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Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Urban Development Directorate

82 Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

PREPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MEHERPUR ZILLA

REPORT ON ASSIGNMENT-1

Reconnaissance Survey Report on Meherpur Paurashava

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Md. Rakibul Hasan

Junior Urban Planner

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Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 Background of Meherpur District

Meherpur is a district in the western part of Bangladesh. It is a part of Khulna Division. Meherpur was known as subdivision in 1854 or 1857. It was one of the five subdivisions of Nodiya District of India. During the partition of 1947, this subdivision was included in Kushtia District. Meherpur was converted as a subdivision into district in 24 February 1984. It is a historically significant district in Bangladesh specially in liberation war. Historically, Meherpur played a pivotal role in the liberation war of Bangladesh. Mujibnagar Provisional Government was formed in Meherpur on 10 April, 1971. They proclaimed that Meherpur was the country's first capital during liberation war. The first Government of Bangladesh took their oath at the Amrakanan of Mujibnagar in Meherpur District on 17 April, 1971.

Meherpur is located between 23°36' to 23°58' north latitudes and 88°33' to 88°53' east longitudes. It is bounded by Kushtia District and West Bengal of India on the north, Chuadanga and Kushtia Districts on the east, Chuadanga District and West Bengal on the south, and West Bengal on the west. The total land area of Meherpur District is 751.62 square kilometers. There are three upazillas: Meherpur sadar, Mujibnagar and Gangni, along with two Paurashavas (Meherpur & Gangni), 18 Union Parishads, 199 Mouzas and 259 Villages.

Meherpur has a great history over two thousand years. It has been under the rule of various kingdoms, including the Gupta, Pal and Sen empires in throughout the centuries. Ikhtiar Uddin Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khilji's conquest of Nodiya was marked the beginning of Muslim rule in Bengal on 13th century. He was influencing the region's cultural and religious landscape. Meherpur has rich cultural activities and traditions like Folk songs, Baul Songs, Dehatatya songs, Kabi songs, Jari songs etc. The district was named in honor of Mher Ali Shah which was a notable spiritual figure in the area.

Meherpur is mainly agricultural region. Many people of this region depend on this agriculture for their livelihood. This region has a large amount of fertile land for which agriculture is flourishing. Moreover, Meherpur continues to contribute to Bangladesh's agricultural production.

Meherpur has various historical landmarks which are Mujibnagar Liberation War Memorial Complex, Ballabpur Church, Nilkuthi, Gosaidubi mosque etc. These landmarks show the district's political and cultural significance. According to the 2022 BBS census, Meherpur has 705,356 peoples with a Muslim majority of 97.87%. The population density of Meherpur District is 951 people in per square kilometer.

1.2 Study Area Profile

A reconnaissance survey is a preliminary investigation conducted to gather basic information about an area or subject, often serving as the first step in a larger project. Its purpose is to provide an overview of the location, including its physical features, infrastructure and any potential activities, without going into detail. This type of survey involves rapid data collection through visual inspections, basic tools, and sometimes aerial views. The findings from a reconnaissance survey help in guiding further, more detailed studies or decision-making processes, ensuring efficient planning and resource allocation.

Our study area was the main hub under Meherpur Paurashava about 0.2 sq. km. including Boro Bazar, Kasari Bazar, Bos Para, Ful Bagan Para, Kathuli Bus Stand, Gorh Pukur etc. We targeted a buffer zone of 250m centric from the Boro Bazar Char Raster Mor. The major observed key locations were the Paurashava Bhaban, Paurashava Hall, Shamsujjoha Park, Paurashava Katcha Bazar, District Primary Education Office, Meherpur Food Storehouse, Gorh Pond, Govt. Women College, Govt. Girls' School, Some Temples and Asroms etc. including other Bazars.

