

CHAPTER II

PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLD

A household can be defined as a domestic unit consisting of "a person living alone, or two or more persons living together in the same dwelling as a house-keeping unit who either have their own separate cooking equipment or have their own separate entrance to the accommodation which they occupy". *

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSES BY BLOCK AND ETHNIC GROUP

The houses and households belonging to Javanese exceed the number of Malay households and houses in all the Blocks. This is to be expected because from the population data it is known that the Javanese exceed the number of Malays in all the three Blocks. The number of households also reflect the number of people living in the Block and vice versa. In Block D the total number of households is 78 which is the highest followed by 50 in E, and 24 in F. It can be clearly seen that this follows the same trend as the figures for the population where the highest figures come from D and the lowest from F, with E in the middle.

In Block D the total of 78 households is divided up into 36 Malay households and 42 Javanese households, while in Block E out of a total of 50, 24 households are Malay households while the other 26 are Javanese. In Block F, 7 households are Malay households, 17 are Javanese so, making a total of 24.

The total number of households in all three Blocks amount to 152 out of which 67 or 44.1% are Malays while 85 or 55.9% are Javanese households.

* See 1957 Population Census of The Federation of Malaya, Report No.7 (K.Lumpur, Dept. of Statistics 1959) Page iv.

TABLE 1 HOUSEHOLD TYPES AND NUMBER OF PERSONS

Type No.	Type of Household	Household		Person	
		No.	%	No.	%
1	Man and wife	9	5.9	18	2.1
2	Man, wife and children	107	70.4	655	77.6
3	Man and wives	1	0.6	7	0.8
4	Family and parent	5	3.3	34	4.0
5	Family and miscellaneous relatives	12	8.0	76	9.0
6	Widow and widower as head of the family	10	6.6	42	5.0
7	Single person household	6	4.0	6	0.7
8	Non-resident head	1	0.6	5	0.5
9	Others	1	0.6	2	0.2
Total		152	100	845	100

HOUSEHOLD TYPES AND NUMBER OF PERSONS

All the households are classified into nine types. The type 1 or man and wife type of household accounts only for 9 households out of a total of 152 households and with a percentage of 5.9. Since only two persons make one household of this type, the total number of persons are 18 which is 2.1% of the total population of 845. The type of household where man and wife and children make one household has the highest figure with 107 households which form 70.4% of the total households and contain 655 persons or 77.6% of the total population. This type of household is expected to be predominant as the society looks upon the partnership of man and woman and the propagation of children as an inevitable responsibility of every mature person.

There is only one case of a man having more than one wife which is type 3. There are seven persons in this household. Only five households belong to type 4, where the parents live with the family making a percentage of 3.3 of the total number of households and consisting of 34 persons.

In the type where miscellaneous relatives stay with a family, 76 persons are involved. There are 12 such households. This type of household averages 6.3 persons per household and this figure is lower than that of type 4 which has an average of 6.8 persons per household. On the other hand, parents do not usually stay with a family permanently unless they can contribute something towards supplementing the household income, a factor which is not expected of parents in household type 4.

The household type where a widow or a widower is the head, involves 5% of the total population. There are 10 such households. In this type the average number of persons per household is 4.2. Although the average is relatively low, the family could be depressed because of the absence of one of the source of strength in the household. Low income can be expected from a household where the head is a widow since it is generally the male who is the main contributor to the household income. If the head is a widower, he would have to dispense with the services provided by a woman in the kitchen and the help she gives on the farm.

TABLE 2**DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD TYPES BY ETHNIC GROUPS**

Type No.	Type of Household	Malay		Javanese		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Man and wife	5	7.5	4	4.7	9	5.9
2	Man, wife and children	43	64.1	64	75.2	107	70.4
3	Man and wives	-	-	1	1.2	1	0.6
4	Family and parents	4	6.0	1	1.2	5	3.3
5	Family and miscellaneous relatives	7	10.4	5	5.9	12	8.0
6	Widow or widower as head of the family	5	7.5	5	5.9	10	6.6
7	Single person household	2	3.0	4	4.7	6	4.0
8	Non-resident head	-	-	1	1.2	1	0.6
9	Others	1	1.5	-	-	1	0.6
Total		85	100	67	100	152	100

