

**Chapter– 6**  
**Research Settings in West Bengal (India)**  
**and Bangladesh**

**The Villages and the Villagers**

**Demographic Attributes of the Muslim Villagers**

**Educational Facilities in the Villages**

**Observations**

## RESEARCH SETTING IN WEST BENGAL (INDIA) AND BANGLADESH

### *6.1: The Villages and the Villagers*

The empirical data for the present research have been raised by broad and intensive field study at purposively selected four Muslim dominated villages choosing two from West Bengal (India) and two from Bangladesh. In West Bengal the villages are Ghoshpara and Nalpur. The first one is situated under a northern district named Jalpaiguri and the second one is under a southern district named Howra. In Bangladesh the villages are Gangachara and Betuail which are chosen from its northern district Rangpur and the capital district Dhaka respectively. Brief accounts of the villages are as follows:

#### **The Villages of West Bengal (India)**

**1. Ghoshpara—A Village in Jalpaiguri:** It stands under the Kotowali police station of Jalpaiguri sadar sub-division. It is about 15 kilometres west from the district headquarters as well as from the thana sadar. It belongs to Belacoba gram panchayet under Belacoba block and also lies in Belacoba mouza bearing J.L. no. 2. The village is about 2 kilometres long from north to south and about 1 kilometre wide from east to west and thus its approximate area is 2 sq.km. The village is surrounded by eight other small villages, viz Hakuarpara to the south; Pipripara to the north; Bhangipara, Sardarpara, Baniapara and Mudipara to the east and Jhapravita and Dhapachita to the west. These neighbouring villages are also under the same Kotowali Thana and except Hakuarpara all belongs to Belacoba gram panchayet. The village is connected with the district sadar by Jalpaiguri-Siliguri national highway that passes towards the south of it.

Ghoshpara is a Muslim dominated small village consisting of 118 families and 653 population where the Muslims account for about 69 per cent of households and 68 per cent of population. The rest 31 per cent households and 32 per cent population belongs to the Hindus. In the whole population 44 per cent is children, 43 per cent is married and 35 per cent is continuing students. Here the Muslim villagers are the followers of Hanafi School and belong to Sunni Sector while the Hindu populations have formed multi caste and multi ethnic groups. The division of 36 Hindu families is Roy or Rajbangshi-24, Shudra-7, Nandi-3 and rest 2 families as Mazi (scheduled tribe). However, all of them irrespective of their religion and caste are governed both by statutory village panchayet and council of village elders called 'Morobbi' and thus maintain their satisfactory coexistence.

In the village Muslim villagers have founded a non-formal maktab, a mosque and a ground for congregational eid prayer called *Eidgah*, but very few of them are found in performing their daily religious practices. Actually the most emotional religious celebration considered by them is a five day programme consisting of Shirni, Mela and Darga Darshan which takes place at Dosh Darga during the Hijri month of *Muharram* every year. In this festival peoples belonging to Hinduism too cooperate warmly. Surprisingly the peoples of Ghoshpara and its neighbouring villages despite belonging under two distinct creeds have developed a salient custom among themselves to help each other in observing ones major religious festivals. For instances, persons from the Muslim community are often selected here as members of the Durga Puja Committee and contrarily persons from the Hindu community are often included in Dosh Darga Committee.

The village has a traditional agrarian background and still 71 per cent families on the whole depend here mainly on agriculture though 25 per cent Hindu families and 45 per cent Muslim families are landless. Besides the landless families, 44 per cent Hindu families and 35 per cent Muslim families belong to below subsistence level of landholdings. Rest 31 per cent Hindu families and 20 per cent Muslim families possess subsistence or surplus level of land ownership. The per capita land ownership for the Hindus is 43 decimals and for the Muslims 32 decimals. Collectively the average family size of the village is five and a half with more than three-fourths families are nuclear by type. About 55 per cent population in the village belong to the age group 15-65 years, but the percentage of income earning population is 27 for the Hindus and 29 for the Muslims with the dependency ratios 2.76 and 2.48 respectively.

The overall economic condition of the villagers is not satisfactory as the average of their yearly family income at 1997-98 constant market price stands Rs. 31,150 only for the Hindus and Rs. 23,102 only for the Muslims. Moreover, 28 per cent Hindu families and 27 per cent Muslim families are found indebted with the burden of average family loan Rs. 5,650 and Rs. 7,145 respectively. Most of the dwellings of these poor villagers are thatched huts of weaker materials though a few tinsheds, a semi pucca construction and also a pucca construction have been found in the village. It is observed that the well-to-do farmers are living in tinsheds, but service holders occupy both the semi pucca and pucca construction. Want of the sources of drinking water may be considered there as an acute problem. As the villagers usually use to drink pond water or water from the ring well, they largely suffer from water borne diseases.

In Ghoshpara, there is no formal educational institution except a government primary school. But the villagers have the facilities of a good number of educational institutions situated at very close distances. For instances, another government primary school, a Sishu Sikkah Sadan and a junior high school are situated at the adjacent villages. There are also a high school, a girls' high school and a higher secondary school within 5 kilometres from the village, but no college at the vicinity. Distances of the nearest college and university from the village are 15 kilometres and 40 kilometres respectively. In spite of better educational facilities existing for the villagers, their educational situation is not very satisfactory.

People of this village in general are poor. For the Muslims the condition is worse which is reflected in their comparative living standard. In fact, the Muslims of this village are lagging much behind in the fields of education and modernization. The rates of literacy for population aged 7+ years stand there 70 per cent for the Hindus, 52 per cent for the Muslims and 58 per cent for all. For Muslim girls and women the condition is more alarming, because only 41 per cent of them have been found in this category while it is 61 per cent for their male counterpart and 56 per cent for Hindu females. This may be due to poor economic condition and lack of educational interest of the Muslim parents. Variation is also found in their net primary school enrolment ratios which is 88 per cent for Muslim girls but 94 per cent and 100 per cent for Muslim boys and Hindu girls respectively. Though the situation of young Muslim girls in primary school enrolment indicates their comparative backwardness, it might be yet considered positive in view of Indian national level that was computed 76 per cent in 1995 (Haq and Haq, 1998:166).

**2. Nalpur—A Village in Howra:** It is an old village situated within the jurisdiction of Sankrail police station under the sadar sub-division of the district of Howra. It is about 17 kilometres away towards the east from the district headquarters and 22 kilometres away towards the same direction from the West Bengal's capital city Kolkata. The thana sadar stands towards 5 kilometres east from the village. The village belongs to Nalpur gram panchayet under Sankrail block and also lies in Nalpur mouza bearing J.L. no. 12. The village is very large in size and population. Its length is about 2.5 kilometres from east to west and width is about 1.6 kilometres from north to south. Thus its approximate area is 4 sq.km. Its neighbouring villages are Bhafanandapur, Jalakandua and Dadpur towards the north; Raghudevhati to the south; Ulla, Betary and Monoharpur towards the east; and Beldubi and Shahapur towards the west. Among the neighbouring villages Raghudevhati, Ulla, Betary, Monoharpur and Dadpur are under Sankrail police station and the rest of the villages are under Panchla police station. Northern railways that pass towards the east of Nalpur connect the village with the district sadar and the capital city. Besides the said railway communication, highways and river passages are at easy reach from the village.

Nalpur is a Muslim dominated village that bears the memory of a remarkable past. It is known that in the remote past the village was famous for its rich cultural heritage as well as educational attainments of the people. At that time Persian was the first language of the Muslim villagers. But in the early twentieth century, the village has lost its glory and dignity due to economic depression and migration of the aristocratic people. At present the overall life style of the people of Nalpur is very simple.

The villagers usually speak in Bengali along with some local dialects. Almost everybody understands Hindi and a little portion understand Urdu and English but nobody is found as Persian speaking. The village consists of more than 1,500 families and 10,000 population out of which 182 Muslim families consisting of 1171 population have been chosen for the present study. The study reveals that in this village males account for about 52 per cent and females account for 48 per cent. The population under consideration comprises 34 per cent children, 63 per cent civilian labour force and rest 3 per cent as old aged people. On the whole 38 per cent population is married while 29 per cent population is seen as continuing students. All the Muslim people under the study are found as the followers of Hanafi School and belong to Sunni Sector, but they are divided into different Khandans. The divisions of 182 families in respect of their Khandans are Sekh-74, Mollick-47, Khan-19, Mollah-13, Mridah-11, Sardar-7, Mondal-3, Laskor-3 and Others-5.

However, the villagers irrespective of their Khandans are governed both by statutory village panchayet and council of village elders called 'Morobbi' and thus maintain their satisfactory coexistence. In the village the Muslim villagers have founded a non-formal moktab, four mosques, two graveyards and three *Eidgahs* but very few of them are found in performing their daily religious practices. Purdah practice in terms of 'Burkha' or 'Veil' among the Muslim girls and women is no longer existing in the village. Study reveals that the village had a typical agrarian background a few decades back when the villagers were mainly engaged in cultivation and other agro based occupations. At that time they used to produce rice, jute, potatoes, sugarcanes and vegetables in plenty.

