13.21	63	10.5
25 - 29	17	30	5.99	9.43	47	7.8
30 - 34	21	31	7.39	9.75	52	8.6
35 - 39	22	15	7.75	4.72	37	6.2
40 - 44	13	19	4.58	5.97	32	5.3
45 - 49	7	2	2.46	0.63	9	1.5
50 - 54	3	7	1.06	2.20	10	1.7
55 - 59	1	3	0.35	0.94	4	0.6
60 - 64	7	2	2.46	0.63	9	1.5
65 & Above	7	1	2.46	0.32	8	1.3
Total	284	318	100.00	100.00	602	100.0

TABLE 2.11

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX
FOR BLOCKS F,H,T,U COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	29	34	20.2	23.5	63	21.14
5 - 9	25	26	17.3	18.1	51	17.11
10 - 14	22	24	15.3	16.7	46	15.44
15 - 19	11	25	7.7	17.3	36	12.08
20 - 24	12	10	8.4	6.8	22	7.38
25 - 29	10	14	6.8	9.7	24	8.05
30 - 34	11	9	7.6	6.3	20	6.71
35 - 39	6	5	4.3	3.4	11	3.69
40 - 44	9	6	6.3	4.3	15	5.03
45 - 49	1	0	0.7	0.0	1	0.34
50 - 54	4	1	2.5	0.7	5	1.68
55 - 59	1	0	0.7	0.0	1	0.34
60 - 64	1	0	0.7	0.0	1	0.34
65 & Above	2	0	1.4	0.0	2	0.68
Total	144	154	100.0	100.0	298	100.00

The under-fifteen age group is important in that a great proportion of the population that falls within this age group is composed of the economically inactive and those of school going age.

The proportion of the male population between fifteen and fifty-nine years, the bulk of which forms the labour force on the farms, constitute between 43% to 52% of the Malay population in each combination of Blocks. Females within this age range form between 45% to 55% of the population. Certain percentage of the females will add to the male labour force on the farms while a certain percentage will be exclusively housewives. Yet others will be housekeepers as well as farm-workers. This will be seen in a later Chapter. The Tables also show that old people, above fifty-nine years, form a very small proportion of both male and female population.

It will be noted that both sexes follow similar pattern of distribution by age, the general trend being that the number of persons decreases from lower to higher age groups.

The age composition of the population is significant from the point of view of labour force potentiality and general labour productivity. We shall discuss the influence of age structure on labour efficiency when we deal with 'occupation'. A word or two may, however, be said on labour potentiality. Even though some persons under 15 and over 60 years do work on the farm, the bulk of potential farm labour will come from those within the 15-59 age group. It can also be expected that almost all the males within this age group will be available for farm work while in the case of females, a good percentage will be able to provide part-time farm-labour while the rest do only house-keeping work.

Table 2.12 shows that there is no great disparity in the sizes of potential labour force in the various combinations of Blocks relative to the respective population size. The difference in the proportion of population within the age group 15-59 in one combination of Blocks with that in another combination varies from 3% to 10% for males and females.

A summary of the data contained in Tables 2.6-2.11 is given in Table 2.13.

The concentration of 40% to 50% of the various combined-Block population within the young age group of 0-15 is to be expected as a married couple usually has a number of children. The small percentage of persons above the age of fifty-nine illustrate the short life span among the farm population. Only a small number of them survive past the sixtieth birthday. As a matter of fact, Tables 2.6-2.11 will show that even if we fix the age limit at fifty instead of fifty-nine, less than 10% of the combined-Block population attain that age. This fact should stimulate a study in the relationship between the poverty and the consequent living conditions of the Sawah Sempadan farm community and their mortality rate.

