



Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Housing and Public Works
Urban Development Directorate
82 Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MEHERPUR ZILLA

REPORT ON ASSIGNMENT-1

Meta Data Creation with Report

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Summary of Assignment-1

A. Summary of Assignment-1

Meherpur Paurashava, located in southwestern Bangladesh and covering approximately 13.8 square kilometres with 9 wards, is a crucial administrative and economic hub whose occupational structure is vital for urban planning and development. Analysis reveals that **Business is the most dominant occupational group across nearly all wards**, with Worker, Service Holder, and Driver being the second most common occupations. Ward-level observations highlight significant diversity: for instance, **Ward No. 01 is highly commercialized**, with 71% in business and minimal occupational diversity. In contrast, Ward No. 04 is characterized by a strong farming community (24%) and Ward No. 05 is dominated by workers (50%), suggesting an industrial or labor-intensive zone. Wards No. 08 and 09 have the highest concentrations of service holders, while Ward No. 02 is unique for reporting religious services. Notably, **Ward No. 06 stands out as the most versatile in terms of business variety**, hosting a wide range from grocery shops to a brick field.

A significant characteristic of Meherpur Paurashava's economy is the **predominance of informal occupations across all wards**. Ward No. 05 has the highest informal employment at 90%, followed by Ward No. 01 (86%) and Ward No. 04 (76%), indicating a reliance on casual labor and small trade. Conversely, Ward No. 09 boasts the highest percentage of formal employment (29%), suggesting better access to structured jobs.

The existing occupational mix offers a pathway to becoming a "Green City," which prioritizes eco-friendly businesses, pollution control, and green infrastructure. **Low-carbon jobs**, such as service holders in Wards 08 and 09, and education/medical services found in multiple wards (e.g., Ward 03, 04, 06, 07, 09), are essential for promoting sustainability and public health. Religious services in Ward 02 can also support environmental initiatives. While many local businesses are low-impact (e.g., grocery shops, tea stalls) and support walkable neighborhoods, some medium to high environmental impact businesses, such as workshops, electronics repair, and a brick field in Ward 06, require modernization and pollution controls to align with green city goals. Poultry businesses in Ward 03 also need proper management for sustainability. Informal vendors, like peanut sellers in Ward 07, typically have a low carbon footprint but need support for formalization and waste management. Ultimately, Meherpur Paurashava's diverse occupational structure presents both challenges and opportunities, requiring **strategic interventions like promoting eco-friendly practices, upgrading infrastructure, formalizing informal sectors, and integrating environmental education** to foster local resilience and achieve an inclusive, livable, and environmentally sound urban future.

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Meta Data Creation with Report

1. Introduction

Occupation is a critical socio-economic indicator that plays a foundational role in urban planning and development. It reflects the nature of livelihood, economic activities, labor force distribution, and development potential. In the context of a Master Plan, analyzing occupation patterns helps identify the economic character of different areas, demand for specific land uses, and future infrastructure requirements. This assignment explores the occupational structure of **Meherpur Paurashava**, based on spatial data and ward-wise occupation mapping, with an emphasis on its relevance to the municipality's Master Plan framework.

2. Overview of Meherpur Paurashava

Meherpur Paurashava is situated in the southwestern part of Bangladesh, bordering India to the west. The municipal area covers approximately **13.8 square kilometers**, consisting of 9 wards. As the administrative and economic hub of the district, the Paurashava plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of the region. It is recognized for its historical significance, urban growth, and evolving land use patterns influenced by both rural-urban transition and regional connectivity.

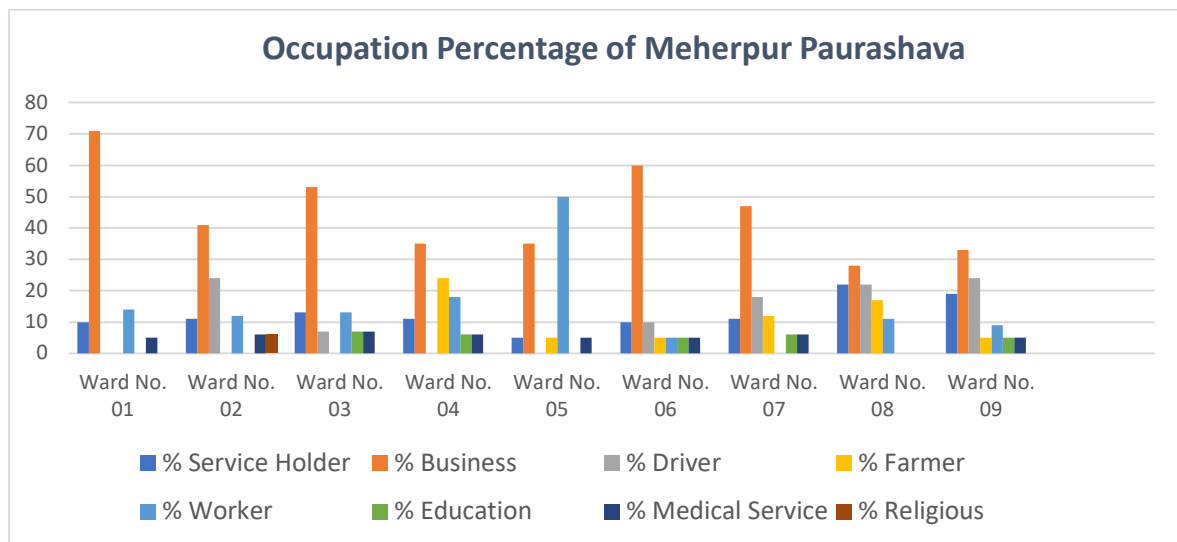
3. Occupation of Meherpur Paurashava

Occupation of Meherpur Paurashava illustrates the spatial distribution of various occupational categories across the nine administrative wards within the municipality. From the table, Chart and map, we can observe that **Business** is the most dominant occupational groups across nearly all wards, consistently having the tallest bars. **Worker, Service Holder and Driver** are the second dominant occupations. In **Ward 03**, there is a noticeable spike in Medical-related occupations, indicating a higher concentration of **Medical Service Holder** there. Other occupations like **Farmers** and **Education** related occupations are present but in relatively lower proportions, with minimal representation of **religious** services.

Occupation Percentage of Meherpur Paurashava

Ward	Service Holder	Business	Driver	Farmer	Worker	Education	Medical Service	Religious
Ward No. 01	10	71	0	0	14	0	5	0
Ward No. 02	11	41	24	0	12	0	6	6
Ward No. 03	13	53	7	0	13	7	7	0
Ward No. 04	11	35	0	24	18	6	6	0
Ward No. 05	5	35	0	5	50	0	5	0
Ward No. 06	10	60	10	5	5	5	5	0
Ward No. 07	11	47	18	12	0	6	6	0
Ward No. 08	22	28	22	17	11	0	0	0
Ward No. 09	19	33	24	5	9	5	5	0

