

**Evaluation on
Population Control
Committee
at Upazila Union
and Ward level**

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EVALUATION ON POPULATION CONTROL COMMITTEE
AT UPAZILA UNION AND WARD LEVEL

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Executive Summary

In the beginning of 1983, the government had undertaken a new approach to promote family planning activities in the country. The approach emphasized community participation in the program. The Ministry of Health and Population Control vide its circular PP-I/S-6/79 (Part-I)/18 dated February 16, 1983, announced the formation of Population Control Committee at various levels -- upazila, union and ward levels. This project was designed to evaluate the activities of these committees. The specific objectives of the study were : to investigate whether the committee exists at upazila, union and ward levels; to see whether the committee was formed as per government circular; to investigate problems of forming the committee; and to evaluate the present functionings of the committee.

For the study, 94 upazilas, 274 unions and 246 wards were selected. The president, member-secretary of each of the three committee were interviewed with a structured questionnaire. The respondents were Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO), Union Parishad Chairman, Family Planning Assistant (FPA), Ward Members and Family Welfare Assistant (FWA). The following sections describes the findings of the study.

With regards to upazila population control committee, 92 percent UNOs and 99 percent UFPOs reported to have existence of the committee. The mean length of existence of this committee was about 14.3 and 12.4 months from the responses of UNOs and UFPOs respectively. The committee had about 24 members on an average. More than fifty percent of the committee members were comprised of local leaders. Ninety five percent UNOs and 85 percent UFPOs reported to have no problems in forming the committee. Since

inception of the committee, the average number of the committee meetings held was about 7. There was no uniformity in the timing of holding committee meetings. To the question of stating functions of the committee, the respondents stated a wide variety of items as functions of the committee. About 37 percent UNOs and 49 percent UFPOs reported to have faced problems in discharging committee functions. Fifty percent of these respondents mentioned religious conservativeness as a major obstacle. Other common difficulties were illiteracy of common people, irregular attendance of members and conflict of integration between Health and Family Planning. About 75 percent of the respondents felt to have some more authority for allocating fund, punishing and awarding functionaries, and supervising field workers so as to make the committee more active. Eighty three percent of UNOs and 95.4 percent of UFPOs felt that the creation of population control committee will promote family planning activities in the community. They mentioned several reasons for their consideration.

With regards to union population control committee, 95.5 percent union parishad chairmen and 93.4 percent Family Planning Assistants (FPA) reported of existence of such committee in their union. The average length of existence of the committee was observed to be 13.7 months, and the average number of members of the committee was found to be 21.9 and 24.5 from responses of chairmen and FPAs respectively. More than seventy five percent of committee members consists of government employees, union parishad chairmen and members. Others had a wide range of occupational background. A considerable number of members were found to be school teacher and madrasa teachers. Since inception of union committees, the average number of meetings held was 7.5. Seventy percent of the respondents reported to hold meetings once a month. About sixty percent of the respondents did not face any problems in discharging committee functions. Those who mentioned about problems faced

similar types of problems as mentioned by UNOs and UFPOs. Similar proportion of the respondents of union committees mentioned about need of more authority for making committee more efficient for the same reasons. Ninety seven percent respondents reported the committee as useful for promoting population control activities because of scope of participation of local people in the activities.

Regarding ward committee, about 70 percent of the respondents mentioned to have formed ward population control committee. The average length of such committee was 12.6 and 14.2 months as reported by members and FWAs respectively. On the average the committee had 12 members and held 7 meetings since inception. They mostly held the meeting once a month and did not face much problem in forming committees. The respondents as others did, mentioned about the need of financial support for promoting initial activities of the committee. They admitted that this new approach gives scope of community leaders to participate in family planning activities, and that it makes working environment more congenial for overcoming socio-cultural barriers.

In concluding remarks, the authors feel that the committee is not functioning as it should have been in most of the places although most of the respondents reported to have existence of the committee for quite sometime. It is mostly due to sheer negligence of higher authorities and the officers in positions. Specifically, lack of monitoring by higher authorities may be accounted for not forming and dysfunctioning of the committees because the government is not enough to expect its implementation without proper supervision. Besides, lack of fund for committee activities is also observed to be an important factor for functionings of the committee.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Problem

Since early sixties, proliferation of human number has always been a matter of serious concern for Bangladesh. Despite programmatic efforts for nearly a decade, total fertility rate was found to be 6.3 (BFS, 1985). During 1975-80, total fertility rate did not change much, although program inputs in terms of men and materials, and infrastructural facilities were enormous. During the Second Five Year Plan 1980-85, the Government almost doubled the investment of the preceding Five Year Plan to raise the 1981 level of contraceptive prevalence rate of 18.6 percent to 38 percent by mid 1985 so as to bring the total fertility rate down to 4.5 by then. Available data on family planning programming achievement in terms of contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) show that the CPR is about 22.0 percent, observed in 1983 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey, which is about 35 percent of the programme-goal set for the Second Five Year Plan.

Realising the gravity of population problem, all successive governments since mid sixties have realised the importance of involving the men of affairs from cross section as well as peoples' representatives at various levels -- national, regional and local not only to enlight public support in favour of small family norm, but also for co-ordination. This particular policy measure has always been well articulated in all successive Five Year Plan since then. For instance, in pursuance of the provision of Second Five Year Plan, 1980-85, government constituted in February, 1982, the Upazila, Union and Ward level Committees to discharge certain specific functions. The upazila level committee consists of Upazila

Nirbahi Officer (UNO) as Chairman and Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO) as Member-Secretary, at union level committee, the Chairman Union Council and Family Planning Assistant as Chairman and Member-Secretary respectively; and at ward level, local Union Parishad member and a ward level Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) as the Chairman and Member-Secretary respectively. The detailed information regarding compositions and functions of the above mentioned committees may be seen in appendix 2.

1.2 Review of Literature

The concept of community participation in various development programs is not new. In general, communities are expected to be capable of perceiving and solving their fertility problems under a given adequate guidance and motivation (David, 1982). The idea of community participation includes transfer of authority for local program, planning, operation and day-to-day evaluation to lower administrative levels (e.g. as in China). Scientists recommended various issues based on the experiences in different cases. McNicoll (1975) suggested to provide incentives at the community level that reward economic performance and demographic restraint. He advocated for the shift in emphasis of government population program from regarding individuals as clients to regarding communities as clients.

In the context of the rural community in Bangladesh, the question remains about the validity of the assumption of integrated community development approach, because people in rural areas are mostly illiterate. They are usually considered to be incapable of making their own plan regarding fertility control. Even if they are able to realize the problem, the question still remains about how far

the leaders of the community accept the program while the concept of children's economic value is in existence in the rural community. In addition to economic consideration, the number of children of a family play an important role in rural power structure. Besides traditional and religious beliefs also work as countervailing factors for people's participation in the program. The success of the idea of community participation depends largely on the strength of these factors.

As we have said that the idea of people's involvement in development planning or program is by no means new. Over the few decades there has increasingly been a focus on community-based approach to development program throughout the third world especially in the area of health, agriculture, irrigation, education and other sectors. This is not even new in the area of population. We will discuss some of the programs based on community participation approach in the following sections.

Islam et al (1979) described the success of water and sanitation program in Bangladesh. Since 1970 the government had undertaken a massive program to provide water to 93 percent of the population in rural areas. About 50,000 tubewells were sunk in a year with sharing of costs by local people. The management was done through local structures. As a result 75-78 percent of hand pumps were found in operation at any time of the year. This provides an indication that a community has ability to solve its problems by itself if it realizes the problem.

Success of community participation approach has also been observed in Primary Health Care (PHC) program. Ahmed (1978)

outlined the essential features of community participation approach of a successful Primary Health Care program. From the light of his experience, he emphasized that the basic obstacles from the community are need to be overcome, and the basic elements of a strategy are to initiate and enhance community participation. The mode and mechanism of participation must ensure the vital interests of the needy and weakest in the community taken into account. It is also necessary to use educational process to prepare population for self-help attitude. These are also undoubtedly essential factors for controlling population through community participation. Community will decide who should have children, and how many people the community can afford to maintain with its resources. Although it is difficult to have such estimates, the community at least can motivate the people in favour of small family describing the consequences of large family at individual as well as national level.

David (1982) has delineated the success of community-based family planning services (CBFPS), founded by Mechai Viravaidya, a development economist and former Secretary-General of the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand in 1974. The CBFPS demonstrated the use of family planning as a spring board for income-generating or other self-finance activities to enhance the quality of life. As the program was growing, the CBFPS included various dimension of incentives and disincentives to fertility reduction. In late 1981, Population and Community Development Association launched another program in over 60 selected villages in Northeast Thailand, involving individual households and community in income-generating and quality-of-life-enhancing activities related to effective family planning. In this program, the incentive of financial fund generated by

the community was linked to progressively longer periods of pregnancy free mothers.

David summarized the program saying that a genuine community-based approach must be inherently flexible, responsive to local needs and interests, and attuned to cultural values and sensitivities. Improvement of the well being of the community, as perceived by its member-families, should be the primary objective of a community-based service program designed to offer an integrated approach to fertility reduction efforts.

In Bangladesh, there are some non-government organisations aiming at ensuring community participation in development programs, such as Savar Gana Shastya Kendra (GK) project, Companygonj Health project and Bangladesh Rural Development Committee (BRAC). The GK project started with integrated approach of health and family planning, and later on, it incorporated other economic aspects in the program. The Companygonj project, a joint venture between Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) and the government of Bangladesh, was originally intended to be a demonstrative project. A strong emphasis was made on the community participation in MCH-FP program.

The background and results of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee have been documented by many social scientists. The BRAC project is concerned with the broader issue of rural development. It deals with health and family planning as an integral part of overall development. The approach here is to help the disadvantaged to help themselves through collective efforts. The program approach taken was an identification of certain general needs of the population and an attempt to meet them. The needs that were identified are basic health care, agricultural development, functional education and cooperatives. The effect of the program

was not significant in first three years in changing people's life style later on they reviewed this operation system and made necessary changes. The project appears to have made a significant improvement in changing fertility behaviour among other aspects of community life.

Zaman (1984) analysed public participation in development work. He reviewed various programs based community participation such as Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP), Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) and some other small projects. On critical review of these programs, he proposed a modified approach for public participation in health programs. He assumes that the absence of local group-cohesiveness and commonality of interest, requires program inputs to be particularly targeted to points where associational groups have been mobilized to pursue common interests. Once sustained group involvement takes place around a cluster of general rural development activities, the groups can then easily participate in the planning, implementation and continuation of health programs.

Similarly Waliullah (1974) proposed several hypotheses in relation with participation of local leaders in family planning program. He demonstrated that leaders are numerous in a given community and they are most influential among their immediate neighbours, friends, and relatives. Success of a program varies as a function of their involvement in such a program.

The empirical results of a survey conducted by Waliullah et al (1983) on evaluation of the impact of community leaders' participation for family planning in two villages, present a gloomy picture of community participation. They observed that the

attendance of community leaders was very poor at the meetings. They had identified lack of incentive as a factor for the poor participation.

From the preceding discussion, it is understood that the importance of the community participation in development program has gradually been recognized as an important strategy to bring about changes in the community life-style. The leaders of community in general play a pivotal role in the pattern of community participation. The active participation of leaders involved in the committees may bring about favourable changes in the attitude of common people. It also depends on the type of leaders, and their influence in the community. Their participation is an indispensable factor for this approach.