TABLE 2.12

MALAY POPULATION BY SEX AND CLASSIFIED AGE-GROUPS FOR VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF BLOCKS

Combined Blocks	Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
A G L H R	0 - 14	83	130	39.58	45.45	223	42.52
	15 - 59	123	147	52.33	51.40	270	51.86
	60 & Above	19	9	8.09	3.15	28	5.26
Total		235	286	100.00	100.00	521	100.00
B I N	0 - 14	91	123	43.74	51.79	214	47.77
	15 - 59	183	106	40.53	44.52	209	47.03
	60 & Above	14	9	6.73	3.78	23	5.26
Total		208	238	100.00	100.00	446	100.00
C J O	0 - 14	122	102	52.37	47.89	224	50.13
	15 - 59	105	108	45.06	50.71	213	47.08
	60 & Above	6	3	2.58	1.41	9	1.89
Total		233	213	100.00	100.00	446	100.00
D K P V	0 - 14	133	115	52.14	48.09	248	51.07
	15 - 59	109	100	42.74	40.08	215	44.48
	60 & Above	13	9	5.10	3.91	22	4.51
Total		255	230	100.00	100.00	485	100.00
E Q S W	0 - 14	136	140	47.89	44.02	276	45.96
	15 - 59	134	175	47.19	55.03	309	51.11
	60 & Above	14	3	4.92	0.95	17	2.93
Total		284	318	100.00	100.00	602	100.00
F R T U	0 - 14	76	84	52.8	56.3	160	55.6
	15 - 59	65	70	45.0	46.5	135	46.7
	60 & Above	3	0	2.1	0	3	1.8
Total		144	154	100.00	100.00	298	100.00

TABLE 2.13

MALAY POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX
FOR ALL BLOCKS COMBINED

Age	No. of Persons		Percentage		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	No.	%
0 - 4	229	249	16.85	17.30	478	17.08
5 - 9	229	237	16.85	16.47	466	16.65
10 - 14	193	208	14.20	14.45	401	14.33
15 - 19	140	179	10.30	12.44	319	11.40
20 - 24	100	126	7.36	8.76	226	8.08
25 - 29	71	104	5.22	7.23	175	6.25
30 - 34	83	69	6.11	6.18	172	6.15
35 - 39	72	76	5.30	5.28	148	5.29
40 - 44	69	62	5.08	4.31	131	4.68
45 - 49	38	27	2.80	1.88	65	2.32
50 - 54	40	35	2.94	2.43	75	2.68
55 - 59	26	14	1.91	0.97	40	1.43
60 - 64	33	18	2.43	1.25	51	1.82
65 & Above	36	15	2.65	1.04	51	1.82
Total	1,359	1,439	100.00	100.00	2,798	100.00

Conclusion

The study of the population distribution in the Sawah Sempadan farm area in its many aspects reveal some notable features.

The first is that the 'young population' forms a significant proportion of the population. In the various combinations of Blocks, between two-fifths to half of the male and female population are under 15 years of age.

Consequently some problems will arise. There is the immediate problem of supporting them. Since, the bulk of those under 15 years of age comprise infants and those of school-going age, little contribution can be expected of them to the income-earning capacity of the population. The onus of supporting the under 15 will fall principally on those between 15-59 who are actively engaged in some income-earning occupations - principally agricultural. There is then the problem of providing sufficient opportunities of employment for them in the near future. A lack of employment opportunities in their territory will cause many of them to add to the existing farm-labour force thereby aggravating the problem of under-employment (since, the size of the farm remains unexpanded) and very likely will also encourage many to migrate to other areas - rural and urban - in the pursuit for more-paying occupations. We shall discuss this further when we come to the Chapter on 'occupations'.

In contrast, less than 10% of the population are of old age (above 59 or even above 50). Some inference has earlier been made regarding this.

It has also been noticed that Malay population varies numerically between one Block and another. No written information is available to explain this fact but it can be attributed partly to the fact that in accordance with applications, more lands were alienated to Malay farmers in some Blocks than in others, and partly to the fact that the decision to reside on sawah lots is a matter of individual preference. In some Blocks more Malay farmers reside on the sawah lots while in others more of them make their permanent place of residence on kampong lands.

CHAPTER III

HOUSEHOLD

Definition of Household

The term 'household' as used in the following analysis has a wider meaning than the term 'family'.

An 'household' comprises a group of people living together in the same house and sharing a common house-keeping budget. If a few relatives or friends live in a house of a farmer with a family of his own and they all share a common arrangement as regards food and other basic home requirements, then all of them, in this analysis, constitute one household. The term 'household' in our context may comprise one person or any number of persons.

A family, on the other hand, constitutes a married couple and their children, if any.

Types of Household

Eleven types of household are here distinguished for the purpose of this analysis. These various types are elaborated below:

a) Single Person Household. This category refers to the individual who may either live in a house alone by himself or share a house with others but makes his own domestic arrangements and manages his own separate house-keeping expenses.

b) Man and Wife. This means a two-person household consisting of a couple without children.

c) Couple with Children. This is the family set-up and is the most common encountered throughout the Tanjong Karang survey. This household type consists of man, wife and children. No other person(s) are included. The term 'children', however, refers to three categories of children. These are:

(1) The natural children of the married couple.

(2) Children adopted by the couple.

