CHAPTER - 2

Fertility, Mortality, Rate of Growth of Population & Mobility of Labour.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.0.1 The planning of a block economy both for a short term as well as for a long term requires a correct knowledge about the characteristics of the population of the area. In the first place, these characteristics might be regarded as almost constant data for the purpose of a short period. So a short term plan has to make use of an estimate of the population and, consequently, of labour force available for participation in the expansion of output in the area economy. Such an estimate can only be built up if we have the data in respect of the characteristics which we include in the title of this chapter. Secondly, the characteristics might provide us with an invaluable aid in determining the kinds of planning for the purpose of assuming a path of development with a constant population (Sarkar 1985).

2.1 MORTALITY

2.1.1 The study of mortality is important not merely for estimating the rate of growth of population. Its importance lies in the fact that a lessening in the rate of mortality helps people directly and indirectly to increase their efficiency in the productive activities as well as in cultural activities, sports and such other

activities which not merely enhance the image of the country but also add to the strengthening of aims of individuals of the society. The lessening of mortality has also a catalytic effect on the fertility. If families feel sure that children are not exposed to heavy rate of deaths, they feel content that they have hardly any need of additional births to compensate for deaths. There is a view that an increase in the span of life following a fall in the rate of deaths may increase the savings of the community through the increased productivity of skilled senior citizens.

2.1.2 A sample of five villages of the two blocks of Chanchal has a total population of 3,227. We can see from Table 2.1.1 the

Table 2.1.1

General Deaths Rate

Village	Population	No. of deaths in the last year	Death rate per 1000
Sanjib	724	5	6.91
Saktihar	738	9	12.19
Uttar Bhavanipur	836	12	14.35
Sambhunagar	351	1	2.85
Balidanga	578	3	5.19
Total Sample	3227	30	9.30

number of deaths in the last year and the rate of deaths[1]. The rate of deaths in the area is not lower than the Panchayats of Nepal which received liberal benefits through the operation of foreign aided integrated rural development projects (Sarkar & Shaha 1990a). A comparison with the rate of deaths in West Bengal as well as with that in the whole of India for the reference period shows that the rate of deaths in the area is rather lower (Government of W.B., 1989).

2.1.3 What, however, is clear from Table 2.1.2 that in the recent decade the rate of death has declined. Since the rate of death among the children born to married women of the age-group 30-41 is higher than that among those born to married women of the age

Table 2.1.2

Rate of Deaths Among The Children Born to Married Women

Age group of married women	Number of children born so far	Number of children died	Rate of Deaths
18-29	586	74	0.12
30-41	1114	228	0.20

group 18-29 it is reasonable to incline towards the position that in the earlier decade the rate of death among children was still higher. We can thus see from Table 2.1.3 that of all the persons

who died during the last one year and at the same time did not cross their 35th year at death, 76 percent were boys and girls who did not cross their fifth year at birth. The children born

Table 2.1.3

Distribution of Last Year's Death
Among Three Younger Age Groups.

Age group	Population	Number of deaths	P.C.
Upto 5	505	13	76
5-15	895	2	12
15-35	1174	2	12
Total	2574	17	100

(Note : Age here is regarded as a continuous variable. The figures of age have not been rounded. So the group 5-15, for example, covers children who are just 5 years and a day old to those who just completed 15 years).

to the married women of age group 30-41 died mostly in their age interval upto 5 years. So it is reasonable to conclude on the basis of table 2.1.2 that the rate of mortality of children below 5 years was higher a decade earlier than now. Again with this trend of the fall in the rate of deaths it is but reasonable to suppose that with programmes for health for all by 2000 A.D. being implemented to cover the area economy now being studied the rate of deaths will fall still further.