The foregoing theoretical discussion has its practical implication in the sense of involving community in matters that are intended to serve the interest of the community itself. The local level committees discussed earlier are thought to be the optimally desirable mechanism, in the absence of other designated constituent units to channel public interest in family planning for the benefits of the individuals living in the community. It would be much interesting if we could see the impact of the participation of community leaders on family planning acceptance and thereby its impact on fertility reduction. Since the program of community participation approach has not been matured enough to see its impact on family planning acceptance and fertility, our study therefore intend to see the extent to which the upazila union and ward level committees have been functioning, if at all formed; and if not, what are the underlying reasons there for.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate whether the Population Control Committee (PCC) exists at upazila, union and ward (village) levels.
2. To investigate whether PCC has been formed as per the government circular.
3. If not, what are the problems in not forming the committee?
4. To evaluate the present functioning of the committee at various levels.

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CHAPTER 2
METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, we will discuss the methodology by which we mean our sampling design, data source and how data were collected and analysed.

2.1 Sampling Design

The study requires selection of a large number of upazilas, unions, and ward (villages), we followed a multistage probability sampling procedure as discussed below:

(a) Stage I: District

At this stage, we prepared a list of all the districts of the year 1983; and from this list, we randomly selected 11 districts which formed the basis for selecting other sampling units.

(b) Stage II: Upazila (thana) level Committee

At this stage, we selected the upazila level committees. First, we prepared a list of all the upazilas (thanas) of the districts selected at stage I. From this list, we then selected 40 percent of the upazilas randomly. Thus, in this process, about 94 upazilas were selected.

(c) Stage III: Union level Committee

This stage involved the selection of unions. First, we prepared a list of all the unions of the upazilas selected at stage II and then, we selected 30 percent

of the unions with equal probability basis from each upazila. Thus 274 unions were selected.

(d) Stage IV: Ward level Committee

This stage involved the selection of wards from the unions selected in stage III. It was assumed that there were at least 3 wards on average per union. Thus, there will be about $(274 \times 3) = 832$ wards in all the selected unions. From three wards of each union, we have randomly selected one ward. This, about 274 wards were selected for this study.

2.2 Data Source

Our sources of data are our upazila, union and ward level respondents which are briefly discussed below.

(a) Upazila level: Two officers -- Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), and Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO) were considered relevant for interview. Keeping in mind our research objectives, we developed a structured questionnaire. Since the Upazila Family Planning Officer as the Member-Secretary of the Population Control Committee (PCC) according to the circular number PP-1/S-6/79 (Part-I)/18 dated February 16, 1983, he one of the key-persons to provide necessary information. Both UNO and UFPO are expected to know the existing problems relating to the committee (if it has already been formed) and to appraise the problems in forming the committee (even if it has not been formed). The UNO was considered as relevant for interview because he was designated as the

Chairman of the committee until the Upazila Parishad was formed as per circular referred to above. Table 1a shows the number of UNOs and UFPOs actually interviewed for this study.

(b) Union Level: Two persons — Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant (FPA) were interviewed with separate questionnaires. The Chairman of Union Parishad is also the designated Chairman of the Population Control Committee at union level. The FPA is the Member-Secretary of the committee. They were, therefore, obvious choice for our interview. Only 249 Union Parishad Chairmen and 259 FPAs were available for interview out of a total of 274 unions.

(c) Ward Level: A Union Parishad Member is the Chairman of the ward or village level committee. The Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) is the Member-Secretary. They are, therefore, our logical choice for interview to get necessary information according to our research objectives. In all, 198 ward level Chairmen and 242 FWAs were available for interview. Table 1b shows the number of respondents at the union and ward level.

Table 1a: Distribution of selected Upazilas and Officers available for interview by Districts

Districts	Number of selected upazilas	Officers interviewed	
		UNO	UFPO
Dhaka	13	8	11
Chittagong	10	8	9
Rajshahi	12	12	10
Khulna	9	9	9
Jessore	9	9	9
Bogra	7	7	7
Tangail	4	5	5
Noakhali	8	7	6
Comilla	11	10	10
Pabna	7	7	7
Kushtia	5	5	5
Total	94	87	88

Table 1b: Number of Union and Ward level respondents¹

District	Union level		Ward level	
	Number of Chairman	Number of FPAs	Number of Chairman	Number of FWAs
Dhaka	30	28	6	13
Chittagong	27	29	26	31
Rajshahi	26	30	26	29
Khulna	22	23	8	21
Jessore	26	26	10	24
Bogra	16	17	16	17
Tangail	10	11	10	10
Noakhali	23	24	26	24
Comilla	39	41	40	43
Pabna	18	18	18	19
Kushtia	12	12	12	11

¹Note: For details, see tables 34 and 60.

2.3 Major Areas of Data Collection

The following were the few major foci of our study. Data were collected keeping in view these foci.

(a) Where Committee did Exist:

1. Date of committee formation
2. Number of members at the time of committee formation
3. Identification of the members (whether members were selected as per the guidelines)
4. Date of first meeting of the committee
5. Number of committee meetings held since the time of the formation of the committee
6. Regularity in attending meeting
7. Number of members attending each meeting
8. Major items of the agenda of the meeting
9. Problems discussed in the committee meeting
10. Problems encountered in arranging meeting

(b) Where Committee did not Exist:

1. Knowledge about the circular PP-1/S-6/79 (Part-I)/18 dated February 16, 1983
2. Efforts taken for committee formation
3. Reasons for not forming committee
4. Any plan to form committee in future
5. Any effort made by their predecessor to form any committee
6. Duration of the respondents at their present office

2.4 Training and Pretest

Keeping in view our objectives of the study, one instrument was developed and uniformly administered among the six types of respondents discussed above. Before the instrument was administered, it was pretested. Twenty interviewers and four supervisors were selected and given orientation training for two weeks before the interview.

2.5. Data Analysis

Given the nature of the study and its objectives, our optimum analytical tools are a set of descriptive statistics, namely percentages and averages. The purpose of the study is to see whether committees have been formed and functioning or not. We have considered above descriptive tools as useful to describe the situation and that a detailed accounting analysis is not strictly warranted, as one will see that there is little variation in the responses of our different types of respondents on many key variables.

CHAPTER 3

UPAZILA LEVEL COMMITTEE

In this section, we will discuss the characteristics of the Upazila Nirbahi Officers and Upazila Family Planning Officers followed by a description of the variables relating to Upazila Population Control Committee and its functioning.

3.1 Socio-demographic Background of Upazila Officers

Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) hold two steps higher position than the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UFPO). The Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer (UHFPO) is between these positions. Hence, until recently, their positions in the committee were as Chairman and Member-Secretary respectively. The UNOs and the UFPOs are generally of same ages as their mean age is about the same, about 39 years (see table 2).

About 96.6 percent UNOs are muslims as compared to 89 percent of the UFPOs. All the UNOs are currently married whereas 10.2 percent UFPOs are still unmarried (see tables 4 and 5).

With regards to the family size, the UNOs have three average number of living children. The comparable figure for the UFPOs is 2.5. The UNOs having one child are only 23.3 percent as against 10.1 percent of the UFPOs. The difference in the mean number of living children of the UNOs and UFPOs in fact is very trivial. Although average number of living children of the UNO is slightly lower than the national average, given the educational and other background, this rate is quite high (see table 6).

3.2 Facts About the Existing Committee

To our respondents, namely, UNOs and UFPOs, we have asked several family planning committee related-questions in order to ascertain the extent to which family planning committees are functioning in their respective upazilas. To begin with, we have asked whether they are aware of the government's circular dated February 16, 1983, requesting them to form committee to do certain specific functions. Our data show that 92 percent UNOs and 99 percent UFPOs are aware of this directive of the government. Only 8 percent UNOs are still unaware of that circular. All the UNOs who have reported to be aware of the circular have also admitted the existence of the committee in their upazilas. Whereas, among the UFPOs who are aware of the circular, 98 percent have admitted of the existence of the upazila level committee. Surprisingly, 2.3 percent UFPOs have reported to have no knowledge of such committee (see tables 7 and 8).

After eliciting above information, we have asked a probing question whether the UNOs and UFPOs can report about the duration of such committee. Our data show that mean length of duration of the existence committee was 14.3 months as reported by the UNOs. The comparable figure for the same is only 12.4 months as per report of the UFPOs. We have some response variation between the two groups of respondents, but reasons for this response variation cannot be ascertained (see table 9). It may be due to differential involvement in committee activities of the respondents.

The average number of members reported by both the groups are the same i.e. 24 at the time of formation of the committee. Some UNOs reported to have less than nine members in the committee. Some of the UNOs and UFPOs have reported a maximum number

of 40 members in their committee at the time of formation of the committee. The reasons for such extreme form of composition are, however, unknown (see table 10a). Although the distribution of the sizes of the committee members at present shows some difference with that of the committee formation time, the average size of the members in the committee at present is found to be about the same as at the time of committee formation (see table 10b). The respondents were also asked to state the designation of the members. As table 10c shows, about 51.2 percent and 53.7 percent as reported by UNOs and UFPOs respectively are local leaders. These leaders are mostly chairmen of various Union Parishad because in the circular it is clearly mentioned that they should be included in the committee.

More than 95 percent UNOs and 84.5 percent UFPOs reported to have no problem in forming the committee. Those who reported to have faced problems in forming the committee identified four types of problems e.g. lack of interest, lack of entertainment provision, lack of cooperation between chairman and member-secretary of the committee and above all, lack of knowledge about the functions of the committee (see tables 11 and 12).

Average number of meetings held since inception was 7.6 as reported by the UNOs and 7.0 as per report of the UFPOs. The reasons for response variation is not, however, known. More than 55 percent reported in both the groups about holding meeting, at least, once in a month; 32 percent UNOs and 36.2 percent UFPOs reported about irregularity in holding meeting of the committee (see tables 13 and 14).

3.3 Knowledge About Functions of the Committee

We wanted to ascertain whether the upazila level officers are familiar with the functions of the committees. Our data show

that all those UNOs (N=78) who have reported to be aware of the government's directive to form committee have also reported to be aware of the functions of the committee. The same is observed in the case of the UFPOs (N=84) who have reported to be aware of the government's circular about the formation of the Population Control Committee (see table 15).

In order to find out the extent to which they were aware of the functions, we asked a common question to both the UNOs and UFPOs. Our data in table 16 show that as many as fifteen kind of functions have been reported by both the groups. In both the groups, more than one response was recorded for various categories of functions. Among the UNOs (N=81) who reported to be aware of the functions of the committee, 42.5 percent UNOs reported creating awareness of the people about family planning as a function of the committee. The comparable figure for the UFPOs was only 31 percent. Review of progress of family planning activities and suggestions for future improvement as function of the committee were reported by 34.5 percent of the UFPOs as against 28.8 percent UNOs. Twenty percent UNOs reported supervision of field works as a function of the committee. The comparable figure for the UFPOs is only 11.5 percent. To arrange sterilization camps as a function of the committee was reported by 19.5 percent UFPOs as compared to 5 percent UNOs. To increase family planning acceptors through public meetings and other local media was considered as a function of the committee by 17.2 percent UFPOs as compared to 8.6 percent UNOs. Thus, if we go on examining each category of reported functions, we find a wide range of response variation which may be due to inconsistency in their perceived functions of the Population Control Committee. This implies that many of the respondents have not read the terms of reference of the circular carefully.

