

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the basic information about the Mymensingh district area and MSDP (Urban & Rural) area. The information presented in this chapter has been collected directly from the field as well as from many other secondary sources including National population Census Reports of BBS and other relevant document.

2.2 Location and History of the Project area

Location

Mymensingh District (Dhaka division) with an area of 4363.48 sq km, is bounded by Meghalaya State of India and Garo hills on the north, Gazipur district on the south, Netrokona and Kishorgonj districts on the east and Sherpur, Jamalpur and Tangail districts on the west. The main river is Old Brahmaputra. Besides, there are small rivers, marsh, canals and forestry in the district. The soil formation of the district is flood plain, grey piedmont, hill brown and terrace. There are small valleys between the high forests.

History

Maimansingh, a district of British India, is in the Dhaka division of Eastern Bengal and Assam. It occupies a portion of the alluvial valley of the Brahmaputra east of the main channel (called the Jamuna) and north of Dacca. The administrative headquarters are at Nasirabad, usually called Mymensingh town. The district was acquired by the East India Company with the Dewani Grant from the Mughal Emperor in 1765. At that time its greater part was included in the Niabat (Sub-Province of Dhaka and a small portion in the Zamindaries of Atia, Kagmari, Pukuria and Patilandaha (of Rahahahi Zamindari). At the time of Permanent Settlement, it included northwest Garo-Hills and the Brahmandaria Subdivision of the Present Comilla district but did not include north Tangail and north-west part of Jamalpur. In 1799 Taluk Amirabad was transferred to Tippera (Comilla). In 1809, Patiladaha, situated north-east of the Brahmaputra came to district form Rangpur. In 1811, the river Banar and Brahmaputra were declared boundary between Dhaka and Mymensingh district and the river Brahmaputra and Meghna as boundary between Tippera (now Comilla) and Mymensingh and Dhaka. In 1811 west Gar-Hills were transferred to Rangpur district. In 1812 Patiladaha, was retransferred to Rangpur. In 1830, Parganas Sarail, Daudpur, haripur, Bejra, and Satarakhandal, were transferred to Tippera and Public convenience. In 1855, due

to change in river course part of Serajganj thana was transferred from Mymensingh to Pabna and in 1866, the whole of it was transferred to Pabna. In 1866, thana Dewangajn was transferred to Mymensingh from Bogra and thana Atia from Dhaka. In 1867 for the administrative convenience boundaries of five subdivisions (including Tangail) and thanas were notified. In 1874 on the basis of survey, the district boundaries were notified. In 1874 the Jamuna (or Daokoba) River was declared the western boundary between Mymensingh and Bogra and as such, 165 villages were transferred to Bogra. In 1875, the Brahmaputra was made the boundary between Mymensingh and Rangpur and the portion of patiladaha, east of the river, was transferred to this district from Rangpur. In 1877, the Jamuna was declared the boundary between Pabna and Mymensingh, in the west.

2.3 IMPORTANCE IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXT

Besides its role as a district administrative Head Quarters, it has a good range of small scale manufacturing and services enterprises. Mymensingh functions also as an agriculture center. Within the town there are a number of orchards, which are considered by many as valuable assets.

In addition to its administrative and commercial role, the town has some tourism potentials as a possible crossing point. Further, the establishment of the recreational and cultural centers has increased its importance as a historical place, can contribute to opportunities for a rapid development in the near future.

The town is found to be a neat and well disciplined pourashahar. As there are hardly any industries in Mymensingh, jobs for the poorer sections of the people are very difficult. However the whole locality has good agricultural production and Mymensingh is the market for all these products. Villagers from far and near come to this town to sell their products much of which are sent to bigger towns in trucks. Being a border town, smuggling is carried on in various ways from and to India. River has also displaced many families only to live in distress not to speak of mosquito breeding, water logging, erosion and other environmental hazards.

These displaced families have setup their abodes in thatched houses or in the open with debridges. Some of the slum people have built huts in their own lands but due to poverty they are unable to build any concrete structures. They are so poor that often they go without meals and the children are the worst sufferers.

Main crops of Mymensingh Paddy, jute, sugarcane, wheat, oil seed and pulse, betel leaf, karalla, sweet potato, turmeric, ginger, brinjal, cauliflower and chilli. Main extinct and nearly extinct crops are Aus paddy, indigo, kaun, china, linseed. Main fruits are Jackfruit, banana, pineapple, papaya, kadbhel, guava, boroi, amloki, palm, latko. Main exporting goods are Jute, paddy, oil seed, egg, banana, leather, milk products, jackfruit, chicken and chilli.

Locally published newspapers and periodicals are Jahan, Insaf, Ajker Smriti, Swadesh Sangbad, Banglar Jamin and Shipa; weeklies: Mymensingh Barta, Ajker Muktagachha, Operationally important NGOs are BRAC, Proshika, Caritas, Gonoshahajjo Sangstha, ASA, World Vision, Palli Unnayan Prayas, MCC, Gramous, Adarsha Samaj Sheba Samiti, Human Development Programme, Khagra Mohila Unnayan Samiti, NGO Forum, Sara and Sirak.