2.1.4 The death rate in our sample is found to be varying among social classes[2] and among economic groups. The block economy is dominated by muslims. Of the total population 74.24 per cent are muslims. One might argue that a part of the variation exhibited by Table 2.1.4 may be accounted for by sampling fluctuation. But

Table 2.1.4

Deaths In Two Major Social Classes

Major social class	Population	No. of deaths in one year	Death rate per 1000
Muslims	2396	18	7.51
Non-Muslims	831	12	14.44
Total	3227	30	9.30

using the death rate as a binomial variable it is found that the difference of the death rate is significant. Obviously the muslim families of the area are better organised to cope with the threat of premature deaths. Apart from the general health services offered by the State, the education, assets and income, extension offered by religious and social organisations, family wisdom passed through generations are some of the factors affecting variation in deaths among families. Non-muslims may have fared unwell so far in at least some of these endowments.

2.1.5 We reach a curious position in Table 2.1.5 that gives a variation in death among per capita Income Groups. We find the unusual position that the rate of death varies directly with the increase of per capita income. This rather points to the fact that the per capita income in the case of our sample cannot be the only differentiator. As we mentioned in the preceding paragraph that the moral and economic resources of the parents are the main factors affecting the death or surviving prospects of the children. It might appear that the efficiency of family management is more important than mere per capita share of income.

2.1.6 We may, however, re-present Table 2.1.5 with a different grouping in Table 2.1.6. The table 2.1.6 exhibits a very plausible trend. The rate of death falls with the rise of per capita annual

Table 2.1.5

Deaths Among Per Capita Income Groups

Per capita income (Rs) (annual)	Population	No. of deaths	Death Rate per 1000
Upto 1000	1719	14	8.14
1000-2000	1140	10	8.77
Above 2000	368	6	16.30
Total	3227	30	9.30

income in the family. With the enlargement of our sample we may through a process of regrouping find that there is a level of per capita income beyond which the chances of survival of children increase decisively.

Table 2.1.6

Death Among Two Income Groups

Per capita income in the family (Rs) (annual)	Population	No. of deaths	Death rate per 1000
Upto 2500	2727	27	9.9
Above 2500	500	3	6.0
Total	3227	30	9.3

2.1.7 To return to a point made in the last sentence of para 2.1.5 we find that family income is a little better explanatory than just average per capita share of income. Apart from the question of management on the basis of household economy, there remains also the question of good variability in the distribution of family size. So we find in Table 2.1.7 that the death rate falls with the increase of family income. It stands reasonable to hypothesise that with larger data in all the classes the differences in the death-rates among this kind of groups will be significant. This means that we have to visualise that even mere increase of family income will lead to further reduction of death rate.

Table 2.1.7

Deaths Among Family Income Groups

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	No. of deaths in last one year	Death rate per 1000
Upto 5,000	1497	17	11.35
5,000-12,500	1230	10	8.13
Above 12,500	500	3	6.00
Total	3227	30	9.30

2.1.8 Assets also emerge as means of mastery over premature deaths. Table 2.1.8 gives us the variability of death among different land-asset groups. The differences among 2-5 and above 5 on the one hand and upto 2 and above 5 acres are significant.

Table 2.1.8

Death Among Land-Asset Groups

Land group (acres)	Population	No. of deaths in the last year	Death rate per 1000
With some land but only upto 2.00	1431	16	11.18
2.00-5.00	644	7	10.86
Above 5.00	515	2	3.88
Total	3227	30	9.30

The increase of assets like land has, therefore, contributed to the reduction of deaths in the owning families. Although everybody in the society is not exposed to the potential of an increase in this kind ownership, with the increase in ~~come~~ income people can acquire different kinds of assets and can reduce deaths in their families. Thus we re-inforce the conclusion made in the previous paragraph that expansion of income will bring down further the rate of deaths.

2.1.9 A reference was made in para 2.1.3 and in Table 2.1.3 to the deaths of persons upto the age 5. We saw the heavy incidence of death among children in the age group upto 5 years. We can now see that of the deaths, and not merely of deaths of persons upto 35 years of age, occurring in the sample villages 43.3 per cent occur in the age-group upto 5 years. Table 2.1.10 shows that infant mortality rate[3] for infants upto 1 year is 76 per 1000. As against this we may recollect that in Table 2.1.1 the general death rate has been found to be only about 9 per thousand. On the basis of the evidence adduced in the preceding paragraphs it is reasonable to infer that with the increase in incomes of these families and with the expansion of public health measures the deaths of infants will be minimised.

