

## CHAPTER VI

### CONCLUSIONS

The study made on the three blocks C,J,O, in Sawah Sempadan has been attempted with a view to bring out features that could serve as a guide to a better understanding as to the nature of the problems connected with the prevailing conditions in the area under study.

The facts and figures presented in the study are indispensable. But not many inferences have been made from them due mainly to the fact that they are information obtained only in the preliminary stages of the 5-year study scheme. As such no definite and final reasoning and conclusions have been attempted.<sup>1</sup>

However, a picture has been painted. The area under study has a population of 1017 persons the majority of which are in the 'young' age groups, in the sense that they are below the age of 20 years. It could be inferred from this that health services, education and opportunities for employment become the major areas of concern in terms of Public Expenditure.

But this is not the only issue. The question of dependency arises out of the prevailing age structure of the population. One manifestation of the existing age structure in the area is the large size of the average household. Related to this is the fact that on a household basis, in the majority of cases, six persons are living on the productivity or income or the combined efforts of three persons; and of these three the third is rarely a full time worker in the farm. A high degree of dependency implies a lower income per head of population. Consequently the level of living is relatively lower.

The prevailing age structure of the population in the area under blocks C,J,O, also exerts a very strong influence in the composition of the group classified as 'economically inactive!'

The implications drawn from the outcomes of the two preliminary surveys seem to indicate that programmes

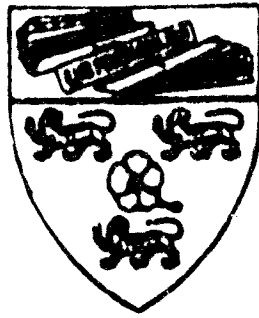
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If suggestions have been offered they are merely opinions of the writer based on many assumptions and implications derived from the facts secured from the actual survey.

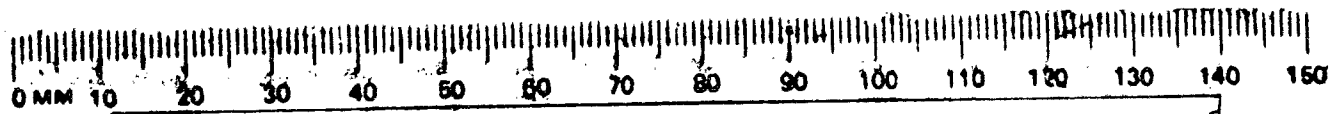
need be devised so as to absorb persons in the 'young' age groups into the employment circle in the very near future. This is felt as of fundamental importance when account is taken of the fact that the size of the farm unit operated on by a household on the average does not exceed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres. And out of these slightly less than 3 acres are owned. Added to this is the fact that 82 operators are without any sawah holding. The alternative would in this instance be, to rent in the pieces/pieces owned by others or to find employment elsewhere. The population structure, that family size of 6 persons on the average, the small size land-holding and the small scale operational unit .....all these indicate that population pressure is likely to be felt soon. If that be so then the latter course of action is likely to be followed. An exodus of mass number of people into the developing urban areas in the neighbourhood, Kuala Lumpur in particular, would most likely result in social disruption, and economic pressure.

Finally the facts and figures relating to the Sawah Sempadan area would under the prevailing circumstances serve as a useful guide to the Rural Development Planners as to the actual nature of the problems and the weapons that could be applied and the initial approaches that are most apt to meet the demand of the post Independence outcry of "Rural Upliftment".

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