AN ASSESSMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES PROJECT AS A POTENTIAL MODEL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

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DEDICATED

TO

REETA, MY COMPASSIONATE WIFE, AND

TO

LIEN BAZLU CHOUDHURY, MY BELOVED SON.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is my pleasure to use this space for documenting a sense of gratitude and good wishes to some of the people who helped me in doing this work for my doctoral dissertation.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

General Background

Bangladesh is still a new nation. Immediately after the war for independence ending in late 1971, the nation was faced with many reconstruction and rehabilitation problems in various sectors including agriculture and rural development. Agricultural growth and development has, however, been nearly stagnant since the nation's independence.

The new government of Bangladesh had to undertake many developmental programs and policies in various sectors of government, including the reinforcement of law and order. A number of governmental changes also occurred in the country during the recent past that resulted in a number of internal problems of administrative and political nature. Admittedly, it had been a period of high risk and uncertainty for public welfare and human development throughout the country. More recently, however, the situation has been somewhat improved as the government of Bangladesh has undertaken certain adequately intensive programs to help improve public welfare through, along with other measures, agriculture and rural community development (51).

Agriculture in Bangladesh is beset with many problems with low productivity per unit of cultivable land as one of the most pressing. The rapidly escalating cost of production is another limiting factor for rapid growth of agriculture. This has also been responsible for

the decreasing rate of capital investments in agriculture. Low crop productivity in agriculture has resulted in an extremely low level of per capita income of the farmers (51).

The increasing population growth rate has again posed a serious threat to food supplies. That high population growth has resulted in the need for more food than the agricultural sector could provide, and so the need for further development of agriculture is greatly felt throughout the country. Since about 85% of the population lives in rural areas and small villages, attention to community and village development is an important corollary to agricultural development to help alleviate the pressures of under-development.

This briefly is the situation with regard to agriculture which provides a major contribution to socio-economic development in most of the developing countries like Bangladesh. A reproduction from a Food and Agriculture Organization report (25, p. 9), as shown in Figure 1, clearly illustrates the importance of agricultural development in developing countries.

First and foremost, Bangladesh is an agricultural country. The role of the agricultural sector is therefore highly important to economic development of the nation. This can be realized if one considers the essential functions of that sector, the most important which can be listed as:

1. Satisfying the growing demand for food products for the ever increasing population of the country.
2. Meeting the needs for national industrialization by supplying raw materials.
3. Contributing to a favorable balance of foreign exchange

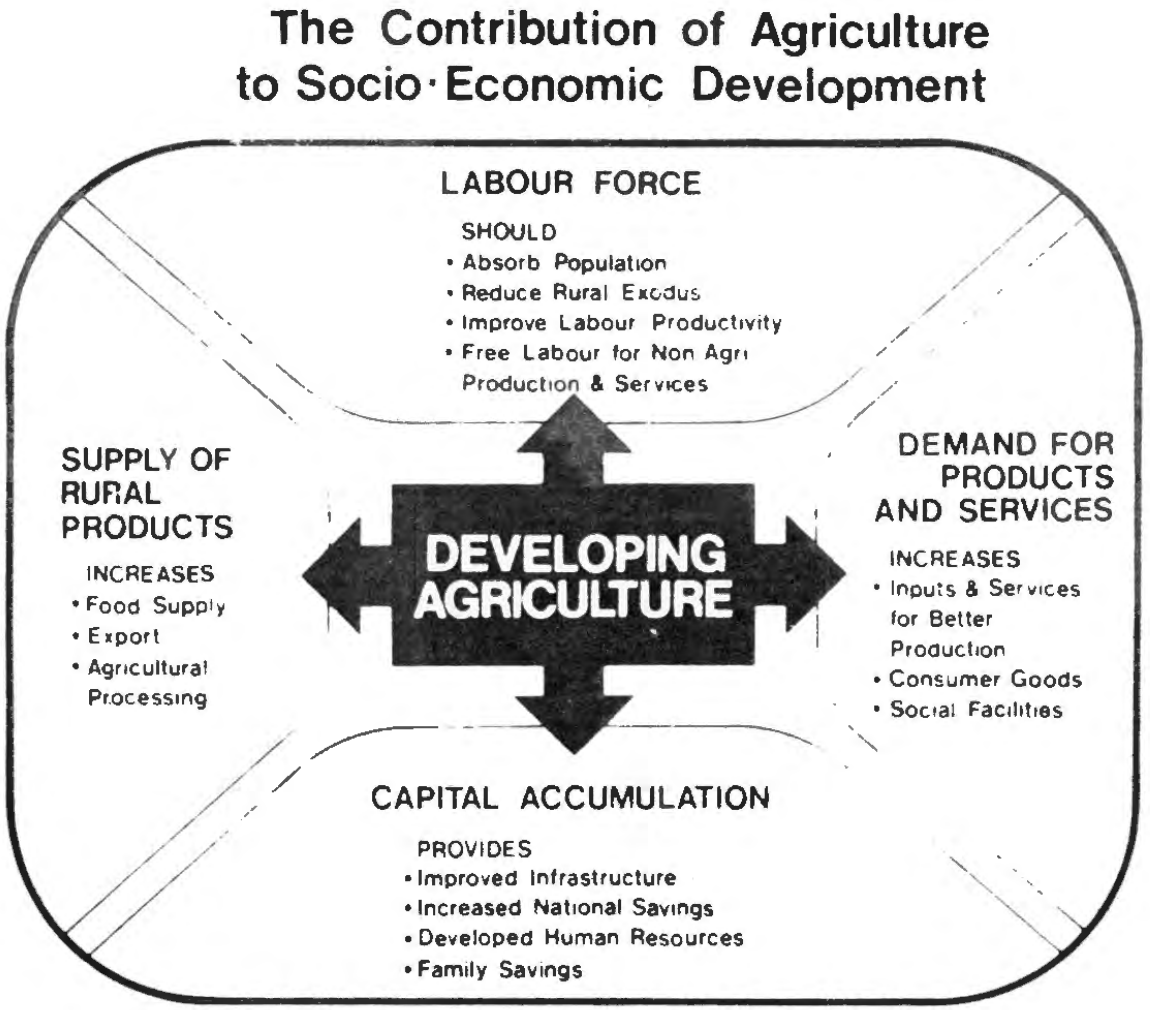


Figure 1. The Contribution of Agriculture to Socio-Economic Development

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (25, p. 9)

necessary for the nation's development through the exportable surpluses.

4. Generating necessary capital for reinvestment in agriculture for increasing growth and development throughout the country.
5. Increasing the per capita income of the people in general, and the farmers in particular.

In light of this crucial need for immediate and sustained improvement of agriculture, it can safely be asserted that agricultural development is not only a feasible answer to the question of economic development of Bangladesh, but one which is absolutely essential. In this context, there is a high priority to put all possible effort into agricultural development. This will require extensive efforts in developing and implementing different types of programs and projects for agriculture and rural development throughout the country, and will necessarily include community and village development.

The main focus of agricultural development lies in the effective implementation of such developmental programs, and therefore, immediate attention must be given to the implementation phase of development projects. However, it can be readily observed that often times in such an attempt, scarce national resources are wasted in the ineffective implementation of projects in many a developing country like Bangladesh.

It is therefore necessary to make sure that the limited resources of such a nation be utilized properly through successful project implementation. One way of doing so is to make the necessary evaluations of the working plans, not only of those projects that have been previously implemented, but also those currently being implemented, as well as

evaluations of operational progress of projects (72).

Subsistance agriculture is a fundamental characteristic of the agrarian economy of Bangladesh. The economy of the nation, particularly agriculture, is further influenced and characterized by high population density, fragmented holdings, and seasonal and sometimes permanent unemployment of the labor force. The farmer's assess to sources of credit is generally limited. What little technical assistance that is available is often inadequate. Agricultural producers are faced with many problems in marketing of their products. Rural residents often suffer from a lack of sufficient health, have inadequate housing, and are provided with few educational opportunities (33).

As a result, in Bangladesh adoption of needed improved technological methods has been quite limited, levels of production remain relatively low, and incomes are not sufficient to provide for an acceptable standard of living.

Statement of the Problem

We have so far discussed the existing situation of agriculture and rural community development and the associated problems in general. However, the central problem of this study is that of discovering the ways in which agricultural and rural community development can be enhanced through education, as a mechanism for development. The problem involves the following questions.

1. How are rural people to be motivated to accept more readily a planned program for development? In other words, how are rural people to be helped "to experience a feeling of dissatisfaction about the distance between where he is and

where he would like to be" (50, p. 42)?

2. How can prospective agricultural extension and future integrated rural development workers be provided with educational experiences which will best prepare them to carry out their assignments?
3. Can the program as implemented and maintained by IVS provide an effective educational approach which may be valued for use as a model for agriculture and rural community development in Bangladesh?

Justification For The Study

In the light of the present situation of agriculture and rural life in Bangladesh, there is an urgent need for agriculture and rural community development in the country. But development is a complicated process of many dimensions. It is the product of an interplay of many factors mutually combined, and interdependently operating on a system (84).

Agriculture has been central to the question of economic development in Bangladesh. In other words, agriculture is the life of the people of rural Bangladesh. Therefore, any attempt for national development of Bangladesh must begin with agriculture in the first place (37).

This study is centered in an attempt to pursue an understanding of development. This is through making an assessment of a model program for agriculture and rural development now being operated and maintained by International Voluntary Services in Bangladesh. The need for a study like this cannot be over emphasized in consideration of the present

problematic situation of agriculture and rural living in Bangladesh. This can be highlighted as follows.

Bangladesh has been one of the overly populated countries of the world. The present rate of population growth has by far outpaced the growth rate in food production. With the present rate of population growth, which is roughly 3 percent per year, an average of around 2 million persons are being added to the total every year. This has, indeed, posed a serious threat to the question of increasing food production in the country. This has been a matter of great concern to the nation in general and to the policy makers in particular (31).

Low productivity in agriculture has been one of the biggest factors responsible for continuing food crises in the country. The past performances in agricultural growth and development since the inception of the country have not been very encouraging in terms of increasing demand for food supplies.

Production of a major group of food crops as well as cash crops has failed to keep pace with the growing need for increased food production and farmers income. This has eventually resulted in the increasing rate of poverty and hunger throughout the country. In addition, lower rate of return for agricultural pursuits has, on the other hand, reduced off-farm occupations consequently escalating the rapid growth of poverty and rural employment (51).

Structure and Function of the IVS Project

As later detailed, a major purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of an international project now being implemented and maintained in Bangladesh. This is an integrated rural development

program sponsored and supported by a number of agencies including (46):

1. International Voluntary Services, Inc. (IVS)
2. US Agency for International Development (USAID)
3. Government of Bangladesh - Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP)

The major portion of financial responsibility is borne by USAID with substantial contributions by church agencies, including United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The Government of Bangladesh is pledged to provide all kinds of logistic support to the program. However, the project is being implemented and maintained by an organization called "International Voluntary Services" (IVS) of the United States in collaboration with the local agency (IRDP) of Bangladesh. The major objectives of this IVS project are (48):

1. To improve food production,
2. To help in income distribution,
3. To upgrade family nutritional standards, and
4. To improve family health and welfare.

In order to fulfill these objectives, the IVS is furnishing a multinational team of experienced volunteer technicians, with skills covering a variety of interrelated fields. A significant part of their activities includes a series of village level demonstrations. These demonstrations are designed to show the villagers improved techniques of food production, crop diversification, new varieties of food, cooperative techniques, family planning, and health and nutrition measures. International Voluntary Services specialists also design and prepare visual aids and printed materials to use in disseminating information about the improved practices advocated, and they also design

and construct appropriate implements and equipment. Substantial contributions for the project are borne locally in such areas as transportation, equipment and requisition of land (48).

In addition, The Mennonite Central Committee, as an extension of their mission work based at Bangladesh, has also participated in this project by funding seeds for demonstration purposes.

The basic thrust of the IVS project is to help local communities and villages fight the problems of inadequate food and malnutrition, and to contribute substantially toward improving quality of life. Planning and implementation of the project is based upon the premise that the combined efforts of local villagers and IVS workers can prove to be of real help to the people of Bangladesh overcome economic hardships and poverty.

Purpose and Objectives of the Study

The fundamental purpose of this study was to accomplish an appraisal of the IVS project directed toward agriculture and rural community development which is presently operating in some selected villages in the Sylhet District of Bangladesh. However, the following specific objectives were formulated to understand and guide the research efforts better.

1. To discuss briefly the systems of agriculture in terms of agricultural and rural community developments now operating in Bangladesh.
2. To review and synthesize selected literature and completed research dealing with programs and problems in agriculture and rural community development.

3. To review and analyze the work plan of the IVS project in terms of its perceived effectiveness for agriculture and rural community development in Bangladesh.
4. To collect, tabulate, analyze and interpret the views and judgements of selected respondents with regard to observed progress and effectiveness of the IVS projects to date.
5. To draw conclusions as to the applicability of efforts expended and the expediency of the work aimed toward accomplishment of the IVS project goals and objectives.
6. To make recommendations regarding possible potential for using the IVS project as a model for future efforts in integrated agriculture and rural community development.

Rationale For The Study

This is a development study. Development is not a simple process. Development may therefore be perceived as a multidimensional phenomenon involving necessary changes in institutional, social and administrative structures as well as popular attitudes, customs and beliefs of the people (84).

The present study is an attempt for understanding a similar process of agriculture and rural community development. As was pointed out earlier, agriculture and rural development, while making some progress, can hardly be recognized as occurring rapidly enough to meet even the acute needs of the nation, let alone the more chronic ills.

Probably one of the more recent studies expresses both the limitations of present efforts and hopes for the future in following manner.

> To give leadership in village communities for development is especially difficult. Arrangement for rural development have hung fire while politicians attempted to resolve their differences. There is still no signs that the strong administrative structures needed can be built or that local government can be developed in such a way as to bring about development at the grass roots. Local development extends beyond bricks and mortar, 'kutcha' roads, or drainage and irrigation schemes. There is a need to build up a momentum towards development from within the village itself. The 'comilla' pattern of integrated rural development which is being pursued may do something to get this going on a more extended scale, but it seems unlikely to work fast enough. One of the problems is that too much is expected from the government (28, p. 196).

Therefore, the rationale for this study effort points to read the value of any attempt to probe the possibilities for speeding up greatly needed achievements in agriculture and village development, this through educational endeavor.

Assumptions of The Study

In order to make the study adequately valid and meaningful, the following assumptions were made:

1. Village farmers are capable of making realistic judgements as to the program needs and objectives.
2. Village farmers are capable of making judgements regarding the value of local initiative and of locally based decision making.
3. Village farmers are able to discern the value of demonstrated improved practices in agriculture and village development.
4. Village farmers more readily understand and accept new practices if the instruction is provided through teachers who base their operations in the village and fields and thus establish a close association with them.
5. Expatriate IVS volunteer workers are able to effectively

relate to village farmers as well as to local IVS workers and extension trainees.

6. Rural extension workers providing assistance to villagers of the area are in a position to make valid judgements as to the value of IVS accomplishments in integrated rural and community development.

Limitations of The Study

It is true that no research study can be perfect without encountering some kind of limitation or constraint. This study has had certain limitations.

1. Data used were largely relevant only to the program of integrated rural development as occurring in designated villages in the Sylhet District of Bangladesh.
2. The study was confined to agriculture and rural community development and was not designated to be involved in other areas of development. It was largely centered upon the three areas of (a) agriculture, (b) health, and (c) family planning, with most emphasis upon agriculture.
3. Since the project area studied was located at a great distance from the United States, the problem of difficult communication and limited contact might have imposed some restraint upon data collection.
4. Data and information collected were limited to that obtained through personal efforts of the researcher and his major adviser, both of whom visited the project area. The major adviser was a nominated member of an evaluation team of IVS,

USA.

5. The study was confined to stipulated objectives and no conscious attempt was made for further extension beyond the limits of objectives.

Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study, the following definitions are given.

IVS: International Voluntary Services. It is a privately owned non-profit charitable organization based in the USA.

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization. It is an international organization primarily responsible for improvement of the food and agricultural situation occurring in the less developing countries.

Bangladesh: It is a newly liberated country in southeast Asia. It was formerly known as East Pakistan which was a wing of Pakistan before 1971.

GDP: Gross Domestic Product. It is generally estimated by calculating yearly flows of goods and services produced in a country.

IRDP: Integrated Rural Development Project. In Bangladesh, it is a public organization engaged in rural community development programs.

UMCOR: United Methodist Committee On Relief. It is a charitable voluntary organization run by the United Methodist Churches of USA.

VDTP: Village Development Training Project. This is the title of the project being operated and maintained by the IVS in the District of Sylhet, Bangladesh.

USAID: United States Agency for International Development.

MCC: Mennonite Central Committee. It is a charitable organization

run by the Mennonite Churches of USA.

Comilla Model: Rural community development project which was developed experimentally at Comilla in Bangladesh in 1962.

Design and Methodology

In order to achieve the specific objectives of this study, the following design and methods were used.

The Five Categories of Respondents

Data and information were collected from five different categories of respondents. Each of these categories was represented by more than five individuals.

The first category was represented by 50 randomly selected farmers who are living within the project area. They may include both small and larger farmers. The sample of farmers was determined through interviews with the respondents who were present in the village or fields on the day the interview was conducted. The major part of the survey was made by the local IVS workers under the direction of Mr. Kamal Choudhury, In-charge of Social Services and Research for the IVS project. A few interviews were conducted by the investigator, and by his major adviser during his last trip to Bangladesh.

The second category of respondents was composed of 20 local extension trainees, currently undergoing pre-service training in the local Agriculture Extension Training Institute (AETI). These trainees also secure pre-service field experiences from the IVS workers, both expatriate and native. This additional training program is mainly directed on farms and villages. These trainee respondents were randomly selected

out of sixty students presently enrolled at the local AETI. This sample of trainees was made with the assistance of the IVS workers. The trainee survey was conducted by the IVS workers, with some interviews being made by the study investigator, and by his major adviser.

The third category of respondents consisted of six government local extension agents currently posted in and around the IVS project. In terms of local service structure, these individuals belonged to different status of public work responsibilities. As many as six people who were found posted and working in the project area at the time of survey were included and interviewed under this category of respondents. These six interviews were conducted personally by the study investigator and author.

The fourth category of respondents included nine expatriate IVS professionals and eleven native co-workers involved in the conduct and operation of the IVS project in Bangladesh. Expatriate professional workers came from a variety of professional backgrounds, and are citizens of different foreign countries including the United States of America. Native co-workers were also professionally qualified and experienced in agriculture and rural development areas. Interviews with this group were conducted by the investigator's major adviser while a very limited number of interveiws were made by the investigator himself.

The fifth and final category of respondents consisted of nine administrative and supervisory officials who were somehow or other involved in the IVS project in matters of coordination and decision making activities. Included are six members of the USAID Mission, Bangladesh, the Deputy Director of IRDP, the District Extension Officer, and the Deputy Commissioner of the District of Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Interviews with these people were mostly conducted by the investigator's major adviser with a very few being made by the investigator himself.

Data Collection Through Survey, Interview and Literature Review

A sample survey using questionnaires was constructed to obtain opinions and judgements from four categories of respondents who were stratified as follows:

1. Nine expatriate IVS professionals and eleven native co-workers involved in the stated project.

2. Fifty male farmers who were active participants in the IVS program.

3. Twenty trainees currently undergoing preparatory training in the local AETI and engaged in an apprenticeship experience with the IVS project.

4. Six village level government extension agents currently posted and working in and around the IVS project area.

Respondents through personal interview and/or conference:

1. Six officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Bangladesh.

2. District extension and development officers including the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

3. Expatriate IVS professionals as well as native co-workers.

4. The Director and Chief Administrator of the IVS, Bangladesh.

5. Review Team members from the IVS, World Headquarters, USA.

Extensive review of research studies completed and documents relative to agricultural and community development. Basic areas included

in review of literature are:

1. General agricultural situation
2. Agricultural education and extension practices
3. Rural and community development programs
4. Development and operation of the IVS project in Bangladesh.

Additional sources for securing needed data:

1. Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh.
2. Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla.
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Government of Bangladesh, Dacca.
4. Planning Section, Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), Bangladesh, Dacca.
5. The USAID Mission, Bangladesh, Dacca.

Data Treatment and Analysis

The study was based on an analysis of data and information collected from both primary and secondary sources. The major portion of data was of a descriptive nature reflecting judgements and opinions of different respondents and their respective groups of which only a small portion was considered as being comparative in nature. More specifically, different questions, for the most part, were asked of each of the five respondent groups and data thus secured was treated descriptively. Certain questions asked that were common to all respondent groups generated data that could be treated comparatively. Data which were compiled as a result of other interviews were treated comparatively.

Data were compiled, tabulated and interpreted in light of the stipulated objectives of the study. The design of data treatment was

as follows:

1. Specifically, the following evaluative guidelines were kept in view as analyses of both descriptive and comparative data were made regarding the effectiveness of the IVS project in Bangladesh.

a. Quality of, and extent to which, stated purposes and objectives of the project are being realized.

b. Nature and extent of the involvement of local farmers and villagers in planning and implementation of the project.

c. Nature, extent and quality of experiences provided by IVS and gained by local extension trainees during their pre-service training.

d. Evidence of the future continuation of the project.

2. Descriptive data were classified and presented in the light of stated purpose and objectives of the study and the evaluative guidelines listed above.

3. Comparative data were subjected to logical comparisons among the various selected responding groups in view of looking at possible differences in the existing perceptions of the respondents.

In order to make the study more realistic and meaningful, attempted logical analysis of data was made as and when this was deemed applicable. The personal working experiences of the investigator for some six years in serving in the Ministry of Agriculture as an agricultural economist were also drawn upon to assist in a logical basis for certain conclusions.

CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE STUDY

Introduction

In the first chapter reference was made to the general situation of Bangladesh in relation to agricultural and rural community development. The manner in which agriculture contributes to the area of socio-economic development was briefly documented. The contents of this chapter are presented in a further attempt to provide some additional information relative to the wider setting in which this study was attempted.

The locale for this study was the District of Sylhet located in northeast Bangladesh which is over 200 miles away from Dacca, the capital city of Bangladesh. The map of Bangladesh is shown as Figure 2 in an attempt to pinpoint the location of the District of Sylhet where the IVS project called "Village Development Training Program" is presently located.

The project area of the IVS Village Development Training Program includes 21 villages of Kotwali Thana of Sylhet District in Bangladesh. The project area is further divided into four working clusters. Table I was developed from the use of secondary data which were available at the time this study was being completed to identify the four working clusters and component villages of the IVS project in Sylhet.