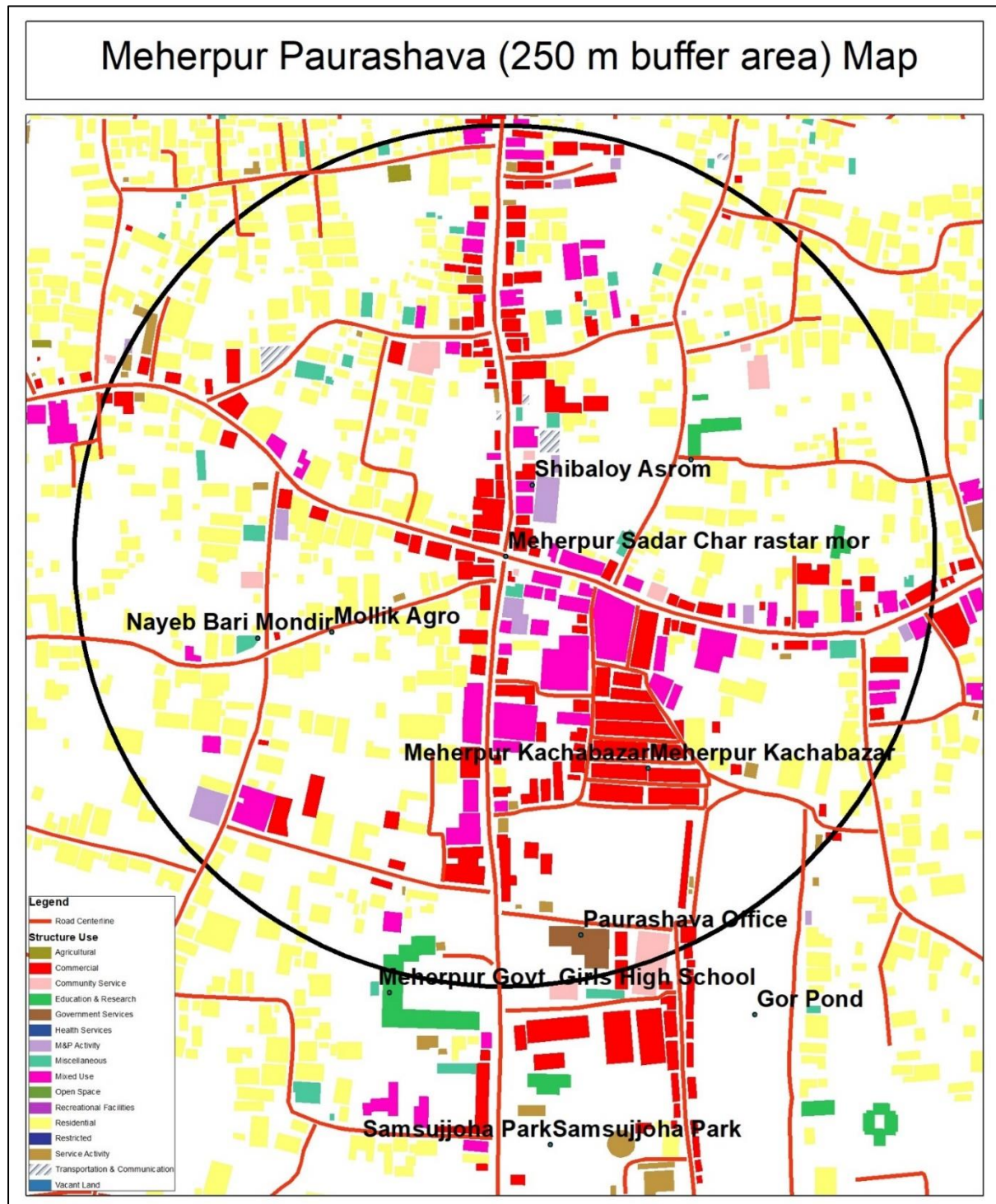


Image: Location Map of Reconnaissance Survey Area

1.3 Objectives:

- a) To gather preliminary information about that area.
- b) To identify potential challenges for further detailed surveys or project planning
- c) To observe the activities of the study area and livelihood of the local people