But in course of time the village has turned into an industrial belt and changed into a densely populated area where the per capita land ownership decreased to 4 decimals only. As a result, agro-based families are now hardly seen in the village. In the present study only 3 families out of 182 families have been identified as agro-based family. But none of them is blessed with the ownership of landholdings over subsistence level. As a result, almost entire active labour force of this village under study are engaged in non-agricultural activities like jori works, koir works, mill works, tailoring and embroidery works, odd works of urban nature, petty trade and business, white collar services and dignified professions etc. Though a few persons are engaged in familial farming, none of them have accepted this occupation as only means of their livelihood.

The average family size of the village is considerably larger than the national level. It is 6.4 though 74 per cent families are nuclear by type. The percentage of income earning population is also somewhat higher than the national level. It is 34 against dependency ratio 1.9. Study reveals that the average yearly family income of the villagers at 1997-98 constant market price stands Rs. 59,616. It is considerably higher than the average family income of national level. On the other hand the percentage of indebted family in this village is only 4 with an average loan amount Rs. 11,714. Thus it is clearly manifested that the overall economic condition of the villagers is quite satisfactory. The village is of compact type and its settlement pattern is almost linear in arrangement. The houses of this village are mainly tinsheds though a good number of semi-pucca or pucca constructions have been found there. The village lacks in proper sanitary arrangement and drainage system.



But as a fringe village under an industrial belt, the villagers also enjoy almost all sorts of modern facilities which includes electricity, water supply, telephone and post office, railway station, daily bazar, health centre, bank, youth clubs and playgrounds, library and newspapers, ration shops, panchayet office, women organizations etc. There are many formal educational institutions controlled by the government and some non-formal educational institutions administered by local NGOs. The formal institutions consist of a primary school, a primary madrasa and a junior high school whereas the non-formal institutions comprise four literacy centres equally organized by two NGOs, viz Gram Bharati and Integrated Children Development Solution (ICDS).

In addition to the above institutions, the villagers have the facilities of a good number of educational institutions that are situated at very close distances. For instances, a high school and a higher secondary school are situated at its adjacent villages. There are also a college and a high madrasa within 8 kilometres from the village. As the capital city Kolkata is at a close distance from the village, the villagers have greater opportunity to be enrolled in different educational institutions of various types situated there. However, in the village 81 per cent population comprising 87 per cent males and 75 per cent females of age group 7<sup>+</sup> years are found literate that is considerably higher than the literacy rates of the national level. Another interesting fact lies in net primary school enrolment ratios which stand 87 per cent for the girls and 84 per cent for the boys and thus indicate higher percentage of girls' enrolment in comparison to their male counterparts. This may be due to economic solvency and positive attitude of Muslim parents towards female education.

## **The Villages of Bangladesh**

**1. Gangachara—A Village in Rangpur:** It lies in Gangachara upazila under the district of Rangpur of Bangladesh. It belongs to Gangachara union parishad and situated at the nucleus of upazila sadar. It is about 12 kilometres away towards the north from the district headquarters. The village lies in Dhamur mouza bearing J.L.no.36. Its length is about 2.4 kilometres from east to west and width is about 1.25 kilometres from north to south. Thus its approximate area is 3 sq.km. Its neighbouring villages are Dakshin Dhamur and Kolokanda to the north; Araji Niamat and Nabanidas to the south; Changmari, Mandrail and Mohipur to the east; and Bhotka to the west. All the neighbouring villages are situated under Gangachara upazila.

The village has six distinct mahallahs locally called paras. These are Uttar para, Madhya para, Purba para, Khamar para, Munshi para and Hindu para. Usually each of the para is inhabited by closely related families which are further interrelated and interacted with the inhabitants of other paras through various social, cultural and political ties. The village is connected with the district sadar through a metalled road. The village is also provided with almost all sorts of modern facilities that includes electricity, telephone and telegraph office, post office, daily bazar, hospital and ambulance, banks, playgrounds, youth clubs and cooperatives, library and newspapers, leading NGOs and women organisations, thana headquarters and upazila complex etc. It is a Muslim dominated village consisting of more than 600 families and 3,000 population out of which 209 families comprising 1104 population have been chosen for the present study. The study reveals that in this village males account for about 52 per cent and females account for 48 per cent.

Among the population of Gangachara, 39 percent is baby and children, 59 per cent is civilian labour force and rest 2 per cent belong to old age category. This population also comprises 80 per cent adult and 48 per cent married. About 47 per cent population belong to the age group 6-25, but 72 per cent population belonging to this group are literate while 52 percent of them are found as continuing students. The study also reveals that Muslims account for about 89 per cent of households and 90 per cent of population. The rest 11 per cent households and 10 percent population belong to the Hindus. On the whole, average family size is 5.3 and about three-fourths families are nuclear by type. Here the Muslim villagers are the followers of Hanafi school and belong to Sunni sector while the Hindu populations have formed multi caste groups. The divisions of 22 Hindu families are Roy-8, Barman-8, Shil-5 and Paul-1.

However, the overall life style of the peoples of Gangachara is very simple. They usually speak in Bengali along with some local dialects. They are very hospitable, yet the outsiders criticize them for their foolishness and peculiar mode of behaviour. Here the Muslim villagers may also be identified as religious as a good number of them are observed in performing their daily religious practices. But very few women are observed as users of 'Burkha' for maintaining 'Purdah'. It is noticed that in the village the Muslims have founded three non-formal moktabs, four mosques, two graveyards and two *Eidgahs* while the Hindus have founded a temple for Kali. The villagers irrespective of their religion, kinship or caste use to respect the village elders called 'Moy-Morobbi'. They are all governed by 'Union Parishad' which is considered as the lowest statutory local government unit of the country.

The village had an agrarian background in the recent past when the people of this village were mainly engaged in cultivation or in other agro-based occupations. At that time rice, jute, oil seeds, pulses, sugarcanes, tobacco and potatoes were produced here in plenty. But a good number of offices comprising government, semi government, autonomous body and NGO have been set up there in the recent years due to decentralization of administration by the government. In addition to these offices, the residential arrangement of the employees as well as a lot of other physical and infra-structural facilities like school, college, roads, playgrounds, markets etc are established here at the same time. As a result many people lost their cultivable land and became landless. This situation led them to engage in business or other non-agricultural occupations.

At present two-thirds families are landless and another 22 per cent belong to the category of below subsistence level. As a matter of fact, only 14 per cent Hindu families and 11 per cent Muslim families of Gangachara have the possession of landholdings from subsistence to surplus level. The per capita landholding in this village stands only 15 decimals for the Hindus and 18 decimals for the Muslims and 17 decimals on the whole which is far less than the national level. But it is very interesting to note that still 49 per cent families from this village depend on agriculture. Though the village is located at the nucleus of the upazila sadar, the overall economic condition of the villagers is very disappointing. Only 29 per cent of them are found as income earners that indicate high dependency ratio. In the village, per family average yearly income at 1997-98 constant market price stand Tk. 29,864 for the Hindus, Tk. 34,172 for the Muslims and Tk. 33,718 on the whole.

Not only those, 27 per cent Hindu families and 39 per cent Muslim families are found indebted with the burden of average family loan Tk. 5,919 and Tk. 6,435 respectively. Most of the dwellings of the village are tinsheds though some semi pucca and pucca constructions and a few cottages made of bamboo and grass are seen there. It is observed that the poor day labourers and odd jobbers are living in cottages while the middle class and the well-to-do families are living in tinsheds or in semi pucca and pucca constructions. Want of sources of drinking water was considered here as a serious problem a few years ago. But recently the problem has been removed totally due to the programmes jointly adopted by the government and the leading NGOs. At present about entire population of Gangachara is under the coverage of pure drinking water programme though the drainage system of this village is still far away from the satisfactory standard.

As the central village of upazila sadar, Gangachara is blessed with a lot of formal educational institutions comprising primary school-2, kinder garten-1, coeducational high school-2, girls' high school-1, co-educational degree college-1, women's college-1, senior madrasa along with ebtetary section-1. There are also so many non-formal educational centres controlled by different NGOs. In addition to these, the villagers avail themselves of the facilities of numerous educational institutions that are situated at the neighbouring villages or at other close distances including the district sadar. In spite of the above facilities, the overall educational status of the villagers is simply disappointing. On the whole only 60 per cent population comprising 49 per cent Hindus and 61 per cent Muslims of age group 7<sup>+</sup> years are found there literate.

**2. Betuail—A Village in Dhaka:** It is a hamlet situated on the bank of a very small river named Gagikhali. It stands at the borderline of Dhamrai upazila under the district of Dhaka of Bangladesh. It is about 40 kilometres away towards the west from the district headquarters and 12 kilometres away towards the south-west from the upazila sadar as well as thana sadar. The village belongs to ward number-1 of Suapur union parishad and lies in Deldha Mouza bearing J.L. no. 166. It is about 1 kilometre long from north to south and about 0.75 kilometres wide from east to west. Thus its approximate area is 0.75 sq.km. Its neighbouring villages are Lalitnagar to the north and Anandanagar to the south. To the eastern outskirts of the village lies an agricultural field called Deldar Chak and by the west follows the river Gagikhali.