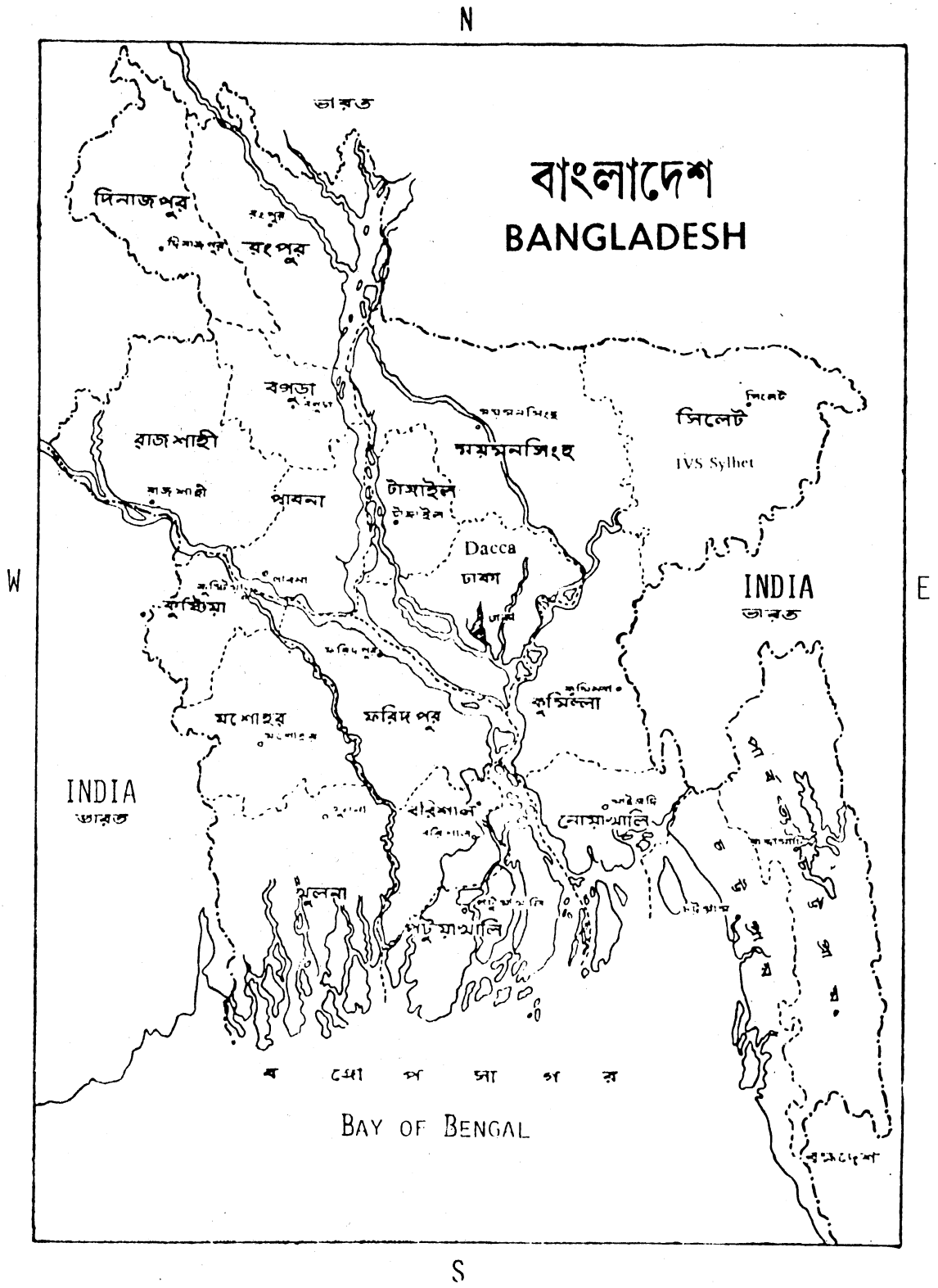


Figure 2. The Map of Bangladesh

TABLE I

BACKGROUND STATISTICS OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Name of Village	Population	Number of Households	Percent of Literacy
	KOLLOGRAM CLUSTER OF FIVE VILLAGES		
Bahar Colony	392	78	9
Balkatougi	477	82	9
Dhonokhandi	201	37	2
Kollogram	278	38	28
Kumargaon	408	75	11
TOTAL	756	310	12 (average)
	BALUTIKAR CLUSTER OF FIVE VILLAGES		
Despara	509	80	21
Balutikar	343	53	11
Poliz	397	63	8
Bangshidor	551	91	10
Nowagaon	336	57	2
TOTAL	2136	344	11 (average)
	MOGULGAON CLUSTER OF FIVE VILLAGES		
Mogulgaon	1399	269	9
Banagaon	428	80	2
Kazirgaon	461	90	4
Sotargaon	462	85	7
Bhogoteypur	289	53	12
TOTAL	3039	577	7 (average)

Source: International Voluntary Services Inc. (48).

*Data for 'Horamara' cluster not available.

As can be seen through the data shown in Table I, the population of the IVS project totals 5,931 excluding the Horamara cluster where the population figure was not available at the time this research was completed. There were 1,231 households in the three clusters for which data were available. A literacy rate was determined as ranging from 2 to 12 percent from village to village within the project area. This literacy rate does indicate a potential hindrance to rapid progress and development of rural communities in the country.

Any consideration of the IVS project must be predicated by recognition that the economy of the Bangladesh has been characterized with high rate of population growth, low level of agricultural productivity, high density of rural population, low level of resource-base, and low level of per capita income of a vast population with a small land area of 55,598 square miles (31).

In view of the present resource constraints, a number of consorsium countries and international voluntary agencies have been sponsoring and supporting many of the development programs in the country over the past years. International Voluntary Services, Incorporated is one of the several organizations who have volunteered active participation in agriculture and rural community development activities.

International Voluntary Services (IVS) is a private, non-profit and independent organization providing technical assistance mainly in rural development in many of the developing countries like Bangladesh. At the request of the host government, IVS recruits skilled volunteers from around the world to fill positions in agriculture and rural community development activities. Since its starting work in Bangladesh in 1972, IVS has supplied more than 40 volunteers to work in different projects

and throughout the country (48).

Further description and details of the IVS project may be found in the concluding portion of this Chapter, pages 34 through 38. Figure 5 on page 37 shows the functional model of the project as is operating now. Further, in Chapter III, Review of Literature, pages 72 through 82 details the organizational structure, work plan and function of the project. However, some of the most pressing problems in relation to applicability of the IVS project in Bangladesh may be summarized as:

The Problems of High Population

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries of the world with an average density of 1286 persons per square mile. Data presented in Table II show the enumerated population and its annula growth rates in Bangladesh for the years 1901 through 1974. As revealed by data, the population began to expand at an increasing rate after the World War II in 1931. At present, with an estimated annual growth rate of 2.6 percent, an average of around two million persons are apparently being added to the total population every year in Bangladesh (37).

The Problems of Agriculture

Agriculture in Bangladesh is beset with many problems. The process of agricultural growth and development has been slow and steady over the past years, and has not been able to cope with the rapid growth of population in the country.

Agricultural planning in Bangladesh has been almost exclusively directed toward attainment of self-sufficiency in food grain production

alone, and the important relationship of balanced development between crop production, nutrition and employment has essentially been overlooked. Agricultural growth and development has greatly been impeded by the so called agrarian structures, institutional rigidities and the social traditions (32).

TABLE II

ENUMERATED POPULATION OF BANGLADESH AND GROWTH RATES

Year	Enumerated Population (millions)	Annual Growth Rate (Geometric) (%)	Density: Persons per Square Mile
1901	28.9	-	534
1911	31.6	0.9	583
1921	33.3	0.5	614
1931	35.6	0.7	656
1941	42.0	1.7	776
1951	42.1	0.5	761
1961	50.8	1.9	922
1974	71.5	2.6	1286

Source: Bangladesh Population Census Report, 1974 (37, p. 21).

The slow rate of agricultural growth in Bangladesh has adversely affected the rural population with increasing rate of food crisis and hunger. The nature and extent of nutrition problems do reflect the degree of poverty of rural population where resources and the income level have not kept pace with the population growth.

Although agriculture contributes more than 58 percent to 'Gross Domestic Product' and provides a major source for making a living to over 85 percent of the rural population, it has been viewed as a moribund sector over the past years, incapable of generating necessary dynamism for rapid growth in Bangladesh. As revealed by data in Table III, the growth rates of major food groups have remained nearly stagnant during the years from 1960-61 through 1977-78 in Bangladesh. Growth rates have rather declined in the seventies than were true in the sixties (37).

The Problems of Malnutrition

The increasing rate of poverty has also been responsible for malnutrition and undernutrition of the common poor in general and the rural poor in particular. The per capita intake of protein and calories in Bangladesh is far below that of any other developed country. According to a recent study (37), the per capita daily intake of cereals in the rural areas in Bangladesh was 523 grams which accounted for 65 percent of the total food consumed by weight and provided 86 percent of the total calories and 75 of the total protein. Within the total caloric intake only 2 percent comes from animal sources and the rest from cereals which do not satisfy the balanced requirements of diets. However, cereals in general, mainly rice, constitute the most important food items in average diet of the rural people in Bangladesh. Data presented in Table IV reveal a composition of average diet in rural Bangladesh.

In brief, the majority of the people in Bangladesh is deprived of balanced diets due to low level of income and poverty. Owing to

TABLE III

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF MAJOR FOOD GROUPS IN BANGLADESH FROM 1960-61 TO 1977-78 (THOUSAND TONS)

Year	Cereals	Pulses	Fish	Vegetables	Potatoes	Edible Oil
1960-61	9704	245	688	582	343	41
1961-62	9657	242	708	526	336	51
1962-63	8915	239	737	372	363	52
1963-64	10658	226	750	609	324	45
1964-65	10537	222	799	657	401	45
1965-66	10536	233	801	676	494	47
1966-67	9634	259	802	704	600	53
1967-68	11230	260	804	801	712	64
1968-69	11438	284	808	881	800	71
1969-70	12110	203	810	911	865	69
1970-71	11255	302	814	613	849	63
1971-72	10046	291	814	486	741	56
1972-73	10186	240	818	689	747	69
1973-74	12020	211	820	701	719	65
1974-75	12308	228	822	739	866	72
1975-76	12843	220	921	750	889	72
1976-77	11881	220	925	751	860	71
1977-78	12763	236	920	750	849	72
Annual growth rate:						
1960/1 to 1969/70	+2.4	+2.2	+1.8	+5.9	+12.0	+5.2
1970/1 to 1977/78	+1.5	-0.2	+1.0	+1.4	+ 7.3	+3.2

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning (37, p. 180).

continuous deficiency of proteins and calories the public health is much below the world standard. Moreover, the present nature and type of food do not meet the standard requirements of balanced diets. The sub-standard physique of the average people of Bangladesh is a major factor for low level of labor efficiency as well. The existing medicare and sanitary measures are not adequate for better upkeep of rural health in particular.

TABLE IV

COMPOSITION OF THE AVERAGE DIET IN RURAL BANGLADESH

Sources	Per Capita Daily Intake (gm)	Percentage of Total Intake	Calories (no.)	Protein (gm)	Fats (gm)
Cereals	523	65	1795	44.1	3.2
Animal	44	5	47	5.0	2.2
Plant/Vegetables	240	30	252	9.4	6.6
Total	807	100	2094	58.5	12.2

Source: Nutrition Survey of Rural Bangladesh, 1975-76 (37, p. 182).

The Problems of Social Welfare

Bangladesh may very well stand to be the epitome of the developing countries of the Third World where appropriate development may substantially depend on the correct appreciation of the meaning and significance of social welfare. With an estimated population of 84 million (83), it

still has not exploited its full agricultural potential. The agricultural produce per acre in Bangladesh is only one-fourth of that of Japan and even then it produces enough to feed 85% of its burgeoning population. Appropriate management and organization and effective motivation to increase production and reduce the growth rate of population can help Bangladesh achieve self-sufficiency. The required motivation, organization and management can come only when the rural communities in the 68,000 villages (35) of Bangladesh are taken care of by an integrated, multi-purpose and socially relevant approach and strategy of progress.

As illustrated by Tweeten (85) in Figure 3, an effective rural development process must call for necessary changes in the behavioral rules and social structure of the rural people. Correct appreciation of the meaning and significance of social welfare can be effected by adequate motivation of rural people, this through increased education as an essential tool for human development.

Problems in Community Development

Community development is a series of steps directed towards effectively solving community problems. As a problem solving process, it involves the identification of what ought to be in the community, what can be, and what shall be. Development of a model called "Comilla Model" is an important step in the area of community development in Bangladesh. The Comilla model was adopted as a national model in 1970 through establishment of the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) presently operating in most parts of the country.

Although the current IRDP project has undergone enough expansion, the organization has not been able to attain adequate success in the

MODEL *for* Rural Development

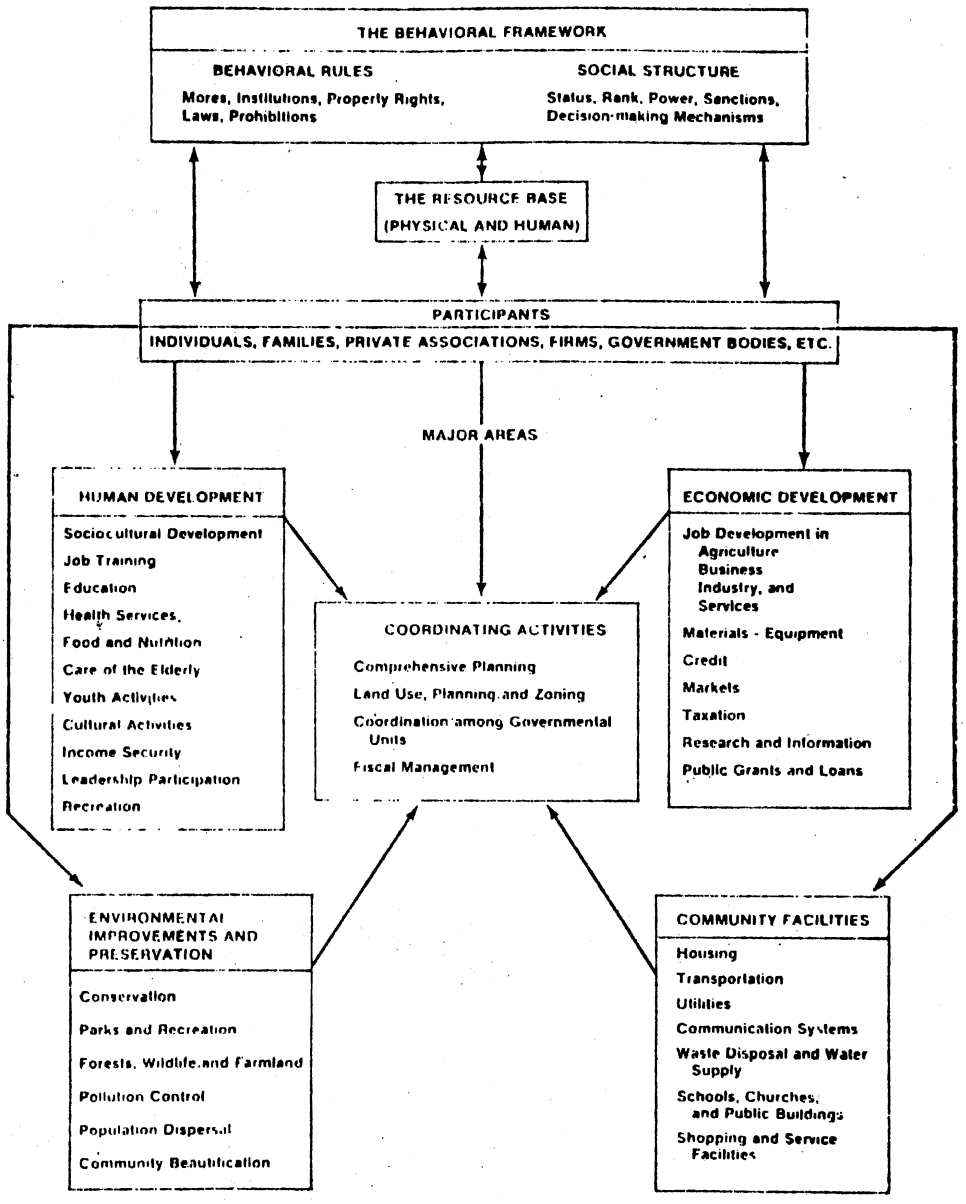


Figure 3. Model for Rural Development

Source: Luther Tweeten (85, p. 8)

the process of rural and community development in Bangladesh. The present institutional structures, social rigidities, and exploitation by rural elites on one hand, and the organizational bottlenecks, administrative loopholes and excessive bureaucratization of the program on the other hand, may be responsible for inadequate success of IRDP in Bangladesh (15).

In an agrarian economy, the role of rural community is of great importance for its national development. It may be assumed that a reservoir of creativity exists among the rural people, and their increased participation in the day-to-day decision making in all phases of community development activities will provide them increased awareness and willingness to channel their energies most effectively (30).

The process of rural community development has become a dynamic and complicated task in the wake of increasing rural problems in most of the developing countries. It involves a multidimensional process of organic growth and change in the existing environment of rural life (85).

The lack of sufficient resources together with limited inter-institutional coordinates and ignorance of the socio-economic reality in which the small farmer works have been, among other factors, the principal reason why the present programs which have been implemented to date have not achieved the hoped for success (18).

Experience has shown that the increased use of new appropriate technology as a means of solving the problems of small scale farmers is not successful unless it is accompanied by the complementary tools of community development through increased education, acquisition of skills and health standards for the inhabitants of rural communities. Systems

of community development to date have not proven completely adequate in the context of the actual needs of the rural people in Bangladesh. Studies have indicated that the lack of interagency coordination and cooperation has been one of the biggest factors for the slow rate of community development in the country. Fundamental to the success of the present and future development programs is the carrying out of research studies at the grass roots level of rural communities which will help identify the available potential resources needed to adequately cope with problems faced by the rural sector within the process of development (15).

The Essence of Integrated Rural Development

Integrated rural development is a major concern of all the people who are attemping to solve problems in Bangladesh today. This is integration for providing the rural people with better production and marketing facilities aimed at generating higher income which in its turn would call for an equitable distribution in order to enhance the quality of life for all. This is integration of various segments of the rural society to ensure the participation of all the rural people. This is ingegration to make economic development in rural areas socially and culturally meaningful and relevant. More physical changes and economic advancement are important by themselves but do not constitute the totality of an integrated rural development program which aims at attaining basic changes in the value-system, an indispensable pre-condition of all rural development efforts (45). Education is therefore not only a component of rural development but a force, a mechanism to achieve this integration.

A general model for integrated rural development is depicted in Figure 4, taken from a publication of the World Food Agriculture Organization (25, p. 3). It should be noted that the so called core elements are identified as (1) Agricultural Production Development, (2) Human Resource Development and (3) Non-Agricultural Production and Services Development. Following through on this model are the very important items, train, motivate and organize the rural population for active participation in the development process. As one reviews the functioning of the IRDP programs in Bangladesh, perhaps, these components can be readily identified as such which should be foremost in receiving consideration for further attention and improvement.

Experiences of the Comilla Model in Bangladesh

Bangladesh represents a typical case of a predominantly rural economy. An important example of continuing efforts and experimentation in the area of rural development was the Comilla Model. This has been a pioneer community development program for "integrated rural development" in Bangladesh over the past years. The completed model in some respects, represents a synthesis of past experiences in rural community development including rural self-government, cooperatives, infrastructures and other related agricultural practices (16).

Admittedly, the Comilla Model has, indeed, added certain very acceptable dimensions in the process of rural community development, especially in the area of increasing rural awareness and people's participation in local developmental activities (16). Nevertheless, the experiences gained through implementing the model did not appear to be as useful as had been previously hoped for. The initial success

Core Elements in the Development of the Rural System

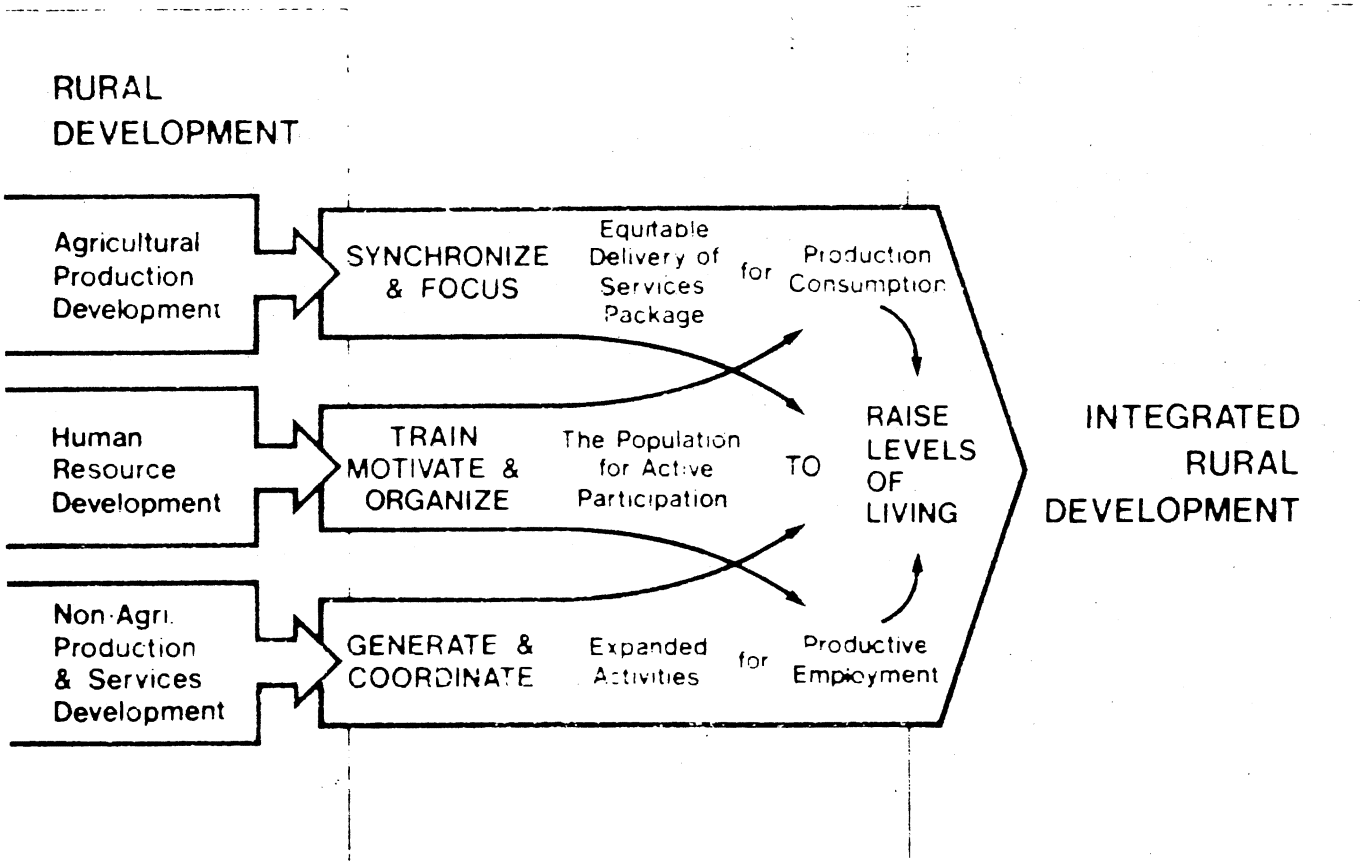


Figure 4. Core Elements in the Development of the Rural System

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (25, p. 3)

of the model cannot, however, be recognized as continuing for furthering progress as per original expectations. This model has only been partially successful in directing a part of the stream of socio-economic benefits towards two major target groups — the small and the landless farmers (37).

Most importantly, experiences in the original Comilla Project area and its further extension through establishment of IRDP have underscored the elusive nature of the goal of egalitarian development pursued through local institutions in a still heirarchial manner where, although agricultural holdings are small and fragmented, the land is highly unequally distributed and more land is owned by a smaller group of larger farmers than the bigger group of small and landless farmers (37).

