

CHAPTER III.

PERSONAL CAPITAL BELONGING TO THE FEMALE

ADULTS.

The compositions of personal belongings of the female adults in this region will clarify further the level of living of the fishermen as compared to the other occupational groups in the village.

(A) Personal Effects.

Female Bajus.

The writer finds that the people in Kaceerah devoted much of their extra income in buying the dresses and goods required by their wives and daughters. That is the reason why we find that the women in this village own more bajus than the men. This habit of giving priority to their women is being practised by all the males in the village. Table XIVa facing page 20 of Chapter II and Table XIIIa facing page 26 in this Chapter show us clearly that the women in the area have more bajus than men. The average number of female bajus is 9.7 but the average number of male bajus per household is approximately two pieces.

The female bajus listed in Table XIIIa facing page 26 are of two types. They are the 'Baju Kurung' and the 'Kebayas'. The Kebayas are mostly worn by the younger women of the village and the Baju Kurungs are favourites of the older groups.

It is found that in this village the women will use only two or three bajes for their everyday purposes. The rest will be kept as reserves or worn when they attend special functions like wedding or when they go to Kintan. When the ones worn for daily purposes have been torn they will then be replaced from the reserves and new ones will be bought as soon as possible in order to keep the number of reserved bajes up to date.

When asked about the frequency of buying bajes it is easy to get a straight-forward answers from the wives of the paraks and those of the government employees and the drivers and conductors. They will straight away say that they buy two or three bajes in every six months. They were able to do this because their husbands' incomes are quite regular and steady. But when it comes to the wives of fishermen it is quite difficult for them to tell us this information. This is because they themselves do not know exactly how often they buy such goods due to the uncertainty of their husbands' incomes. Sometimes for days the fishermen barely earn more than fifty cents a day but there are times when they earn more than ten dollars a day. At this time because of their extra incomes these fishermen will be able to spend on some extra necessities, like buying shoes, clothings and jewellery goods.

TABLA XXXIB.

DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF SALENDANGES ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

Occupation of Head of Household	Total No. of Household	No. of salendangs in Household					Total No. of Salendangs	Average No. of Salendang Per Household
		0	1-3	4-6	7-9	10 AND ABOVE		
Jerrigan	8	-	4	2	1	1	37	4.6
Amul-bank	24	1	9	4	-	-	35	2.5
Handlman	40	3	21	12	4	-	126	4.2
Peruch	5	-	3	2	-	-	15	3
Rubber Tappers	4	-	3	1	-	-	11	2.8
Govt. Employees	2	-	-	1	-	1	15	7.5
Partners and Contractors	6	-	3	1	-	2	55	9.2
Others	12	-	9	1	2	-	40	3.3
Total	91	4	42	24	7	4	334	3.8

Even though the women in this village enjoy the privilege of being given the first preference of buying their own clothings and other articles, there is still a differenceⁱⁿ the number of bajus owned by the different classes of women. Those whose husbands earn more will have more bajus than the women of the lower income groups. This distinction is clearly shown in the average columns in Table XIIIa facing page 22.

Salendangs.

This is the scarf worn by Malay women on their heads. Just as the men wear songkoks so the women wear salendangs to protect their heads from the heat of the sun. It is of course not only worn^{for} this purpose. The Malay custom also requires the Malay women to cover their heads whenever they appear in public. It is also a matter of respect and etiquette to wear songkoks or salendangs when one is entertaining guests in his or her home.

It is also a habit among the women in the higher income groups in this village to buy more salendangs than they really need. These women buy salendangs because they like the new designs on the materials. That is why we find that some of these women own more than ten salendangs in their houses. Table XIIIb facing page 23 shows us this. Economically this is a waste, but these women cannot resist their temptations to buy new salendangs with new designs. They are in a way becoming fashion-conscious.

TABLE VIII.

DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF GOLD RINGS ACCORDING TO
OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

Occupation of Head of Household	Total No. of Household	No. of Gold Rings in Household			Total No. of Gold Rings	Average No. of Gold Rings Per Household		
		0	1	2				
Jeweler	8	3	2	1	2	2	18	1.5
Bank-Book	14	4	3	6	1	4	19	1.4
Milliners	40	14	9	6	11	61	1.5	
Perch	5	1	2	1	1	7	1.4	
Rubber Tappers	4	1	1	1	1	6	1.5	
Govt. Employees	2	1	-	0	1	4	2	
Partners and Contributors	6	1	-	1	4	19	2.5	
Others	12	3	2	4	3	21	1.8	
Total	91	38	19	20	24	144	1.6	

Shoes.

Every woman in this village owns at least one pair of shoes. Some of them who can afford to buy more will have more. They do not wear them when they go about the village itself. They only wear them when they attend functions or when they go to Kanatan. The shoes are mostly of local make and they cost between three to four dollars a pair. Whenever the women go about the village they wear wooden clogs, which costs forty cents a pair. The price is reasonably cheap and it is within everybody's financial reach to own them.

(B) semi-durable goods.

Jewelry.

Under this item five types of jewelry goods are found to be predominantly owned by the women in this village. They are the gold rings, the golden ear-rings, the gold necklaces, the gold pendants and gold bangles. Therefore it is in the light of these goods that we are going to discuss this topic.

The jewelry goods are treated by the villagers as a form of savings. They are quite liquid in the sense that they can be turned into cash at the pawnshops. The people in this village will put all their extra-incomes in buying jewelry for their wives. They do this for two reasons. Firstly it will please their wives and secondly these goods can easily be turned into cash quite easily

TABLE XXIV.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF GOLDEN-EARNINGS IN HOUSEHOLD PRESENTED ACCORDING TO THE OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

Occupation of Head of Household	Total No. of Household	No. of Golden Earnings in Household					Total No. of Earnings	Average No. of Earnings Per Household
		1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 6				
Jerryman	8	0	7	0	1	17	2.1	
Wash-bank	14	6	8	0	0	14	0.6	
Handlman	40	8	29	3	0	40	1.3	
Parish	5	0	3	2	0	11	2.2	
Rubber Tappers	4	0	4	0	0	4	1.5	
Govt. Employees	4	0	1	1	0	5	1.3	
Dealers and Customers	6	0	2	4	0	17	2.8	
Others	12	2	9	1	0	14	1.2	
Total	91	16	63	11	1	130	1.4	

for whenever they need money they can easily go to the pawnshops and pawn their jewelry in return for cash.

In answering to the writer's questions regarding their jewelry most of them admitted that many of the articles in question are in the pawnshops at that time! They explained that for the last one and one half years prior to the interview, the fishermen in this region were experiencing bad catches, hence they were getting very little incomes. Sometimes for days in the same month the fishermen came home bare-handed. So the only way to get money to pay for their daily expenses is to pawn all their jewelry goods. The fishermen were really hard pressed during this one and the half years and those who have something to do with fishing industry too were affected by this depression. The portugals and the Chinese foxgays too were affected but because they had sufficient reserves to carry them through this depression they were able to survive without resorting to pawning their jewelry.

There is a period in the year in which the fishermen in this region cannot go to fish at all. This is during the period of the North East Monsoon known to the fishermen here as the 'Nasin Tokop Kala'. This period usually takes place between the month of December to the month of February in the following year. During these three months the fishermen do not fish at all and they have to live on their savings. They cannot go into any other occupations because they lack other skills and they cannot grow vegetables

TABLE IV.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF GOLD NECKLACES IN HOUSEHOLD TABULATED ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

Occupation of Head of Household	Total No. of Household	No. of Gold Necklaces in Household					Total No. of Gold Necklaces	Average No. of Gold Necklaces per Household
		0	1	2	3	4		
Merchant	8	0	6	2	0	0	14	1.6
Auto-mech	16	8	5	1	0	0	11	0.8
Handlsmen	40	14	22	4	0	0	47	1.2
Per-son	5	1	2	2	0	0	10	2.0
Rubber Tappers	4	2	2	0	0	0	4	1.0
Const. Employees	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	2.0
Professors and Consultants	6	2	1	2	1	0	13	2.2
Others	12	6	4	2	0	0	8	0.7

because they do not have the necessary pieces of lands to plant them on. The lands surrounding their houses are all sandy soils.