The neighbouring villages also belong to Deldha mouza under the same upazila and district. The union sadar is about 2 kilometres away from the village and is connected through an unmetalled road. At present the village consists of 168 families and 799 population where the Muslims account for about 82 per cent of households and 79 per cent of population. The rest 18 per cent households and 21 per cent of population belong to the Hindus. On the whole population 33 per cent is children, 64 per cent is civilian labour force and rest 3 per cent is belong to old age category. Here the Muslims are the followers of Hanafi School and belong to Sunni Sector, but they are divided into different Khandans or kinship. The divisions of 138 Muslim families in respect of their lineage kinship are Bepari-32, Munshi-18, Khan-16, Mollah-13, Sekh-9, Mondal-9, Mahmud-8, Mridah-4, Kazi-3, Biswas-3, Sikdar-3 and unidentified others-20. Contrarily, the Hindu families have formed multi caste group comprising Chakraborty-6, Malo-19, Sarker-2 and Shil-3.

Though currently the Muslims dominate the village but history reveals that a few decades ago the Hindus and the Muslims equally represented it. In the year 1947, when India was divided following the religion based India-Pakistan, most of the well-to-do Hindu families of this village sold their lands and migrated to West Bengal. As an effect, the village lost its religious equilibrium in respect of representation and turned into a Muslim dominated village. But satisfactory religious co-existence among the Muslims and Hindus is evidently prevalent in this village. However, the village bears a traditional agrarian background. It is known from the villagers that in recent past almost all the people of this village were engaged in cultivation or in other agro-based occupations. At that time rice, wheat, jute, oil seeds, pulses, sugarcanes and sweet potatoes were produced here in plenty. The whole trend is now in a diminishing process.

At present 73 per cent Hindu families and 43 per cent Muslim families are landless and another 20 per cent Hindu families and 41 per cent Muslim families have the possession of landholdings below the subsistence level (51 decimals to 250 decimal). Only 7 per cent Hindu families and 15 per cent Muslim families have the possession of landholdings under subsistence or surplus level though 5 per cent families from the Hindus and 58 per cent family from the Muslims comprising 51 per cent in total still depend on agriculture. The average landholdings per family stands 66 decimals for the Hindus and 138 decimals for the Muslims against their average family size that stands 5.7 and 4.8 persons respectively. Thus the per capita land ownership stands 12 decimals for the Hindus, 30 decimals for the Muslims and 26 decimals for all.

Betuail and its neighbouring villages were noted as backward and undeveloped in respect of its communication system and other infra-structural facilities till eighties which was also reflected in the overall living standard of their inhabitants. They were mostly poor with very limited participation in education. They used to live in thatched huts or in cottages made of bamboo and catkin. Living in tinsheds was considered as a symbol of high status which were achieved by a few well-to-do farmers and businessmen. As there was only one ring well and no tube well at all, the villagers acutely suffered for want of sources of drinking water. Finding no alternative, they used to drink river water and thus largely suffered from dysentery, diarrhoea or other water borne diseases. But of late some development programmes have been executed there which bring tremendous changes in the overall living standard of the villagers.

The village has been blessed with the programmes of rural electrification rendered by Dhaka PBS-1. On the other hand, Dhaka-Aricha highway that stands about 4 kilometres away towards the north from the village has been connected with the village through a road. Despite the fact that the said road is still unmetalled, it is widely used as a thoroughfare and also for the transportation of goods by different types of vehicle during the dry season. During the monsoon when the unmetalled road becomes unusable, the villagers use river passage to reach the highway. As a result, the highway is now within easy reach to the villagers all over the year for making communication with upazila sadar and the district sadar as well as with the capital city Dhaka. Moreover, the top listed NGOs have initiated there a lot of programmes for the socio-economic development of the poor villagers.



In fact, in recent times the status of the village as well as the economic condition of the villagers has been upgraded to a satisfactory extent due to the above facilities provided by different agencies. At present most of the villagers are living in tinsheds and a handsome number of them is using slab latrines. Almost everybody is within the coverage of pure drinking water programme. Study reveals that at present one-third people of this village are directly engaged in income earning jobs and the per family yearly earnings at 1997-98 constant market price stand Tk. 52,533 for the Hindus and Tk. 49,972 for the Muslims. This is of course a satisfactory economic picture though 73 per cent Hindu families and 27 per cent Muslim families are found indebted with the burden of average loan amount Tk. 16,727 and Tk. 12,257 respectively.

However, the villagers irrespective of their religion, kinship and caste are governed both by the lowest statutory local government unit named 'Union Parishad' and council of village elders called 'Moy-Morobbi' to maintain their satisfactory coexistence. The study also reveals that in this village males account for about 52 per cent and females account for 48 per cent. On the whole 54 per cent population is married while 25 per cent population of school going age (6-25 years) are found as continuing students. About two-thirds Hindu families and three-fourths Muslim families are nuclear by type. In the village the Muslim villagers have founded a non-formal moktab and a mosque. A good number of villagers from both sexes are also found in performing their daily religious practices, but purdah practice in terms of 'Burkha' or 'Veil' among the Muslim girls and women are hardly seen in the village.

Since 1999 different programmes for Total Literacy Movement (TLM) under the auspices of the Government of Bangladesh and leading NGOs are ongoing in Betuail. Presently there is a free primary school controlled by the government and two non-formal educational centres conducted by BRAC and PROSHIKA. In addition to the above institutions, the villagers have the facilities of some other educational institutions. For instance, two high schools, a dakhil madrasha and three primary schools are situated either at its adjacent villages or at very close distances. There are also a college and a high madrasha within 8 kilometres from the village. As the capital city Dhaka is at a close distance from the village, the villagers have greater opportunity to be enrolled in different educational institution of various types situated there. However, in the village 65 per cent population comprising 57 per cent Hindus and 67 per cent Muslims aged 7<sup>+</sup> years are found literate.

Here the gross primary enrolment ratio for the Muslims is significantly higher in comparison with the national level. But the most interesting fact lies in net primary school enrolment ratios which stand 89 per cent for Muslim girls and 82 per cent for Hindu girls against their male counterparts of 85 per cent and 55 per cent respectively. Thus the said enrolment ratios indicate considerably higher percentage of girls enrolment at primary level. This may be an effect of working NGOs which have mobilized almost all the girls and women irrespective of their caste, creed and economic condition. Yet it is disappointing to note that till today the village cannot produce a single female graduate. However, at present three female graduates are found in the female list of Betuail who are housewives coming from other areas being educated therein.

## **6.2: Demographic Attributes of the Muslim Villagers**

The empirical study has been conducted on the inside of four Muslim dominated villages equally selected from unlike regions of West Bengal and Bangladesh to secure their regional representation. Inquiry reveals that the Muslims belonging to study villages are largely composed of local converts drawn from a number of Hindu castes, mainly low. However, methods of intensive investigation have been applied to examine the overall situation of these Muslims in general and their women in particular. Moreover, an initiative to uncover and examine the physical setting of the study villages as well as its historical aspects has been adopted.

Thus it is revealed from empirical observations, Zamindari reports and opinions of the learned and knowledgeable villagers that all the above villages except Gangachara have a history of remarkable past that may be five hundred years old. But the village of Gangachara as per available revenue documents does not bear the aristocracy of noteworthy ancientness as it has been formed from the alluvial of Teesta river hardly 150-200 years ago. Yet this village is rapidly turning into a semi-urban area because of its location at the centre of upazila sadar. Another point may be noted that the village of Nalpur as situated outskirts of town has lost rural characteristics and already turned into a semi urban or proximal village.

However, the demographic characteristics of the Muslim villagers are presented in Table 6.2.8. The major heads of information comprise: Population Structure, Land Ownership, Economic Status, Marital Status, Enrolment and Literacy, Enrolment Ratios, Literacy Standards, Continuing Students, Drop-outs, Religious Education and Situation of Children etc.