Source: Prepared by Consultant, 2025



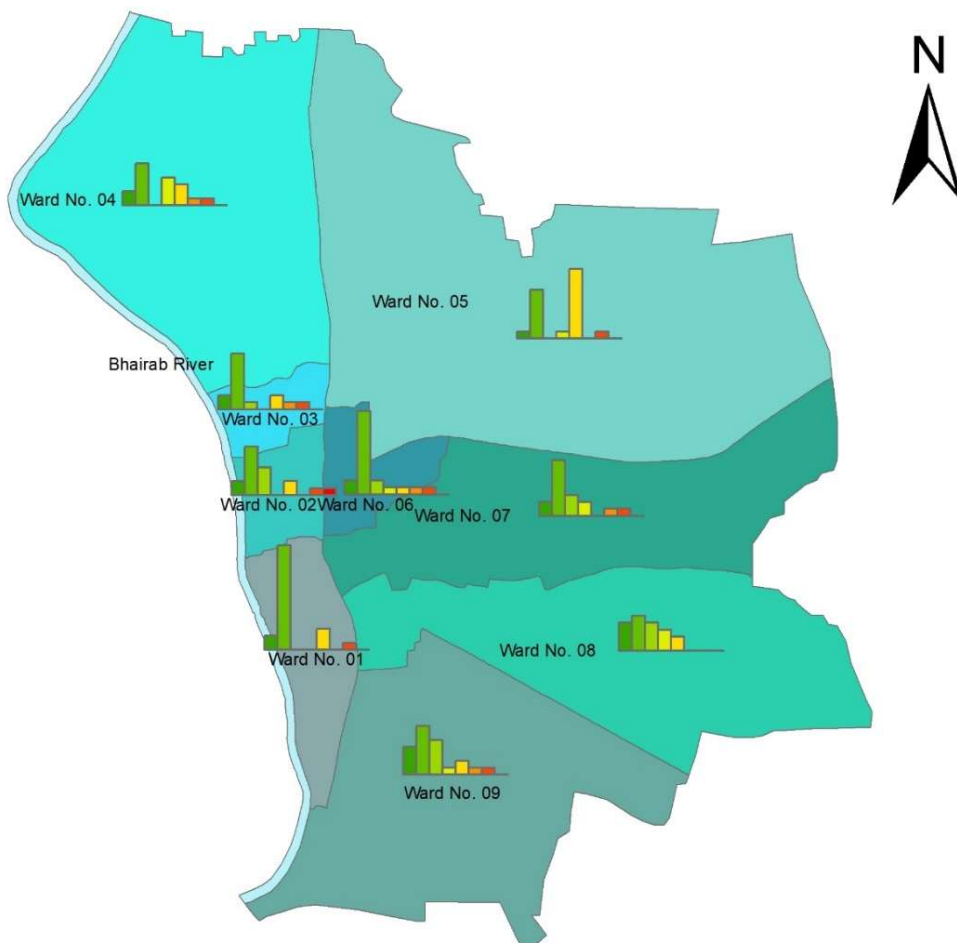
3.1. Ward-Level Observations

Ward No. 01:

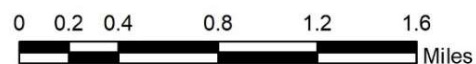
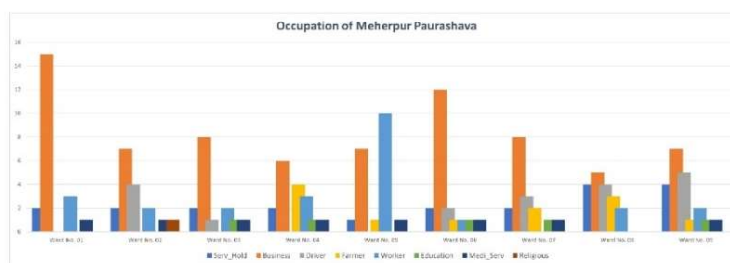
Business is the dominant occupation in this ward, comprising 71%, the highest in the municipality. All other occupational categories have very low representation, with no presence of farmers, drivers, or health and education services.

Interpretation: Ward No. 01 is a highly commercialized area dominated by business activities, with minimal occupational diversity and limited presence of essential public services.

Occupation of Meherpur Paurashava



Meherpur_Boundary



Ward No. 02:

This ward shows a moderate presence in business (41%) and drivers (24%), along with medical services (6%) and religious services (6%)—being the only ward where religious services are reported. However, education services are completely absent despite the presence of other social services.

Interpretation: A **mixed-use ward** with diverse occupations and relatively good service coverage in terms of religion and health.

Ward No. 03:

This ward has a balanced distribution of occupations, with 53% involved in business, 7% as drivers, and 7% in the education sector. There is also a moderate presence of medical services. However, no individuals are engaged in farming.

Interpretation: A **compact urban ward** with strong business and educational service presence, potentially dense in population and infrastructure.

Ward No. 04:

This ward has a strong farming community, with 24% of the population engaged in agriculture, along with a significant number of workers (18%). It also has a decent presence of both education and medical services, each accounting for 6%.

Interpretation: A **peri-urban or agricultural ward**, where **farming and labor** are important alongside basic services. A **peri-urban or agricultural ward**, where **farming and labor** are important alongside basic services.

Ward No. 05:

This ward is dominated by workers, who make up 50% of the population—the highest among all wards. Business activities are moderately represented at 35%, while there are no drivers. The ward also lacks educational and medical facilities.

Interpretation: Appears to be an **industrial or labor-intensive zone**, with less focus on public services and education.

Ward No. 06:

This ward has a strong business base, with 60% of the population engaged in commercial activities, and a notable presence of drivers at 10%. Services such as education, medical, and others are evenly distributed, each accounting for 5%.

Interpretation: A **balanced urban ward** with decent occupational and service diversity.

Ward No. 07:

This ward has a moderate share of business activities (47%) and drivers (18%). There is also some presence of farmers (12%) and good access to services, with 6% in education and 6% in medical fields. However, there are no workers reported in this ward.

Interpretation: A **multi-functional ward** with a healthy mix of trade, transport, farming, and public services.

Ward No. 08:

This ward has the highest number of service holders, accounting for 22% of the population. It also shows a balanced presence of drivers (22%) and farmers (17%). However, no education or health services are reported in this ward.

Interpretation: A **mixed-use, high-service employment area**, but lacks formal institutional presence, suggesting dependence on other wards for education and health.

Ward No. 09:

This ward has high numbers of drivers (24%) and service holders (19%). It also shows moderate representation in all other sectors, including medical and education services, each at 5%.

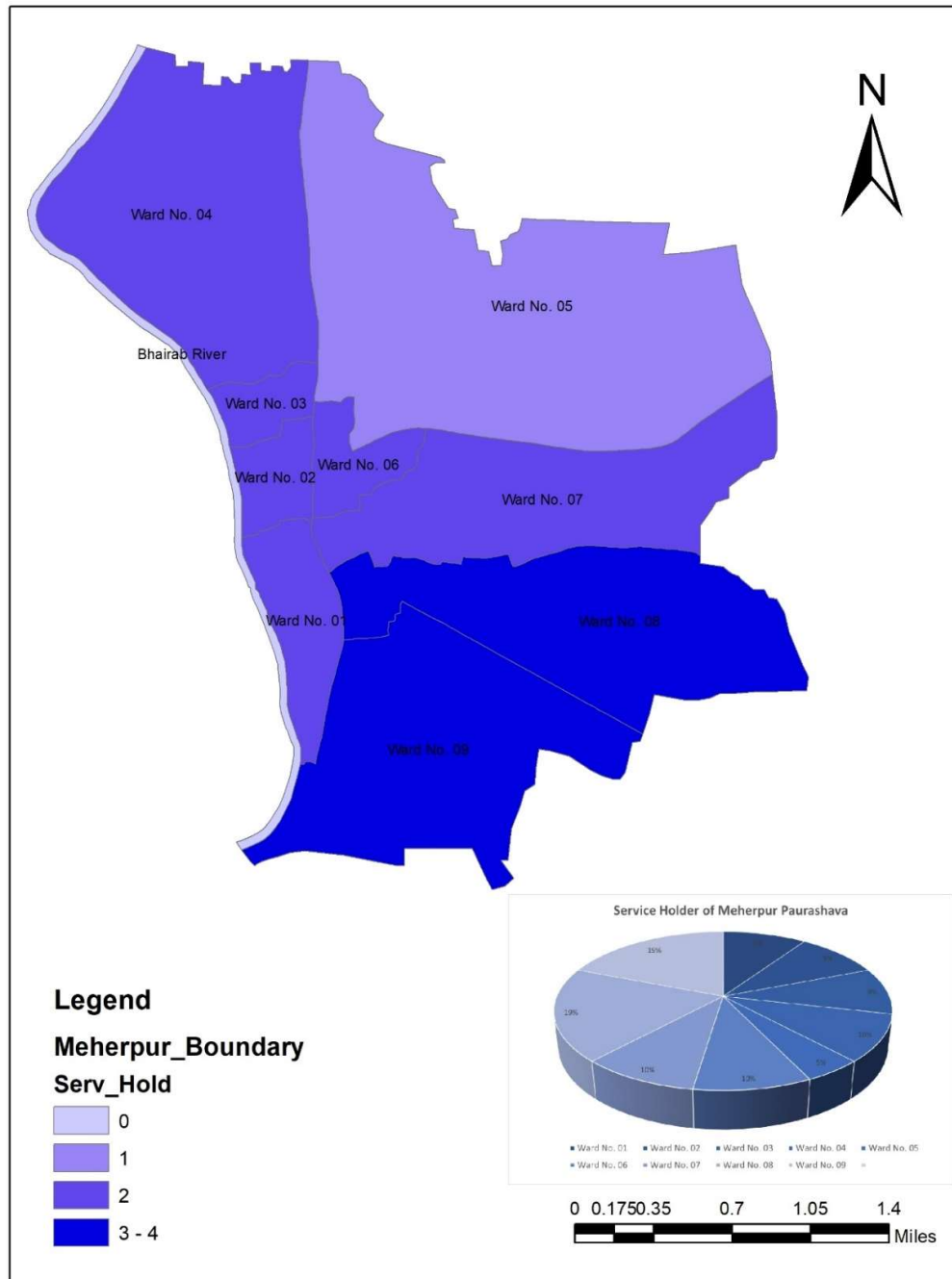
Interpretation: A **well-rounded ward**, indicating mixed socio-economic conditions and better public service access than some others.