We asked an intuitive question whether they faced any difficulties in discharging the functions of the committee. Out of 81 UNOs, 37 percent reported to have faced difficulty. The comparable figure for the UFPOs is only 49.4 percent (see table 17).

We have tried to ascertain nature of difficulties in discharging the functions of the committee. As many as thirteen types of difficulties were pointed out by them. Here also, we have observed a considerable variation between the UNOs and UFPOs. The majority of UNOs (50 percent) feel that religious conservatism of the people in the community is a major obstacles in discharging the functions of the committee. The comparable figure for the UFPOs is only 27.9 percent. Some UNOs and UFPOs reported that religious leaders of the community are strongly against family planning program in general and the sterilization program in particular. According to UFPOs, Chairman's lack of interest (23.8 percent), lack of education of the people (20.9 percent), and irregular attendance of the members (27.9 percent) are the major factors hampering the functioning of the committee. The comparable figures for the UNOs in those response-categories are respectively 6.7 percent, 16.7 percent and 13.3 percent. Integration between Health and Family Planning is regarded as another problem hindering the functioning of the committee (for details, see table 18).

3.4 Authority of the Committee

We have also wanted to know whether the upazila level committees should have more authority. Out of 81 UNOs who are aware of the committee, 74.1 percent have felt that some more authority is necessary for proper functioning of the committee. The comparable figure for the UFPOs is 77 percent. Still we have pursued

this matter further and wanted to ascertain from those UNOs (N=60) and UFPOs (N=67) what types of authority will be needed for proper functioning of the committee. Both the UNOs and UFPOs consistently suggest (see tables 19 and 20) the following three types of authority for the committee:

- i) authority to allocate fund;
- ii) authority to award and punish the functionaries;
and
- iii) authority to supervise the field workers.

By the authority to allocated fund, they meant to have authority to design and allocate their budget for family planning activities within their upazila.

Small number of those UNOs and UFPOs who have thought not to have more authority than what the committee has, at present, have also been asked as to why they do not feel like having more authority for the committee. They have expressed apprehension that more authority by the committee may lead to problem of field work and misuse of power (see table 21).

3.5 Knowledge of Officers About Union and Ward Committees

The UNOs and UFPOs are, in fact, respectively indirect and direct supervisors of the union and ward level family planning staff. Hence, we have asked them about the number of unions and wards in their upazila have formed Population Control Committee. Out of total of 81 UNOs and 87 UFPOs who have responded to the question seemed to have varying level of knowledge of the existence of Population Control Committee in their respective upazilas, 33.3 percent UNOs and 36.8 percent UFPOs who reported

to have existence of union level committees were in the range of 10-14 unions. Average numbers of union Population Control Committee reported by both the groups are 10.6. In respect to ward level committee, average numbers of committee that are in existence are found to be 6.2 and 7.0 wards from responses of UNOs and UFPOs respectively. Those who have reported regarding the formation of union and ward level committees in the range of 20-27 and 40-49 respectively appear to be misleading, because on scrutiny it was observed that such a large number of unions and wards are virtually not existing. However, there are only 2 cases in each of the above categories. From the information of these tables, it appears that upazila committee leaders did not take initiative to form union and ward level committee.

3.6 Intention of Committee Formation

We have asked the UNOs and UFPOs who have reported to be aware of the government circular to form upazila level committee about how long they have been in their present office. Our data show that they have been holding their present office for varying length of time ranging from 1-25 months. While asked how soon they are planning to form committee, they reported that they will be forming the committee within 15-30 days (see tables 23 and 24). We have also attempted to know from them whether their predecessors took any steps to form the committee, but no satisfactory replies were available. We also did not get any satisfactory answer as to the reasons why they have not taken any steps to form the committee. Some UNOs and UFPOs reported that they did not get any reminder from their higher authority (see tables 26 and 27).

3.7 Attitude Towards Population Control Committee

We have asked our respondents some attitudinal questions whether they consider Population Control Committee as useful for promoting population activities in the unions. Overwhelming majority of the UNOs (82.6 percent; N=87) and UFPOs (95.4 percent; N=88) replied in the affirmative. However, 18 UNOs and 16 UFPOs did not respond to our question in spite of our request (see table 31). Those UNOs (N=59) and UFPOs (N=68) who replied population control committee as useful have identified as many as twelve reasons as rationale for population control committee. On the other hand, the UNOs (N=12) and UFPOs (N=4) who do not consider population control committee as useful have identified seven reasons as rationale (for details, see tables 31 and 32).

Table 2: Age distribution of the Upazila Nirbahi Officers and Upazila Family Planning Officers

Age group	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25 - 29	1	1.1	2	2.3
30 - 34	7	8.0	22	25.0
35 - 39	55	63.2	12	13.7
40 - 44	13	14.9	36	40.9
45 - 49	6	6.9	15	17.0
50 - 54	3	3.5	1	1.1
55 - 59	2	2.3	-	-
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0
Mean	39.4		39.9	

Table 3: Education background of Upazila Nirbahi Officers and Upazila Family Planning Officers

Education	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Graduate	26	29.9	52	59.1
Master's Degree	61	70.1	36	40.9
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0
Mean	15.7		14.8	

Table 4: Distribution of Upazila Nirbahi Officers and
Upazila Family Planning Officers by religion

Religion	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Muslim	84	96.6	78	88.6
Hindu	2	2.3	10	11.4
Buddist	1	1.1	-	-
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0

Table 5: Distribution of Upazila Nirbahi Officers and
Upazila Family Planning Officers by marital
status

Marital status	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Unmarried	0	0.0	9	10.2
Married	87	100.0	79	89.8
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0

Table 6: Number of living children of Upazila Officers

Number of living children	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	2	2.2	13	14.8
1	20	23.0	8	9.2
2	21	24.1	23	26.1
3	26	29.9	20	22.7
4	8	9.2	17	19.3
5	5	5.8	4	4.5
6	5	5.8	3	3.4
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0
Mean	3	-	2.5	-

Table 7: Awareness of Upazila Officers about Population Control Committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	81	93.1	87	98.9
No	6	6.9	1	1.1
Total	87	100.0	88	100.0

Table 8: Knowledge of existence of Population Control Committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	81	100.0	85	97.7
No	-	-	2	2.3
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 9: Length of existence of Committee as informed by Upazila Officers

Duration (in months)	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 6	-	-	5	5.7
6 - 11	32	39.5	43	49.4
12 - 17	18	22.2	12	13.8
18 - 23	18	22.2	14	16.2
24 - 29	8	9.9	9	10.3
Non functioning	5	6.2		4.6
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Mean	14.3	-	12.4	-
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 10a: Number of members in the Committee at the time of formation as informed by Upazila Officers

Number of Members	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 10	2	2.6	1	1.1
10 - 14	3	3.8	4	4.6
15 - 19	15	19.3	17	19.5
20 - 24	22	28.2	26	29.9
25 - 29	16	20.5	18	20.7
30 - 34	9	11.5	7	8.0
35 - 39	6	7.7	9	10.4
40 +	2	2.6	2	2.4
Don't know	6	3.8	3	3.4
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Mean	24.0	-	24.0	-
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 10b: Number of Members in the Committee at present
as stated by the respondents

Number of Member	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 10	2	2.5	1	1.1
10 - 14	4	4.9	4	4.6
15 - 19	14	17.3	15	17.2
20 - 24	24	29.6	27	31.0
25 - 29	15	18.5	19	21.9
30 - 34	7	8.6	7	8.0
35 - 39	6	7.4	9	10.4
40 +	3	3.7	2	2.4
Don't know	6	7.5	3	3.4
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Mean	24.5		25.0	
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 10c: Classification of Upazila Population Control
Committee members by their designation

Classification	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Government employee	851	48.8	830	46.3
Local leader	893	51.2	963	53.7
Total	1744	100.0	1793	100.0

Table 11: Problems faced in forming Upazila Population Control Committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	3	3.8	13	15.5
No	75	96.2	71	84.5
Total	78	100.0	84	100.0
Not applicable	9		4	
N	87		88	

Table 12: Types of problems faced in forming Upazila Population Control Committee

Response ¹ categories	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Members do not show much interest	3	100.0	9	69.2
2. There was no provision for entertainment	2	67.0	5	38.5
3. Chairman/Member Secretary was not cooperative	1	33.3	4	30.8
4. Ignorance about the activities of the Committee	-		1	7.7
Total number of respondents stated about problems	3		13	
Not applicable	84		75	
N	87		88	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 13: Number of Committee meetings held since inception

Number of meetings held	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No meeting	10	12.3	8	9.2
1 - 4 meeting	22	27.2	28	32.2
5 - 9 "	26	32.1	33	37.9
10 - 14 "	16	19.8	8	9.2
15 - 19 "	3	3.7	6	6.9
20 + "	4	4.9	4	4.6
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Mean	7.0		6.8	
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 14: Interval of holding Committee meetings

Interval	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Once a month	47	58.0	47	54.0
Once in two months	2	2.5	3	3.4
Once in three months	2	2.5	1	1.1
Irregular	30	37.0	36	41.5
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 15: Whether Upazila Officers familiar with the functions of the Committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	78	100.0	84	100.0
No	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	78	100.0	84	100.0
Not applicable	9		4	
N	87		88	

Table 16: Functions of the Committee as stated by respondents

Functions ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. To make people aware of FP methods	34	42.0	27	31.0
2. To supervise the work of field officers	16	20.0	10	11.5
3. To evaluate monthly FP activities, discussion on previous work, and planning future activities	23	28.4	30	34.5
4. To discuss on mother and child welfare activities	16	20.0	19	21.8
5. To maintain correct statistics on reproductive couples	1	1.2	3	3.4
6. To integrate FP activities of Govt. and Non-govt. organisation	10	12.3	16	18.4
7. To collect vital statistics	3	3.7	2	2.3
8. To identify problems with FP methods and their solutions	11	13.6	13	14.9
9. To increase FP acceptors through public meetings, folk songs, cinema and drama	7	8.6	15	17.2
10. To remove religious barrier	3	3.7	6	6.9
11. To advise UP-Chairman for distributing relief goods among FP acceptors	0	0.0	1	1.1
12. To help village defence body	1	1.2	1	1.1
13. To help operated patients	3	3.7	0	0.0
14. To arrange sterilization camps	4	4.9	7	19.5
15. To organize village works for increasing FP acceptors	4	4.9	3	3.4
Not known	0		5	
Total number of respondents who stated functions of the committee			81	87

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 17: Whether any difficulties faced in implementation of functions

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	30	37.0	43	49.4
No	51	63.0	44	50.6
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 18: Types of difficulties faced in implementing functions of the Committee

Difficulties ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Chairman's lack of interest	2	6.7	10	23.3
2. Religious conservatism	15	50.0	12	27.9
3. Communication problem	1	3.3	6	14.0
4. No one shows interest in FP except UFPO	2	6.7	8	18.6
5. Illiteracy	5	16.7	9	20.9
6. Irregular attendance at meetings	4	13.3	12	27.9
7. Committee do not have any funds	1	3.3	3	7.0
8. Chairman's lack of time for committee activities	-		4	9.3
9. Disintegration between health and FP sectors	4	13.3	3	7.0
10. Inadequate doctors	2	6.7	1	2.3
11. Lack of arrangements for sterilization	2	6.7	1	2.3
12. UFPO's negligence of duties	3	10.0	-	
13. Family Planning department should be made separate department	2	6.7	1	2.3
Total number of respondents mentioned difficulties	30		43	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 19: Whether Committee should have more authority in implementing the duties (or functions)

