HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

A "household" consists of a person living alone, or two or more persons living under the same roof and eating from the same cooking pot.[1]

Since one household lives in one house, the number of houses would therefore correspond to the number of households. I would like to mention that one (physical) house may give shelter to more than one household. But in my Blocks such a situation does not arise.

To enable comparisons to be made between this study and others, nine classifications of households have been adopted namely:

1.   Husband, wife and children.

2.   Husband and wife.

3.   Husband, wives with or without children. This type is entirely absent in the three blocks but has to be included in the tables anyway to achieve consistency with other blocks. It can also be noted that polygamy is frequently, but by no means always, practised by wealthy men than poor men?[2]

4.   Couple with or without children and parents, including either parents or both.

5.   Couple with miscellaneous relatives, including cousins, brothers, nephews etc.

6.   Widows or widowers with children.

7.   Single person households, regardless whether the person is a divorcee, widow or widower or unmarried male or female.

8.   Non-resident heads, which is also not found in the blocks.

9.   Others, in this case specified as a "brother-

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[1]Definition as adopted in Employment Survey, Ministry of Labour, March 1962.

[2]See Raymond Firth, "Human Types", page 108.

sisters household."

All these are private households. Public accomodations like hotels and institutions are entirely absent in these blocks. For convenience these types hereafter will be designated by their numbers. For example by type one I mean the husband, wife and children household type.

2. Distribution of Houses and Households

The total population of 1,045 of the three blocks are made up of 180 families or households[3] living in 180 houses. Block A has 39 households living in 39 houses; Block B has 67 of each and Block C 73. Block C has the largest number of households with a total of 414 persons. In Block B 415 people live in 68 households, which means the average size of a family in this block would be slightly higher than in Block A which has a population of 216 persons formed by 39 families.

This distribution of houses and households can also be discerned from the maps, and the discussion of inter-row study of population distribution is relevant.

3. Household by Types (Ref: TABLES 7 and 8)

There are nine types of households listed. The first type of household account for 134 or 74.4% of total households and constitutes 846 persons or 80.95% of total population. The sixth type is also significant in that it forms nineteen households with 94 persons or 8.99% of the total population.

Under "Others" I have specified brothers and sisters, a household consisting members of the same family but whose parents presumably must have passed away.

As have been seen from TABLE 1 Malays form the majority of the population. Thus, this group has the largest number of families with 81 households from the total of 180.

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[3] These two terms are used interchangeably, since it can be taken that one family lives in one house, so constituting one household. I do not follow the definition of a "family" by Firth, i.e, the small group of parents and children - of R. Firth, "Human Types", page 106. By family I include those households that have parents and children and also other relatives like brothers, cousins, etc.

TABLE 6

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSES AND HOUSEHOLDS BY BLOCKS AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Block	A		B		C		Total		Percentage	
Ethnic Group	No. of Houses	No. of House-holds	No. of Houses	No. of House-holds	No. of Houses	No. of House-holds	No. of Houses	No. of House-holds	No. of Houses	No. of House-holds
Malays	10	10	41	41	30	30	81	82	45.0	45.0
Javanese	23	23	8	8	35	35	66	66	36.7	36.7
Banjarese	6	6	18	18	8	8	33	33	18.3	13.3
Total	39	39	67	67	73	73	180	180	100.00	100.00

TABLE 7

HOUSEHOLD BY TYPES (ALL BLOCKS)

Household Types	Households		Persons	
	No.	%	No.	%
1	134	74.44	846	80.95
2	10	5.55	20	1.91
3	0	0.00	0	0.00
4	8	4.44	50	4.78
5	3	1.66	21	2.00
6	19	10.55	94	8.99
7	5	2.77	5	0.74
8	0	0.00	0	0.00
9	2	1.05	9	0.86
Total	180	100.00	1,045	100.00

The Javanese families form 66 households while the Banjarese take the remainder of 33 households.

TABLE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD TYPES BY ETHNIC GROUPS FOR ALL BLOCKS

Household Types	Ethnic Groups							
	No.				%			
	Total	Malays	Javanese	Banjarese	Total	Malays	Javanese	Banjarese
1	134	63	49	22	74.44	77.77	74.24	66.66
2	10	4	4	2	5.55	4.94	6.06	6.06
3	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	8	3	2	3	4.44	3.70	3.03	9.09
5	3	1	1	1	1.07	1.23	1.51	3.03
6	19	8	8	3	10.55	9.87	12.12	9.09
7	5	1	2	2	2.77	1.23	3.03	6.06
8	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	2	2	0	0	1.01	2.46	0.00	0.00
Total	180	81	66	33	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

TABLE 9

HOUSEHOLDS BY NUMBER OF PERSONS

No. of Persons	No. of Households	%	Total Household
1	5	2.77	5
2	10	5.55	15
3	28	15.55	43
4	20	11.11	63
5	24	13.33	87
6	21	11.66	108
7	30	16.66	138
8	18	10.00	156
9	8	4.44	164
10	10	5.55	174
11	4	2.22	178
12	2	1.05	180

4. Size of Households

TABLE 9 shows the size of households by number of persons. The largest family interviewed was one with 12 persons. TABLE 10 shows the breakup of the family size by ethnic groups. From both tables we can see that the majority of families tend to be within the 3-8 persons group.

