

CHAPTER III

OCCUPATIONAL DIVERSIFICATION

The term 'occupation' is taken to mean the kind of work or nature of duties at which a person spends most time during a twelve-month period.

Eight categories have been adopted in respect of occupational status. They are:-

- i) Padi farming (full time).
- ii) Padi farming (part-time).
- iii) Labourers.
- iv) Housekeeping and farming.
- v) Others.
- vi) Housekeeping.
- vii) Students.
- viii) Nil.

It will be noted that the first five categories correspond to the economically active and the remaining three categories correspond to the economically inactive. The following short notes serve to differentiate one occupational type from another.

- i) Padi Farming (Full Time). This refers to persons who are chiefly occupied with padi farming and performs no other type of work.
- ii) Padi Farming (Part-time). The word 'part-time' is intended to mean that a person is not mainly a padi farmer but to supplement his income he is also a carpenter or he may have a small retail business as a sideline.
- iii) Labourers. This category refers to persons who get remuneration in cash or kind for odd-jobs done like the clearing of lallang in an estate.

- iv) Housekeeping and Farming. This category refers only to females who perform both housework and padi farming. It is necessary to have this category because there are instances where a female will do housework in the early part of the morning and then spends most of the time after that in the padi fields.
- v) Others. This category includes all other persons who are economically active but do not come under any one of the categories mentioned above.
- vi) Housekeeping. Under this category is included all females who virtually do housework and nothing else.
- vii) Students. This group includes all children six-years of age and above who go to school.
- viii) Nil. This category includes the following:
- a) Children who are not of school-going age, that is, below six years of age.
 - b) Children of school-going age but who do not attend school.
 - c) Persons who are too old to work or unable to work due to some physical disability.

Types of Occupations by Blocks

Table 3.1 shows a summary of the Survey population distributed according to the types of occupation, classified according to Blocks. The first feature that stands out most distinctly is that a great proportion of the population of each Block is taken up by 'padi farming' (full time) and 'nil'. In Block P out of a total Block population of 348 about one-third or 127 persons come under the 'nil' category.

It is also interesting to note that in all Blocks, except Block V, the proportion of the economically inactive is very much greater than the economically active. For example, in Block P, out of a total population of 348, the economically inactive number 247 persons and in Block S, out of a total Block population of 348 persons, 218 persons make up the economically inactive. It is the same picture for Blocks T and W. In Block V the economically active exceed the economically inactive by six persons.

TABLE 3.1.

TYPES OF OCCUPATION BY BLOCKS

Types of Occupation	P	S	T	V	W	Total
Padi Farming (Full time)	95	117	78	18	9	317
Padi Farming (Part-time)	1	3	1	0	1	6
Labourers	1	2	2	0	0	5
Housekeeping and Padi Farming	4	43	23	8	6	84
Others	0	1	1	0	0	2
Housekeeping	52	5	21	1	0	79
Students	68	104	65	12	6	255
Nil	127	109	77	7	13	333
Total	348	384	268	46	35	1,081

It is interesting to note that Block S has a substantial figure for 'students' when compared to the other Blocks. The proportion of students to total Block population is much greater for Block S.

There is a strange feature which can be detected in the Table and this is provided by the category 'housekeeping and padi farming'. In Block P, the proportion of females engaged in it to total Block population is very much less than that for Block S. In the latter Block, 43 females do padi farming besides doing housework. This figure goes a long way in augmenting the proportion of the economically active among the females.

Under 'housekeeping', we see that Block P has the highest figure of 52 females. This is in complete contrast to Block S which has only 5 females who are solely confined to housework. This low figure for Block S is explained by the fact that a substantial number of females have joined the economically active group by working in the padi fields.

With regards to the other Occupational Types the Table shows that figures are very low for all Blocks. The low figures in the category 'padi farming (part-time)' shows that only a negligible number of padi farmers, that is six farmers, who are engaged in other activities besides padi farming.

Occupations by Ethnic Groups

Table 3.2 is a breakdown of Table 3.1 into its component Ethnic Groups. It can be seen that for the Malay community the economically active group accounts for 36.6 percent of the total Malay population while for the Javanese community it constitutes about 40 percent of total Javanese population. From the Table, it is also seen that numerically speaking the Javanese have more persons in category 'padi farming (full time)' in category 'housekeeping and padi farming' and in category 'students'.

In the category 'padi farming (part time)', the Malays and the Javanese have equal a number of three each. All the three persons in the Malay population, besides being farmers are also engaged as odd-job workers or labourers. For the Javanese population, one is a carpenter, one is engaged in business and the other is an odd-job worker. All these six persons are engaged in other activities besides padi farming so that they can supplement their income from padi farming.

