

MADINA STUDY

Madina is a fast developing sub-urban settlement located in the Accra Plains about 10 miles north-east of Accra on the Dodowah road. It is 2 miles due north of the University of Ghana, Legon.

Early in June 1964, Alhaji Seidu Kado, now Chief of this settlement extended an invitation to Mr A.K.Quarcoop to write up the history of the founding and development of the settlement. Mr. Quarcoop began it but soon it occurred to him that a comprehensive social survey would be rewarding. He therefore consulted with me in October, 1965 and we began to think of the best way to approach the project. We have had a few preliminary meetings between ourselves and with the chief and his elders. We have also seen the village development committee, and have decided that:-

1. it was possible to present a comprehensive programme and to study not only historic material but also other socio-economic and demographic aspects of the settlement. Thus it was thought that a full social survey of Madina was most desirable;
2. we should have a joint project.

Our reasons for taking these decisions (1) are:-

- (a) we felt that a study of Madina at this moment could offer an opportunity to study the structure, processes as well as factors of change in the community. Madina did not exist as a separat entity during the census of 1960; its development has been remarkably so fast that barely within 6 years the population is estimated at 4,000.

(b) From (a) it is also possible that such a survey could serve as a basis for longitudinal projects that anyone might initiate in the settlement.

The main objectives of the survey are:-

1. to apply scientific principles to the description of the incidence and distribution of social variables within the community and the existing ideas and attitudes to the type of changes that are occurring in the community.
2. to isolate and evaluate the factors which have led to the rapid changes that are taking place in the area, and from this consider the relevant forces that are likely to influence the future development of the settlement.
3. to study the social structure of a rapidly developing sub-urban settlement.

As a first stage to this survey, a pilot study will be made of the settlement.

The Pilot Sample

This will be conducted either in December or early in the new year to provide:-

- (a) an estimate of household composition, and the characteristics of its members -- included here are : age, sex, ethnic and tribal origin, education, occupation and place of work, immigration; distribution of households according to dwellings (types, rooms etc.), and according to families; house ownership and rent;

(b) an estimate of the opinions of the population on the types of health, welfare and social services available to the community;

(c) systems of values and processes as well as factors of social control;

(d) an opportunity to test the suitability and efficiency of the suggested questionnaire;

(e) preliminary information relevant to the compilation of indices for analysis.

While contemplating on the personnel to employ for the pilot survey, Dr. Margaret Peil of the Sociology department, gave us the answer. She was independently thinking of giving a number of students of her department an opportunity of studying research techniques in the field. She therefore offered to team up with us in the pilot survey. A number of her students will therefore be our field assistants. Her questionnaire has been incorporated in ours and the project is now a joint project for M. A.K.Quarcoo, Dr. Margaret Peil and Mr. N.O.Addo.

N.O. Addo