Unfolding Household Typology towards Better Extension Advisory Services in Typical Southern Villages of Bangladesh

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Abstract

Better targeting extension advisory services could generate tangible benefits at individual and community level. This article re-designs household typologies in combination with the BBS standard and field investigation to provide better extension advisory services. Households are categorized based on farm and non-farm holdings through reviewing previous village level studies, field survey and observation. Southern two villages were selected for in-depth investigation by adopting qualitative and quantitative tools. The farm category is mostly followed BBS standard while landless category further classified into three different sub-categories: Category-I have no homestead or cultivable land; Category-II who have a homestead but no cultivated area; and Category-III who have a homestead and limited cultivable land. Additional category is women managed farm. Non-farm holding is classified into seven categories. The distinct feature of non-farm category from farm category is that more than 50 percent household income is generated through non-farm activities. Livestock and fish farming considered into non-farm category. All these household categories may involve other income generating activities but majority of the household income generates through the respective venture. Identified household typology provides a scenario of a typical village which might help the policy planners to make appropriate extension advisory services that benefits marginalized households.

Keywords: *Households Typology, Southern Bangladesh, Farm and Non-farm households*

Introduction

Agriculture is the single most important sector of Bangladesh, contributing 13.60 percent to the national GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and providing employment for 40.6 percent of the population (BER, 2019). Land is the major source of livelihood in the rural areas, where three-fourths of the population lives. However, unequal distribution of land is one of the critical problems (which can be regarded as outcome of landlordism patronized during British period) in rural Bangladesh (Banerjee and Iyer, 2004). Thus, people have sought alternative livelihood for their survival. The trend of seeking alternative livelihoods is found more in the regions where social and geographical disadvantage prevailed. Social disadvantage presents in the form of discrimination based on caste, class, ethnicity and religion. Geographical disadvantage is focused in the areas of low geographic capital that derive few benefits from the economic and social opportunities. In southern Bangladesh particularly Barguna and Khulna districts possess both social and geographical disadvantage. These areas are affected by tidal surges, cyclone, salinity and water logging due to geographical location while the elite

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captures most of the development benefits due to social dichotomy. In this circumstance, an in-depth understanding of different categories of household is essential for delivering appropriate extension advisory services. Extension advisory services in Bangladesh are pluralistic, consisting of a government funded, local and international NGOs, private sector firms, donors and their development projects, and voluntary farmer advisors (Karim, 2009). However, the services remain spotty, and farmers living in remote areas face challenges in accessing suitable services. The extension services are few target oriented to meet local needs and reduce the gender discrimination (Rahman *et al.,* 2017). Therefore, exploration of household typologies in a village is crucial for specific intervention.

Several approaches have been taken by the researchers to classify the rural households in Bangladesh. These include, Arthur and McNicoll (1978) who classify agricultural families into four: i) those who control about 3 hectares or more known as *landlords* and *surplus peasants*; ii) those who have about 1 to 3 hectares, they are both *landowners* and *tenants*; iii) *marginal peasants* with less than 1 hectare, including the poorest tenant farmers and sharecroppers; iv) *landless agricultural workers*, forced to rely on agricultural wage labor and whatever other sources of income they can find. Westergaard (1983) have the following 5 classifications i) *Landless*; ii) marginal peasant; iii) *small peasant* iv) *medium peasant*; v) *surplus peasant*. Bertocci (1970) classified peasants into three broad categories including poor peasants, middle peasants and rich peasants. Chowdhury (1978) classified farmers into three dimensions, namely class, status and power. The classes are based on the

ownership of land. Howes (1981) classifies farming society based on: i) ownership and control of land, and ii) consumption requirements. His classifications are *rich peasant*; *middle peasant safe*; *middle Peasant danger, and poor peasant small, and poor peasant landless.* In connection to non-farm sector the Matika (2007) village level study examines non-farm sub-sectors: i) Poultry rearing, ii) pond fishery and iii) silk production considering all these sub-sectors correspond to the definition of non-farm sector for landless. Sen (2003) classified households into three groups: 'crisis' factors, 'lifecycle' factors, and 'structural' factors. All those studies are good to closely observe the dynamics of a village in connection with the household category but none of the approaches have been replicated in other villages of Bangladesh. Except Makita (2007) and Sen (2003), most of the village level studies were carried out in 1980s which may not be applicable now due to the significant change which has taken place in agriculture sector. The most widely used classification of rural households is that of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), which is based on farm holdings. Therefore, this paper forwards an approach to classify the household typologies in combination with the BBS approach and field investigation. The paper aims at building a typology to identify typical agriculture and alien activities that rural population are involved in. This household typology might help the policy planners particularly extension workers to make an appropriate extension advisory services that benefit marginalized groups. This paper first outlines the method used and briefly describes the study villages, before describing the household typologies of the study villages.

Methodology

This is an exploratory research. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect relevant information from the study villages. At first, two villages of southwestern Bangladesh were selected for this household typology study. The villages were selected as part of the SIAGI (Promoting socially inclusive and sustainable agricultural intensification in West Bengal and southern Bangladesh) project implemented in the study villages. Afterwards, a village level census was carried out to obtain basic socio-demographic data for each and every household. A total 637 households were found in which 345 in Khatail (Dacope upazilla) and 292 in Sekendarkhali (Amtali upazilla) village. A structured questionnaire was used for collecting key household information by visiting the door steps. Beside collecting census data, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were carried out applying homogenous and mixed group method in each villages. Meanwhile, transect walk along with observations helped to identify who is poor, rich,

marginal, landless and women managed households. Field observation gives micro level in-depth information that can help for area specific interventions. Transect walk, FGD, informal discussions and door-to-door surveys not only helped in the characterization of household typologies but also validated them. The survey adopted an indirect approach to obtain real information on critical issues. For example, socio-economic data were collected by the field staff of Shushilan (a national NGO of Bangladesh) without explicitly asking the participants. After collecting socio-economic data, it was then categorized households as large, small, medium, marginal, landless, tenant, owner cum tenant and women managed households. Collected data were categorized, sub-categorized and presented into tables and graphs. Beside primary sources of information, secondary data were collected from national statistics particularly from agricultural census and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Findings and Discussion

