

**WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND HOME DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM**

Fifth Report
July 1968 to June 1970.

**PAKISTAN ACADEMY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
COMILLA, EAST PAKISTAN.
December, 1970.**

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**PAKISTAN ACADEMY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
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Kotbari, Comilla
December, 1970.

Tahrunnesa Abdullah
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth report on the Academy's Women's Program covering the activities from July, 1968, to June, 1970. The report consists of six chapters. This chapter includes a brief review of the present situation. In the next four chapters, activities of the report period, 1968-70, are stated with tables. The concluding chapter gives the summary of the report and observation.

Background and Objectives

Since 1962, the Academy has been trying to develop a program of education for the rural women of the Comilla Kotwali Thana evolving a process of teaching women how to be more effective and contributing members of their families. During the initial years the program was organised in a few cooperative villages for the purpose of observation. The program is based on the following hypotheses :

1. To supplement the efforts of her husband it is necessary that the wife should understand what development program really is and what her husband wants to achieve through his participation in the program.
2. The program is to be centered around making the women efficient primarily in their traditional role of housewife and mother. The program is to be suited to the needs of the family.
3. Teaching of new skills in home making to rural wives is essential for which a system of continuous training is to be evolved.
4. Women can take part in economic activities only if they have the capability and opportunity of doing so.

5. Women representatives selected by village groups, after training at Thana Centre, become better extension agents because they exercise more influence in their homes and on their neighbours than those from outside the village.

Accordingly, the program emphasis was on :

- (a) Training of women organizers selected by the village cooperatives who act as the liaison person between the Thana Centre and the village groups. These women also serve as the teachers for the group on the basis of their lessons at the Thana Centre.
- (b) Increasing efficiency of women for effective participation in the economic activities of the family. This is done through promotion of co-operative principles among rural women and introduction of improved methods of vegetable farming, dairy and poultry raising and cottage craft.
- (c) Introduction of modern health practices in the village homes, Mother-Craft Class, Maternity and Child Health Centre, Home Sanitation Program, Mobile Health Clinic and Nutrition Education program have been developed to acquaint women with modern health measures.
- (d) Training of village midwives to improve their skills and to give information necessary for the profession. These midwives are also trained as family planning agents.
- (e) Training of trainers and organization of village-based program to tackle problem of illiteracy among female population. Female adult teachers selected by the village groups and trained at the Thana Centre are teaching adult women and girls in the village adult education centres and primary or feeder schools respectively.

Summary of Present Situation

Progress of all these activities were carefully recorded and published in the annual reports.¹ A short review of the current situation shows that :

1. In a month approximately six hundred women come to Thana Centre for training and orientation. This includes women organizers, literacy teachers, midwives, family planning organizers and agents.
2. On an average 25 training courses of different subjects and various duration were organised every year.
3. There are about 1300 women members in village co-operative societies of Comilla Kotwali Thana.
4. These women have accumulated a capital of about Rs. 59000 as share and savings deposits.
5. These women have successfully utilized small short-term loans of Rs. 54,500 (varying from, Rs. 2,100 to Rs. 60.00 per person) for various agricultural projects and repaid loan within due dates.
6. One hundred and seventy eight midwives attended one month training courses while 78 completed one-year training courses.
7. Attendance of mother and children in the maternity centre varied from 300 to 500 per month.
8. Mobile health clinic has started working from April, 1969 and the 'Lady Health Visitor' attends the clinic at village Shalbanpur once a week.
9. Over 23,000 women have received literacy certificates after completing literacy training course at village Adult Education Centres. There are 62 adult literacy centres in Comilla Kotwali Thana with average enrolment of 30 women in each centre.

¹For details please see previous Annual Reports on Women's Education and Home Development Program, PARD, Comilla.

CHAPTER—II

MANAGEMENT

There has been little change in the administrative set up of the project during the report period. The project continued to work in close collaboration with the Agricultural Co-operative Federation, the Special Co-operative Societies Federation, the Adult Education Directorate, the Health Directorate and Thana Family Planning Office. The various functions carried out under the project are General Education, Health Education and Maternity care, Sewing, Screen Printing and Weaving. The Spinning Section was closed down in May, 1969, due to various problems.¹ The Adult Literacy and Family Planning Sections are working in close cooperation of the relevant Government Departments.