Some of the most recent studies (15) have suggested that the Comilla Model should emphasize more on an action program than on a demonstration practice as an important method of community development. The training program needs to be carried down directly to the farmers in villages rather than training the village heads or leaders. And the community educators must work themselves with farmers in the field, especially with small farmers, and should not work only in advisory positions as a traditional pattern (15). Finally, a closer person-to-person relationship needs to be established between community development workers and villagers.

The Role of IVS in Bangladesh

As was referred to in the First Chapter, the International Voluntary Services is a voluntary organization which is supported and administered by certain charitable agencies. Although IVS is a small organization

with limited resources, its purpose and objectives are wide and far-reaching in terms of perceived needs and programs for international development, especially for the less developed countries of the world. The fundamental purpose of this organization is to help the needy people of less developing countries help themselves toward achieving a better quality of human life.

Like some other countries, Bangladesh is also in need of certain external aids and assistance to help develop and support its needed plans and programs for development. At present, the IVS is engaged in Bangladesh in the development, implementation and testing of a model in the area of agriculture and rural community development. In doing so, the IVS has implemented a "pilot project" in certain selected villages in the District of Sylhet in Bangladesh.

In the wake of revealed weaknesses of the Comilla Model, the need for further experimentation in the area of rural community development may be well recognized. The project now being maintained and monitored by IVS in Bangladesh may serve as an experiment for development of a model which may better help the rural people help themselves to achieve an improved quality of life.

The nature and function of the IVS project can, perhaps, be well-described by reproducing a statement of Dr. David French, the Country Director of IVS, Bangladesh as:

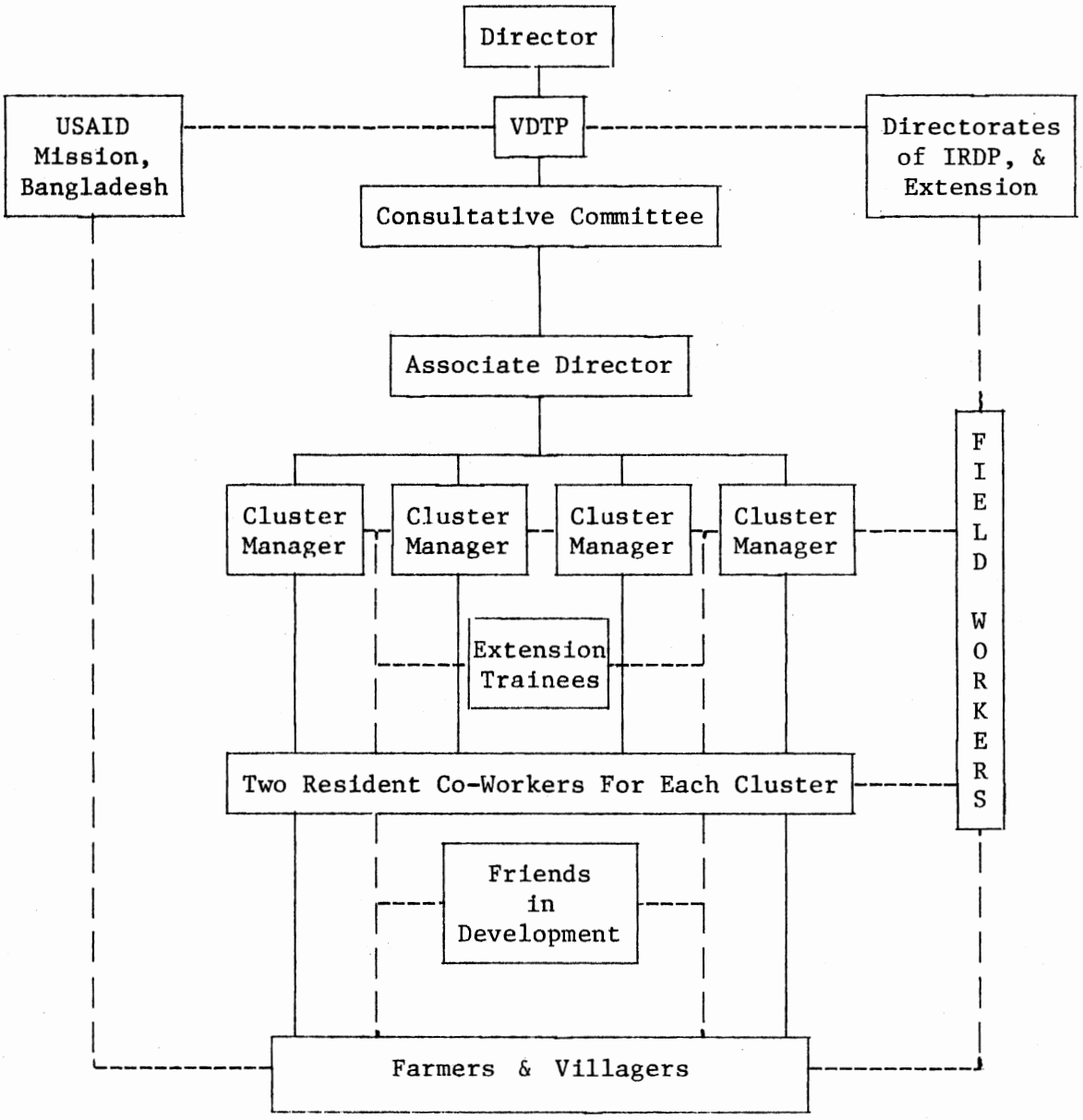
> IVS has no capability and certainly no mandate to modify the structure of Bangladeshi institutions. Any efforts in this direction would be sure to be counterproductive given the autonomy which Bangladeshis are determined to preserve against all forms of political or cultural or economic imperialism. What IVS can do through its bottom-up, people-to-people approach is to communicate and demonstrate what sociologists refer to as the inter-

> nalized attitude and norms and skills which guide role performance. The point I want to stress is that more than knowledge is involved here, and more than didactic instruction. IVS in Sylhet is trying to embody in its performance as an organization and in the performance of its volunteers and co-workers a way of working at development tasks. This way of working will be seen in the activities in the villages. It will be seen also in the three training institutes where IVS is providing a field practice laboratory for the local extension trainees (49, p. 4-5).

As was pointed by French (49), the major purpose of the IVS project is to introduce a "people-to-people" approach to deminstrate and communicate the internalized attitudes, norms and skills which can better guide the rural people to role performance for an improved quality of life. Figure 5 was prepared in an attempt to show a working model of the "Village Development Training Program" of IVS in Bangladesh.

An examination of the model presented in Figure 5 should reveal that the IVS program of activities is so structured as to maintain a close relationship between theory and practice of the community development. The local extension trainees, undergoing a short training program with the IVS workers, may find an opportunity to closely associate with the development workers and farmers, and thus become more adequately knowledgeable about both theory and field practice in agricultural and rural development.

Another dimension of the IVS model refers to introducing a voluntary organization called "Friends in Development" which includes both native and expatriate workers of the IVS project. These workers, committed to day-by-day teaching and counselling in the field, are in fact, teaching the farmers as 'friends', thus, going far beyond the necessary role as strictly 'advisers.' This may well be the added dimension in the IVS



Source: Prepared by use of data collected from International Voluntary Services, Bangladesh (48).

Legend: Line of work: ————————
Line of coordination: ------

Figure 5. Functional Model of Village Development Training Program (VDTP) of IVS, Bangladesh

model which may distinguish this from any other model now operating or operated in the past in Bangladesh.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS OF LITERATURE AND RESEARCH STUDIES

Introduction

To review and synthesize selected literature and completed research was one of the stipulated objectives of this study. The main purpose of this chapter was to present the results of an in-depth study and thorough search of relevant literature.

It was observed that the specific project under study was somewhat unique in terms of structure and function. Therefore, an attempt was made to review existing literature in terms of a description of nature and functions of closely related agricultural and community development in Bangladesh. As a result, few studies were discovered which were as specifically relevant as might be desirable. However, an exhaustive all-out attempt was made to identify and study, as much as possible, available literature either directly or indirectly relevant to the topic under consideration.

In keeping with the statement to be found in the methods of data collection, efforts were made to identify and gain access to available resources needed for this study, including an ERIC search on the computer system of the Oklahoma State University.

Available literature and research studies were reviewed and

synthesized with the intent of identifying philosophical basis, a theoretical framework, organizational structures and the operational practices of agriculture and rural community development in general and for conditions peculiar to Bangladesh.

To further adequately provide for a systematic consideration of the problem and the objectives as well as accomplishment of an interpretation thereof, the materials reviewed in this chapter were subdivided into groupings under the following subtitles: (1) Philosophy, theory and practices of agriculture, and rural development, (2) Organizational framework and operational practices of rural community-development projects, (3) Education, training and evaluative experiences for agriculture and rural development in Bangladesh, and (4) Organizational structures and operational patterns of IVS project in Bangladesh as described below.

Philosophy, Theory and Practices in Agriculture and Rural Community Development in Bangladesh

Agriculture in Bangladesh is beset with many problems. As a result, the process of agricultural growth and development has been slow and steady over the past few years. Agricultural productivity has not been able to keep pace with the alarmingly high rate of population growth in the country. Consequently, the question of food crisis and poverty comes in.

Several sources of information regarding the agriculture situation in Bangladesh stress the fact that although agriculture contributes more than 58 percent to national Gross Domestic Products

(GDP) and provides livings to over 85 percent of the total population, it has been viewed over the past years as a moribund sector, incapable of generating necessary dynamism for rapid growth and development. Moreover, more importantly agricultural labor force was not mobilized in support of development strategies for accelerated growth. Agriculture was also subjected to the ever increasing and difficult task of supplying many raw materials for industries and basic wage goods to the urban sector, this in the fact of relatively depressed prices (37).

Despite the fact that agriculture has been and continues to be the mainstay in the economy of Bangladesh, the continuous pursuit of capital intensive growth policy directed toward industrialization have both had serious repercussions on the structure of production in agriculture. Historically, agricultural planning in Bangladesh has been almost exclusively directed toward attainment of self-sufficiency in food grain production alone. Consequently, the important relationship of the balanced development between crop production, nutrition and employment has been essentially overlooked. There was however only modest agricultural growth during 1950-1971 (51)..

It should be recognized that agricultural practices in Bangladesh have undergone some adoptation to new improved technologies. Although the use of fertilizer has always been very low, yet the increase in agricultural productivity that could have been achieved by a proper application of this and other new known technologies must be acknowledged. Problems arise not from dearth of suitable techniques but because of difficulty in creating the right conditions under which they can be rapidly adopted. Basically, it is a problem of inept

political and economic organization as well as a slumbering educational effort. An important aspect to consider is that improved technologies for increasing agricultural production and consequent community development are not neutral to the scale of agricultural production since, large farmers and land owners invariably have better access to those improved technologies than the poor small farmers of Bangladesh. Moreover, better education and institutional facilities give large farmers more favorable access to agricultural credit and other inputs needed to obtain high yields. The "bias of technology" so often favoring certain physical environment must also be reckoned with. The net effect of the interaction between technological, institutional and economic factors has resulted in the fact that the beneficial impact of new technology has often by passed a large segment of the rural population, the poor small farmers. Obviously with 75 % of the local farmers catagorized as poor this is of major importance (2).

In the past Bangladesh has managed to increase her output of food crops, mainly rice, only to a reasonable extent. This increase did not quite keep pace with the increase in needs, but even so, the balance was not greatly disturbed. The opportunities to continue to increase output of food are still there and in many ways they have been already slightly enhanced. But just how rapidly producers will take advantage of this is a matter that is difficult to determine.

The conclusion is inescapable that, although agriculture is of primary importance for the economic development of Bangladesh, as yet, not much progress has taken place in that sector. Despite all efforts expended by the national government for development of agriculture, there is still much to do. The major factors which may directly or

indirectly attribute to the present rate of slow progress in the development of agriculture may be listed as follows:

(a) Lack of truely appropriate strategies for accelerated development.

(b) Lack of appropriately useful technology for majority of the farmers.

(c) Lack of adequate incentives to the small farmers in view of prospective improvements in farming.

(d) Low level of capital formation and savings in agriculture which result in poor investment for agricultural development.

(e) Low absorption of quality inputs due to ineffective delivery systems and services.

(f) Lack of adequately effective implementation of development programs as well as inadequate evaluative measures for on-going projects.

(g) Excessive bureaucratiration of development projects which does not permit free and fair peoples' participation in development activities.

(h) Low absorption of foreign aid and technical assistance in development programs (31, p. 85).

Agricultural growth and development in Bangladesh has greatly been impeded by the so called agrarian structures, institutional rigidities and the social traditions. In a broader sense, the term "agrarian structure", may be used to mean the institutional framework within which agricultural production takes place. It may however include the socio-economic factors associated thereto. According to the UN report (37), this may include the following:

(a) Land tenure, the legal and customary systems under which land is owned and held.

(b) Land tenancy, the system under which land is operated and its usufract shared between the operator and the owner.

(c) Distribution of ownership of and control over the

means of production among cultivators.

(d) The organization of production, i.e. the relation the factors of production like land, labor and management, etc.

(e) The services supplied by the government to cultivators, and the burden impored by the government on them in the form of taxations (37, p. 51).

The present agrarian situation of Bangladesh is however somewhat disturbing in the sense that the ownership of land is highly concentrated in a small percentage of households. One recent study (34) indicates that only 3% of households own more than 52% of land. In contrast, one-third of rural households own no agriculture land and together with those households owning less than one-half an acre of land, the effective landless farmers constitute almost 50% of the rural population.

About half of the total land-holdings in Bangladesh are almost one acre in size and 60% fall under three acres. Although there exist a land ceiling of 30 acres, only less than 2% of households own more than 30 acres. Under high population densities and small holdings by international standards, the major source of income, status and power in rural Bangladesh is very unequally distributed.

Land ownership in Bangladesh is therefore widespread, and where the density of population is great, the size of ownership is typically small. Landlords and tenants are not, however, homogeneous groups of people. The majority of tenants may be landless or may own a tiny plot or holdings. On the other hand, the identified landlord group is often found to consist of both economically strong and socially influential members of the village community. There is a widely accepted view that agricultural production and rural community develop-

ment in Bangladesh are frustrated by socio-economic constraints inherent in the structure of rural economy. This relationship can be better explained by the following 'facts of life':

(i) the highly unequal distribution of control over land and society,

(ii) the widespread incidence of tenancy,

(iii) the competitive factionalism within the rural community,

(iv) the vertical heirarchical patron-client linkages(33,p.6)

From the above picture of agrarian structure and rural economy of Bangladesh, it appears that an overwhelming majority of the population of Bangladesh fall in the category of 'a laboring class' almost always recognized as poverty-stricken class of people. As a result, the rate of capital formation is very low in the rural economy. On the other hand, whatever amount of savings is generated by the 'middle class' or 'upper class' is generally invested in traditional lines of purchasing additional assets like landholdings, housebuilding, trade or money lending business. Very little is therefore spent for improving land productivity or for purchasing agricultural machinery or other inputs.

The picture one gets from above is that of a complex production structure, which may perhaps be called 'semi-feudal'. The pure feudal mode where surplus labor is appropriated by a landowning class from cultivators in the form of rent or extra economic coersion does not seem to be present in Bangladesh(33).

With more than 90 percent of the total population living in the rural areas, Bangladesh may be treated as overwhelmingly more rural than any other country in the world. During the last decade or so much is being talked about rural development in general and amelioration of

rural poverty in particular. In reality, however per capita real income in rural areas registered a decline and a vast majority of the rural poor has been caught in the grip of increasing improverishment. Although there was a fall in per capita real income, this process of improverishment may in part be a reflection of growing inequality in rural Bangladesh (12).

According to a recent study made by UNESCO (87), the cost of living index for the low income group has registered a much greater increase than the indices of higher and middle income groups. It may also be noticeable that gaps among the above three classes widened quite sharply during the last couple of years. The degree of inequality among the various classes of people has therefore increased in the wake of present agricultural stagnation and food crisis in the country.

However, one which immediately comes to mind may be the fact that the present agrarian structure of rural economy has attributed much to give rise to this increasing trend of income inequality. The ownership of land and its distribution can of course have an important impact on the pattern of income distribution. This may become all the more important because the power structure in the rural society of Bangladesh is determined to a large extent by the ownership of land and very often easy and timely access to critical production inputs depends on the economic and social class to which the person concerned belongs. The present tendency to greater landlessness of the rural poor would provide additional support for the increasing inequality in rural Bangladesh (87).

The slow rate of agricultural growth in Bangladesh has had adverse implication for the rural poor. This has truely been reflected upon

the food consumption and nutritional standard of the people in general and for the lower class in particular. Changes in consumption and nutrition pattern have mainly resulted from the subsequent changes in per capita income. Since the rural income has declined over the past years, the rate of daily intake of food has also gone down and the nutritional standard declined. As a matter of fact, the actual per capita food consumption of rural households is much lower than the national average consumption rate. This is because rural people do not generally have easy access to imported food grains.

According to a very recently made study (37), at least 45 percent of rural families and 76 percent of urban families had caloric intake below the acceptable standard. About two-thirds of the families were deficient in necessary proteins and vitamins. Thus the nature and extent of nutrition problems reflect the degree of poverty, particularly in rural areas. The supporting statistics on the patterns of rural income and consumption can be seen in Appendix C.

The survey further reveals that 59% of households are deficient in calories, 29 percent in protein and 89 percent in vitamins. The farm family who holds three or more acres of land are able to fulfill the caloric as well as protein needs. Eighty six percent of farm families hold less than three acres of land. The per capita nutritional intake has also been compared with the poverty line which was demarketed on the basis of income necessary to meet minimum food consumption needs. An income less than Tk. 1122 per annum is regarded as below the poverty line as against the current average per capita income of Tk. 1204 (37). According to recent statistics as shown in Appendix C, nearly 93 percent of cumulated rural households would fall below the poverty line.

Organizational Framework and Operational Practices of Rural Community Development Projects in Bangladesh

Agriculture and rural development has been one of the burning issues for economic development of the less developed countries. Agriculture has at some time been the main stay in the economy of all nations of the world, this in general but to nations located in the third world in particular. Moreover in an agrarian economy, the role of rural sector is of great importance for its national development. As a result, rural development has become an important subject for discussion in most of the less developed countries. Consequently, somewhat different strategies are employed by countries in an attempt to accommodate different stages of social and political development.

As was pointed out by Ali (2) and others too, the attempts for agricultural improvement in Bengal were closely connected with famine and food shortages. In order to do so, first attention was given to rural development which could ameliorate the majority of the people living in rural areas. The importance of institutions for rural and community development was first realized by the British government in later 19th century. Local government institutions were introduced in 1885 at different levels of administration. Rural cooperatives were organized in 1904 to channelize credit and develop rural leadership. Agricultural extension services, research institutions and agriculture college were also established early in 20th century. The local people were invited to participate in community development efforts

on a massive scale.

It therefore follows that rural development cannot take place in isolation without a program for overall community development, adequate finance, government initiative and commitment. Development at micro level is necessary to the villagers for supplying production inputs, education and information, etc. and to provide necessary market for rural products and other institutional supports. Decentralization of power for planning and implementation of project is also required to ensure participation of the rural people in any community development plan (2).

It is imperative to recognize that rural people do have the knowledge and experience about their own needs and local conditions which outsiders cannot understand easily. They can also plan and carry out a program at a lower cost compared to government workers who attempt to bring them a handed down ridged purpose program

In densely populated, land poor, developing countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia, India and China, etc. the problem of unequal income distribution should be kept in mind when rural development policies are framed, in order to avoid further disparity and violence. As Arthur Lewis (53) and some other economists have studied and also based their models for the development of underdeveloped countries, with unlimited supply of labor, which favor greater saving and consequent investments. But in the modern small world, the aspirations of the people rise faster than income, and relative deterioration of economic standard of any large group of people in the society is not tolerated quietly. The above mentioned models are not, therefore, applicable in the present circumstances as can be seen from the

recent experiences in Pakistan.

Rural Development Strategy

The term rural development has acquired various vague and amorphous connotations over the years. In Bangladesh today the basic objective of a strategy for rural development is a productive program against poverty and rural illiteracy. It assumes that a reservoir of creativity exists among the rural poor people and their increased participation in the day-to-day decision making in all phases of local economic and social activities will provide them with the awareness and willingness to channel their energy most effectively. In other words, the emphasis is on increasing the largely untapped productive capacity of the majority of the population in rural areas, the rural poor themselves(30).

Poverty focussed rural development is a complex and dynamic process. It involves redistribution of current assets and opportunities. It involves decentralization of power and decision-making. It involves the crossing of traditional lines of authority and an attack upon bureaucratic compartmentalization. Further, the rural poor constitute a heterogeneous mass, involving various strata of the poor in the development process presents an inherent paradox. When the small farmer graduates from abject to tolerate poverty, he will fight the hardest to keep what he has and to acquire more. Progress towards reaching the different strata of the poor actually creates opporition to further progress. It becomes more and more difficult as it goes down the income scale (16).

In the context of Bangladesh, while focussing attention on small

farmer is important, further progress down the income-scale will require overtime shifting attention away from the middle and small farmers to those who have no access to land-based resources. Poverty oriented rural development has to take the dynamics of this process into account. Such a policy design require recognition that the rural poor of today in Bangladesh are not a homogeneous mass and that they may well not be the poor of tomorrow. The policy must also recognize that rural development is a productive — not a welfare process — and that the poor must be given productive access to available potential resources (30).

In the light of the above rationale and purposes, the government of Bangladesh put much emphasis on rural community development programs in the country(31). The rural development strategies as incorporated in the First Five Year Plan of Bangladesh can be stated as follows:

(a) Application of the new seed-based technology on a concentrated area basis, given the technical, institutional and financial constraints. This means both expansion and intensification of crop production resulting in significant changes in cropping patterns and higher levels of employment.

(b) Development of rural institutions involving small, marginal and landless farmers at a rapid rate with credit and marketing programs to support the production objectives.

(c) A rural works program for small scale labor-intensive projects all over the country in order to build up the physical infrastructures and generation of significant employment opportunities.

(d) A policy of withdrawing subsidy on agricultural inputs giving a favorable impact on income distribution and building up efficiency of farming as well as input uses.

(e) Development of programs for expansion of rural industries for diversification of employment opportunities(30,p.38).

The above strategies did not however provide the conditions to significantly improve the rural inequality. As was suggested by President Ziaur Rahman(75), there is a need for a major reorientation in the development strategies. There is a growing realization for a shift of policy from growth to distribution not merely on welfare grounds but also on consideration of a further and stable growth. The provision for food and jobs should be the prime objectives of the planned development strategy in the less developing country like Bangladesh. On the same ground, the reduction of inequality of income should be also treated as another important aspect of development programs.

Concept of Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP)

As discussed before the process of rural development has become a complicated task in the wake of increasing rural problems in most of the developing countries. Various approaches have therefore been tried in different countries under different sets of conditions. No single strategy has, however, shown a total success in this area of development. As pointed out by Hathaway (40), the planning strategy for effective rural development in poor countries should however take the following hard facts in view:

(i) Unequal distribution of rural income.

(ii) Lack of productive resources in rural areas.

(iii) Lack of adequate food, clothing and shelters.

(iv) Lack of education and training facilities.

(v) Lack of access to social services and government contacts.

(vi) Lack of hope and purpose for planning future.

(vii) Lack of willingness and ability to take risks of uncertainties.

(viii) Lack of new initiative and proper security(40, p. 25).

