

006 A Pre-Election Study on Socio-Economic Conditions of the Candidates  
for Union Parishad Election  
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a) Researcher's Identity

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b) Objectives

1. To study socio-economic condition of the candidates;
- n. To find out candidate's opinion towards rural development; and
- iii. To examine the people's perception about the candidates.

c) Executive summary

A. *Chairman*

Summary findings are as follows:

1. Most of the candidates for Chairmanship were above 45 years age, and their education was matriculation and above;
2. Three candidate Chairmen had occupation in agriculture, one in business and one in service;
3. They were owning land on an average over 12 acres having annual income of approximately Taka 15,000.00;
4. All of them were belonging to some kinds of village samaj and were holding positions there. All of them have some family title and have made some contribution to the welfare activities of the village;
5. 50% of the candidates have had previous election experience and were supporters of some political parties such as Awami League, Muslim League and Jamaty Islam;
6. The candidates gave promises to their supporters that some kind of development activities would be initiated by them. These included construction and repairing the roads, improving the schools, Madrasha and Colleges, improving communication; and

7. The response in regard to expenses, they have undertaken for conducting the election was much under rated, and none of them have mentioned expenses above taka 500 for the whole election campaign.

*B. Members*

1. The average age was 35 years and the educational back ground was little lower than the Chairman;
2. 14 of the 15 candidates were in agriculture, one in business;
3. The average number of acres owned was 7.5, the highest land ownership being 14 acres and the lowest .42 decimals;
4. About half of the member candidates have some kind of family title and about each of them have made contribution to some welfare activities in the village. 11 of the members belonged a Samaj in their village and 8 of them were head men of the Samaj;
5. Only three candidates for membership had affiliation with some political parties
6. All but three of the candidate gave some election promises regarding rural work, social welfare and proper distribution of government inputs;
7. Six of the candidates had used posters and phamplates and they all went from house to house for canvassing. On an average they spent Taka 320 for the election, the maximum amount spent by one person was Taka 800.