Chapter Two: Field Observation

2.1 Description of the Field Visit

The name of the project is “Preparation of Development Plan for Meherpur Zilla”. Under this project, I visited that Meherpur Zilla for Reconnaissance Survey. The time period of this survey was 15-10-2024 to 16-10-2024. In that time period, our survey area was a buffer zone of 250m centric from the Boro Bazar Char Rater Mor. In this reconnaissance survey, I collected rapid data through visual inspection, image capture and public activity information. In that survey period, on the 15th October morning, I set out for the reconnaissance survey at 10:00 am. starting from Boro Bazar Char Rastar Mor. The first route led me along Thana Road, passing through Ful Bagan Para, which is situated in the north-western part of the study area and continuing to Kathuli Bus Stand Mor. I then returned to Char Rastar Mor and proceeded along Wapda Road. At Zoha Chattar, I took a right turn towards Gorh Pukur, eventually reaching Boro Bazar. The first phase of the survey concluded at 2:00 pm. The second phase commenced later that same day, at 4:00 pm. again starting from Char Rastar Mor. This time, I covered the Bosh Para area, situated in the south-western part of the study area, which is a predominantly residential neighborhood. After returning to the starting point, I continued towards the Paurashava Bhaban, Shamsujjoha Park and Paurashava Hall where I remained until 6:30 pm. On October 16th, I began the third phase of the survey very early in morning at 6:30 am. which lasted until 10:30 am. This phase focused on the south-eastern part of the area, starting from Boro Bazar Center mainly including the Gorh Para and a little portion of the college para, where I observed the morning activities and livelihood pattern of the local residents. The final phase took place later that day, from 11:30 am. to 2:00 pm. focusing on the north-eastern part of the study area, particularly Kasab Para. This is another residential zone, with no significant economic activities observed during the survey.

2.1.1 First Survey Period (15-10-2024, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm)

The first day of Morning, I started my survey area at Boro Bazar Char Raster More to Kathuli Bus Stand via Thana Road, Ful Bagan Para, Dhop More by walking through.

