

CHAPTER III

HOUSEHOLD ASPECTS

1. Definition of "Household":

A "household" may be defined as a family unit which lives under the same house and shares a common "cooking pot". Thus there may be more than one household living in a house (1) if the "cooking pots" are separate.

2. Total Number of Households and Total Population:

We note that the total population living in these four blocks is 1,041 persons. These 1,041 persons are organised into 183 households, which gives an average household size of 5.7 persons per household. (Table 13) The number of households however, coincides with the number of houses (183 houses), and therefore, it follows that the distribution of households among ethnic groups and blocks also shows the distribution of houses.(2)

3. Distribution of Households by Ethnic Groups:

Table 14 shows that of the total of 183 households, 97 are Malay households, and 86 are Javanese. Relating to total population of each ethnic group, we find that the 602 Malay population are organised into 97 households, and the 439 Javanese are organised into 86 households. This gives us a respective average household size of 6.2 persons per household for the Malays and 5.1 persons per household for the Javanese. (Table 13) It is noticeable that an average Malay household is slightly bigger than the average Javanese household. This fact agrees with our previous findings that the incidence of childbearing (as shown in Table 12) among the population of adult Malay women is slightly higher than the Javanese.

-
- (1) There is no specific provision in the questionnaire to take account of the fact that there might be more than one household living in one house. It is perhaps presumably assumed that one house contains one household.
 - (2) A house is the physical building which makes up the dwelling place while the "households" are the human content of the house. Incidentally, the distribution of houses is also the distribution of these units of the human contents.

TABLE 14

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY
ETHNIC GROUPS AND BLOCKS

ETHNIC GROUPS BLOCKS	MALAY HOUSEHOLDS	JAVANESE HOUSEHOLDS	TOTAL	%
E	26	23	49	26.7
Q	34	24	58	31.7
S	34	34	68	37.2
W	3	5	8	4.4
TOTAL	97	86	183	100

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

BLOCKS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE
E	5.5
Q	5.9
S	5.7
W	4.4

TABLE 13

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE (TOTAL)	5.7
MALAY HOUSEHOLD	6.2
JAVANESE HOUSEHOLD	5.1

4. Distribution of Households by Blocks:

The households are unevenly distributed in the four blocks. As shown in table 14, block E contains 49 households or 26.7%; block Q 58 or 31.7%; block S 63 households or 37.2%, while block W contains only 8 households or 4.4% of the total. We could relate the number of households to total population of each block. We find that in block E, there are 274 persons living in 49 households, giving an average household size of 5.5 persons. (Table 15) There are 343 persons in block Q living in 58 households, giving an average household size of 5.9 persons. In block S, there are 389 persons living in 63 households, giving an average household size of 5.7 persons. While the 35 persons in block W are organised into 8 households; an average size of 4.4 persons per household.

We notice that there is only slight difference in the average household size in the 3 blocks E, Q and S. It seems that the Malay houses are concentrated in two blocks Q and S. These two blocks together contains 68 out of the total 97 Malay houses. Block S contains more Javanese houses (34 out of total 86) than in any other block.

5. Household Size:

Table 16 shows the distribution of household size by ethnic groups. It is seen that 30% of the total households have 7 persons or more while 70% have 5 persons or less. Also 38.3% of the households have 5 to 6 persons per household.

Among the Javanese 69.8% of the total Javanese household are made up of 5 persons or less per household, and 30% made up of 7 persons or more. A similar pattern of distribution is seen among the Malays. Of the total Malay households, 69.1% consisting of 5 persons or less, and 30.9% have 7 persons or more.

Most of the households of both ethnic groups are concentrated in the size group of 5 to 6 persons per household. (The average household size for the entire population is, however, 5.7 persons.) It is seen that 35.1% of the Malay households and 38.1% of Javanese households are concentrated within this size group.

We can discern that there is no significant difference in the household size between the two ethnic groups.