Khatail village of Dacope upazila
Khatail village is situated in Pankhali Union of Dacope Upazila under Khulna district. About 345 households and 1621 population live there. Almost all people are directly or indirectly dependent on farming. Some households are also involved in off-farm activities. Crop and vegetable farming is increasing due to stopping shrimp farming after the storm surge of cyclone *Aila* in 2009. Unemployment reportedly increases in December to March and many marginal and landless farmers seasonally migrate in

Khulna, Dhaka and northern part of Bangladesh as well to work as agricultural laborers every year. The village is surrounded by the river and many canals. Some of the canals are encroached by the local influential persons through fabricated leasing process. Local influential and political persons are very active in leasing the canals and utilizing the wetlands for their own interest. Rabi farming mostly depends on canals, however, poor farmers cannot enjoy the benefits of the canals due

to siltation, illegal capture by powerful class and lack of proper re-excavation.

The salinity of water is the main problem in cultivating rice and other crops in Rabi (winter) and Kharif I (rainy) seasons. Thus, Aman is main crop depending on sweet water availability. Sometimes a few farmers have tried to cultivate other crops such as sunflower, lentils, field pea, and sesame but have failed to have good harvest due to lack of sweet water in dry season. Poultry and cattle rearing is one of the ventures for Khatail villagers. About each family especially women are engaged in poultry and cattle rearing. There is a scarcity of fodder. Thus, people rear livestock or cattle openly particularly in dry season.

It is very worthy to know that about 10 years ago, Khatail village was dominated by *bagda cultivation* but an interesting shift happened from saline water to sweet water ponds. They are motivated from nearby people of Tildanga Union who have converted their field from shrimp cultivation to agriculture practices. But the fish farmers at Khatail village use their field in innovative way. They are practicing shrimp and sweet water fish at same *Gher* through ground water irrigation. Some of women are involved with income generating activities such as sewing clothes, attractive needle work, catching fish, rearing duck/hens, day laborer, homestead gardening, and roadside work. Installation of tube-wells is likely not to be successful due to deep ground water table and salinity up to 1200 feet in ground water table. Women are facing more challenges than men regarding collection of water. Women carry water from 3-4 km away. A few tube-wells have found sweet water but not at a desired level, so people depend on rain water harvest for drinking water.

Sekandarkhali village of Amtali Upazila

The Sekandarkhali village is situated in the Amtali upazila in the Barguna district, which is 80 km away from Patuakhali district. The social amity between these two communities is amicable as observed during field investigation. Women do not hesitate to talk to outsiders, which may be the combined efforts of different NGOs and Government to increase awareness of women. There are about 4 canals of which 2 canals remain dry in rabi season. Saline water remains in the canals from October to January. The entire area is surrounded by river and canals water so that salinity in water and soil are common problems, as well as cyclones and seasonal flood. In November 15, 2007, the devastating Cyclone SIDR changed the livelihoods, economic and environmental condition of this village.

Agriculture is the main livelihood option for the villagers. Nevertheless, there are few households who have ownership of *Gher*[1]. There are some households, who are involved in off farm activities. It is observed that mon-crop (aman) is grown in rainy season due to high salinity in the dry season. Moreover, some farmers have tried to cultivate sunflower, lentil as well as vegetables in rabi season as a commercial option, but they lost their yield. Farmers face problems in irrigating their crop due to the salinity of groundwater and the lack of access to sweet water through canals. They have tried to install deep tube well but they could not get sweet water up to 700 feet. A farmer explained that "even though we get sweet water in some areas by installing deep

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[1]*Gher farming is a traditional agriculture system in Bangladesh. A pond is dug into a rice field to use for fish farming, with the dugout soil used to create dykes around the pond for growing vegetables.*

tube-wells but the running costs are too high".

Water management is one of the key issues that the people suffered from the most. The operation and maintenance of gates (sluices) are influenced by the elite people. Some canals are leased by the Government so that people cannot gain access. The farmers explained if 'we will not intrude saline water from Sunnibari and Hapanari Canals (totally blocked) and re-excavate only 2 km of canal from Tiakhali (from Paira River) which have sweet water, then we can cultivate three crops in the field'. Access to drinking water is also an issue in the village. Due to the salinity of the groundwater, they cannot use tubewells. Therefore, households mostly women have to carry drinking water from 500 to 1000 meters away which put additional burden on their daily activities.

Household Typologies

This section presents the household typologies of two villages, namely Sekanderkhali from Amtali upazila and Khatail from Dacope upazila. There are two broad classifications of the households: i) farm category; and ii) non-farm category. The farm category is mostly similar to BBS standards while non-farm category is classified based on field observation.