(3) The step-children of any one of the couple - i.e. the children of either of the couple by a previous marriage.

d) Man and Wives, With/Without Children. This refers to the polygamous husband, his wives and children, if any, by any of his wives.

e) Man and Relatives and/or Parents. Included in this category will be the single male person, any person related to him in any way whatsoever, and his parents - if they live in the same house with him. The inclusion of parents is not a necessary condition.

f) Couple With/Without Children and With Parents. The term 'parents' refers to the parents of any of the couple.

g) Couple With Miscellaneous Relatives and With/Without Children. The term 'miscellaneous relatives' is here used to include any person related in any way to either of the couple and also the parents of either of the couple. Miscellaneous relatives therefore mean relatives and parents.

h) Widows/Widowers With/Without Children.

i) Widow/Widower With/Without Children and With Miscellaneous Relatives. The term 'miscellaneous relatives' in this category conveys the same meaning as in category (g).

j) Household With Non-resident Head. For this type of household, the head does not stay with the rest of his household for one reason or another. He is the absentee head.

k) Others. Where a household does not qualify for entry in any of the above mentioned types, it is entered in this last type. An example is a household where the head is single and stays with his miscellaneous relatives such as brother, sister, etc.

Distribution of Types of Households

The sawah population of 2,798 Malays are found in 497 households spread out within the 23 Blocks

The distribution of households according to the enumerated classifications of household types for six combinations of Blocks and for the whole Sawah Sempadan area is given in Table 3.1.

The family type of household (comprising man, wife and children) is numerically the most important. In this category are a total of 341 out of the 497 or 68.61% of the total number of households in the 23 Blocks. This means that about two-thirds of the total number of households located in the Sawah Sempadan lots are of the family type. This proportion also applies to distribution of households in the various combinations of Blocks. Two-thirds or slightly less of the households in four combinations of Blocks are composed of the family-type. The percentages are 66.67% for Blocks A, G, L, H and M; 64.63% for Blocks B, I and N; 66.67% in Blocks D, K, P and V and 60.83% in Blocks E, Q, S and W. In the other two combinations of Blocks, the proportion is greater - 77.0% in Blocks C, J and O and 81.46% (the highest percentage) in Blocks F, R, T and U combined.

Examining the distribution of households in the whole of Sawah Sempadan area, we notice that type (g) (household with non-resident head) and type (h) (widows/widowers with/without children) rank next in importance to the family-type, the number of households for each of the above two types consisting slightly less than 10% of the total number of households in the whole of Sawah Sempadan farm area. The numerical importance in the whole area of these two types of households is not displayed in the data for the various combinations of Blocks. This is evident by the fact that there is only one household of group (g) in combined Blocks B, I and N and one of group (h) in combined Blocks D, K, P and V. The remaining households are fairly evenly distributed in the other eight types in the various combinations of Blocks and in the Sawah Sempadan area as a whole. All of these remaining types are represented - taking the Sawah Sempadan area as a whole - although some of the combinations of Blocks have no households of certain types.

An interesting point revealed by the Table is the extremely rare existence of households of types (d) - man and wives, with or without children - and (j) household with non-resident head. We shall comment on this later.

The distribution of the total of 497 Malay households over the 23 Blocks is indicated in Table 3.2.

The Table shows that only two Blocks - Blocks B and G - have number of households exceeding 10% of total for the Sawah Sempadan area in each Block. Block B which has the largest Malay population (326 persons) has 56 Malay households or 11.27% of total while Block G with the second largest population (294 Malays) has the greatest number of Malay households - 60 households - constituting 12.07% of total.

TABLE 3.1

MALAY HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPES OF HOUSEHOLD FOR COMBINATIONS OF BLOCKS

Types of Household	A, G, L, M, N		B, I, N		C, J, O		D, K, P, V		E, [illegible], S, W		F, R, T, U		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. Single	4	3.92	3	3.66	2	2.30	0	0	5	5.15	1	1.85	15	3.62
2. Man and wife	3	2.94	6	7.31	4	4.60	2	2.67	-	-	3	5.56	18	3.62
3. Couple with children	68	66.67	53	64.63	67	77.00	50	66.67	59	60.83	44	81.48	341	68.61
4. Man, wives with/without children	1	0.98	0	0	-	-	0	0	1	1.03	-	-	2	0.40
5. Man and relatives and/or parents	2	1.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.85	3	0.60
6. Couple with/without children and parents	0	0	3	3.66	1	1.15	1	1.33	6	6.18	1	1.85	12	8.25
7. Couple with/without children and miscellaneous relatives	7	6.86	1	1.23	3	3.45	15	20.00	13	13.40	2	3.70	41	8.85
8. Widow/widower with/without children	11	10.78	13	15.86	4	4.60	1	1.33	13	13.40	2	3.70	44	8.86
9. Widow/widower and children and miscellaneous relative	3	2.94	-	-	-	-	3	4.00	-	-	-	-	6	1.21
10. Household with non-resident head	-	-	0	0	0	0	2	2.67	-	-	-	-	2	0.40
11. Others	3	2.94	3	3.66	6	6.90	1	1.33	-	-	-	-	13	2.62
Total	102	100.00	82	100.00	87	100.00	75	100.00	97	100.00	54	99.99	497	100.00