Of the economically inactive, a large proportion of both the Malay and Javanese communities comes into the category 'nil' followed by the category 'students'.

Occupations by Age and Sex

Table 3.3 is a detailed summary of the occupational structure of the population.

Let us first examine the category 'padi farming (full-time)'. Out of a total of 317 padi farmers, 63 or one-fifth of this total are made up of females. One feature that stands out clearly is the presence of farmers both males and females in the young age groups 10-14 and 15-19. This shows that in padi farming, the farmers are dependent on family labour. Another interesting feature is that although farmers when they reach the age of 50 years and over are considered to be too old to stand the strain of working in the fields, yet from the Table we can see that there are some farmers in the old-age group who are still farming.

Coming to 'housekeeping and padi farming' the figure of 84 can be in fact added to the number of female padi farmers making a total of 147 female padi farmers. We can therefore say that female padi farmers make up slightly more than half of the padi farmers in the area. This only goes to show that in padi farming,

TABLE 3.2

OCCUPATIONS BY ETHNIC GROUPS

Types of Occupation	Ethnic Group			
	Malay		Javanese	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Padi Farming (Full-Time)	143	28.8	174	29.8
Padi Farming (Part-Time)	3	0.6	3	0.5
Labourers	5	1.0	0	0.0
Housekeeping and Padi Farming	31	6.2	53	9.1
Others	0	0.0	2 ^a	0.3
Housekeeping	42	8.5	37	6.4
Students	110	22.1	145	24.8
Nil	163	32.8	170	29.1
Total	497	100.0	584	100.0

^aA teacher and a soldier.

