

Appendix A • House Survey Results

A part of the initial research in Sundarban was to map the village. This enabled the author to come to understand the village and see every part of it and also to meet the villagers. The map is shown in Fig. 6. A survey of the basic physical features of the housing was also carried out. 5 contrasting paras were selected in Sundarban village and 54 houses were surveyed as an opportunity sample from within these paras. No significant sector of housing was left unrepresented by this sample although isolated extremes such as the housing of very rich landowners is not represented. The selected paras are shown on the map below.

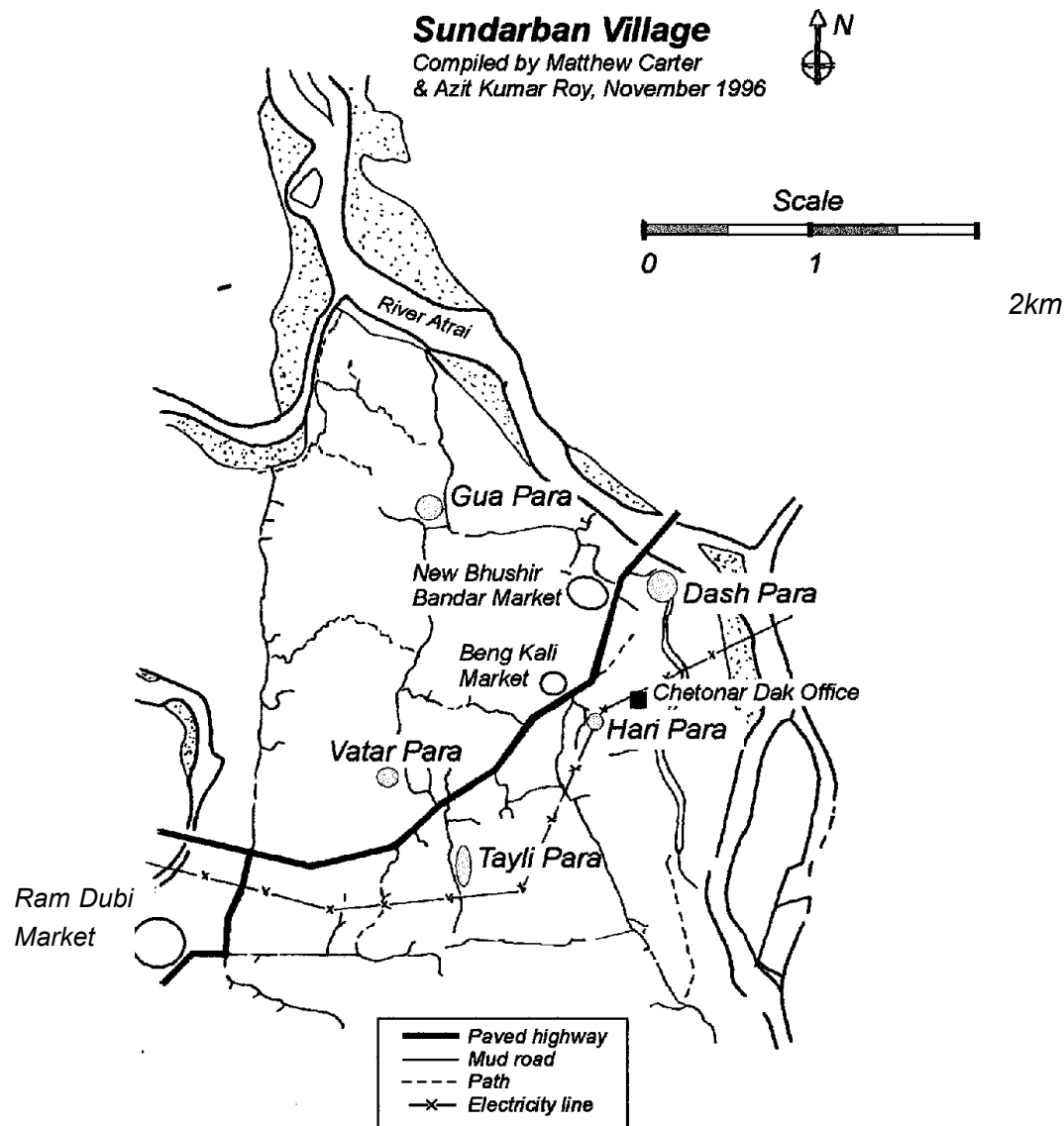
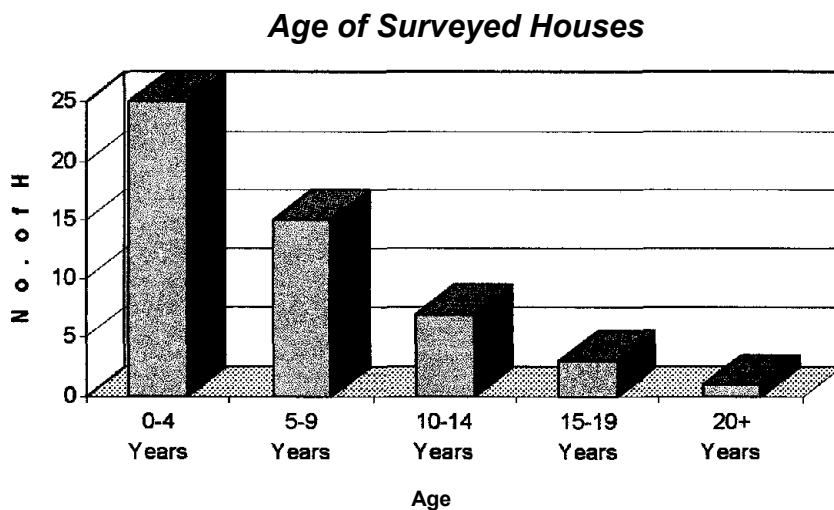