TABLE — 6.2.8: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MUSLIM VILLAGERS.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSH PARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>1. Population Structure</b>						
<b>a. Total Muslim Population</b>	446 (100%)	1171 (100%)	1617 (100%)	993 (100%)	629 (100%)	1622 (100%)
<b>i. Male</b>	234 (52.47%)	612 (52.26%)	846 (52.32%)	524 (52.77%)	327 (51.99%)	851 (52.47%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	212 (47.53%)	559 (47.74%)	771 (47.68%)	469 (47.33%)	302 (48.01%)	771 (47.53%)
<b>b. Sex Ratio</b>	906	913	911	895	924	906
<b>c. Children (up to 14 years)</b>	211 (47.31%)	404 (34.5%)	615 (38.03%)	391 (39.38%)	203 (32.27%)	594 (36.62%)
<b>i. Boys</b>	112 (47.86%)	207 (33.82%)	319 (37.71%)	207 (39.5%)	96 (29.36%)	303 (35.61%)
<b>ii. Girls</b>	99 (46.7%)	197 (35.25%)	296 (38.39%)	184 (39.23%)	107 (35.43%)	291 (37.74%)
<b>d. Civilian Labour Force (15-65 years)</b>	228 (51.12%)	732 (62.51%)	960 (59.37%)	584 (58.81%)	408 (64.86%)	992 (61.16%)
<b>i. Male</b>	118 (50.43%)	384 (62.75%)	502 (59.34%)	306 (58.4%)	215 (65.75%)	521 (61.22%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	110 (51.89%)	348 (62.25%)	458 (59.40%)	278 (59.28%)	193 (63.91%)	471 (61.09%)
<b>e. Old Aged Population (66+ years)</b>	07 (1.57%)	35 (2.99%)	42 (2.6%)	18 (1.81%)	18 (2.86%)	36 (2.22%)
<b>i. Male</b>	04 (1.71%)	21 (3.43%)	25 (2.96%)	11 (2.1%)	16 (4.89%)	27 (3.17%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	03 (1.42%)	14 (2.5%)	17 (2.2%)	07 (1.49%)	02 (0.66%)	09 (1.17%)
<b>2. The Family</b>						
<b>a. Total Muslim Household</b>	82 (100%)	182 (100%)	264 (100%)	187 (100%)	138 (100%)	325 (100%)
<b>i. Agro Based Family</b>	59 (71.95%)	03 (1.65%)	62 (23.48%)	92 (49.2%)	80 (57.97%)	172 (52.92%)
<b>ii. Non-Agro Based Family</b>	23 (28.05%)	179 (98.35%)	202 (76.52%)	95 (50.8%)	58 (42.03%)	153 (47.08%)
<b>b. Family Type</b>						
<b>ii. Incomplete and Broken</b>	05 (6.1%)	20 (10.99%)	25 (9.47%)	13 (6.95%)	11 (7.97%)	24 (7.38%)
<b>iii. Nuclear</b>	69 (84.15%)	135 (74.17%)	204 (77.27%)	146 (78.07%)	104 (75.36%)	250 (76.92%)
<b>iv. Joint and Extended</b>	08 (9.76%)	27 (14.84%)	35 (13.26%)	28 (14.97%)	23 (16.67%)	51 (15.69%)
<b>c. Family Size</b>						
<b>i. Very Small (1-3 members)</b>	18 (21.95%)	22 (12.09%)	40 (15.15%)	38 (20.32%)	43 (31.16%)	81 (24.92%)
<b>ii. Small (4-5 members)</b>	31 (37.8%)	58 (31.87%)	89 (33.71%)	85 (45.45%)	64 (46.38%)	149 (45.84%)
<b>iii. Medium (6-8 members)</b>	24 (29.27%)	66 (36.26%)	90 (34.09%)	46 (24.6%)	23 (16.67%)	69 (21.23%)
<b>iv. Large (9-12 members)</b>	07 (8.54%)	31 (17.03%)	38 (14.39%)	14 (7.5%)	07 (5.07%)	21 (6.46%)
<b>v. Very Large (13+ members)</b>	02 (2.44%)	05 (2.75%)	07 (2.65%)	04 (2.14%)	01 (0.72%)	05 (1.54%)
<b>d. Average Family Size</b>	5.44	6.43	6.13	5.31	4.56	4.99

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/2).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSH PARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>3. Family Forms by Earning Source</b>						
<b>a. Agro Based</b>	59 (71.95%)	03 (1.65%)	62 (23.48%)	92 (49.2%)	80 (57.97%)	172 (53.42%)
i. Self Cultivation	25 (30.49%)	03 (1.65%)	28 (10.61%)	38 (20.32%)	41 (29.71%)	79 (24.31%)
ii. Cultivation by Others	03 (3.66%)	—	03 (1.14%)	02 (1.07%)	04 (2.9%)	06 (1.85%)
iii. Share Cropping	02 (2.44%)	—	02 (0.76%)	03 (1.60%)	04 (2.9%)	07 (2.15%)
iv. Working as Ag. Labourer	29 (35.37%)	—	29 (10.98%)	49 (26.2%)	31 (22.46%)	80 (24.84%)
<b>b. Non- Agro Based</b>	23 (28.05%)	179 (98.35%)	202 (76.52%)	95 (50.8%)	58 (42.03%)	153 (47.08%)
i. Working as Non-Ag. Labourer	08 (9.76%)	40 (21.98%)	48 (18.18%)	25 (13.37%)	09 (6.52%)	34 (10.56%)
ii. Business/Petty Trade	09 (10.98%)	41 (22.53%)	50 (18.94%)	35 (18.72%)	24 (17.39%)	59 (18.15%)
iii. Official Job/Dignified Pursuit	05 (6.1%)	37 (20.33%)	42 (15.91%)	30 (16.04%)	13 (9.42%)	45 (13.85%)
iv. Self-employed /Non-Ag. Job	—	60 (32.97%)	60 (22.73%)	04 (2.14%)	10 (7.25%)	14 (4.31%)
v. Libel Occupation (Beggary)	01 (1.22%)	01 (0.55%)	02 (0.76%)	01 (0.53%)	02 (1.45%)	03 (2.4%)
<b>4. Yearly Family Income</b>						
<b>a. Up to Rs./Tk.12000/=</b>	30 (36.56%)	08 (4.39%)	38 (14.39%)	21 (11.23%)	11 (7.97%)	32 (9.85%)
<b>b. Rs./Tk.12001-24000/=</b>	31 (37.8%)	27 (14.83%)	58 (21.97%)	69 (36.9%)	41 (29.71%)	110 (33.85%)
<b>c. Rs./Tk.24001-36000/=</b>	10 (12.2%)	36 (19.78%)	46 (17.42%)	42 (22.46%)	25 (18.12%)	67 (20.62%)
<b>d. Rs./Tk.36001-48000/=</b>	03 (3.66%)	35 (19.23%)	38 (14.38%)	24 (12.83%)	16 (11.59%)	40 (12.31%)
<b>e. Rs./Tk.48001-60000/=</b>	02 (2.44%)	21 (11.54%)	23 (8.71%)	08 (4.28%)	11 (7.97%)	19 (5.85%)
<b>f. Rs./Tk.60001-72000/=</b>	03 (3.66%)	18 (9.89%)	21 (7.95%)	06 (3.21%)	07 (5.07%)	13 (4%)
<b>g. Rs./Tk.72001-100000/=</b>	02 (2.44%)	18 (9.89%)	20 (7.58%)	12 (6.42%)	12 (8.7%)	24 (7.38%)
<b>h. Rs./Tk.100001-150000/=</b>	—	08 (4.4%)	08 (3.03%)	03 (1.6%)	11 (7.97%)	14 (4.31%)
<b>i. Rs./Tk.150001-200000/=</b>	01 (1.22%)	07 (3.85%)	08 (3.03%)	01 (0.53%)	02 (1.45%)	03 (0.92%)
<b>j. Rs./Tk.200001 and above</b>	—	04 (2.2%)	04 (1.52%)	01 (0.53%)	02 (1.45%)	03 (0.92%)
<b>k. Income up to Rs./Tk.60000/=</b>	76 (92.98%)	127 (69.78%)	203 (76.89%)	164 (87.7%)	104 (75.36%)	268 (82.46%)
<b>l. Income above Rs./Tk.60000/=</b>	06 (7.32%)	55 (30.22%)	61 (23.11%)	23 (12.3%)	34 (24.64%)	57 (17.54%)
<b>m. Per Family Income (Rs./Tk.)</b>	23102	59616	48275	34172	49972	40881