A. **Farm category:**

In Bangladesh, most of the farmers are small and medium-scale farmers (98.45 percent) who have less than 7.5 acres or 3 ha of land, with few large-scale farmers (1.54 percent). According to agricultural census of Bangladesh, a farm household was classified into three categories such as: small (up to 2.4 acres); medium (2.5 to 7.49 acres); and large (7.5 acres or more) (BBS, 2018). The small farmers can be further categorized into three, based on landholding:

i. **Large farmer:** Large farm households are those who own 7.5 acres or more land. Major income is generated from agriculture but may involve in job and business as secondary profession. They rented/ leased out land. Average household income was about Tk. 175,000. The minimum and maximum income was estimated Tk. 100,000 and Tk. 350,000, respectively (Table 1). The proportion of larger farmers in Bangladesh is 1.54 percent. It is 2.41 percent for Barguna district and 2.26 percent for Khulna district, respectively (BBS, 2017). There are 4.00 and 1.0 percent large farmers found in Khatail and Sekandarkhali village, respectively (Table 1). The percentage of large farmers from Khatail village in the study location was found to be higher than the national average, it might be cause of *Gher* farming and absentee landlord. However, as observed and reported by participants, most of the large farmers live in the town can be regarded as absentee landlord.

ii. **Medium farmer:** Medium farm households are those who own 2.50 to 7.49 acres of land (BBS, 2017). Household income mainly depends on agriculture, a few of them are also involved in non-farm activities such as service and business. They themselves cultivate land and rent/ lease out land too. Average household income was estimated at Tk. 122,000 (minimum Tk. 60,000 and maximum Tk. 400,000). The proportion of medium farmers in Bangladesh is estimated to be 14.07 percent. Barguna and Khulna district estimation showed 12.45 and 16.92

percent, respectively. In the study villages, 8.0 and 7.0 percent of household belongs to this medium farm category for Khatail and Sekandarkhali village, respectively (Table 1).

iii. **Small farmer**: Possess 0.05 to 2.49 acres of land (BBS, 2017). Their major income comes from farming. They cultivate their own land by themselves and also rent/lease/mortgage in (leased in). A few of them also involved in non-farming activities such as wood-carpentry/stonemason/petty trading (hawker)/driving/service within the locality or outside of the locality. Those that work outside of the locality send remittances to their family. Average household income is estimated at Tk. 88,000 in which minimum Tk. 24,000 and maximum Tk. 350,000. The proportion of small farmers in Bangladesh is 84.39 percent (Table 1). In Barguna district it was 80.03 percent while in Khulna district it was 80.82 percent. In Khatail and Sekanderkhali village it was estimated at 31.0 and 27.0 percent respectively. The lower end of small farmers is known as marginal farmers.

iv. **Marginal farmer:** Marginal farm household are those who owned 0.05 to 0.49 acre of land. They cultivate their own land and rented/leased/mortgaged/shared land. They mostly depend on farming, however sell labor during lean period. The proportion of marginal farmers in Bangladesh is 27.98 percent. Marginal farmers are estimated at 33.08 and 29.09 percent for Barguna and Khulna district, respectively. The percentage of marginal farmers in the study villages is reported as 10.0 and 17.0 percent for Khatail and Sekanderkahli village, respectively (Table 1). The variation appeared as it is a specific village level estimation.

v. **Landless (non-farm holding):** According to Agricultural Census (2016) landless has been redefined as non-farm holdings and defined as those who possess up to one half of an acre. The survey classified the landless into three different categories: Category-I are those who have no homestead or cultivable land (with no operating area); Category-II are those who have a homestead but no cultivated area; and Category-III are those who have a homestead and cultivable land 0.001 to 0.04 acre cultivated area. About 47 percent of the holdings fell into landless category at national level while it was 58.69 and 28.06 percent for Khulna and Barguna district, respectively. Interestingly, village level estimation shows about 48 percent fell into this category for both villages.

vi. **Women managed farm:** There are significant variances in men and women's roles and status in agriculture in Bangladesh. Generally, women are extensively involved but 'largely unrecognized' (Sraboni *et al*., 2014). Women are increasingly involved in agricultural management, but they are generally overlooked as farmers by both men and women at household and community levels. In absence of male members or due to seasonal out migration of male members, most of the farming activities are managed by women. Hence, women managed farms are considered as an important category

of farmer. In this category, the household may have own land or/ and rented in land but most of the household income come from farming activities. They involved in farming in inside or outside of the home to the family's land or wage labor by the women. So far, there are no statistics on women-managed farms at national and regional level, but our village census reported 20.0 and 14.0 percent women-managed farms in Khatail and Sekanderkhali villages, respectively (Figure 1).
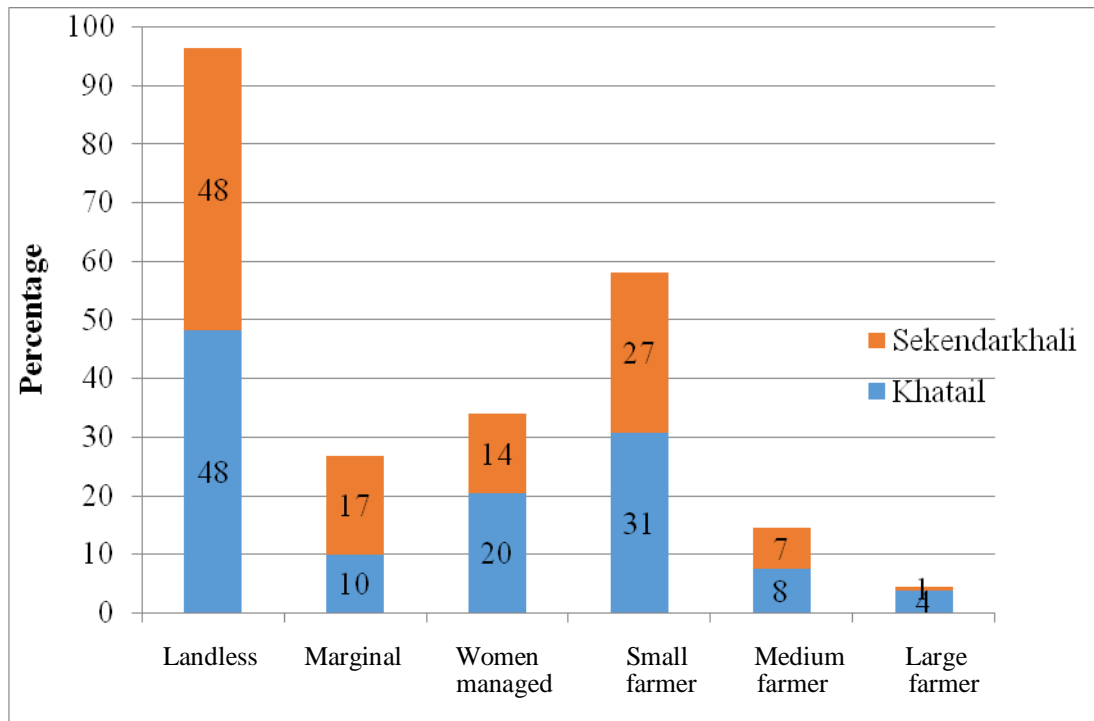