3.2. Service wise Observations

Service Holders

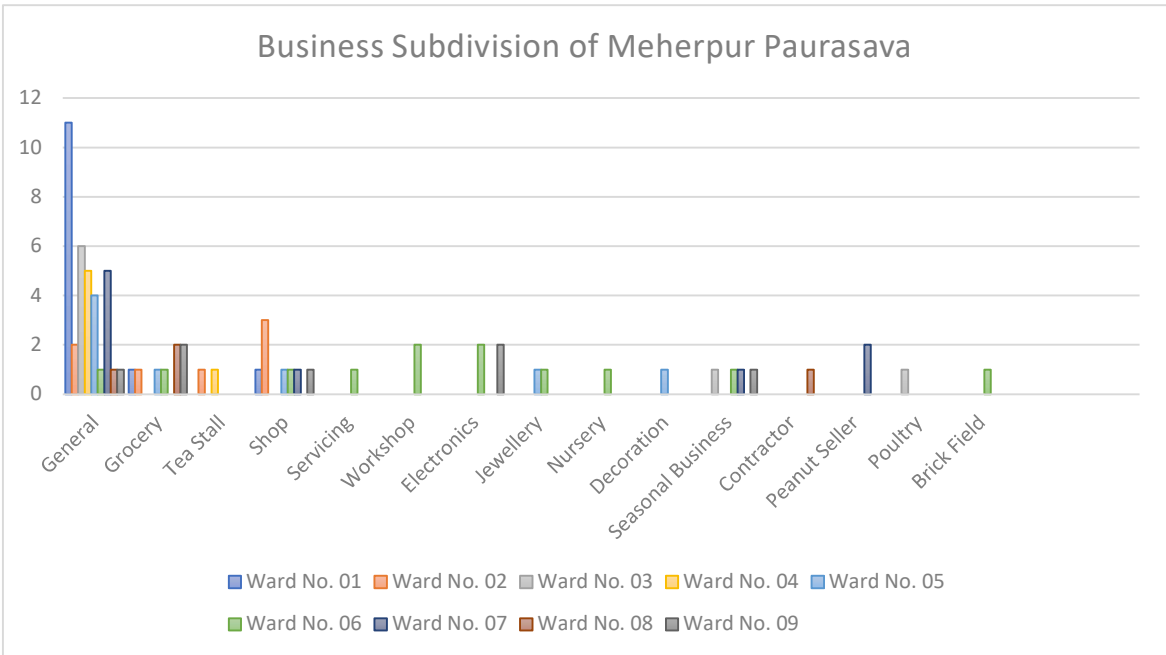
The highest number of service holders is found in **Ward No. 08** and **Ward No. 09** suggesting a concentration of public or private employment opportunities in these areas. Ward No. 05, despite its size, has minimal **service holders**, indicating a dominance of non-formal employment.

Service Holder of Meherpur Paurashava



Business Activities

Business activities are most prominent in **Ward No. 01**, followed by **Ward No. 06**, **Ward No. 03** **Ward No. 07**. These wards containing local markets or commercial centers. Wards with the lowest business count include Ward No. 08 and Ward No. 09, which may indicate a focus on other occupations.