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/3).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSHPARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>5. Land Ownership</b>						
a. Landless Muslim Family	37 (45.12%)	165 (90.66%)	202 (76.52%)	121 (64.7%)	59 (42.75%)	180 (55.38%)
i. No House at all	08 (9.76%)	04 (2.2%)	12 (4.55%)	10 (5.35%)	06 (4.35%)	16 (4.92%)
ii. No Cultivable Land	23 (28.05%)	127 (69.78%)	150 (56.82%)	69 (36.9%)	22 (15.94%)	91 (28%)
iii. Cultivable Land up to 50 decimals	06 (7.31%)	34 (18.68%)	40 (15.15%)	42 (22.45%)	31 (22.46%)	73 (22.46%)
b. Very Small Farmer (51-150 decimals)	24 (29.27%)	13 (7.14%)	37 (14.02%)	35 (18.72%)	40 (28.99%)	75 (23.08%)
c. Marginal Farmer (151-250 decimals)	05 (6.1%)	01 (0.55%)	06 (2.27%)	11 (5.88%)	17 (12.32%)	28 (8.62%)
d. Small Farmer (251-500 decimals)	09 (10.98%)	03 (1.65%)	12 (4.54%)	13 (6.95%)	16 (11.59%)	29 (8.92%)
e. Medium Farmer (501-750 decimals)	03 (3.66%)	—	03 (1.14%)	05 (2.67%)	03 (2.17%)	08 (2.46%)
f. Large Farmer (751-1000 decimals)	00 (00%)	—	00 (00%)	01 (0.53%)	03 (2.17%)	04 (1.23%)
g. Very Large Farmer (1000+ decimals)	04 (4.88%)	—	04 (1.52%)	01 (0.53%)	—	01 (0.31%)
h. Land Per Family (in decimals)	176	27	73	93	138	112
i. Land Per Capita (in decimals)	32	04	12	18	30	22
<b>6. Economic Status</b>						
a. Total Earner	129 (28.92%)	402 (34.33%)	531 (32.84%)	289 (29.1%)	209 (33.23%)	498 (30.7%)
i. Male Earner	123 (52.56%)	333 (54.41%)	456 (53.9%)	268 (51.15%)	202 (61.77%)	470 (55.23%)
ii. Female Earner	06 (2.83%)	69 (12.34%)	75 (9.73%)	21 (4.48%)	07 (2.32%)	28 (3.63%)
iii. Per Capita Income (Rs./Tk.)	4248	9266	7882	6435	10964	8191
b. Total Dependent	317 (71.08%)	769 (65.67%)	1086 (67.16%)	704 (70.9%)	420 (66.77%)	1124 (69.3%)
i. Male Dependent	111 (47.44%)	279 (45.59%)	390 (46.1%)	256 (48.85%)	125 (38.23%)	381 (44.77%)
ii. Female Dependent	206 (97.17%)	490 (87.66%)	696 (90.27%)	448 (95.52%)	295 (97.68%)	743 (96.37%)
iii. Dependency Ratio	2.46	1.91	2.05	2.44	2.01	2.26
c. Property Accounts (% of family)						
i. Transport (Bi-cycle, Motor cycle etc.)	51%	67%	62%	50%	33%	43%
ii. Recreational Stores (Radio, TV etc.)	30%	68%	56%	27%	38%	32%
iii. Timepieces (Wristband, Wall clock)	41%	87%	73%	44%	51%	47%
d. Loan Statements						
i. Indebted Family	22 (26.83%)	07 (3.85%)	29 (10.98%)	75 (40.11%)	37 (26.81%)	112 (34.46%)
ii. Average Loan Amount (Rs./Tk.)	7145	11714	8248	13020	12257	12768

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/4).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSH PARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>7. Income Earners Occupations</b>						
<b>a. Cultivation/Agricultural Labour</b>	93 (20.85%)	07 (0.0%)	100 (6.18%)	141 (14.2%)	104 16.53	245 (15.1%)
<b>i. Male</b>	92 (39.32%)	07 (1.14%)	99 (11.7%)	138 (26.34%)	104 (31.8%)	242 (28.44%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	01 (0.47%)	—	01 (0.13%)	03 (0.64%)	—	03 (0.39%)
<b>b. Self Employed/Non-Ag. Labour</b>	18 (3.4%)	290 (24.77%)	308 (19.05%)	41 (4.13%)	31 (4.93%)	72 (4.44%)
<b>i. Male</b>	14 (5.98%)	236 (38.56%)	250 (29.55%)	30 (5.73%)	27 (8.26%)	57 (6.7%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	04 (1.89%)	61 (10.91%)	65 (8.43%)	11 (2.35%)	04 (1.32%)	15 (1.95%)
<b>c. Business/Petty Trade</b>	12 (2.69%)	59 (5.04%)	71 (4.39%)	46 (4.63%)	40 (6.36%)	86 (5.3%)
<b>i. Male</b>	12 (5.13%)	58 (9.48%)	70 (8.27%)	45 (8.59%)	40 (12.23%)	85 (9.99%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	—	01 (0.18%)	01 (0.13%)	01 (0.21%)	—	01 (0.13%)
<b>d. Official Job/ Dignified Pursuit</b>	06 (1.34%)	46 (3.93%)	52 (3.22%)	61 (6.14%)	34 (5.41%)	95 (5.86%)
<b>i. Male</b>	05 (2.14%)	39 (6.37%)	44 (5.2%)	55 (10.5%)	31 (9.48%)	86 (10.11%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	01 (0.47%)	07 (1.25%)	08 (1.04%)	06 (1.28%)	03 (0.99%)	09 (1.17%)
<b>8. Dependents Category</b>						
<b>a. Unengaged Children (0-14)</b>	85 (19.06%)	163 (13.92%)	248 (15.34%)	166 (16.72%)	78 (12.4%)	244 (15.04%)
<b>i. Boy</b>	41 (17.52%)	90 (14.71%)	131 (15.48%)	98 (18.7%)	38 (11.62%)	136 (15.98%)
<b>ii. Girl</b>	44 (20.75%)	73 (13.06%)	117 (15.18%)	68 (14.5%)	40 (13.25%)	108 (14%)
<b>b. Continuing Student</b>	122 (27.35%)	300 (25.62%)	422 (26.1%)	256 (25.78%)	148 (23.53%)	404 (24.91%)
<b>i. Male</b>	69 (29.49%)	138 (22.55%)	207 (24.47%)	138 (26.34%)	80 (24.46%)	218 (25.62%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	53 (25.00%)	162 (28.98%)	215 (27.89%)	118 (25.16%)	68 (22.52%)	186 (24.12%)
<b>c. Unemployed Adult Male</b>	01 (0.43%)	16 (2.61%)	17 (2.01%)	07 (1.34%)	04 (1.22%)	11 (1.29%)
<b>d. Housegirl (unpaid)</b>	14 (6.60%)	50 (8.94%)	64 (8.30%)	20 (4.26%)	09 (2.98%)	29 (3.76%)
<b>e. Housewife (unpaid)</b>	92 (43.4%)	191 (34.17%)	283 (36.70%)	221 (47.12%)	176 (58.28%)	397 (51.49%)
<b>f. Retired Aged/Sick/Insane</b>	03 (1.42%)	49 (4.18%)	52 (3.22%)	34 (3.42%)	05 (0.8%)	39 (2.4%)
<b>i. Male</b>	—	35 (5.72%)	35 (4.14%)	13 (2.48%)	03 (0.92%)	16 (1.88%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	03 (1.42%)	14 (2.5%)	17 (2.2%)	21 (4.48%)	02 (0.66%)	23 (2.98%)

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/5).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSHPARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>9. Marital Status</b>						
<b>a. Married (Spouse alive)</b>	178 (39.91%)	398 (33.99%)	576 (35.62%)	420 (45.02%)	325 (51.67%)	745 (45.93%)
<b>i. Male</b>	89 (38.03%)	199 (32.52%)	288 (34.04%)	209 (39.89%)	161 (49.24%)	370 (43.48%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	89 (41.98%)	199 (35.6%)	288 (37.35%)	211 (44.99%)	164 (54.3%)	375 (48.63%)
<b>b. Widower</b>	03 (1.28%)	05 (0.82%)	08 (0.95%)	02 (0.38%)	04 (1.22%)	06 (0.71%)
<b>c. Widow</b>	11 (5.19%)	43 (7.69%)	54 (7%)	36 (7.68%)	14 (4.28%)	50 (6.49%)
<b>d. Divorced and Separated Male</b>	—	—	—	01 (0.19%)	01 (0.31%)	02 (0.24%)
<b>e. Divorced and Separated Female</b>	01 (0.47%)	01 (0.18%)	02 (0.26%)	13 (2.77%)	06 (1.99%)	19 (2.46%)
<b>f. Total Married (a to e)</b>	193 (43.27%)	447 (38.17%)	640 (39.58%)	472 (47.53%)	350 (55.64%)	822 (50.68%)
<b>i. Male</b>	92 (39.32%)	204 (33.33%)	296 (34.99%)	212 (40.46%)	166 (50.76%)	378 (44.42%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	101 (47.64%)	243 (43.47%)	344 (44.62%)	260 (55.44%)	184 (60.93%)	444 (57.59%)
<b>g. Total Unmarried</b>	253 (56.73%)	724 (61.83%)	977 (60.42%)	521 (52.47%)	279 (44.36%)	800 (49.32%)
<b>ii. Male</b>	142 (60.68%)	408 (66.67%)	550 (65.01%)	312 (59.54%)	161 (49.24%)	473 (55.58%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	111 (52.36%)	316 (56.53%)	427 (55.38%)	209 (44.56%)	118 (39.07%)	327 (42.41%)
<b>10. Age At First Marriage</b>						
<b>a. Below 18 Years of Age</b>	87 (45.08%)	120 (26.85%)	207 (32.34%)	190 (40.25%)	98 (28%)	288 (35.04%)
<b>i. Male</b>	14 (15.22%)	04 (1.96%)	18 (6.08%)	13 (6.13%)	03 (1.80%)	16 (4.23%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	73 (72.28%)	116 (47.74%)	189 (54.94%)	177 (68.08%)	95 (51.63%)	272 (61.26%)
<b>b. Age between 18-30 years</b>	103 (53.37%)	298 (66.67%)	401 (62.66%)	264 (55.93%)	248 (70.86%)	512 (62.29%)
<b>i. Male</b>	75 (81.52%)	172 (84.31%)	247 (83.45%)	183 (86.32%)	161 (96.99%)	344 (91%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	28 (27.72%)	126 (51.85%)	154 (44.77%)	81 (31.15%)	87 (47.28%)	168 (37.84%)
<b>c. Age over 30 Years</b>	03 (1.59%)	29 (6.49%)	32 (5%)	18 (3.81%)	04 (1.14%)	22 (2.67%)
<b>i. Male</b>	03 (3.26%)	28 (13.73%)	31 (10.47%)	16 (7.55%)	02 (1.2%)	18 (4.76%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	—	01 (0.41%)	01 (0.29%)	02 (0.77%)	02 (1.09%)	04 (0.9%)
<b>d. Mean Age At Marriage (Years)</b>						
<b>i. Male</b>	21.65	24.65	23.72	23.61	23.33	23.49
<b>ii. Female</b>	15.35	18.54	17.6	16.51	17.86	17.07
<b>iii. Total (M+F)</b>	18.35	21.33	20.43	19.7	20.46	20.02



TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/6).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSHPARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>11. Stage At 1st Marriage</b>						
<b>a. At Childhood (0-14 years)</b>	31 (16.06%)	32 (7.16%)	63 (9.84%)	71 (15.04%)	31 (8.86%)	102 (12.41%)
<b>i. Male</b>	01 (1.09%)	—	01 (0.34%)	01 (0.47%)	—	01 (0.26%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	30 (29.70%)	32 (13.17%)	62 (18.02%)	70 (26.92%)	31 (18.67%)	101 (22.75%)
<b>b. At Younhood (15-17 years)</b>	56 (29.02%)	88 (19.69%)	144 (22.5%)	119 (25.21%)	67 (19.14%)	186 (22.63%)
<b>i. Male</b>	13 (14.13%)	04 (1.96%)	17 (5.74%)	12 (5.66%)	03 (1.81%)	15 (3.97%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	43 (42.57%)	84 (34.57%)	127 (36.92%)	107 (41.15%)	64 (34.78%)	171 (38.51%)
<b>c. Before Attaining Majority (a+b)</b>	87 (45.08%)	120 (26.85%)	207 (32.34%)	190 (40.25%)	98 (28%)	288 (35.04%)
<b>i. Male</b>	14 (15.22%)	04 (1.96%)	18 (6.08%)	13 (6.13%)	03 (1.81%)	16 (4.33%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	73 (72.28%)	116 (47.74%)	189 (54.94%)	177 (68.08%)	95 (51.63%)	272 (61.26%)
<b>d. After Reaching Majority (18+ years)</b>	106 (54.92%)	327 (73.15%)	433 (67.66%)	282 (59.75%)	252 (72%)	534 (64.96%)
<b>i. Male</b>	78 (84.78%)	200 (98.04%)	278 (93.92%)	199 (93.87%)	163 (98.19%)	362 (95.77%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	28 (27.72%)	127 (52.26%)	155 (45.06%)	83 (31.92%)	89 (48.37%)	172 (38.74%)
<b>12. Marital Types, Forms &amp; Payment</b>						
<b>a. Types of Marriage</b>						
<b>i. No. of Married Male</b>	92	204	296	212	166	378
<b>ii. Monogamous</b>	86 (93.48%)	198 (97.06%)	284 (95.95%)	209 (98.58%)	161 (96.99%)	370 (97.88%)
<b>iii. Polygynous</b>	06 (6.52%)	06 (2.94%)	12 (4.05%)	03 (1.42%)	05 (3.01%)	08 (2.12%)
<b>b. Forms of Marriage</b>						
<b>i. No. of Marital Incidence</b>	104	248	352	263	189	452
<b>ii. Settle Marriage</b>	100 (96.15%)	230 (92.74%)	330 (93.75%)	259 (98.48%)	187 (98.94%)	446 (98.67%)
<b>iii. Love Marriage</b>	04 (3.85%)	18 (7.26%)	22 (6.25%)	04 (1.52%)	02 (1.06%)	06 (1.33%)
<b>c. Payment Made (as demand)</b>						
<b>i. No. of Married Female</b>	101	243	344	260	184	444
<b>ii. Dowry Paid in Cash</b>	10 (9.9%)	42 (17.28%)	52 (15.12%)	91 (35%)	59 (32.06%)	150 (33.78%)
<b>iii. Dowry Paid in Kinds</b>	34 (33.66%)	63 (25.93%)	97 (28.2%)	20 (7.69%)	12 (6.52%)	32 (7.21%)
<b>iv. Dowry Paid in Cash and Kinds</b>	06 (5.94%)	13 (5.35%)	19 (5.52%)	13 (5%)	09 (4.89%)	22 (4.95%)
<b>v. Dowry Paid by all means</b>	50 (49.5%)	118 (48.56%)	168 (48.84%)	124 (47.69%)	80 (43.48%)	204 (45.95%)
<b>vi. Nothing Paid (as demand)</b>	51 (50.5%)	125 (51.44%)	176 (51.16%)	136 (52.31%)	104 (56.52%)	240 (54.05%)

Note: Row percentages of types of marriage, forms of marriage and payment of marriage have been computed on the basis of total married male, number of marital incidence and married female among the Muslim population of the respective villages (as applicable).

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/7).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSHPARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>13. Enrolment and Literacy</b>						
a. Total Enrollees (all ages)	206 (46.19%)	844 (72.08%)	1050 (64.94%)	527 (53.07%)	380 (60.41%)	907 (55.92%)
i. Male	125 (53.42%)	470 (76.8%)	595 (70.33%)	306 (58.4%)	221 (67.58%)	527 (61.93%)
ii. Female	81 (38.21%)	374 (66.9%)	455 (59.01%)	221 (47.12%)	159 (52.65%)	380 (49.29%)
b. Rate of Literacy (6-15 years)						
i. Male	89.61	86.59	87.55	79.33	90.41	82.96
ii. Female	82.09	91.28	88.43	75	89.61	80.28
iii. Total	86.11	88.82	87.96	77.27	90	81.65
c. Rate of Literacy (5+ years)						
i. Male	64.1	85.92	80.19	67.7	74.41	70.36
ii. Female	46.02	74.8	67.31	53.9	59.33	56.05
iii. Total	55.53	80.61	74.05	61.14	67.25	63.56
d. Rate of Literacy (7+ years)						
i. Male	60.8	86.68	80.12	68.33	74.2	70.7
ii. Female	41.4	75	66.72	53.77	57.72	55.3
iii. Total	51.56	81.06	73.7	61.37	66.54	63.42
e. Rate of Adult Literacy (15+ years)						
i. Male	45.9	80.99	72.87	58.99	67.1	62.41
ii. Female	23	65.75	55.58	41.75	46.15	43.54
iii. Total	34.89	73.79	64.67	50.83	57.51	53.6
<b>14. Enrolment Ratios (%)</b>						
a. Net Primary Enrolment						
i. Male	94.0	80.72	85.71	75.86	85.29	78.51
ii. Female	87.8	87.01	87.29	65.63	88.89	75.23
iii. Total	91.21	83.75	86.45	71.52	87.34	76.96
b. Gross Primary Enrolment						
i. Male	110	100	103.76	88.5	135.29	101.65
ii. Female	100	114.29	109.32	90.63	120	102.75
iii. Total	105.5	106.86	106.37	89.4	126.58	102.17
c. Gross Secondary Enrolment						
i. Male	40.74	50.62	48.15	63.49	51.28	58.82
ii. Female	38.46	63.89	57.14	61.11	37.5	53.85
iii. Total	39.62	56.86	52.43	62.22	45.07	56.31
d. Gross Tertiary Enrolment						
i. Male	7.32	10.33	9.77	22.1	21.54	21.88
ii. Female	4.76	20.59	16.85	16.84	3.51	11.84
iii. Total	6.02	15.61	13.35	19.47	13.11	16.99
e. Gross Combined Enrolment (b+c+d)						
i. Male	58.47	46.46	49.88	56.33	57.97	56.14
ii. Female	48.62	56.84	54.57	51.08	50.75	50.96
iii. Total	53.74	51.55	52.16	53.78	54.41	54.01