Staffing Pattern :

Two categories of staff are working for the two different functions of the Section, (i) educational and organisational activities, and (ii) technical services. There were four Lady Inspectors taking care of 55 program villages. They were also responsible for organization of training classes at Thana Centre. The technical staff includes one Lady Health Visitor, one Weaving Master, one Sewing Teacher and one Screen Printing Supervisor. Due to shortage of fund and closing down of spinning program a number of workers were retrenched. The total number of employees of the section at the end of the report period was eleven.

Qualifications of the staff and their training :

All the lady inspectors are high school graduates. One staff member is a graduate and also completed one year formal training at the National Development Training Institute. Among the

¹For details see *Enquiry into the Problem of Ambai Charka Program* by Hoque A., Ahmed B and Hoque N, PARD, 1968 (Typed).

technical staff one is a high school graduate with three years formal training in midwifery and public health and two of them are non-matric, have no formal training but have several years of experience in their profession. The screen printing supervisor is a university graduate. She does not have any formal training and has acquired her skill through experience in the Comilla Screen Printing Unit. Most of the staff are married and within the age group of 20 to 30 years.

Staff development program through organization of formal in service training program as well as weekly staff meeting is a regular feature of the Women's Section activities. The importance of frequent association of extension teachers with the administrative policy and research knowledge has long been realized and much emphasis is given for regular and timely attendance of the staff in the weekly meeting. There were 87 staff meetings held during the report period in which past week's activities were reviewed and work plan for the coming week was prepared. A three day refreshers' course was held in January, 1969. The purpose of the course was :

- (i) to review and analyse the objective of the program
- (ii) precise identification of problems needing attention
- (iii) assessment of program
- (iv) assessment of available resources
- (v) assessment of program outcome
- (vi) to plan for future activities.

The lady inspectors also attended a refreshers' course in October, 1968, organized by the Comilla Kotwali Thana Central Cooperative Association. The subjects discussed in this course were Comilla cooperative activities, role of inspectors, and accounts keeping. These periodic refreshers' courses give the employees an opportunity to have a broader picture of the problem and objective evaluation of their activities.

Finance.

The Women's Program activities are carried on under the auspices of the Academy and a certain amount of money is allotted for the project from Academy's research fund. The program also receives occasional grants from outside agencies, such as, Laubach Literacy Fund, Health Directorate of the Government of East Pakistan and East Pakistan Small Industries Corporation. During the year under report an amount of Rs. 40,000/- was received by the project from Academy's research fund, Rs. 4,857 from Laubach Literacy Fund and Rs. 17,280/- from Health Directorate and UNICEF. The Health Directorate and UNICEF provide fund for payment of scholarship to midwives under training at Thana Centre. Table I shows the receipt and expenditure during the years 1968 69 and 1969-70¹.

¹ Based on records maintained by Women's Section.

TABLE—1.

**Receipts and Expenditure of the Womens Program
during the year 1968—1970.¹**

Source	1968—69			1969—70		
	Receipt (Rs.)	Expen- diture (Rs.)	Variance surplus (+) Deficit (-) Rs.	Receipt (Rs.)	Expen- diture (Rs.)	Variance surplus (+) Deficit (-) Rs.
Academy Research Fund	20,000	17,902	+ 2,098	20,000	18,551	+ 1,440
Laubach Literacy Fund	4,857	19,027	- 14,170*	nil	15,709	- 15,709*
Income from Spinning, Weaving and Screen Printing Sections	14,306	23,327	- 9,021*	28,675	24,952	+ 3,723
Health Directorate and UNICEF	8,640	8,640	nil	8,640	8,640	nil
Total :	47,803	68,896		57,315	67,852	

¹ Figures received from the records maintained by women's Section.

These excesses were paid from balance from the previous year left unused. After meeting deficits the balance at the end of the year 1969—70 were Rs. 5,900/- under Laubach Literacy Fund and Rs. 4,120 under Spinning, Weaving and Printing Fund.

During the report year 1969-70 there has been 26% decrease in amount receipt, from the year's 1967-68 which was Rs. 64,819. This was mostly due to reduction in amount of grants received from Laubach Literacy Fund which was Rs. 23,631 in 1967-68. No grant was received from Laubach Literacy Fund during the year 1969-70. However, due to increased income of Spinning, Weaving and Screen Printing Sections, there has been some increase in total receipt for the year 1969-70. Details of year-wise expenditure according to major heads of expenditure from 1964-65 to 1969-70 are given in the following table.