TABLE 3.2

DISTRIBUTION OF MALAY HOUSEHOLDS AND AVERAGE SIZE OF THE HOUSEHOLDS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS

Block (1)	Household		Number of Persons (4)	Average Size of Household (5)
	Number (2)	Percentage of Total (3)		
A	13	2.62	70	5.4
B	56	11.27	326	5.9
C	35	7.04	184	5.2
D	25	5.03	135	5.4
E	26	5.23	156	5.5
F	8	1.61	38	5.0
G	60	12.07	294	4.9
H	5	1.00	23	4.6
I	24	4.83	111	4.6
J	31	6.24	167	5.4
K	22	4.43	161	7.3
L	16	3.22	89	5.6
M	8	1.61	45	5.6
N	2	0.40	9	4.5
O	21	4.23	95	4.5
P	28	5.63	189	6.8
Q	34	6.84	223	5.9
R	21	4.23	138	6.7
S	34	6.84	210	5.7
T	18	3.62	84	4.6
U	7	1.41	38	5.4
V	0	0	0	0
W	3	0.60	13	4.4
Total	497	100.00	2,798	5.6

Four Blocks (Blocks C, J, Q and S) each has 6%-7% of total number of households while each of the remaining Blocks has 5% and less of the total number of Sawah Sempadan Malay households. Of these 'remaining Blocks', Blocks F, H, M, N, U, V and W individually has under 10 households or less than 2% of total.

Size of Households

The distribution of Malay households for five of the six combinations of Blocks according to the number of persons constituting the household is shown in Table 3.3. Similar data for combined Blocks F, R, T and U are not available. The data for combined Blocks C, J and O show some discrepancy in that the total given is 92 households while in the Table for 'household by types' of the same group of Blocks the total is given as 87 households.

In combined Blocks A, G, L, H and M, three sizes of households - these consisting of four persons, five persons and six persons have almost equal concentration of households - larger in number than for any other size. More than half (52.0%) of the total number of households for this combination of Blocks are of these three sizes.

For combined Blocks B, I and N, the largest number of households for any size is of size three (persons). The distribution here is more evenly spread out in the sense that there are seven household sizes out of 12 sizes which individually has about 10% of the total of 82 households.

Size three has the greatest number of households in combined Blocks C, J and O, the number being 21 (22.83%). Only four household sizes have more than 10 households each and these sizes - three to six - cumulatively contain about 60% of the total households in the three Blocks combined.

The distribution in combined Blocks D, K, P and V, as in the case of Blocks B, I and N is well spread out.

More than a quarter (25 households) in combined Blocks E, Q, S and W are of size six. The remaining households are fairly evenly distributed according to the various sizes.

Combined Blocks F, R, T and U also have even distribution of households according to sizes. There is no distinct concentration of households in any particular size. But for this group of Blocks, the statement refers to distribution of total households and not Malay households only as such data are not available.

In all the combinations of Blocks, only about 15% or less of the total number of households in each combination, are households with more than eight persons.

TABLE 3.3

KALAY HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE FOR COMBINATIONS OF BLOCKS

Household Size	A, G, L, R, W		B, I, S		C, J, Q		D, K, P, V		E, H, S, X		F, M, T, U	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	4	3.92	3	3.66	2	2.17	0	0	3	3.1	NOT AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE
2	6	5.88	8	9.76	9	9.78	3	4.00	9	9.3		
3	13	12.74	15	18.30	21	22.83	9	12.0	7	7.2		
4	19	18.62	9	10.98	11	11.89	10	13.33	14	14.4		
5	19	18.62	9	10.98	14	15.22	7	9.33	9	9.3		
6	17	16.76	8	9.76	11	11.89	9	12.0	25	25.8		
7	10	9.80	10	12.19	9	9.78	8	10.67	9	9.3		
8	6	5.88	8	9.76	6	6.52	12	16.00	7	7.2		
9	7	6.86	1	1.22	6	6.52	8	10.67	4	4.1		
10	1	0.98	7	8.50	2	2.17	4	5.33	4	4.1		
11	0	0	3	3.66	0	0	2	2.67	3	3.1		
12	0	0	1	1.22	0	0	2	2.67	3	3.1		
13	0	0	0	0	1	1.09	1	1.33	0	0		
14 & More	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	102	100.00	82	100.00	92	100.00	75	100.00	97	100.0	N.A.	N.A.