Rural development is now a multidimensional process which may involve all of the other facts and more of rural life. Rural development in a comprehensive sense, should necessarily imply efforts to improve the quality of rural life to all possible extent. It may therefore include a multiple process of organic growth and change in the existing environment of rural life. It may mean, in broader sense, dissemination of improved technology, greater division of labor, growth of new skills and learnings by breaking through traditional values and beliefs. It will finally build up new economic systems and social structures for a new life. This is through integrated rural development strategy (72).

However, the integrated rural development as a concept means a combined strategy for overall development of rural community in general and the quality of life in particular. This concept may imply planning and executing such programs as may be needed for bringing about a change in the existing conditions of rural society toward an improved way of life. This will however require that all natural, technical, economic and institutional factors be combined in such a way as to serve the well-being and social integration of rural people.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations has formulated the following objectives of integrated rural development:

(i) more equal access to and better utilization of resources and services and greater access to employment opportunities in order to contribute to and benefit from the development process.

(ii) a higher rate of growth in agricultural production with special emphasis on increasing yields of subsistance farmers.

(iii) better and more equitable distribution of income, and non-material benefits of production including improved social security.

(iv) Improved consumption patterns, particularly in regard to food and nutrition of the most vulnerable groups.

(v) increased mobilization and motivation of rural people to achieve wider participation in decision-making to influence the development process, particularly at the local level(15, p. 12).

In order to achieve the above general objectives for integrated rural development, the FAO has also suggested the five areas of action programs as listed below:

1) to establsih objectives for rural development as a common denominator considering the political constraints and needs and resources of the various social groups in a particular country.

2) to analyze the macro-economic policy framework, the planning machinery, power structure and social-economic values and their consistency with the objectives.

3) to improve the interplay of physical, technical, economic and socio-cultural and political factors at the level of production and resource management.

4) to improve the motivation of people through production incentives, employment opportunities, the availability of inputs and marketing facilities, education, know-how and overall communications.

5) to improve the effectiveness and structure of administrative and institutional framework as the bridging elements to transform policy objectives into actions and appropriate behavioral patterns of those involved(15, p. 13).

Reproduction of a FAO model(25, p. 47)shown in Figure 5,indicates that rural development is a mutually reinforcing process of outside and inside forces acting on a rural system. A self-sustained growth of an area requires inter-linking of needs and resources.

Integrated Rural Development Program in Bangladesh

Bangladesh represents a typical case of a predominantly rural economy. The problem of increasing landlessness and incidence of rural poverty have added fresh urgency to the search for ways of making the rural development institutions more effective vehicles for increasing agricultural activity and ensuring the equitable distribution of the gains of higher productivity. This increased awareness of the need to focus on the problems of specific target groups — the landless and the small farmer has resulted in both new and continued efforts directed toward search and experimentation to determine the effectiveness of projects and programs often associated with broadly accepted national rural development strategies (12).

An important example of continuing effort and experimentation in the area of a workable rural development scheme was the Comilla Model , a pioneer area development program. This model was designed in accordance with concepts collectively referred to as an integrated rural development program approach. This may briefly be presented as under.

The Comilla Model Framework

In a sense the Comilla Model was the product of nearly a decade

Rural Development·A Mutually Reinforcing Process

Creation of Self-sustained Growth Within an Area Requires the Inter-linking of Needs and Resources Through the Rural Service Centre Network

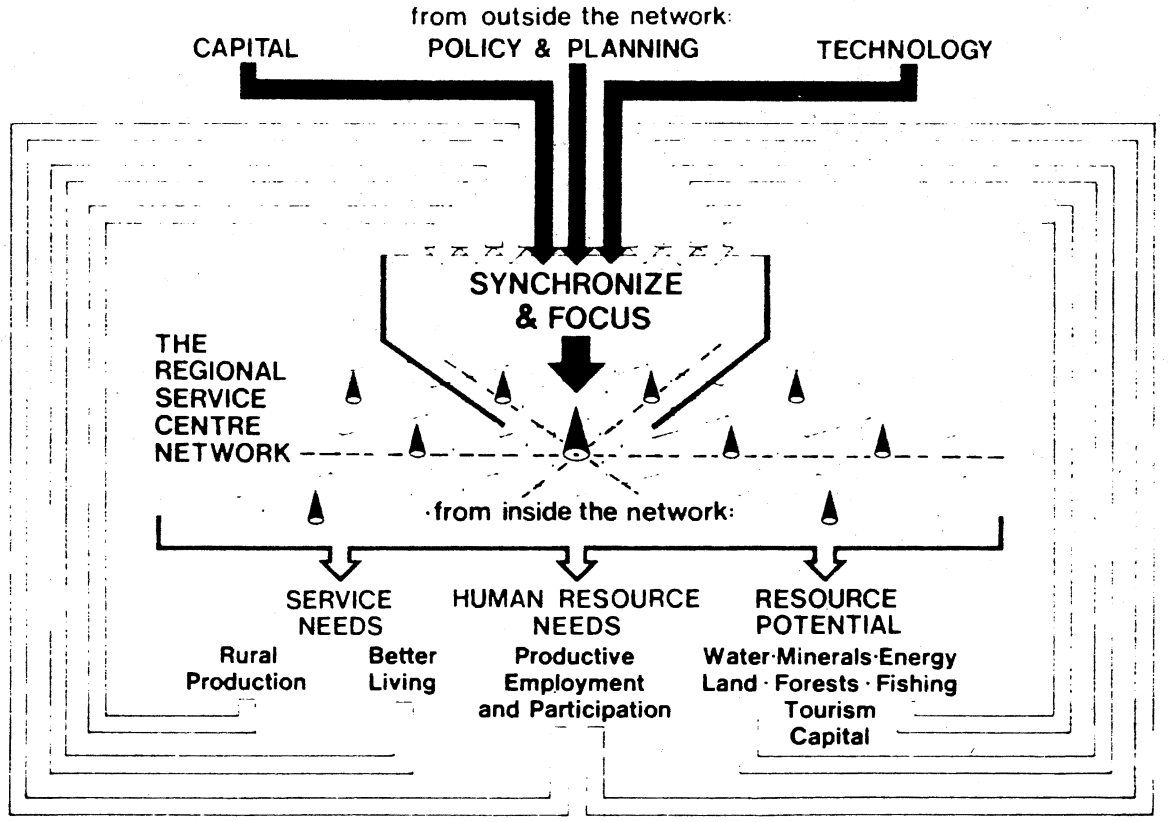


Figure 5. Rural Development - A Mutually Reinforcing Process

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (25, p. 47)

of experimentation pertaining to agricultural and rural development in Bangladesh. The completed model, in some respects, represented a synthesis of past experiences in rural development, including rural self-government, cooperatives, local institutional infra-structure and related agricultural practices (2).

The two decades of experience with various forms of group institution for organizing rural development has also brought to the fore. Once again the issue of agrarian reforms as a precondition for a broad based rural development strategy was a confronting issue. Past experiments in the area of rural development in Bangladesh have, admittedly, only been partially successful in directing part of the stream of benefits from higher productivity towards two major target groups — the landless and the small farmers. This evolution and readjustment of ideas and focus may be best understood in terms of the widely reviewed experience with comilla type approach to development(37).

The basic elements of the Comilla Model can be stated as follows:

(a) The creation of a system for coordinating the activities of various government departments in a local development center called Thana Training and Development Center (TTDC).

(b) A village cooperative system for small farmers linked at the thana level in a central cooperative association (TCCA), usually characterized as a two-tier system.

(c) The rural 'works program' with decentralized responsibility for project identification and management at the thana level.

(d) The Thana Irrigation Program (TIP) by using the thana as the unit for the programming and implementation of irrigation investments, digging canals, sinking tubewells, where an adequate supply of surface water is not available (37, p. 244).

The Comilla model was purported by its designers to be an answer to the search for the successful integrated area development program. This model has, indeed, added certain very acceptable dimensions in the area of rural development. These dimensions are identified as reproduced below:

(i) establishing a new institution named as TTDC.

(ii) introducing a two-tier system of cooperative organizations.

(iii) decentralizing power of authority at the grass root level of development.

(iv) initiating rural works program for the landless and small farmers and

(v) introducing a new system of Thana Irrigation Program (TIP) which was managed by cooperative organization(65, p. 21).

This model was first started in the district of Comilla about sixty miles away from the capital city of Dacca in Bangladesh. The program was initiated at the district headquarter of Comilla consisting of one Thana, a lowermost administrative unit of the country.

Ali (2) has correctly recognized that the Comilla model was a great success in the field of perceived rural development work. People responded immediately as they became knowledgeable about the project. They were virtually waiting to find an escape from the suffering of poverty. People joined the cooperatives with the intent of ameliorating their chronic poverty and starvation. The rate of rural savings per family went up gradually. Rural savings were therefore turned into increasing investments in agricultural development and community welfare activities. The main differences of Comilla program from any other community development projects were to be seen in an

emphasis on economic and technological factors, as well as the increased discipline demanded from participant. Also stressed in the project was the experimental approach.

It may therefore be asserted that the Comilla model was, indeed, a pioneer scheme in the way of furthering an expansion of rural community development endeavors in Bangladesh. The establishment of the Thana Training and Development Centers (TTDC) can be recognized as a critical element in provision of much needed administrative infrastructure. Also an important element was the need for cooperative endeavors among officials of the various organizational units such as Extension and IRDP. Thus, the TTDC bridges different approaches and provides possibilities for better coordination of the activities of different agencies involved in agriculture and rural developmental work(68).

The Comilla model was thereafter accepted as a national model for rural development in Bangladesh. The experiences of Comilla model were also tried in some other parts of the country on experimental basis under the Rural Development Act of 1970. An administrative organization called "Integrated Rural Development Project" was thereafter established with the intent of replicating the theories and practices of Comilla model almost in all other parts of the country. By 1978 this program was expanded to cover 250 Thanas out of a total 415 Thanas in Bangladesh. At present, the IRDP is responsible for executing all rural development programs in Bangladesh (37).

Operational Experiences of Rural Development Projects in Bangladesh

The problems of rural areas are so vague and extensive that no approach can guarantee any desired success. The rural problems have been so varied and diverse that no agency could attempt to guarantee a complete solution. Indeed, the rural problems were so acute and so desperate that the government could hardly show total justice in rendering assistance in alleviating these problems. Consequently, the issue of rural development in Bangladesh has continued to be very critical with action often debatable, this in the context of varying conditions prevailing in the country.

The operational experiences of rural development programs in Bangladesh can certainly be judged as not adequately good, if not totally bad. Although the measures prepared in the First Five Year Plan remained largely unrealizable, there was at least some success in securing an awareness of the rural people to their own problems, and further, to motivate participate in community development works. At least it can be recognized that the hopes and aspirations of the rural people have increased substantially over the period since development programs have been implemented (16).

Nevertheless, the experiences gained after implementation of the Comilla model were not found to be as useful as hoped for. The initial success of the model can not be recognized as continuing according to expectations. The operational practices of the model were subsequently criticized by many people (15).

Experiences in the original Comilla project area and in its

extension through IRDP have underscored the elusive nature of the goal of egalitarian development pursued through local institutions in a still heirarchial society where although agricultural holdings are small, the land is highly unequally distributed. The landless are being virtually excluded and memberships of the cooperative societies is still typically skewed toward those with relatively larger land-holdings. The leadership of each society has been dominated by the most power members of the society (15).

According to a proceeding of a seminar held at Dacca(15),Comilla model did not work well due to the following weaknesses.

1. Many projects of IRDP were poorly designed and implemented resulting in high cost investment and low efficiency. As the bulk of money came from government grant and foreign aids, there was little concern for proper management and expenditure of funds.

2. Ineffective stragegy for employment generation through rural works program was responsible for creating inadequate employment opportunities during off seasons of cultivation.

3. Almost all cooperative societies for irrigation and other developmental activities were managed and dominated by the powerful members disguising themselves as one of the poor segment or under false names of landless farmers.

4. Evaluations have also found that the distribution of dividends and benefits of the cooperative societies were again skewed towards the relatively larger landowners within a community.

All these experiences have therefore resulted in the growing concern that programs for rural development deliberately aimed at improving the conditions of the poor majority could, at times,

indirectly have the opposite results. Since the more powerful elements within rural committees monopolize the additional income streams accruing from many sources of activities, rural society may further be polarized. There sobering experiences have therefore sparked off many new experiments to find alternative forms of group organizations and ways of mobilizing rural people (15).

Education, Training and Evaluative Experiences for Agriculture and Rural Development in Bangladesh

Education has its own justification. Knowledge is basic to human existance, and acquisition of knowledge is both a process and an end by itself and need not be motivated by any particular consideration nor depend on any special causes or circumstances for its own validity. Even then, when education is viewed as an essential element of existence at the level not of an individual but of a nation, and when education becomes a part of human life, it becomes imperative for the nation to manage education as basic force for the maintenance of national character, human development and socio-economic welfare of the country (39).

Education is therefore a corner-stone of development. Developing countries all over the world have been brought to realize the necessity of education as a tool for development. This is more true in the case of a developing country like Bangladesh where the literacy level is lower than many nations. In view of widespread illiteracy, conventional approaches towards problems of life have not been adequate for finding the proper solutions thereto.

Education in Bangladesh is education for development. The widespread illiteracy in the country has widened the communication gap between the people in general and those actively engaged in development efforts in one hand and between the people themselves in the various segments of society on the other. National objectives for development must be viewed as a whole with education as the most important sector. Education must address itself not only to its own problems but also to the problems of the nation as a unified and integrated entity.

The national objectives for educational development in Bangladesh may therefore be stated as:

(a) to create an awareness of the need for development,

(b) to equip the people to understand the process of development,

(c) to make the people ready to face the challenge of development endeavors,

(d) and to develop a new value system needed for integrated rural development (86, p. 7-8).

It is understandable that certain effective strategies will be needed to implement the stated national objectives. The First Five Year Plan (FFYP) has had the following strategies for achieving the above objectives :

(i) Transformation of the village level elementary school as training centers for imparting formal and non-formal education oriented to the problems and potentials of the village.

(ii) Developing demonstration farms/nurseries for improved crops, livestock, horticulture and other off-farm agricultural practices.

(iii) Providing vocational, technical and career education to the rural people.

(iv) Training of unskilled and semi-skilled unemployed on various trade and basic industrial skills.

(v) Providing health, nutrition and family planning education to the rural poor.

(vi) And to provide on-the-job training to the village level workers involved in agricultural and rural community developmental activities (30, p. 47-48).

Under the above strategies, the government of Bangladesh has already started needs-oriented education system to fight with widespread illiteracy in general and to educate the rural people toward an integrated approach for agriculture and rural community development in particular. Education has therefore adopted to all levels as a mechanism to achieve integration of all the available productive components for rural development. Comilla model was an ideal approach in this regard (20)

Experiences of Non-formal Education in Bangladesh

Apart from the arena of formal schooling and training, the need for non-formal education has also been stressed upon in many of the developing nations. The term non-formal education can be defined as an organized systematic educational activity carried out outside the framework of the formal education system to provide selected types of learning to a particular group or sub-group of the population such as farmers (23). Due to inherent limitations of the formal schooling system and the difficulties associated with its expansion, primarily for lack of resources, the need for non-formal education has been increasing in most of the developing countries in general over the past years (39).

Non-formal education can help the rural people to help themselves

by learning improved methods for a better quality of life. One example of non-formal education can be the family planning education. Since the need for effective family planning or population control has to be rapidly expanded and, since the farmers' level of present formal education is too low, there is a great necessity for rapid introduction of non-formal education in the rural Bangladesh. However, the present system of non-formal education in Bangladesh is not well organized in the context of actual needs (39).

Comilla model has been one of the pioneer schemes for introduction of non-formal education in Bangladesh. The main purpose of non-formal education activities in Comilla model was to prepare the rural men, women and youths for a new and better style of life in their families and communities. Emphasis was given on joint and cooperative action for solving the basic problems of agricultural production, employment, health, nutrition and family planning (20).

The system of non-formal education in Comilla model was closely integrated with other components of rural development process: rural economic and political organizations, diffusion and management of technological innovations, research and evaluations and in-service or pre-service training experiences of rural extension workers. The purpose was not just to impart knowledge and skills in one-shot intensive training programs, but to make training a continuous process week after week as the rural people get involved in development activities (68).

Under the Comilla approach the following are the few organizations involved in providing non-formal education :

1. Thana Training and Development Centers (TTDC) located at

each thana.

2. Thana Irrigation Programs (TIP) developed at most of the thanas.

3. Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) which is a central organization with offices at thana level.

4. Rural Works Program (RWP) designed at various places for generation of employment opportunities for the poor (45,p.28).

The non-formal education has shown quite a success in some areas of Bangladesh. The enthusiasm and expectations created in the minds of village people and farmers through these programs have been unprecedented (68). Still these programs need further improvement in areas of administration program planning and evaluative researches.

The major focus of development through non-formal education is undoubtedly on material development, to lifting the rural people from a desperate condition of poverty and ignorance. Accordingly, non-formal education is more functional in an economic sense than ideological or value-oriented. From theoretical standpoint, the Comilla approach was an ideal case which was built upon the actual development problems and needs of rural Bangladesh (65).

The Comilla model for non-formal education was critized by many people on many grounds. A seminar held in Dacca (15) suggested some reorganization and modification of Comilla model as listed below:

1. Action program rather than the demonstration should form the basis of education at the grassroot level.

2. The training program should be carried down directly to the real farmers in the village than training of village heads or workers.

3. The extension workers should work themselves with the farmers in the fields and not work in advisory capacity only.

4. The trainers should be given only subsistance allowance and

not extra bonus.

5. The village touts should not be included in the training group of people.

The process of formal education is so slow and gigantic, and the institutional and financial requirement is so big that Bangladesh must go for non-formal education and training of its vast illiterate masses in order to cope with the problematic situation and survive.

Experiences of Agricultural Extension Education in Bangladesh

Education is the light-house of human population. It plays the decisive role in the emergence of a progressive society. Education is a necessary condition at all levels of decision making. With the advance of science and technology, the need for education is further increasing over time. At this stage, education may therefore be considered as a basic pre-condition for economic growth and development in general(62).

Education plays an equally important role in development of agriculture. With the increasing of population, the need for food is also increasing over time. The increasing demand for food has therefore necessitated increased efforts on food production. Food crisis is the biggest problem of the world today. In this case, the need for development of agriculture can not be over emphasized(59).

Agricultural development is a necessary condition for economic growth and development of most of the developing countries in the world. Agriculture is the primary occupation of the traditional societies of many nations where a majority of the population lives in rural areas.

Any successful attempt to improve agriculture will therefore be improving the lifestyles of a bulk of human population of the world (55).

In most of the developing countries, agriculture is characterized by traditional methods of farming with low per acre productivity. This is certainly the case in Bangladesh which is typically a developing nation. The traditional means of agricultural production in Bangladesh have not been able to cope with the increasing demand for food.

The FAO has pointed out that traditional agricultural service structure of the developing countries does not serve the needs of a majority of farmers, but rather mainly satisfies the needs of a smaller group of larger farmers. This service structure permits only fragmented delivery of services, and prevents the total production package from being served in an organized and timely manner. Reproduction of two FAO diagrams can be seen in Figure 6, and on Figure 7 for more details (25).

The current rate of widespread illiteracy of the people of Bangladesh has been one of the strong factors attributable to slow progress in agriculture. Inadequate level of farmer education has posed a serious threat to modernization of Bangladesh agriculture (12).

According to a resolution passed at the World Food Conference held in Rome (73), agricultural education deserves a priority in view of achieving rural welfare in

The Traditional Service Structure

Although the Traditional Service Structure Permits the Delivery of Some of the Production Components, Mainly to the Larger Farmer, Fragmented Delivery Prevents the Total Production Package from Arriving in an Organized and Timely Manner

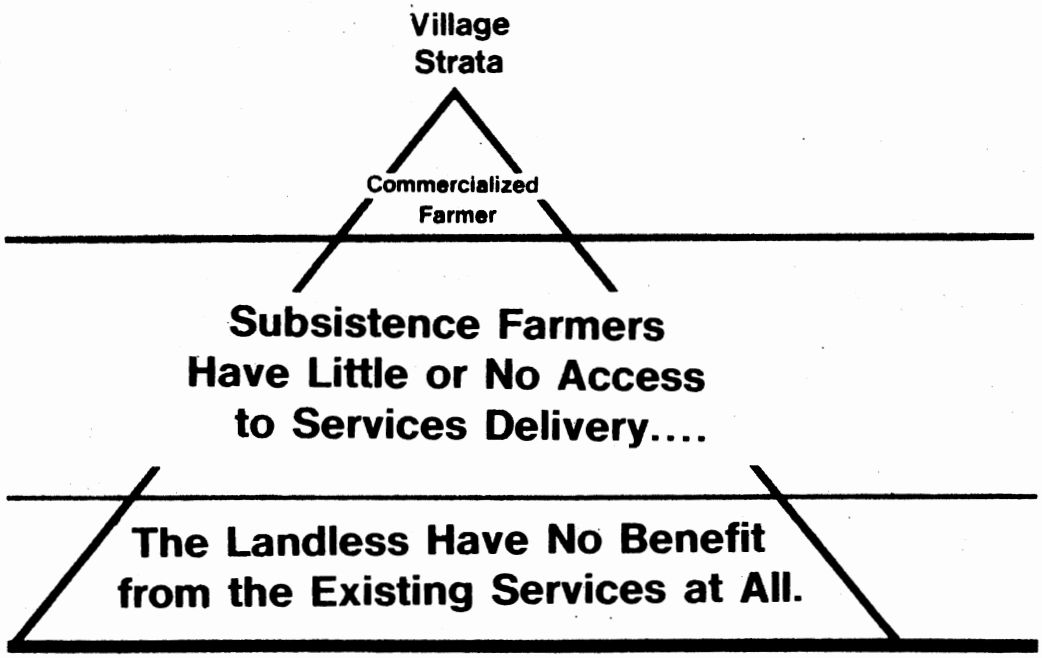


Figure 6. The Traditional Service Structure

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (25, p. 13)

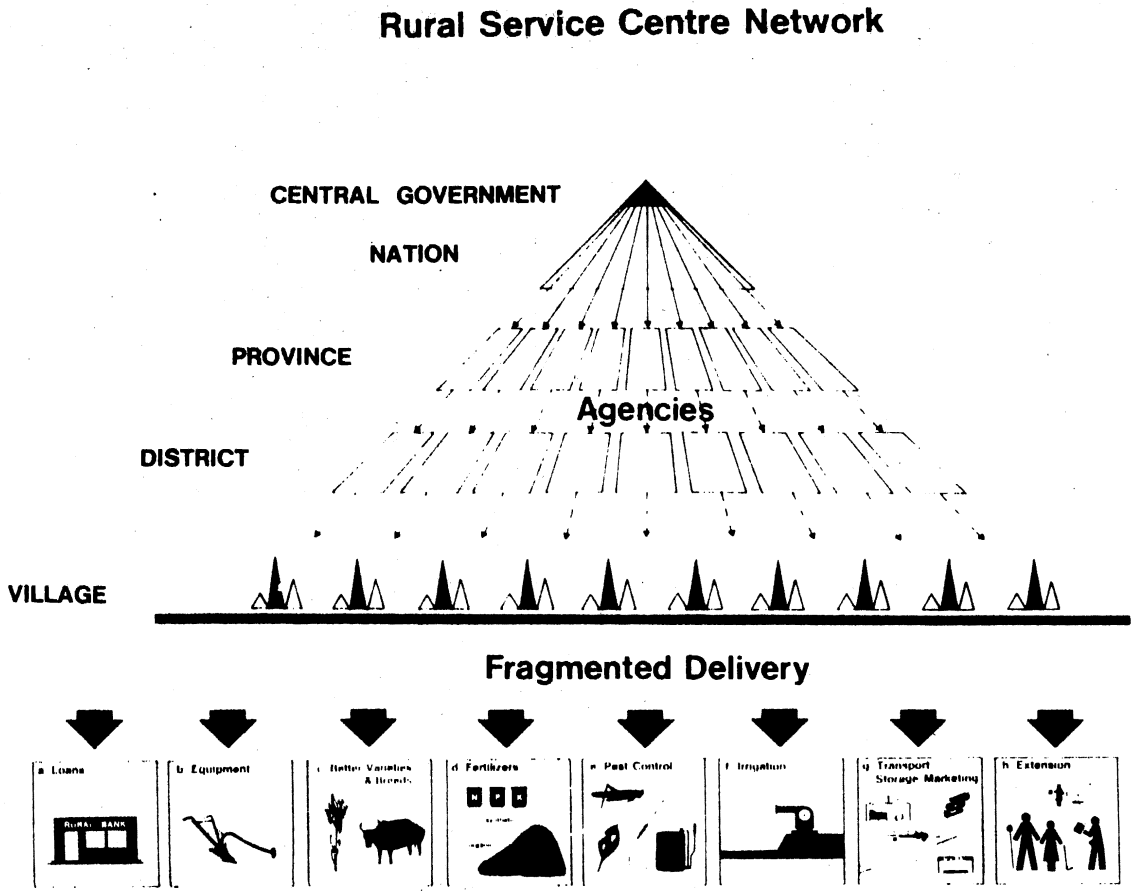


Figure 7. Rural Service Centre Network

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (25, p. 17)

in most of the less developing countries.