TABLE II
Expenditure during the period 1964—70 according to major heads. ¹

Heads	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
Staff salary	48,746	42,132	27,761	28,660	25,156	19,352
Training	22,776	22,026	33,065	23,660	26,343	25,115
Cost of imple- ment and machi- nary	17,501	14,035	12,996	18,330	14,880	17,665
Transport	5,795	1,387	1,765	2,450	2,059	5,128
Contingency	1,048	3,750	785	335	458	592
Total :	95,866	83,330	76,372	73,435	68,896	67,852

Table shows that there has been 29% decrease in expenditure of the section in the year 1969-70 from what was spent in 1964-65. This reduction is most apparent in staff salary which is approximately 61% which has affected the program as a whole. There was not any significant change in training expenditure, except in 1966-67 when there was 50% increase. This increase was due to introduction of monthly refreshers' course of the extension agents, that is, training allowance and travelling cost of approximately 150 teachers per month.

¹ Figure received from the records maintained by women's section

CHAPTER III

EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Considerable responsibilities are placed upon women in rural areas for elementary family necessities. In addition to looking after children, the women's role in the home involves a number of time consuming tasks associated with feeding the family, cooking, serving, cleaning, sewing, growing vegetable and raising poultry for the family consumption. Although these are considered as important tasks very little was done by way of training women in better management of their activities. For efficient performance of their work the women need information and skill. This is arranged through organized training sessions at Thana Training Centre and in the villages. The training aims at imparting basic knowledge to stimulate action in order to bring changes for better living in rural families in respect of health, education, economic and social life, and development of leadership among the village women.

Training at Thana Centre

During the years under review, 35 courses were organized. Duration of the courses varied from one week to one year and the total number of women who participated was 675. The table III shows a general picture of the total training program during the period 1968-69 and 1969-70.

Vegetable growing and poultry training were incorporated in organizer's classes. The same group also received training in cooperatives. Moreover 25 organizers in two batches completed one week membership training course organized by the East Pakistan Cooperative College, Comilla.

Simple training materials based on different aspects of home development are prepared by the staff under the guidance of experts in respective fields.

TABLE—III

Number of courses organized, no. of participants and duration of the courses at Thana Centre (July, 1968 to June, 1970).

Category	1968—69		1969—70		Duration of the courses
	Total No. of courses/batches	No. of trainees	Total No. of courses/batches	No. of trainees	
1. Health :					
(i) Dai (one year training-scholarship holders)	2	12	2	12	One year
(ii) Dai (one month training)	6	14	2	18	One month
(iii) Dai (Association meeting) ²	24	73 ¹	12	69 ¹	Once a month
(iv) Vaccination	1	15	—	—	One week
(v) Child care	1	14	—	—	One week
(vi) Health agents	1	15	50	7	Once a week
(vii) Public Health	—	—	2	85	One month and 4 days
2. Economic :					
(i) Cooperative & Savings	2	25	2	25	One week
(ii) Sewing	2	9	3	13	3 months
(iii) Screen printing	2	4	—	—	3 months
(iv) Weaving	1	3	2	9	3 months
(v) Spinning	1	15	—	—	3 months
3. Literacy :					
(i) Adult literacy teachers	45	58 ¹	41	62 ¹	Once a week
4. Leadership :					
(i) Village organizers	48	43 ¹	50	41 ¹	Once a week
(ii) Organizers from newly enrolled villages	1	15	2	29	One week

¹ Average attendance.

² Meeting held once in a fortnight during the year 1968—69.

LITERACY

The problems of illiteracy is more acute among women than men. According to 1961 census 32% of the total male population and only 11% of the female population are literate. The situation is worse in rural areas where there are no separate schools for girls. Due to segregation and traditional belief the girls are not allowed to attend or continue studies in the village schools for boys.

Literacy program for illiterate women is organized by the Adult Education Directorate of Comilla. The purpose of the program is to develop a method to tackle the female illiteracy problem in the villages. The literate girls from the villages who have had a minimum of five years' schooling are selected by the village cooperatives for organising literacy centres for girls. Out of the 62 teachers reported during the year 1969-70 approximately 63% are above 30 years of age. The educational level varies from fifth grade to tenth grade and only 20% of them attended high schools. Most of the teachers are married. After the selection these teachers attend one month's course at Thana Training Centre. The content of the course includes (i) purpose and method of Adult Education, (ii) teaching method, (iii) social studies, (iv) improved agricultural practices and (v) home development. Basic education level of these teachers is low and as such it is difficult for them to maintain a level of acceptable performance unless there is a system of regular supervision. There was only one person supervising 62 village centres. This means the centres can be visited once in 2 to 3 months. As such, a continuous training system has been evolved and the teachers are brought to the Thana Centre once a week for refreshers' course. The course content in the weekly meetings includes (i) method of teaching, (ii) general education, (iii) general knowledge, (iv) health education and (v) family accounts. The teachers also report in the same meeting their weekly performance in the villages. Eighty six such meetings were held during the years under report and the average attendance of teachers was 58 to 62.