Table 2.1.9

Distribution of Last Year's Deaths By Age-Groups

Age-group (years)	Number of deaths	P.C. to total no. of deaths last year
Upto 5	13	43.3
5-35	4	13.3
35-60	7	23.3
Above 60	6	20.0
Total	30	99.9

2.1.10 We have seen above more or less conclusively that income or assets are effectual means of power to tame deaths. It would be of interest to ask if the social classes or groups have anything of the nature of built-in devices to cope with deaths. The areas of the two blocks of Chanchal are dominated by Muslims. Non-muslims make up the local minorities. They have compared with the muslims little contact naturally with a wider set of social beings. We have not made any specific study about the social interaction of the two social groups. What has been observed is that even the habitation of the two groups are located in different places. The markets and shops and even tea or eating shops are the only places of free interaction of the two social groups. Purely

on the social plane the non-muslims do not enjoy the benefit of a wide social contact. It is possible that this gives them relatively less access to social extension or even to social organisation. This might be the reason why, as Table 2.1.10 shows, both general death rate and infant mortality rate are

Table 2.1.10

Death-Rate By Social Classes

Social class	Death-rate per 1000	Infant-mortality (upto 1 year) rate per 1000
Muslims	7.5	59
Non-muslims	14.4	129
Total	9.3	76

relatively higher among non-muslims. If what we surmise is true then one way out is to devise a decentralised extension service to disseminate the culture of health, sanitation and household methods of treating ailments. With, therefore, the extension of village level organisations so as to set up one of them for every one thousand households and the activating of them with regular audio-visual programmes for socio-technical extension including extension on personal and public health and sanitation, the rate of deaths will decline further.

2.1.11 Of the thirty deaths that took place during last year from the date of survey twelve cases could not be ascribed to any known and diagnosed disease. Of the diagnosed diseases that accounted for the remaining eighteen deaths four were victims of chest diseases. Their ages varied from fifty to eighty. Only one of them was a patient of chronic asthma. Three other victims of chest diseases died of undiagnosed chest diseases. Taking these three deaths also among the undiagnosed causes of death, 50 percent of the deaths of the last year took place as a result of diseases which were not diagnosed. Ten per cent of the deaths were from cancer. All of them, three in number, were diagnosed. Of the six deaths caused by abdominal troubles four were due to gastro-intestinal troubles, one to ring-worm infection and another more or less undiagnosed truly abdominal trouble. One death has been caused by tetanus infection and one female death caused by suicide which again is suspected to be an effort to escape from unbearable abdominal pain. All told 50 per cent of the victims of death were given some sort of treatment on the basis of advice received at the Chanchal Rural Hospital.

2.1.12 Death appears to be rather unequal to the sexes in only one respect. The rate of deaths among male infants upto one year is higher than that of female infants below one year. While 10 per cent of the male infants upto 1 year died, the corresponding figure for females was 7. In other respects death did not distinguish between men and women during the year in question. The incidence of the suicide is found among the females, while

the sole incidence of tetanus infection occurred among males. As for the comparison of muslims with non-muslims it has already been mentioned that the death rate is higher among non-muslims. Non-muslims have been relatively less skilled to fight against diseases. We may combine chest and abdominable diseases into one class, because in a great deal of undiagnosed cases pain sensed in the region of the chest is caused quite often by troubles generated in the abdomen. While 40 per cent of deaths among non-muslims are caused by this combined ailment, the corresponding percentage for the muslims has been 30.

2.2 FERTILITY

2.2.1 Fertility exhibits a human behaviour made consciously or unconsciously through basically a rational process. Literate or not people behave as members of a society. The reality and prospects open to members of a community bear as equally on fertility as on mortality. In a society where the new born children are exposed to high risk of deaths parents will normally be motivated by the desire of replacing deaths. This phenomenon has caused the demographers to formulate what is known "Replacement Hypothesis" (Ridker 1976).

