BASE-LINE SURVEY OF SULLA

(OCTOBER—NOVEMBER, 1975)

BRAC

BANGLADESH RURAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

DACCA , BANGLADESH

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Table 1 - Number of Households Surveyed and Persons Enumerated

The number of households surveyed was 2329: 1635 Hindu and 694 Muslim.
All persons related either by blood or by marriage who (i) usually live
together, (ii) have common house-keeping arrangements, and (iii) normally
take food from a common kitchen, as well as permanently resident unrelated
persons satisfying the above conditions, were regarded as members of a house-
hold. The number of persons enumerated in these households was 13,007: 8,807
(4,496 male, 4,371 female) Hindu and 4,200 (2,146 male; 2,054 female) Muslim.
In addition, there were 59 non-resident but economically-dependent students:
50 (48 male; 2 female) Hindu and 9 (all male) Muslim. The total number of
guests (persons who ate supper and spent the night prior to the survey in the
surveyed households) was 227: 170 Hindu and 57 Muslim. The students and
guests were excluded from the numbers of household members. The average house-
hold size estimated from the present survey is 5.58. The Demographic Survey
in East Pakistan, 1961-62, calculated the average rural household size at 5.59.

Table 2 - Sex-Ratio of Population by Age and Religion

Tables 2-11 are concerned with the presentation and analysis of the
data on age, sex, marital status and religion of the population surveyed.
Table 2 reveals the sex-ratio of the population of the sample area according
to different age groups at 10-year intervals. A sex-ratio is usually
expressed as the number of males or females per 100 females or males. As the
previous records of Bangladesh show that the males are slightly greater in
number than females, the sex-ratio in this study is expressed in this Table
as $\frac{M}{F} \times 100$.

Table 2 shows that in the age group 0-9, the male rate is higher for the
Hindu community, lower in the Muslim community, and almost equal to the female
rate for the combined population. In the 20-29 age-group, males are fewer in
number in each section. In the 60-69 age-group, males are fewer in the
combined and Hindu section but greater in number in the Muslim community. In
all other age-groups, males are greater in number than females for each commu-
nity. The sex-ratios for all ages are 104.35, 104.29, and 104.48 for the
combined, Hindu, and Muslim communities respectively. The sex-ratio from
the 1961 population census was 104.97.

Table 3 - (a) Distribution of Population by Age, Sex, and Religion
(b) Percentage Distribution of Population by Age, Sex, and Religion

Table 3 (a) presents the population structure of the sample area by age
and sex for the Hindu, Muslim, and combined communities. Table 3 (b) presents

INTRODUCTION:

BRAC's Sulla Project is now five years old. What began as a direct relief and rehabilitation effort has matured into an integrated rural development project. The Sulla Project has recently entered its last phase of BRAC staff support and the first phase of village community take-over. Five years of experience in Sulla has indicated that some sectoral activities have progressed well, others have undergone revision and are now running smoothly, others have failed outright. With yet other activities it is either too early or too difficult to measure success or failure.

The cumulative experience from the Sulla Project obviously may have lessons of value for other groups within and outside Bangladesh. BRAC has long recognized the need to assess its Sulla project effectiveness to determine the underlying factors responsible for the success and failures of various sectoral activities as well as the over-all programme.

The Sulla Base-Line Survey was designed to obtain routine census information on, fertility and mortality levels for, and socio-economic variables of the Sulla population. A pre-programme assessment of the project area was not possible given the evolution of the project. Moreover, it was not possible to introduce many retrospective inquiries into the base-line survey. However, as the major thrust and current direction of sectoral activities evolved, it was hoped that cross-sectional differential impact of the programme on participants and non-participants could be measured. To this end, various follow-up sectoral surveys will be conducted. A post-acceptance family planning survey was conducted in April 1976 to assess continuance, side-effects, complications and use-effectiveness from family planning practice in Sulla. Sectoral surveys on other programmes (functional education, Agriculture/horticulture, health, and cooperatives) are currently being planned.

The Sulla Base-Line Survey was conducted in October-November 1975. A precoded questionnaire was designed to obtain the baseline information on the Sulla project area. A stratified random sample of 10% of the village was taken. There are 189 village clusters in the Sulla project area (168 square miles). Nineteen sample villages were surveyed. A total of 2,329 households numbering 13,007 persons were surveyed. 30 enumerators and 4 supervisors were temporarily hired and trained to conduct the survey.

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the percentage distribution of the population by age and sex. The distribution on Table 3 (b) indicates a high proportion of children and adolescents and a low proportion of older people. Roughly one-third of the population is below age 10. The median ages are 21.58, 15.80, and 20.12 (completed years)for Hindu, Muslim, and combined populations respectively.

A few comparisons can be drawn between the present survey (cf. column "Total" under combined population in Table 3(b))and the 1961 census. The 1961 census proportion of rural persons for the age group 0-4 was smaller than for the age group 5-9 (18.39 and 18.92 respectively). In the present survey the proportion is reversed and the percentages under the age groups 0-4 and 5-9 are lower (15.06 and 14.88 respectively). These differences may have arisen due to a fall in birth rates and/or an increase of infant death rates under one year of age (cf. Table 14 of this survey). In the present survey the percentage of persons above 60 years is 6.54 compared to 5.29 in the 1961 census. The life expectancy of people has, apparently, gone up.

Table 4 - Median and Quartile Ages (in completed years) of Population by Sex and Religion

Male-female comparisons in this Table show that the median and quartile ages for males are higher than those for females in every community. Moreover the Hindu community has higher median and quartile ages than the Muslim community. In the 1961 Demographic Survey the median ages of males and females in rural areas were 17.83 and 16.65. Both are lower in comparison to the present survey figures of 20.26 and 20.01 for males and females respectively.