Details of adult education activities in the villages since 1965 are given in the table below.

TABLE—IV

Female literacy centres, enrolment and certificates issued in Kotwali Thana (July 1965—June 1970.)

Year	No. of centre	Enrolment	Certificate issued ¹		
			1st	2nd	Literacy
1965-66	41	1391	768	643	549
1966-67	115	2558	378	549	477
1967-68	80	2122	566	465	378
1968-69	68	2376	546	318	354
1969-70	62	1805	505	347	325

The experiment has been in operation since January, 1964, and since then 2302 women received literacy certificates from village literacy centres of Comilla Kotwali Thana. Out of the total 62 teachers reported for the period 1969-70, 19 were placed in the primary schools to teach students of lower grades. The rest were teaching in the feeder schools² in addition to adult literacy centres.

The literate people can continue to be literate provided they have the opportunity to practice what they learn. The Adult Education Directorate is continuously producing literature for neo-literates. By the end of the report period 57 booklets were published on various subjects, such as, cooperative savings and farming, religion, health and family planning, case studies of villagers, life history of great men and women, songs and drama, and short stories based on village life. These are written in simple Bengali and in bold letters for easy reading by the new-literates. The Centre arranged distribution of these materials through mobile libraries. By the end of the report period, there were 45 such libraries in Comilla Kotwali Thana.

¹Details may be found in previous Annual Reports on Women's Education and Home Development, PARD, Comilla

²Schools where minor girls are given literacy course

Women's Rally

Two rallies were organized during the report period. The rally is organized every year with the purpose of acquainting people, both villagers and townsmen, with the activities under the women's program. This is also an occasion to honour and show appreciation to those village women who work hard to improve the condition of their neighbours and their own. The first one was on 9th of February, 1969, where Begum Jahanara Hyder, a renowned social worker from Comilla was the chief guest. In her speech to the women participants she said that education for muslim girls is a must. She advised the women to take active part in the women's program and make it a success. Begum Hyder emphasised the need for family planning and important role that women can play in population control. Earlier, the Director of the Academy in welcoming the guests explained the objectives of the Women's Program. The program also included speeches by some of the female members from program villages, presentation of a report on the year's activities and prize distribution to women for their good performance. A display of charts and products of various sections was arranged. Sports and games were also organized and the village women participated in various games of rural nature. Begum Salina Banu, Headmistress, Farida Biddyatan was the chief guest for the rally held in March, 1970.

CHAPTER—IV

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The economic activities of the section consists of promotion of cooperative business activities among rural women, introduction of improved methods of agricultural practices, especially for fruits, vegetables, dairy and poultry products, and training in cottage craft, such as, garment making, weaving and printing of 'Chaddars' and 'Saris'.

Thrift deposits and shares :

The table below shows the progress in terms of cooperative membership and savings among the women since 1965.

TABLE—V

Cooperative membership and savings among village women
(1965-1970).

(Cumulative)

		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Members	Rs.	300	413	714	968	1,137	1,343
Share capital	Rs.	5,590	7,440	8,000	12,160	17,590	19,880
Savings deposit	Rs.	7,949	4,380	10,000	18,738	29,289	39,479
Total share and savings	Rs.	13,539	11,820	18,000	30,898	46,874	59,359
Per capita share & savings	Rs.	45	29	25	32	41	44

During the period of five years from 1965-66 to 1969-70 a total of 1043 new members were enrolled. The year-wise break-up shows that 113 new members were enrolled in 1965-66, 301 in

1966-67, 254 in 1967-68; 169 in 1968-69 and 206 in 1969-70. The figure shows a steady growth of share and savings since 1966. Year-wise break up of total share and savings indicates that Rs. 6,180 was raised in 1966-67, 12,898 in 1967-68, 15,976 in 1968-69 and 12,485 in 1969-70.