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	60	74.1	67	77.0
No	21	25.9	20	23.0
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 20: Types of authority that the Committee should have

Type ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Power of allocation of fund	36	60.0	43	64.2
2. Power of sanctioning awards/punishment	40	66.7	40	59.2
3. Provisions of taking action against negligence of notice and duties	15	25.0	28	41.8
4. Power of supervising FP workers, field work and reporting about activities	2	3.3	1	1.5
5. Provision of increasing membership	0	0.0	3	4.5
Total respondents support in favour of authority	60		67	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 21: Reasons for considering not to have authority of the Committee

Reasons ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Field workers will have problem to work	6	28.6	6	30.0
2. Power may be mis-used by the committee or by the members of the committee	10	47.6	12	60.0
3. Power should be centralized	6	28.6	5	25.0
Total respondents support in favour of authority	21		20	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 22: Upazila level officers' knowledge about the number of Union level Population Control Committee

Number	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	5	6.2	4	4.6
1 - 4	6	7.4	12	13.8
5 - 9	18	22.2	20	23.0
10 - 14	27	33.3	32	36.8
15 - 19	12	14.8	13	14.9
20 - 27	7	8.6	5	5.8
Not known	6	7.5	1	1.1
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Mean number of unions	10.6	-	10.6	-
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 23: Upazila level officers' knowledge about the number of Village (or Ward) level Population Control Committee

Number	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	45	55.6	45	51.7
1 - 9	5	6.2	4	4.6
10 - 19	6	7.4	7	8.1
20 - 29	2	2.5	2	2.3
30 - 39	7	8.6	12	13.8
40 - 49	2	2.5	2	2.3
Not known	14	17.2	15	17.2
Total	81	100.0	87	100.0
Mean number of wards	6.2	-	7.9	-
Not applicable	6		1	
N	87		88	

Table 24: Length of time of respondents holding the present office

Length (in months)	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1 - 11	2	33.3	1	100.0
12 - 23	3	50.0	-	-
24 - 25	1	16.7	-	-
Total	6	100.0	1	100.0
Not applicable	81		87	

Table 25: Expected time to form committee after knowledge circular

Time	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within 15 days	3	50.0	-	-
Within 30 days	3	50.0	1	100.0
Within 45 days	-	-	-	-
Total	6	100.0	1	100.0
Not applicable	81		87	
N	87		88	

Table 26: Whether predecessor took any initiative for forming committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	-	-	-	-
No	6	100.0	1	100.0
Total	6	100.0	1	100.0
Not applicable	81		87	
N	87		88	

Table 27: Main reasons for not forming committee

Reasons ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Chairman/Member Secretary do not cooperate	-	-	1	100.0
2. Members not interested	6	100.0	-	-
3. Higher officer did not give reminder	1	16.7	1	100.0
4. The committee do not have any financial authority	2	33.3	1	100.0
Total respondents stated reasons for not forming the committee	6			
Not applicable	81		87	
N	87		88	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 28: Whether respondents intend to form committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	6	100.0	1	100.0
No	-	0.0	-	0.0
Total	6	100.0	1	100.0
Not applicable	81		87	
N	87		88	

Table 29: Steps to be taken to form committee

Steps	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Action will be taken according to Govt. circular	2	33.3	1	100.0
UP Chairman will be informed to form committee	1	16.7	-	-
Committee will be formed with the help of local people	3	50.0	-	-
Total	6	100.0	1	100.0
Not applicable	81		87	
N	87		88	

Table 30: How soon respondents intend to form committee

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within 15 days	3	50.0	1	100.0
Within 30 days	3	50.0	-	-
Total	6	100.0	1	100.0
Not applicable	81		37	
N	87		88	

Table 31: Whether Population Control Committee is useful for promoting population activities in the community

Response	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	57	82.6	68	94.4
No	12	17.4	4	5.6
Total	69	100.0	72	100.0
No response	18		16	

Table 32: Reasons for considering Population Control Committee useful for promoting population activities

Reasons ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
It will increase active participation of the Chairman/Members	4	7.0	9	13.2
It will enable to fix work program of Unions' Ward Committee	0	0.0	2	2.9
It will ensure proper distribution	0	0.0	5	7.4
It will be able to solve many problems through regular meetings	2	3.5	9	13.2
It will enable to provide emphasis on the FP activities based on FP acceptance	1	1.8	1	1.5
It will help overcome conservatism by including various types of local leaders	2	3.8	7	10.3
It will help implement work program through Union Parisad Chairman	3	5.3	2	2.9
It will make work environment more congenial	7	12.3	10	14.7
It will help launch mass campaign	10	17.5	9	13.2
It will remove the differences between health and family planning	2	3.5	2	2.9
It will help make women more conscious about FP methods	2	3.5	2	2.9
It will increase participation of local people in the program	0	0.0	2	2.9
Total respondents consider committee as useful	57		68	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 33: Reasons for not considering Population Control Committee useful for promoting population activities

Reasons ¹	Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO)		Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Most of the members do not understand the objective of the program	1	8.3	-	-
2. The committee does not have any power	1	8.3	1	25.0
3. Local influential do not encourage people about FP program	-	-	1	25.0
4. Participation of members is not upto expectation	1	8.3	2	50.0
5. There is no provisions for incentive-disincentive	2	16.7	-	-
6. Committee does not have any fund	1	8.3	-	-
7. Favoritism occurs in committee formation	2	16.7	-	-
Total respondents not considering committee as useful	12		4	

¹Note: Multiple response

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CHAPTER 4

UNION LEVEL COMMITTEE

This chapter describes the union population control committee which as mentioned earlier, consists of the union parishad chairman as the president of the committee and the Family Planning Assistant as member-secretary of the committee. We selected 274 unions from 94 upazilas. Out of these unions our interviewers have been successful in interviewing 249 union parishad chairmen, about 93.0 percent of our target and 259 Family Planning Assistants, which is 94.2 percent of the target.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Background of Union Committee Respondents

Table 35 presents the age distribution of the president and member-secretary of the committee. Our data show the mean age of union parishad chairman is about 10 years higher than that of the family planning assistant whose average age is 22.7 years.

Table 36 shows the educational background of union parishad chairman and family planning assistants. A wide variation of education level is observed between the union parishad chairmen and the FPAs. This is due to the specific educational requirement for the FPAs. Our data show that 66.8 percent of FPAs have Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) education and about 28.2 percent have got Bachelor's degree. Comparable figures for the union parishad chairman are 24 percent HSC and 24.1 percent for Bachelor's and others have education level less than S.S.C. (for details, see table 36). The mean years of education are 11.0 and 12.5 years for chairmen and FPAs respectively.

Table 37 presents distribution of respondents by their religion. About 96.4 percent of the union parishad chairmen are muslims as compared to 85.3 percent for the FPAs.

With regards to the marital status of the respondents, it appears that among the union parishad chairmen, about 95.6 percent are found to be married as compared to 86.9 percent FPAs (see table 38).

Table 39 presents the pattern of family size of union parishad chairman and family planning assistants. The average number of living children for chairman appears to be 4.8 as opposed to 2.1 for FPAs. The chairmen seem to maintain high fertility pattern than the replacement level. This is partly due to the effect of age distribution as observed in table 35. The chairmen are in general older than FPAs.

4.2 Facts of Existing Committee

In response to the question regarding the awareness of chairmen and FPAs about the Union Population Control Committee, about 90 percent chairmen (i.e. 223 out of 249) responded that they are aware about the committee as compared to 96.5 percent of FPAs, 250 out of 259. A question regarding the knowledge of existence of such a committee in their union was asked to the respondents who are aware of the circular of forming union population control committee. About 95.5 percent of Union Parishad Chairman 223 out of 249 responded to have knowledge of the existence of such committee as compared to 98.4 percent of FPAs (i.e. 246 out of 250 FPAs) (see table 41).

They were further asked about the length of existence of Union Population Control Committee. The average length of existence of such committee 13.7 months, is observed to be the same from the report of both respondents. However, the highest percentage of the committee was formed during last

6 to 11 months as per their report. Surprisingly, a significant percentage of respondents mentioned that the committee is existing since last 24 to 29 months. This appears to be a somewhat unrealistic fact (see table 42).

Table 43 presents the distribution of number of members at the time of formation of Union Population Control Committee. The average number of members in the committee is found to be 21.9 from the responses of chairmen as opposed to 24.5 from the responses of FPAs. The highest percentage of committee is observed to have 15 to 19 members. A considerable number of respondents mentioned that the committee has more than 40 members, which seems to be somewhat unusual. Next they were asked about the present size of the members in the committee. The average size of the members in the committee at present is almost the same as observed at the time of committee formation. The largest number of committees have members' size ranging 15 to 19, which is the same as observed at the time of committee formation (see table 44a).

The respondents were then asked to state the designation of the committee members. Table 44b presents the classification of the respondents in terms of their designation as reported by the Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant (FPA). It should be mentioned here that the respondents could not mention the designation of a considerable number of members. The Union Parishad Chairmen were mostly newly elected. Therefore, they were not much knowledgeable about the members. As observed from field investigators diary, some Family Planning Assistants were also unable to state designation of all the members. However, with the available information in table 44b,

it is possible to have some ideas about the background of the committee members. Seventy five percent of committee members are comprised of three major groups of people -- government employee, union parishad chairman and member. About 7 percent of the members are school teachers. Although we know religious leaders in general do not support family planning program, about 2 percent of the members are Madrasha teacher and Kazi/Imam. There are not many members in other categories. However, it is a positive sign that people of wide background are becoming interested in family planning program. In other words, people of all walks are gradually becoming concerned about unplanned population growth.

Another question was put to the respondents regarding whether they faced any problems in forming union population control committee. About 95.8 percent chairmen mentioned that they did not face any problems as compared to 91.5 percent FPAs. Of the respondents who mentioned problems, 77.8 percent chairman considered lack of provision for entertainment as the problem in forming committees, whereas 81.0 percent FPAs considered lack of interest of members in forming committee. A significant proportion of chairman and FPAs referred ignorance about the committee activities as a problem (see tables 45 and 46).

Table 47 presents distribution pattern of the number of meetings held since inception. About 18.3 percent of chairman and 15 percent of FPAs reported that there had been no committee meetings so far. On the other hand, 15 chairmen out of 213 and 14 FPAs out of 246 reported to have held more than 50 meetings. The average number of meetings held since inception of the committee to March 1, 1984, is found to be about 7.5 from the report of chairman, which is about the same as reported by FPAs. In this

context, they were asked about the interval of holding committee meetings. Out of 174 chairmen, 133, 76.5 percent reported to hold the meetings once a month as compared to 146 FPAs out of 209, 69.9 percent. A considerable number of respondents reported to hold the meetings on an irregular basis. Although we have observed the highest percentage stated to hold meetings once a month, in reality, whether they hold any meetings on population activities as the agenda is highly suspicious (see table 48).

