

CHAPTER - EIGHT

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The main object of the the study is to find out the role of market centres in the development of police stations of Bagerhat district. It has been observed that the market centres serve as the central place in rural areas. It has provided many central functions and local exchanges in village. The study aims at mainly two principal objectives : to study the various characteristics of rural markets and to examine the factors influencing the development of rural area by the market centres. It has also been tried to examine the socio-economic and other functional role of the markets in the district in some details in order to arrive at the following results.

The establishment of markets in the study area has taken place in the past without any planning. This is due to the fact that these markets were established through the institutions and offices or influential person at open spaces for their convenience of the public assemble away from the settlement.

Physiography, soil and population density have created some important spatial and distributional features of the markets of the study area. The densely populated areas have the highest number of markets than the sparsely populated areas. It has also been observed that there is a close resemblance between the intensity and distributional pattern of the markets. The densely populated police stations in the district are Bagerhat and Fakirhat. Rugged topography and poor soils are the causes of sparse population and the smaller number of markets. Due to these differences in topography, soil and density of population, the overall distributional pattern of the markets has been random. The markets are widely spaced in Rampal & Fakirhat Police Stations, but closely spaced in thickly populated areas situated between them. Random distribution pattern of rural markets is also observed in Bangladesh. The district is attributed partly to the unplanned initial development of market centres according to the social leaders and partly to unplanned development of rural settlements and transport network. As observed some rural markets are located close to rurally developed area in a regular spacing pattern. They have rather developed according to the population demand and transport facilities.

The district is frequently inundated and sites for settlement is scarce along the coastline or rivers. As a result, the pattern of settlements, is agglomerated and the density of population per km² in the district is high on bank of the rivers. The growth rate of population is enormously high being higher than that of the neighbouring areas and the most populated area are Bagerhat & Kachua Police Stations. Thus the pressure on agricultural land, i.e. man-land ratio is high, and is increasing year by year. As the pressure of population is high, educational facilities are inadequate for serving such a large number of peoples resulting in the illiteracy of the majority of the rural people. The rate of literacy is low in the district. The growth rate of literacy during the last decade was insignificant. High concentration of backward population affects the socio-cultural set-up in the district.

As agriculture is the mainstay of the majority of the people, the agricultural lands are intensively used, but due to presence of low percentage of the cultivable waste lands, the net sown area cannot be increased further. Only gross sown area can be increased to a certain extent by increasing the multiple cropped area which depends partly on irrigational facilities and partly on agricultural inputs. Varieties of crops are cultivated in the district, but their total area and production depend mainly on the monsoons or seasonal rain and some socio-economic factors. Thus, the income of cultivators derived from agriculture remains unstable resulting in the fluctuation of their economic conditions. As agriculture is season bound; the income of agriculture labourers depends on favourable conditions for agriculture. Crop rotations sometimes ensure extra income to the cultivators, but due to lack of irrigational facilities, manure and HYV of seeds, these are not scientifically followed by the cultivations in the district. Moreover, the farmers use traditional agricultural implements and methods of cultivation. as a result, production is not optimum.

As observed from the result, the condition of market is very poor. The roads in the interior become muddy during rainy season and dusty during dry season, making it different to travel through these roads. The drainage and sewerage system is practically absent in the markets of the interior location. The largest and intermediate categories markets of the district are connected by at least one or two 'pucca' or metalled roads, though the surrounding areas are still served by poor transport and communication system, lower type markets are connected by non-metalled or cart road and during

rainy season become unsuitable. Consequently, the presence of buyers & sellers is relatively smaller in number during this period. The mode of transport is low, the charges for transporting of goods are high. As a result, the price of goods are low in the place of production. A great difficulty is faced by the rural folk of the three police stations in their movement and visiting market places for selling commodities.

It may be further stated that existing educational facilities and health services are inadequate for such a large population. Existing educational institutions have low infrastructural facility with either lack of qualified teachers or students. Health services have neither medicines nor qualified doctors, but these are crowded with patients for free medical care. Other socio-economic facilities in the district are very poor and inadequate compared to demand. Besides, electricity has reached only one fourth of the market centres in the district. This has a depressive effect on the growth of secondary and tertiary activities in the rural areas. Limited recreational and other cultural facilities are responsible for extravagant habit of the inhabitants.

The periodicity of markets helps both the buyers and sellers in various ways. Due to this periodicity of markets the petty traders can move more than one market in a week and can combine this product, with sales efficiently. This also minimises the travel distance of the consumers.

In the study area, the periodicity gradually increases from the police station headquarters, towards the thickly populated zone of market centres in the district. One day in a week in the remote areas is gradually replaced by twice a week in the thickly populated areas. Thus, the study area has resemblance with the situation in the southern China (Berry, 67).

