

Planning of Rural Settlements: A Study on Tarabo Union

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Abstract. Dhaka represents one of the most extreme examples of rapid growing megacity of the century. As all the major manufacturing industries are concentrating here attracting hordes of migrants, the population has been growing at a pace of almost four percent annually. In contrast, surrounding rural areas are not developing in compare to the city. Environmental, social and economic problems have turned the city into one of the least livable places. Much pressure can be released from the megacity by the proper development of the surrounding areas of the capital, Dhaka. So, a study has been taken with a view to develop and strengthen those areas following a planned design.

The study has been conducted in Tarabo union of Rupganj Upazila. The objective of this study is to propose a conceptual planning for this area through which it will keep pace with the capital and stop migration to Dhaka. It focuses on socio-economic condition of the inhabitants; strength and weakness of the area; the perception of the people how they want to see their area in future. Land use pattern of Tarabo union is primarily agriculture based with some industrial use. Though it is an appropriate place for agriculture, its use is now converting to industries in an alarming rate. The industries are growing without any plan and the fertile lands are getting covered by the industrial waste. These unplanned industries are neither getting raw materials easily nor finding proper market for their business. At the same time people expertise on farm activities are moving to non-farm activities resulting in losing their skills. The greatest strength of this area to develop is the Jamdani (hand loom woven fabric made of cotton) culture. This area has the greatest opportunity to flourish if this business is properly managed. The area also lacks in community and amenity facilities which is a hinder towards development. In this respect, a conceptual design of the whole union has been proposed based on Integrated Rural Development (IRD) model to solve following problems of the area. A well integrated design has been proposed for Jamdani Palli following this method. As it is a rural area, some rural industries have been also proposed considering the backward and forward linkages. Amenities for the residential and industrial zone have also been proposed. The concerning issues will boost up the agricultural production, create employment opportunities, promote the existing Jamdani culture and marketing of the commodities produced within the study area.