4.3 Knowledge About Functions of the Committees

The respondents were asked whether they knew the functions of the committees so as to see their knowledge about the committee activities. About 95.5 percent of chairman and 98.4 percent of FPAs reported that they are knowledgeable about the functions of the committee. They were next asked to state the functions of the committee within their knowledge. About 47 percent of the respondents mentioned to make people aware about FP methods' as one of the functions. Discussion on mother and child welfare was also reported by about 15 percent of the respondents. 'To identify problems with FP methods and their solutions' was reported by 8.5 percent of FPAs as opposed to 2.3 percent of chairmen. They also mentioned some other functions which do not have much significance in the response categories (see tables 49 and 50).

They were again inquired about any difficulties faced in implementing functions of the committees. About 78.9 percent of chairmen and 58.1 percent of FPAs stated no problem. Of all the difficulties as stated by the respondents, religious conservatism appears to be most commonly referred. The second

important difficulty in rendering the functions is illiteracy of the rural people, which may be an underlying reason for lack of interest of members as stated by 22.3 percent of FPAs. Lack of any fund for committee activities is also considerably referred by the respondents (see tables 51 and 52).

4.4 Authority of the Committee

The respondents were inquired about whether they feel the union population control committee should have more authority in implementing the functions of the committee. Of 213 chairmen, 177, 83.1 percent, responded in support of having more authority and a similar proportion of FPAs referred to the same. They were next requested to specify what types of authority they want to have. Power of allocation of fund appears to be most commonly referred to by the respondents, this is about 72 percent of the response. 'Power of sanctioning award and punishment' and 'provision of taking action against negligence of duties' are observed to be equally cited by the respondents. There is not much differences between these categories. Of course, the latter categories lies under the arch of the first categories. Similarly, to elicit more information the respondents who stated no need to have any more authority of the committee were also asked as to why they do not want more authority. None of them (36 chairmen and 41 FPAs) made any responses to this question (see tables 53 and 54).

4.5 Knowledge of the Respondents About Village/Ward Committee

The respondents were asked to state their knowledge about the village/ward committee in their union. About 58.0 percent of the chairmen reported that there is no village/ward

committee in their union. Forty percent of the chairmen as compared to 54.9 percent FPAs, reported to have 1 to 4 village/ward committees in their union. The average number of ward/village committee is 1.5 from responses of FPAs (see table 55).

4.6 Intention of Committee Formation Where it Does Not Exist

In the places where the committee does not exist, the respondent were asked about the length of time at their present office. Out of 13 FPAs, twelve reported to be holding the present office for more than 24 months. Some of these FPAs reported to be unaware of the circular and some did not form the committee even though they had knowledge about the circular. The number of chairman of these categories were higher than those of the FPAs. The average number of months that the chairmen and FPAs holding the present office are 20.3 and 25.4 months respectively. It may be assumed that the major negligence for not forming the committee was on the part of FPAs as they are government employees and expected to work according to the government's directives (see table 56). They were then asked whether their predecessor took any initiative for forming the committee. None of them replied to that question.

As they got to know about the circular from the interviewer, they were asked how soon did they expect to form the committee. More than seventy percent of the respondents reported to form the committee within 15 days and others within 30 days (see table 57).

4.7 Attitude Towards Population Control Committee

A question was put to the respondents so as to know whether they consider population control committee as useful for promoting population control activities in the community. Ninety seven percent of the respondents reported as useful for the above purpose. They were subsequently asked to state the reasons for considering it as useful. About 24 percent of FPAs reported that it will help overcome conservativeness by including various types of local leaders, and that it will increase participation of local leaders and quacks in motivation work. A significant number of FPAs, 17.6 percent, also considered that it will help solve many problems through regular meetings, and that it will help the population control campaign. There are several other reasons mentioned by them. The response pattern of chairman is about the same as the FPAs.

Table 34: Distribution of Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant of selected Unions by Districts

District	Number of Union	Number of Union Parishad Chairman interviewed	Number of Family Planning Assistant interviewed
Dhaka	31	30	28
Chittagong	33	27	29
Rajshahi	30	26	30
Khulna	23	22	23
Jessore	27	26	26
Bogra	17	16	17
Tangail	11	10	11
Noakhali	24	23	24
Comilla	46	39	41
Pabna	20	18	18
Kusntia	12	12	12
Total	274	249	259

Table 35: Age distribution of Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant

Age group	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
25 - 29	11	4.4	66	25.5
30 - 34	37	14.9	131	50.6
35 - 39	56	22.9	50	19.3
40 - 44	58	23.2	9	3.4
45 - 49	43	17.2	3	1.2
50 - 54	21	8.2	-	
55 - 59	13	5.2	-	
60 +	10	4.0	-	
Total	249	100.0	259	100.0
Mean	42.2		32.7	

Table 36: Educational background of Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant

Education	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Class I - V	7	2.8	-	
Class VI - X	45	18.1	-	
S.S.C.	59	23.7	13	5.0
H.S.C.	60	24.1	173	66.8
Graduate	60	24.1	73	28.2
Master's Degree	15	6.0	-	
Religious Education	3	1.2	-	
Total	249	100.0	259	100.0
Mean¹	11.0		12.5	

¹Note: The figure in religious education has not been considered in calculating mean

Table 37: Distribution of Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant by religion

Religion	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Muslim	240	96.4	221	85.3
Hindu	9	3.6	37	14.4
Buddhist	-		1	0.3
Total	249	100.0	259	100.0

Table 38: Distribution of Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant by marital status

Marital status	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Unmarried	11	4.4	34	13.1
Married	238	95.6	225	86.9
Total	249	100.0	259	100.0

Table 39: Number of living children of Union Parishad
Chairman and Family Planning Assistant

Number of living children	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	9	3.8	18	8.0
1	11	4.6	54	24.0
2	25	10.5	86	38.2
3	42	17.6	39	17.3
4	37	15.5	21	9.4
5	27	11.4	4	1.8
6	27	11.4	3	1.3
7	21	8.8	-	
8	17	7.2	-	
9 +	22	9.2	-	
Total	238	100.0	225	100.0
Mean	4.8		2.1	
Not applicable	11		34	
N	249		259	

Table 40: Awareness of Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistants about Population Control Committee

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	223	89.6	250	96.5
No	26	10.4	9	3.5
Total	249	100.0	259	100.0

Table 41: Knowledge of existence of Union Population Control Committee

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	213	95.5	246	98.4
No	10	4.5	4	1.6
Total	223	100.0	250	100.0
Not applicable	26		9	
N	249		259	

Table 42: Length of existence of Union Population Control Committee

Duration (in months)	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 6	25	11.7	30	12.2
6 - 11	72	33.8	93	37.8
12 - 17	63	29.6	48	19.5
18 - 23	20	9.4	36	14.6
24 - 29	33	15.5	39	15.9
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Mean	13.7		13.7	
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 43: Number of members in the Union Population Control Committee at the time of formation

Number of member	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 10	13	6.1	14	5.7
10 - 14	35	16.4	28	11.4
15 - 19	57	26.8	48	19.5
20 - 24	44	20.7	47	19.1
25 - 29	20	9.4	34	13.8
30 - 34	23	10.8	34	13.8
35 - 39	10	4.7	21	8.5
40 +	11	5.1	20	8.2
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Mean	21.9		24.5	
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 44a: Number of members in the Union Population Control Committee at present

Number of members	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 10	20	9.4	19	7.7
10 - 14	31	14.6	26	10.7
15 - 19	58	27.2	51	20.7
20 - 24	44	20.5	46	18.7
25 - 29	20	9.4	35	14.2
30 - 34	20	9.4	30	12.2
35 - 39	10	4.7	21	8.5
40 +	10	4.7	18	7.3
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Mean	21.3		23.7	
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 45: Problems faced in forming Union Population Control Committee

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	9	4.2	21	8.5
No	204	95.8	225	91.5
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 44b: Classification of Union Population Control Committee members a by designation¹

Classification	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Government employee	440	23.6	493	23.8
Union Parishad Chairman	213	11.4	246	11.9
Union Parishad Member	850	45.7	853	41.2
School Teacher	130	7.0	141	6.8
Madrasha Teacher	36	1.9	23	1.1
Village Doctor	28	1.5	30	1.4
Pharmacist	17	1.0	18	0.9
Businessman	42	2.3	49	2.4
Social Worker	29	1.5	31	1.5
Farmer	29	1.5	24	1.2
Housewife	-	-	7	0.3
Mahila Samity worker	3	0.2	4	0.2
Kazi/Imam	8	0.4	10.	0.5
Reprecentative of non-govt. organisation	5	0.3	8	0.4
Advocate	1	0.1	1	0.0
Others	30	1.6	32	1.5
Total	1861	100.0	2070	100.0

¹ Note: Respondents were not able to state designation of a considerable number of members.

Table 46: Types of problems faced in forming Union Population Control Committee

Response categories	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Members did not show much interest	5	55.5	17	81.0
There was no provision for entertainment	7	77.8	6	28.6
Chairman/Member Secretary was not cooperative	2	22.2	6	28.6
Ignorance about the activities of the committee	4	44.4	7	33.3
Total number of respondents stated about the problems	9		21	

Table 47: Number of Union Population Control Committee meetings held since inception

Number of meetings held	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No meeting	39	18.3	37	15.0
1 - 4	45	21.1	59	24.0
5 - 9	69	32.4	77	31.4
10 - 14	30	14.2	36	14.6
15 - 19	15	7.0	23	9.3
20 +	15	7.0	14	5.7
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Mean	7.5		7.7	
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 48: Interval of holding Union Population Control Committee meetings

Interval	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Once a month	133	76.5	146	69.9
Once in two months	7	4.0	13	6.2
Once in three months	4	2.3	3	1.4
Irregular	30	17.2	47	22.5
Total	174	100.0	209	100.0
Not applicable	75		50	
N	249		259	

Table 49: Whether Union Parishad Chairman and Family Planning Assistant familiar with the functions of the Committee

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	213	95.5	246	98.4
No	10	4.5	4	1.6
Total	223	100.0	250	100.0
Not applicable	26		9	
N	249		259	

Table 50: Functions of Union Population Control Committee as stated by the respondents

Functions ¹	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
To make people aware about FP methods	100	46.9	117	47.6
To supervise the work of field workers	13	6.1	15	6.1
To evaluate monthly FP activities, discuss previous work, and plan future activities	14	6.6	8	3.3
To discuss on mother and child welfare activities	31	14.6	41	16.7
To maintain correct statistics on reproductive couples	1	0.5	2	0.8
To collect vital statistics	10	4.7	12	4.9
To identify problems with FP methods and their solutions	5	2.3	21	8.5
To increase FP acceptors through public meeting, folk songs, cinema and drama	1	0.5	6	2.4
To remove religious barrier	8	3.8	7	2.8
To advise UP members for distributing relief goods among FP acceptors	7	3.3	8	3.3
To help village defence body	3	1.4	5	2.0
To arrange sterilization camps	3	1.4	6	2.4
To help operated patients	3	1.4	16	6.5
To organize village workers for increasing FP acceptors	6	2.8	9	3.7
Total respondents stated the functions	213		246	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 51: Whether any difficulties faced in implementation of functions of Union Population Control Committee

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	45	21.1	103	41.9
No	168	78.9	143	58.1
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 52: Types of difficulties faced in implementing functions of the Union Population Control Committee