Average Size of Household

The average size of household for each of the 23 Blocks is indicated in Table 3.2. The most common size is between five and six. Block K has the largest average size (7.3).

The average size of Malay household for the whole of Sawah Sempadan area is 5.6.

Conclusion

The salient feature in the distribution of households by types of households is the predominance of the family type of households in all the six combinations of Blocks and consequently in the Sawah Sempadan area as a whole. This reflects on the close relationship between the family and the farm - a relationship that underlies many farm areas in many parts of the world. To the farm, the family is important from the point of view of labour supply, and to the family, the farm is significant as the major, if not the only, source of income.

The household distribution analysis also reveals the non-existence of the polygamous type of households, that which consists of man, wives with/without children. This, however, needs not necessarily mean that none of the farmers in the 23 Blocks is polygamous. A few cases of polygamy may exist but are not recorded in the survey because the second wife of a polygamous farmer does not live in the same house or even in close vicinity of the first wife. The second wife may be living in a different Block or in a kampong. It may be further added here that even if there may be some instances of a farmer having more than one wife, such occurrences may be expected to be few in number. Having plural wives coupled with the prospects of having many children, thereby increasing the number of dependents, is most likely to render polygamy something that does not appeal to the farmer whose meagre income from the farm will not increase much over the years.

Households with non-resident head are found to be extremely rare. Since the head of the household either owns the land or is the principal operator of the farm, his responsibility to the land in addition to his responsibility to the household are too strong a commitment so as to discourage him from seeking employment elsewhere, distant from his family.

Nor are there any cases of two or more households sharing one and the same house - that is to say, in Sawah Sempadan, the number of houses equal the number of households. Even in cases where members of two households cultivate the same lot either as co-owners or joint-tenant, these two households will be living in two detached houses either as close neighbours or one in a different lot from the other. The rule is that one house comprises one household, so that the number of houses corresponds with the number of households.

This preference for living in separate houses may be due to individual choice or cultural influences. Of significance too is the fact that since it is possible to erect houses on the sawah lots at low costs and presumably within the means of every farm family, it has become not worthwhile for two households to share one house and face the likelihood of occasional or frequent inter-family conflicts. Even the single person lives in a house by himself.[1]

The Malay households of Sawah Sempadan are not evenly distributed in the 23 Blocks. This is evident from Table 3.1 which shows that two Blocks (Blocks B and G) have 56 households or 11.27% of total and 60 households or 12.07% of total respectively, while 7 Blocks (Blocks F, H, M, N, U, V and W) each has less than 10 households or less than 2% of the total Malay households for the entire Sawah Sempadan area.

Examining the distribution of households by sizes in the various combinations of Blocks, one finds that there is no particular 'modal size' - that is household size with the largest concentration of households. In a few combined Blocks there is a distinct 'modal size' while in others several household sizes have more or less equal concentration of households. In some combined Blocks, the majority of households are concentrated within a few household sizes while in others such distribution of households is much more evenly spread out.

The data for average size of household show that except for Block K (average size of household: 7.3), all the other Blocks have households with average size less than seven. The most common average size is between sizes five and six. No Block has average size smaller than four.

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[1]It must be pointed out here that the suggestion made in the paragraph is entirely based on personal observations and speculations. Practically all the houses built on sawah lots in the Sawah Sempadan area are of low costs, and are far inferior in structure and the materials used when compared to houses in kampongs.

CHAPTER IV

OCCUPATION

This is the most problematic of the four Chapters considering that the various graduation exercises referred to for information not only provide unidentical data but also present, in certain instances, quite varying approaches and interpretations of concepts. This will be evident later. It will suffice to state here that there is no uniform or standard interpretation of such concepts as "economically active" and "economically inactive". Also the classification of the population into occupational groups varies between the various combination of Blocks. One writer envisages certain occupational classifications while another will prescribe a few types more, or less. Again, the explanation of an occupational type given in one graduation exercise is not always exactly alike that given in another graduation exercise - even for the same type. Incorporating all the occupational data for the various Blocks in one Table or discussion will consequently be subject to some inaccuracy, but this can be reduced by the use of foot-notes. One should, however, be cautious.