Table 5 - Percentage Distribution of Population Within Broad Age-Groups by Marital Status, Sex, and Religion

Table 6 - Percentage Distribution of Population by Age, Sex, Marital Status, and Religion

Tables 5 and 6 show that the proportion ever-married is higher for females than males in both Hindu and Muslim communities and that this proportion is higher in the Hindu community than in the Muslim. Most of the population above 14 years of age have married. No boy below 15 years of age is married. A large percentage of girls below 15 years of age are unmarried (97.25% Hindu; 96.44% Muslim). Table 6 shows that in the Hindu community 29.16% of unmarried males and 5.34% of unmarried females are above 14 years of age. In the Muslim community, the corresponding figures are 20.50% for males and 3.56% for females.

The proportion of every-married persons increases as age advances. Nearly all males above 44 and all females above 34 have married at least once. A large percentage (92.23% Hindu, 94.87% Muslim men and 72.44% Hindu and 81.61% Muslim women) of all ever-marrieds are presently married. In the higher age-groups

there is a larger proportion of widowed and divorced women than presently married women. The lower proportion of Muslim than Hindu widows is related to the practice of widow remarriage in the Muslim community.

Table 7 - Median Age of Population According to Marital Status, Sex, and Religion

The median ages of persons of different marital statuses are presented in Table 7. The figures indicate that the median ages of unmarried girls and boys are lower in the Muslim community than in the Hindu. This suggests that rural Muslim girls and boys usually marry at a younger age than rural Hindu girls and boys. The median ages of married males and females of both communities support this view. The median age of married women is lower than that of married men by 10-11 years in both communities. Women traditionally marry at a younger age than men.

Table 8 - Percentage Distribution of Ever-Married Women According to Age at First Marriage and Religion

Table 8 shows that 96.54% of Hindu and 97.36% of Muslim ever-married women married at an age younger than 19 years. Rural Muslim girls marry, on the average, at a younger age than Hindu girls. The median age at first marriage is 13.87 for rural Muslim girls and 14.29 years for rural Hindu girls. The median ages at first marriage for rural ever-married women recorded in the 1961 Demographic Survey was 12.71 for Muslim girls and 12.91 for non-Muslim girls.

Table 9 - Percentage Distribution of Heads of Households According to Sex and Religion

Table 10 - Percentage Distribution of Heads of Household Within Broad Age-Groups by Sex and Religion

Table 11 - Percentage Distribution of Heads of Households According to Marital Status, Sex, and Religion

Households may be broadly classified according to the age, sex, and marital status of the head of the household. Most household heads (according to current criteria) are males. Female heads of households are very few in number (almost all are widows). Table 9 presents the precentage distribution of heads of households according to sex and religion. In the 1961 Demographic Survey the percentages of male and female heads of households were 95.64 and 4.36 respectively. The percentages have altered slightly according to the present survey: 93.09 male and 6.91 female.

Table 10 presents the age and sex distribution of heads of households. The median age of the head of household is slightly higher among Hindus (estimated at 42.96) than among Muslims (estimated at 40.46). 48.99% of Muslim household heads are below 40 years of age; only 41.83% of Hindu household heads are below 40. Almost all female household heads in both communities are widows. The median age of a female household head is higher than the male age by 2.25 years among Hindus

Table 11 classifies household heads according to marital status. The large majority of male household heads are married. The proportion of married male households heads is almost equal in both Hindu and Muslim communities. Almost all female household heads are widowed or divorced and generally belong to higher age groups.

Table 12 - Male Dependency Ratio of Population According to Religion

The dependency ratio may be defined as the number of persons not gainfully occupied per 100 persons of all ages. This ratio is a rough indicator of the burden of dependency on the society. It must, however, be remember that many of these economically inactive persons are students who although engaged in useful and important work are nevertheless dependents. In addition, most women are engaged in undervalued household and agriculture work and are not enumerated as being gainfully occupied. In this study, therefore, the dependency ratio is calculated for the male population only.

Table 12 presents the male dependency ratio for Hindu, Muslim, and combined populations. The estimated male dependency ratio 83.94 is higher than the rural male dependency ratio 49.92 of the 1961 Demographic Survey. It is clear that economically inactive persons are larger in number in comparison to gainfully occupied persons in the sample area. The number of dependent Muslim males is higher proportionately than the number of dependent Hindu males.

Table 13 - Age Specific Mortality Rates of Population by Religion

Table 13 presents the number of deaths which occurred in the year prior to the survey (i.e., November 1974 to October 1975) per 1,000 persons in different age groups. These numbers represent the age-specific mortality rates of the sample area. Overall, 66.87% of deaths occur in children under the age of 4 years. The infant mortality rate is 186.40 per 1000. The rate falls sharply to 23 per 1,000 in children 1-4 and reaches the lowest level of 0.07 per 1,000 in the 10-14 year age-group. From age-groups 15-19 and 45-49 the death rate is more or less constant at around 1 per 1,000. In the older age-groups, the death rate rises gradually until age 64. There is a sharp rise in the death rate in ages over 65.

Table 14 - Infant Mortality Rates (Neo-natal and Post Neo-natal) of Population by Religion

Table 14 presents the distribution of infant deaths by age at the time of death for the year November 1974 to October 1975. Out of 347 Hindu live births and 168 Muslim live births the deaths before one year of age were 73 and 23 respectively. The estimated infant mortality rates of Hindu, Muslim and combined populations are 210.37, 136.90, and 186.40 respectively. In the Matlab Demographic Studies in Rural East Pakistan (May 1967 to April 1968) Survey the infant

mortality rate was found to be 125.40, which is lower than any rates of this study.
The present study reveals that the infant mortality rate is much higher in the
Hindu community than in the Muslim.

The neo-natal mortality rate is the number of deaths during the period from
birth through the first four weeks of life (28 days) per 1,000 live births. From
the survey data, the total number of deaths upto 28 days of life was 53 (41 Hindu
and 12 Muslim). The post neo-natal mortality rate is the number of deaths during
the period beginning with the 5th week of life and ending with the first birthday
per 1,000 live births. From the survey data, the total number of deaths within
the age-range mentioned was 43 (32 Hindu and 11 Muslim).