Difficulties ¹	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. Member's lack of interest	3	6.7	23	22.3
2. Religious conservativeness	19	42.2	54	52.4
3. Communication problems	1	2.2	6	5.8
4. Except PFA, nobody shows interest in FP program	2	4.4	6	5.8
5. Illiteracy	10	22.2	20	19.4
6. Irregular attendance of members at meetings	3	6.7	13	12.6
7. Committee do not have any fund	7	15.5	10	9.7
8. Very few doctors	0	0.0	2	1.9
9. Lack of arrangements for sterilization	3	6.7	5	4.9
Total respondents stated difficulties	45		103	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 53: Whether Union Population Control Committee should have more authority in implementing the duties (or functions)

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	177	83.1	205	83.3
No	36	16.9	41	16.7
Total	213	100.0	246	100.0
Not applicable	36		13	
N	249		259	

Table 54: Types of authority that Union Population Control Committee should have

Type ¹	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Power of allocation of fund	127	71.8	157	76.6
Power of sanctioning award/ punishment	73	41.2	79	38.5
Provision of taking action against negligence of notice and duties	69	39.0	84	40.9
Power of supervising FP workers, field work and reporting about activities	5	2.8	2	1.0
Provision of increasing membership	0	0.0	3	1.5
Total respondents support in favour of authority	177		205	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 55: Number of Wards (or Villages) which formed Committee as stated by the respondents

Number	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	134	58.0	104	43.9
1 - 4	93	40.0	130	54.9
5 - 9	4	2.0	3	1.2
Total	231	100.0	237	100.0
Mean	1.1		1.5	
Not applicable	18		22	
N	249		259	

Table 56: Length of time of respondents holding the present office

Length	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1 - 11 months	1	2.8	-	-
12 - 23 "	23	63.9	1	7.7
24 + "	12	33.3	12	92.3
Total	36	100.0	13	100.0
Mean	20.3		25.4	
Not applicable	213		246	
N	249		259	

Table 57: Expected time to form Union Population Control Committee after knowledge of circular

Time	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within 15 days	26	72.2	10	76.9
Within 30 "	9	25.0	3	23.1
Within 45 "	11	2.8	-	-
Total	36	100.0	13	100.0
Not applicable	213		246	
N	249		259	

Table 58: Whether Population Control Committee is useful for promoting population control activities in the community

Response	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	204	98.6	205	96.7
No	3	1.4	7	3.3
Total	207	100.0	212	100.0
No response	42		47	
N	249		259	

Table 59: Reasons for considering Population Control Committee useful for promoting population control activities

Reasons*	Union Parishad Chairman (UPC)		Family Planning Assistant (FPA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1. It increases active participation of the Chairman/Member	8	3.9	11	5.4
2. It enables to fix work program of Union and Ward Committee	8	3.9	7	3.4
3. It ensures proper distribution of FP methods	8	3.9	15	7.3
4. It enables to solve many problems through regular meetings	33	16.2	36	17.6
5. It enables to provide emphasis as the FP activities based on FP acceptance level	8	3.9	10	4.9
6. It helps overcome conservatism by including various types of local leaders	33	16.2	49	23.9
7. It helps increase FP acceptors	11	5.4	6	2.9
8. It enables to keep contact with local people	19	9.3	19	9.3
9. It increases participation of local leaders and quacks in motivation	39	19.1	49	23.9
10. It helps population control campaign	39	19.1	21	10.2
11. It increases participation of the members	14	6.9	18	8.8
Total respondents considered committee as useful	204		205	

* Multiple response for reason

CHAPTER 5

WARD/VILLAGE LEVEL COMMITTEE

This chapter describes the facts of Ward/Village Population Control Committees. The respondents were ward members and Family Planning Assistants who were the president and member-secretary respectively of the committees. We consider them as our respondents.

Table 60 presents district-wise distribution of selected ward committee, and number of ward members and Family Welfare Assistants (FWA) actually interviewed. Our interviewers were successful in interviewing 246 ward members and 242 Family Welfare Assistants which is 80.4 percent and 98.4 percent of our target respectively.

5.1 Socio-Demographic Background of Ward/Village Committee Respondents

Table 61 presents age distribution of ward members and Family Welfare Assistants (FWA). On an average, ward members are found to be 12.6 years older than FWAs, whose mean age is 28.6 years. The actual difference may not be as high as observed. Because the FWAs are female government employees and they have tendency to under report their age. On the other hand, ward members come from wide range of age group as opposed to specific age group for FWAs. These are primary reasons for large age differences.

Table 62 describes the educational background of the respondents. About 62 percent of ward members and 33.9 percent of FWAs are found to have education level less than Secondary

School Certificate (SSC). The mean years of education of ward members and FWAs are observed to be 7.7 and 9.3 years respectively. The FWAs are generally found to have higher level of education than ward members. With regards to the religious affiliation, 92.9 percent of ward members and 71.9 percent of FWAs are Muslims, and the rest of the respondents are mostly Hindus (see table 63): With respect to marital status, 95 percent of ward members and 91 percent of FWAs are found to be married, and others are unmarried with few exceptions of widows.

Table 65 presents the family size pattern of the respondents. The average number of living children of ward members is 4.08 as compared to 2.36 for FWAs. Besides the intention of limiting family size, this difference is also due to difference in age distribution and education level.

5.2 Facts of Existing Committees

We asked the respondents whether they were aware of the government circular about forming ward/village population control committee. Of 198 ward member 148, 74.7 percent, reported to be aware of the circular as opposed to 202 FWAs out of 242, 83.5 percent (see table 66). We then asked another probing question as whether they have knowledge of existence of such committees in their ward. Of the ward members who reported to be aware of the circular, 72.0 percent mentioned to have knowledge of existence of such committee in their ward as opposed to 68.3 percent FWAs (see table 67).

We put a question regarding the length of existence of the committee to the respondents who stated to have knowledge of existing committees. The average length of existence of such

committees is observed to be 12.6 months according to ward members as against 14.2 months for FWAs. Most respondents mentioned to have formed committee during last 6 to 11 months. A considerable proportion of the respondents mentioned that their committee had been in existence since last 24 to 29 months, which seems to be a somewhat unrealistic fact (see table 68).

We then inquired about the size of members of the committees at the time of formation. The average sizes of members are 11.7 and 12.3 according to ward members and FWAs respectively. The size of the committee was less than 14 members as stated by 81.7 percent of ward member and 76.1 percent of FWAs. A similar question was put to know the present size of members. The average sizes are almost the same as observed at the time of formation.

After eliciting these information, we tried to find out how many meetings they held since inception of the committees. From the responses of ward members, the average number of meetings held is found to be 7.3 as against 8.4 meetings as per FWAs. More than sixty percent of the respondents reported to have held 1 to 9 meetings. Some of the respondents mentioned not to have held meetings at all. We again asked those who reported to have held meetings, regarding the interval of hold meetings. About 70.8 percent of ward members and 75.4 percent FWAs stated of holding meetings once a month. A considerable proportion of respondents reported about holding meetings on an irregular basis.

After investigating the facts of committee size and frequency of meetings, we tried to know whether there had been any

problems in forming committees. About 92.5 percent of ward members and 89.1 percent of FWAs responded not to have faced any difficulties in forming committees. The respondents who mentioned about the problems, were requested to describe the types of problems they encountered. Most of them cited "lack of members' interest" as a problem. They also mentioned two other causes namely "lack of provision for entertainment" and "ignorance about the activities of committee members".

5.3 Knowledge About the Functions of the Committee

Thus far we have evaluated the facts of committee size, committee formation and frequency of meetings. We now intend to know their knowledge about the functions of ward population control committee. The respondents were asked whether they are familiar with the functions of the committee. Of 106 ward members 99, 93.4 percent, responded to have familiarity with functions; and 132 FWAs out of 138, 95.7 percent. They were again requested to describe their perceived knowledge. The respondents mentioned as many as 11 functions. 'To make people aware of family planning methods' was referred by about 57.6 percent of ward members and 55.3 percent of FWAs. Other commonly mentioned functions are 'to discuss on mother and child welfare activities', 'to evaluate monthly FP activities', discuss previous work and plan future work' and 'to collect vital statistics'. The remaining response categories do not have much significant number of responses.

After evaluating their knowledge of functions, we asked whether they faced any problems in implementing the functions. Twenty ward members out of 106, 20.8 percent and 52 FWAs out of 138, 37.7 percent, mentioned about difficulties. They were also

requested to describe the types of difficulties faced. They mentioned seven different types of difficulties. About 50 percent of ward members and 67.2 percent of FWAs cited 'religious conservativeness' of people as a problem. Among other difficulties, 'lack of interest of members' and 'illiteracy of people' were mentioned by the respondents. Other types of difficulties do not have much significance in their responses.

5.4 Authority of the Committee

The question as to having more authority is not much of relevance for ward members as well as FWAs since they are the president and member-secretary of the lowest committee, and FWAs are the lowest level workers of the program. However, they were asked whether they felt need for some more authority in implementing the functions as to elicit their feelings. About 81.1 percent (86 out of 106 members) of ward members and 89.1 percent (123 out of 138) of FWAs answered in favour of having more authority. The respondents were again requested to describe the types of authority they felt for. Most of the respondents, 77.9 percent ward members and 81.3 percent FWAs, mentioned for power of allocation of fund. They probably meant about some fund which can be used for the expenses of meetings and some financial incentives for the members of the committee so that they become more interested in the activities of the committee although it goes against the main objectives of the committee. However, at the initial stage some fund for committee activities might as well be helpful for taking the program in full shape (see tables 79 and 80).

5.5 Intention of Committee Formation Where It Does Not Exist

We asked the respondents, where committee was not formed, how soon are they going to form the ward population control

committee after knowing about the circular. About 60.8 percent of ward members (56 out of 92) and 49 percent (51 out of 104) of FWAs, intended to form committee within 30 days. A considerable proportion of ward member, 28.3 percent, and FWAs, 24.0 percent, shown their willingness of forming committee within 15 days. Sixteen percent of FWAs were found to be uncertain about the expected time of forming committee (see table 81). None of these respondents answered to the question whether their predecessor took any initiative for forming committee. The intention of putting this question was to identify the sources of negligence.

5.6 Attitude Towards Population Control Committee

We asked the respondents whether they think ward population control committee is useful for promoting population control activities in their community. Almost all the respondents considered it as useful. Subsequently, we requested them to specify the reasons for which they consider. They specified 11 reasons. About 29.8 percent of ward members and 23.7 percent of FWAs mentioned that it will help advertisement for family planning program. Other important reasons are: it will increase participation of local people to the program; it will make work environment more congenial; and it will help overcome conservatism by including various types of local leaders. The other reasons were not frequently mentioned by the respondents. It should be mentioned here that the response categories are not mutually exclusives. Some of the categories are linked with others.

We also requested the respondents, who did not consider as useful, to describe the reasons for which they did not consider useful. None of them answered to the question.