Figure 1: Household typology classification

Based on ownership of landholding, BBS further categories into three. These are -

i. **Owner:** Owner farmers cultivate owned land and mortgage/rent out land to others. In the case of mortgaged-out land, cultivators need not to pay any share of the produced output to the land owner but need to pay a certain amount of mortgaged money and duration of this mortgaged land persists until the mortgaged money can be repaid by the mortgagor. Owner farmers represent 65.29 percent at national level while it was 63.44 and 71.06 percent at Khulna and Barguna district, respectively (Figure 2).

ii. **Owner cum tenant:** Owner cum tenant farmers cultivate owned land, mortgaged land, fixed rented land and share cropped land. In cultivation of fixed rented land, a fixed amount of money is needed to pay annually to the land owners by the cultivators. The terms and conditions of mortgaged land

in owner cum tenant farming areas same as mortgaged land in owner farming. There are 21.88 percent owner cum tenant reported in Bangladesh while it was 21.31 and 17.16 percent estimated in Barguna and Khulna district respectively.

iii. **Tenant:** Tenant farmers do have own land they cultivate, as well as renting land of others, to whom they pay rent either in cash or in shares of produce. In Bangladesh, tenant farmer estimated at 12.83 percent but it was 7.63 percent found in Barguna district and 19.40 percent in Khulna district (Figure 2).
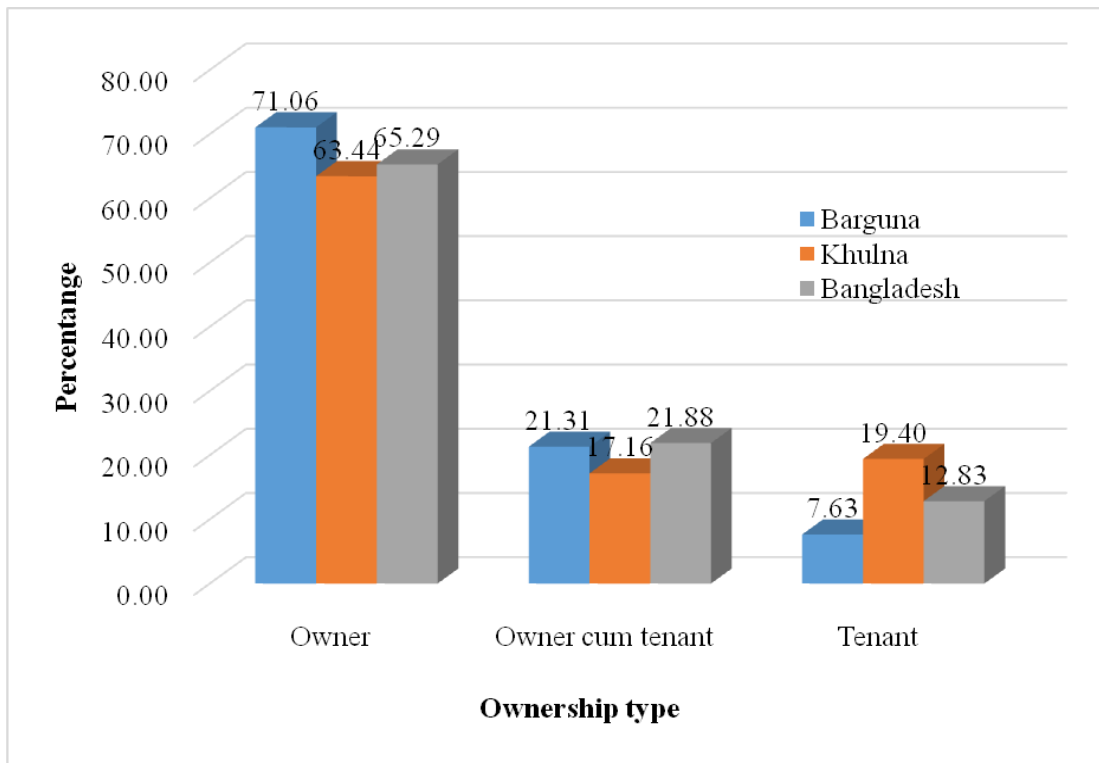

Figure 2 Ownership of landholding at national and selected district

B. Non-farm category

The importance of non-farm activities is increasing in rural Bangladesh. Rural non-farm economy in Bangladesh is comprised of a broad range of heterogeneous activities: handicrafts, mechanics, wage employment, transport operations, construction labor, salaried service in public and private sector, teachers, religious leaders, lawyers, village doctors, and various types of personal services (barbers, laundry services, mid-wives etc.), agro-processing, shop-keeping, peddling, petty trading, and contractor services Pramanik *et.al.*, 2014). However, all mentioned non-farm activities are not prominent everywhere. The following section presents the most important non-farm activities that villagers are involved in the study sites. The distinct feature of non-farm category from farm category is that

more than 50 percent household income is generated through non-farm activities. It is noted that, livestock and fish farming considered as part of the non-farm category here, although in many studies they are considered under farm category.