Annual target for enrolment of new members, share and savings to be raised by the members were fixed at the beginning of the year and this was followed as rigidly as possible. Moreover occasional special drive was launched for enrolment of new members and capital raising. In September, 1968, such a special drive was organized and only in that month 24 new members were enrolled, and Rs. 2110 in shares and savings was raised.

Introduction of improved agricultural practices

Vegetable gardening and poultry raising classes were organized jointly with the cooperative and savings courses. Two such courses, each of one week duration, were organized and 15 women attended. No loan was issued during report period by the section for agricultural projects except Rs. 700/- for poultry. Women members were issued loan amounting to Rs. 3030/- by the primary cooperatives only for undertaking vegetable projects and 908 summer and winter vegetable projects were undertaken by the village women under the guidance of women teachers trained at the Thana Centre. An analysis of records of the sale proceeds from vegetables received by 42 organizers shows that, on an average, these women earned Rs. 134 per head per year. This does not include the value of the vegetables consumed by the family. The organizers from village Dishaband received an amount of Rs. 1,028/- from the sale proceeds of vegetables only. Out of the ten women who received training in improved poultry raising, seven were given loan of Rs. 100/- each for purchasing improved varieties of chicks and feeds from the K. T. C. C. A. Poultry Farm. Each of these women purchased 50 Danish Chicks of 21 days old. The Women's Program arranged delivery of the chicks from the Farm to the village homes. During transportation 10 to 15 chicks

died. These were later replaced by the Poultry Farm. The women also purchased 5 maunds of poultry feed from the K.T.C.C.A. feed mill.

The records on mortality rate of birds and the weight gained by the chickens when they were sold were not available. However, the death rate was reportedly high. Verbal reports of the women who undertook the project shows that out of the seven only three could make profits of Rs. 20/-, Rs. 45/- and Rs. 80/- each. Two women made a loss of Rs. 60/- and Rs. 55/- each while the remaining two could only repay their loan with the sale proceeds. Some of the birds were sold back to the K.T.C.C.A. Farm at the rate of Rs. 1.75 per pound and the remaining were sold in the villages. At the end of the year under report there were 85 women teachers in the villages who were engaged in promotion of improved methods of vegetable growing and poultry raising.

Experiment with cottage crafts

Experiment with cottage crafts is still in its primary stage and facing problems because of inadequate fund, non-availability of raw materials, lack of expert knowledge and managerial skill. In spite of these limitations eleven courses in spinning, weaving, screen printing and sewing were organized during the period under report and 30 girls participated in these courses. Income and expenditure of production units are given in the table below.

TABLE—VI
Income and Expenditure of Production Units (1968—70).

Units	1968-69		1969-70	
	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure ¹ (Rs.)	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Ambar Charka	2,252	4,159 ²	—	—
Screen Printing	6,256	4,924	4,320	6,127
Sewing	3,912	3,206	1,738	1,510
Weaving	14,849	12,056	22,147	17,315

¹ This does not include salary of the staff mainly engaged in the training activities.

² This excess was met from training fund.

The Ambar Charka Program was closed down in May, 1969. With the availability of more work opportunities due to new irrigated crops in the villages, women were no longer interested in spinning, which is more laborious and less paying.¹ Moreover, the spinning machines are old and many of them are out of order. The spinning program, especially near the Comilla town, where the machines are still in working condition, is now being supervised by the Khadi Co-operative Association. All the spinning machines and spare parts were handed over to the Association. During the ten months' period (July, 1968-April, 1969) the sale proceeds of yarn received by the spinners were Rs. 2,252.

Due to meager fund, the Weaving Centre could not expand its activities. This affected the training activities of the Centre. Six new trainees received training during the year. The Centre is producing 'Chaddar' for winter shawl. The section made a gross profit of Rs. 7,625.

There was constant effort to improve the quality of the screen printed Saris and explore market. Two staff members attended a 12 days' course in dying and printing at East Pakistan Small Industries Corporations Design Centre. An expert hand was also hired for training of the staff. Negotiation with various shops in Comilla continued and there was slight increase in demand for printed Saris of the section. The Section also conducted an experiment with posters and book covers jointly with the Academy's Communication Section. On request from Agriculture Cooperative Federation the section printed and supplied an order of 300 posters for village cooperative.

The Sewing Section organized training program for women members of the cooperative societies. Twenty two women who received training from the section during the reporting years have not received the sewing machines from the village societies as per plan. The society members were being persuaded through the Agricultural Cooperative Federation to provide machines to these trained women.