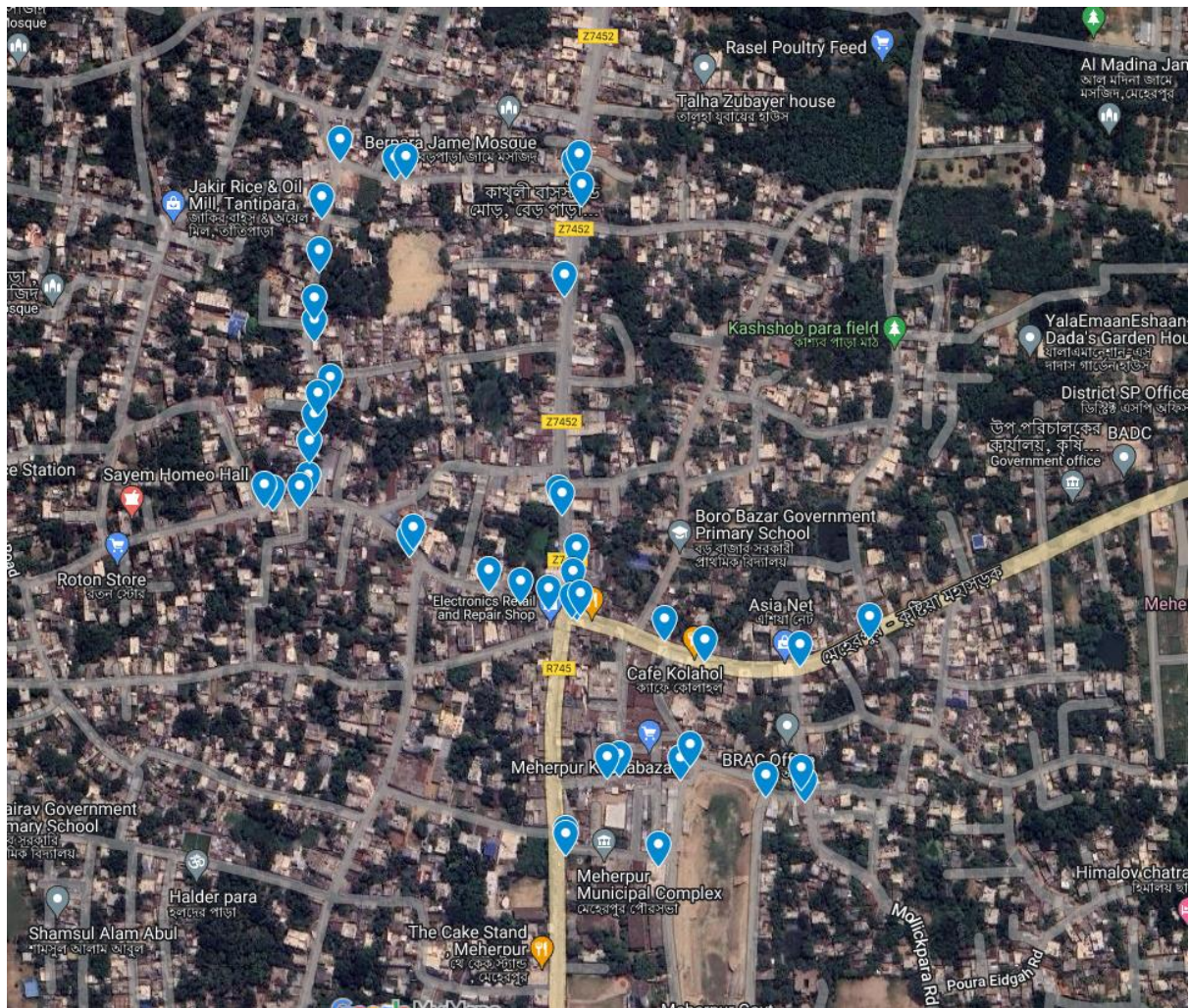


Image: First Reconnaissance Survey Period of Meherpur



IMAGE: Grocery Shop, Fabrics Shop in Thana Road



IMAGE: Grass Shop in Thana Road

In the thana road area, I saw that formal activity like Grocery shop, Fabrics shop, Oil depo, Grass shop, Tea stall etc. I did not see any informal activity in that area. Maximum portion of Full Bagan Para is Residential and a lower portion of business activity is visible like formal business activity. As a result, sound pollution is very low in that area. I like to walk after this for the cool environment and for less noise pollution.



IMAGE: Tea Stall in Ful Bagan Para Road

Tea stall made on drain slab. It is true that there is a person and employment for this stall, but the dirt of this stall falls into the direct drain.



IMAGE: Dumping Point in Thana Road & Fulla Bagan Para Road

Dumping Point is available in the thana road area and people are using these dumping points very well. I like the location of Dumping Points and even more like the people using it.



IMAGE: Open Drain in Full Bagan Para Road

I saw that drainage system is very poor and this drain is open. As a result, drains get filled with dirt and the normal flow of water is obstructed. It seems to me that water logging is creating because the drains fill up with dirt and this increases the suffering of people during rains.



IMAGE: Construction Materials in Kathuli Bus Stand Road

Construction materials leave debris on drains and I think that sidewalks which are very dangerous for pedestrians.



Image: Kathuli Bus Stand

In the Kathuli Bus stand, I saw that there was busier than Full Bagan Para. Formal and informal activity available in that area. It is a road junction connecting Meherpur to Kathuli Road with Phul Bagan Road. Many autos are available from this junction which go towards Kathuli, Kulbaria and Uzulpur.



Image: Tiles Shop



Image: Restaurant



Image: Tea Stall



Image: Grocery Shop

After that I stayed at the road from Kathuli bus stand to the intersection of Char Raster More and watched the business activities of the people on both sides of the road. I saw different types of formal business activities like Grocery Shop, Fabrics Shop, Restaurant, Wood Shop, Junk Shop, Plastic Shop etc. This formal activity is permanently in the building on both sides of the road.



Image: Informal Business



Image: Informal Business

Informal business activity centers sit temporarily next to the road, sit on vans or sit in empty spaces in front of permanent shops. Informal business activity like Fruits Stall, Movable shop, Floating plastic shop, Muchi etc.



Image: Tea Stall

It's a Tong Dokan in the road. These tong shops are a kind of hangout place. People now come here and chat for hours with a cup of tea. This kind of communication is good for human relations. On the other hand, the sales of this tong dokan increased and its income increased.



Image: Movable Shop (Banana Van)



Image: Movable Shop (Banana Van)

This is a mobile fruit shop. The owner of this shop came to this place in a van and sold bananas and left with the van after the sale. His income depends on it.



Image: Sri Sri Shibaloy Asrom

Sri Sri Shibaloy Asrom are situated in the east side of Borobazar to Kathuli Union road.



Image: Sri Sri Siddeshwari Kali Mandir

I walked along that road and arrived at the Boror Bazar Char Raster More. Then I walked east from the intersection of Char Raster More along Gangni Road and came to Joha Chattar. Located on the south side of this road is the Katcha Bazar. Along this road is located a temple named Sri Sri Siddeshwari Kali Mandir.



Image: Umbrella Maker



Image: Fruits Stall



Image: Grocery Shop

The amount of formal and informal business activity on both sides of this road is very high which extends to Joha Chattar. In that area, I saw those different types of formal business activity like Pharmacy, Flower Shop, Departmental shop, Grocery Shop, Vegetable Shop, Tea Stall etc. There are also several informal business activities in that area. I saw that fruits shop, muchi, umbrella maker etc.