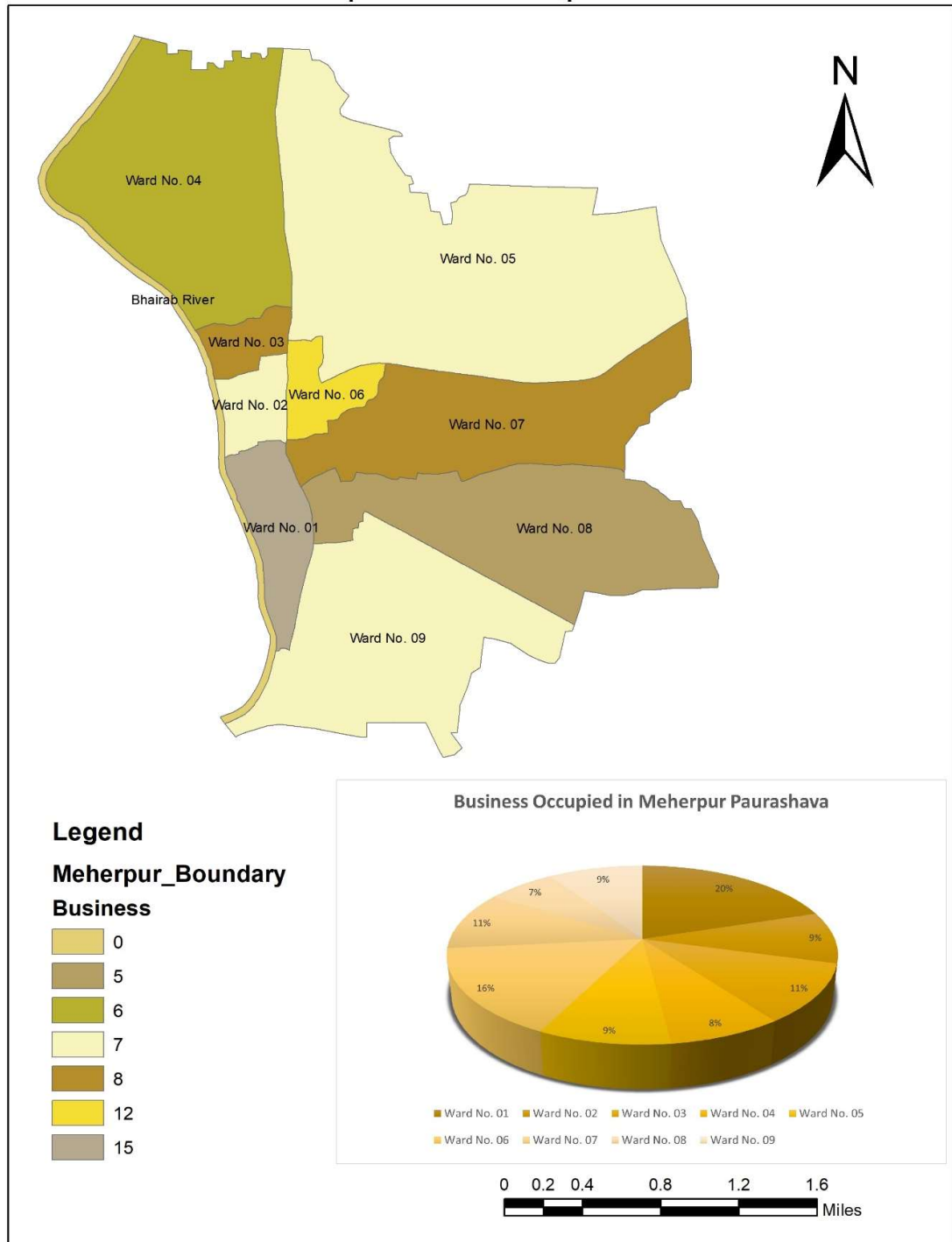


The diagram reflects the distribution of various businesses across the wards of Meherpur Paurashava, highlighting the versatility and diversity of economic activities in the area. Among the nine wards, Ward No. 06 stands out as the most versatile in terms of business variety. It hosts a wide range of commercial activities including grocery shops, general stores, servicing centers, workshops, electronics shops, a jewelry shop, a nursery, seasonal businesses, and even a brick field. This indicates a vibrant mix of both formal and informal businesses, suggesting Ward 06 may function as a local commercial hub.

Ward No. 02 also shows notable business diversity, especially in the retail sector, with grocery stores, tea stalls, and multiple general shops, positioning it as a key retail center. Ward No. 05 and Ward No. 07 display moderate versatility with unique business types such as decoration services, seasonal businesses, and peanut vendors. In contrast, wards like Ward No. 04, Ward No. 08, and Ward No. 09 have fewer business types, showing limited commercial variety and possibly indicating residential or underdeveloped economic zones.

Overall, the business distribution suggests that while some wards like Ward 06 are economically versatile and active, others remain limited in business scope, reflecting an uneven pattern of commercial development across the municipality.

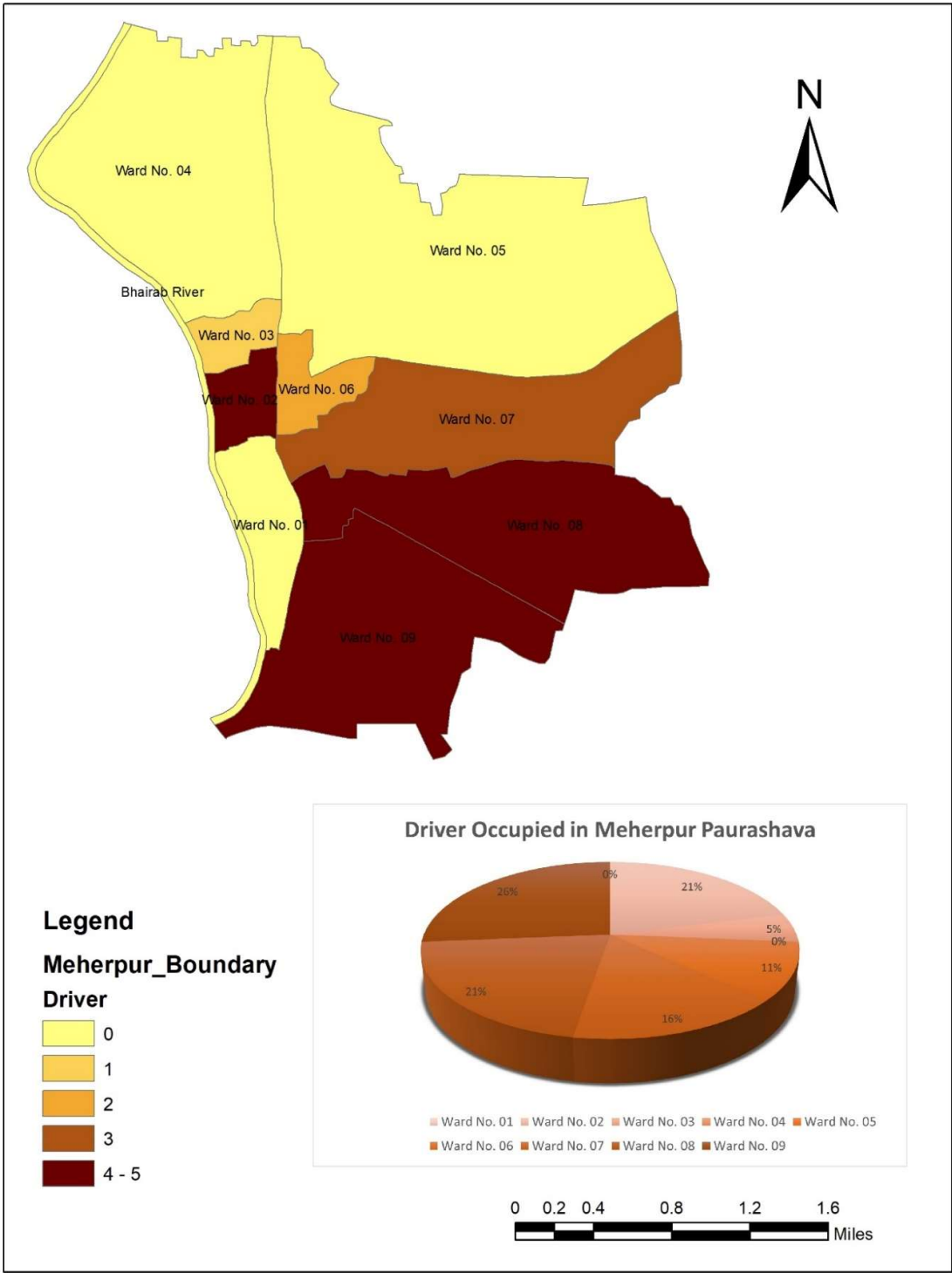
Business Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



Drivers

Driver occupation is more common in **Ward No. 02, Ward No. 08 and Ward No. 09**, possibly indicating proximity to transportation hubs or higher mobility needs. Some wards, such as Wards 01, 04 and 05, have no reported drivers.