i. **Livestock and poultry rearing:** Livestock and poultry rearing contribute significantly to household income. Households may involve other income generating activities, but majority of the household income is generated through livestock and poultry rearing. It is observed in the study villages that every household possesses cattle as well as chicken and duck which is reflected in village level statistics (Table 1). About 1.4 percent of households was estimated under this category for Khatail village, while it was 1 percent for Sekanderkhali village.

ii. **Fishermen (crab, white fish, shrimp):** Fish farming and catching fish is one of the important sources of livelihood in the study villages. It is reported from the village census that 1.2 percent of the household in both villages are involved in fish farming or catching fishes.

iii. **Wage labourer (male & female):** Wage labourers are those who sell their labour seasonally or year round to maintain their livelihood. They may sell their labour to farm and non-farm activities but above 50 percent of their household earning should come from wage labour. About 78.0 and 71.0 percent is estimated under this category for Khatail and Sekandarkhali village respectively, whereas absolute wage labourers who sell their labour round

the year is about 15 percent in both villages.

iv. **Petty business:** A person/household that is involved in selling and buying commodities and products at small scale can be considered under petty business. In the study villages about 10 to 14 percent of the households are involved in petty business as their means of livelihood.

v. **Driver/motorcycle/easy-bike/motorized rickshaw:** If most of the household income is generated through rickshaw/van pulling and riding motorcycles, then the household is considered under this category. There are 7 and 8 percent of households in Khatail and Sekanderkhali village involved in motorized & non-motorized van pulling/easy bike/motorcycle driving related activities (Table 1).

vi. **Remittance-receiving households:** If any household members live outside of residence and send money to the household they may be considered in this category. The remittance may come from Bangladesh and abroad, but the amount of remittance should be above 50 percent of total household income. About 1 percent of the households receive foreign remittances for both villages.

vii. **Service-government/non-government:** If more than 50 percent of household earnings are generated through services/jobs then the household is considered in this category. About 4 and 5 percent of the households depend on services in Khatail and Sekandarkhali village respectively.

Table 1 Basic characteristics of households and their representation at national, regional and
    village level

Household typologies/types	Bangladesh (%)	Regional and village (%)		Regional and village (%)	
		Khulna district	Khatail village	Barguna district	Sekanderkhali village
Household type based on landholding					
Large farm (7.5+ acres) Average 175,000 Min & max: Tk.100,000 – 350,000	1.54	2.26	4.00	2.41	1.00
Medium farm (between 2.50 to 7.49 acres) Average Tk 122,000 min & max: : Tk. 60,000 -400,000	14.07	16.92	8.00	17.33	7.00
Small farm (between 0.50 to 2.49 acres) Average Tk. 88,000 Min & Max: Tk. 24,000 -350,000	84.39	80.82	31.00	80.26	27.00
Marginal farm (between 0.05 to 0.49 acres) Average about Tk. 63,000 Min: 24,000 Max: 200,000	27.98	29.09	10.00	33.08	17.00
Landless Average about Tk. 62,000 Min:12,000 Max:200,000	47.09	58.69	48.00	28.06	48.00
Household type based on livelihood					
Owner farmer	65.29	63.44	-	71.06	-
Owner cum tenant	21.88	17.16	-	21.31	-
Tenant	12.83	19.40	-	7.63	-
Wage labourer (male & female) (<50% from this profession)	58.25	69.48	78.00	35.46	71.00
Fishermen (<50% from this profession)	-	-	1.40	-	1.00
Poultry farming	-	-	4.00	-	1.00
Patty trading/business	-	-	10.00	-	14.00
Easy bike/Motorized van/motorcycle	-	-	7.00	-	8.00
Tailoring/sewing			0.50		
Service in government/non-government	-	-	4.00	-	5.00
Remittance (foreign)			1.00		1.00
Women-managed Households Average: Tk. 62,500 Min:30,000 Max: 200,000	-	-	20.00	-	14.00

Source: Authors' own calculation based on BBS, 2017 (National and district level data); Census and FGDs
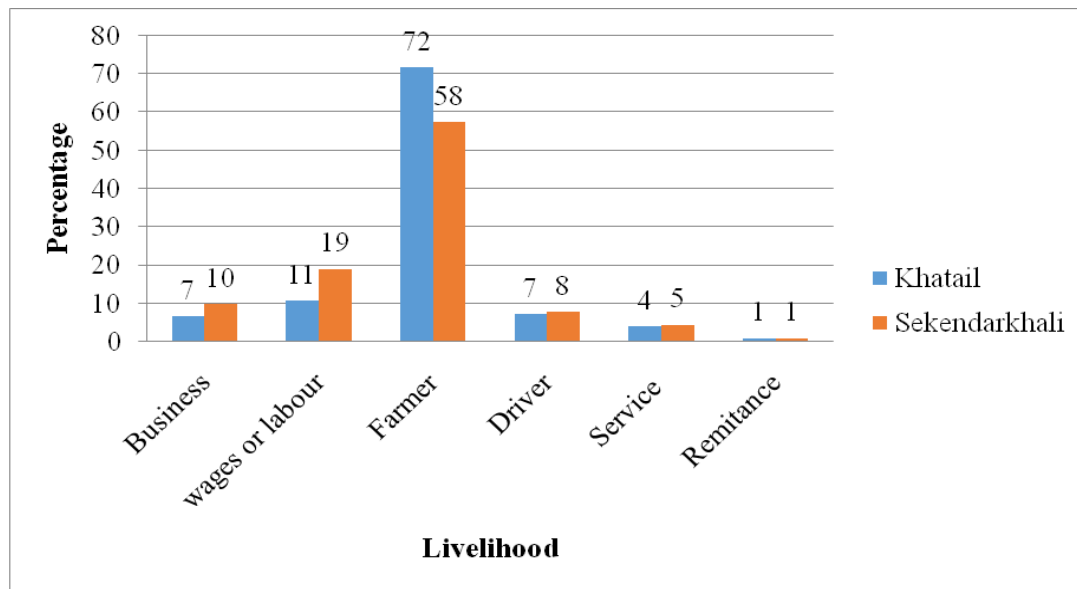
Figure 3: Percentage distribution of livelihood profile in both villages

It is apparent from Figure 3 that a great number of households in both villages are dependent on a single source of income for their livelihood but the percentage is comparatively slightly higher in Sekandarkhali of Amtali sub-district. Interestingly, a more diversified livelihood has been found in Khatail compared to Sekandarkhali. A higher percentage of households in Sekandarkhali village compared to Khatail depend on non-farming activities, such as business, wage labour, driving and services. Like Sekandarkhali, agriculture farming is more predominant in Khatail village.