Fig. 6: Map of Sundarban village

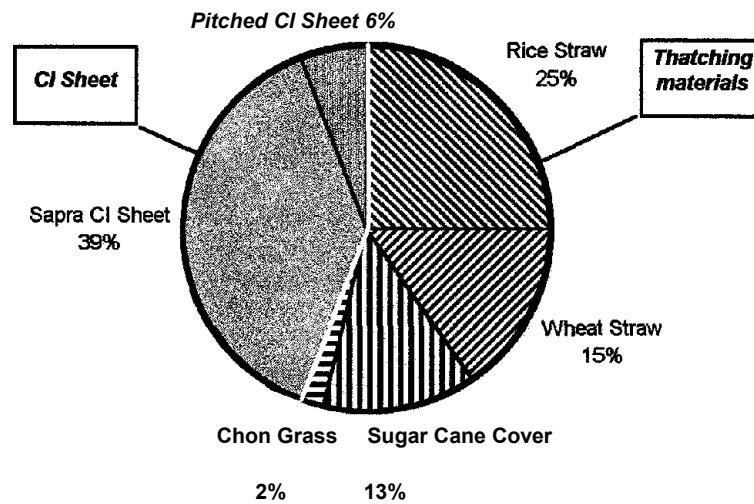
The paras show highly localized variances in building styles. In Dash para, for example, almost all the houses are of layered mud wall construction because there is a plentiful supply of good building mud in the nearby river banks. In Hari para good building mud has to be transported from at least 1/2 a mile away which would cost up to 2000Tk to contract a rickshaw van to fetch the mud (for comparison it costs about 500Tk to contract local builders to make a mud walled house). This makes mud walled houses relatively expensive in this area and so bamboo framed construction is dominant. In the 1997 house building season a rickshaw van driver built himself a mud walled house in Hari para since he could fetch the mud himself for free. Near Vatar para there is an abandoned brick field and villagers are able to find and take the odd brick every now and then. After a while they may collect enough low quality bricks to build a house and indeed brick walls are more common in this area. In one case the house was built with two brick walls and a bamboo frame grafted on to complete the other two walls.

The results of the house survey are presented in the following graphs:



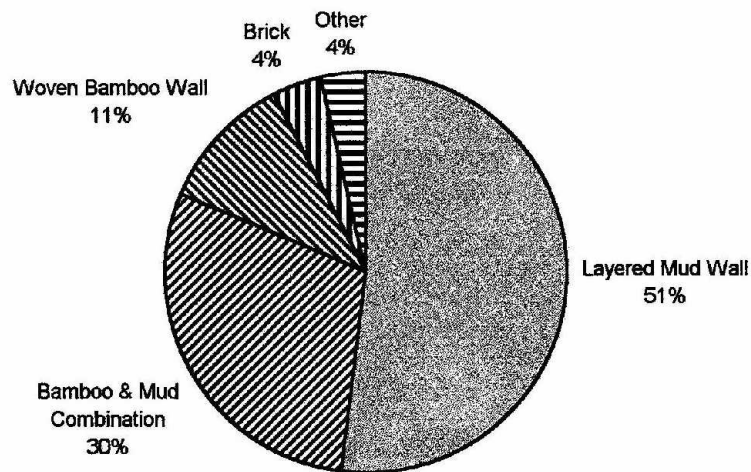
Graph A.I: Age of surveyed houses

Nearly 50% of the houses sampled were less than 5 years old clearly showing the short lifecycle of the housing. Natural hazards of flooding and storm winds are responsible for destroying some housing which must be replaced whilst an increasing population requires even more new housing.



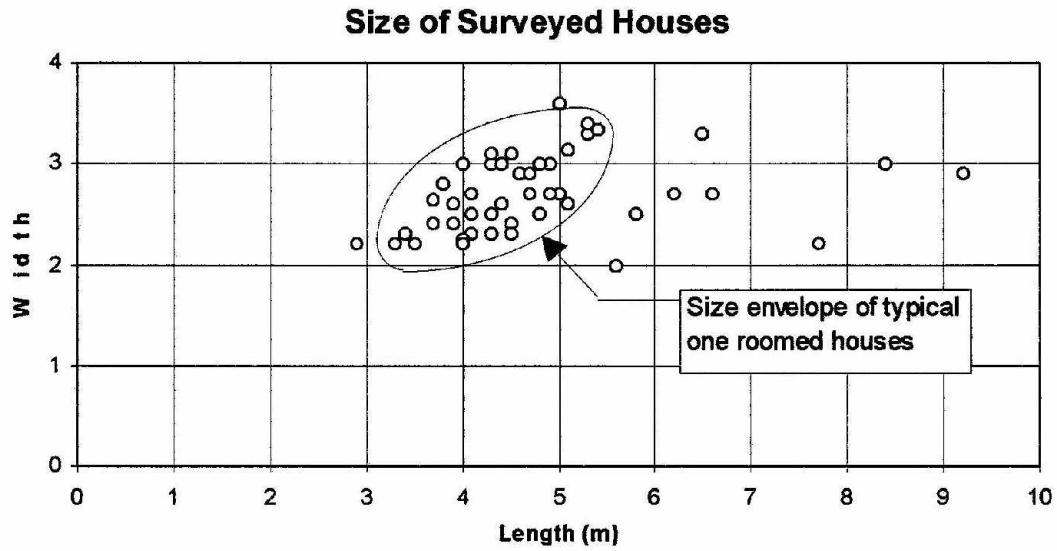
Graph A.2: Roof material of surveyed houses

55% of house roofs are thatched of which less than half are of rice straw. Wheat straw and sugar cane cover are common alternative thatching materials with chon grass being rare. Of the remaining 45% the vast majority is of sapra CI sheet, only a very few can afford hipped CI sheet.



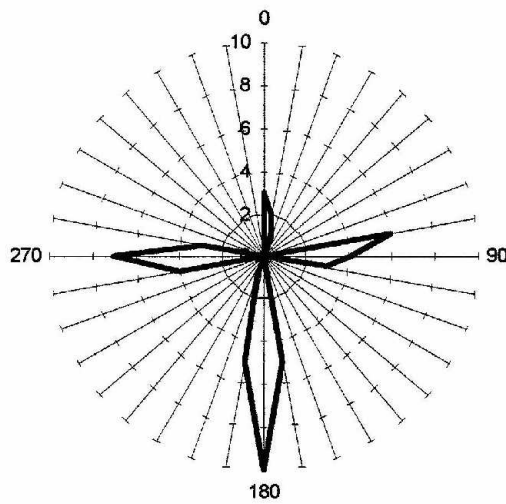
Graph A.3: Wall material of surveyed houses

In Sundarban village roughly half the houses are of layered mud wall construction. 41% are of bamboo framed construction of which most have a mud plaster to protect the bamboo and improve the aesthetics of the building. A few houses are made of low quality brick.



Graph A.4: Size of surveyed houses

Typical single roomed houses are 3.2m - 5.5m long and 2m - 3.5m wide. Double roomed houses tend to be of the same width (2m - 3.5m) but significantly longer (6m 9m).



Graph A.5: Aspect of surveyed houses

All the surveyed houses were more or less aligned on the cardinal compass points with most houses being south facing.