In a system analysis study (24), it is revealed that the present agricultural extension services is not so well organized as to provide effective education to the rural farmers. It listed the following problems of agricultural extension services in developing countries:

1. Present system of agricultural extension services is centrally controlled by the national government. This results in excessive bureaucratization of the system.

2. Extension education is not adequately supporting research findings and expertise. As a result, the extension techniques remain out-dated.

3. The system does not work with a reasonable level of efficiency due to outmoded knowledge, insincerity and negligence to duty of the field extension workers.

4. Finally, ineffective strategies for implementing extension education and training programs in the country (24, p. 8).

The centralized extension service system of Bangladesh does not seem to provide delegated authority to the lower level extension worker in decision making. Moreover, the extension workers may also lack in adequate knowledge and extension skills.

Apart from the government agricultural extension services, the Comilla model of Bangladesh also developed and tested some of the premises of agricultural extension and community development practices. The premises were :

a. Ignorance of the peasants is the principal reason for their backwardness.

b. An official village level worker can put an end to this ignorance.

c. The village level worker can make the local gentry into examplars or progressive models, and the peasants will follow them out of loyalty.

d. Precipitated by an official 'catalytic' agent, all villagers can form into a community for the sake of development(68,p.70)

The said study also proved by investigation that none of the above premises fully comprehended the character or operation of the rural reality. The study concludes that the ignorance was not the principal cause for non-acceptance of new methods but the physical, social or economic impediments. The faith in an official extension worker was not well-founded because he was an outsider. The rural people have a little bond of loyalty to the examplars of the community.

The Comilla model has however expounded the following principles and strategies for improvement of extension services :

1. The setting up of an institutional training and development center, with a composite team of departmental experts and a regular routine of meetings and workshop for delegates from village groups.

2. The formation of a group in each village and the feedback by every delegate to his group members in regular meetings, corresponding to the pattern at the center.

3. The organizations of small farmers, for their special advancement, into village cooperatives federated into a central association, and the selection by the members of each cooperative from their own rank and class, of a manager and a model farmer for learning at the Center, and in turn, educating the group (68, p. 71).

It can be concluded here that the rural people are sometimes unique in their nature and character. No program can guarantee any success unless it can serve the will and motives of the rural people in general and some interested persons in particular. Bangladesh presents a unique situation with some 'hard facts' of rural reality.

Organizational Structures and Operational Practices of IVS Projects in Bangladesh

The organization and operation of the International Voluntary Services, Bangladesh can briefly be stated as below:

International Voluntary Services has been a private, non-profit and independent organization providing technical assistance mainly in rural development in many of the developing countries like Bangladesh. At the request of host government, IVS recruits skilled volunteers from around the world to fill positions in agriculture and rural community development activities. Since its starting work in Bangladesh in 1972, IVS has supplied more than 40 volunteers to work in different projects and throughout the country (48).

Organization of IVS Project

The subject of the study was the project which is supported by IVS and called "Village Development Training Program"; located in the district of Sylhet in Bangladesh. This project is monitored through the administration of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives through the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) of Bangladesh. A Consultative Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet district, and composed of the concerned district officials and the representatives of local governments, provides guidance and support to that program at the district level. The organization of the project has been shown on Figure 4 in Chapter I.

The IVS Director is both administrative and technical head of the project. He is supported by an Associate Director who supervises all of the four clusters of the project. Each cluster is headed by a resident manager. Resident managers of each cluster are assisted by one or more co-workers in different specialty areas. In addition, there are necessary supporting staffs in different administrative, clerical and technical positions.

The project is basically located at the Thana Headquarters of Sylhet district. Project area includes four randomly selected clusters consisting of a total of 21 villages.

The national headquarters for the IVS project is located at the suberbial area of Sylhet city. The project also has an office in the city of Dacca, the national capital of Bangladesh.

Purpose and Functions of the IVS Project

The project has been designed as an integrated rural development demonstration and experiment in Bangladesh. The purpose and objectives of this project may be stated as:

1. The broad objective is to improve the delivery of extension services to the villages by improving the training of Union and Thana level workers in the areas of rural development, agriculture, and health and family planning.

2. The immediate project purpose is to develop and implement a field practicum for some of the trainees in the three existing training institutes (FWFTI, RDTI and AETI) in Sylhet, depending on the absorptive capacity of the programs in the villages.

3. A related purpose is to provide a field laboratory in which the facilities of the training institutes and IVS workers can undertake innovative projects to test feasibility and acceptability of new approaches.

4. The long term goal is to enhance the capacity of the existing training institutes to offer field practice as part of their training programs (46, p. 1).

Theoretically, the objectives and purpose of the present IVS project seem to be adequately designed for bringing about a possible breakthrough in the existing nature and quality of rural extension and development practices in Bangladesh, this through a well organized education and training effort. The practical aspect of accomplishing the objective potential of this project is covered in the next section

of this chapter.

Work Plan of IVS Project

During the last five years since IVS began operations in Bangladesh there have been more than 40 expatriate volunteers who have served for terms ranging from two to six years. As of January 1979, there were 10 volunteers and expatriate staffs and 15 Bangladeshi co-workers in the IVS project.

Seven volunteers, including the Director, were working in the Village Development Training Program (VDTP) in Kotwali Thana, Sylhet, a grass-root village development program intended to provide a village training laboratory for trainees in extension work. This program is being conducted in 21 villages and is jointly sponsored by the Rural Development Training Institute (RDTI), the Agricultural Extension Training Institute (AETI), the Family Welfare Visitor Training Institute (FWVTI), and International Voluntary Services (IVS) in Bangladesh. (46).

Two volunteers were seconded to other voluntary organizations and one was seconded to the Department of Population Control and Family Planning. All the volunteers bring professional training and practical knowledge in their particular fields. Their goal is the transmission of attitudes and skills to counterparts or clients, and the adoptation of technologies to meet the particular situation they find in Bangladesh (46).

As per work plan (47), the purpose of the IVS project continues to be the development and operation of a field laboratory for the three training institutes of Bangladesh. In addition to providing trainees

with an opportunity to engage in field practice, the laboratory provides a chance for Institute faculty members and IVS workers to test out and demonstrate new methods of extension work and to furnish national Departments and specialized Institutes with information on the operation and effects of government policies and services in the villages.

The village clusters, of which there are four , are the control points for introducing and supporting village development activities and for providing support and supervision for trainees from the three institutes. The project office on the RDTI campus in Sylhet provides administrative support and technical services to the work in the village clusters and with the training institutes. The IVS office at Dacca provides administrative support for the total program liaison with national Department of the Government, and coordination with other voluntary agencies.

The VDTI is jointly financed by a number of agencies. The budget projects an expenditure of $369,935 for the thirteen month period ending 30 June 1980. The distribution of expenditure is:

Expatriate Personnel	U.S.	$ 73,210
National Personnel		72,006
Housing and Clusters		60,089
International Travels		19,000
Program Cost-Operating		61,900
Program Cost-Equipment		30,730
Overhead Expenditure		49,000
Miscellaneous Costs		4,000
		$369,935

Support for the project is derived from the three sources:

IVS Pool Fund	$153,807
USAID PVO Grant	180,000
Government of Bangladesh (in kind)	36,128
	$369,935 (46, p. 2).

Break-up of the expenditures shows that USAID,Bangladesh is making a major contribution in support of the IVS project.

According to agreement,IVS was to assume 100 percent of the costs for equipment items. USAID was to assume 100 percent of the overhead costs, and the costs of all other items were to be treated as shared costs among the three sources of funding. The government of Bangladesh contribution is in kind, and is valued at a dollar amount for housing, land and personnel.

Brief Resume of Project Activities

This resume of activities will include the annual performances of the Village Development Training Institute (VDTI) located at Sylhet district of Bangladesh, for the working period of 1979-1980. Some activities of the Dacca office, a part of VDTI, are also included in this resume (46).

1. Field training for the trainees of the Bangladesh Institutes is an important function of VDTI.

The Rural Development Training Institute (RDTI) trainees are in residence for comparatively short training sessions, ranging from one week to three months. During these training programs, supervised field practice, village survey, demonstration techniques and other related rural development training activities are conducted by the VDTI of IVS, which fall within the sphere of integrated rural development programs in Bangladesh.

The Agricultural Extension Training Institute (AETI) trainees of Bangladesh are expected to have six months of field practice during the second half of their two year program. The VDTI arranges for three

groups of twelve trainees each to take part in the village development activities in the project area. VDTI provides for their living accomodation and food in the village programs and for supervision by the resident workers in the clusters.

Similarly, Family Welfare Visitor Training Institute trainees are also trained in field practice during their first year of training program for three months in the VDTI. The first year FWVTI trainees spend at least three weeks in a cluster and participate in the on-going work in the health and women's programs. VDTI arranges for food and accomodation of the trainees as well.

Besides, the VDTI also provides training for the professional managerial people engaged in rural developmental work in all the three training institutes of Bangladesh. This included the areas of planning, implementation and evaluation of field practices which should accompany classroom training. It may therefore be expected that this approach to developing field practice assignments and the supporting materials would prove useful for other training institutes in rural development, agriculture, health and family planning.

2. Village Cooperative Societies are one of the principal channels through which the Bangladesh government seeks to provide extension services, rural credit and agricultural inputs to rural communities.

The VDTI people work with cooperative societies in all the villages of the project area where they exist, and help organize a society where there is none. Since those cooperatives have been limited in the past to land holders, the VDTI is assisting other specialized cooperatives, such as women's handicraft cooperative

and service cooperatives of the landless laborers. In addition, VDTI also assists in organizing other corporate organizations like village council, mother's club, and youth groups, depending on the interest and capacities of the villagers.

VDTI also maintains liaison with the different village level organizations engaged in agriculture and rural development works. VDTI is also working with the government of Bangladesh for testing out alternative structures for organizing villagers for self-reliant development approaches to village problems.

3. Food production programs consititute another important area of VDTI activities in Bangladesh. This can be summarized as:

a. Encouraging and assisting farmers in the use of high yielding strains of rice and introduction of new varieties of rabi crops (winter crop) continues to be one major area of VDTI extension service.

b. Providing specialised technical assistance to the cluster residents and regularly put on "events" in the village clusters to bring to farmers new information and demonstrate new methods.

c. Supplementing the working knowledge of local extension worker on such matters as developing a cropping plan, estimating input requirements and carrying out practical tasks of improved cultural practices.

d And working as a medium of communication between research organizations of the country and the rural farmers for rapid transmission of research findings onto extension practices.

VDTI is also encouraging and assisting farmers in raising kitchen garden and horticultural crops. It continues to stress the importance

of villagers' making optimum use of food resources, taking an ecologically balanced approach. Extension work in this case is directed to both men and women in the villages. Vegetable growing has also been tied up with nutrition education activities in the women program.

Duck raising and fish culture is another landmark of IVS efforts for increasing food supplies in Bangladesh. Duck raising involves training in the areas of hatching, raising, disease control and breeding practices of improved duck farming in the project area. IVS has introduced raising of improved duck variety and supplied incubator facilities for demonstration of hatchery to operate on a year round basis.

Development of fish culture is also an area of attention for increased food production by VDTI in Bangladesh. The rural people are encouraged and motivated for increased fish culture in the village ponds and tanks through VDTI extension services. A demonstration pond has also been built up to demonstrate improved fish culture practices.

4. Women and youth activities form an integral part of VDTI program. It includes a number of programs which complement each other in improving the level of living of mothers, youth and the children and their families. The fundamental task is defined as developing in women confidence and competence to break through traditional constraints on the roles of women. The approach being followed by VDTI is to start with the interests and readiness of women to take part in some activity which takes them beyond the 'bari' (typical household) and enables them to associate with other women who share their problems.

Efforts are being directed by VDTI workers to provide curative and preventive health services to expectant mothers and young children. Extension services are also being provided to fight against illiteracy

of women and young girls to have a better conception of quality life. This is through increased educational programs on better health, nutrition and household management practices and related matters. They are also encouraged to be familiar with income generating activities which are market-oriented through technical and marketing assistance. The final purpose is to make rural women able to acquire the necessary skills to work in a more than one activity.

The village youth have taken initiative in seeking help from the resident workers in the village clusters. VDTI has started certain programs to mobilize rural youth, unemployed or underemployed, for accepting a new challenge for community development through constructive efforts and leadership. The VDTI program include technical skill development activities like tubewell mechanics, plumbing and motor repair for better exploration and preparation of youth occupations in rural areas.

An early assessment of the IVS project was made in late March of 1979 by AID. Brief presentation of this assessment at this point in the study is felt to be in keeping with stated objectives of the research study - to determine effectiveness of the IVS program as perceived by selected respondents. Since this assessemnt was made prior to the date at which other data were secured, it was felt proper to include the assessment in the chapter covering the Review of Literature and Research.

The assessment was made by USAID office based at Dacca. The salient features of their findings may be furnished as:

(a) It will be sometime before we can judge whether the broad objectives of the VDTP project is being realized.

(b) The immediate project purpose is being met in varying degrees in the three existing training institutes.

(c) IVS has made considerable investment in recruiting and training of additional staffs and in selecting the village clusters and setting up residential centers. This is a good step of development (26, p. 1).

In the opinion of USAID officials, the VDTP project has the following weaknesses:

(a) A persistent problem has been the rapid pace that has been set for implementing the program as a whole. Fundamentally, development can not be hurried.

(b) Inadequate day-by-day direction of the training and field activities of the project.

(c) The balance in the degree of control and responsibility exercised by the Bangladeshi and expatriate participants in the program.

(d) Insufficient dissemination of the experience being gained in the VDTP to governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with rural development and training (26, p. 2).

It appears that the present system of interagency communication needs be improved in the VDTP project. There is also a need for better balance and coordination activities among the local and expatriate workers involved in agricultural and rural development activities of the project (26).

Summary of Findings of Review of Literature

The purpose of this section is to briefly present certain important facts and findings of literature review concerning the systems, programs and problems of agricultural and rural community development in Bangladesh. These findings are provided in view of satisfying the first three objectives of the study which were specifically set forth and presented on page 9 in Chapter 1.

The first objective was to briefly discuss the systems of agricultural and rural community development now operating in Bangladesh. Several sources of information stress the fact that although agriculture contributes more than 58 per cent to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides a major source for making a living to over 85 per cent of the total population, it has been viewed over the past years as a moribund sector, incapable of generating necessary dynamism for rapid growth and development in Bangladesh. Historically, agricultural planning in Bangladesh has been almost exclusively directed toward attainment of self-sufficiency in food grain production alone whereas, the important concept of balanced crop production and growth has essentially been overlooked.

Studies clearly indicate that the present agrarian structure of Bangladesh is somewhat unadjusted in the sense that the ownership of land is highly concentrated in a small percentage of households. In contrast, one third of rural households own no agricultural land and together with those households owning less than one-half of an acre land, the effective landless farmers constitute almost 50 per cent of the rural population. There is a widely accepted view that agricultural production and rural community development in Bangladesh are frustrated by certain socio-economic constraints inherent in the structure of the rural economy, such as highly unequal distribution of control over land and society, widespread incidence of rural illiteracy, and competitive factionalism within the rural community.

The slow rate of agricultural growth in Bangladesh has definitely had adverse implications for the rural poor. According to most recent statistics, at least 45 per cent of rural families and 76 per cent of

urban families had caloric intake below the acceptable standard in Bangladesh. Current surveys further reveal that 59 per cent of rural households are deficient in calories, 29 per cent in proteins, and 89 per cent in vitamins. In particular, farm families who hold less than three acres of land are virtually unable to fulfill the caloric as well as protein needs for balanced diets.

Further valid conclusions drawn by a number of demographers and economists suggest that such poverty focussed rural development is a complex process which must somehow involve redistribution, or at least creation of equitable acquisition of assets and opportunities, decentralization of power in decision making, and crossing the traditional lines of authority with attack upon present bureaucratic compartmentalization. Further, these rural poor constitute a heterogeneous mass, involving various strata of the poor in the development process, presents an inherent paradox. When the small farmer graduates from abject to tolerable poverty, he will still find it mandatory to fight very hard to keep what he has and to acquire more. Progress toward reaching the different strata of the poor actually, at times, creates a restriction on further progress.

Data specifically secured from the survey reveal the fact that the majority of the farmers in Bangladesh are interested in and responsive to external forces of change for agricultural and community development. They were found to be equally responsive to some selected changes advocated by IVS workers for improvement of health conditions, dietary habits, and nutritional standards. Such findings further reveal that the rural people are interested in acquiring more education in an effort to achieve a better quality of life. As indicated by data of

the survey, farmers are reportedly not altogether agreeable to adopt cooperative farming patterns as a measure for better redistribution of farm income and achievement of greater equality.

The second objective of this study was to review and synthesize selected literature and completed research dealing with programs and problems of agricultural and rural community development. An examination of relevant literature and research studies reveal the following points.

Agriculture in Bangladesh is beset with many problems. The process of agricultural growth and development has been slow and steady over the past several years, and in a larger sense, developmental efforts have hardly been able to cope with the rapid growth of population in the country. Agricultural growth and development has greatly been impeded by the so called agrarian structures, institutional rigidities and the social traditions. The slow rate of agricultural growth has adversely affected the rural population with increasing rates of food crisis and hunger. The present nature and extent of malnutrition and undernutrition problems of rural people do reflect the degree of their poverty where resources and income level have not been able to keep pace with the increasing population growth.

In an agrarian economy like Bangladesh, achievement of the correct role of the rural community is of great importance for national development. It may properly be assumed that a reservoir of creativity exists among the rural people, and their increased participation and sharing in the day-to-day decision making in different phases of community development activities will provide them an increased awareness and willingness to channel potential energies most effectively.

The process of rural community development has become a more diverse and complicated task in the wake of increasing rural problems in most of the developing countries in general. It involves a multi-dimensional process of organic growth and change in the existing environment of rural life. As a result, the need for integrated rural development comes in. This will however require that all natural, technical and institutional factors be combined in such a way as to serve the well-being and social integration of rural people. Consequently, stark awareness of the need for increased rural education has vividly come upon the people of Bangladesh. People of the villages do readily seek to become more literate.

Bangladesh represents a typical case of predominantly rural economy. Any attempt for national development should, therefore, first begin with the rural people themselves. An important example of continuing efforts and experimentations in the field of rural development was the Comilla Model in Bangladesh. This is a pioneer community development program designed in accordance with the concept of 'integrated rural development program.' This model has, indeed, added certain very acceptable dimensions in the area of rural community development and was eventually accepted as a national model for integrated rural development program now being implemented in the country.

Nevertheless, the experiences gained after implementation of the Comilla model were not found to be as useful as had been previously hoped for. The initial success of the model can not be recognized as continuing for furthering progress as per original expectations. Past experiments in the field of rural development in Bangladesh, have

admittedly, only been partially successful in directing a part of the stream of socio-economic benefits toward two major target groups, the small and the landless farmers.

Developing countries all over the world have, now-a-days, realized the necessity of increased education as a tool for their national development. This is more true in the case of a developing country like Bangladesh where the literacy level is much lower than many other nations. The widespread illiteracy in the country has caused a serious problem for rural community development in general. The government of Bangladesh has already started a needs-oriented system of education to fight with illiteracy and to educate the rural people for integrated rural development program. Introduction of non-formal education is an important step in this direction.

Comilla model has been one of the pioneer schemes for introduction of non-formal education in Bangladesh. The main purpose of non-formal educational activities under Comilla model was to prepare the people for a new and better style of life in rural areas. But the Comilla model for non-formal education was however, criticized by many people on different grounds. Recent studies suggested some reorganization and modification of the model in the sense that more emphasis should be given on action programs rather than on demonstration practices as a basis of non-formal education at the grass-root level.

The third objective was to review and analyze the work plan of the IVS project in terms of its perceived effectiveness for agricultural and rural community development in Bangladesh.

International Voluntary Services is a privately operated non-profit organization providing technical assistance in the areas of agricultural

and rural community development activities in many a developing country like Bangaldesh. In Bangladesh, the IVS started a 'village development training program' in 1972. The basic thrust of IVS project is to help the people of local communities and villages to help themselves for a better quality of life.

The IVS is furnishing a multinational team of experienced volunteer technicians, with skills covering a variety of interrelated fields. A significant part of their activities includes a series of village level demonstration programs. These demonstrations are designed to show villagers improved techniques of food production, crop diversification, new varieties of food, cooperative techniques of farming, family planning devices, and rural health and nutritional measures.

Planning and implementation of IVS project is based upon the premise that the combined efforts of local villagers and the IVS workers can prove to be of immense help to the people of Bangladesh overcome economic hardships and poverty. Further examination of literature and completed studies reveal the fact that the IVS project is a comprehensive approach to initiate rural development at the grass-root level. The work plan and program activities of the project are more directed towards the potential resources and creative reservoir of the rural people for self-sustained growth and development, this is through increased awareness and participation in self-help programs.

The purpose of IVS project continues to be the development and operation of a field laboratory for three local development training institutes of Bangladesh. In addition to providing trainees with an opportunity to engage in field practice, the laboratory also provides a chance for these institutes' faculty members to test out and demon-

strate new methods of extension work, and to furnish the national agencies with information on the operation and effects of government policies and services in the villages.

The purpose and objectives of the IVS project seem to be adequately designed to bring about a possible breakthrough in the existing nature and quality of rural extension methods and development practices, this through a well organized education and training efforts.

Review of literature also elicits an early assessment of the IVS project which was made in late March 1979 by USAID office based at Dacca. A brief presentation of this evaluation stands in keeping with stated objectives of the research study — to determine perceived effectiveness of IVS project for agricultural and rural community development. Findings of the evaluation reveal that the immediate purpose of the IVS project is being met in varying degrees whereas, the broad objectives of the project will take some time before it is realized.