2.2.2 The families whom the scarcity of income and assets always weigh down are naturally motivated to maximise their income and hence advantage by expanding family size. Normally poor families are the people round which the choice theoretic approach (Becker & Lewis 1973, Birdsall 1980, Cochrane & Zachariah 1983, Lipton 1983, Mueller 1976, Repotto 1976, Schultz 1973, 1976, 1978) of

economists and demographers has been built. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that the sample dominated by the rural poor exhibits high fertility. The birth-rate per thousand is roughly 40. Compared to all India figures for both 1971 and 1981 the present birth rate of the Chanchal blocks or of Chanchal Police Station area is high by any standard [4] (Registrar General of India 1988).

2.2.3 Seen a little more closely the rate of birth is variable among villages, among social groups as well as among economic classes. The variation among villages and social groups can be clearly seen from Table 2.2.1. Although the rate of birth among the muslims is generally higher than that among non-muslims and although this difference may at times be significant, influences other than the social ethos is sure to wear down the current high rate. The question whether any social class will retain a relatively higher fertility even in a setting of over-all decline in birth-rate need not concern us here.

Table 2.2.1
Birth-Rate By Social Class & Village

Social class	Birth-rate per 1000 of					
	Sanjib	Saktihar	Uttar Bhabani-pur	Sambhu nagar	Bali-danga	Total Sample
Muslim	52.43	41.41	40.96	41.24	27.57	41.32
Non-muslim	28.71	27.45	62.50	16.67	44.69	36.10
Total	45.58	36.59	44.26	37.04	32.87	39.98

2.2.4 There is little doubt that fertility varies inversely with the increase of the size of the farm. But at the same time it is equally obvious, when we look at the tables of death-rates in the preceding section, that the rate of decline of fertility is lower than that of the rate of death.

Table 2.2.2

Birth-Rate By Land Groups

Operational holding (Acres)	Population	No. of live births during the last year	Birth-rate per 1000
Nil	637	33	51.80
Upto 2	1431	58	40.53
2-5	644	20	31.05
Above 5	515	18	34.95
Total	3227	129	39.98

2.2.5 That the fertility behaviour is rather stiff in the sense that a decisive or pronounced fall in it is not caused by a rather marginal increment in assets or income. Both Tables 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 show decline in fertility with increase in income. But the fertility is seen to be higher in the income group above Rs. 12,500 than in the group above Rs. 5,000. This merely shows that diverse attitudes to fertility may exist in the same income or asset group. This means the speed at which fertility declines with expansion of income and/or assets at this level is rather low.

Table 2.2.3

Birth-Rate By Income Groups (A)

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	No. of live births in the last year	Birth-rate per 1000
Upto 5,000	1497	75	50.1
Above 5,000	1703	54	31.21

Table 2.2.4

Birth-Rate By Income Groups (B)

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	No. of live births in the last year	Birth-rate per 1000
Upto 12,500	2727	113	41.43
Above 12,500	500	16	32.00

2.2.6 We present here in tables 2.2.5 (A) and 2.2.6 (B) the general fertility rate[5], total fertility rate[6], gross reproduction rate[7] and net reproduction rate[8] of the Sample population. These measures are also shown as they vary among income groups.

Table 2.2.5 (A)

General Fertility Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Gross Reproduction Rate and Net Reproduction Rate By Family Income Groups.

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	General fertility rate	Total fertility rate	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate
Upto 5000	1497	199.46	6.15	3.06	2.09
Above 5000	1730	133.99	7.19	3.34	2.43
Total	3227	165.59	6.73	3.22	2.29

Table 2.2.6 (B)

General Fertility Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Gross Reproduction Rate and Net Reproduction Rate By Family Income Groups.

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	General fertility rate	Total fertility rate	Gross reproduction rate	Net reproduction rate
Upto 12,500	2727	169.92	6.39	3.09	2.17
Above 12,500	500	140.35	9.22	4.11	3.11
Total	3227	165.59	6.73	3.22	2.29

We may add that the latter measures may not truly portend the future especially if there is a decisive decline in the birth-rate in the recent decade. In fact no quantitative measure can have a perfect claim of infallibility. Even considering this aspect of the measures we point to the grim fact that the net reproduction rate is too high to be subjected to correction to the level of constancy of population. The set of policies the implementation of which brooks no delay admits of easy execution and monitoring only at the level of the grass roots economy.