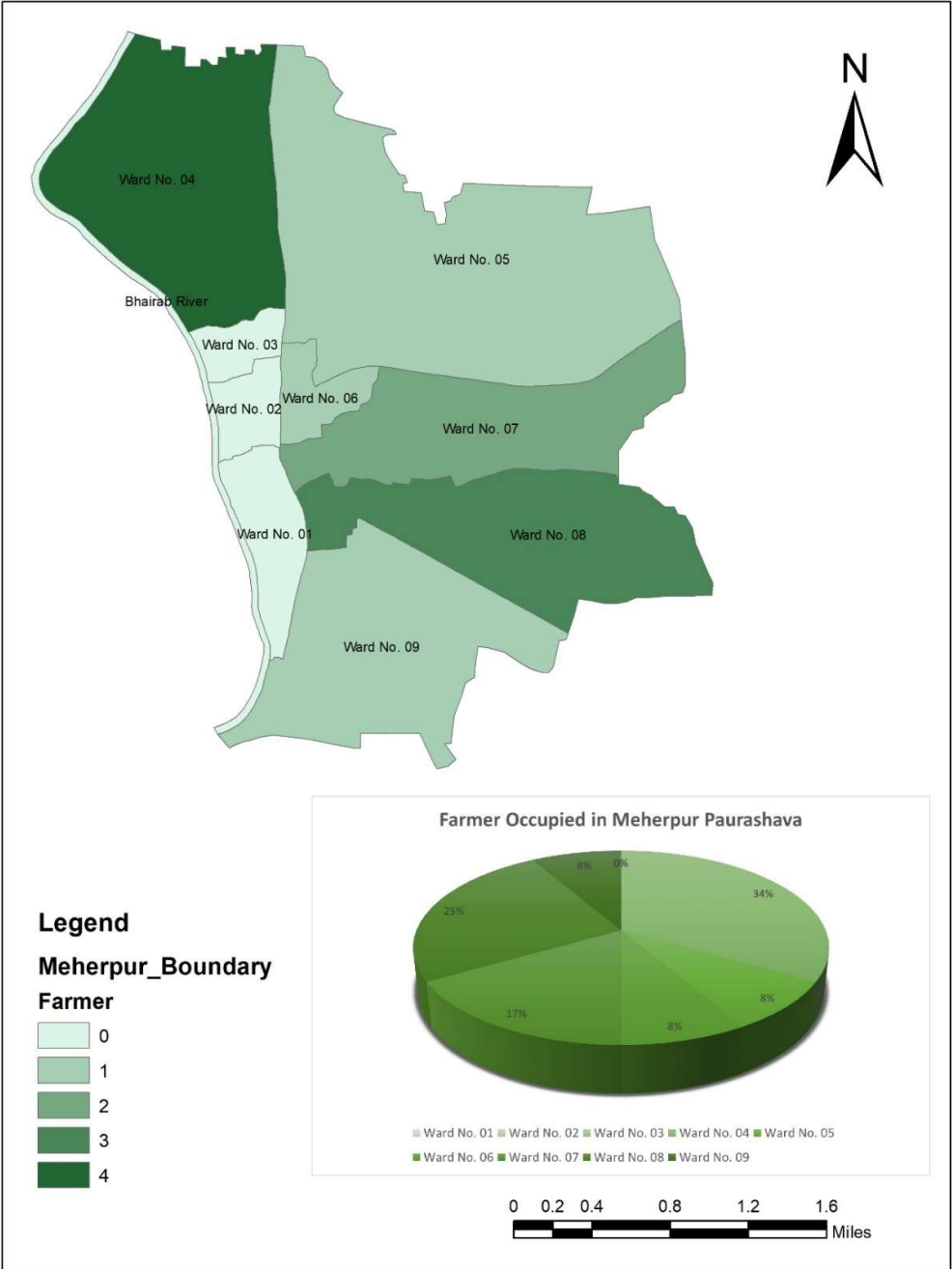
Driver Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



Farmers

Farming is most significant in **Ward No. 04** and **Ward No. 08**, indicating areas that still retain rural or peri-urban characteristics. This aligns with the larger areas in these wards, which may include cultivable land.

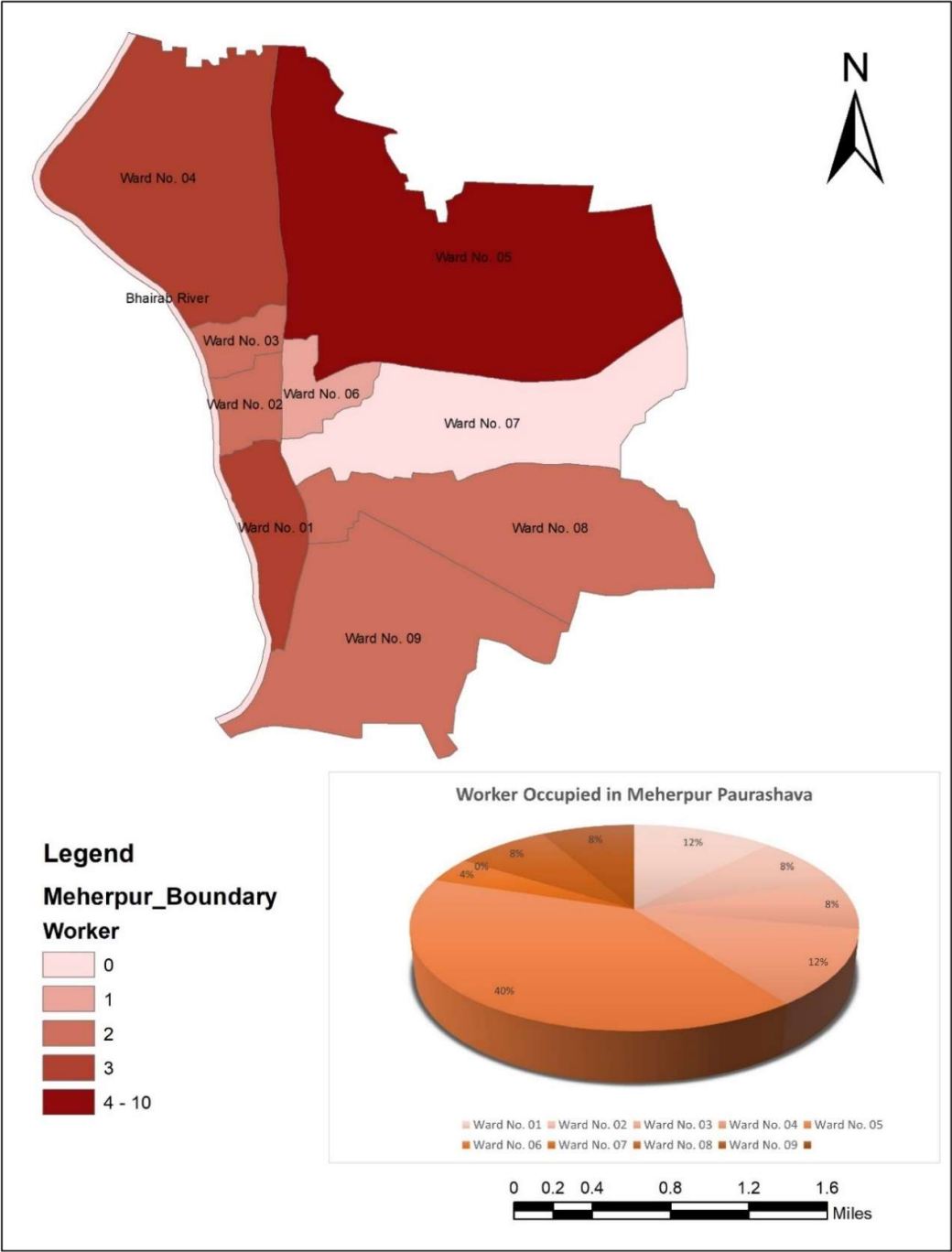
Farmer Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



Workers

The highest number of general workers is reported in **Ward No. 05**, suggesting it may be an industrial or labor-intensive zone. Other ward like 07 reports **zero workers**, pointing to occupational specialization or urban residential nature.