Occupational Classifications

All the occupational classifications as found in the various graduation exercises have, in this analysis, been regrouped into five major types of occupation. The information is available in Table 4.1. We shall, however, also examine the occupational classifications as presented in the various exercises which provide the data for our present analysis.

Farming

The student analysing data for combined Blocks A, C, L, H and M uses the term "farmer" in the Table but offers no explanation as to what the term embraces. Apparently, he takes the word "farmer" to be self-explanatory.

The student responsible for analysis of Blocks B, I and N says that "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 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".

TABLE 4.1

MALAY POPULATION DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL TYPES IN THE SIX COMBINATIONS OF BLOCKS

Blocks / Occupations	A, G, L, N, R		B, I, M		C, J, O		D, K, P, V		E, Q, S, W		F, H, T, U		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Farming	297	57.00	198	44.39	198	44.00	172	35.46	248	41.20	83	27.85	1,197	42.78
Home-keeping	13	2.50	10	2.24	6	1.79	80	16.50	55	9.11	30	10.07	196	7.00
Students	104	19.96	83	18.61	106	23.77	82	16.90	90	14.95	63	21.14	528	18.87
Economically inactive	103	19.77	136	30.49	110	24.66	147	30.30	168	27.91	115	38.59	779	27.84
Others	4	0.76	19	4.26	23	5.16	4	0.83	11	1.83	7	2.35	68	2.43
Total Population	521	100.00	446	100.00	446	100.00	485	100.00	602	95.00	298	100.00	2,798	100.00

Others

Teacher - 1
Labourer - 1
Hawker - 1
Amah - 1

Others

Teachers - 8
Labourers - 5
Employees - 8

Others

Odd-job - 3
Mixed Occupation - 17
Teaching - 2
Clerical - 1

Others

D.I.B. Hawker - 1
D.I.B. Labourers - 2
Labourers - 1

Others

Odd-job and Part-time Farmers - 8
Non-farmers - 3

Others

Rubber-tappers - 2
Labourers - 1
Others - 4

*An error here. The total population is 602 but the figures above add up only to 572. No information on 30 persons (i.e. 5% of total).

The term "farm work" is used in the analysis for combined Blocks C, J, O but there is no explanation of this term.

The word "farmer" as used for Blocks D, K, P and V refers to "all those who spend a greater part of their working hours on the farm. The term includes not only the owners or the principal operators of a sawah lot or lots but also any member of an household whose occupation has been recorded in the questionnaire form as 'farmer'. The sex and age of a person is not taken into account when deciding this occupation".

In the graduation exercise covering Blocks E, Q, S and W, two categories of those engaged in the farming activities are specified. One is the group called "farmers" referring to "persons whose greater part of the time is customarily spent in the cultivation of padi and other farming activities" and the other group - the "farm helpers" which includes "those persons who provide the farmer with labour for farm work during planting and harvesting seasons. They may be paid farm hands or unpaid family helpers such as children and relatives". In the present analysis, these two categories are incorporated in one occupational group called "farming".

Finally, the term "farmers" as used in the analysis of Blocks F, R, T and U means "those persons engaged in doing any form of farming activities".

House-keeping

a) Blocks A, G, L, H and M. The word "housewerker" is used here and the writer states that he uses the word "to mean all those people engaged in doing housework, be they housewives or otherwise".

b) Blocks B, I and N. The word "housewives" is used with no explanation.

c) Blocks C, J and O. The writer who uses the term "housewife or domestic work" in his Tables explains that "in these Blocks married females and those who are above the age of 10 years, who do not help in the farming activities, have been entered into either as housewives or domestic workers. In some instances married women have been classified as housewives; in other instances they are classified as domestic workers".

d) Blocks D, K, P and V. The word "housekeeping" has been used and this "includes all women-folk who do the routine work of maintaining a house".

e) Blocks E, Q, S and W. The word used in the Tables is "housewives" and refers to "those women whose greater part of the time is spent in household duties".

f) Blocks F, R, T and U. The writer analysing these Blocks uses the term "housewives with no explanation.

For our present purpose, data presented according to the terms used above are included under "house-keeping".

Students

In all the graduation exercises, there seems to be no controversy on the usage of the above word and what it includes. The word is self-explanatory and needs not be elaborated.