Image: Zoha Chatter



Image: Mallik Para Road



Image: Birds Shop



Image: Birds Shop

From Joha Chattar, I came to Pira Chattar via Mallik Para Road in the south. When I came to Pira Chattar, I saw some bird shops. Apart from birds, these shops also sell bird food.

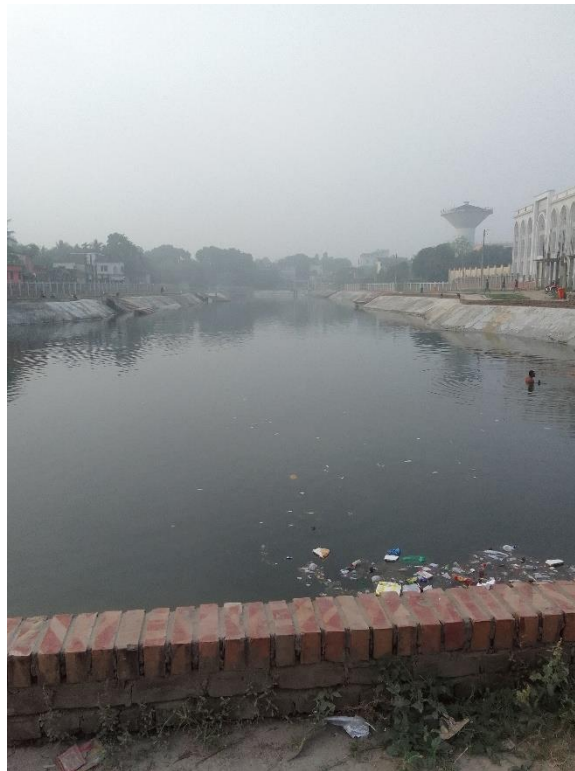


Image: Gorh Pond

I came to Gorh Pond through Katcha Bazar road from Pira Chattar. This is a big open space in Meherpur municipality. In that area, maximum people come to this area to have a good time. Some people come to this place for bathing, youths come to hang out at this place.



Image: Katcha Bazar



Image: Katcha Bazar



Image: Katcha Bazar



Image: Katcha Bazar

Then from this Gorh Pukur, I go to the Katcha Bazar. There are wholesale and retail traders at this Katcha Bazar. The wholesale market starts at 6 am and runs until 11 am. Vegetables harvested from this wholesale market are sent to different districts. With this, the survey work of that time is finished.

2.1.2 Second Survey Period (15-10-2024, 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm)

From 4 pm, we started the survey work in the second phase from Shaheed Shamsujjoha Park to Boro Bazar Char Raster More.

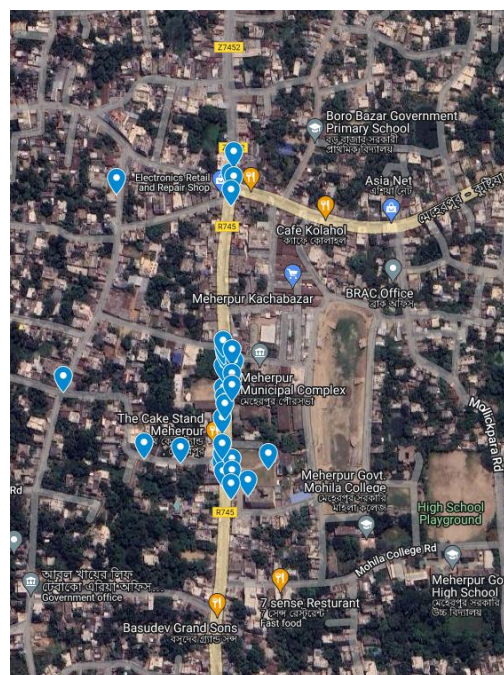


Image: Second Reconnaissance Survey Period of Meherpur

On both sides of this road, formal business activities as well as informal activities come in abundance. There are schools, municipal buildings, parks, guest houses, food warehouses, education offices on both sides of this road.



Image: Chatpoti Stall



Image: Badam Stall



Image: Plastic Stall



Image: Badam Stall



Image: Fast Food Stall



Image: Sweet Stall



Image: Tea Stall



Image: Fast Food

Another important informal activity are the food vans. These vans mainly sat in front of the Paurashava Hall, Samsujjoha Park and Paurashava Bhaban along two sides of the Boro Bazar Road. Despite of some food carts, maximum sat in the afternoon around 4.00 pm. until 10.00/10.30 pm. The food items mainly include Fuchka, Chotpoti, Jhalmuri, Burger, Peanut,

Chickpea, Popcorn and Lemon Drinks. People of different ages come here to eat and have a good time. Now it is a small business of good level.