General Implications of the Findings of Review of Literature

Although agriculture is of primary importance for socio-economic development of Bangladesh, yet not much progress has so far taken place in that sector. Despite all efforts expended by national government for development of agriculture as a basis for rural development, there is still much to do for fighting with the present rural poverty and hunger. It is therefore implied that more efforts be expended in developing increased number of needs-oriented rural community development programs in Bangladesh.

There is a widely accepted view that agricultural and rural community development in Bangladesh are influenced by certain socio-economic constraints such as, highly unequal distribution of control over land and society, widespread incidence of illiteracy, and competitive factionalism within the rural community. In this case, it is understood that increased effort and resources be put into development and implementation of rural educational programs to educate rural people in achieving better social values and quality of life.

The present agrarian structure of Bangladesh is unadjusted in the sense that the ownership of land is highly concentrated in a small percentage of households. In contrast, one-third of rural households own no agricultural land and together with those households owning less than one-half of an acre land, the effective landless farmers constitute almost 50 per cent of rural population. Although there exists a land-ceiling of 30 acres, only less than two per cent of households own more than 30 acres. It therefore appears that a reduction in land-ceiling to at least 10 acres is necessary, and the surplus land beyond that ceiling may be redistributed to landless tenants to relieve the problem of social inequality and increase the per capita income of rural population.

Although the Comilla project structure has to a considerable degree been accepted as a model for integrated rural development, it must be admitted that realistically the project has been only partially successful in directing benefits toward two major tartet groups, the small and the landless farmers of the country. Nevertheless, the operational experiences of the model have underscored the elusive nature of the goal of egalitarian development pursued through local

institutions in a still heirarchial society where although holdings are small, the land is highly unequal in its distribution. So, the present structure of the Comilla model needs to be sharpened up, specifically, for operating through more decision making and participation at the grass-root level.

In an agrarian economy like Bangladesh the role of rural community is of great importance for its national development. It should be assumed that a reservoir of creativity exists among the rural people, and their increased participation in all phases of community development activities will provide them increased awareness and willingness to channel their potential energies most effectively. Therefore, rural people should be well represented in all possible phases of program planning and implementation of rural developmental works.

It is understandable that the present resource constraints have posed a limitation on undertaking increased number programs for agricultural and rural development in Bangladesh. In this case, efforts needs to be made in securing more international aids and technical assistance needed for developmental projects. In contrast, proper utilization of these aids needs to be ensured through effective implementation of projects on agricultural and rural community development in Bangladesh.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Introduction

The major purpose of this study was to make an assessment of the project, now being operated and maintained by International Voluntary Services (IVS), as to its working effectiveness and accomplishment of the stipulated objectives set forth in the project plans. In order to satisfy this major purpose, certain specific objectives were formulated as stated in the first chapter of this study.

In order to accomplish the specific objectives, data were collected from five selected categories of respondents through the use of a questionnaire and interview techniques. Each of the five respondent groups was represented by at least six individuals as was previously stated in Chapter I. The questions and statements on the questionnaires and interviews were so designed that selected respondents could easily indicate their views and judgements either by checking the appropriate items on the survey form or by providing oral responses. The choices provided by the questions and statements were so constructed as to cover as many options or opinions as feasible. Special attention was taken to ask questions in the form which might prove pertinent to the nature and status of the respondents. For example, the farmers were offered questions designed in a simpler way whereas, the IVS workers were asked

to respond to somewhat more complicated questions.

The treatment of data involved the use of frequency distributions, percentages and rating scale. In some cases, yes-no as well as multiple-choice questions were also asked when such a method of response might invoke a more understandable consideration. Frequency distributions, percentages, rating scale and/or multiple choice questions and statements were collated in individual tabular form in view of analyzing and synthesizing the responses.

Farmers' Views and Judgements As To the Observed Progress and Effectiveness of the IVS Project

The farmers, as a source of data and information, were considered to be one of the most important group of respondents in the survey conducted. This respondent group was represented by 50 individual farmers of the IVS project area. Views and judgements collected from farmers are presented below.

Farmers were first requested to give a general judgement and appraisal of selected activities of the IVS project. Data shown in Table V reflect development of a simple yes-no approach of the responses. These data show that 84 percent of responding farmers report attendance at the IVS demonstration plots. This therefore suggested that some confidence can be given to the belief that farmers are interested in demonstration of improved technologies and practices. Responses collated in Table V revealed that 96 percent of the farmers reported that they did take advice from IVS workers on their family health and nutrition problems.

An attempt was made to find out possible reasons for this revealed

TABLE V

FARMERS' RESPONSES AS TO CERTAIN SELECTED ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES PROJECT

Information Items	Farmers' Responses			
	YES		NO	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Totals	Number of Responses	Percent of Totals
Do you go to see IVS demonstration project?	42	84	8	16
Do you want to grow many crops in one season?	39	86	11	14
Did you get some new and better crop varieties from IVS program?	48	96	2	4
Do you like cooperative farming?	21	42	29	58
Do you take any advice from IVS workers on your family health and nutrition?	48	96	2	4

interest of the farmers in selected phases of the IVS project. Findings in Table VI indicate that the majority of farmers visited demonstration plots for learning purposes. Only 10 percent of the farmers interviewed indicated that they did not visit demonstration plots because of their lack of time. Four percent of the farmers reported that demonstration plots were too far from their homestead. No one reported that they did not visit because the demonstration practices were not useful. Moreover, responses shown in Table VII indicating the use of advisory services of IVS workers, reveal that 92 percent of responding farmers did use such advisory services as are related to human disease control measures. A somewhat smaller proportion of 62 percent was recorded as using such advisory services on food and dieting habits. Substantiating the positive reflections on farmers' feelings toward use of advisory services of IVS workers was the finding that only a mere two percent responded that such services were not good for them.

Findings shown in Table VIII reveal that 86 percent of farmers were agreeable to growing several crops in one season. Data collated in the same table also show that only 42 percent of farmers were agreeable to the adoption of cooperative farming. This is further substantiated by the responses of a majority, 58 percent, to the effect that they do not like cooperative farming for use in their own enterprises. Attempts were made to find out the possible reasons for favoring or disfavoring the adoption of crop-diversification as well as cooperative farming patterns.

Data presented in Table VIII further show that 36 percent of farmers are agreeable to crop-diversification practices only for getting more food whereas, 24 percent of farmers have the reasons for favoring

TABLE VI

FARMERS' RESPONSES AS TO VISITATION OF THE IVS DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

Reasons for Visitation of Demonstration Plots							
For Fun Only		For Interest		For Learning		Other Reasons	
Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
2	4	10	20	28	56	2	4

Reasons for Not Visiting Demonstration Plots							
No Time		Too Far		Not Useful		Other Reasons	
Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
5	10	2	4	-	-	1	2

TABLE VII

FARMERS' RESPONSES AS TO USE OF ADVISORY SERVICES OF THE IVS WORKERS

Reasons for Using Advisory Services							
Family Planning		Food Habits		Disease Control		Other Reasons	
Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
26	52	31	62	46	92	5	10

Reasons for Not Using Advisory Services							
Not Good		Not Useful		Not Practical		Other Reasons	
Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2

TABLE VIII

FARMERS' RESPONSES TO ADOPTION OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION PRACTICES AND COOPERATIVE FARMING

Reasons Favoring Adoption	Crop Diversification		Cooperative Farming	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
More food	18	36	0	0
More profit	9	18	13	26
More skills	12	24	8	16
Any other	0	0	0	0

Reasons Disfavoring Adoption	Crop Diversification		Cooperative Farming	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Less land	6	12	0	0
Less credit	3	6	0	0
Less profit	2	4	9	18
Less interest	0	0	7	14
Less skills	0	0	1	2
Any other	0	0	12	24

crop-diversification to acquire more skills in cultivating new and better crop varieties. However, 12 percent of responding farmers did not favor adoption of crop-diversification on account of such actions making less land available to them for total crop production. On a positive note, it was evident from findings shown in Table V that 96 percent of those farmers did acknowledge receiving advice leading to adoption of some new and better crop varieties from IVS workers.

Findings collated in Table VIII show that 26 percent of responding farmers gave as the reason for adopting cooperative farming, more profit from their farming business. As indicated by findings presented in Table IX, 58 percent of farmers interviewed do not like cooperative farming for various reasons. Slightly over one half of those farmers who do not favor cooperative farming indicated reasons other than those listed on the schedule.

TABLE IX

FARMERS' RESPONSES TO IVS PROJECT WORKERS' HELP AND PROGRAM USEFULNESS

Information Asked	Number of Responses				
	Little	Very Little	Much	Very Much	Total
Do yoy think that IVS workers can help you with better methods of producing food?	3	0	33	14	50
	Not Useful	Useful	Very Useful	Most Useful	Total
What do you think about 'International Voluntary Services' project?	0	9	30	11	50

An attempt was made to secure farmers' responses as to quality of the IVS workers' help in providing with better methods of producing food, and to IVS program usefulness. Data presented in Table IX reveal that 66 percent of the farmers reported that the IVS workers can be of much help in providing them with better methods of food production whereas, only six percent reported that the IVS workers can be of little help to them. The same table also presents data indicating the usefulness of the IVS project. In the opinion of 60 percent of the farmers interviewed, the IVS project was very useful while, no one reported that the project was not useful.

Views and Judgements of Extension Trainees As To the Program Effectiveness of the IVS Project

In order to achieve the specific objectives of this study, certain evaluative guidelines established, were appended under the item "data treatment and analysis" of Chapter I. One of those stated guidelines was to assess the nature, extent and quality of experiences provided by IVS workers, and gained by the local extension trainees during their pre-service training program with the IVS project. This group of respondents was composed of 20 local extension trainees.

Data presented in Table X was collated for the purpose of showing the nature of the extension trainees' appraisal of the IVS program, more specifically, of those activities pertaining to agricultural and rural community development occurring in the selected project areas. However, the data are limited to portraying only positive and negative responses of the extension trainees as to selected program activities of the IVS project. Data show that 100 percent of extension trainees

TABLE X

EXTENSION TRAINEES' APPRAISAL OF THE IVS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Program Activity	Yes		No	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Active participation in IVS extension programs	20	100	0	0
Recommend crop diversification practices for farmers	18	90	2	10
Recommend new varieties for own area of work	20	100	0	0
Recommend cooperative farming for own area of work	12	60	8	40
Suggest dietary change of rural people	20	100	0	0
Suggest rapid adoption of family planning practices	15	75	5	25
Recommend increased government food subsidies	16	80	4	20

have actively participated in the IVS extension work in one or more areas.

Attempts were made to gather responses of extension trainees to other areas of program activities. These also are shown in Table X. Ninety percent of the trainees recommended adoption of a crop-diversification practice by farmers. They were altogether agreeable in emphasizing the introduction of new crop varieties in the places where they expected to work after the training program is over. Figures in the table show that the responding trainees were favorable to the suggestion that farmers should have a change in their dietary habits. In addition, 75 percent favored the idea of more rapid adoption of family planning. A total of 80 percent of the trainees recommended increased governmental food subsidies to fight against rural hunger and poverty.

The nature and extent of extension trainees' participation in the IVS extension training program is more explicitly shown in Table XI. All the trainees were found to have experienced training through both personal and group contact methods applicable to extension work. Only one half of the trainees were directed in making more than five personal contacts per day. Furthermore, the data appear to verify that all of the trainees expressed the validity of motivating farmers by both words and actions whereas, a lesser number constituting only 60 percent recommended a similar value of motivating farmers with papers.

Findings collated in Table XII reveal the responses of extension trainees as to effectiveness of demonstration practices used by IVS project workers. Verification that trainees were brought to recognize such effectiveness is borne out by data showing that 14 trainees, out

TABLE XI

NATURE AND EXTENT OF EXTENSION TRAINEES' PARTICIPATION IN THE IVS PROGRAMS

Selected questions asked	Personal Contact		Group Contact		Miscellaneous	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
What role do you play in the IVS extension program?	20	100	20	100	0	0
	Only One		Less Than Five		More Than Five	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
How many contacts do you make per day?	6	30	4	20	10	50
	By Words		By Papers		By Actions	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
How do you best motivate the farmers?	20	100	12	60	20	100

of 20, gave as their judgements that the demonstration practices currently being used by IVS project were effective. Five trainees stated that those practices were very effective, while only one individual in training reported that those practices were less effective.

TABLE XII

EXTENSION TRAINEES' RESPONSES AS TO SUCCESS OF THE IVS PROJECT DEMONSTRATION PRACTICES

Items of Responses	Number of Responses					
	Less Effective		Effective		Very Effective	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Effectiveness of demonstration practices	1	5	14	70	5	25
	More Plots Needed		More Workers Needed		Better Method Needed	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Improvement suggested for demonstration	11	55	4	20	5	25

When trainees were requested to respond as to how the demonstration practices could be improved, 14 suggested increasing the number of plots,

four suggested the use of more workers in demonstration work, and five suggested future improvements through use of better methods, largely less dependence on paper work.

Views and Judgements of the Local Extension Agents As To Rural Community Development Needs and the Relative Effectiveness of the IVS Project

Although some of the selected responding extension agents may not have been closely involved in the IVS project under study, their views and judgements were obtained as to rural community needs in general and the effectiveness of IVS project in particular. This group was composed of six local extension agents.

Data shown in Table XIII were collated based only on yes-no type responses of the extension agents as to selected items pertaining to rural community needs and development. Data show that 67 percent of respondents supported the workability of cooperative farming in their area. A similar percentage of respondents were also in favor of increased education to accomplish dietary changes needed for improving health conditions, and nutritional standard of the rural population. Respondents were unanimous in recommending rapid adoption of family planning for improving health and nutritional problems of the rural population. Furthermore, all of the respondents favored increased governmental help as a measure for improving health and nutritional conditions of the rural poor. It was also determined that all of the responding extension agents were familiar with agricultural and rural development programs of the IVS project.

One of the evaluative guidelines was to assess the quality of,

TABLE XIII

JUDGEMENTS OF THE LOCAL EXTENSION AGENTS AS TO SELECTED ITEMS PERTAINING TO RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Selected Items of Information	Yes		No	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Do you think that cooperative farming works in your area?	4	66.66	2	33.33
Do you suggest change in diets for improving health and nutrition of farmers in your area?	4	66.66	2	33.33
Do you suggest rapid family planning for improving health and nutrition of the farmers in your area?	6	100.00	0	0
Do you recommend increased government help for improving health and nutrition of farmers in your area?	6	100.00	0	0
Are you familiar with agricultural and rural development programs of IVS?	6	100.00	0	0

and extent to which, the stated purpose and objectives of the IVS project are being realized. Data shown in Table XIV were presented in an attempt to adequately report the extent to which major objectives of IVS project were realized as perceived by extension agents. Data presented in the table reveal the fact that the IVS project objective of increasing per capita income of rural people was to some extent realized as per judgements of the extension agents. The objective of increasing per acre crop yields, and furthering of adult education were reported to be somewhat satisfied by 83 percent of the responding agents. The objective of increasing family planning, improving farming methods, and introducing better food for rural people were judged to be partially satisfied, this reported by 67 percent of the respondents. Finally, the objective of improving health conditions of rural population was reported to be very much satisfied by the majority of the responding extension agents.

Data shown in Table XV were presented in an attempt to partially report the nature, extent and quality of training received by local extension trainees, and awareness of methods. Data in the table, along with other facts, reveal that 66 percent of the respondents feel that the students of local extension institute may be somewhat better trained, if they spend some time with IVS field workers. The majority of the respondents judged that the program activities of IVS were very good in terms of local needs for agricultural development. Fifty percent of the agents responded that the extension methods of the IVS project were unique whereas, the remaining fifty percent judged these methods to be of modern nature. However, no one reported that those methods were traditional.

TABLE XIV

JUDGEMENTS OF THE LOCAL EXTENSION AGENTS AS TO RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IVS PROJECT

Program Objectives/ Activity	Agents' Responses					
	Very Much		Some		Very Little	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Do you think that the following objectives of the IVS project are being satisfied?						
1. Increase crop yields	1	16.66	5	83.33	0	0
2. Increase per head income	0	0	6	100.00	0	0
3. Improve health conditions	4	66.66	2	33.33	0	0
4. Increase adult education	1	16.66	5	83.33	0	0
5. Increase family planning	1	16.66	4	66.66	1	16.66
6. Improve farming method	0	0	4	66.66	2	33.33
7. Introduce better food	0	0	4	66.66	2	33.33

TABLE XV

JUDGEMENTS OF THE EXTENSION AGENTS AS TO TRAINING AND PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IVS PROJECT

Questions Asked	Agents' Responses					
	Much Better		Some Better		Little Better	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Do you think that students of local AETI can be better trained if they spend some time with IVS field workers?	2	33.33	4	66.66	0	0

	Very Good		Alright		Little Use		None	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
If you are familiar with IVS project, please say how you feel about it.	4	66.66	2	33.33	0	0	0	0

	Traditional		Modern		Unique	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
What do you think about the extension methods of IVS project?	0	0	3	50.00	3	50.00

Data presented in Table XVI show that 50 percent of responding agents stated that the farmers were somewhat interested in adopting both crop-diversification and cooperative farming practices. Sixty-six percent of respondents stated that, in their judgements, farmers are very much interested in more education. Eighty-three percent of the agents reported that the villagers want to improve their health conditions through increased health education. The villagers were not reported as enthusiastic about the IVS program to improve village health through better diets, although this was affirmed to a degree by some of the agents interviewed.

Views and Comments of IVS Workers As To Progress and Prospects of IVS Village Development Training Program

Securing responses and comments from IVS workers was considered relevant in view of the study's larger goal of adequately assessing the current progress and future prospects of IVS work directed toward enhancing agricultural and rural development. Most of the responses were secured and tabulated through the use of a survey form which asked respondents to check their assessment by marking a scale of rating as shown in Figure 8.

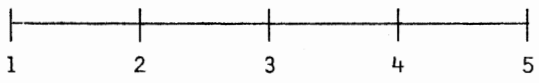


Figure 8. Rating Scale

TABLE XVI

RESPONSES OF THE LOCAL EXTENSION AGENTS TO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Questions Asked	Number of Responses					
	Very Much		Some		Very Little	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Are the farmers more interested in new varieties of crops?	1	16.66	3	50.00	2	33.33
Are the farmers interested in cooperative farming?	2	33.33	3	50.00	1	16.66
Are the farmers interested in more education?	4	66.66	2	33.33	0	0
Do the people of villages want to improve their health?						
(a) Through education	1	16.66	5	83.33	0	0
(b) Through medical care	3	50.00	2	33.33	1	16.66
(c) Through better diet	2	33.33	2	33.33	2	33.33
Are the village people interested in family planning?	3	50.00	2	33.33	1	16.66

Respondents were requested to answer certain selected questions in terms of the rating scale by choosing and marking one of the numerical values graduated from 1 through 5 on the rating scale. Higher numerical values were constituted to reflect a higher degree of positive response. The more important the item or higher the achievement, the higher was the numerical score for the respective item. Conversely, the less important the item or lower the achievement, the lower was the numerical value chosen and checked.

To obtain mean rating given by the IVS workers, calculations were made by determining an arithmetic mean of responses of each item. This was shown in each of the tables as average rating. For the sake of descriptive interpretation of each mean rating given, the following absolute numerical values were assumed as denoting certain selected descriptive terms as shown in Figure 9.

ABSOLUTE NUMERICAL VALUES	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS
1 through 1.49	Very poor/very low/very little
1.50 through 2.49	Poor/low/little
2.50 through 3.49	Average/moderate/considerable
3.50 through 4.49	Good/high/much
4.50 through 5.00	Very good/very high/very much

Figure 9. Descriptive Terms and Numerical Values of Rating Scale

The numerical value and/or average rating for each question was interpreted by use of an appropriate descriptive term felt related to the

nature and meaning of each question asked.

Data presented in Table XVII show that IVS workers indicated that both personal and group contacts as extension methods were highly effective in the project areas. Further, use of mass-media as a teaching method was not considered to be equally effective, this perhaps due to high rate of farmer's illiteracy.

When IVS workers were asked to evaluate the cropping dominance and production constraints among three selected patterns, (1) food cropping, (2) cash cropping, and (3) livestock farming; they marked food cropping as most dominant over cash crops and livestock while, dependence on food crops was recognized as a highly important constraint to production of other types of farming. These findings are shown in Table XVII.

Data presented in Table XVIII show the IVS workers appraisal of the true impact of certain perceived concerns.

In terms of the assessment made by the IVS workers regarding the constraints imposed through farmers' dependence upon cash crops, it is evident that both categories of respondents viewed this as a comparatively moderate constraint.

Data presented in Table XVIII show the IVS workers appraisal of perceived constraints on adoption of cooperative farming in the selected villages of the project area. As rated by IVS workers, such adoption was considered to be slightly constrained by adverse ideology and pressure group whereas, lack of education was a moderate constraint to adoption of cooperative farming by the farmers. Ratings were also given on selected measures of rural health improvement. Data indicate that diet improvement was considerably important as compared to health

TABLE XVII

RATING OF SELECTED ITEMS OF PROGRAM PLANNING AS GIVEN BY THE IVS WORKERS

Selected Items of Responses	Level of Importance 1	2	3	4	5	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Average Rating
Extension Methods								
Personal Contact	1	0	0	3	5	Expatriate	9	4.22
	1	0	1	2	7	Native	11	4.27
Group Contact	0	0	3	5	1	Expatriate	9	3.77
	0	1	2	6	2	Native	11	3.81
Mass Media	1	1	1	0	1	Expatriate	4	2.75
	1	1	2	1	0	Native	5	2.60
	Degree of Dominance 1	2	3	4	5	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Average Rating
Cropping Patterns								
Food Cropping	0	0	0	2	5	Expatriate	7	4.71
	0	0	0	2	7	Native	9	4.77
Cash Cropping	0	3	4	1	0	Expatriate	8	2.75
	0	3	3	2	0	Native	8	2.87
Livestock Farming	0	3	3	3	0	Expatriate	8	3.12
	0	3	3	3	1	Native	10	3.20
	Amount of Dependence 1	2	3	4	5	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Average Rating
Production Constraints								
Dependence on Food Crops	0	0	3	1	4	Expatriate	8	4.12
	0	1	1	3	6	Native	11	4.27
Dependence on Cash Crops	1	3	0	2	0	Expatriate	6	2.50
	2	3	2	3	0	Native	10	2.60
Dependence on Livestock	4	2	1	0	1	Expatriate	8	2.00
	5	2	2	2	0	Native	11	2.09

TABLE XVIII

THE RESPONSES OF IVS WORKERS TO CERTAIN SELECTED PROGRAMS AND CONCERNS RELATED TO THE IVS PROJECT

Selected Programs	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Severity of Constraints					Average Rating
			1	2	3	4	5	
Constraints to coop farming								
Adverse Ideology	Expatriate	5	2	1	1	1	0	2.20
	Native	11	2	2	3	3	0	2.45
Lack of Education	Expatriate	7	0	4	0	3	0	2.85
	Native	10	2	0	4	2	2	3.20
Influence of Pressure Group	Expatriate	7	3	2	1	1	0	2.00
	Native	11	4	3	3	1	0	2.09
	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Measure of Importance					Average Rating
			1	2	3	4	5	
Measures for rural health improvement								
Health Education	Expatriate	8	1	2	1	2	2	3.25
	Native	11	1	3	3	3	1	3.00
Medical Treatment	Expatriate	6	0	1	4	1	0	3.00
	Native	10	0	2	5	3	0	3.10
Diet Improvement	Expatriate	7	0	1	2	1	3	3.85
	Native	11	0	2	3	2	4	3.72

education and medical treatment in improving health conditions of rural people.