Economically Inactive

The usage and interpretation of the words 'economically inactive' is the most controversial in the various graduation exercises. We shall examine the classifying of persons into this group in the various graduation exercises concerning different combinations of groups.

a) Blocks A, G, L, N and M. The writer uses the word 'non-worker' in certain Tables on occupational break-up but omits it in the Table showing occupation distribution by ethnic groups. Hence, no information is available for our purpose regarding the 'non-workers'. In Table 4.1, the present writer has included in the "economically inactive" group, the difference between the total population of Blocks A, G, L, N and M, and the total number of persons already entered in the other four occupational groups.

b) Blocks B, I and N. For the above combined Blocks, the term "economically inactive" is used to refer to "those people of 19 years old and under, who are neither schooling nor farming" and people "who are in advanced age and physically unfit for work".

c) Blocks C, J and O. The word "nil" is used here to include children who do not attend school for any reason and also old people who do no work at all.

d) Blocks D, K, P and V. In the graduation exercise covering the above Blocks, it is written

that "the 'economically inactive' embraces all persons of any age who are either unemployed in the economic sense of the word, or who are unable to do any form of work by virtue of their infancy or advanced age. Hence, children who are not students, very old people who are physically unfit for work, and persons who are physically fit yet could not find employment are all classified under this heading. The last category of people included under this heading, however, constitutes negligible percentage of the total number of economically inactive people".

e) Blocks E, Q, S and W. The "economically inactive" for this group of Blocks has been specified to include four categories of persons, namely: students, minors, dependents and unemployed. However, for our present purpose we exclude the group 'students' to maintain uniformity and include the remaining three groups under the term 'economically inactive'. According to the writer for analysis of Blocks E, Q, S and W:

1) Minors are children of six years of age and below.

2) Dependents. Those persons who are economically dependent on others. This group includes old persons, invalids, the sick and children not included in the group "minors".

3) Unemployed. Those people who are not actively working at the date of survey, but are "seeking work". These people are not permanently unemployed, but are "seeking work". These people are not permanently unemployed, but are temporarily out of work.

f) Others. This is the residual group and includes several types of employment. The break-up of the figures under 'others' is given as foot-note to the Table.

For our study of population we shall classify the entire Malay population in the 23 Blocks into five major groups namely, farming, house-keeping, students, economically inactive and others.

There are some differences in the definition of the classifications in the various graduation exercises which provide

us with the data included in Table 3.3. We have already discussed this in the preceding pages.

It has been calculated to show that farming constitutes 57.0% of the Malay population in combined Blocks A, G, L, H and M; 44.39% in combined Blocks B, I and N; 44.60% in Blocks C, J and O; 35.46% in Blocks D, K, P and V; 41.20% in Blocks E, Q, S and W; and 27.85% in Blocks F, R, T and U. The total figures show that 42.78% of the Malays in Sawah Sempadan are engaged in farming.

The economically inactive group forms the second largest group in all but one of the combinations of Blocks, while students form the third numerically important group.

Although the five groups into which the population have been classified are considered 'occupational' groups in the Table, only the groups 'farming' and 'others' are the income-earning groups. It can be seen then that sources of employment other than farming from which income is derived benefit only 5% and less of the population or about 5% of the income-earning group. Almost the entire income-earning group comprises farm-workers.

It is to be expected that the number of women classified under 'house-keeping' for some combinations of Blocks is greater than that for other combinations of Blocks. Consequently, the number of farmers in some combinations of Blocks has been augmented by the inclusion of females who might as well be classified under 'house-keeping'. Conversely, it could be claimed that the figures for farmers for some combinations of Blocks have been depleted by the exclusion of females who might also do farm-work but who have been recorded under the occupational group 'house-keeping'.

Since a large proportion of the women tend to do both farming and house-keeping work, but have to have their occupations recorded in one discreet classification, the decision on the choice of appropriate occupational group was left to the discretion of the field worker and hence tended to be quite arbitrary.

Another possible factor that explains the variation in the proportion of farmers between the Blocks is the inclusion into the 'farming' group of a greater proportion of the under 14 years in the case of some combinations of Blocks than in the case of other combinations. This will be seen if we were to discuss the occupational distribution by age. Unfortunately, such data referring to Malay population are not available for most of the combinations of Blocks.

Conclusion

The Tables on occupational distribution of the population in the four Blocks reveal some information.