¹Hoque A, Ahmed B. and Hoque, N., An Enquiry into the problems of Ambar Charka program, PARD, 1968 (Typed).

CHAPTER—V

HEALTH EDUCATION AND FAMILY PLANNING

Health education activities under the Women's program consist of training of 'dais', promotion of modern health practices in the village home; training of extension agents in home sanitation, nutrition, control of communicable diseases, first aid and making necessary arrangement for supplies and services, such as, health care through maternity centre, supply of vaccine, first aid kit and midwifery kit.

"Dai" Training

In the rural areas of East Pakistan, assistance at child birth is mostly provided by traditional birth attendants locally called Dais. These women are mostly illiterate. They receive little education in midwifery except that they learn by seeing and working with elders. They are usually well versed in folk lore relating to maternal and infant care, and have much influence on the mothers.

The traditional birth attendant performs a very useful role in rural areas where health services are extremely poor. Some instruction must, therefore, be given to her so that she can play her part effectively. 'Dai' training program of the Academy has been established for improving the knowledge and performance of the traditional birth attendants. These 'dais' are trained to give necessary care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the post natal period, to conduct normal deliveries and to care for the newly born infant. At all times she must be able to recognize the warning signs of abnormal or potentially abnormal conditions, and refer to a doctor, and carry out emergency measures in the absence of medical help. She is also trained in family planning, nutrition and child care. At the completion of a program of instruction, she is provided with a kit containing supplies and equipment, soap, cord dressings and medication for eye prophylaxis. She is encouraged to bring her clients to the maternity centre for pre-natal and post natal care.

The activities of these midwives are usually limited to the confinement and early post natal period. However, because of her access to all families in the community, she can with additional preparation, participate in preventive health measures. With necessary training she can keep simple records and thus contribute to the collection of vital statistics.

It is recognized that without a system of regular supervision the traditional midwives cannot maintain a level of acceptable performance. For this reason, a continuous training system has been evolved through monthly midwives association meeting where their activities are recorded and learning is done through mutual discussion.¹ The maintenance of a register of these women is imperative and this is the responsibility of the Women's Section. Current status of the project is presented in the table below :

TABLE—VII

Academy trained midwives and villages covered according to duration of training period, (1962—1970).

Duration	No. of trained midwives				Villages covered
	1962—68	1968—69	1969—70	Total	
One month	149	14	18	181	87
One year	54	12	12	78	61

An analysis of records of 78 midwives trained at Comilla Thana Centre shows that 88% of these midwives come from families having no land or having less than one acre of land and 55% of them come from families with family size varying from 5 to 10. Seventy five percent of these families depend exclusively on the income of the midwives. More than two thirds of these midwives are widow and 70% are between the age group of 31 to 45. Only 4% can read and write. Most of these midwives were referred to the

¹For details please see previous Annual Reports on Women's Education and Home Development, PARD, Comilla

Academy for training by the managers of village cooperatives and by other midwives from nearby villages who had previous contact with the Academy.

'Dais' association meeting continued with average attendance of 70 midwives per month. Total membership in the association at the end of the report period was 134. Training expenses of the dais attending monthly meetings of the 'Dais' association is provided by the Thana Central Association.

Records maintained in the 'dais' association meeting shows that during report period 67 midwives attended 824 delivery cases. This means an average of 12 cases per midwife per year. Of these cases 33 babies were still born and 12 infants died. Thus the mortality rate of children during birth was 54 per thousand. Three percent of the total cases attended were referred to the hospital or doctors.

Maternity and Child Health Centre

The Maternity and Child Health Centre at Comilla Thana Centre provides services to mothers and children of the villages in Comilla Kotwali Thana. The Centre provides services to facilitate that :

1. The expectant mothers maintain good health, learn the art of child care, have a normal delivery, and bear healthy children.
2. The children receive health supervision and medical attention.

During the report period the clinic operated approximately 27 hours per week and received 113 patients. One third of the patients were children; during the year 441 pre-natal cases attended the clinic. Health card for each patient has been introduced since the middle of March, 1969, which records some basic information, complaint, services and treatment provided and subsequent visits.

An analysis of the children's cards shows that 1544 children enrolled from 18th March to 30th June, 1970 and made 716 revisits. Most of the complaints received were of general nature.