Responses evaluating the villagers' concern for health were gathered in terms of percentages. As shown in Table XIX, 78 percent of expatriate workers respondents stated that the rural people do not care for their health, while 22 percent of native workers said that those people are, at least, careful of their health. When these responses are separated according to category, it is evident that in the view of expatriates the rural people are decidedly more careless of their health than is the view of native co-workers. Consequently, more of the co-worker respondents feel that the villagers are at least "careful."

TABLE XIX

RESPONSES OF THE IVS WORKERS AS TO VILLAGERS' ATTITUDES CONCERNING HEALTH

Villager's Concerns for Health	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Percent by Category	Percent of the Total
No Care	Expatriate	7	77.77	35.00
	Native	6	54.54	30.00
Careful	Expatriate	2	22.22	10.00
	Native	4	36.36	20.00
Attentive	Expatriate	0	9.09	5.00
	Native	1		
Serious	Expatriate	0	0.00	0.00
	Native	0	0.00	0.00

The IVS workers also made their ratings on the nutritional problem of the rural poor. This has been shown in Table XX. The data show that the IVS workers considered lack of health care, and inadequate food as highly contributing factors to malnutrition and undernutrition of rural people. These respondents suggested that the dieting education and increased supply of food will act as important practices for improving nutritional problems of rural poor. Increased governmental subsidies was however rated as slightly important in that case.

Views and comments of IVS workers about farmers' attitudes toward adoption of new varieties and cooperative farming were recorded in Table XXI. Data show that 89 percent of expatriate and 82 percent of native workers reported that farmers' attitudes are encouraging for adoption of new improved varieties of crops. However, farmers' attitude toward cooperative farming was reported to be encouraging only by 50 percent of respondents whereas, 25 percent reported that the farmers have negative attitude in this regard. Both categories of the IVS workers, expatriate and native co-workers said that they recognized that farmers' attitudes toward cooperative farming was 'encouraging.' However, the expatriates, as a group, were more inclined to this judgement than were native workers with percentages of choice for this expression being 55.55 and 45.45 percent respectively.

Table XXII was developed to show IVS workers responses as to role effectiveness of the local Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) staffs and government extension workers. As indicated by findings in the table, all of the expatriates and 91% of the native workers reported that the present roles being played by the local

TABLE XX

RESPONSES OF THE IVS WORKERS TO CERTAIN NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL PEOPLE

Reasons for Undernutrition and Malnutrition	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Amount of Contribution					Average Rating
			1	2	3	4	5	
Lack of Health Care	Expatriate	9	0	0	3	3	3	4.00
	Native	11	0	0	4	4	3	3.90
Inadequate Food	Expatriate	9	0	0	2	4	3	4.11
	Native	11	0	0	4	3	4	4.00
Lack of Government Help	Expatriate	9	0	0	5	4	0	3.44
	Native	11	0	0	3	4	4	4.09

Measure for Improving Nutritional Standard	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Extent of Development					Average Rating
			1	2	3	4	5	
Dieting Education	Expatriate	9	1	2	0	5	1	3.33
	Native	10	1	2	1	4	2	3.40
Increased Food	Expatriate	8	1	2	3	2	0	2.75
	Native	11	1	2	2	4	2	3.38
Increased Subsidies	Expatriate	8	2	3	2	0	0	2.37
	Native	10	2	3	1	2	2	2.90

TABLE XXI

THE IVS WORKERS' RESPONSES AS TO FARMERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD ADOPTION OF NEW VARIETIES AND COOPERATIVE FARMING PATTERNS

Farmers' Attitudes To Adoption of New Varieties	Category of Respondents	Number of Responses	Percent of Category	Percent of the Total
Adverse	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00
Discouraging	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00
Encouraging	Expatriate	8	88.88	40.00
	Native	9	81.81	45.00
Promising	Expatriate	1	11.11	5.00
	Native	2	18.18	10.00

Farmers' Attitudes Toward Cooperative Farming	Category of Respondents	Number of Responses	Percent of Category	Percent of the Total
Negative	Expatriate	2	22.22	10.00
	Native	3	27.27	15.00
Adverse	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	2	18.18	10.00
Neutral	Expatriate	1	11.11	5.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00
Encouraging	Expatriate	5	55.55	25.00
	Native	5	45.45	25.00
Positive	Expatriate	1	11.11	5.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00

TABLE XXII

THE IVS WORKERS' RESPONSES AS TO ROLE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL IRDP AND EXTENSION PERSONNEL

Role of the IRDP Personnel	Category of Respondents	Number of Responses	Percent of Category	Percent of the Total
Needs Improvement	Expatriate	9	100.00	45.00
	Native	10	90.90	50.00
Adequate	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	1	9.09	5.00
Excellent	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native			
Outstanding	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00

Role of Extension Personnel	Category of Respondents	Number of Responses	Percent of Category	Percent of the Total
Needs Improvement	Expatriate	9	100.00	45.00
	Native	11	100.00	55.00
Adequate	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00
Excellent	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00
Outstanding	Expatriate	0	00.00	00.00
	Native	0	00.00	00.00

IRDP staffs for rural community development are not adequate and need improvement. Similar evaluations were also made in case of roles played by local extension workers. As shown by data, all of the responding IVS workers, both native and expatriates, reported that the roles being played by local extension workers need to be improved.

Finally, evaluations of the IVS workers were secured on certain selected problem areas of agriculture and rural development which may need future attention. Data shown in Table XXIII interestingly indicate that nearly all of the selected problem areas were rated only as moderately important in terms of future attention needed. Substantiating other findings, lack of qualified extension workers and low productivity in agriculture were considered as items deserving much attention for development in the future.

When responses of individuals making up each of the two categories of workers were compared, the only notable differences were in the items (1) slow progress in family planning and (2) inadequate foreign assistance. In the case of the problem of slow progress in family planning, the expatriates recognized this as a greater problem than did the native workers, while the reverse was true for the matter of inadequate foreign assistance. As revealed by data, the native workers were reportedly more in favor of increased foreign assistance than were expatriates.

In terms of the total survey, comparisons made between responses of expatriates and native workers, in general the responses are quite similar. In addition to the differences mentioned immediately above, only in two other cases, (1) assessment of the constraints imposed through farmers' dependence upon cash crops, and (2) the view that

TABLE XXIII

RATINGS GIVEN BY THE IVS WORKERS ON CERTAIN PROBLEM AREAS NEEDING ATTENTION

Selected Problems	Category of Workers	Number of Responses	Rate of Attention Needed					Average Rating
			1	2	3	4	5	
Lack of Adequate Extension Work	Expatriate	9	0	3	1	4	1	3.33
	Native	11	1	3	2	3	2	3.18
Lack of Qualified Extension Workers	Expatriate	9	0	1	2	5	2	3.66
	Native	11	0	1	4	3	3	3.72
Low Productivity in Agriculture	Expatriate	9	0	1	3	2	3	3.77
	Native	11	0	1	4	3	3	3.72
Slow Progress in Family Planning	Expatriate	9	3	0	0	2	4	3.44
	Native	11	3	1	2	3	2	3.00
Introducing Cooperative Farming	Expatriate	9	1	2	2	2	2	3.22
	Native	11	1	3	3	3	1	3.00
Ineffective Rural Development Program	Expatriate	9	1	2	2	3	1	3.11
	Native	11	1	2	2	5	1	3.27
Inadequate Foreign Assistance	Expatriate	9	2	2	1	1	3	3.11
	Native	11	0	1	2	4	4	4.00

villagers were decidedly very careless of their health, were these additional substantial differences.

Views and Judgements of the Selected Administrative and Supervisory Officials with Regard To Progress and Effectiveness of the IVS Project

The importance of obtaining some measure of the assessment of the IVS project was borne out by the fact that the project being evaluated is jointly funded and supervised by a number of coordinating agencies with 70 percent of the total funding from USAID. It may be pointed out that only a few projects do have such joint funding from both charitable non-profit organization and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

On May 14, 1979 the researcher's major adviser, Dr. Robert Price, participated in a conference with six members of the AID Mission, Bangladesh; the Director and Administrator of the IVS, Bangladesh; and the Deputy Director of the global IVS program, Washington, D.C., USA. This conference was one of a series of conferences, several having been held prior to the time of this meeting. A portion of the time of the conference was devoted to discussing a report recently requested by AID Bangladesh officials and submitted by the IVS Bangladesh Director on behalf of the entire organization. One issue which apparently continued to be of some concern, especially to the AID officials, was that this particular project appeared to have two separate major objectives, (1) rural and community development, and (2) training programs for agricultural extension as well as IRDP workers.

There had apparently been some reluctance to recognize that these two objectives might be treated as interdependent. However, as discussion, particularly that centered on the recent report from the IVS continued, a concensus was apparent to the effect that the two objectives were mutually dependent, but that the provision of such a training program might emerge as the most important single objective. During the conference the following conclusions appeared to be clearly acknowledged by the AID officials.

1. Programs directed specifically to agricultural improvement were evaluated as very effective,

2. Programs in health and nutrition were assessed as effective,

3. Programs in family planning were viewed as only being somewhat effective,

4. Programs of training for future extension and IRDP workers was given full approval, but the officials felt that it should be carefully monitored and reports made quarterly, because the program was new and innovative and did not fully fit the traditional pattern of AID development projects.

The researcher's major adviser, the Deputy Director of Global IVS programs, and the Director of IVS, Bangladesh,and the Deputy Director of IRDP, Bangladesh, met on May 13, 1979 with Mr. Mohammedulla, the Deputy Commissioner for the District of Sylhet and discussed the objectives of the project and progress being made. Salient points of this interview were:

1. In the main, the Commissioner gave enthusiastic endorsement to the project.

2. The commissioner raised the question as to whether the present

IRDP officials were in constant contact with the project and particularly if they shared in occasional planning meetings with the IVS staff.

3. Further endorsement by the commissioner was implied, largely dependent upon periodic review of progress being made by 'graduates' of the 'apprenticeship program' run by the IVS, Sylhet.

On the morning of May 12, 1979 the researcher's major adviser, the Deputy Director of Global IVS Programs, the Director and the Co-Director of IVS Bangladesh met with the Deputy Director of IRDP and the District Extension Officer in Sylhet. Briefly the following points were agreed upon:

1. The IVS co-workers should take special care to relate closely to the apprenticeship programs of extension trainees. They should spend more time counselling with them, both individually as well as collectively.

2. The IVS workers and co-workers should agree to evaluation of each trainee and provide a written report which could be used by the placement officials.

3. All participants in this conference were agreed to the fact that the IVS program was making good progress.

Apart from the views and judgements of the selected administrative and supervisory officials, the views and comments of a review team (70) from Global IVS headquarters were also secured in connection with appraisal of the IVS project. This review team, assigned by the International Voluntary Services Inc. made a trip to Bangladesh to make an evaluation of the IVS project now in operation in Sylhet. Dr. Robert Price, the major adviser for this research study was one of a two-member evaluation team with Mr. Dwight Swartzendruber, the Deputy

Director of the Global IVS programs as the other member. Capsulating their report, Table XXIV was prepared. As shown in the table, a numerical score was given for each of the four selected criteria used in evaluating the IVS project.

TABLE XXIV

SUMMARY OF REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION FINDINGS ON SUITABILITY OF THE IVS PROJECT

Evaluating Criteria of the Review Team	Maximum Score	Score Given By the Team
Villagers are substantially involved in planning and implementation of the project	100	80
The project is designed to be as compatible as possible with local culture, customs, values and aspirations	100	90
In terms of technological change, careful consideration is given to the introduction of only those ideas and practices which are appropriate and promote the welfare of the people as a whole	100	95
Major attention is given to local leadership development in order that as quickly as possible the program may be totally administered and operated by the native workers in as democratic a manner as may prove feasible in the country of Bangladesh	100	85

Source: Review Team Evaluation Report (70, p. 4).

Data in the table indicate that the two members of the review team

concluded that all of the evaluating criteria were adequately satisfied. Assuming that even a numerical score of 80 can be considered as adequate, it would appear that three of the four criteria considered had been achieved to a more than adequate degree.

Comparative Views and Judgements of Selected Categories of Respondents As To Present Problems and Future Prospects of IVS Project

A comparison of views and judgements of selected categories of respondents draws a logical conclusion to this study's findings. Although the amount of comparative data was very limited in our survey instruments, attempts were made to find out certain category of responses common to more than one group of respondents.

Data in Table XXV were collated in order to have a better basis of the views and judgements of three categories of respondents, specifically, those referring to the adoption of crop-diversification practices within IVS project area were presented. These data show that 86 percent of responding farmers, 90 percent of responding extension trainees and 78 percent of responding supervisory officials were in favor of crop diversification practices being included in the IVS educational program. Obviously, over 77 percent of the individuals comprising the three categories supported crop diversification practice as a major emphasis for the IVS project area.

TABLE XXV

THE COMPARATIVE RESPONSES OF THREE CATEGORY RESPONDENTS TO ADOPTION OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION PRACTICES

Categories of Selected Respondents	Favors		Disfavors	
	Number of Respondents	Percent of Total	Number of Respondents	Percent of Total
Fifty Farmers	43	86.00	7	14.00
Twenty Extension Trainees	18	90.00	2	10.00
Nine Supervisory Officers	7	77.77	2	22.22

When a comparison of responses of individuals comprising each of the four categories is made with regard to affirming the IVS approach to introducing cooperative farming, a different pattern of responses is revealed. Findings previously shown in Table V reveal that only 42 percent of the farmers favored this concept of introducing cooperative farming in their own enterprises. In stark contrast, 60 percent of the extension trainees, 67 percent of the supervisory officials as well as extension agents were in favor of the introduction of cooperative farming for the farmers as advanced by IVS workers in their program. This is shown by the data in Table XXVI.

One of the most important findings of this study is presented in Table XXVII. This table contrasts responses from the four category groups as to total program effectiveness of the IVS project. It is

interesting to note that in each of two groups, farmers and extension agents, 66 percent of respondents felt that the IVS programs were very useful for agricultural and rural development. Also, no respondent in either of these groups judged the IVS programs as not useful. Data presented in the table further show that 95 percent of trainees and 100 percent supervisory officers judged the IVS programs as either useful or very useful for farmers. Only one individual, this a trainee, responded that IVS programs are not useful.

TABLE XXVI

THE COMPARATIVE RESPONSES OF FOUR CATEGORY RESPONDENTS TO TO INTRODUCTION OF COOPERATIVE FARMING

Categories of Selected Respondents	Favors		Disfavors	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Fifty Farmers	21	42.00	29	58.00
Twenty Extension Trainees	12	60.00	8	40.40
Nine Supervisory Officers	6	66.66	3	33.33
Six Extension Agents	4	66.66	2	33.33

TABLE XXVII

THE COMPARATIVE RESPONSES OF FOUR CATEGORY RESPONDENTS TO PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS OF IVS PROJECT IN BANGALDESH

Categories of Selected Respondents	Not Useful		Useful		Very Useful		Most Useful	
	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total	Number of Responses	Percent of Total
Fifty Farmers	0	0.00	8	16.00	33	66.00	9	18.00
Twenty Extension Trainees	1	5.00	14	70.00	5	25.00	0	00.00
Nine Supervisory Officers	0	0.00	7	77.77	2	33.33	0	00.00
Six Extension Agents	0	0.00	2	33.33	4	66.66	0	00.00

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings

The fundamental purpose of this study was to accomplish an appraisal of the International Voluntary Services project directed toward agricultural and rural community development and presently operating in some selected villages of Bangladesh. In order to accomplish this purpose, certain specific objectives were formulated to better direct and guide research efforts. Findings and observations of the research with respect to first three objectives are presented in Chapter III and summarized beginning on page 82.

The findings related to first three objectives, and resulted from an extensive review of literature should verify certain important facts concerning (1) General agricultural and rural community, (2) Programs and problems of agricultural and rural development, (3) Population growth, food and nutrition, (4) Economic conditions, rural income and poverty and (5) Experiences of agricultural and rural community development models now being operated in Bangladesh.

The fourth and over-riding objective of this study was to collect, tabulate, analyze and interpret the views and judgements of selected respondents with regard to observed progress and effectiveness of the

IVS project to date. These views and judgements were collected through use of 'questionnaires' and personal 'interviews.' These findings are:

Data show that a majority of the farmers are interested in and responsive to IVS programs directed to agricultural and rural community development. Farmers were found to be highly responsive to IVS advisory services for improving their health conditions, dietary habits and nutritional standards. Farmers reported that the IVS programs were very useful for them.

Data and information reveal that most of the extension trainees were highly satisfied with the training program conducted by IVS project. Seventy percent of the responding trainees also reported that the IVS demonstration practices were effective for farmers.

As revealed by data, a good majority of local extension agents reported that IVS program activities are 'very good' in terms of rural community needs and developments. Most of the responding agents suggested that the local extension trainees can be better trained if they spend some time with IVS field workers during their pre-service training program. These agents also reported that the IVS project objectives of improving farming methods, increasing family planning and introducing better diets for rural people are 'partially' satisfied whereas, the objective of furthering adult education, and increasing per acre crop yields were reported to be 'somewhat' satisfactory in the IVS project area.

Views and judgements of the IVS workers were collected in terms of current progress and future prospects of the IVS project. Data reveal that both personal and group contact methods of extension education are considered highly effective whereas use of mass media as a method

did not work nearly as well in the project area, perhaps, mainly due to a very high rate of illiteracy.

Workers reported that cultivation of food crops is most dominant in the IVS project area and poses a highly important constraint to production of cash crops and livestock. Respondents further reported that the rural people basically do not care much about their health, and the resultant lack of health care coupled with inadequate supply of food were highly contributing factors in malnutrition and under-nutrition of rural people. Measures designed for diet improvement, and diet education were therefore suggested as important for improving nutritional quality of living for the rural poor. Finally, IVS workers also made an important suggestion for improving the roles presently being played by the local IRDP staffs, and extension workers engaged in agricultural and rural development activities in and around the IVS project areas.

The views and judgements of supervisory officials, both local and expatriate, were also secured for appraising effectiveness of the IVS project. Data reveal that most of these respondents appreciated the role being played by the IVS project workers, and they recommended further continuation of the IVS project in an expanded manner.

Conclusions

The fifth objective of the study was to draw conclusions as to the applicability of efforts expended and the expediency of the work aimed toward accomplishment of goals and objectives of the International Voluntary Services project in Bangladesh. In the light of findings and observations, the following major conclusions can be made:

The foremost conclusion to be drawn concerning this study is that the IVS project does constitute a very favorable model for future consideration in agricultural and community development in Bangladesh.

The inescapable conclusion emerging from the findings of the research is that the IVS project has essentially added a new dimension to the traditional approach for agricultural and rural community development in Bangladesh. Data and information reveal as a mark of importance the proposition that the 'IVS model' breaks down the institutional heirarchy of whereby the tendency to skew attention and services to larger farmers over the small and landless ones often gained ascendance. Findings of the survey adequately justify further expansion and future continuation of the IVS project as a potential model for agricultural and rural development.

Conclusions based specifically upon findings of the survey must include the observation that the majority of the farmers are interested in and responsive to IVS development training programs. Data show that most of the farmers are responsive to IVS advisory services for improving their health conditions, diet habits and family nutritional quality. A good majority of farmers reported that IVS programs were very useful for them.

Data reveal that most of the local extension trainees who are undergoing pre-service training programs with IVS workers reported that they are highly satisfied with the nature and quality of training experiences received through the IVS project. The trainees also judged IVS demonstration practices as effective for farmers.

A good majority of extension agents reported that the IVS program activities are very good in terms of meeting rural community needs and

continuing development. Most of these respondents further reported that the IVS project objectives of improving rural farming methods, increasing family planning, and introducing better diets for rural people were being partially satisfied whereas, the objectives of furthering adult education, and increasing per acre crop yields were reported to be somewhat satisfactory in the IVS project area.

Interpretation of the views secured from IVS workers reveals that the farmers' illiteracy was a deterrent factor for effectively implementing 'mass media' method of extension education. These workers reported that the farmers are more interested in production of food crops than that of cash crops or livestock . Farmers were reported to be very much less careful of their health, and this lack of health care coupled with inadequate supply of food were highly contributing to malnutrition and undernutrition of rural people.

The IVS workers further reported that the roles presently being played by the local IRDP personnel and the extension workers were not adequate and need improvements. It can be assumed that this response might have come about largely due to observations by the IVS workers as well as co-workers that such personnel did not have as close a relationship with farmers and villagers as may be deemed desirable.

A final judgement was made by a group of supervisory officials who were involved in the IVS project. As revealed by data, most of these officials were appreciative about the role performance of IVS workers, and judged the IVS programs as useful for rural community development in Bangladesh.

Recommendations

A final objective of this study was to make certain recommendations regarding possible potential for using the IVS project as a model for future efforts in integrated agriculture and rural community development in Bangladesh. Based upon the findings and conclusions drawn from the research conducted through the survey and a very extensive study of literature, the following recommendations are posited.

1. A majority of the responding farmers were favorably impressed with the nature and extent of the IVS demonstration practices and advisory services. This should definitely influence future plans for providing such services to villagers and farmers. These farmers indicated that in their judgements the nature and quality of the IVS demonstration work was such as to justify a substantial increase in the present strength of the IVS workers, this to result in the establishment of more demonstration plots for showing improved methods of agricultural and rural development activities. On this basis, it is strongly recommended that the number of the IVS demonstration plots be increased to expand services to more villages and to involve more local cooperating farmers and villagers.

2. The use of 'mass media' was judged to be the least effective of the several methods employed in the IVS project. The most probable reason for such a phenomenon might be attributable to widespread illiteracy among rural people. Keeping this in view, it is definitely recommended that even more emphasis be given to the facet of adult education in IVS programs. For use in adult education, publications of bulletins such as "Rice Culture" and "Growing Ducks in Bangladesh"

should prove profitable in the teaching effort in the literacy programs being offered to the villagers.

3. Perhaps the most unique feature distinguishing the IVS project from other efforts in village development, is the operation of a field laboratory or apprenticeship training program as a valuable part of training received by tyro extension students in local training institutes. As a matter of fact, the effectiveness of the performance of extension workers has been often said to be more clearly associated with the nature, extent and maintenance of programs and facilities experienced in training than to any other factor. Unfortunately, these facilities are too often very limited in terms of meeting the actual needs of training in Bangladesh. It is therefore recommended that as rapidly as possible local extension training centers adopt a system of apprentice village and field training closely patterned after the IVS system approach.

4. It would seem of considerable importance that the IVS workers and co-workers both tended to feel that the work being done and roles being played by the local IRDP and the Agricultural Extension Directorate personnel are not adequate in terms of meeting the present needs for agricultural and rural development, at least in the IVS project area. It can be assumed that this response might have come about largely due to observations by the IVS workers as well as co-workers that such personnel did not have as close a relationship with farmers and villagers as may be deemed desirable.

First, it is to be strongly recommended that the field training experience provided to local trainees be structured to place more emphasis upon "person-to-person" relationships between extension

personnel and villagers. Second, it is likewise strongly recommended that a series of seminars and workshops be implemented for the local extension field workers and supervisors in which the IVS workers and co-workers can share their experiences in a more "people oriented" approach to village and rural development.