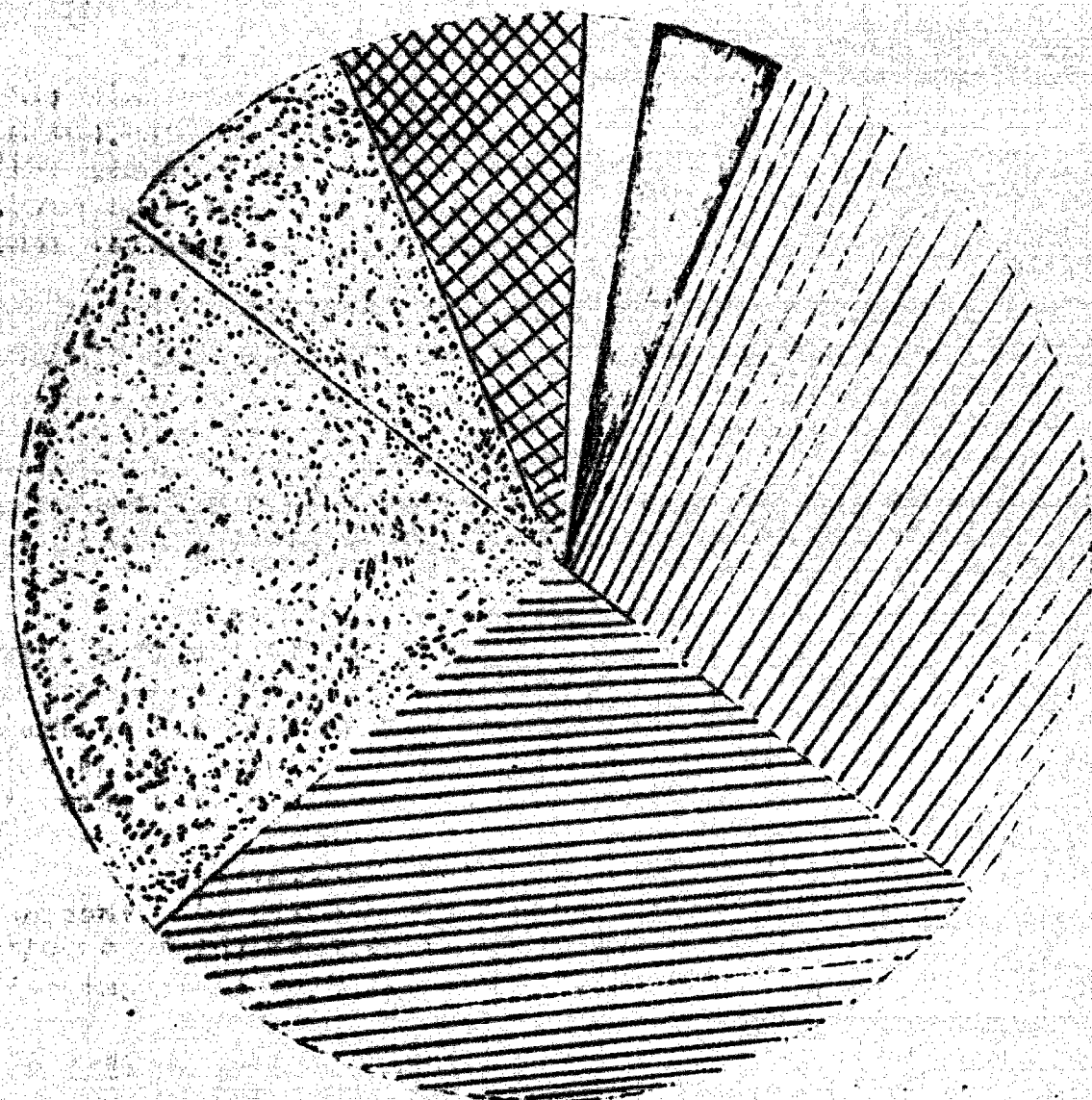
TABLE 3.3

OCCUPATIONS BY AGE AND SEX

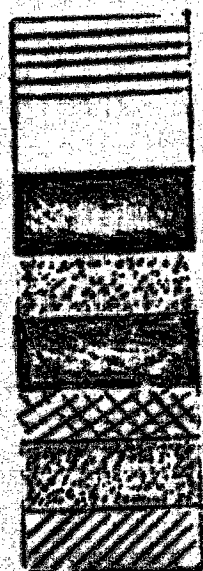
Age Groups	Occupational Groups												Total Number of Persons For All Groups								
	Paid Farming (Full-time)		House-Keeping and Farming		Paid Farming (Part-time)		Labourers		Others		House-Keeping			Students		Misc.					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F				
0-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	101	82	101	182
5-9	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	46	42	46	107
10-14	32	23	7	7	-	-	2	1	-	-	7	10	-	-	-	-	2	26	2	26	96
15-19	35	4	19	19	-	-	1	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	51	16	13
20-24	27	4	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	30	27	34
25-29	24	6	19	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	27	27	43
30-34	27	1	7	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	27	37
35-39	28	11	7	7	2	-	2	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	28	22
40-44	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	32	32	24
45-49	19	2	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	23	23	3
50-54	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	19	19	8
55-59	10	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	8	3
60-64	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	10	8
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17	8
Total	254	63	84	84	6	-	5	-	2	-	79	125	130	129	284	521	510				

DIAGRAM 3.3

TYPES OF OCCUPATION



Reference



- Padi farming (full time)
- Padi farming (part time)
- Labourers
- House-keeping and padi farming
- Others
- House-keeping
- Students
- Nil

a lot of manual labour is required and it is therefore necessary that the farmer's wife and children help him in the fields during planting and harvesting. Since padi farming is the poorest of agricultural occupations in the country,⁹ a farmer cannot afford to hire labour all the time.

Under 'padi farming (part-time)' it is seen that there are only six persons. These six persons are engaged in other activities in conjunction with padi farming. Under 'labourers' there are only five persons, and under 'others' there are only two persons. All these show that for the economically active, they depend greatly on padi farming for their income.

With regards to students, the total number of 255 is roughly distributed between the males and females. The students, here, attend two types of schools, namely, the Malay School and the Arabic School. The age group 15-19 usually includes students who attend the Arabic School because a student in a Malay School will complete the course in six years which means that the student will be 12 or 13 years of age on completing the course.

The category for 'nil' contains the most number of persons, with a figure of 333 persons. It can be seen that out of this total 183 persons are young children who are not of school-going age. A further 119 persons are children who are of school-going age but do not attend school. The remainder refers to those who are not able to work due to old age or some physical disability.

Altogether, out of a total of 414 economically active persons, 267 persons are males. Thus it can be seen that the figure of 147 females is quite substantial. It only emphasises the important role females play in padi farming.

Summary of Main Findings

1. In each Block, a large percentage of the Block population comes under the categories 'padi farming (full-time)' and 'nil'.
2. In Blocks P, S, T and W the proportion of the economically inactive is greater than the economically active. In Block V, the economically active exceed the economically inactive only by six persons.
3. In the Malay community, the economically active account for 36.6 percent of the total Malay population while for the Javanese community it constitutes about 40 percent of the total Javanese population.

⁹See "Facts and Fallacies about the Malay Economy" by Professor Ungku A. Azis.

4. Female padi farmers make up approximately more than one-half of the total number of full-time padi farmers.

5. In the category of the economically active, they depend greatly on padi farming as a source of livelihood.

6. In the category 'nil' the largest number is made up of young children who are not of school-going age. The second greatest number is made up of children who are of school-going age but do not attend school.

7. Of 414 persons who are economically active 267 persons are males.