

008 Socio-Economic Study of Three Villages under Zero Population Growth Programme in Bogra District  
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a) Researchers' Identity

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b) Objectives

The purpose of the study was to know:

- i. the existing socio-economic condition of the villagers;
- ii. demographic patterns of the villages;
- iii. attitude of the villagers towards family planning. Furthermore, this would enable the authorities to keep a base line record of the present situation of the villages, which might be useful for the future evaluation of the Z.P.G. programme.

c) Executive summary

One of the major problems facing Bangladesh today is the tremendous growth of population. The economic and social reconstruction and the effort to improve the quality of life of the new nation are being jeopardized due to the rapid growth of population. Moreover, if the present trend of population growth (at the rate of 3% per year) is allowed to continue unabated, the total population of the century would nearly be doubled by the end of the present century.

Recognizing that the present rate of population growth is a serious impediment to the economic development of the country, the government has taken all out efforts to bring down the present growth rate. Besides intensifying its normal programme, the Family Planning and Population Control Department has under taken "Zero Population Growth Programme" in 20 Unions of five selected districts of Bangladesh on an experimental basis, which has been called pilot project. Zero Population Growth means

bringing down the birth rate at a level which will be equal to the death rate, the total growth rate thus being Zero. The project aims at achieving Zero Population growth through, (i) late marriage (25 years for male and 20 years for female), (ii) spacing of child birth (an interval of 5 years after the first child) and (iii) Acceptance of family planning norms (2 children of any sex). The most distinctive feature of the programme is that, unlike other family planning programmes, it is emphasizing on the total socio-economic development of the project areas, through increasing agricultural productivity, organizing women for cottage crafts, opening adult schools and youth clubs. It has been assumed that with the betterment of the socio-economic conditions of the people, a change might take place in the attitude of the people towards limiting the size of the family.

In Bogra district three Unions of Sherpur Thana, namely, Bhawanipur, Khanpur and Shimabari were selected during the month of March, 1976 for inclusion in the Z.P.G. programme and a request was received by the Academy from the Deputy Commissioner, Bogra in August to conduct base line surveys in three selected villages of those three unions. In Bhawanipur Union, Ghoga, in Khanpur Union, Bhimjani and in Shimabari Union, Sen-Bamunla villages were selected for conducting the surveys. The villages were selected by the Project Officer, Z.P.G.Project, Sherpur Thana.