Figure 4 shows that the majority of the households with multiple sources of income are dependent on agriculture, wage labour and business in both villages. Moreover, the highest percentage of households in both villages is dependent on agriculture.

Figure-5 shows that agriculture is the main livelihood source for all household categories in Khatail village. For the landless and medium farmers category, many households also have driving as a source of income.

Like Khatail, Figure-6 shows that agriculture is the major income source for all types of household categories in Sekandarkhali village. Wage labours, business and driving after agriculture for the category of landless, marginal, small and women managed households. Government and non-government services incomes are also seen in large and medium households in Sekandarkhali village. There are also some landless households who dependent on masonry, wood carpentry, driving and business.
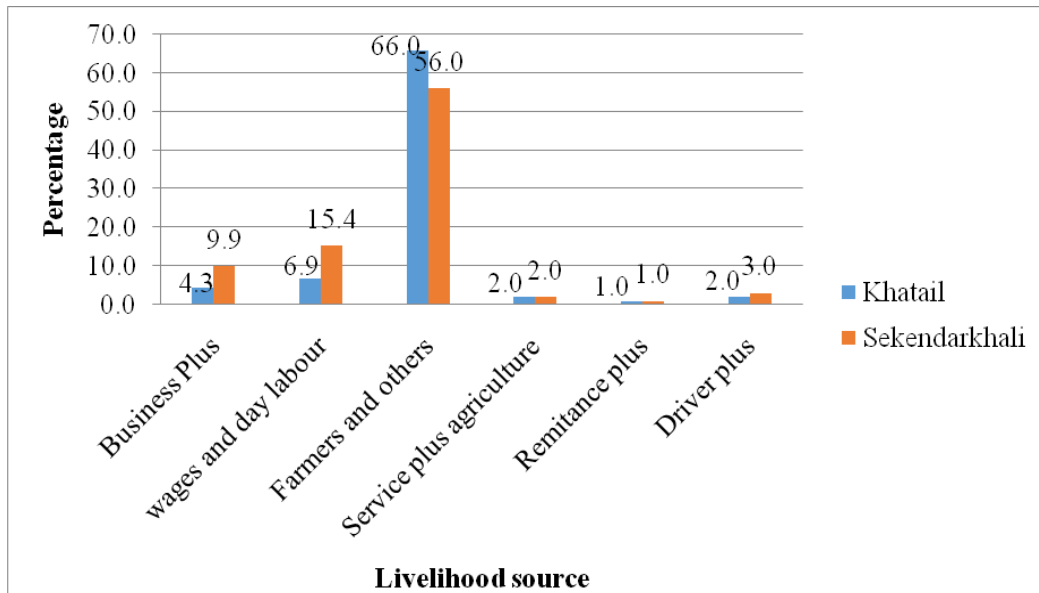
Figure 4: Percentage distribution of livelihood with one main and multipule other sources
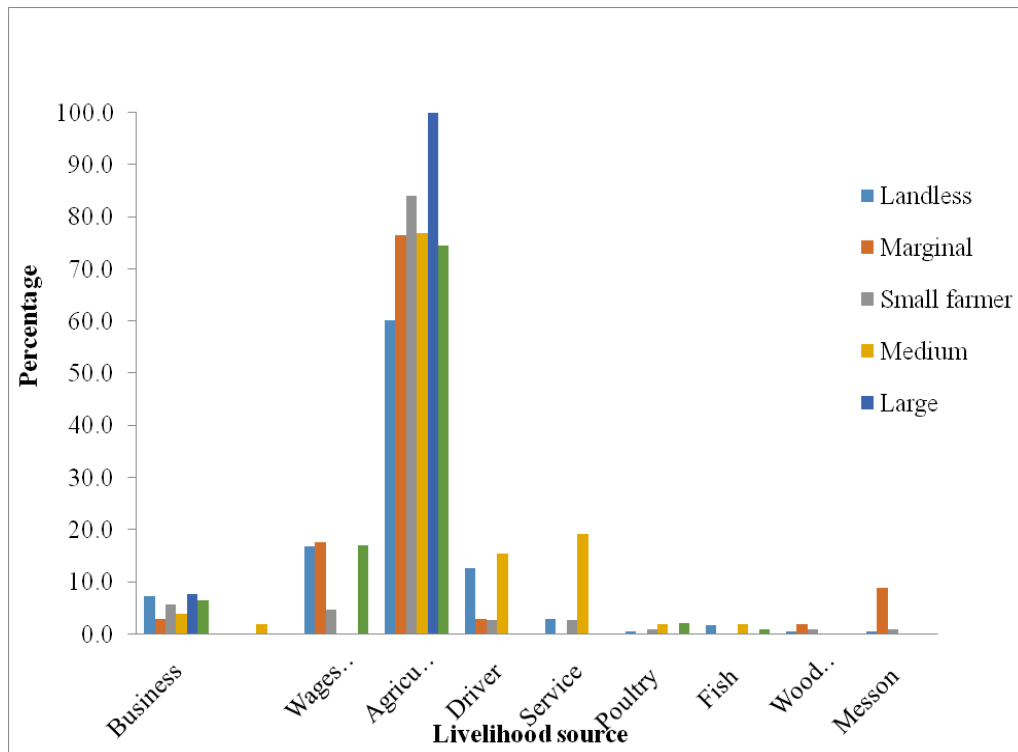