The table below gives number of complaints of children at M. C. H. centre according to nature of complaints during the period from 18th March 1969 to 30th June, 1970.

TABLE—VIII

Complaints of children as reported at the M. C. H. Centre,
(18th March 1969 to 30th June, 1970).

Nature of complaint	No. of complaint	% of total No. of complaints.
Intestinal	650	34.79
Cough and fever	426	22.80
Skin	315	16.86
Worms	311	16.65
Eye	75	4.02
Others	91	4.88

During the same period, total number of mothers enrolled was 2162 who made 1338 revisits. Details of complaints by the mothers are given in the table below :

TABLE—IX

Complaint of mothers at M. C. H. Centre
(18th March 1969 to 30th June, 1970).

Nature of complaint	No. of complaint	% of total no. of complaints
Intestinal Diseases	1146	31.40
Female Diseases	285	7.81
Skin Diseases	251	6.88
General ¹	1967	53.91

¹ General includes fever, cough and cold, eye infection etc.

Medicines for the M. C. H. Centre were received from UNICEF in four instalments during the years. Medicines were dispensed as per prescriptions of the Lady Health Visitor, who runs the Centre.

Details of medicine dispensed from M. C. H. Centre during the years 1968-69 and 1969-70 is given in the table below :

TABLE—X
Kind of medicine and amount dispensed from the
M. C. H. Centre during 1968—70.

Sl. No.	Medicine	Amount dispensed	
		1968—69	1969—70
1.	Vitamin-C	18000 nos.	19115 nos.
2.	Vitamin-A & D	7800 "	45358 "
3.	Calcium	23600 "	24400 "
4.	Iron	15 btls.	7266 "
5.	Enterovioform	8000 nos.	3935 "
6.	Sulpha Guanidine	10000 "	10059 "
7.	Ferrous Sulphate	10000 "	—
8.	Triple sulphanomide	17000 "	16865
9.	Triasyn 'B'	23900 "	24100
10.	Preparazine	5500 "	3500 nos.
11.	Benzoyl Benzrate	5 tins.	—
12.	Sulpha Diazine ointment	8 "	7 tins.
13.	Antibiotic Ophthalmic ointment	131 tubes	132 tubes
14.	Soap	362 pes.	—

Nutrition Program and Mobile Health Centre

A Pilot Nutrition Project was started in June, 1968, in village Dhulipara. During the report years, the village Shalbanpur was included in the program. Several meetings were held with the managers, women organizers and 'dais' at Thana Centre and the villages to discuss about the nutrition and health program. Due to

lack of sufficient interest, Dhulipara dropped out. The program continued only in Shalbanpur. Encouraged by the response of the villagers the Section decided to operate a modest mobile health clinic in the village, which started working since April, 1969. The Lady Health Visitor attends the clinic once a week, treats simple cases and renders advice on health and nutrition. Health card is maintained for mothers and children. In this connection some data about the village were collected. These data may give some insight into the problems and needs of the people for nutrition and Maternity and Child Health Care.

Village Shalbanpur¹

Village Shalbanpur is under Bijoypur Union of Comilla Kotwali Thana. It is 2-3 miles off the Comilla-Kotwali road. Shalbanpur (as a census village) has an area of 209 acres. The village is surrounded by other villages, Tulatali, Gabtali, Shananda, Kotbari and Lalmai Hills.

The village has a population of approximately 760 who occupy 150 houses. The average family size is 5 persons. People generally live in one or two rooms dwelling houses.

The main source of income of villagers is rice production. Sixty percent of the population are farmers who have about 100 acres cultivable land (about 1 acre per farmer family). There are 38 service holders and 20 business men in the village.

Around 16% of the population are literate. There is no elementary school in the village. The children go to Gandhamati School which is between 2-3 miles from the village. There are five grades in the school. A new school called residential model school for boys which is around half a mile distance from the village is under construction.

¹Source of information :

- a. Census Report.
- b. Interview with Manager (Co-operative).
- c. Interview with Women Organizer.

Cooperative Society

A cooperative program was started in the village in January, 1968. There are now 59 members out of which 18 are women. The Society has a total share and savings deposits of Rs. 3,900/-. There was one women's program organizer, one adult literacy teacher and one midwife-trained by the Academy and working in the village. Since April 1969 the Lady Health Visitor with a mobile clinic visits the village every Wednesday, attends the patients, and gives advice on nutrition and sanitation.

Health Condition

Only seven out of one hundred fifty families have privies, two of which are water sealed latrines and remaining five are pit privies.