Image: Tea Stall



Image: Dumping Point



Image: Ghosh Para Road



Image: Radha Madob Mondir

I also visited Bos Para which is also called girls school para. It is situated in west side of Shahid Shamsujjoha Park. It is dedicated residential area. There is also little portion of business activity in this area. Radha Madop Mandir is situated in this area.

2.1.3 Third Survey Period (16-10-2024, 6:30 am to 10:30 am)

The next morning, I went to visit the Katcha Bazar at 6:30 am. This Katcha Bazar is the biggest market in Meherpur municipality.

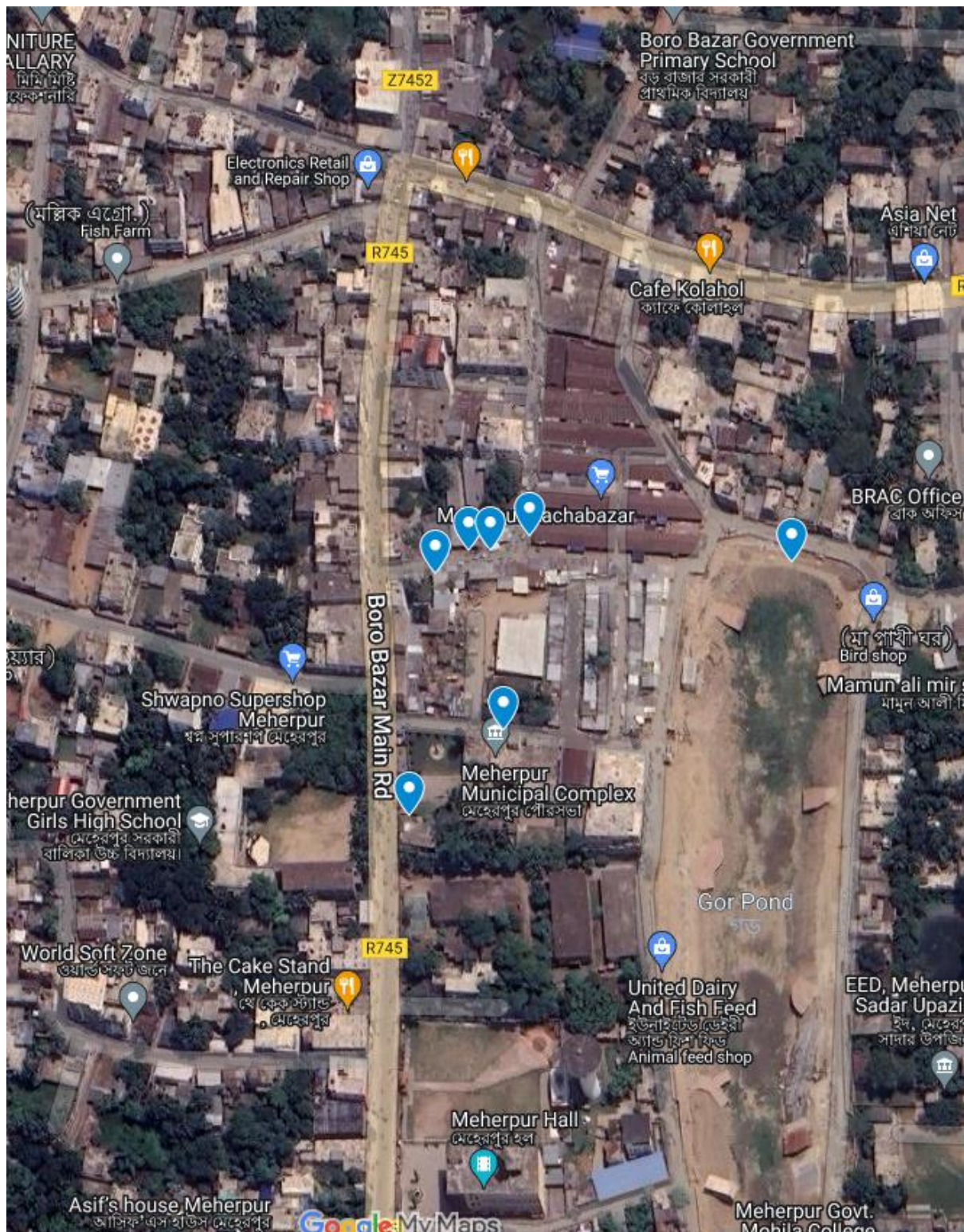


Image: Third Reconnaissance Survey Period of Meherpur



Image: Fish Market near Gorh Pond



Image: Meherpur KatchaBazar



Image: Meherpur KatchaBazar



Image: Meherpur KatchaBazar

Now that is the business at the wholesale and retail level. Vegetables harvested from this wholesale market are sent to different districts. There are several products are available in this