Table 14 provides an examination of 96 infant deaths. The Table shows
that 55.21% of the infant deaths occured in the first four weeks of life; this
percentage is slightly higher than the 54.10% of the Matlab Demographic Studies
(1967-68). The post neo-natal mortality rate of 83.49 for the combined population
is also higher than the 57.6 of the Matlab Demographic Survey.

DISCUSSION ON FERTILITY (based on the Demographic Tables)
Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Crude Death Rate (CDR)

Crude Birth Rate: It is the number of live births (usually per year) divided
by the total population within which these births have occurred, times 1,000. In
our present survey the total live births during November 1974 to October 1975
are 515 out of which 347 are Hindu and 168 are Muslim.

Crude death rate: It is the number of deaths per 1,000 population per
year. For the present survey the estimated total deaths during the reference
period are 192 out of which 128 are Hindu and 64 are Muslim.

The table below shows the CBR and CDR for the present survey.

INFORMATION	HINDU	MUSLIM	GENERAL
CBR	39.40	40.00	39.59
CDR	14.53	15.84	14.76

From the previous records it has been found that the birth rate in Bangladesh
between 1900 and 1946 remained more or less constant. It varied between 53.8
per 1,000 per year to 51.9 per 1,000 per year.

Crude Rate of Natural Increase or Rate of Reproductive Change (CRNI):
It is the increase in numbers per 1,000 population per year that results from the
excess of births over deaths. In our present survey, CRNI in different cases
are as follows:

$$\text{GENERAL} = 39.59 - 14.76 = 24.83$$
$$\text{HINDU} = 39.40 - 14.53 = 24.87$$

From the 1974 census and various reports published by different organisations in 1975, it has been seen that the birth rate of Bangladesh is nearly 47 per 1,000 per year and the death rate is 17 per 1,000 per year. Our present survey shows that the CBR and CDR are 39.59 and 14.76 respectively from which we get the rate of increase is 24.83 per 1,000 per year or 2.5 percent per year. This rate is lower in comparison to other recent records. This may be due in part to the family planning and health care provided by BRAC in the Sulla area over the last few years. In the present survey both CBR and CDR are higher in Muslim community than those in Hindu, but ultimately the rate of natural increase is slightly higher in Hindu than that of Muslim.

Child-Woman Ratio (CWR): Child-woman ratio is the number of children 0-4 years of age per 1,000 women of child bearing age (15-44). The estimated number of children 0-4 years and that of women of child bearing age by religion and combined are as follows:

Categories	Hindu	Muslim	General
Children 0-4 yrs.(c)	1223	736	1959
Women of age 15-44 (f)	1825	769	2594
Child-women ratio = c/f x 1000	670.14	957.08	755.20

Fertility Rates:

    General Fertility Rate (GFR): It is the number of births which occur in a year per 1,000 women of child-bearing age 15-44.

    The following table shows the number of births per female population of child-bearing age during the reference year:

Table

	HINDU	MUSLIM	TOTAL
Births	347	168	515
Women of child-bearing age 15-44	1825	769	2594
GFR	190.14	218.47	198.54

The above table reveals that Muslim women of the sample area have a higher GFR than Hindu women.

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SURVEYED AND PERSONS ENUMERATED

	HINDU	MUSLIM	COMBINED
1. No. of households surveyed	1,635	694	2,329
2. No. of persons enumerated in the surveyed households	8,807	4,200	13,007
3. Mean no. of persons per household	5.39	6.05	5.58
4. Students studying outside	50	9	59
5. Guest present in the surveyed house in the night before survey.	170	57	227

TABLE 2

SEX RATIO OF POPULATION BY AGE AND RELIGION

Age-group	Combined S.R $= \frac{M}{F} \times 100$	Hindu S.R. $= \frac{M}{F} \times 100$	Muslim S.R. $= \frac{M}{F} \times 100$
0 - 9	99.85	103.07	94.97
10 - 19	108.92	108.73	109.56
20 - 29	88.89	86.62	94.41
30 - 39	117.25	116.67	118.72
40 - 49	121.06	119.83	124.60
50 - 59	111.33	113.10	105.81
60 - 69	96.33	90.43	115.79
70 - 79	121.31	107.29	173.07
80+	112.76	100.00	135.29
All ages	104.35	104.29	104.48

TABLE 3(a)

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND RELIGION

Age Group	COMBINED			HINDU			MUSLIM		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
0 - 4	1,959	955	1,004	1,223	618	605	736	337	399
5 - 9	1,936	991	945	1,161	592	569	775	399	376
10 - 14	1,505	805	700	982	517	465	523	288	235
15 - 19	1,072	539	533	740	380	360	332	159	173
20 - 24	1,074	480	594	755	336	419	319	144	175
25 - 29	1,121	553	568	779	376	403	342	177	165
30 - 34	870	449	421	617	318	299	253	131	122
35 - 39	792	448	344	566	319	247	226	129	97
40 - 44	573	313	260	411	224	187	162	89	73
45 - 49	508	279	229	387	211	176	121	68	53
50 - 54	468	230	238	352	177	175	116	53	63
55 - 59	278	163	115	217	125	92	61	38	23
60 - 64	319	157	162	239	116	123	80	41	39
65 - 69	162	79	83	119	54	65	43	25	18
70 - 74	203	107	96	145	74	71	58	33	25
75 - 79	67	41	26	54	29	25	13	12	1
80 & above	100	53	47	60	30	30	40	23	17
Total	13,007	6,642	6,365	8,807	4,496	4,311	4,200	2,146	2,034