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/8).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSH PARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>15. Literacy Standards (all ages)</b>						
<b>a. Primary Standard (Grade i to v)</b>	141 (31.6%)	392 (33.5%)	533 (32.96%)	232 (23.36%)	237 (27.68%)	469 (28.91%)
i. Male	85 (36.32%)	216 (35.29%)	301 (35.58%)	139 (26.53%)	123 (37.61%)	262 (30.79%)
ii. Female	56 (26.41%)	176 (31.48%)	232 (30.1%)	93 (19.83%)	114 (37.75%)	207 (26.84%)
<b>b. Secondary Standard (Grade vi to x)</b>	51 (11.43%)	289 (24.68%)	340 (21.02%)	165 (16.62%)	83 (13.2%)	248 (15.3%)
i. Male	33 (14.1%)	159 (25.98%)	192 (22.69%)	81 (15.46%)	49 (14.08%)	130 (15.28%)
ii. Female	18 (8.49%)	130 (23.25%)	148 (19.19%)	84 (17.91%)	34 (11.26%)	118 (15.3%)
<b>c. SF/SSC and Intermediate Standard</b>	12 (2.69%)	115 (9.82%)	127 (7.85%)	100 (10.07%)	40 (6.36%)	140 (8.63%)
i. Male	6 (2.56%)	62 (10.13%)	68 (8.04%)	62 (11.83%)	32 (9.79%)	94 (11.05%)
ii. Female	6 (2.83%)	53 (9.48%)	59 (7.65%)	38 (8.1%)	8 (2.65%)	46 (5.97%)
<b>d. Graduation and PG Standard</b>	2 (0.45%)	48 (4.1%)	50 (3.09%)	30 (3.02%)	20 (3.18%)	50 (3.08%)
i. Male	1 (0.42%)	33 (5.39%)	34 (4.01%)	24 (4.58%)	17 (5.2%)	41 (4.82%)
ii. Female	1 (0.47%)	15 (2.68%)	16 (2.08%)	6 (1.28%)	3 (1%)	9 (1.17%)
<b>16. Illiterate Population (all ages %)</b>						
<b>a. Nothing read or write</b>						
i. Male	36.33	20.92	25.18	34.35	22.02	29.61
ii. Female	46.7	24.87	30.87	39.66	18.21	32.56
iii. Total	41.26	22.8	27.89	38.86	21.78	31.01
<b>b. Can read religious text only</b>						
i. Male	1.28	1.14	1.18	2.48	6.12	3.88
ii. Female	7.08	7.69	7.52	10.02	22.84	15.05
iii. Total	4.03	4.27	4.2	6.04	14.15	9.19
<b>c. Can put signature only</b>						
i. Male	8.97	1.14	3.31	4.77	4.28	4.58
ii. Female	8.02	0.54	2.59	3.2	2.98	3.11
iii. Total	8.52	0.85	2.97	4.03	3.66	3.88
<b>d. All ages illiteracy (a+b+c)</b>						
i. Male	46.58	23.2	29.67	41.6	32.42	38.07
ii. Female	61.79	33.09	40.98	52.88	47.35	50.71
iii. Total	53.81	27.92	35.06	46.93	39.59	44.08
<b>e. Rate of Adult illiteracy (15+ years)</b>						
i. Male	54.1	19.01	27.13	41.01	32.9	37.59
ii. Female	77	34.25	44.42	58.25	53.85	56.46
iii. Total	65.11	26.21	35.33	49.17	42.49	46.4

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/9).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSH PARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>17. Continuing Students (as % of enrollees)</b>						
<b>a. Primary Level (Grade i to v)</b>	96 (46.60%)	171 (20.26%)	267 (25.43%)	135 (25.62%)	100 (26.32%)	235 (25.91%)
<b>i. Male</b>	55 (44%)	83 (17.66%)	138 (23.19%)	77 (25.16%)	46 (20.81%)	123 (23.34%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	41 (50.62%)	88 (23.53%)	129 (28.35%)	58 (26.24%)	54 (33.96%)	112 (29.47%)
<b>b. Secondary Level</b>	21 (10.19%)	87 (10.31%)	108 (10.29%)	84 (15.94%)	32 (8.42%)	116 (12.79%)
<b>i. Male</b>	11 (8.8%)	41 (8.72%)	52 (8.74%)	40 (13.07%)	20 (9.05%)	60 (11.39%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	10 (12.34%)	46 (12.3%)	56 (12.31%)	44 (19.91%)	12 (7.55%)	56 (14.74%)
<b>c. Tertiary Level</b>	5 (2.43%)	42 (4.98%)	47 (4.48%)	37 (7.02%)	16 (4.21%)	53 (5.84%)
<b>i. Male</b>	3 (2.4%)	14 (2.98%)	17 (2.86%)	21 (6.86%)	14 (6.33%)	35 (6.64%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	2 (2.47%)	28 (7.49%)	30 (6.59%)	16 (7.24%)	2 (1.26%)	18 (4.74%)
<b>d. Combined Level</b>	122 (59.22%)	300 (35.55%)	422 (40.19%)	256 (48.58%)	148 (38.95%)	404 (44.54%)
<b>i. Male</b>	69 (55.2%)	138 (29.36%)	207 (34.79%)	138 (45.1%)	80 (36.2%)	218 (41.37%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	53 (65.43%)	162 (43.32%)	215 (47.25%)	118 (53.39%)	68 (42.77%)	186 (48.95%)
<b>18. Drop-outs (as % of enrollees)</b>						
<b>a. At Primary Level (Grade I to v)</b>	45 (21.84%)	227 (26.9%)	272 (25.9%)	97 (18.41%)	137 (36.05%)	234 (25.8%)
<b>i. Male</b>	30 (24%)	137 (28.15%)	167 (28.07%)	62 (20.26%)	77 (34.84%)	139 (25.81%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	15 (18.52%)	90 (24.06%)	105 (23.08%)	35 (15.84%)	60 (37.74%)	95 (25%)
<b>b. At Secondary Level</b>	36 (17.48%)	229 (27.13%)	265 (25.24%)	109 (20.68%)	73 (19.21%)	182 (20.07%)
<b>i. Male</b>	25 (20%)	132 (28.09%)	157 (26.39%)	57 (18.63%)	45 (20.36%)	102 (19.35%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	11 (13.58%)	97 (25.94%)	108 (23.74%)	52 (23.53%)	28 (17.61%)	80 (21.05%)
<b>c. At Tertiary Level</b>	3 (1.46%)	83 (9.83%)	86 (8.15)	60 (11.39%)	16 (4.21%)	76 (8.38%)
<b>i. Male</b>	1 (0.8%)	60 (12.76%)	61 (10.25%)	46 (15.03%)	14 (6.33%)	60 (11.39%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	2 (2.47%)	23 (6.15%)	25 (5.5%)	14 (6.33%)	2 (1.26%)	16 (4.21%)
<b>d. At Combined Level (a+b+c)</b>	84 (40.78%)	539 (63.86%)	623 (59.33%)	266 (50.47%)	226 (59.47%)	492 (54.25%)
<b>i. Male</b>	56 (44.8%)	329 (70%)	385 (64.7%)	165 (53.92%)	136 (61.54%)	301 (57.12%)
<b>ii. Female</b>	28 (34.57%)	210 (56.15%)	238 (52.3%)	101 (45.7%)	90 (56.6%)	191 (50.26%)

TABLE — 6.2.8: (Contd. P/10).

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS	STUDY VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL			STUDY VILLAGES OF BANGLADESH		
	GHOSGPARA	NALPUR	TOTAL	GANGACHARA	BETUAIL	TOTAL
<b>19. Religious Erudition</b>						
<b>a. Adults with Religious Learning</b>						
<b>i. Male</b>	34.43	50.85	47.05	60.58	59.74	60.21
<b>ii. Female</b>	36.28	67.13	59.79	64.21	59.48	62.29
<b>iii. Total</b>	35.32	58.53	53.1	62.29	59.62	61.18
<b>b. Up to Kayeda/ Kolema</b>						
<b>i. Male</b>	15.57	25.92	23.53	22.08	23.81	22.81
<b>ii. Female</b>	18.58	31.77	28.63	26.32	25.64	26.04
<b>iii. Total</b>	17.02	28.68	25.95	24.09	24.65	24.32
<b>c. Ampara/ Performing Prayer</b>						
<b>i. Male</b>	9.84	14.81	13.66	22.08	22.94	22.44
<b>ii. Female</b>	8.85	22.1	18.95	23.86	20.51	22.5
<b>iii. Total</b>	9.36	18.25	16.17	22.92	21.83	22.47
<b>d. Fluency in Reading Quran</b>						
<b>i. Male</b>	8.2	8.64	8.53	13.24	11.69	12.59
<b>ii. Female</b>	8.85	12.43	11.58	13.33	13.33	13.33
<b>iii. Total</b>	8.51	10.43	9.98	13.29	12.44	12.93
<b>e. Well-taught in Interpretation</b>						
<b>i. Male</b>	0.82	1.48	1.33	3.18	1.3	2.37
<b>ii. Female</b>	—	0.83	0.63	0.7	—	0.42
<b>iii. Total</b>	0.43	1.17	1.0	1.99	0.7	1.46
<b>20. Situation of Children (6-14)</b>						
<b>a. Enrolled into school</b>						
<b>i. Boys</b>	90.41	85.21	86.98	80	90.91	83.58
<b>ii. Girls</b>	82.54	90.58	88.06	77.6	93.15	83.33
<b>iii. Total</b>	86.76	87.86	87.5	78.85	92.08	83.46
<b>b. Continuing Students</b>						
<b>i. Boys</b>	83.56	75.35	78.14	72.59	86.36	77.11
<b>ii. Girls</b>	77.78	79.71	79.1	75.2	83.56	78.28
<b>iii. Total</b>	80.88	77.5	78.61	73.85	84.89	77.69
<b>c. Dropped-out Children</b>						
<b>i. Boys</b>	6.85	9.86	8.84	7.41	4.55	6.47
<b>ii. Girls</b>	4.76	10.87	8.96	2.4	9.59	5.05
<b>iii. Total</b>	5.88	10.36	8.89	5	7.19	5.77
<b>d. Yet Not Enrolled</b>						
<b>i. Boys</b>	9.59	14.79	13.02	20	9.09	16.42
<b>ii. Girls</b>	17.46	9.42	11.94	22.4	6.85	16.67
<b>iii. Total</b>	13.24	12.14	12.5	21.15	7.92	16.54
<b>e. Children out of school (c+d)</b>						
<b>i. Boys</b>	16.44	24.65	21.86	27.41	13.64	22.89
<b>ii. Girls</b>	22.22	20.29	20.9	24.8	16.44	21.72
<b>iii. Total</b>	19.12	22.5	21.39	26.15	15.11	22.31

