LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: Distribution of the aged by sex and age 52
Table 3.2: Size of the house/flat 52
Table 3.3: House Type 53
Table 3.4: Per-capita distribution of living space 53
Table 3.5: Caste background of the informants 53
Table 3.6: Health status of the Home inmates 54
Table 3.7: Income of the informants 54
Table 3.8: Informants’ parents’ education 54
Table 3.9: Level of education (Men) 55
Table 3.10: Level of education (Women) 55
Table 3.11: Informants’ parents’ occupation 56
Table 3.12: Occupation of the informants/spouses/children 56
Table 3.13: Marital status of the informants 57
Table 3.14: Changing family size 57
Table 3.15: Interesting findings about informants’ family 58
Table 3.16: Distribution of the aged in terms of sex and age 58
Table 3.17: Period of stay in old-age homes 58
Table 3.18: Caste background of the home inmates 58
Table 3.19: Place of origin 59
Table 3.20: Residence status before moving into the Home 59
Table 3.21: Status of the house/flat after they moved into the Home 60
Table 3.22: Health status of the home inmates 60
Table 3.23: Marital status of the informants 60
Table 3.24: Changing family size 61
Table 3.25: Interesting findings about informants’ family 61
Table 3.26: Informants’ parents’ education 62
Table 3.27: Level of education of the informants (Men), spouses and children 62
Table 3.28: Level of education of the informants (Women), spouses and children 62
Table 3.29: Informants’ parents’ occupation 63
Table 3.30: Occupation of the informants/spouses/children 64
Table 3.31: Source of income 64
Table 6.1: Dispersal of family members (Salt Lake) 128
Table 6.2: Reasons for dispersal 130
Table 6.3: Dispersal of family members (old-age homes) 144
Table 8.1: Reasons for the movement of old age home 190
Transliteration of Bengali words and phrases

Achaar: A type of pickle in which the fruits and vegetables (mango, chilli, lemon etc.) are preserved in spice and oil
Adda: It is a form of intellectual exchange among members, who were originally of the same socio-economic strata, but the process has been democratized in modern times. It is most popular among the youths belonging to the so-called "middle-class intelligentsia". Kolkata and Bengalis are widely known for ‘adda culture’
Aloor chop: Potato fritters, most popular street snacks of the Bengalis
Aloor dum: A popular potato recipe cooked throughout India
Annaprasan: It is a Sanskrit term, which literally means "grain initiation". It is commonly known as one’s baby's first feeding or first rice-eating ceremony
Anulom Bilom: One sort of breathing exercise; a form of yoga
Baidya: Baidya or Vaidya is a Hindu caste community in Bengal; second in rank in Varna system
Baro Boudi: Elder brother’s wife
Bhaji: An Indian version of vegetable fritters
Bhakti geeti: Devotional songs
Bhasha Dibosh: International mother language day
Bhodrolok: Gentleman/ A new class of gentle folk formed during British Colonial times in Bengal
Bhog: Substance of food that is a religious offering in Hinduism. It is normally consumed by worshippers after the worship
Bordi: Elder sister
Boro Bhasur: Husband’s elder brother
Brahmin: Socially and culturally superior community of people specialising as priests, teachers, and protectors of sacred learning across generations; ranked on top of the Hindu Varna system
Chatni: A mixture containing fruit, spices, sugar, and vinegar which is served cold and mostly eaten as a dessert
Chirer polao: A popular Indian snack made of flattened rice, vegetables and nuts
Dadagiri: Popular Bengali reality show, anchored by the renowned Bengali cricketer Saurav Ganguli
Diwali: India’s biggest festival of lights
Dol Purnima: It is a major festival in India, the full-moon day when the Lord Krishna is worshipped
Durga Puja: Worship of goddess Durga; the biggest festival of Bengal
Gita: Gita is a 700 verse Hindu Scripture in Sanskrit that is part of the Hindu epic Mahabharata
Gochano Sangsar: well set happy family
Goja: A Bengali sweet made of all purpose flour, clarified butter, salt and sugar syrup
Holi: It is a spring festival in India, a festival of colours
Jaa: Kinship terminology used by the younger brother’s wife to refer to elder brother’s wife
Jethima: Father’s elder brother’s wife
Jethu: Father’s elder brother
Kayeshtha: Kayestha is a Hindu caste or community of Hindus originating in India. They are considered to be members of the scribe caste and have traditionally acted as keepers of public records and accounts, writers and administrators of the state
Kochur Saak: Popularly known as Taro (in Bengal Kochu), the green leaves of which are cooked with shrimps or fish head
Kopal Bhati: One sort of breathing exercise in yoga
Kuler Chatni: Jujube fruit chatni; a Bengali traditional sweet dish
Luchi: Deep-fried flatbread made of wheat flour, typical of Bengali cuisine
Mahila Samity: Left leaning women’s organization which is associated with various social and cultural activities
Masi: Aiya or the lady care giver who takes care of the aged or the ailing persons
Mejda: Elder middle brother
Mejdi: Elder middle sister
Mejo Bhai: Middle younger brother
Mejo Bhasur: Husband’s middle elder brother
Mugdaler Khichuri: Food made of rice and split green lentils
Muktii: Salvation
Muri: Traditional puffed rice made by heating rice in a sand filled oven
Naam Gaan: Chanting God’s name (Ram or Krishna) in a rhythmic manner
Najrul Geeti: Songs composed by the great Bengali Poet Kaji Najrul Islam
Najrul Jayanti: The annually celebrated Bengali cultural festival in remembrance of the Bengali poet, musician, revolutionary Kaji Najrul Islam’s birth anniversary
Narayan Pujo: Worship of the Hindu god Vishnu
Nimki: Salted fried crackers which are classic Indian savoury snacks
Paneer: Dish made of Cottage Cheese
Paratha: Indian flatbread which is fried in pan or baked in tandoor
Patisapta: Popular Bengali sweet made of rice flour, milk, khoya or coconut, sugar/ jiggery
Payesh: Sweet dish made of fine rice, milk, sugar/ jiggery, and dry nuts
Pithe/Pitha: It is a type of cake, dim sum from Eastern regions of Indian subcontinent made of rice flour or wheat flour, which is shaped and filled with sweet ingredients
Poila Baishakh: Bengali New Year which is celebrated in West Bengal and among Bengali communities all over the world
Pona Macher Jhol: Traditional pona (meaning small) fish curry which is very simple to cook and light to digest
Poush Sankranti: It is a well known harvest festival that falls in the month of January every year
Prarthana Sangeet: Prayer songs
Pujo Parikroma: To have a round of puja pandals
Rabindra Jayanti: Annually celebrated Bengali cultural festival in the remembrance of Rabindranath Tagore’s birthday anniversary
Rabindra Sangeet: Songs composed by Rabindranath Tagore
Rajma: a delicious vegetarian curry made of kidney beans
Ramnaam: singing or chanting Lord Rama’s name
Reoaz: Systematic practice of music for the purpose of acquiring skill or proficiency
Roti: Indian flat bread, made from stone-ground wholemeal flour
Sabji: Vegetable curry
Sanchaita: A collection of poems by the great Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore
Saraswati Puja: Worship of goddess Saraswati
Seba: Caring, looking after
Sejo Bhai: Third elder brother
Sradh: A Hindu ritual performed after death of one's ancestor or family member
**Suji**: A popular Indian dessert made of semolina, clarified butter (ghee), milk and sugar

**Taanpura**: It is a long-necked plucked string instrument found in various forms in Indian Music

**Upanayana**: It is one of the traditional Sanskara (rites of passage) that marked the acceptance of a student by a guru and an individual’s entrance