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4	Family and parents	4	6.0	1	1.2	5	3.3
5	Family and miscellaneous relatives	7	10.4	5	5.9	12	8.0
6	Widow or widower as head of the family	5	7.5	5	5.9	10	6.6
7	Single person household	2	3.0	4	4.7	6	4.0
8	Non-resident head	-	-	1	1.2	1	0.6
9	Others	1	1.5	-	-	1	0.6
Total		85	100	67	100	152	100

There are six cases of single person households in type 1, while there is one instance of a non-resident head with five persons in that household. The absence of the head could be attributed to the fact that he is seeking employment somewhere else. In the others, only one household belong to this category. This is the case of two brothers living together.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD TYPES BY ETHNIC GROUPS

Taking the three Blocks as a whole, out of the total of 9 households for type 1, 5 households are Malay households while the other 4 are Javanese. In this case the percentage of man and wife household is very high relative to the Javanese. Household type 2 that is, couple with children, is the predominant household type whether they be Malays or Javanese. The figure is not very high among the Malays where the percentage is 64.1 as compared to the Javanese who have 75.2%.

It may be surprising to many that there is only one instance of a polygamous marriage (type 3) out of a population of 845. I say this because many consider non-Muslim as tending to be polygamous. However another factor, and a more important one, is that most of these people live a hand to mouth existence and they cannot afford to have the luxury of having more than one wife.

Another surprising thing is that there are only five cases of couples with parents (type 4) out of which four are from Malay households and while the remaining one is a Javanese household. The figures should be higher because it is expected of Asians to have their parents and a host of miscellaneous relatives staying with them. This can also be explained by the fact that the mortality rate among the aged is high and there are few parents who have the opportunity of retirement and of living on the incomes of their children. Secondly if the parents can still work their own farm, it may be possible that they will refuse to stay with their children and depending rather on their own sweat and labour for food because they know their children cannot have extra dependents under prevailing conditions. The third reason may be due to the Asian characteristic of respecting their elders. An old dependent father may still be regarded as the head out of sheer respect although he ceases to fulfil that function.

In type 5, that is, couple with miscellaneous relatives, there are 7 Malay households and 5 Javanese households. This type of household is a sort of rural welfare home because in the rural area the bond of kinship is still strong and therefore all helpless relatives are harboured by a household although the household may not be able to afford to feed an extra mouth. Sometimes the relative may not be totally helpless but may even be an active member, contributing towards the income of the household. Very often relatives never shift into a house of their own even though they can afford to do so, until they can marry and have a family of their own.

TABLE 2

HOUSEHOLD BY NUMBER OF PERSONS

No. of Persons	No. of House- holds	%
1	6	3.9
2	13	8.6
3	15	9.9
4	16	10.5
5	22	14.4
6	27	17.8
7	19	12.5
8	19	12.5
9	8	5.3
10	4	2.6
11	2	1.3
12	-	-
13	1	0.7
Total	152	100

There are 10 cases of household type 6 that is widows or widowers with children. There are 5 such Malay households and 5 such Javanese ones. Since there are more Javanese than Malays, the percentage 7.5 for the Malays is higher than that of the Javanese - 5.9%.

As expected, single person households are few, appearing only in six cases with two among the Malays and 4 among the Javanese. But the percentage for both groups is 4% of the total number of households. Single person households are few and far between in a rural community and is usually temporary. Sometimes these single person households are made up of persons from another village looking for job during the harvest season. There is only one case of a non-resident head which is household type 8 and one case of others which is household type 9. The others is a household composed of two brothers.

HOUSEHOLD BY NUMBER OF PERSONS

There are only six instances of single person households. These make up 3.9% of the total number of households. Two persons households, 8.6% more than doubled that of single person households. This trend of going upwards is carried on until it reaches its height to the 6 person household in the 27 households making a percentage of 17.8. From here, as the number of persons increases the percentage decreases except where there are the same number of households with 8 and 9 person households and a number of households with 12 persons, there is only one household with 13 persons.