TABLE 3(b)
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND RELIGION

Age Group	COMBINED			HINDU			MUSLIM		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Total
0 - 4	115.06	14.38	15.77	13.89	13.75	14.03	17.52	15.70	19.43
5 - 9	14.88	14.92	14.85	13.18	13.17	13.20	18.45	18.59	18.31
10 - 14	11.57	12.12	11.00	11.15	11.50	10.79	12.45	13.42	11.44
15 - 19	8.24	8.12	8.37	8.40	8.45	8.35	7.91	7.41	18.42
20 - 24	8.26	7.23	9.33	8.57	7.47	9.72	7.60	6.71	8.52
25 - 29	8.61	8.33	8.92	8.85	8.36	9.35	8.14	8.25	8.03
30 - 34	6.69	6.70	6.61	7.01	7.07	6.93	6.03	6.10	5.94
35 - 39	6.09	6.74	6.41	6.43	7.10	5.73	5.38	6.01	4.72
40 - 44	4.41	4.71	4.08	4.07	4.98	4.34	3.86	4.15	3.55
45 - 49	3.91	4.20	3.60	4.39	4.69	4.08	2.88	3.17	2.58
50 - 54	3.60	3.46	3.74	4.00	3.94	4.06	2.76	2.47	3.06
55 - 59	2.14	2.45	1.81	2.46	2.78	2.13	1.45	1.77	1.12
60 - 64	2.45	2.36	2.55	2.71	2.58	2.85	1.91	1.91	1.90
65 - 69	1.25	1.19	1.30	1.35	1.20	1.51	1.02	1.17	0.88
70 - 74	1.56	1.61	1.51	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.38	1.54	1.22
75 - 79	0.51	0.62	0.41	0.61	0.65	0.58	0.31	0.56	0.05
90 & above	0.77	0.80	0.74	0.68	0.66	0.70	0.95	1.07	90.83
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

TABLE 4

MEDIAN AND QUARTILE AGES (IN COMPLETED YEARS) OF POPULATION BY SEX AND RELIGION

	HINDU			MUSLIM			COMBINED		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
First Quartile	8.42	8.32	8.37	7.00	6.22	6.62	7.85	7.49	7.67
Median	21.68	21.50	21.58	16.25	15.40	15.80	20.26	20.01	20.12
Third Quartile	37.96	36.85	37.47	33.24	30.60	31.40	36.79	35.11	36.11

TABLE 5

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION WITHIN BROAD AGE GROUPS BY MARITAL STATUS, SEX, AND RELIGION

Age group (completed years)	MALE Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated	Total	FEMALE Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated	Total
					HINDU					
0 - 14	100.00	-	-	-	100.00 (1727)	97.25	2.75	-	-	100.00 (1639)
15 - 24	78.77	21.09	0.14	-	100.00 (716)	11.16	87.30	1.03	0.51	100.00 (779)
25 - 34	17.15	81.85	0.86	0.14	100.00 (694)	0.28	89.18	10.11	0.43	100.00 (702)
35 - 44	3.13	93.56	3.31	-	100.00 (543)	0.23	74.89	24.88	-	100.00 (434)
45 & over	1.35	82.23	16.30	0.12	100.00 (816)	-	29.99	70.01	-	100.00 (752)
All ages	54.23	42.22	3.51	0.04	100.00 (4496)	39.06	44.15	16.63	0.16	100.00 (4311)
					MUSLIM					
0 - 14	100.00	-	-	-	100.00 (1024)	96.44	3.56	-	-	100.00 (1010)
15 - 24	72.94	26.73	0.	0.33	100.00 (303)	9.77	85.92	1.44	2.87	100.00 (348)
25 - 34	13.63	83.77	1.30	1.30	100.00 (308)	0.70	93.38	4.53	1.39	100.00 (287)
35 - 44	0.46	95.87	2.75	0.92	100.00 (218)	-	84.71	14.12	1.17	100.00 (170)
45 & over	-	90.78	9.22	-	100.00 (293)	-	43.93	56.07	-	100.00 (239)
All ages	60.02	37.93	1.72	0.33	100.00 (2146)	49.17	41.48	8.57	0.78	100.00 (2054)

Numbers in brackets indicate the total No. of persons in each age-group.

TABLE 6

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, AND RELIGION

| Age-group | MALE | | | | | FEMALE | | | | |
	Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated	Total	Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated	Total
					HINDU					
0 - 14	70.84	—	—	—	38.41	94.66	2.36	—	—	38.02
15 - 24	23.13	7.96	0.63	—	15.93	5.17	35.73	1.12	57.14	18.07
25 - 34	4.88	29.93	3.80	50.00	15.44	0.12	32.90	9.90	42.86	16.28
35 - 44	0.70	26.76	11.39	—	12.08	0.05	17.08	15.06	—	10.07
45 & over	0.45	35.35	84.18	50.00	18.14	—	11.93	73.92	—	17.56
All ages	100.00 (2438)	100.00 (1898)	100.00 (158)	100.00 (2)	100.00 (4496)	100.00 (1684)	100.00 (1903)	100.00 (717)	100.00 (7)	100.00 (4311)
					MUSLIM					
0 - 14	79.50	—	—	—	47.72	96.44	4.23	—	—	49.17
15 - 24	17.16	9.95	—	14.29	14.12	3.37	35.09	2.84	62.50	16.94
25 - 34	3.26	31.70	10.81	57.14	14.35	0.19	31.46	7.39	25.00	13.97
35 - 44	0.08	25.68	16.22	28.57	10.16	—	16.90	13.64	12.50	8.28
45 & over	—	32.67	72.97	—	13.65	—	12.32	76.13	—	11.64
All ages	100.00 (1288)	100.00 (814)	100.00 (37)	100.00 (7)	100.00 (2146)	100.00 (1010)	100.00 (852)	100.00 (176)	100.00 (16)	100.00 (2054)

Numbers in brackets indicate the total No. of persons in different Marital Status