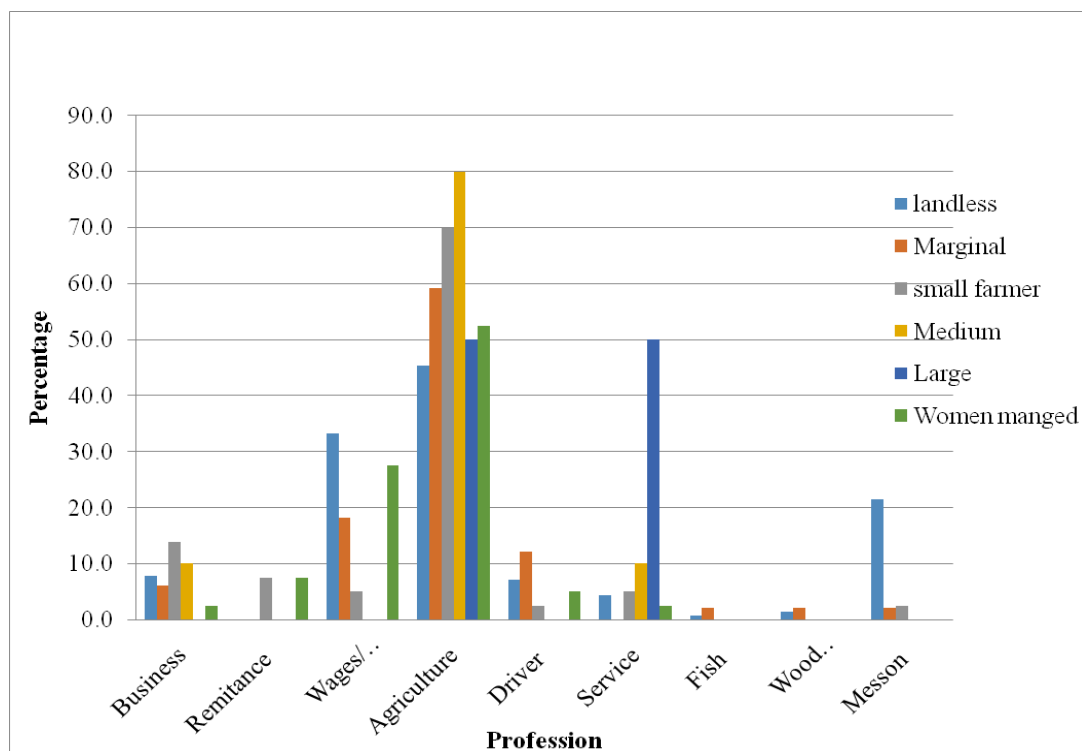**Figure 5:** Livelihood source of diffeent household category in Khatail Village

Figure 6: Livelihood source of different household category in Sekandarkhali village
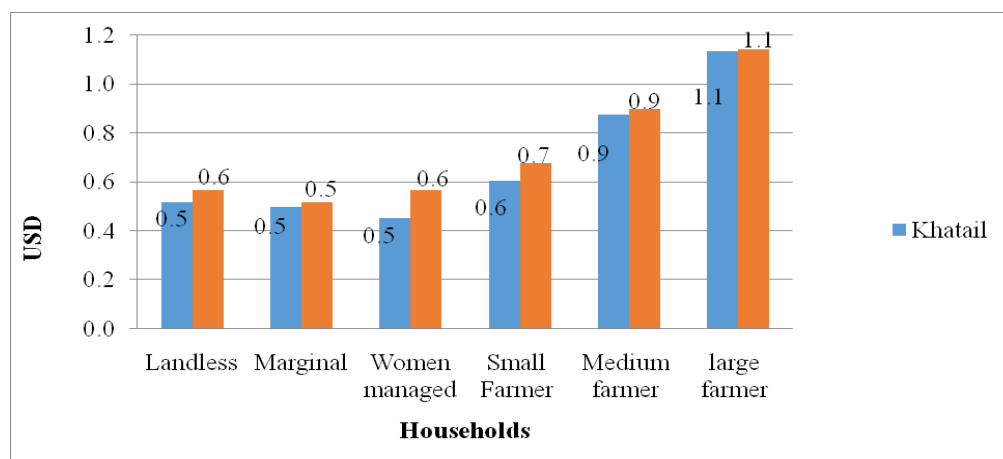