Local sources report's polygamy is in practice and divorce rates are quite high. Women are tortured and many have been killed for dowry demands. It was observed that the males often pass the border and many in India where they receive good dowry as is the practice in these regions, while the girls are unable to get married here since their families have no solvency to pay dowry for them.

2.4 MSDP Project Area and Population

Table 1: ward/Union wise distribution of population

Ward No	Total HH	Male	Female	Total
Ward No-01	3430	7748	7612	15360
Ward No-02	3520	9861	8439	18300
Ward No-03	2587	5396	6587	11983
Ward No-04	2550	5539	5466	11005
Ward No-05	2864	6998	6597	13595
Ward No-06	3816	9080	8174	17254
Ward No-07	1720	4256	4105	8361
Ward No-08	1871	5244	4711	9955
Ward No-09	2534	6477	5699	12176
Ward No-10	2454	5645	5549	11194
Ward No-11	1662	3817	3615	7432
Ward No-12	2505	5459	5640	11099
Ward No-13	1852	4167	4555	8722
Ward No-14	2194	5714	6428	12142
Ward No-15	2103	5813	4410	10223

Ward No-16	2133	4987	4942	9929
Ward No-17	3188	7286	6671	13957
Ward No-18	3889	7981	8071	16052
Wara No- 19	4174	9160	9102	18262
Ward No-20	2630	6386	5924	12310
Ward No-21	1163	5109	3620	8729
Total	54839	132123	125917	258040

Union Name	Total HH	Male	Female	Total
Sirta Union	7954	18355	18607	36962
Khagdahar Union	9790	22348	22245	44593
Char Ishwardia Union	10676	25280	24764	50044
Bhabkhali	10748	24559	24378	48937
Akua Union	10738	27229	24457	51686
Char Nilakshmia Union	9140	21046	20910	41956
Dapunia Union	10073	22414	23145	45559
Baira(Kewatkhali)Union	5469	13015	12836	25851
Ghagra Union	11462	25147	25743	50890
Bhangnamari Union	5546	12563	12902	25465
Total	91596	211956	209987	421943

Table 2: Percentage wise Population by Age Group

Name of Ward/ Union/Mouza	0-4 by	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-49	50-59	60-64	65+
Ward No-01	9.9	12.1	12.5	10.1	10.2	9.7	23.6	6.6	2.4	3.6
Ward No-02	8	9.3	11	10	10.7	10.7	27.4	7.1	2.4	3.4
Ward No-03	5.6	7	9.2	15.2	19.6	9.3	23.1	5.5	2.2	3.3
Ward No-04	8.2	10.8	11.7	11.4	10.5	10	26.1	6	1.9	3.4
Ward No-05	6.6	7.8	9.8	14.9	17.6	9.4	22.7	5.8	2.1	3.3
Ward No-06	7.5	9.5	10.9	13.2	12	9.8	25.1	6.3	2.2	3.5
Ward NO-7	6	8.3	11.3	11.1	8	9.3	30.2	9	2.6	4.4
Ward No-8	6.5	7.9	10	9	10.5	10.4	29.7	8.1	3.1	4.9
Ward No-9	7.7	9.1	13.9	10.2	9.3	9.3	26.8	7.3	2.6	3.7
Ward No-10	6.2	8.5	12.5	11.8	9.4	9	28.7	7.6	2.3	3.9
Ward No-11	6.5	8.6	11.3	12.1	10.3	9.5	27.2	8.1	2.6	3.8
Ward No-12	8.4	10.2	11.5	10	9.5	9.4	27.4	6.8	2.7	4.1
Ward No-13	8.5	9.1	11.5	11.3	9.3	9.4	26.8	7.2	2.6	4.4
Ward No-14	10	8.6	9.5	11	13.2	10.4	23.8	6	2.8	4.7
Ward No-15	7.9	10.5	12.1	17.9	9.8	8.6	21.9	5.8	2.3	3.1
Ward No-16	7.8	8.7	10.4	10.4	10	10.3	28.4	7.3	2.7	4.1
Ward No-17	7.4	9.5	11	9.9	11.5	10	27.3	7.2	2.4	3.7
Ward No-18	9.5	11.4	10.7	10.2	9.9	10	26	6	2.5	3.5
Wara No- 19	8.5	10.3	11.8	10.7	10.4	10.7	25.4	6.4	2.6	3.1
Ward No-20	9.1	10.7	11.7	11.7	10.8	9.7	24.7	6.1	2.4	3.1
Ward No-21	4.9	6.5	7.5	16.6	28.9	10.4	16.3	5.5	1.6	1.8