

are two other tomato vendors beside her forcing her prices to be in line with theirs. She can't wait until later in the day to sell because early morning is the preferred time for selling tomatoes which go into the cooking pot to make a stew for lunch. She may fare somewhat better selling turnips. She has bought two large bunches of turnips with greens for 1.000. These two bunches are divided into small bunches of four turnips with greens in each bunch. There should be about twenty-five to thirty of these small bunches, and she is selling them for 0.050 per small bunch. These goods were brought the night before from el-Obeid by a truck from Abu Haraz. She had to pay 2.000 for herself and 0.3000 each for transporting the tomatoes and the turnips. This is her first time to try her hand at marketing. Her father, a vegetable dealer himself, has encouraged her to try selling vegetables in this market.

The comparative sizes of the markets in the four villages are reflected in the number of vendors. Abu Haraz is three to five times larger than el-Geifil (Table 22).

Table 22. Periodic Markets in the Four Sample Villages

	<u>Market Day</u>	<u>Periodic Vendor</u>
Abu Haraz	Fri, Mon	100-200
Umm Ramad	Sun, Wed	3-6
el-Geifil	Sun	20-40
el-Kharta	-	- ^a

^aTwo men have an agreement to butcher animals on alternate days. From time to time itinerant traders come to the village.

From surveys made in Abu Haraz and el-Geifil markets, it is possible to get an idea of the number of periodic vendors and the relative importance of certain kinds of goods. Table 23 presents these data.

At Abu Haraz market, 68% of the periodic vendors were found to be women and girls; 31% were men and boys. In addition, one periodic business consisted of a man and his wife working together. Specialization of goods sold by sex of the vendor is not very pronounced, although the prevailing pattern is for men to specialize in manufactured urban goods such as toilet articles. They also deal in fresh fruit and vegetables in larger quantities than the women. Bread is sold exclusively by men and boys working at the bakeries. Women are specialized in selling foods which they have prepared with their own hands at home. At el-Geifil women make up only 22% of the periodic vendors. The reason for this is not entirely clear, although a cultural factor may be involved. Our impression is that in el-Geifil women are more restricted and have fewer public responsibilities, whereas women are given a relatively free hand at Abu Haraz. It is tempting to suggest that the commercial, urbanizing milieu of Abu Haraz gives women more opportunities for pursuing their own enterprises, especially when the amount of cash outlay is tiny and no fixed capital is called for.