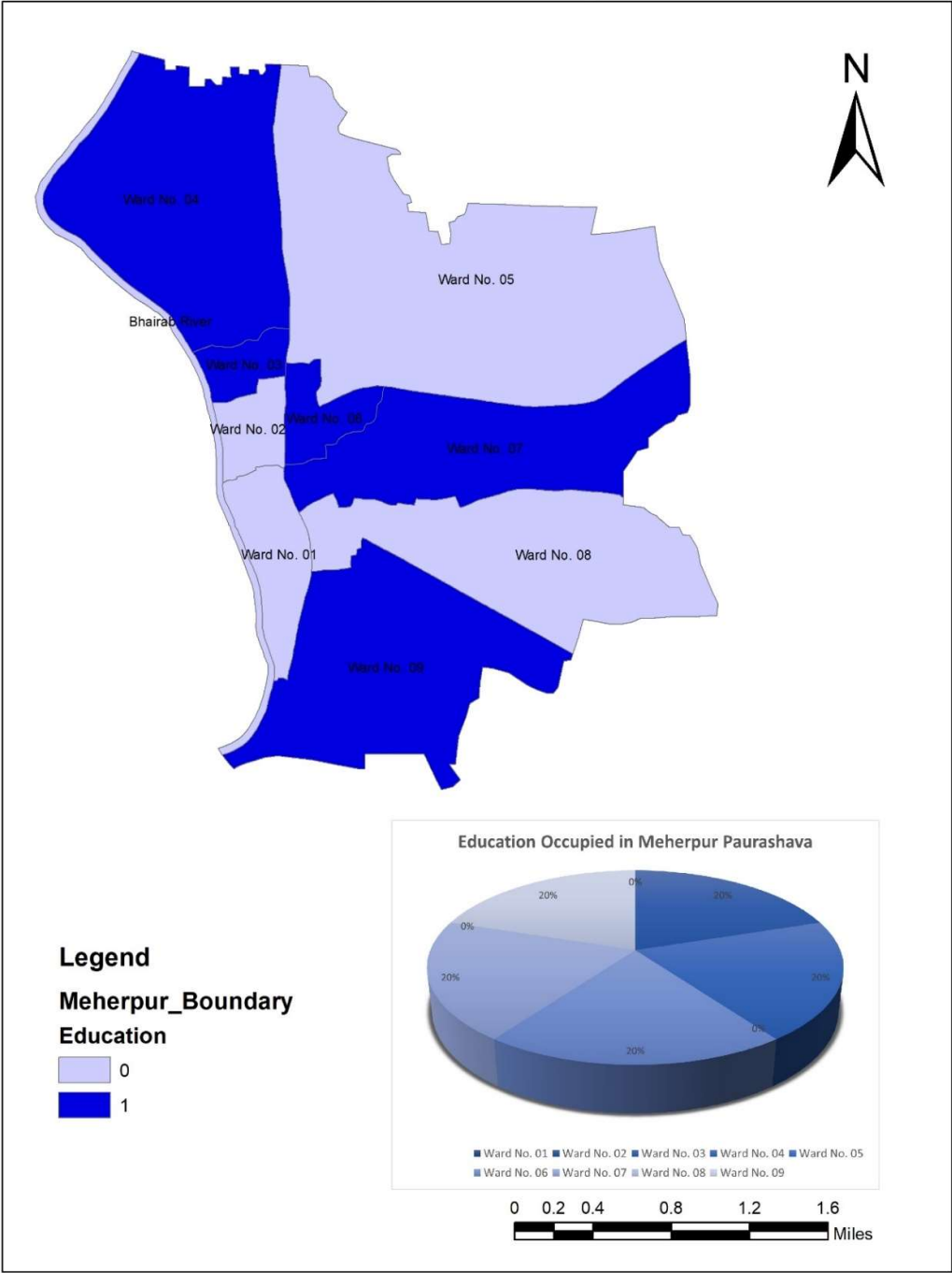
Worker Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



Education Services

Education-related occupations or institutions are found in almost all wards, with a maximum count in **Ward No. 03**. Some Wards show no educational services, possibly reflecting residential or commercial land use instead.

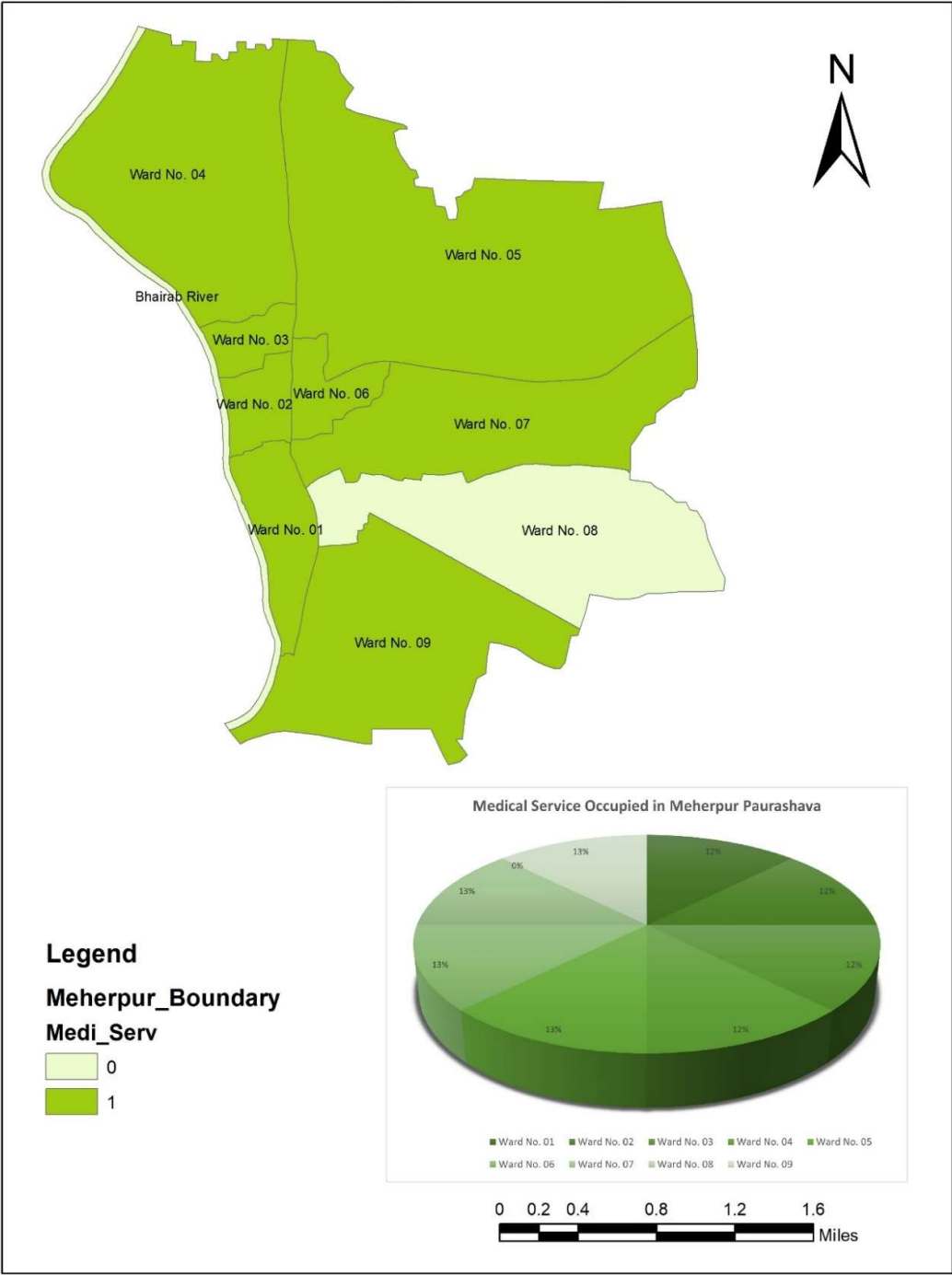
Education Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



Medical Services

Medical services are distributed evenly across many wards. However, Wards 08 report none, suggesting the need for healthcare infrastructure expansion in those areas.

