
PREFACE

Markets have played important role in the rural areas of Bangladesh. Villagers have usually sold their surplus and purchased their necessity at such markets. Many sorts of traders have been engaged in trading there, under the modernization and industrialization of the country, the situation of such markets are changing rapidly, For better understanding of rural life in district, it is very important to investigate the contemporary states of these markets.

The present study concerns with the characteristics and role of market centres of Bagerhat district. The main theme of this study is that the peasant way of life of the study area is closely interlinked with the rural markets. In addition to exchange mechanism the market centres also perform a wide range of other functions such as economical, cultures and social etc. the study has examined the rudiment of the above mentioned^{of} these of rural markets as they may be applied to the rural periodic markets in nine police stations in 156 markets. Detailed data were obtained for 45 selected markets in the district. In analysing these characteristics both the primary & secondary sources of data have been used. Information was also gathered from respondents representing each category of the traders & buyers of different levels. Besiders this interviews were made by pre-arranged informers at entry joint in order to determine each of their command area & comand population. The approach of the study is mostly geographical and empirical one.

The basic idea of this study, the role of major market centres in the district. An investigation towards its backwardness of rural market has been undertaken for formulating a strategy of hinterland. Before such an attempt is made it, on certain point. Some studies on microlevel planning in Bangladesh government were made. It is

expected that this study will not only improve or useful for present occasion but would also provide a guideline for subsequent Scholars, who may introduce such modification as local situation would demand.

The present research work is composed of nine chapters and an appendix chapter 1 to 7 are related to the study area data of Bagerhat. Physical background has been sketched in the first chapter and chapter two describe the landuse pattern of the area. Chapter three and four are devoted for discussing the population character and socio-economic condition of the district respectively. Chapter five & six focusses the character & indentify the functin of markets. Chapter seven analysed the condition of selected market centres. The final chapter describe the suggestion & conclusion of the thesis. The appendix is added for detailed information of the market centres in the district.