TABLE 7

MEDIAN AGE OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO MARITAL STATUS, SEX, AND RELIGION

Marital Status	HINDU		MUSLIM	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Unmarried	10.07	6.67	8.08	6.13
Married	38.14	27.47	37.23	27.39
Widowed	60.08	53.46	64.00	55.71
Divorced and Separated	57.00	22.00	29.00	23.00

TABLE 8

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EVER-MARRIED WOMEN ACCORDING TO AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE AND RELIGION

Age at 1st marriage	HINDU		MUSLIM		COMBINED	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Below 10	33	1.31	34	3.32	67	1.89
10 - 12	380	15.13	259	25.29	639	18.07
13 - 15	1312	52.23	504	49.22	1816	51.36
16 - 18	700	27.87	200	19.53	900	25.45
19 - 21	82	3.27	25	2.44	107	3.93
22 & above	5	0.20	2	0.20	7	0.20
Total	2,513	100.00	1,024	100.00	3,536	100.00
Median*	14.29		13.87		14.17	

* Median is calculated from the formula of grouped data.

TABLE 9

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS ACCORDING TO SEX AND RELIGION

Sex	Hindu	Muslim	Combined
Male	91.74 (1500)	96.25 (668)	93.09 (2168)
Female	8.26 (135)	3.75 (026)	16.91 (161)
Total	100.00 (1,635)	100.00 (694)	100.00 (2,329)

(Figures in brackets indicate the numbers)

TABLE 19

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN BROAD AGE-GROUPS BY SEX AND RELIGION

Age-group (in completed years)	HINDU			MUSLIM			COMBINED		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10 - 19	100.00 (32)	- -	100.00 (32)	100.00 (19)	- -	100.00 (19)	100.00 (51)	- -	100.00 (51)
20 - 29	93.33 (194)	6.67 (16)	100.00 (210)	97.56 (120)	2.44 (3)	100.00 (123)	94.29 (314)	5.71 (19)	100.00 (333)
30 - 39	92.31 (408)	7.69 (34)	100.00 (442)	96.46 (191)	3.54 (7)	100.00 (198)	93.59 (599)	6.41 (41)	100.00 (640)
40 - 49	92.14 (375)	7.86 (32)	100.00 (407)	95.21 (135)	4.79 (7)	100.00 (146)	92.95 (514)	7.05 (39)	100.00 (553)
50 - 59	90.56 (259)	9.44 (27)	100.00 (286)	94.38 (84)	5.62 (5)	100.00 (89)	91.47 (343)	8.53 (32)	100.00 (375)
60 - 69	87.65 (149)	12.35 (21)	100.00 (170)	93.44 (57)	6.56 (4)	100.00 (61)	89.18 (206)	10.82 (25)	100.00 (231)
70 & above	94.32 (83)	5.68 (5)	100.00 (88)	100.00 (58)	- -	100.00 (58)	96.58 (141)	3.42 (5)	100.00 (146)
Total	91.74 (1500)	8.26 (135)	100.00 (1635)	96.25 (668)	3.75 (26)	100.00 (694)	93.09 (2168)	6.91 (161)	100.00 (2329)
Median age	42.81	45.86	42.96	40.29	44.50	40.46	42.02	44.85	42.29

Numbers in brackets indicate the numbers in each age group. Median age has been calculated from the formula of grouped data.

TABLE 11

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO MARITAL STATUS, SEX, AND RELIGION

Marital Status	HINDU			MUSLIM			COMBINED		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Unmarried	7.13 (107)	0.74 (1)	6.61 (108)	6.89 (46)	– –	6.63 (46)	7.06 (153)	0.62 (1)	6.61 (154)
Married	88.94 (1334)	– –	81.59 (1334)	89.37 (597)	– –	86.02 (597)	89.07 (1931)	– –	82.'' (1931)
Widowed & Others	3.93 (59)	99.26 (134)	11.80 (193)	3.74 (25)	100.00 (26)	7.35 (51)	3.87 (84)	99.38 (160)	10.48 (244)
Total (percent)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Total No. of heads (in the sample)	1500	135	1635	668	26	694	2168	161	2329

(Figures in brackets indicate the numbers in the sample)

TABLE 12

MALE DEPENDENCY RATIOS OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO RELIGION

INFORMATION	HINDU	MUSLIM	COMBINED
Population under 15 years + Population 65 years & above	1914	1117	3031
Population age 15-64	2582	1029	3611
Dependency Ratio	74.13	108.55	83.94

TABLE 13

AGE SPECIFIC MORTALITY RATES OF POPULATION BY RELIGION

Age Group	COMBINED $m_{i,j} = \dfrac{D_{ij}}{P_j}$	HINDU	MUSLIM
0 - 4	66.87	76.86	50.27
5 - 9	3.10	3.45	2.58
10 - 14	0.07	0.98	-
15 - 19	0.28	2.70	3.02
20 - 24	0.28	1.32	6.27
25 - 29	0.27	2.27	2.92
30 - 34	0.57	4.86	7.91
35 - 39	0.13	-	4.42
40 - 44	0.70	7.30	6.17
45 - 49	0.79	7.75	8.26
50 - 54	1.07	5.68	25.86
55 - 59	1.44	9.22	32.79
60 - 64	2.51	12.55	62.50
65 & over	26.32	21.16	38.96

TABLE 14

INFANT MORTALITY RATES (NEO-NATAL AND POST NEO-NATAL) OF POPULATION BY RELIGION

Age	HINDU IMR = $\frac{D}{B}$ x 1,000	MUSLIM IMR = $\frac{D}{B}$ x 1,000	COMBINED IMR = $\frac{D}{B}$ x 1,000
Neo-natal (0-28 days)	118.16	71.43	102.91
Post Neo-natal (29 day - 12 month)	92.21	65.47	83.49
Total	210.37	136.90	186.40

SECTION -II
SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Table 1 - Distribution of Population by Sex and Education

Table 1 shows the distribution of the sampled population according to sex and the highest level of education attained. It should be noted that the figures of this table exclude children of 0-4 years of age, who would not have been expected to complete any schooling. Persons who have attended and passed final examination of various classes fall into the respective class groups. A special category of "functional education" is included. This last category is included to deleniate the baseline level of activity of BRAC!s functional education programme (phase II), which was initiated after this baseline survey was undertaken.