TABLE 16**HOUSEHOLD BY SIZE AND ETHNIC GROUPS**

123 (SIZES)	NOS.			%		
	MALAYS	JAVANESE	TOTAL	MALAYS	JAVANESE	TOTAL
1	3	3	6	3.1	3.3	3.3
2	9	6	15	9.3	8.2	8.2
3	7	8	15	7.2	8.2	8.2
4	14	8	22	14.4	12.0	12.0
5	9	14	23	9.3	12.5	12.6
6	25	22	47	25.8	25.6	25.7
7	9	8	17	9.3	9.3	9.3
8	7	10	17	7.2	9.3	9.3
9	4	3	7	4.1	3.8	3.8
10	4	2	6	4.1	3.3	3.3
11	3	2	5	3.1	2.7	2.7
12 & ABOVE	3	-	3	3.1	1.6	1.6
TOTAL	97	86	183	100	100	100

W.A. Anderson⁽¹⁾, in his study of rural domiciles in Genesee Country, New York distinguished the following six major types of households;-

husband - wife;
husband - wife - children;
husband - wife - other persons;
husband - wife - children - others;
broken-family households; and
households in which no marital relations exists.

We may follow the same classification in distinguishing the household types in this area, but with some modifications to suit local society. We may distinguish the following seven household types in our survey as shown in table 17:-

1. Husband - wife⁽²⁾ with/without children,
2. Husband - wife with/without children, with parents.
3. Husband - wife with/without children with miscellaneous relatives ...
4. Widows or widowers⁽³⁾ with/without children...
5. Single-person⁽⁴⁾ household..
6. Husband - wife with married sons and daughters.
7. Husband - wives⁽⁵⁾ with/without children.

-
- (1) W.A. Anderson, "The Composition of Rural Households". Cornell University Agric. Expansion Station Bulletin cited from "Elements of Rural Sociology" by N. Sims.
 - (2) Men and women who reported themselves to be legally married.
 - (3) A widow is a woman who is bereft of her husband either by death or divorce and had not married since.
A widower is a man who had lost his wife either by death or divorce.
 - (4) Single person household is a household lived by "one person".
 - (5) Muslim religion allows a man to have four wives at a time. Although the wives may stay in the same house, they may not share the same cooking pot. This is an example of several households living in one house.

TABLE 17**DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD TYPES****BY ETHNIC GROUPS**

ETHNIC GROUPS	NOS			%		
	MALAYS	JAVANESE	TOTAL	MALAYS	JAVANESE	MIXED TOTAL
HUSBAND-WIFE- with/without children WITHOUT PARENTS	59	59	118	60.8	68.6	64.5
HUSBAND-WIFE with/without children WITH PARENTS	6	2	8	6.2	2.3	4.4
HUSBAND-WIFE with/without children with RELATIVES	8	5	13	8.2	5.8	7.3
WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS with/without children	13	11	24	13.4	12.8	13.3
SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLD	5	4	9	5.2	4.7	4.9
HUSBAND-WIFE with MARRIED SONS & DAUGHTERS	5	5	10	5.2	5.8	5.5
HUSBAND-WIVES with/without CHILDREN	1	-	1	1.0	-	0.1
TOTAL	97	86	183	100	100	100

An examination of Table 17 will reveal that 64.5% of the total households consists of married couples with or without children. This is the most common type of household one can find anywhere else in the world. The same fact was brought to light by Anderson's study (op.cit.). Of the total farm households studied by him, 63.5% consisted of married couples and such couples with children.

Table 17 indicates that there is a substantial percentage (13.3%) of widows or widowers household. This indicates that the incidence of loss of mates through either death or divorce is quite significant.

7.3% of the households fall within the category of husband - wife with miscellaneous relatives. Relatives are not permanent member of the household(1). They come usually in the harvesting season to seek employment with the family as harvesting-hands. When the harvesting season is over these relatives will return to their own homes.

7. Distribution of Household Types by Ethnic Groups:

A roughly similar pattern of distribution of household types is revealed between the Malays and the Javanese. 60.8% of the Malay households consists of husband - wife with/without children type of household, and 68.6% of the Javanese households are of this type. There is also a considerable proportion of widows or widowers households in the two races. The Malays have 13.4% while the Javanese have 12.8% of this type of household. The incidence of loss of mates through death or divorce is slightly higher among the Malays. The Javanese, furthermore, have more husband - wife - children households than Malays.

Only one household whose head reported to have more than one wife; this is a Malay household.

-
- (1) The two surveys conducted - the first one in April 1962 and the second in May 1963 - each coincided with the harvesting season. Therefore, it is not surprising if we find large numbers of friends and relatives enumerated living in the farm households.