5. A close analysis of the IVS project reveals the fact that although this project is, in many respects, designed as similar to the Comilla model, perhaps, a significant difference in its approach can be recognized. This, rather a salient departure from a traditional rural village development approach is that the IVS project is decidedly more directed to the grass-roots level of agricultural and rural life as it occurs in the villages. Institutionalization of local leadership and public awareness towards self-help is more clearly established in the present structure of the IVS project.

It is therefore strongly recommended that this, as a unique characterization of the IVS project, needs be carefully studied and whenever and wherever feasible be instituted in the "Comilla" type or in any other traditional system for rural and village development now occurring in Bangladesh.

6. In view of the many resource constraints now prevailing in Bangladesh, the role being played and contribution being made by the IVS project would seem to have added a new dimension in the field of integrated rural development programs in Bangladesh. The approach being made by the IVS project, both theoretically and to a large degree practically, would seem to be an excellent design to eventually contribute toward accomplishment of massive rural welfare.

In considering this broad perspective of the work, funding avail-

able for the operation of the IVS project does not seem to be adequately sound for continuing progress. It is therefore recommended that more funding support be made available for the IVS project through the USAID and other contributing agencies.

7. Somewhat contrary to the rather widely accepted view that cooperative farming is a successful feature of programs in the developing nations, and that aid in this endeavor is readily sought by farmers, are the findings of this study. Since over one-half of the farmers interviewed did not favor cooperative farming for their own enterprises, it would seem almost imperative to give this negative response due consideration in recommendations made.

First, it would seem highly desirable that the IRDP officials, who administer cooperative farming programs, be made more fully aware that many farmers are ideologically adversive to adoption of cooperative farming. Secondly, the close relationship which appears to exist between the IVS workers and local farmers could very well make it possible for the local farmers to gain a more complete understanding of the benefits to be derived from cooperative farming. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that all the IVS workers and co-workers be fully informed about policies and benefits of cooperative farming which the government of Bangladesh seeks to implement and maintain.

8. Finally, the views and judgements secured from all of the five categories of respondents bear testimony to the fact that the present work plan, program, and activities of the IVS project have been adequately designed as an effective means for making what may well be termed as a 'break-through' in the existing nature and quality of rural and village life. Data, both from the survey and review of

literature, also provide evidence that most of the program objectives of the IVS project are being adequately satisfied in the selected villages of Bangladesh.

It may therefore be recommended that the IVS project now being operated in Bangladesh should receive favorable attention from all corners for its further expansion and future continuation as a potential model for agricultural and rural community development in Bangladesh.

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APPENDIX A

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

Study of Agricultural & Rural Development Programs
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Sylhet in Bangladesh

Questionnaire for Sample Survey

(Schedule I for Farmers)

1. Do you go to see demonstration plots of IVS project worker? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) If yes, please give your reasons.

   for fun ( ) for interest ( ) for learning ( ) other ( )

   (b) If not, please state why not.

   no time ( ) too far ( ) not useful ( ) other ( )

   Comments:

2. Do you think that IVS worker can help you with better methods of producing food?

   little ( ) very little ( ) much ( ) very much ( )

   Comments:

3. Do you want to grow many crops in one season? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) If yes, what is your reason?

   more food ( ) more profit ( ) more skills ( ) other ( )

   (b) If not, please say why not?

   less land ( ) less credit ( ) less profit ( ) other ( )

4. Did you get some new and better varieties of crops from IVS program? Yes ( ) No ( )

   Comments:

5. Do you like cooperative farming? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) If yes, why do you like it?

   better profit ( ) better skills ( ) other ( )

   (b) If not, say why not please.

   less interest ( ) less profit ( ) less skills ( ) other ( )

6. Do you take any advice from IVS worker on your family health and nutrition? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) If yes, what type?

   family planning ( ) food habit ( ) diseases ( ) other ( )

   (b) If not, why not?

   not good ( ) not useful ( ) not practical ( ) other ( )

7. What do you think about IVS program?

   not useful ( ) useful ( ) very useful ( ) most useful ( )

8. Additional comments, if any.

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Sylhet in Bangladesh

Questionnaire for Sample Survey

(Schedule II for Extension Trainees)

1. Do you take active part in extension programs of IVS project? Yes ( ) No ( )

2. What role do you play in extension programs?

   personal contact ( ) group contact ( ) miscellaneous ( )

   Comments:

3. How many contacts do you make per day?

   only one ( ) less than five ( ) more than five ( )

4. How do you best motivate the farmers?

   by words ( ) by papers ( ) by work ( )

5. What do you think about the demonstration practices of IVS programs?

   less effective ( ) effective ( ) very effective ( )

   Comments:

6. What is your idea about the response of the farmers to IVS demonstration work?

   very little ( ) little ( ) much ( ) very much ( )

   Comments:

7. What kind of improvement would you suggest for future demonstration work of this project?

more number ( ) more worker ( ) better method ( )

Comments:

8. Is crop diversification necessary for the farmers of your area? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) What crops are being grown in your area?

   (b) What new crops would you suggest?

9. Do you want new varieties of crops for your own area of work? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) What new varieties would you suggest?

   (b) What are the advantages of new varieties?

10. Can cooperative farming work well in your area? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) If yes, state your reason.

   (b) If no, what are the problems?

11. What measures do you suggest for improving health and nutrition of farmers?

	Yes	No
(a) change in dietary habits	( )	( )
(b) rapid adoption of family planning	( )	( )
(c) government food subsidies	( )	( )

12. How do you evaluate the program of IVS for agriculture and rural development?

less effective ( ) effective ( ) very effective ( )

13. Please make additional comments, if any.

Study of Agricultural & Rural Development Programs
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Sylhet in Bangladesh

Questionnaire for Sample Survey

(Schedule III for Extension Agents)

1. To what extent do you believe that the extension work is helping the farmers and the village people to be more successful?

very much	much	little	very little
( )	( )	( )	( )

2. Is crop diversification beneficial to the farmers?

much	some	little
( )	( )	( )

3. What new crops would you suggest? List three or four (put in order).

1. 2.

3. 4.

4. Do you feel new varieties should be planted by farmers? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) What new varieties do you suggest?

   (b) What are the advantages of these new varieties?

5. Do you think that cooperative farming works well in this area? Yes ( ) No ( )

   (a) If yes, state your reason:

   (b) If not, what are the problems?

6. What measures do you suggest for improving health and nutrition of the farmers in this area?

	Yes	No
(a) change in diets	( )	( )
(b) rapid family planning	( )	( )
(c) increased government help	( )	( )

Please make additional comments if you want.

7. Do you think that the items listed below may keep food production low?

	very much	some	very little
(a) growing food crops	( )	( )	( )
(b) growing cash crops	( )	( )	( )
(c) growing livestock	( )	( )	( )

8. Are the farmers interested in new varieties of crops? Please mark one.

very much	some	very little
( )	( )	( )

9. Are the farmers interested in cooperative farming?

very much	some	very little
( )	( )	( )

10. Do you think that the farmers are interested in more education?

very much	some	very little
( )	( )	( )

11. Do you think that the people of the villages want to improve their health?

	very much	some	very little
(a) through education	( )	( )	( )
(b) through medical care	( )	( )	( )
(c) through better food as diet	( )	( )	( )

12. Do you think that the people of these villages are interested in family planning?

very much	some	very little
( )	( )	( )

13. Are you familiar with the agricultural and rural development programs of IVS?

Yes	No
( )	( )

14. If you are familiar with the above project, please say how you feel about it.

very good	alright	little use	none
( )	( )	( )	( )

(a) If you feel very good aobut the IVS project, please state your reasons.

(b) If you feel that the IVS project is of little use, please tell why this is so.

15. What do you think about the extension methods of IVS project? Please mark one below.

traditional	modern	unique
( )	( )	( )

(a) If you feel that the IVS extension practices are unique, please say your reason for such a feeling.

(b) If you think that the IVS method of extension work is traditional in nature, please explain.

16. Do you think that the following objectives of IVS project are being satisfied?

	very much	some	very little
(a) increase crop yields	( )	( )	( )
(b) increase per head income	( )	( )	( )
(c) improve health conditions	( )	( )	( )
(d) increase adult education	( )	( )	( )
(e) increase use of family planning	( )	( )	( )
(f) improve farming methods	( )	( )	( )
(g) introduce better food	( )	( )	( )

17. Do you think that the students of the AETI may be better trained if they spend some time with IVS field workers?

much better	some better	little better
( )	( )	( )

Study of Agricultural & Rural Development Programs
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Sylhet in Bangladesh

Questionnaire for Sample Survey

(Schedule IV for IVS Workers)

Please respond to the following questions either by checking the appropriate ( ) or placing a circle around the digit which best expresses your judgement or evaluation. Use the digit 5 to show the highest rating.

1. What are the different extension methods more commonly used in IVS programs?

individual contact	group method	mass media
( )	( )	( )

Other comments:

2. What do you consider the importance of these methods in your project area? Please rate.

personal contact	group contact	mass media
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

3. What percent of the target farmer's group usually attend method demonstration practices?

less than 20	21 to 40	41 to 60	61 to 80
( )	( )	( )	( )

4. How would you rate the job done by the local extension workers in carrying out assignments in the IVS project?

needs improvement	adequate	excellent	outstanding
( )	( )	( )	( )

5. In terms of crop technology rate the following you suggest for the project area.

food cropping: 1 2 3 4 5

cash cropping: 1 2 3 4 5

livestock farming: 1 2 3 4 5

6. Rate the items listed in terms you feel may be constraints on food production in the project area.

dependence on food crops: 1 2 3 4 5

dependence on cash crops: 1 2 3 4 5

dependence on livestock etc.: 1 2 3 4 5

7. Rate what you consider to be for adoption of new varieties.

food crops: 1 2 3 4 5

cash crops: 1 2 3 4 5

livestock: 1 2 3 4 5

8. How do you feel about the farmers' response to the adoption of new varieties and practices?

adverse ( ) discouraging ( ) encouraging ( ) promising ( )

9. What is the attitude of the farmers towards cooperative farming in the project area?

negative ( ) adverse ( ) neutral ( ) encouraging ( ) positive ( )

10. Rate each of the following items in terms of the possible constraints in which may apply to the adoption of cooperative endeavor in farming.

adverse ideology: 1 2 3 4 5

lack of education & training: 1 2 3 4 5

pressure group: 1 2 3 4 5

11. Rate the extent to which there exists a viable prospect for improving family health of the rural people in the project areas.

health education	medical treatment	diet improvement
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

12. Rate what you feel about the people's concern for improving their health.

no care	careful	attentive	serious	adament
( )	( )	( )	( )	( )

13. To what extent have the following practices been developed for improving the nutritional standard of the rural people?

dieting education	food supplies	food subsidies
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

14. Rate the following items as major factors contributing to low nutritional standard of the rural people.

lack of health care	inadequate food	lack of government support for balanced food
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

15. What is the percent rate of people's adoption to family planning programs in the project area?

less than 25	25 to 50	51 to 75	75 and above
( )	( )	( )	( )

16. How could you rate the role of IRDP in your project area?

needs improvement	adequate	excellent	outstanding
( )	( )	( )	( )

Comments:

17. How could you rate the role and efficiency of the local extension department in the project area?

needs improvement	adequate	excellent	outstanding
( )	( )	( )	( )

Comments:

18. Please rank the following as per scale indicated.

Problem areas	Rate of attention needed
(a) lack of adequate extension work	0 1 2 3 4 5
(b) lack of adequate extension workers	0 1 2 3 4 5
(c) low productivity in agriculture	0 1 2 3 4 5
(d) slow progress of family planning programs	0 1 2 3 4 5
(e) introduction of cooperative farming	0 1 2 3 4 5
(f) ineffective rural development programs	0 1 2 3 4 5
(g) inadequate foreign assistance	0 1 2 3 4 5

APPENDIX B

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY · STILLWATER

Department of Agricultural Education
(405) 624-5129

74074

August 9, 1979

Mr. A.Z.M. Obaidulla Khan
Secretary for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Government of Bangladesh
Dacca

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am pleased to write you with regard to the research being carried out by Mr. A.K. Ferdous Choudhury, Agricultural Economist in the Division of Planning and Evaluation of your Ministry; and currently a doctoral candidate at this University. I am very enthusiastic about the progress being made by Mr. Choudhury in his study, "An Appraisal of An Agricultural and Rural Development Program in the Sylhet District of Bangladesh as Organized by International Voluntary Services".

In May of this year it was my privilege to visit your fine country and review certain projects in the Sylhet area. It is my conclusion that the "grassroots approach" being carried out there holds great promise as a model which could prove quite useful to future efforts in development.

Continuing to serve as major academic advisor to Mr. Choudhury, I certainly feel that we can assist him in completing a more detailed and fruitful study of this project. He occupies a most advantageous position in that he is well acquainted with the area being studied. We are also quite favorably impressed with his ability to organize and implement this type of investigation. His doctoral advisory committee is unanimous in their judgement that the study will be greatly enhanced by his personal visit to the project area to gather needed information and data firsthand. To secure the information would certainly seem to require a minimum of one month's time of strenuous study and application.

Any assistance which can be provided to Mr. Choudhury in his endeavor would seem to be fully merited. We would only respectfully ask that he may have your support as well as further suggestions for carrying the study to a successful completion.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Price
Professor and Head, Emeritus

RRP:ssa

ইন্টারন্যাশনাল ভলান্টারী সার্ভিসেস

International Voluntary Services, INC.

পত্র : পোঃ অঃ বক্স ৩৪৪
বাসা : ৩৫৩, সড়ক ২৭
ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা
টেলি : ৩১ ২৮ ৩০

MAIL-P. O. Box 344
HOUSE-353, Road 27
Dhanmandi, Dacca
Tel : 31 28 30
Cable : VOLSERV

15th September 1979

Mr. A.K.M. Ferdouse Choudhury,
C/o. Dr. Robert Price,
Dept. of Agricultural Education,
Oklahoma State University,
Stillwater,
Oklahoma - 74074, USA.

Dear Mr. Choudhury,

We are forwarding a copy of the 'Explanation of Budget' of Village Development Training Programme in Sylhet along with a copy of the Application for Registration submitted to the Government of Bangladesh by IVS in accordance with your request in your letter to our Director Dr. David French for printed materials on IVS's project in Sylhet. We hope that it will be helpful in your research work on Community Development.

We thank you for your interest in our Programme.

Please remember us to Dr. Dr. Price and convey our regards.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

(SULTANA KAMAL)
For Dr. David French, Country Director,
IVS, Bangladesh.

আন্তর্জাতিক ভলান্টারী সার্ভিস

International Voluntary Services, INC.

পত্র : পোঃ অঃ বক্স ৭০
বাসা : আম্বরখানা বাজার
সিলেট
টেলি : ২৯৮০

MAIL - P. O. Box 70
HOUSE - Amberkhana Bazar
Sylhet
Tel : 2983

14 JUNE '79

Dear Dr. Price,

The questionnaires that you had left with me could not be sent to you in time as I was seriously ill and had to be hospitalized for Appendisectomy. I stayed in the hospital for about 15 days and joined office after a long 25-day sick leave. But I hope that I will be able to send the questionnaires properly filled up with Dr. D.G. French who is supposed to be in Washington sometime during next month. I quite understand that you have been waiting very anxiously for preparing your observation report on the basis of the information collected by these questionnaires. I am extremely sorry for the undesired delay.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

(KAMAL AHMED CHOWDHRY)
Surveys and Report Writing
IVS, Sylhet.

APPENDIX C

STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT

TABLE XXVIII

STATISTICAL INFORMATION OF BANGLADESH
(SOME BASIC FEATURES)

1.	Geographical Location	Bangladesh lies in the North-Eastern Part of the South Asian Sub-Continent roughly between 20.30 and 26.45 North Latitude and 88.00 and 92.56 Longitude.
2.	Total Area -	55,598 Sq. miles or 143,998 Sq. K.m.
3.	Population: (a) Male 3,70,71,740 Female 3,44,07,331 Total 7,14,79,071(1974)	
	(b) Population under 15 Years of age	3,43,72,000
	(c) Rate of Population growth-	3.00%
	(d) Rural Population-	6,52,05,000
	Urban Population-	62,74,071
4.	Principal crops:	rice, jute, tea, tobacco, sugar cane, pulses, vegetables and oil seeds.
5.	Principal industries:	jute, textile, tea, paper.
6.	Life expectancy at birth:	48
7.	Per capita calorie intake per day:	urban- 1945(1973-4) rural- 1885 " "
8.	Per capita protein intake per day:	urban- 54.79 gr. (1973-4) rural- 50.23 gr. " "
9.	Language Spoken--	Bangla
10.	Independence day--	26th March, 1971
11.	Date of victory at Liberation War--	16th December, 1971

Source: Collected from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh.

TABLE XXIX

SECTORAL COMPOSITION OF GDP IN BANGLADESH
(PERCENTAGES)

Sector	1969-70	1975-76
Agriculture	61.4	58.8
Industry	8.3	7.1
Large	5.1	4.5
Small	3.2	2.6
Construction	4.6	3.5
Electricity & Gas	0.2	0.6
Transport	4.6	5.3
Trade	7.5	7.7
Housing	4.4	4.7
Administration	2.4	5.4
Banks and Insurance	0.5	0.7
Others	6.1	6.2
Total	100.00	100.00

Source: Bangladesh Planning Commission(37, p. 168).

TABLE XXX

RURAL-URBAN AND TOTAL POPULATION GROWTH (PERCENT)
IN DISTRICTS BY DENSITY

District by 1961 density	Percent growth 1961 to 1974		
	Rural	Urban	Total
HIGH DENSITY	28	152	37
Dacca	23.5	198.6	49.0
Comilla	31.1	77.5	32.6
Noakhali	34.7	102.6	35.7
Faridpur	27.2	48.4	27.7
Patuakhali	23.7	203.5	25.6
Barisal	27.5	44.1	28.0
Chittagong	30.6	143.0	44.7
MEDIUM DENSITY	40	114	42
Pabna	39.8	115.6	43.7
Tangail	34.6	359.5	39.8
Mymensingh	34.4	95.4	36.8
Rangpur	42.6	64.6	43.5
Bogra	40.7	76.3	41.7
Kushitia	56.6	147.4	61.5
LOW DENSITY	42	134	46
Jessore	48.8	139.9	51.9
Rajshahi	49.5	105.2	51.8
Sylhet	35.4	86.3	36.4
Dinajpur	50.0	57.6	50.3
Khulna	33.4	201.8	45.3
Chittagong Hill Tract	35.3	137.6	41

Source: Bangladesh Population Census, 1974, (37, p. 24).

TABLE XXXI

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF CEREALS, CALORIES AND PROTEIN OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS BY PER CAPITA MONTHLY INCOME IN BANGLADESH

Per capita monthly income (Taka)	Percent of survey population	Cereals (gm)	Calories	Protein (gm)
25	26.9	500	1987	55.5
25 - 49	36.9	510	1937	54.4
50 - 74	21.7	543	2199	61.8
75 - 99	8.3	586	2375	76.7
100+	6.2	576	2312	65.7
Correlation coefficient	-	+0.68	+0.78	+0.73

Source: Nutrition Survey of Rural Bangladesh, 1975-76 (37, p. 185)

TABLE XXXII

PERSONAL INCOME DISTRIBUTION IN THE RURAL AREAS OF BANGLADESH (1973-78)

Monthly household Income groups (TAKA)	Cumulated % of households	Cumulated % of monthly income
Less than 50	0.07	0.01
50 - 99	1.80	0.35
100 - 149	7.26	1.97
150 - 199	16.01	5.39
200 - 249	26.27	10.64
250 - 299	36.67	16.93
300 - 399	54.75	30.53
400 - 499	67.66	43.09
500 - 749	85.53	66.57
750 - 999	92.78	79.76
1000 - 1499	97.54	91.57
1500 - 1999	98.74	95.28
2000 & above	100.00	100.00

Source: Calculated from data provided by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (37, p. 136).

TABLE XXXIII

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF CEREALS, CALORIES AND PROTEINS OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS BY CULTIVABLE LAND HOLDING SIZE IN BANGLADESH

Land-holding (acres)	Percent of population survey	Cereals (gm)	Calories	Protein (gm)
0	26.4	483	1925	52.9
0.01 - 0.49	19.2	489	1924	52.6
0.50 - 0.99	16.6	514	2033	57.7
1.00 - 2.99	24.6	540	2193	62.5
3.00	13.6	576	2375	67.6
Correlation coefficient	-	+0.66	+0.89	+0.88

Source: Nutrition Survey of Rural Bangladesh, 1975-76, (37, p. 184).

TABLE XXXIV

DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS IN BANGLADESH AS PER SIZES

Size of Farms (in acres)	Farms		Farm Area	
	Number 'in '000'	Percentage	Total area '000' acres	Percentage
Below 1.5	2,588	37.68	2,016	9.36
From 1.5 to below 2.5	1,302	18.97	2,581	11.97
From 2.5 to below 5.0	1,807	26.31	6,462	29.97
From 5.0 to below 7.5	632	9.20	3,831	17.77
From 7.5 to below 12.5	360	5.24	3,347	15.52
From 12.5 to below 25.0	149	2.17	2,362	10.95
From 25.0 to below 43.0	24	0.36	712	3.30
From 40.0 and above	5	0.07	251	1.17
Total	6,868	100.00	21,562	100.00

Source: Master Survey of Agriculture, 1967-68, (37, Appendix - VI).

TABLE XXXV

SIZE DISTRIBUTION OF OWNED LAND OTHER THAN HOMESTEAD LAND

Size groups (acres)	% of households	% of area
0	32.79	0
0.01 - 2.0	44.88	25.17
2.01 - 4.0	12.66	24.15
4.01 - 7.0	5.96	20.65
7.01 -10.0	1.96	10.72
10.01 -14.0	0.83	6.40
14.01 and above	0.92	12.91
Gini coefficient	0.70	

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 1977, (37, p. 141).

TABLE XXXVI

LANDLESSNESS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND ACCORDING TO HOLDING SIZE GROUPS

	1960	1968	1974	1978
1. Landless households as percentage of all rural households:	17	20	38	38
2. Distribution of rural land by holding size as percentage of total:				
Less than 1.0 acre	3	4	4	10
1.0 - 4.9 acres	39	47	53	49
5.0 or more acres	58	49	43	41
Total	100	100	100	100

Sources: Land Occupancy Survey, Dacca , (37, p. 155).

VITA

A.K.M. Ferdous Choudhury

Candidate for the Degree of

Doctor of Education

Thesis: AN ASSESSMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICES PROJECT AS A POTENTIAL MODEL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BANGLADESH

Major Field: Agricultural Education

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Bangladesh, September 30, 1949, the son of late Bazlur Rahman.

Education: Received Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree from West Pakistan Agricultural University, Lyallpur, Pakistan, in May, 1969; received Master of Science degree in agricultural economics from West Pakistan Agricultural University, Lyallpur, Pakistan, in June, 1971; received Master of Science degree from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, in May, 1979, with a major in agricultural economics; completed requirements for the Doctor of Education degree at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA, in May, 1980.

Professional Experience: Research Officer, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh, from September, 1972, through August, 1974; Agricultural Economist, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh, from September, 1974, to present; actively participated in a number of seminars and workshops on agriculture and rural development, sponsored by USAID, in different locations in USA.

Professional Organizations: Bangladesh Economic Association, Dacca, Bangladesh; American Agricultural Economics Association, Lexington, Kentucky, USA.