2.3 RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION

2.3.1 A picture of the rate of growth[9] of population is presented here through tables 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3(A), & 2.3.4(B). What may be added is that since the variation in the rate of death among different groups is different from that in the rate of birth, the rate of growth of population has a kind of variation, among different groups, which is quite different from the other two rates.

Table 2.3.1

Rate Of Growth Of Population By Social Class & Village.

Social class	Rate of growth per 1000 of					
	Sanjib	Saktihar	Uttar Bhabani-pur	Sambhu nagar	Bali-danga	Total Sample
Muslim	48.54	35.20	26.83	37.80	22.56	33.80
Non-muslim	14.35	3.92	46.87	16.67	39.11	21.66
Total	38.67	24.39	29.90	34.19	27.68	30.68

Table 2.3.2

Rate Of Growth Of Population By Land Groups

Operational holding (Acres)	Population	Rate of growth per 1000
Nil	637	43.96
Upto 2.00	1431	29.35
2.00-5.00	644	20.19
Above 5.00	515	31.07
Total	3227	30.68

Table 2.3.3 (A)

Rate Of Growth Of Population By Income Classes

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	Rate of Growth per 1000
Upto 5000	1497	38.75
Above 5000	1730	23.70
Total	3227	30.68

Table 2.3.4 (B)

Rate Of Growth Of Population By Income Classes

Annual family income (Rs)	Population	Rate of Growth per 1000
Upto 12,500	2727	31.53
Above 12,500	500	26.00
Total	3227	30.68

2.4 POPULATION PROJECTION

2.4.1 On the basis of the rate of growth of population per annum we make estimates of future population at different points of time. This is necessary because when we plan for the mobilisation of basic resources like labour we must take into account addition to labour force as a result of natural increase. While we stress mobilisation of basic resources like labour for our type of decentralised rural planning, we have to plan for the people of the area. Hence this estimate will be invaluable for considering the alternatives of instruments, institutions and frame-work needed.

2.4.2 For our purpose we take the present growth rate of 3.07 per cent per annum as constant assuming no change in fertility and mortality. We also assume that migration is negligible. We use the simple formula $P = M (1 + r)^n$

where P = Estimated population,
M = Present population,
r = rate of growth of population

and n = number of years.

The result is presented in table 2.4.1.

Table 2.4.1

Projected Population Totals (1991-2006)

			Year	Estimated population	
				Sample villages	Two blocks of Chanchal
Crude birth rate	4.00 percent	Aug.	1991	3,869	2,98,785
Crude death rate	.93 "	"	1996	4,500	3,47,552
Annual rate of growth	3.07 "	"	2001	5,235	4,04,279
Present population of the Sample villages (August 1985)	3227		2006	6,089	4,70,265

2.4.3 On the basis of the age-sex distribution of the present population and assuming, in the absence of any easy alternative, no change in the pattern of age-sex distribution we present in tables 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 the age-sex distribution of projected population of the sample area and the combined block area for 1991 and 2001.

Table 2.4.2

Projected Sample Population : Distribution By Age and Sex

	1991			2001		
Age group	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-5	315	290	605	426	393	819
5-10	294	313	607	398	423	821
10-15	242	224	466	328	303	631
15-35	751	657	1408	1015	889	1904
35-60	345	308	653	467	417	884
Above 60	75	55	130	101	75	176
Total	2022	1847	3869	2735	2800	5235

Table 2.4.3

Projected Block (Chanchal I & Chanchal II combined)
Population : Distribution By Age and Sex

	1991			2001		
Age group	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-5	24353	22407	46760	32951	30319	63270
5-10	22684	24165	46849	30694	32697	63391
10-15	18697	17307	36004	25297	23418	48715
15-35	57958	50740	108698	78421	68656	147077
Above 60	5745	4264	10009	7774	5769	13543
Total	156103	142682	298785	211218	193061	404279

