

## INTRODUCTION.

Eight main economic aspects of the people in Besarrah have been studied by eight Economics Students from the University of Malaya in June 1958, under the personal supervision of one of the lecturers, Ungku Aziz. The subject discussed in this Exercise is one of them. Each student spent seven to eight weeks in the village carrying out personal investigations on the subjects concerning his Exercise. The facts and figures presented in this Exercise are derived from this investigation. The writer interviewed occupants of 91 out of the 110 houses in this village using the Questionnaire shown in Appendix VIII on page .XIX. as the basis of his inquiries. If the writer was not satisfied with the facts given to him, he requested the owner to show him the articles and he was always given the opportunity of seeing for himself the articles concerned as well as their amounts. The average figures presented in the tables in the Exercise are calculated to the nearest decimal place.

Questions besides those items listed in the questionnaire were also asked. Such questions are those related with their incomes, and the prices of goods that they bought. Questions related to their customs and habits were also asked. These questions were asked in order to give a clear picture of the whole situations there.

The purpose of this exercise is to study the distributive patterns of the household capital among the various economic groups in Kampung di-Pantai in the Mukim of Besarrah. Map I in Appendix VII<sup>IX</sup> on page .XXIV. shows the three sub-villages of Kampung Set, Kampung Pak Mat Ritan and Kampung Pantai which constitute the area covered under the survey. This study is also aimed at finding the difference in ownership of capital

goods and the extent of this difference, if there is any, among the various economic groups in this village.

The survey is also intended to reveal the extent of poverty among the fishermen in this region, which will reflect their level of living. The writer hopes that the findings in this exercise, inadequate as they are, would serve a useful purpose as one of the basis for future rural economic development programmes in this region.

For this purpose, the population in this village was divided into eight economic groups. The division is based on an individual's occupation and hence his income. The eight divisions are the Jeragan, the *Asak-Asak*, the Handliners, the Percehs, the Rubber Tappers, the Government Employees, the Drivers and Conductors and the rest are classified under 'Others'.

The Jeragan is the captain of the fishing crew which uses nets to fish. They earn double that of their crew namely the *Asak-Asak*. During the course of the investigation it is found that the *Asak-Asak* are <sup>the</sup> poorest lots among the eight groups. The Handliners fish individually using handlines. They earn a bit more than the *Asak-Asak*. The Percehs are the middlemen who buy fish on the beach at a lower price and sell them at a much higher price at the market. The four Rubber Tappers living in this village earn a bit more than the Handliners. The two Government Employees are labourers in the Drainage and Irrigation Department. They earn a regular and steady income of one hundred twenty to one hundred fifty dollars per month. The taxi, bus and the Co-operative Society's van driver and the bus conductors are included in the next heading. They earn four to

five dollars a day. Under 'Others' are the small vegetable farmers, small-shop operators and the land owners. They earn more than the ~~Asak-As~~

The writer wishes to make it clear that not all the items listed in the questionnaire in Appendix VIII<sup>XIX</sup> on page ..... are discussed in this exercise. Only those which really show the difference in incomes are discussed here. Five Chinese houses in this village are left out of the survey. The writer finds that it is difficult to compare the components of a Chinese household with that of <sup>a</sup> Malay because the two races have different types of capital goods in their houses.

**TABLE IA.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADE I SAVORIS ACCORDING TO OCCUPATION OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.**

Occupation of Head of Household	Total No. of Households	No. of GRADE I SAVORIS IN HOUSEHOLD					Total No. of Grade I Savoris	Average No. of Grade I Savoris Per Household	
		0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20			Above 20
Jerogun	8	-	3	2	-	2	1	101	12.6
Bank-Acct	14	-	8	4	-	2	-	90	6.4
Headliners	40	-	15	17	7	1	-	303	7.6
Parade	5	-	1	2	-	1	1	72	14.5
Rubber Tapper	4	-	2	2	-	-	-	26	6.5
Govt. Employees	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	43	21.5
Drivers and Conductors	6	-	1	-	3	1	1	93	15.5
Others	12	1	5	5	-	1	-	65	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>8.7</b>