Of the total sampled population of 11,048, 7,880 (71.3%) had no schooling whatsoever. Of the remainder 28.7%, only 12.0% had completed class I to III and 9.5% had completed Class IV to V. Only 6.0% of this population had completed primary school. Less than 1% of the population had completed phase I of BRAC's functional education programme.

Of particular interest is the sex differentials in educational attainment. About 62.1% of the males had never attended school. The corresponding proportion for females was higher: 81%. With increasing levels of educational attainment the differences between men and women increases markedly. Only 8 women attained the secondary level in comparison to 149 men.

Table 2 - Distribution of Heads of Households According to Religion and Occupation

Table 2 shows the number and percentage distribution of heads of households by primary occupation for both Hindu and Muslim populations. Of some 2,329 heads of households nearly 1,700 (70%) were engaged in agriculture. About 5% were involved in fishing; the remainder in various services, small commercial, and other occupations.

Most of those involved in agriculture were cultivators, working either as share-croppers or on their own land. 121 heads of households, however, were classified as "gentlemen farmers", those who own land but do not work the land themselves. "Gentlemen farmers" supervise work performed by either share-croppers or hired agricultural laborers. 617 heads of households were agricultural laborers probably without any agricultural land of their own.

The type of occupation did not differ greatly between religious groups. 81% of the Muslims were involved in agriculture in comparison

to 69% of the Hindus. Of the Muslims engaged in agriculture, a larger proportion were agricultural laborers than "gentlemen farmers" or cultivators. The overwhelming majority of the fishermen were Hindus. The remaining occupations tended to be non-discriminate with regard to religion. Persons not capable of doing work as well as persons capable of work but doing nothing are classified under "no occupation".

Table - 3 - Distribution of Heads of Household According to Religion and Size of Landholding

Of 2,329 households, 34% were landless and owned no land. Of the remaining 66 %: 18% owned less than one acre; 34% owned from one to five acres; and 13 % owned more than 5 acres. The median (average) farm size (excluding the landless agricultural households) was 2.2 acres.

The landlessness rate was higher among the Muslims than the Hindus (39 versus 32% respectively). There were many more Hindu families with 5 or more acres than Muslim families. The median farm size (including landless farmers) were 1.2 and 0.6 acres for the Hindu and Muslim communities respectively. The median farm size (excluding landless farmers) were 2.3 and 1.7 acres for the Hindu and Muslim communities respectively. When comparing this landholding pattern with other areas of Bangladesh, it should be kept in mind that agricultural land in this geographic area (a topical depression) is too low to produce an aman (monsoon) harvest. The area is primarily a monocrop boro and its capacity for multiple cropping is limited.

Table 4 - Distribution of Households by Quality of Housing

Table 4 presents the distribution of sample households according to the materials used for roofing, walls and floors, of houses. The data indicate that housing quality is modest. Most roofs consist of tin; most walls of bamboo, most floors are earthen.

Table 5 - Distribution of Households by Assets

Table 5 presents the distribution of sample households according to the possession of various assets: fishing net, plough, boat or draught animal. As the table indicates most households possess none of these items. 81% owned no fishing nets; 11.7% possessed one fishing net. Very few of the households owned more than one fishing net. Majority of the households had no plough; one third of the households had one plough; very few households had more than one. Similarly very few households had boats. 28.3% owned one boat. Less than 5% owned more than one boat. Although most families did not own draught animals, interestingly more families owned two or more draught animals than one (13.7% owned one draught animals; 16.4% owned two; 11.5% owned three or more draught animals). This data seems to indicate possession of

a few, not one, draught animals is needed for agricultural use. It would be interesting if Table 5 could demonstrate ownership according to occupation. A break-down to this effect will be obtained at a later date. Table 11   presents as a correlation between type of cooperative membership and possession of assets.

Table 6 - <u>Percentage Distribution of Heads of Households According to Religion and to Amount and Source of Indebtedness</u>

About three-quarters of the sample households were in debt. Only 25.1% were without any debt whatsoever. Most of the households appear to possess debts ranging from 200 to 1,500 taka. 14.15% of the households had debts which exceeded 3,000 taka. The median debt was 527 taka, with Muslims possessing a slightly higher debt burden than Hindus.

Most of the debts came from money lenders. About one-third of the households had no debts to money lenders, the remaining two-thirds had debts. Again most of the families had debts to money lenders ranging from 200 to 1,500 taka. The median debt to money lenders was 403 taka. The average amount of debts to money lenders differed by religion: Muslims owed 439 taka in comparison to 384 taka owed by Hindus on the average.

Table 7 - <u>Distribution of Heads of Households according to Religion and Cooperative Membership</u>

Of the 2,329 heads of households, 984 were members of some form of cooperatives. (This number is slightly larger than the actual number of household heads because several household heads belonged to more than one cooperative and may have been counted more than once amongst this 984). Agricultural and fishery cooperative membership appeared to favour possession of those assets required for work. Only 16.72% co-operative members belong to fishing cooperatives. The overwhelming majorityof the remainder belong to agricultural co-operatives. Very few belong to women co-operatives and other cooperatives. (It should be noted that this baseline survey was undertaken prior to the initiation of BRAC's women's programme in the project area). The fishing cooperatives tended to consist almost entirely of Hindus. The Hindus also constituted about two-thirds of the membership in the agricultural cooperatives. There appeared to be a greater preponderance of Hindu membership in cooperatives of any kind.