It had been a practice in the past for these fishermen to obtain credits in advance from the Chinese Tockays (during this 'closed season' on the agreement that the fishermen in return will sell all their fish to the same Tockays in future. After many of such transactions have been carried out by the two parties the fishermen would be at the end heavily indebted to the Tockays. But now with the existence of their Co-operative Society in this village the fishermen who are members of the Society no longer borrow money from the Tockays, for they now can obtain credits from their own Co-operative Society which provides loans in advance to them. But this does not end their indebtedness. Before the fishermen were indebted to the Tockays but now they are being indebted to their Co-operative Society, for many of them who have borrowed money from the Society have not settled their accounts yet. Some of these loans have long been overdue.

facing page 31
Table XIII *32* and XIV facing page *32*, Tables XIV *on the opposite page* and XVI

34 facing page 33 and Table XIV *35* facing page 34 show us the distribution of the five different kinds of jewelry goods owned by the women in this village. Here again we find that those of the higher income groups will have more of each kind of these goods. In some households of the *tsuk-tsuk* and the handliners, the rubber tappers and the jaragans there are only two or three of the five

TABLE XXV.

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF COLD BANGLES DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO
OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.**

Occupation of Head of Household	Total No. of Household	No. of Cold Bangles in House-					Total No. of Cold Bangles	Average No. of Cold Bangles Per Household
		0	1	2	3 and Above			
Juggan	8	2	4	1	1	10	1.3	
Amk-Amk	14	6	6	-	2	14	1	
Handlars	40	11	14	7	8	54	1.4	
Parash	5	1	1	2	1	9	1.8	
Rubber Tappers	8	3	-	1	-	2	0.5	
Govt. Employees	2	2	-	-	-	0	0	
Doctors and Contractors	6	1	-	2	3	19	3.1	
Others	12	5	2	3	2	20	1.7	
Total	91	31	27	16	17	128	1.4	

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items. For example the gold pendants are owned by women of
a certain section only as shown in Table XIVII facing page ³⁵ 34.

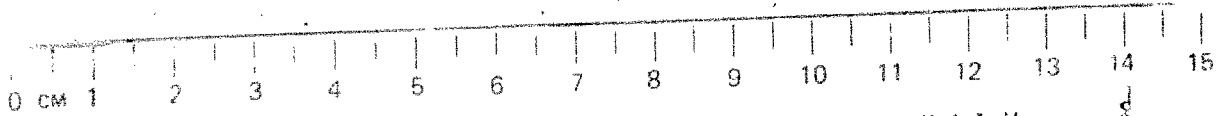


TABLE XXVII.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF COLD PENDANTS DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.

Occupation of head of household	Total No. of Household	No. of Cold Pendants in Household					Total No. of Cold Pendants	Average No. of Cold Pendants per Household
		0	1	2	3 and Above			
Domestic	8	9	1	1	1	7	0.9	
Female-Head	14	13	1	-	-	1	0.1	
Headliners	40	33	5	2	-	9	0.3	
Female	5	3	-	1	1	5	1	
Double Support	4	2	1	1	-	3	0.8	
Govt. Employees	2	1	-	1	-	2	1	
Doctors and Consultants	6	3	1	2	-	5	0.8	
Others	12	10	2	-	-	2	0.2	
Total	92	70	11	6	2	26	0.3	

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