Katcha Bazar like vegetables, onions, ginger, garlic, papaya, gourd, cucumber, sweet pumpkin etc. There are also different types of fish available in this Katcha Bazar. The fish are farmed in the village pond.

2.1.4 First Survey Period (16-10-2024, 11:30 am to 2:00 pm)

After 11:30 am, we enter Keshobpara area to survey from Boro Bazar area. This area is dedicated residential area.

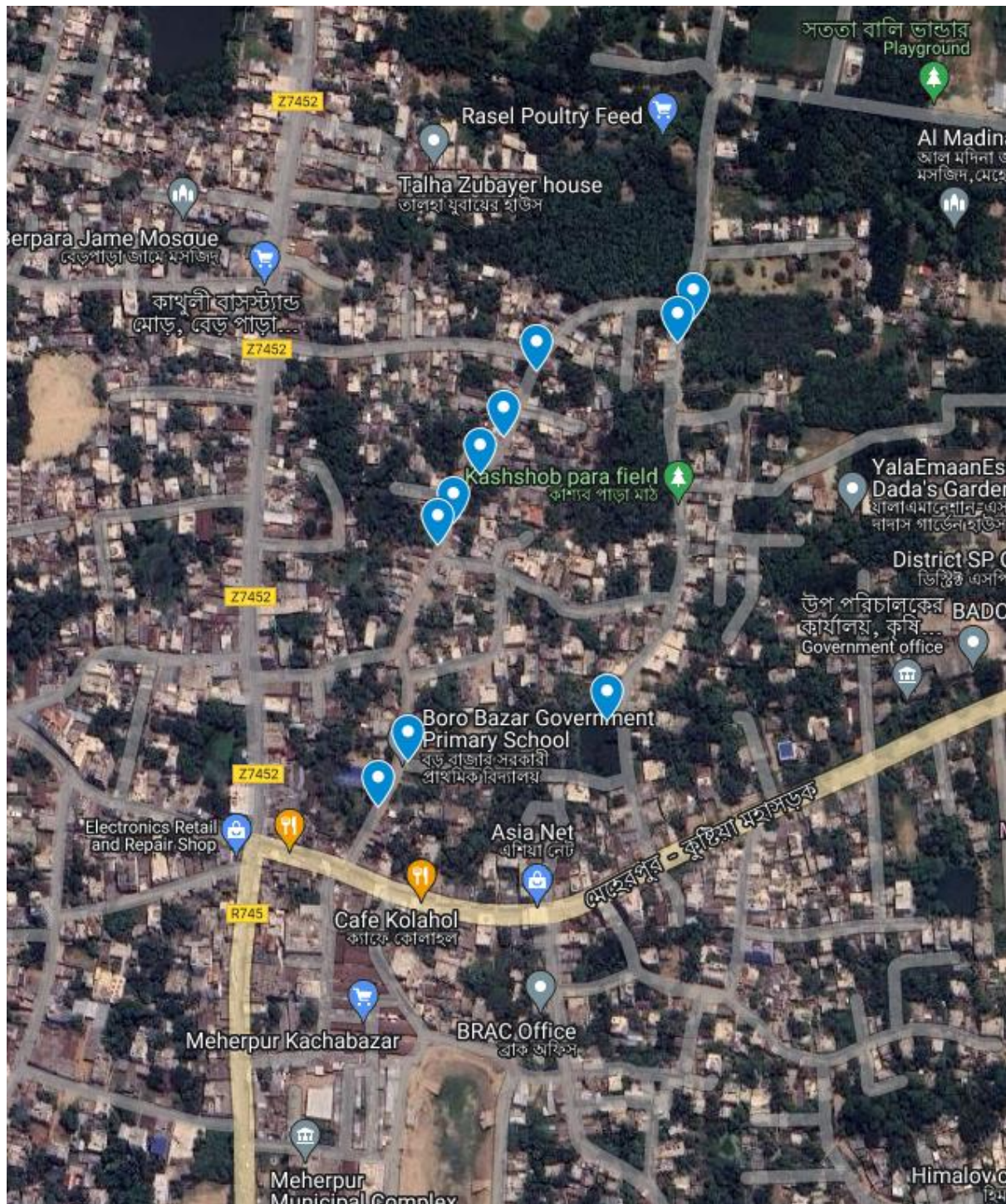


Image: Fourth Reconnaissance Survey Period of Meherpur



Image: Boro Bazar Govt. Primary School



Image: Keshobpara Road



Image: Grocery Shop in Keshobpara

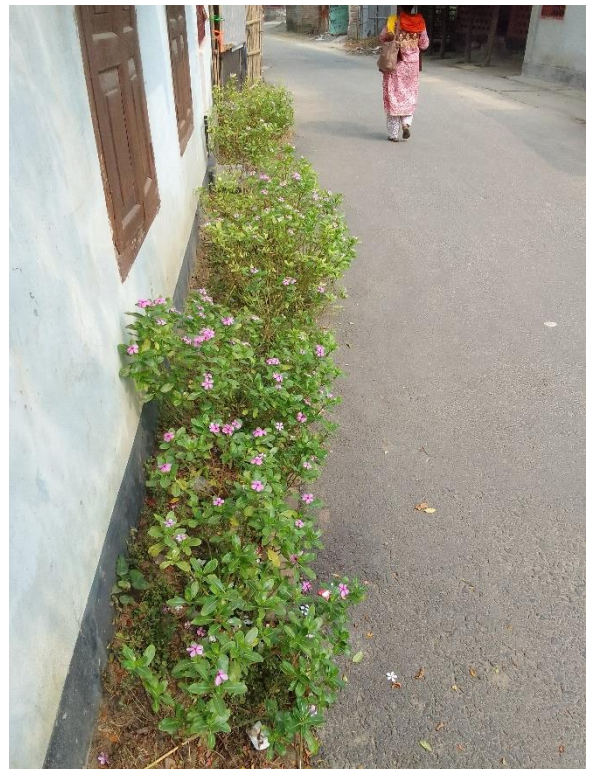


Image: Individually Owned Garden



Image: Blacksmith in Keshobpara



Image: Keshobpara Pond

In this area, there is little portion of business activity like Grocery Shop, Tea Stall and Blacksmith. There is a Govt. Primary School in this area. There is also mango garden, pond, sports field in this area.

2.2 Transportation System

Meherpur has a developing transportation system that plays a crucial role in connecting its rural areas to neighboring regions. The district is primarily reliant on road transport, with buses, rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, van, cycle and motorcycles serving as the main modes of local travel. The road network connects Meherpur to nearby districts like Kushtia and Chuadanga, facilitating the movement of people and goods. While there is no railway system in Meherpur itself, nearby rail stations provide access to broader rail networks. Public transportation services are relatively limited, and many residents rely on personal vehicles for commuting.