From TABLE 11 it can be noted that Malays have the largest average household size, being 6.7 persons to a family. The average[4] size of a Malay family is greatest in Block B, being 6.5 persons while the other two blocks have an average of 5.7 persons each.

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[4] These averages, however are not representative of the size, since there are families with less than four persons and others more than ten. But this average should be sufficient for our discussion.

TABLE 10

HOUSEHOLD BY SIZE AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Ethnic Groups

House-hold Size	No.				%			
	Malays	Javanese	Banjarese	Total	Malays	Javanese	Banjarese	Total
1	1	2	2	5	1.23	3.03	6.06	2.77
2	3	6	1	10	3.70	9.09	3.03	5.55
3	10	11	7	28	12.34	16.66	21.22	15.55
4	8	9	3	20	9.86	13.63	9.09	11.11
5	12	7	5	24	14.81	10.60	15.15	13.33
6	8	9	4	21	9.86	13.63	12.12	11.66
7	16	10	4	30	19.75	15.15	12.12	16.66
8	11	5	2	18	13.58	7.57	6.06	10.00
9	4	3	1	8	4.93	4.54	3.03	4.44
10	5	2	3	10	6.17	3.03	9.09	5.55
11	2	1	1	4	2.46	1.51	3.03	2.22
12	1	1	0	2	1.23	1.51	0.00	1.11
Total	81	66	33	180	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Banjarese families are comparatively small, the average size for all blocks being 4 persons. Javanese families are slightly smaller than Malay families, with an average of 5.4 persons to a family.

On the whole, however, there is a tendency for families to be within the 3-8 persons group, as can be seen from TABLE 9. This group accounts for 78.31% or 141 households. This tendency is true for all ethnic groups, viz: 65 Malay families, 51 Javanese and 25 Banjarese. Only 2 households (1 Malay and 1 Javanese) have 12 persons each.

TABLE 11

AVERAGE SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS BY ETHNIC GROUPS

Ethnic Groups	Block A	Block B	Block C	Total
Malays	5.8	6.5	5.7	6.72
Javanese	5.6	4.3	5.6	5.43
Banjarese	5.1	5.8	4.6	4.27

We shall now attempt to explain the reason why the ethnic groups have differences in the size of families. From TABLE 3 (Population by age, sex and ethnic group) we can see that there are more males and females in the marriageable age-group i.e 20 years and above than among the other ethnic groups. There are 110 Malay males and 98 females in this category. Therefore by sheer weight of numbers though the sex ratio is unity, the Malays must have a larger family. This is evident by the large number of Malays in the young (20 and below) age group.

As a contrast, there are only 29 Banjarese males and 32 females in the marriageable age-group. Here there are more females than males. The size of the family would be smaller as evident by the presence of but only 73 persons below 20 years of age. The Javanese take the mediocre path and the size of a family in this ethnic group is slightly larger than that of the Banjarese.

TABLE 12 shows the average size of households according to types and ethnic groups. In type 1 the Malays have an average of 6.6 persons per family, while the Javanese and Banjarese have an average size of 6.1 and 5.5 persons respec-

tively. Therefore, the Banjarese family is smaller than the other two ethnic groups. Taking all ethnic groups together under "Mixed" the average size of the first type of household would be 6.3 persons. Type 2 must of necessity be two persons to a household and type 7 one person. It is also noticed that widows or widowers with children form 8.99% of total population (or 94 persons). It is noticed also that some parents stay with their married children,[5] forming 4.78% of total population (50 persons), and the average size of such a family is 6.2[6] persons, with the Banjarese having the highest average of 7.3 persons. It should be noted that "parents" include either father or mother or both.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

BY ETHNIC GROUPS AND TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS

Ethnic Groups	Types of Households									All Types
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Malays	6.6	2.0	0.0	5.3	7.0	5.5	1.0	0.0	4.5	6.7
Javanese	6.1	2.0	0.0	3.5	6.0	3.5	1.0	0.0	0	5.4
Banjarese	5.5	2.0	0.0	7.3	7.0	6.6	1.0	0.0	0	4.3
Mixed	6.3	2.0	0.0	6.2	7.0	4.9	1.0	0.0	4.5	5.8

[5]This is open to interpretation. If it was the married son who was interviewed he would sometimes be taken as head of the family, and so his parents are staying with him. But if the father was interviewed he would be taken as head, and the interpretation would be that married children are staying with their parents.

[6]Therefore there is not much difference in the average size of this type to type 1.

The size of a family would, therefore, become one of the determinant factors in the standard of living in these areas. Though the most common size is about 6 persons per family, a family of 3 or 4 persons is not uncommon. This, however, does not mean that living standards of such families are higher. It may be offset by the smallness of acreage of operated land. The reason for such small families is either because of recent marriages, or that some members of the family have moved away.

From the above discussion we are able to discern a "cycle" in the family pattern. This is illustrated first by the single-person household. We then assume this person to get married, forming a couple, and as they reproduce, the family size would be increased. Also, the family may increase by in-laws and other relations who stay with them. Later when the children have reached adulthood, some may get married and have a family of their own. Some may leave the family through the call of duty elsewhere. As some members of the family move away, the family size would once more diminish until it may even reach the original state where there is only a couple - the father and mother.

This phenomenon is true in the case of all families.