Periodicity of rural markets are examined in the term of (i) weekly frequency pattern. (ii) bi-weekly markets (iii) tri-weekly markets, and (iv) daily markets. Among these, the dominant bi-weekly market are more in number than other three types of market. The variation in weekly frequency is reflective of variable demand and socio-economic conditions influencing market meetings.

In nine police stations five categories of diurnal fixation of market activities are identified (i) Morning to evening (ii) Late morning to evening (iii) Noon to evening (iv) Afternoon to evening and (v) Noon to after evening. These varieties of diurnal fixation

are reflectives of diversified demand and socio-economic infra-structure of the study area. However, the dominant duranal market meeting time is morning to evening in large markets, noon to evening in small markets, afternoon to evening (short time) lower type markets. It is having highest share in afternoon to evening market in the district.

156 markets of nine police stations comprise 379 market meetings per week, which include 105 daily and 279. 'hat' day meetings. Monday has been regarding as most dominant market day of the week, when the largest numer of market meetings of other days in the study area.

In general, at least three types of markets are identified in the area. There are retail, whole sale, and wholesale cum retail. Each of these market types has been individual levels which give rise to a spatio-temporal pattern of rural markets. Based on their functional characteristics, markets of each police station are grouped into high, medium and low categories. Only small number of large markets are located near or within the police station headquarters (belonging to highest category). Also the highest level markets offer more central place functions than the lowest level markets. This variation is depended on number and rank of markets.

Compare the market centres of different police stations, the market performs a wide range of functions, which they are graded into five categories. It is categorised on the basis of ratio's in markets with population, area and number of villages. Compare the score value, the highest level is Sarankhola Police Station and lowest level is Rampal Police Station. On the otherhand, it reveals a positive correlation between each other.

The density of population in the command areas is high, and increasing steadily. so the supply for people does not keep with demand. Consquently, availability of the existing central functions and complementary region is very poor. As a result, trade, commerce and service activities thus do not get adequate opportunity for development in the area. Road-links between towns and selected market centres and between selected markets & their dependent villages are poor. The dominant function is very low in market place. So, the spatial & functional gaps in the police stations are high . It needs some infra-structure for its development and it could only happen if proper steps are taken to plug the gaps by suitable device.

The markets are categorised into different parameters of selected market centres. The highest categories have been shown in six market centres. These markets are rich in attendences, permanent shops, temporary shops, command population, command area, bid value and 'hat' day in a week. The lower category markets are comparatively few (3 markets). In other words, the study area reveals a positive relationship between total number of permanent shops and total number of temporary shops & bid value.

The spatial structure of selected markets has been shown in differential distribution pattern. Majority of selected markets are dependent on offices and institutions. Which are located within the central place but the offices of highest level markets is far away from central place within half km or more in distance.

Some observations relating to the general problem of market establishment, management and development may be made here from the experience of this study. The establishment of markets, in Bangladesh tookplace in this part without any planning, but this should not be allowed any longer in the national interest in before. The establishment and growth of market must be planned and promoted for efficient social, economical and other functions in the rural area.

The observation result and multiple correlation & regression provide some important insight toward the theoretical generalization posed earlier in the study. the dominance of population pressure and transport intensity on the development of rural markets, as observed in the study area of Bangladesh provide support to Hodders concept of markets development in which Holder argued that rural markets develop out of the stimulus provided by internal forces such as the economic one demanding the establishment of an exchange system and by the external forces such as transport routes.

The result also provide the support to those works that consider population density, transport intensity, range of goods and consumers & traders income as the factors influencing size and periodicity of rural markets in developing countries (Skinner 64, 65, Eighmy, 72). It is found that the study provides support to the central place theory of Christaller (1933).

It may further be stated that the rural markets also play an important role in the growth of permanent market centres. The rural markets have undergone gradual

development and transformation by the process of both traditional and modern changes. The former works in the initial stage, whereas modern change occurs due to increasing commercialization and improved means of transportation. In the interior of the study area; particularly in Rampal and Mongla Police Stations, the growth of new rural markets and their development largely depend on the increase of population density. Larger markets stabilize, new dates are added and finally periodicity vanishes i.e. the periodic markets begin to be held on daily basis although huge buyers and seller rush to the markets, during hat days keeping the old tradition. Modern change, as observed in the densely populated area of all the Police Station headquarters, (increased services areas, greater volume of trade are done in centres). It is observed that the higher order centres continue to grow up in size and establishment.

In conclusion, it can be said that this study has several far-reaching implications. First, the study generated data set on nine P.S. located in diversified physical, demographical and economic conditions that were non-existent. Second, it tested some rudiments of the theory of marketing those were not tested before in case of Bagerhat district. Lastly, it has identified population pressure, transport system, among others, as the most important criterion influencing market centres. The study results, it is expected, will be helpful in further planning market development as well as rural development in the district.