Table 60: Distribution of selected Ward Members and Family Welfare Assistants (FWA) by Districts

District	Number of Ward	Ward member interviewed	Number of Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) interviewed
Dhaka	14	6	13
Chittagong	31	26	31
Rajshahi	29	26	29
Khulna	21	8	21
Jessore	24	10	24
Bogra	17	16	17
Tangail	10	10	10
Noakhali	26	26	24
Comilla	43	40	43
Pabna	19	18	19
Kushtia	12	12	11
Total	246	198	242

Table 61: Age distribution of Ward Member and Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)

Age group	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
20 - 24	1	0.5	34	14.0
25 - 29	12	6.1	141	58.4
30 - 34	41	20.7	48	19.8
35 - 39	45	22.7	19	7.8
40 - 44	38	19.2	-	-
45 - 49	27	13.6	-	-
50 - 54	14	7.1	-	-
55 - 59	20	10.1	-	-
Total	198	100.0	242	100.0
Mean	41.2		28.6	

Table 62: Educational background of Ward Member and Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)

Education	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	3	1.5	-	-
Class I - V	36	18.2	6	2.5
Class VI-X	83	41.9	76	31.4
S.S.C.	46	23.2	122	50.4
H.S.C.	19	9.6	34	14.0
Graduate	7	3.6	4	1.7
Religious education	4	2.0	-	-
Total	198	100.0	242	100.0
Mean¹	7.7		9.3	

¹ Note: The figure of religious education has not been considered in calculating mean

Table 63: Distribution of Ward Members and Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) by Religion

Religion	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Muslim	184	92.9	174	71.9
Hindu	12	6.1	66	27.3
Buddhist	2	1.0	2	0.8
Total	198	100.0	242	100.0

Table 64: Distribution of Ward Member and Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) by marital status

Marital status	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Unmarried	9	4.5	17	7.0
Married	187	94.5	220	90.9
Widow/Widower	2	1.0	5	2.1
Total	198	100.0	242	100.0

Table 65: Number of living children of Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) and Ward Member

Number of living children	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	13	6.5	18	8.0
1	16	8.1	49	21.8
2	19	9.6	71	31.6
3	31	15.6	42	18.7
4	30	15.2	33	14.7
5	30	15.2	7	3.0
6	21	10.6	1	0.4
7	13	6.6	4	1.8
8	11	5.6	-	-
9 +	5	7.0	-	-
Total	189	100.0	225	100.0
Mean	4.08		2.36	
Not applicable	9		17	
N	198		242	

Table 66: Awareness of Ward Member and Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) about Population Control Committee

Response	Ward	Member	Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	148	74.7	202	83.5
No	50	25.3	40	16.5
Total	198	100.0	242	100.0

Table 67: Knowledge of existence of Population Control Committee

Response	Ward	Member	Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	106	71.6	138	68.3
No	42	28.4	64	31.7
Total	148	100.0	202	100.0
Not applicable	50		40	
N	198		242	

Table 68: Length of existence of Village (or Ward) Committee

Duration (in months)	Ward	Member	Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 6	10	9.4	14	10.1
6 - 11	42	39.6	59	42.9
12 - 17	33	31.1	22	15.9
18 - 23	11	10.5	25	18.1
24 - 29	5	4.7	14	10.1
Non functioning	5	4.7	4	2.9
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Mean	12.6		14.2	
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 69: Number of Members in Village (or Ward) Committee at the time of formation

Number of Members	Ward	Member	Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 10	43	40.4	51	37.0
10 - 14	44	41.3	54	39.1
15 - 19	12	11.5	20	14.4
20 - 24	7	6.8	13	9.5
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Mean	11.7		12.3	
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 70: Number of Members in the Village (or Ward) Committee at present

Number of Members	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 10	43	41.3	53	38.7
10 - 14	44	40.4	52	38.0
15 - 19	10	11.5	18	12.4
20 - 24	9	6.8	15	10.9
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Mean	11.8		12.3	
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 71: Number of Committee meetings held since inception

Number of meetings held	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No meeting	10	9.4	8	5.8
1 - 4 meetings	34	32.1	37	26.8
5 - 9 "	35	33.0	50	36.2
10 - 14 "	15	14.2	20	14.5
15 - 19 "	7	6.6	15	10.9
20 + "	5	4.7	8	5.8
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Mean	7.3		8.4	
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 72: Interval of holding committee meetings

Interval	Ward	Member	Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Once a month	68	70.8	98	75.4
Once in 2 months	9	9.4	13	10.0
Once in 3 months	2	2.1	2	1.5
Irregular	17	17.7	17	13.1
Total	96	100.0	130	100.0
Not applicable	102		112	
N	198		242	

Table 73: Problems faced in forming Ward Committee

Response	Ward	Member	Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	8	7.5	15	10.9
No	98	92.5	123	89.1
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 74: Types of problems faced in forming Committee

Response categories ¹	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Members did not show much interest	5	62.5	14	93.3
There was no provision for entertainment	2	25.0	3	20.0
Chairman/Member Secretary not cooperative	-		4	26.7
Ignorance about the activities of the committee	2	25.0	5	33.3
Total respondents mentioned problems in forming committee	8		15	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 75: Whether Ward Member and Family Welfare Assistant familiar with the functions of the Committee

Response	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	99	93.4	132	95.7
No	7	6.6	6	4.3
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 76: Functions of the Committee as stated by the respondents

Functions ¹	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
To make people aware about FP methods	57	57.6	73	55.3
To evaluate monthly activities of FP, discuss previous work, and plan future activities	23	23.2	15	13.3
To discuss activities on mother and child welfare	13	13.1	44	33.3
To maintain correct statistics on reproductive couples	4	4.0	14	10.6
To integrate FP activities of Govt. and non-govt. organisation	-	-	-	-
To collect vital statistics	7	7.1	20	15.2
To identify problems with FP methods and their solutions	3	3.0	13	9.8
To increase FP acceptors through public meetings, folk songs, cinema and drama	7	7.1	11	8.3
To remove religious barriers	2	2.0	8	6.1
To help operated patients	3	3.0	10	7.6
To organise village workers for increasing FP acceptors	2	2.0	3	2.3
Not known	5	5.1	3	2.3
Total respondents	99		132	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 77: Whether any difficulties faced in implementation of functions

Response	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	22	20.8	52	37.7
No	84	79.2	86	62.3
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 78: Types of difficulties faced in implementing functions of the Committee

Difficulties ¹	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Lack of interest	4	18.2	5	9.6
Religious conservativeness	11	50.0	35	67.3
Illiteracy	5	22.7	11	21.
Irregular attendance of members at meetings	1	4.5	5	4.6
Committee do not have any fund	-		4	7.7
Very few doctors available	2	9.1	3	5.8
UFPO's negligence of duties	0		2	3.8
Social recognition of FP activities	2	9.1	5	9.6
Total respondents stated difficulties	22		52	

¹Note: Multiple response

Table 79: Whether Committee should have more authority in implementing the duties (or functions)

Response	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	86	81.1	123	89.1
No	20	18.9	15	10.9
Total	106	100.0	138	100.0
Not applicable	92		104	
N	198		242	

Table 80: Types of authority that the Committee should have

Types1	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Power of allocation of fund	67	77.9	100	81.3
Power of sanctioning awards/punishment to the members	18	20.9	20	16.3
Provision of taking action against negligence of notice and duties by members	25	29.1	40	32.5
Total respondents	86		123	

Table 81: Expected time to form Committee after knowledge of circular

Time	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Within 15 days	26	28.3	25	24.0
Within 30 "	56	60.8	51	49.0
Within 45 "	2	2.3	3	2.9
Within 60 "	4	4.3	8	7.7
Uncertain	4	4.3	17	16.4
Total	92	100.0	104	100.0
Not applicable	106		136	
N	198		242	

Table 82: Whether Population Control Committee is useful for promoting population activities in the community

Response	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	181	100.0	211	98.1
No	-		4	1.9
Total	181		215	
No response	17		27	
N	198		242	

Table 83: Reasons for considering Population Control Committee useful for promoting population control activities

Reasons ¹	Ward Member		Family Welfare Assistant (FWA)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
It increases active participation of the Chairman/Members	7	3.9	14	6.6
It enables to fix work program of ward population control activities	6	3.3	2	0.9
It ensures proper distribution of FP methods	1	0.6	4	1.9
It enables to solve many problems through regular meetings and discussion	16	8.8	19	9.0
It enables to contact with the local people	18	9.9	11	5.2
It helps overcome conservatism by including various types of local leaders	13	7.2	22	10.4
It helps implement FP work program through local leaders	11	6.1	18	8.5
It makes work environment more congenial through members	25	13.8	46	21.8
It helps make women more conscious about FP methods	13	7.2	11	5.2
It increases participation of local people to program	21	11.6	32	15.2
It works as advertisement for FP	54	29.8	50	23.7
Total respondents consider committee as useful	181		211	

¹Note: Multiple response

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Based on the data from the sample survey and interviewers' diaries as discussed in the previous chapters, we are making below some tentative recommendations for considerations of all those who are responsible for family planning program direction at the upazila, union and ward level along with people's participation.

Sample survey allows the interviewers to record the information as given by the respondents and does not permit them to right way check the information given in the face-to-face interview setting. Consequently, the findings are always affected by the reporting biases or misreportings. The results of this study are not above of this problem. The discrepancies in responses between the respondents at each committee were partly due to differential involvement of them in committee activities, and part of its needs further investigation.

From the results as described before, we have got a picture that the committees have been formed and are holding meetings in many of the selected areas. However, question still remains about how efficiently are these functioning with some of the problems that stated by the respondents. In several places, respondents noted in their diary that the family planning activities are usually discussed as peripheral issues in the meetings of other issues, and the respondents mentioned it as a meeting of population control committee. This situation leads us to suggest that at least 20-25 upazilas should be considered for follow-up for a period of 3-4 months to observe how the committees function, if at all found. In other words, we suggest case study approach rather than sample survey to dig out the underlying

situation. The upazilas/unions/wards where number of meetings held, number of members of the committee and duration of the committee are far above the average may be considered for the second phase of the study. All the members of the committees should be considered for investigation about various issues which this study could not incorporate for investigation in addition to above issues.

One thing is clear from this study and other information about the functioning of the committee that neither the national headquarters nor the district authority bother about whether the local level committees are at all functioning. In other words, there is no monitoring system. Simply issuing a circular without simultaneously monitoring the performances of the committees does not make much sense. Hence, most of the committees at upazila, union and ward level are dysfunctional. It is, therefore, suggested that the government should ask the district population control officers to report about the meetings of the district population committee along with the minutes and reports of the functioning of the local level committees. Reporting about the committees should be a mandatory function of the district level officers. Once this done, the district level officers will follow up local level committees and report about their functioning or dysfunctioning of the committees.

Any meeting under the auspices of some committee involves some expenditure, at least for entertainment for the members, especially at the upazila and union level as well as for actions that follow as a consequence of the meetings of the committee. The present system does not provide any scope for such expenditure. This needs to be taken care.

6.1 Limitations of this Study

Data available from the diaries of the field interviewers present a somewhat discord scenerio about the functioning of the local level committees. Although the respondents at various levels reported to have formed the committees and held a number of meetings and took many discussions, none could show any minutes of the meetings despite the interviewers' persuasions. The interviewers believed that the respondents, in most cases, gave response to the questions as a matter of formally establishing a fact, as if they had been working in accordance government's directives. Their response to various questions relating to committee formation and functioning are somewhat misleading. The interviewers recorded information as given by the respondents without questioning the veracity of the respondent's statements. For example some of the respondents reported to have as many as 30-40 members in their committees. This seems to be a statement without any practical significance. Some mentioned about the composition of committees having as low as six or seven members, but did not elaborate who were these members, inspite of request. Some of them thought to be wise in reporting about the function of the committees, to impress the authorities, as if they were following the directives.