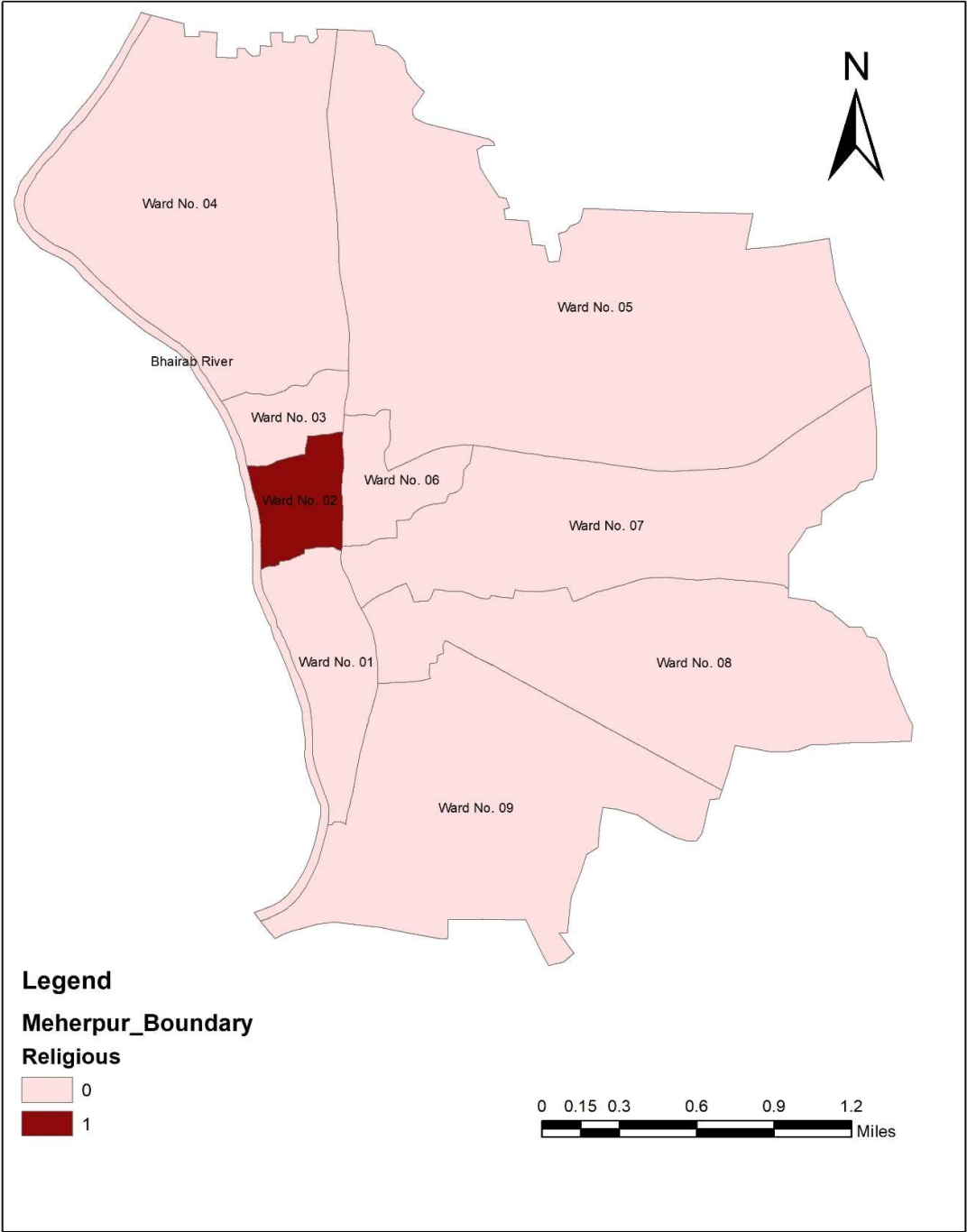
Medical Service Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



Religious Service

Only Ward No. 02 reports religious institutions, while all other wards report none. This may be due to either underreporting or the presence of larger, central religious institutions in Ward 02 serving multiple wards.

Religious Service Occupied in Meherpur Paurashava



4. Formal and Informal Occupation

Informal Sector Dominance:

- Informal occupations are predominant in **all wards**, though the extent varies.
- **Ward No. 05** has the **highest informal employment at 90%**, followed by **Ward No. 01 (86%)** and **Ward No. 04 (76%)**, indicating limited access to secure, structured jobs and possibly high reliance on casual labor, small trade, or self-employment.
- Other wards with a high informal presence include **Ward No. 06 (80%)** and **Ward No. 03 (80%)**.

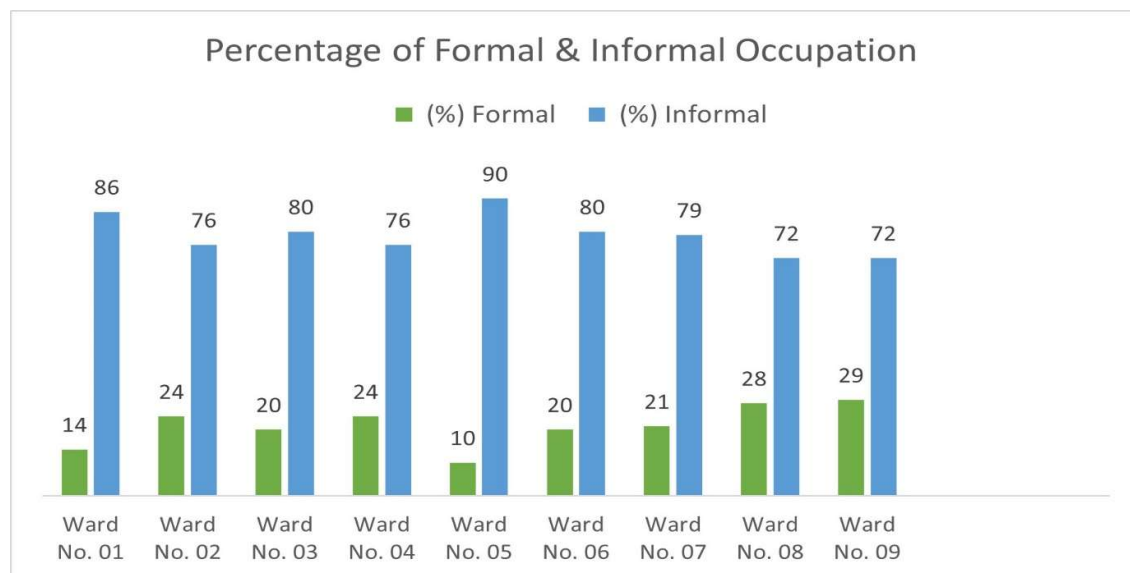
Relatively Higher Formal Employment:

- **Ward No. 09** has the **highest percentage of formal employment (29%)**, followed closely by **Ward No. 08 (28%)** and **Ward No. 02 & 04 (24%)**.
- These wards may have better access to government jobs, institutions, or formal businesses such as offices, schools, and registered enterprises.