TABLE 10 AVERAGE SIZE HOUSEHOLDS BY ETHNIC GROUPS

ETHNIC GROUP	D	E	F	COMBINED
Malay	5.4	5.2	4.9	5.2
Javanese	5.6	5.6	6.3	5.8
Combined	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.5

TABLE 11**HOUSEHOLD BY SIZE AND ETHNIC GROUP**

NO. OF PERSONS	Malay		Javanese		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	2	3.0	4	4.7	6	3.9
2	7	10.4	6	7.1	13	8.6
3	6	9.0	9	10.6	15	9.9
4	11	16.4	5	5.9	16	10.5
5	7	10.4	15	17.6	22	14.4
6	15	22.4	12	14.1	27	17.8
7	10	15.0	9	10.6	19	12.5
8	5	7.5	14	16.5	19	12.5
9	3	4.5	5	5.9	8	5.3
10	-	-	4	4.7	4	2.6
11	-	-	2	2.3	2	1.3
12	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	1	1.5	-	-	1	0.7
Total	67	100	85	100	152	100

AVERAGE SIZE HOUSEHOLDS BY ETHNIC GROUPS

The average size of the Malay household is smaller than the average size Javanese household. This is evident from the fact that in Block D where the average size for the Malays is 5.4 persons per household as compared to 5.6 for the Javanese. In Block E the average number of persons per Malay household is 5.2 while it is 5.6 for the Javanese. In Block F can be found the lowest average household size occurs for the Malays, 4.9 persons and the highest for the Javanese, 6.3 persons. As regard the overall average, the Malays have an average of 5.2 and the average for the Javanese is 5.8.

The Malays in Block F have the lowest average figure of 4.9 persons per household but this figure should not be taken too literally because the number of Malay households in this Block is too small. Block D has the highest average figure for the Malays of 5.4, which exceeds even the overall average 5.2.

On the other hand Block F gives the average household size for the Javanese as 6.3 persons while Block E and D both have a figure of 5.6. The overall figure for the Javanese is 5.8.

HOUSEHOLD BY SIZE AND ETHNIC GROUP

With regard to the Malays only one household has 18 members while the rest is below 10. The households with six members have the highest frequency of 22.4%, with 15 out of 67 households belonging to this category. Next comes four person households. There are eleven of these making up a percentage of 16.4.

Turning to the Javanese 5 person households have the highest percentage 17.6%. This figure is low as compared to the highest figure for the Malays. The second highest is 16.5% for 8 person households. 14 out of a total of 85 households belong to this class. 4.7% is made up of single person household as compared to 3.0% in the case of the Malays although the number of households is twice that of the Malays. For the Javanese the highest number of persons per household is eleven. Such households have a percentage of 2.3.

Figures for the two races together show that 3.9% are single person households while the highest percentage is 17.8 in the case of 6 person households. The lowest percentage is 13 person household with 0.7%.

TABLE 12 **AVERAGE SIZE HOUSEHOLD BY ETHNIC GROUPS AND TYPE OF HOUSEHOLDS**

ETHNIC GROUP	Type (Composition) of Household									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	All H ^h holds
Malay	2	5.7	-	7.2	6.1	5.6	1	-	2	4.2
Javanese	2	6.4	7	5	6.6	3.8	1	5	-	4.6

Type of Households

- Type 1 - Man and wife
- " 2 - Man, wife and children
- " 3 - Man and wives
- " 4 - Family and parents
- " 5 - Family and miscellaneous relatives
- " 6 - Widow and widower as head of the family.
- " 7 - Single person household
- " 8 - Non-resident head
- " 9 - Others

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY ETHNIC GROUPS AND TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD.

Household type 4 has the highest average size of 7.2 among the Malays as well as the Javanese. Next highest is type 5 with the average size of 6.1, while the "normal" type 2 averages 5.7 persons while household type 6 averages 5.6 persons.

Among the Javanese, household type 3 has the highest average of 6.6 but this figure does not exceed the highest for the Malays which is 6.7 and which is for type 4. The "normal" type 2 averages 6.4 persons, while the Malays have an average of 5.7 persons. Household type 5 has an average number of 6.6 as compared to the Malays who have an average of 6.1 persons. On the whole the Javanese have the higher average of 4.6 than the Malay average figure of 4.2 persons.

CONCLUSION

On the whole the household which is made up of man, wife and children has the highest number and percentage. This type of household accounts for 70.4% of the total number of households and 77.6% of the population. The Javanese have a higher percentage for this type of household with 75.2% as compared to 64.1% for the Malays.

Generally speaking, the percentage of households increases until we reach those households with six persons. After this point the percentage decreases with each increase in the number of persons per household. The average size of the Malay household - 4.2 persons, is lower than that of the Javanese average of 4.6 persons. However, the Malays have the highest average household size in type 4 households. By looking at actual figures the highest percentage is found in households with five persons with 17.1%, while the highest Malay figure is 16.4% in households with four persons.