2.5 MOBILITY OF LABOUR

2.5.1 An approximate estimate of inflow of work-seeking persons into the area and of the outflow of persons from the area in search of work is included in the chapter for a number of reasons. In the first place we have the need to gather some idea of the responsiveness of the members of the labour force to whatever opportunities come their way. This might give us some basis to estimate the efforts needed in terms of planning to make productive use of those who in their own estimate have become rather functionless in their own habitat. We do not, however, rule out that through education and expansion of skills more men and women may relish joining the main stream of high activity outside their own area. A task of decentralised rural planning would indeed be to let the area export progressively more and more of such persons for competitive work at the national level. Once development reaches such a stage that a sizeable section of elite has been created within the area, it would be task of medium and longer term planning to create or cause to create through laws and institutional framework capacities to more than absorb local elite in productive employment. In the second place, information about the inflow is needed to scrutinise their role in the productive system in the area. It also might be necessary to monitor the nature of development needed in the area from where such work-seeking persons arrive. Finally, there might be such reasons which induce rather unwilling persons to move away from the locality. The threat to such persons to continue to work in the area may be removed only through planning at the grass-root rural economy.

2.5.2 Despite what Gandhi says about the extent to which man should move from his own habitat, it is a general aspiration among human beings to be occasionally away from the drudgery of his home. He would like to visit centres of entertainments, cities, holy centres and go places for holidaying. In this section we want to report the data we obtained in the course of investigation in these respects. They would be of use for the planning of the recreation facilities for the people of the grass-root rural economy under study. It is in the fitness of things that a description of this type is included in the chapter on demographic details.

2.5.3 Immigration

The five sample villages of the two blocks of Chanchal have provided living space to 38 families of immigrants in the course of the last fifty years. The average number of years migrant families spent in the area since migration is 19.44 years. We noticed two group migrations. Seven tribal families migrated to Sanjib about 1960 and 7 Hindu families migrated to Sambhunagar about 1975. The migration of the remaining 24 families took place between 1935 and 1985.

2.5.4 Of the total 38 immigrant families 21 came from other villages within the Chanchal blocks. The remaining 17 families came from outside the Chanchal blocks, the area under study. Out of the 17 families in-migrating from outside our block economy, 4 families came from other blocks within the districts, 3 from other districts of the State and 10 from the border State of Bihar. All the 7 tribal families (Santals) migrated from Bihar. They got

the idea of possibility of work on farms and of space for living from members of their tribe and kinsmen living in a neighbouring village. The establishment of a brick field at Sambhunagar offered work to 10 families of labourers. Some muslim labourers migrated to the area on receiving gifts of land from fathers-in-laws after marriage. The network of river lift irrigation and public works department induced two families to stay in two of the sample villages. Some kinds of crimes pushed some labourers from outside the sample villages to the sample villages. Floods or epidemics outside the sample area also induced some farmers to seek shelter and eventually farm in the area.

2.5.5 Out of 38 immigrants families 22 now belong to annual family income group 2500-5000, while 12 lie above this income range and only 4 below it. Again 36 immigrants have got good employment i.e., more than 150 days in the last year, the remaining 2 only could not reach this level. Therefore though very little, the Chanchal villages yet, offered gainful work opportunity to outsiders.

2.5.6 Emigration

Our enquiries reveal that none of the inhabitants of the sample villages left their village 25 years ago. Within the last twenty five years only 10 persons emigrated. Of them eight persons migrated with their families and the remaining two built up their families only after migration. Of the ten migrating families only ~~te~~ two have become service holders and one joined the legal profession.

The latter was later elected an M.L.A. of West Bengal Assembly from a neighbouring rural constituency. Seven of the families left either to work as labourers or to be engaged in petty trade.