The study also has limited its scope for analysing the response variations between the respondents of each committees more systematically. It would have been more interesting for checking the response variation if one or two more respondents were selected from each committee for investigation. For future research, researcher should consider these points seriously.

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Appendix 1

Questionnaire on Evaluation
of
Population Control Committee Formation

Introduction:

We would like to ask you some questions regarding the formation and functions of Population Control Committee at Upazila/Union/Ward (Village) level. We will use this information exclusively for research purposes. A complete confidentiality will be ensured as to this regard. Your valuable information will help the government in formulating a future course of action in the field of population planning in Bangladesh. Your cooperation in this respect will be highly appreciated.

Identification:

- 1. District Code
- 2. Upazila Code
- 3. Union Code
- 4. Ward (Villages)
-
(Write name of all villages in this Ward)
- 5. Name of the Respondent
- 6. Designation

P A R T - ISocio-Demographic Background:

7. Educational level

	<u>Code</u>
Illiterate	1
Class I to IV	2
Class V to X	3
S.S.C.	4
H.S.C.	5
B.A./B.Sc./B. Com.	6
Master Degree	7
Religious Education	8

8. Age

<u>Age group</u>	<u>Code</u>
20 - 24	1
25 - 29	2
30 - 34	3
35 - 39	4
40 - 44	5
45 - 49	6
50 - 54	7
55 - 59	8
60 and above	9

9. Religion

	<u>Code</u>
Muslim	1
Hindu	2
Christian	3
Buddhism	4

10. Marital status

Unmarried	1
(skip to Q. 12)	
Married	2
Divorced	3
Widow/Widower	4
Separated	5

11. Number of living children
 (exact number)

P A R T - II

Committee related Information:

12. The Ministry of Health and Population Control vide its circular PP-I/S-6/79 (Part-I)/18 dated February 16, 1983, announced the formation of Population Control Committees at various levels - Upazila/Union/Ward -- of which you are President/Member-Secretary. Would you please let us know whether you are aware of this circular?

(i) Yes (ii) No
(skip to Q.30)

13. Is there any committee like this?

(i) Yes (ii) No
(skip to Q. 32)

14. How long this committee has been functioning?

.....
(write in months)

15. What was the total number of members of the committee when it was formed?

.....
(write exact number)

16. How many members are in the committee at present?

.....
(write exact number)

17. Would you please provide the following information regarding the members of the committee?

Sl. No.	Member's name	Marital status	Sex	Education	Designation	No. of meetings attended
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.						
12.						
13.						
14.						
15.						
16.						
17.						

18. Did you encounter any difficulty in forming the committee?

- (i) Yes (ii) No
(skip to Q. 20)

19. What were these difficulties? Please specify.

- (i)
(ii)
(iii)
(iv)
(v)

20. Since its inception, how many meetings have been held so far?

.....
(write exact number, if none, skip to Q. 22)

21. How often do you call a meeting of the committee?
(Tick any of the following)

- Once a month (i)
Once in two months (ii)
Once in three months (iii)
Once in six months (iv)
Irregular (v)

22. Are you aware of the functions of the committee?

- (i) Yes (ii) No
(skip to Q. 29)

23. Would you please specify these functions of Upazila/ Union/Ward committee for Population Control?

Sl. No.		Upazila/Union/Ward
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

24. Do you find any difficulty in discharging the functions of the committee?

(i) Yes (ii) No
 (skip to Q.26)

25. Please specify any three main difficulties.

(i)
 (ii)
 (iii)

26. While discharging the function, did you feel that the committee should have some more authority?

(i) Yes (ii) No
 (skip to Q.24)

27. Please specify the kind of authority that you have think the committee should have.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(skip to Q. 29)

28. Would you please specify three main reasons?

(i)

(ii) ..

(iii)

29. How many Unions and Wards (Villages) in your Upazila have formed Population Control Committee?

(i)
(exact number)

(ii)
(exact number)

30. Since how long have you been holding this office?

.....
(write exact months)

31. You now know about the government's circular, could you specify how soon you intend to form the committee?

- Within 15 days (i)
 - Within 30 days (ii)
 - Within 45 days (iii)
 - Within 60 days (iv)
 - Uncertain (v)
- (skip to Q. 38)

(Ask the following questions to the officers of the Upazilas where committee has not been formed)

32. How long have you been holding your present office?

.....
(write in months)

33. Did your predecessor take any initiative for forming Population Control Committee?

- (i) Yes
 - (ii) No
- (skip to Q 38)

34. Would you please tell us the main reasons for not forming the committee? (Tick the appropriate one)

- (i) I did not consider it necessary.
 - (ii) Chairman/Member-Secretary did not cooperate.
 - (iii) Members are not interested.
 - (iv) I have not been reminded by my higher officer.
 - (v) The committee does not have any financial authority.
 - (vi) Others (specify)
-

35. Do you intend to form the committee?

(i) Yes (ii) No
(skip to Q.37)

36. What steps would you like to take?

(i)
(ii)
(iii)

37. How soon do you intend to form the committee?

Within 15 days (i)
Within 30 days (ii)
Within 45 days (iii)
Within 60 days (iv)
Uncertain (v)

P A R T - III

Attitude towards the Population Control Committee:

38. Do you think that the Union/Ward level committee for Population Control is useful in promoting population control activities in your Union/Ward?

(i) Yes (ii) No
(skip to Q. 40)

39. In what way?

(i)
(ii)
(iii)
(iv)

40. Why do you think that this committee is not useful in promoting population control activities in your Union/Ward level?

(i)
(ii)
(iii)

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Interviewed by Date Time:
From to

Verified by Date

Coded by Date

Verified by Date

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
 MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND POPULATION CONTROL
 POPULATION CONTROL DIVISION
 BANGLADESH SECRETARIAT
DHAKA

No. PP-I/S-6/6/79 (Part-I)/18

Dated: February 16, '83

NOTIFICATION

Government in the Population Control Division, Ministry of Health and Population Control have been pleased to reconstitute the Thana/Union/Village/Municipal and Institution based Family Planning Committees with the composition and functions as given below:

THANA POPULATION CONTROL COMMITTEEA) Composition:

1.	Chairman, Thana Parishad	Chairman
2.	Thana Nirbahi Officer	Vice-Chairman
3.	Thana Health & FP Officer	Member
4.	Thana Education Officer		"
5.	Thana Agriculture Officer		"
6.	Thana Engineer		"
7.	Thana Cooperative Officer		"
8.	Thana Social Welfare Officer		"
9.	Thana Rural Dev. Officer		"
10.	Thana Statistical Officer		"
11.	Thana Mass Communication Officer		"
12.	Thana Ansar and VDP Officer		"
13.	Chairman of UPs in the Thana		"
14.	Chairman, Thana level Pourashava, if any		"
15.	Representative of NGOs and Voluntary Organisations involved in family planning		"
16.	Thana Medical Officer, MCH-FP		"
17.	Thana Family Planning Officer		Member-Secretary

./...

B) Terms of Reference:

- i) Overall co-ordination, support, review and evaluation of primary health care, immunization, MCH and family planning programme including the multi-sectoral activities.
- ii) Involvement of local Non-government and voluntary organizations and local institutions in the MCH and family planning activities and evaluation thereof.
- iii) Encouraging formation of Mother's Club, Women's Co-operative and Women's Development Organisation in support of undertaking MCH, nutrition and FP activities.
- iv) Supervision of MCH, nutrition, parasite control and family planning activities within the Thana and construction of Family Welfare Centres in the Thana.
- v) Arrangement of extensive publicity of health and family planning activities through all Mass Media within the Thana including seminar, meetings and conferences.
- vi) Evaluation of performance of family planning activities and make arrangement for the achievement of the target within the plan period.
- vii) The committee will meet at least once in a month and report their activities and findings to the District Population Control Committee.
- viii) Motivation of extension workers, women's organisation and people from all walks of life towards the small family norms and higher standard of living.
- ix) The committee may co-opt any person from among the local influentials, educationists, prominent social workers, religious leaders, Imams, etc. as member of the Committee as it seems necessary.

The formation of the new Thana Committee will be applicable for upgraded thana only. For thanas not upgraded so far, the committee will remain as before communicated by this Division Memo of even No. dated 11.9.82. No such committee will be constituted for thanas falling within the Pourashava areas. Thana Nirbahi Officer will act as Chairman of the committee until a public representative is elected as chairman of the Thana Parishad.

UNION POPULATION CONTROL COMMITTEE

A) Composition:

1.	Chairman, Union Parishad	Chairman
2.	Member of Union Parishad (all)	Member
3.	All Govt. servants at union level	"
4.	Presidents, Local Mother's Club/ Mahila Samity/Cooperatives	"
5.	All Head Teachers of educational institutions	"
6.	Headmaster, Madrasha	"
7.	Ansar Commander	"
8.	Family Planning Assistant	Member-Secretary

B) Terms of Reference:

- 1) The Committee will form the Village Committees headed by Ward Member or any respectable persons of the village concerned.
- ii) The Committee will prepare the Union-based programme and fix up the target and evaluate the performance in their monthly meeting and send their recommendations to the Thana Committee.
- iii) The Committee will evaluate the performance in the area, supervise the activities of the field workers at the Union level. The Committee will oversee the activities of the field workers and suggest appropriate remedial measures for negligence of duty and failure to achieve the target.
- iv) The Committee will help the formation of Mother's Club, Mahila Samity, Women's Cooperatives and coordinate the activities of the population control programme.
- v) The Committee will coordinate, review and evaluate the performance of community-based distribution projects at the Union level.

- vi) The Secretary of the Union Parishad will help the committee in its normal functions. The committee will meet at least once every month and report their activities and recommendations, if any to Thana Population Control Committee.
- vii) The Committee may co-opt any person from among the local influentials, educationist, prominent social workers, religious leaders, Imam, etc. as a member of the Committee.

VILLAGE POPULATION CONTROL COMMITTEE

A) Composition:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Union Parishad Member or person nominated by the Union Committee | Chairman |
| 2. | Head Teacher/Mistress of Schools/
Superintendent of Madrasha | Member |
| 3. | All female teachers | " |
| 4. | All village level government servants | " |
| 5. | Representatives of Cooperative Societies | " |
| 6. | Presidents of Mother's Club/NGO, if any | " |
| 7. | Family Welfare Assistant | Member-Secretary |

B) Terms of Reference:

- i) The Committee will help implement and coordinate the health, nutrition and MCH-FP programme at the village level.
- ii) The Committee will ensure motivation of the people house-to-house, supervision of the distribution of FP materials and ensure follow up in complications, etc.
- iii) Encourage the formation of Mother's Club, Women's Cooperative for promotion of family planning.

- iv) Village Committee shall compile and maintain record of births and deaths, along with the registration of all people in the village. FWA will collect the list duly countersigned by the Ward Member and submit the same to the FPA. The Committee shall also prepare a list of newly married couples within the village and motivate them towards the acceptance of family planning.
- v) The Committee may function as a Depot-holder for the purpose of storing and distribution of family planning materials. The committee shall meet once in a month and send its recommendations to the Union Committee.
- vi) The Committee may co-opt any person from among the local influentials, educationist, prominent social workers, religious workers, Imams, etc. as member of the Committee.
- vii) An interested person of the village may attend the committee meeting.