

CHAPTER 3 : RESULTS

3.1 Areal Scope of the Survey

The screening program was carried out in villages spread over 29 districts constituting 45% of the 64 districts in Bangladesh. The number of thanas covered was 68 (15% of 460 rural thanas), while the number of unions was 108 (2.4% of 4451 total unions). The 500 villages covered was small (less than 0.6%) compared to over 86,000 villages in the country. Data from three villages were incomplete or missing, and are excluded from this analysis.

3.2 Population

All the households in the project villages were surveyed. The total population in the 497 villages stood at 818,924, giving an average of 1,648 people per village.

A total of 177,842 families were identified giving an average family size of 4.6 persons. The average number of families per village was 358.

3.3 Tubewells

A total of 62,782 tubewells was found. Of these, only 1,151 (2%) were found to be damaged or in non-functioning condition. All the functioning tubewells, numbering 61,631 (98%), were tested for arsenic contamination. The number of arsenic positive tubewells was 32,154 (52%).

Only 6,636 (11%) tubewells were identified as government installed.

The average number of people per tubewell was only 13.

3.4 Patients

The total number of patients with visible signs of arsenicosis was 2,327. The prevalence stands at 2.8 per 1000 population. Most of the patients were male (59%). Children under 14 years of age constituted 9% of the patients in 197 villages.

The number of people who drink from contaminated tubewell but do not show any visible signs of arsenic poisoning is 459,833 (56% of total population).