Figure 7: Per capita income in both villages

Above Figure 7 shows that the average per capita income per day of different households in both villages is not that high. The average per capita income of the large farmers is only over one US dollar. The average per capita income of other households is below one US dollar. Considering in the context the poverty line is above $ 1.9 per head/day, only a few farmers of small, middle and large category have crossed the poverty line. In Khatail village only 10% of small farmers, 15% of middle farmers and 30% of large farmers live above the national poverty line of US$ 1.9 per head/day. Like Khatail, only 10% of the middle farmers and 50% of the large farmers of Sekandarkhali village live above the poverty line. In both villages almost all households of landless, marginal and women managed category live below the poverty line (see Figure 8)
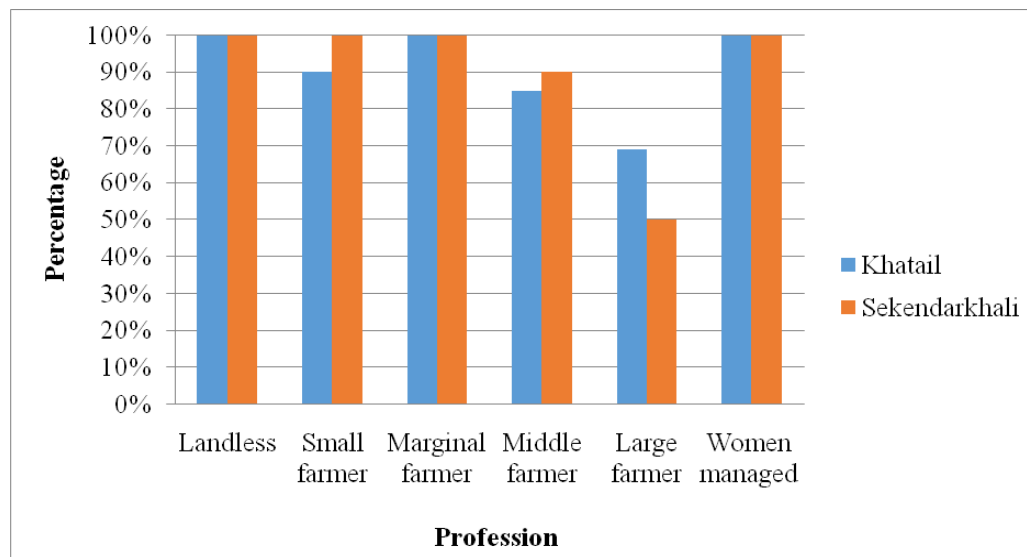

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of poverty status of the households in both villages

Annual food security status in different household categories (where households are able to maintain their family through regular agriculture farming) is relatively better in Khatail village compared to Sekandarkhali (Figure 9). Food security of landless, marginal and women-managed households in both villages represented a concerning picture. Figure 9 also shows that from their regular livelihood activities, landless, marginal and women managed households category only four months are food secure in Sekandarkhali village. However, landless, women-managed and marginal households of Khatail village can ensure food for about seven, eight and nine months, respectively.

Table 2 shows that land ownership of different households is comparatively better in Khatail village than Sekandarkhali. The average land ownership for landless, marginal and women managed household categories in both villages do not vary considerably.   Households of small, medium and large categories in Khatail village possesses relatively higher amount of land for agriculture than Sekandarkhali.
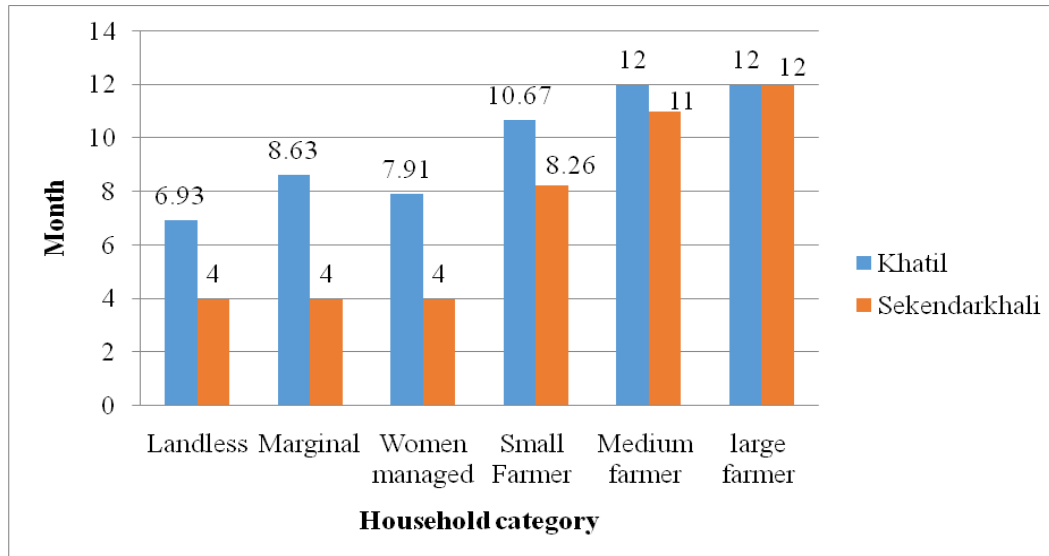
Figure 9: Food security status in both villages

Table 2: Land status (in hectare) in different household categories in both villages

HH typologies	Khatail			Sekandarkhali		
	Own land	Rent/lease	Total land	Own land	Rent/lease	Total land
Landless	0.00	0.31	0.31	0.00	0.39	0.39
Marginal	0.16-	0.2023	0.37	0.11	0.35	0.45
Women-managed	0.11	0.27	0.38	0.22	0.13	0.35
Small	0.57	0.41	0.98	0.49	0.23	0.72
Medium	2.35	0.14	2.49	1.69	0.18	1.87
Large	5.80	0.00	5.80	3.64	0.00	3.64

Conclusion

Bangladesh is an agrarian society, mostly depends on agriculture and ailed activities. This paper documents different household typology based on farm and non-farm categories through reviewing previous village level studies and field investigation. This study re-designs household typologies in combination with the BBS approach, field survey and observation. Farm and non-farm are the two broad classifications formed based on land occupancy along with other livelihood opportunities. The distinct feature of farm category from non-farm category is that more than 50 percent household income is generated through farm activities. The farm category is divided into five categories while non-farm category is classified into seven categories. Livestock and fish farming considered into non-farm category. Women managed household fall

both farm and non-farm category. Findings provide details classification of two typical villages of southern Bangladesh. It also portrays the drivers and livelihood opportunities of different households. This in-depth household information might help the policy planners to come-up with an appropriate extension advisory services that benefits marginalized households. Although the study was confined with two southern villages but it comprehends that in-depth understanding of a village is crucial before advocating any targeted extension services.

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