Table 8 - <u>Distribution of Cooperative Members According to Farmsize and Type of Membership</u>

Table 8 shows the distribution of farmsize according to whether cooperative members belong to an agricultural,fishing, women,or other cooperative. The median land ownership including the landless members' families was largest among those who were members of agricultural cooperatives. Agricultural cooperative members had median farmsizes

members less than one acre. The data suggests that heads of households c
owning considerable farm land in comparision to those who do not join agri-
cultural cooperatives. Such a skewing of cooperative membership could pre-
clude the flow of benefits from agricultural input program to the landless
and small farmers.

Table 9 – Distribution of Cooperative Members According to the Amount of Indebtedness and Type of Membership

Interestingly the median debt of members of agricultural cooperatives
was the highest averaging about taka 800. The debt of members of fishing
cooperatives averaged 619; members of women and other cooperatives averaged
200 to 666 taka. However it should be kept in mind that access to credit
is easiest among members of agricultural cooperatives. Furthermore with
large land holdings agricultural cooperative members would need to make
larger investment for agriculture. Those who are not cooperative members,
and as such probably possess the least amount of fixed assets, simply
may not have sufficient resources to qualify for credit. One conclusion
from this table is that the level of indebtedness corresponds directly
to the level of assets possessed by a household. Those without assets
simply do not qualify for or do not have access to easy credit.

Table 10 – Distribution of Cooperative Members According to Quantity of Irrigated Land and Type of Membership

The pattern of distribution of ownership of irrigated land follows
that of land ownership almost precisely. Those with more land most often
own larger amounts of irrigated land in comparision to those who own little
or no land.

Table 11 – Distribution of Heads of Households According to Assets and Cooperative Membership

The possession of assets changes dramatically once it is examined
according to cooperative membership. For example only 16.7% of members of
agricultural cooperatives possessed no ploughs and only 26.2 % no draught
animals. Over one fourth of agricultural cooperative members own two
animals; and another 30% own three or more animals. Over one-third of
members of fisheries cooperatives owned either one fishnet or one boat.
Membership in women or other cooperatives did not co-relate with
increasing ownership of any of these four assets.

Table – 1

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY SEX AND EDUCATION

(EXCLUDING THE AGE GROUP 0 – 4 YEARS OF AGE)

Highest Level of Education Attained	Male		Female		Both Sex	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No Schooling	3,532	62.11	4,348	81.10	7,880	71.32
Class I – III	874	15.37	533	9.94	1,407	12.74
Class IV – V	669	11.76	379	7.07	1,048	9.49
Class VI – IX	421	7.40	83	1.55	504	4.56
S.S.C and Above	149	2.62	8	0.15	157	1.42
Functional Education	42	0.74	10	0.19	52	0.47
Total	5,687	100.00	5,361	100.00	11,048	100.00

TABLE - 2

DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO RELIGION AND OCCUPATION

Occupation	Hindu		Muslim		Both Communities	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Gentleman Farmer	85	5.20	36	5.19	121	5.20
Cultivation	724	44.28	244	35.16	968	41.56
Agr. Labour	329	20.12	288	41.50	617	26.49
Fishing	82	5.02	6	0.87	88	3.78
Business	123	7.52	41	5.91	164	7.04
Service	45	2.75	16	2.30	61	2.62
Trade	40	2.45	16	2.30	56	2.40
Housewife	91	5.57	14	2.02	105	4.51
Student	3	0.18	-	-	3	0.13
No Occupation	58	3.55	16	2.30	74	3.18
Others	55	3.36	17	2.45	72	3.09
Total	1,635	100.00	694	100.00	2,329	100.00

Table - 3

DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO RELIGION AND SIZE OF LANDHOLDING

Amount of Land (In Acres)	Hindu		Muslim		Both Communities	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Landless	521	31.87	271	39.05	792	34.01
00.01 - 00.50	78	4.77	60	8.64	138	5.93
00.51 - 01.00	189	11.55	101	14.55	290	12.45
01.01 - 02.50	326	19.94	114	16.43	440	18.89
02.51 - 05.00	288	17.62	73	10.52	361	15.50
05.01 - 10.00	156	9.55	52	7.50	208	8.93
10.01 - 25.00	65	3.97	18	2.59	83	3.56
Above 25.00 Acres	12	0.73	5	0.72	17	0.73
Total	1,635	100.00	694	100.00	2,329	100.00
Median	1.5 Acres		0.59 Acres		0.91 Acres	

TABLE - 4

DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY QUALITY OF HOUSING

Material	Roof		Wall		Floor	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Tin	1,330	58.72	214	9.45	-	-
Thatched	908	40.09	-	-	-	-
Brick	16	0.71	33	1.46	25	1.10
Bamboo	11	0.48	1,237	54.61	-	-
Stalks	-	-	754	33.29	-	-
Wood	-	-	6	0.26	-	-
Mud/Earthen	-	-	21	0.93	2,240	98.90
Total	2,265	100.00	2,265	100.00	2,265	100.00

TABLE – 5

DISTRIBUTION   OF   HOUSEHOLDS   BY   ASSETS

I T E M S	Total Households	No of Each Item Possessess By Families					
		0	1	2	3/3+	4/4+	/5+
Fishing Net	2,329	80.98	11.68	3.05	1.33	2.96	---
Plough	2,329	54.27	34.52	7.30	2.79	1.12	---
Boat	2,329	66.89	28.34	3.52	1.25	---	---
Draught Animals	2,329	58.44	13.70	16.36	3.56	4.29	3.65

Notes:

    a) 3+ For Boat Only.

    b) 4+ For Fishing Net and Plough

    c) 5+ For Draught Animals Only.