The families obtain drinking water from tubewells. There are seven tubewells for drinking water in the village. For washing utensils, bathing, laundry and other household needs, people use nearby ponds which almost every house has one. Many of the children suffer from intestinal disease, mainly worms. Skin diseases are also widely spread. Last year there were nine infant death cases. Ten persons were attacked with pox and one had typhoid.

Medical Care

There were two Doctors passed out of the National Medical School¹ and one Homeopath in village Gandhamati to whom people go for treatment. For serious cases, qualified medical practitioners who have their clinics in Comilla town are consulted. People purchase medicine from the town.

There are seven midwives in the village out of whom one had formal training at the Thana Centre.

¹ Non graduate school passed doctors.

Family Planning¹

The Family Planning Program is working under the administrative control of the Thana Family Planning Officer. The T. F. P. O. works under the guidance of a coordination committee consisting of Thana Family Planning Officer, District Executive-cum-Publicity Officer, and three members of the Academy research staff. The committee meets weekly to review the activities in the field and to provide guidance for project management. At the end of the report period there are 208 female agents, majority of whom were 'dais' engaged in promotion of family planning among village women. Some of the important features of the activities during the report period are :

- (i) A study conducted to measure the impact of family planning on fertility in Comilla Kotwali Thana indicated 27% reduction in total fertility rate between 1958 and 1967².
- (ii) Emko (foam preparation) has been introduced and the rate of acceptance of this new method is under observation.
- (iii) The sale of condom and foam tablets has declined over the previous years.
- (iv) The declining trend has also been observed in case of IUD insertion over the last three years.

A total of 1288 women were served with IUD. Complaints were received by the family planning staff about the various side effects of IUD. It was reported that some of the women were

¹For details please see Family Planning progress Reports, PARD

²Stoeckel, John E. and Choudhury M. A., Fertility trends in Comilla Kotwali Thana, PARD., 1968.

removing IUD without informing the clinic. A study¹ was done which revealed that all the 32 clients interviewed removed the coils because of various physical troubles, such as, bleeding, pain, white discharge, temperature, and weakness. Reasons mentioned for not taking the help of clinical facilities were lack of knowledge of available facilities in the clinic, physical inability to move, fear of being exposed to people, want of transport cost and unfavourable attitude towards the clinic and its staff. The program in 22 research villages continued and data on the adoption and discontinuation of conventional contraceptives were regularly collected and systematically maintained.

3. Islam, Khairunnessa, Self Removal of IUD, an investigation of 32 Clients in Comilla Kotwali Thana, 1969.

CHAPTER—VI

SUMMARY AND OBSERVATION

1. During the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 figures show a decline in enrolment of new members. Share and savings accumulated by members was showing an upward trend. This has increased the per capita share and savings from Rs. 29 in 1966 to Rs. 44 in 1970.
2. During the report year, only Rs. 2330/- was issued as loan to the women which is less than 10% of what was issued in 1967-68. According to a decision in the coordination committee meeting held in June, 1968, loans were to be distributed by the Agricultural Cooperative Federation.
3. Experiment in introduction of improved poultry raising through village women shows three out of seven were successful in making a marginal profit and only two made a loss.
4. Spinning program was closed down in May, 1969.
5. Among the reported cases in M. C. H. Centre, intestinal complaints still a major problem. Number of cases with female disease has increased from 5% in 1967-68 to 9% in 1968-70 out of the total complaints received. There has been decline in skin diseases among both mothers and children.
6. A health program was started in the village Shalbanpur in April, 1969.
7. A fertility study in Comilla disclosed that there has been 27% reduction in total fertility rate between 1958 and 1967, that is, 848 per thousand women in 1958 to 621 per thousand women in 1967.
8. During January, 1964 to June 1970 a total of 2302 women received literacy certificates from village literacy centres of Comilla Kotwali Thana.

9. Thirty five courses were organized by the women's program. There were 270 weekly and monthly sessions for women organizers, literacy teachers and 'dais'.
10. The number of program villages declined from 63 to 55.
11. There has been considerable reduction in the budget of the project which affected the total program.

Future Studies

1. Research work in the line of evaluation and collection of relevant information on women population in the villages is urgently needed.
2. Experiment in improved poultry raising by village women should continue for a few years before any observation can be made about the success or failure of the experiment.
3. A study should be made to investigate the declining trend in enrolment of new members.