Note: All figures are percentages calculated based on children of school going age (6-14 years) against the respective villages.

### **6.3: Educational Facilities in the Villages**

Of the four villages under study, Ghoshpara and Betuail are located in interior rural areas while the rest two viz Nalpur and Gangachara are situated very close to the urban centres. On the other hand, the first two villages are small in size and population than the later two. These villages are provided with one or more free primary schools. But in terms of higher educational facilities large-scale variations have been observed in the villages. A brief description of educational facilities presently available in the villages are furnished below:

**Ghoshpara:** There is no formal educational institution except a government primary school. Apart from this a Sishu Sikkah Sadan and a junior high school are situated at its adjacent villages. There are also a high school, a girls' high school and a higher secondary school within 5 kilometre from the village, but no college at the vicinity. Distances of the nearest college and university from the village are 15 kilometres and 40 kilometres respectively.

**Nalpur:** It is blessed of numerous formal educational institutions as well as non-formal educational centers. The formal institutions consist of a primary school, a primary madrasa and a junior high school whereas the non-formal institutions comprise four literacy centers. Moreover, a high school and a higher secondary school are situated at its adjacent villages. There are also a college and a high madrasa within 8 kilometres from the village. As the capital city Kolkata is at a close distance from the village, the villagers have greater opportunity to be enrolled in different educational institution of various types situated there.

**Gangachara:** As situated at the nucleus of upazila sadar, this village is blessed with a lot of formal educational institutions comprising primary school-2, kinder garten-1, coeducational high school-2, coeducational degree college-1, girls' high school-1, women's college-1, senior madrasha along with ebtedary section-1. There are also five non-formal educational centres conducted by different NGOs and three maktabas leaded by local elites. In addition to these, the villagers availed themselves of the facilities of numerous educational institutions that are situated at the neighbouring villages or at very close distances including the district sadar (Rangpur city).

**Betuail:** There was no formal or non-formal educational institution except a government primary school and a maktab up to 1999. After then different programmes for Total Literacy Movement are launching there by the government and leading NGOs. Study reveals that three non-formal adult literacy centers have been established there over the recent years. Moreover, the village is facilitated with two high schools and a dakhil madrasha that are situated within two kilometers distance from the village. There are also a college and a high madrasha within 8 kilometres from the village. As the capital city Dhaka is at a close distance from the village, the villagers have greater opportunity to be enrolled there in different educational institution of various types.

However, to examine the educational facilities available for the villagers an account of various types of educational institutions situated within the study villages and when there is no such institution the distance of the nearest outside the village is furnished below (Table-6.3.9).

**Table-6.3.9: Different types of educational institution within and outside the villages.**

Type/Level of educational institutions	Name of the Study villages			
	Ghoshpara	Nalpur	Gangachara	Betuail
<b>1. Within the Village</b> (no. of institution)				
<b>a. Primary Standard</b>				
i. Free Primary School	1	1	2	1
ii. Primary /Ebtetary Madrasha	-	1	1	-
iii. KG School	-	-	1	-
iv. Maktab	1	1	2	1
v. NFE/ Adult Literacy Centre	-	4	4	3
<b>Total Primary Standard</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>b. Secondary Standard</b>				
i. Junior High School	-	1	-	-
ii. High School	-	-	2	-
iii. Dakhil Section (attached to Senior Madrasha )	-	-	1	-
iv. Girls High School	-	-	1	-
<b>Total Secondary Standard</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>c. Post Secondary Standard</b>				
i. Degree College (with Intermediate Section)	-	-	1	-
ii. Women's Intermediate College	-	-	1	-
iii. Senior Madrasha (with Alim Section)	-	-	1	-
<b>Total Post Secondary Standard</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>All Standard Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. Outside Village</b> (distance of the nearest institution)				
i. Public Library	15 kms	2 kms	NA	10 kms
ii. Vocational Training Centre	15 kms	17 kms	12 kms	12 kms
iii. High School	2 kms	1 km	NA	1.5 kms
iv. Girls High School	5 kms	NK	NA	5 kms
v. High Madrasha	NK	7 kms	NA	1 km
vi. Intermediate College	5 kms	2 kms	NA	5 kms
vii. Girls Intermediate College	NK	NK	NA	12 kms
viii. Degree College	5 kms	8 kms	NA	10 kms
ix. Women's Degree College	NK	NK	12 kms	12 kms
x. Senior Madrasha	NK	12 kms	NA	4 kms
xi. University/ Postgraduate Institution	40 kms	22 kms	12 kms	40 kms

Note: Distance of the nearest institution outside village is applicable when such institution is non-existing within the village.



#### **6.4: Observations**

The study villages are equally selected from unlike regions of West Bengal and Bangladesh. In West Bengal, the villages are Ghoshpara and Nalpur. The first one is situated under a northern district named Jalpaiguri and the second one is under a southern district named Howra. In Bangladesh, the villages are Gangachara and Betuail. The first one is situated under a northern district named Rangpur and the second one under its capital district Dhaka.

Of the four study villages, Ghoshpara and Betuail are small hamlet while the rest two are big by area and people. Muslim groups and Hindu castes inhabit these villages. But in terms of numerical strength the Muslims are dominant. All of them are the followers of Hanafi School and belong to Sunni Sector, yet they are divided into different khandans. However, the entire villagers irrespective of their caste and khandan are governed both by the statutory local government unit and council of village elders.

According to Zamindari reports and opinions of the learned and knowledgeable villagers, all the above villages except Gangachara have a history of notable past that may be five hundred years old. But the village of Gangachara as per available revenue documents does not bear the aristocracy of noteworthy hoariness as it is formed from the alluvial of Teesta river hardly 150-200 years ago. It is interesting to note that the above villages were modeled on agrarian background, but at present agriculture is not playing the pivotal role in all of them. Because, Gangachara is rapidly losing rural characteristics due to her location at the centre of upazila sadar while Nalpur as situated outskirts of town has already turned into a semi-urban area.

The average yearly family income in Ghoshpara at 1997-98 constant market price stands Rs.31,150 for the Hindus and Rs.23,102 for the Muslims. So, Muslims of Ghoshpara are poorer than Hindus. Study reveals that the Muslims of this village are also lagging much behind in the field of education than the Hindus. For instance, the rates of literacy for population aged 7<sup>+</sup> years stand there 58 per cent comprising 70 per cent for the Hindus but 52 per cent for the Muslims.

The overall economic condition of the villagers as well as their state of education at Nalpur is quite satisfactory. For instance, the average yearly family income of the villagers of Nalpur at 1997-98 constant market price stands Rs. 59,616 while in the village 81 per cent population comprising 87 per cent males and 75 per cent females of age group 7<sup>+</sup> years are literate.

The overall economic condition of the villagers of Gangachara is disappointing. Average yearly family income of this village at 1997-98 constant market price stands Tk. 29,864 for the Hindus and Tk.34,172 for the Muslims. This village is blessed with a lot of educational institutions, formal as well as non-formal, yet only 60 per cent population comprising 49 per cent Hindus and 61 per cent Muslims of age group 7<sup>+</sup> years are literate there.

In recent times the economic condition of the villagers of Betuail has been upgraded to a satisfactory extent due to the various programmes initiated by the government and leading NGOs. As a result, per family yearly earnings in this village at 1997-98 constant market price stands Tk. 52,533 for the Hindus and Tk.49,972 for the Muslims. However, in the village 65 per cent population comprising 57 per cent Hindus and 67 per cent Muslims aged 7<sup>+</sup> years are literate.