2.5.7 During the last twenty five years thirty persons got work outside our block economy. Of these eighteen persons got salaried jobs. Of them again twelve got positions within the district, one outside the district but within the State and the rest five live outside the State. The village wise break up of this kind of movement can be seen from table 2.5.1. Among the remaining twelve persons six got position within the Chanchal blocks and six outside it. They found work either as labourers or servants or petty traders. The total of those who migrated permanently to accept salaried jobs and those who in salaried jobs outside the blocks amount to 21. In terms of ratio it is much less than one per hundred. Even this did not occur twenty five years ago. The block economy undoubtedly have had some share in the participation of the extended elite in the district and outside.

2.5.8 We can view from table 2.5.2 that 45 persons got work outside their villages for short terms. Such work outside the village which can be done without staying out of home has been excluded from this seasonal migration. Work causing seasonal migration covered both agricultural and non-agricultural work. Some muslim priests also went places to serve the special needs of their clients. Considering that about 1238 workers lived in our sample villages, the number of persons who migrated seasonally made up nearly 3.63 percent of workers.

Table 2.5.1

Immigration, Emigration And Working Outside

Sl. No.	Sample village	Immigration	Emigration			Maintain home in the area but full work outside		
			Govt. superior work	Others	Total	Govt. superior work	Others	Total
1.	Sanjib	7	-	3	3	2	-	2
2.	Saktihar	4	-	-	-	5	4	9
3.	Uttar Bhabanipur	3	3	3	6	-	4	4
4.	Shambhunagar	11	-	-	-	2	2	4
5.	Balidanga	1	-	1	1	9	2	11
Total Sample		26	3	7	10	18	12	30

Table 2.5.2

Seasonal Migration

Sl. No.	Categories	Within block	Outside block	Total
1.	Number of persons who migrated for less than 3 months	2	8	10
2.	Number of persons who migrated for more than 3 months	12	23	35
Total		14	31	45

2.5.9 Villagers' visit to country towns

Villagers' movement to the country town is mainly business oriented. Other than marketing and shopping they move for medical treatment. Majority of the students getting education above primary level also have to move to the urban schools. The people attend big weekly hats at Chanchal and Samsi to do all their buying and selling (including the buying of services). The attraction of cinema, jatras and the like induce the villagers in no small way to visit the country towns. Lately establishment of video halls in most of the local country towns like Ashapur, Malatipur, Makdampur, has lessened the villagers' movement to the big country towns for entertainment. Absence of regular transport restricts the mobility of inhabitants of some villages like Balidanga towards the main country towns.

2.5.10 The villagers[4] share a common tendency to meet relatives yearly. Even among the people of the lower income group, at least 50% moved to their relatives once in the last year. Their relatives mostly stay within short distance. The labourers often move to meet such relatives on feet. The muslims, specially in the upper income group stay in each village surrounded by their relatives. However, fathers move to meet daughters who have migrated outside after marriage. Young husband moves with his wife to the house of father-in-law. People also meet other relatives in times of major social and religious functions. In any case movement outside the district or State is very limited even among the people of the upper income group.

2.5.11 While there is no question of pilgrimage among the poor people, it is also very limited even among those of the highest income stratum. For muslims attaining Haj at Macca in Soudi Arabia is considered as the most sacred pilgrimage, the expenses of which is very high. Those who perform Haj are called Hajji. Our five villages witnessed only four Hajis in the present generation. Comparatively there has been greater mobility of people for political activities. Including the members of Panchayat, members of Zilla Parishad, former or present member of Legislative Assembly, there are 20 people in our total sample who move to different places for political works. Of the other people, one often hears that the students and the labourers move very occasionally to the district town or the state capital at political conferences or

meetings to travel to a town or metropolitan city at party cost.

2.5.12 Persons leaving the villages (for social, ethnic or some special reason).

The households of the sample villages in general do not have any plans to leave their homesteads for other areas. There is hardly any ethnic or group conflict in these villages. In one of the villages viz. Saktihar the embankment on the bank of the Mahananda built years ago by the irrigation department to save land and people from floods has left about one hundred families out of the benefit of this safety from floods. These people are naturally prone to be on the lookout for opportunities to have a homestead outside their present settlement. This kind of insecurity that acts to destabilise their stay in the village can be well removed through autonomous grass-root rural planning of the type we recommend in the concluding chapter.