It is learnt that the responsibility of earning income rests on a percentage of the population which varies between the different combinations of Blocks. These percentages have been given earlier. The variations may be genuine or may be influenced by lack of uniformity in classification of persons into the various groups.

However, the percentages of the income-earning group give a quite distorted picture of the dependency problem. This is so because the proportion of the population that constitutes the income-earning force certainly has included a substantial percentage of female and child labour.

It is reasonable to presume that the female and child labour (referring to those under 15 in the latter case) does not contribute as much to the income-yielding effort as does the male labour force above the age of 14. In other words, the average physical productivity of the labour force comprising females and the under 15 is lower than that of the male farmers who are of 15 years and above. This presumption is based on the fact that the females have to do the house-keeping work and in the case of a considerable number of them, to look after their small children in addition to farming the land, while many of the under 15 also attend school. Consequently, these two categories of farm workers are not able to devote their whole energy and time to the farms. Also the relatively low physical capacity or fitness for work of the female and child labour tends to place greater responsibility of farming the land on the male farmers of fifteen years and above.

When the above factors are put into consideration the extent of dependency of the non-farmers on the farmers is greater than that suggested by the percentages earlier quoted.

The inclusion of female and child labour in the farm labour force is typical of small farms in Malaya and other under-developed countries. The Tanjong Karang rice farms are not mechanised so that cultivation is labour-intensive. The heads of households and the adult male members of their households by themselves often do not provide adequate labour force to work the land. Where possible then, female and child labour is employed, particularly during sowing and harvesting periods.

The survey reveals that except for few isolated cases, hired labour is not employed. The land is operated by the owner and members of his household or by a tenant and members of his household. If one bears in mind that the size of farms in the Sawah Sempadan area rarely exceeds 3 acres, one will understand why family labour alone is adequate and hired labour often not necessary.

The analysis on occupation also discovers the overwhelming importance of farming as an occupation and a source of income. Only 68 persons (5.38% of the income-earning group) are engaged in

income-yielding occupations other than farming compared to 1,197 farmers in the whole of Sawah Sempadan area. The lack of employment opportunities in the Tanjong Karang area other than farming is thus stressed.

The dependence of practically the whole Sawah Sempadan population on a single occupation - farming for their livelihood, has serious economic repercussions. Incidentally, the scope of this single occupation - farming is made even narrower by the fact that in Sawah Sempadan farming is comprised largely of padi-planting. Coconut is a supplement only to those with kampong land. Some crops such as sweet-potatoes, maize and yam are grown on a small scale during off-season period but these are often grown for home consumption. Padi farming then is the most significant and regular source of income. Yet, padi farming is, by its nature, a low income-yielding occupation. The yield becomes more meagre due to the inefficient, traditional ways of cultivating and harvesting the land. Consequently, poverty becomes a perpetual plague of the people engaged in this occupation. The poverty is further enhanced by the exploitation of the farmers by the middlemen who are entrenched in their midst. On this question of poverty of the Malay farmers and its causes, Professor Ungku Aziz has dealt in great detail in several writings.[1]

The lack of employment opportunities in the Tanjong Karang area may also have other effects. It is possible that many males of the area leave their homes when they are in their twenties to look for employment in rubber estates or coconut plantations, or enrol themselves in the police and military forces or seek employment in the many opportunities offered in the urban areas. While no evidence is available in the graduation exercises to support this suggestion with reference to Sawah Sempadan area, it is relevant to state here that the exodus of the young from rural area to another is becoming an increasingly common feature of rural life.[2] The incentive for this labour mobility, among others, is the availability of opportunities of employment which offers higher and more stable income.

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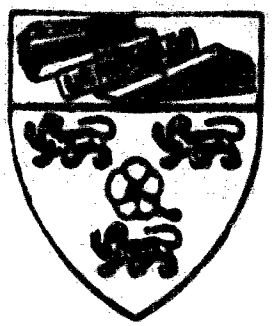
[1]U.A. Aziz: "The Causes of Poverty in Malayan Agriculture" published in "Problems of the Malayan Economy", ed. Lim Tay Boh - Donald Moore, Singapore 1957.

U.A. Aziz: "Facts and Fallacies about the Malay Economy - In Retrospect, with New Footnotes" - Ekonomi Vol. III, No. 1, 1962.

U.A. Aziz: "Poverty and Rural Development in Malaysia" - Kajian Ekonomi Malaysia - Vol. I, No. 1, 1964.

[2]Hamzah Sendut, Problems of Rural Urban Migration in Malaya. Malay Mail, October 3, 1960.



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