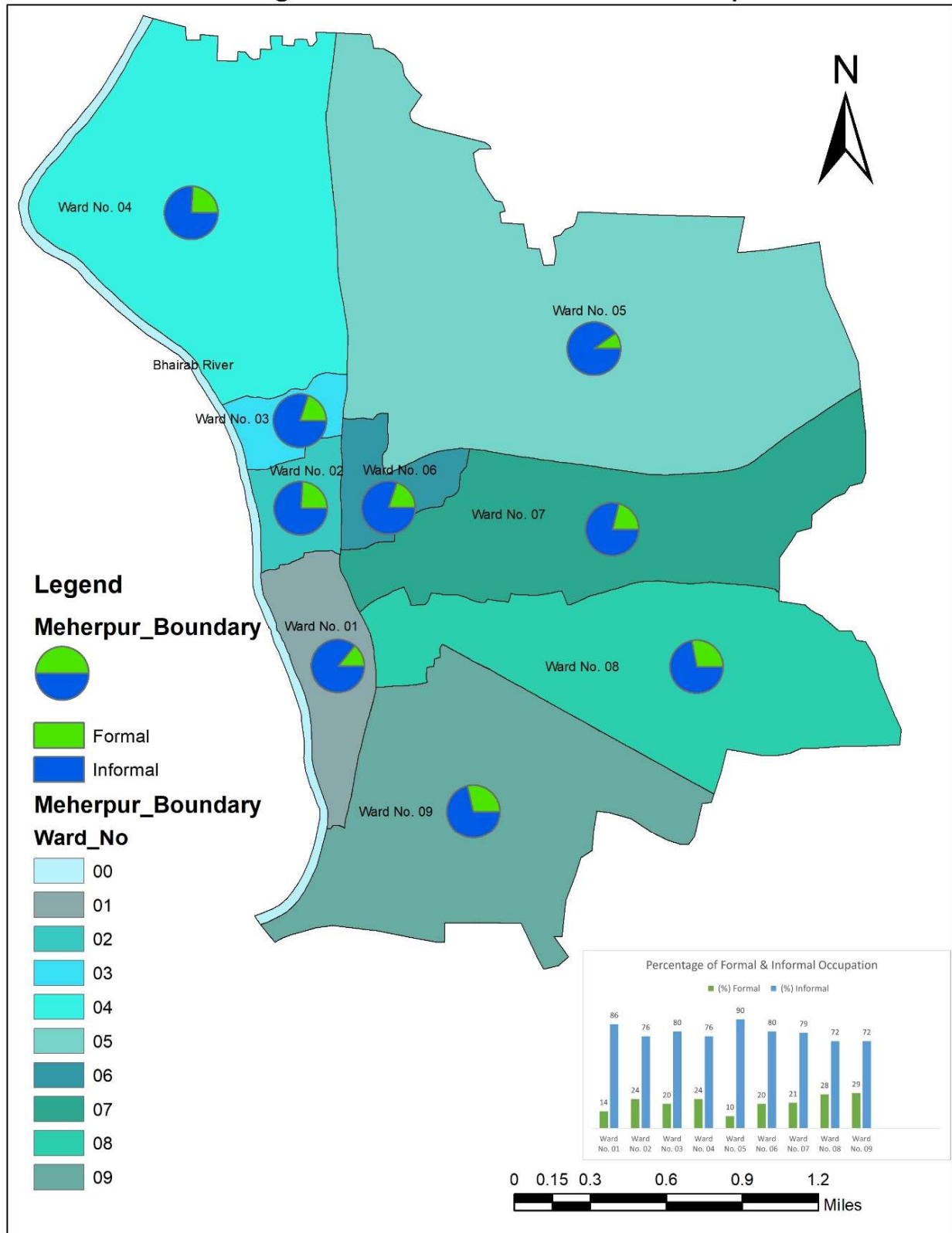
Formal and Informal Occupation of Meherpur Paurashava at a Glimpse

Ward	Formal (%)	Informal (%)	Key Insight
Ward 01	14	86	Highly informal economy; lacks formal job access.
Ward 02	24	76	Moderate formal employment, relatively balanced.
Ward 03	20	80	Mostly informal, limited structured job presence.
Ward 04	24	76	Formal share is decent but overwhelmed by informality.
Ward 05	10	90	Most informal economy; very low formal job penetration.
Ward 06	20	80	Strong informal sector, few formal jobs.
Ward 07	21	79	Mixed but leans informal.
Ward 08	28	72	Among the best in formal-informal balance.
Ward 09	29	72	Highest formal employment share in the municipality.

Source: Prepared by Consultant, 2025



Percentage of Formal & Informal Occupation



4. The Ward-Level Occupation Mix Can Leads to a Green City

A **green city** prioritizes eco-friendly businesses, pollution control, Clean and inclusive livelihoods, green infrastructure (e.g., nurseries, parks, low-carbon industries). Business Sector of Meherpur Paurashava a mix of **general, commercial, vendor and industrial activities**.

4.1. Service Holders, Education, and Medical Services:

1. Wards 08 and 09 have the **highest number of service holders (22% and 19%)**, which typically include formal jobs in administration, teaching, banking, or office work. These sectors are:

- **Low-carbon in nature**, causing minimal environmental harm.

2. Wards 03, 04, 06, 07, and 09 have **education and medical services**, which are essential for:

- **Raising awareness** about sustainability and green practices.
- Promoting **public health and well-being**, a core component of livable green cities.

4.2. Religious Services – A Supportive Role

Only **Ward 02 (6%)** reports **religious services**, which can:

- Serve as **platforms for spreading environmental values and ethics**.
- Encourage **community-based green initiatives**, such as cleanliness drives or tree-planting.

4.3. Business

- **Low-Impact Commercial Activities (Green-Friendly)**

Business sector of Meherpur Paurashava includes Grocery shops, Tea stalls, General stores, Small local shops which are usually low-energy, low-waste businesses, support walkable neighborhoods, encourage local economies (reducing transportation emissions).

- **Presence of Green-Oriented Activities**

Nursery (Ward 06) promotes urban greening, biodiversity, and carbon absorption. Seasonal businesses (like fruit vendors, local crafts in Ward 03, 06, 07, 09) support - eco-conscious consumerism and local, often organic products.

- **Medium to High Environmental Impact Businesses**

Wards 06 and 09 feature several activities such as workshops, electronics repair, and servicing businesses, which, while contributing to local employment, can have environmental impacts if not properly managed—particularly through waste generation and energy use. Additionally, Ward 06 houses a brick field, which is a significant source of air pollution unless it adopts cleaner technologies and emissions controls. Jewelry and decoration businesses, though small in number, may involve the use of chemicals and non-biodegradable materials, contributing to environmental degradation if waste handling is not regulated. These business types highlight the need for modernization, eco-friendly practices, and enforcement of environmental standards to align with the goals of a green city. These must be regulated or modernized with pollution controls, waste recycling, and eco-certifications.

- **Small-Scale Industry**

The poultry business in Ward 03, if not properly managed, can lead to the production of organic waste and potential water contamination. However, with appropriate systems in place—such as eco-farming practices, composting, and adherence to hygiene standards—it can contribute to sustainable and resilient local food systems.

- **Informal Vendors**

Peanut sellers in Ward 07 represent informal, mobile commerce that operates with minimal infrastructure requirements and contributes to a low carbon footprint. This type of small-scale vending supports local livelihoods while maintaining an environmentally friendly profile. To enhance their positive impact and maintain urban cleanliness, it is important to support and gradually formalize these informal vendors. Providing them with access to clean, designated spaces and adequate waste disposal facilities such as bins can help keep public areas tidy and contribute to the overall sustainability and livability of the city.

Local businesses play a vital role in promoting walkability, reducing transportation-related emissions, and fostering community resilience by keeping economic activities within neighborhood boundaries. Several wards in Meherpur Paurashava already exhibit early signs of green-friendly enterprises, such as nurseries, food vendors, and small grocery shops, which typically have low environmental footprints and support sustainable lifestyles.

Overall, Meherpur Paurashava demonstrates several qualities that can contribute to a green city model, including strong local economies, farming potential, and emerging public services. With targeted investments in green infrastructure, sustainable transportation, education, and clean technologies, the existing occupational base can be transformed to support a low-carbon, inclusive, and environmentally resilient urban future.

5. Conclusion

The occupational structure of Meherpur Paurashava reflects a dynamic interplay of formal and informal employment, with a predominance of business activities and a rich variety of livelihoods across its nine wards. This diversity serves as both a challenge and an opportunity for urban planners. While many wards still depend on informal, labor-intensive, or environmentally impactful occupations, there are also promising signs of green-friendly enterprises such as nurseries, small local shops, food vendors, and public services like education and healthcare.

Strategic interventions—such as promoting eco-friendly business practices, upgrading infrastructure, formalizing informal sectors, and integrating environmental education—can transform Meherpur Paurashava into a model Green City. By aligning occupational patterns with sustainability goals, the municipality can foster local resilience, reduce environmental degradation, and promote equitable development. Ultimately, leveraging the existing occupational diversity through thoughtful planning and green investment will be key to creating an inclusive, livable, and environmentally sound urban future for Meherpur Paurashava.