

Citizen's Consultation Meeting Tangail

A Brief on Development in Tangail

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Tangail District

- Tangail district is located in the central region of Bangladesh and is the largest district of Dhaka division by area and second largest by population size (3,605,083 according to 2011 Bangladesh census).
- The district consists of twelve upazilas namely Tangail Sadar, Sakhipur, Basail, Madhupur, Ghatail, Kalihati, Nagarpur, Mirzapur, Gopalpur, Delduar, Bhuapur and Dhanbari.
- In terms of land size, Ghatail is the largest upazila, and Dhanbari is the smallest.
- Major economic activities of the district include Tangail saree, copper and bronze industries, bamboo and cane industry, wood industry, paper industry and bidi industry.
- The Jamuna Multi-purpose bridge was opened in 1998 connecting Bhuapur to Sirajganj. It is the longest bridge in Bangladesh and the fifth longest in South Asia.
- Madhupur National Park was officially recognised in 1982. Located in Madhupur Upazila, the national park is a well-known tourish spot and has diverse wildlife and plants. There is a large settlement of Garo tribals inside and along the park.
- Tangail is the first district for which a district budget was prepared and allocations were provided in two consecutive district budgets. However, there were a number of challenges such as allocation of public expenditure at the district level, participation of district level administration in the budget designing process and resource distribution.

Overall District Outlook

Achievements

The poverty rate in Tangail, measured by the upper poverty line reduced by 10.7 percentage points over 2010 to 2016. The poverty rate was lower than the national average by 5.3 percentage points. However, the rate in 2016 (19.0 per cent) was higher than the divisional average (16.0 per cent), making the district with the fifth highest incidence of poverty in Dhaka division.

The completion of primary and upper secondary education in 2019 was the fourth-highest in Tangail comparad to the districts of Dhaka division. Although the completion rate reduced from 94.6 per cent to 89.3 per cent from 2013 to 2019, the proportion (89.3 per cent) was considerably higher than the national and Dhaka division averages by 6.7 percentage points and 8.0 percentage points, respectively. The completion rate was higher than in Dhaka, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Kishoreganj, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Rajbari and Shariatpur. The rate of upper secondary completion was 33.8 per cent in 2019.

The prevalence of early childbearing and stunting reduced from 2013 to 2019. The percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18 reduced by 28.5 per cent. The rate was lower than the national average by 1.4 percentage points. Stunting of under-5 aged children fell by 43.1 per cent. The incidence of stunting was lower than the national and divisional estimates by 8.7 percentage points resulting in Tangail with the lowest stunting rate in Dhaka division in 2019.

The district achieved substantial progress in raising the number of households with improved sanitation facilities. The proportion of households with improved sanitation increased by 51.3 per cent from 2013 to 2019. The rate (98.2 per cent) was 11.0 percentage points and 13.6 percentage points higher than the division and national averages in 2019. The use of improved sanitation facilities was the second-highest in Tangail (slightly lower than in Gopalganj).

Challenges

In 2016, income inequality was the third-highest in Tangail. The Gini coefficient of 0.46 was close to the national average of 0.48. Some districts compared to which inequality was higher in Tangail include Dhaka, Faridpur, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Narsingdi.

The proportion of households using safely managed drinking water services was the second-lowest in Tangail compared to other districts in Dhaka division. In 2019, 32.6 per cent of household members reported using safe drinking water. The share was 9.3 percentage points and 15.3 percentage points lower than the division and national averages (only higher than the proportion in Madaripur).

The proportion of under-5 aged children whose births were registered with civil authorities reduced from 2013 to 2019 in contrast to most districts of Dhaka division. The proportion reduced by 26.1 per cent over the period. The share was 11.5 percentage points and 15.2 percentage points lower than the division and national averages and the second-lowest rate across the districts.

Perspectives on the “Left Behind”

Geography

Nagarpur lagged behind other upazilas of Tangail district in terms of poverty, infant mortality rate and under-5 mortality rate. The poverty rate in 2016 was 34.4 per cent, the highest across the upazilas. However, the rate decreased by 5.5 percentage points from 39.9 per cent in 2010. Infant mortality and under-5 mortality rates were also the highest in the upazila, according to 2009 statistics.

Note: Basail was ahead of other upazilas in terms of poverty, infant mortality, under-5 mortality rate, secondary school dropout rates, and improved sanitation. In 2016, the *poverty rate* was 17.8 per cent, 1.2 percentage points and 6.5 percentage points below the district and national averages. The rate reduced by 9.6 per cent compared to 2010. As per 2009 statistics, *infant and under-5 mortality rates* were 36.0 per cent and 45.0 per cent, respectively. The rates were 17.0 percentage points and 25.0 percentage points below the respective district averages. No dropout from secondary school was recorded for the upazila in 2009. Moreover, 61.0 per cent of the population used an improved sanitation facility.

Women

In terms of maternal health care, Gopalpur had the lowest rate of women whose births were attended by skilled professionals. In 2009, only 10.0 per cent of 15-49 years aged women undertook skilled deliveries. The proportion was 8.6 percentage points below the district average (18.6 per cent) and 14.4 percentage points below the national average of professional births.

In terms of literacy rate, 60.9 per cent of women aged 15-24 in Madhupur were literate, the lowest percentage in the district in 2009. The percentage was lower than the district and national averages by 8.5 percentage points and 11.1 percentage points, respectively.

Children

In 2009, Nagarpur had the highest infant mortality rate and under-5 mortality rate. Infant and under-5 mortality rates were 81.0 and 115.0 per cent, respectively. Infant mortality rate was 28.0 percentage points and 32.0 percentage points greater than the district and national averages.

Under-5 mortality rate was 45.0 percentage points and 51.0 percentage points greater than the district and national averages.

In 2009, the primary and secondary school dropout rate was the highest in Dhanbari. 7.2 per cent of children dropped out of primary school, which was 6 times greater than the division and national estimates. Secondary school dropout rate was 13.2 per cent, four times greater than the division and national estimates.

In 2009, proportion of under-5 aged children whose births were unregistered was highest in Kalihati. 72.2 per cent of under-5 children did not have their births registered with civil authority. The rate was 14.3 percentage points and 30.1 percentage points higher than the district and national averages.

In 2009, the proportion of children aged 6-14 years out of school and engaged in labour was the highest in Madhupur. The rate was 2.6 per cent, 1.7 percentage points, and 0.3 percentage points higher than the district and national averages, respectively. In addition, the rate of child labour for boys in Madhupur was greater than the upazila and national averages at 3.5 per cent (the corresponding proportion for girls was 1.5 per cent).

Indigenous community

The land used for crop cultivation by the Garos in the Amtali forest of Madhupur is under threat of being seized by the forest department. There is a plan to build an artificial lake for tourists, and recently the land was marked as “reserved forestland,” forbidding entrance. The indigenous community relied on the cultivation for livelihood for generations. Government authorities pledged to give Tk. 10 lakh to the indigenous cultivators and assured of an earning possibility from renting boats in the lake. These, however, were opposed by the communities.

Madhupur National Park, the third-largest in Bangladesh, is threatened by the loss of biodiversity and wildlife. The size of the forest has shrunk due to excessive tree felling and land grabbing by local and influential non-locals who have built concrete structures on the forestland.

COVID-19 Management

As of 12 July 2022, 16.9 per cent of the population in Tangail were fully vaccinated (received the third dose of COVID-19 vaccination). The proportion was the second-lowest among the districts of Dhaka division (only slightly above the proportion in Madaripur). The second dose was received by 65.4 per cent of the population in Tangail district, only above the shares in Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, and Shariatpur.