TABLE - 6

DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO RELIGION AND TO

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF INDEBTEDNESS

Amount of Indebtedness (In Taka)	From All Sources (Including Money Lender)		Both Communities	From Money Lender		Both Communities
	Hindu	Muslim		Hindu	Muslim	
No Indebted	27.71	19.02	25.12	35.41	26.94	32.89
1 - 99	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.37	0.29	0.34
100 -499	21.29	26.95	22.97	21.16	27.52	23.06
500 -999	18.96	24.35	20.57	18.04	21.90	19.19
1000 -1,999	15.72	16.28	15.88	14.37	13.98	14.26
2,000 -4,999	13.51	9.65	12.37	9.73	7.06	8.93
5,000 & Above	2.38	3.32	2.66	0.92	2.31	1.33
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Median	512.06	557.76	527.54	384.08	439.38	403.48

TABLE - 7

DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO RELIGION AND COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

COOPERATIVES	HINDU		MUSLIM		BOTH RELIGION	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Agriculture	198	12.11	107	15.42	305	13.10
Fisheries	477	29.17	6	0.87	483	20.74
Women	24	1.47	1	0.14	25	1.07
Others	139	8.50	32	4.61	171	7.34
Non-Members	797	48.75	548	78.96	1,345	57.75
Total	1,635	100.00	694	100.00	2,329	100.00

Note: Some Cooperative members belong to more than one cooperative.

TABLE - 8

DISTRIBUTION OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ACCORDING TO FARMSIZE AND TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Farmsize in Acres	Cooperatives							
	Agriculture		Fisheries		Women		Others	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Landless	22	7.21	92	19.05	12	48.00	69	40.35
00.01 - 00.50	13	4.26	16	3.31	-	-	8	4.68
00.51 - 01.00	29	9.51	50	10.35	-	-	24	14.04
01.01 - 02.50	62	20.33	109	22.57	3	12.00	27	15.79
02.51 - 05.00	74	24.26	127	26.29	4	16.00	24	14.04
05.01 - 10.00	66	21.64	64	13.25	4	16.00	15	8.77
10.01 - 25.00	32	10.49	20	4.14	2	8.00	4	2.33
Above 25.00 Acres	7	2.30	5	1.04	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	305	100.00	483	100.00	25	100.00	171	100.00
Median	3.42 Acres		2.16 Acres		1.51 Acres		0.69 Acres	

TABLE - 9

DISTRIBUTION OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ACCORDING TO AMOUNT OF DEBT AND TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

| AMOUNT OF DEBT | COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES | | | | | | | |
| | AGRICULTURE | | FISHERIES | | WOMEN | | OTHERS | |
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
No Debt	57	18.69	112	23.19	9	36.00	32	18.71
1 - 99	-	-	2	0.42	-	-	2	1.17
100 - 199	6	1.97	13	2.69	2	8.00	5	2.93
200 - 499	30	9.84	88	18.22	2	8.00	32	18.71
500 - 799	49	16.06	68	14.08	4	16.00	27	15.79
800 - 999	11	3.61	24	4.97	1	4.00	11	6.43
1000 - 1499	44	14.43	67	13.87	3	12.00	18	10.52
1500 - 1999	24	7.87	30	6.21	-	-	8	4.68
2000 - 2999	40	13.11	47	9.73	1	4.00	25	14.62
3000 - 4999	22	7.21	23	4.76	2	8.00	9	5.26
5000 & Above	22	7.21	9	1.86	1	4.00	2	1.17
TOTAL	305	100.00	483	100.00	25	100.00	171	100.00
MEDIAN	Tk.800.00		Tk. 618.72		Tk. 200.00		Tk. 666.11	

TABLE - 10

DISTRIBUTION OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ACCORDING TO QUALITY OF IRRIGATED LAND AND TYPE OR MEMBERSHIP

IRRIGATED LAND (in ACRES)	COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES							
	AGRICULTURE		FISHERIES		WOMEN		OTHERS	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
No Irrigated Land	41	13.44	139	28.78	15	60.00	78	45.61
00.01 - 00.50	15	4.92	17	3.52	1	4.00	9	5.26
00.51 - 01.00	34	11.15	64	13.25	2	8.00	26	15.20
01.01 - 02.50	56	18.36	101	20.91	2	8.00	28	16.38
02.51 - 05.00	72	23.60	103	21.33	3	12.00	19	11.11
05.01 - 10.00	57	18.69	43	8.90	2	8.00	8	4.68
10.01 - 25.00	24	7.87	13	2.69	-	-	3	1.76
Above 25.00 Acres	6	1.97	3	0.62	-	-	-	-
Total	305	100.00	483	100.00	25	100.00	171	100.00
Median (in Acres)	2.75		1.33		00(No irrigated Land)		0.45	

TABLE - 11

DISTRIBUTION OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ACCORDING TO ASSETS AND TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

	Agriculture				Fisheries				Women				Others			
	No. Of Each Item Possess by Households				No. of each item possess by Households				No of each items possess by Households				No of each item possess by Households			
	0	1	2	3+	0	1	2+	3+	0	1	2+	3+	0	1	2	3/3+
Ploughs	16.72	52.79	18.36	12.13	37.27	49.69	8.28	4.76	52.00	36.00	12.00		49.72	38.01	7.02	5.26
Draught Animals	26.23	17.70	27.21	28.86	43.89	19.25	22.36	14.50	56.00	4.00	20.00	20.00	56.14	12.28	19.30	12.28
Boats	44.92	41.97	8.85	4.26	56.31	34.37	6.01	3.31	68.00	28.00	4.00	-	63.16	32.16	4.10	0.58
Fishing Nets	67.87	17.05	6.23	8.85	42.86	38.92	8.08	10.14	84.00	12.00	4.00	-	80.70	11.11	2.92	5.27

Notes: A) Total Members of Agriculture Cooperatives = 305
          Total Members of Fisheries Cooperatives = 483
          Total Members of Women Cooperatives   = 025
          Total Members of Other Cooperatives   = 171

       B) 2+ in Women Cooperatives for Fishing Nets Only
           3+ in Others Cooperatives for Boats Only.