2.2.1 Transport Infrastructure

In the study area maximum roads were pucca with good condition, though many of them are quite narrow. These roads serve as vital connections, particularly in the busy bazar areas, where space is limited due to the high volume of vehicles.



Image: Thana Road



Image: Dhop More to Kathuli More



Image: Kathuli More



Image: Mollik Bari Road



Image: Keshobpara Road



Image: Keshobpara to Zoha Chatter Road

Three main roads link Meherpur Paurashava to the surrounding districts and Upazilas of Chuadanga, Kushtia, Gangni and Mujibnagar, providing important regional connectivity. In residential areas, the roads are well-maintained, with smooth surfaces and no significant issues with traffic. There are also footpaths in some parts of the Paurashava, but they are mostly narrow and constructed over covered drains, offering limited space for pedestrians.

2.2.2 Traffic Pattern

The traffic pattern in Meherpur is characterized by a mix of various vehicles that reflect the local culture and economy. Motorcycle, Easy bike and Auto-rickshaws are the most common vehicles, providing essential mobility for residents.



Image: Auto



Image: Battery Rickshaw



Image: Motor Bike



Image: Bicycle

Motorcycles are widely used for personal transport here. Battery-powered vans are also prevalent, especially for trips within the surrounding areas. A traditional vehicle is “covered vans” for carrying passengers. Small trucks are used for transporting agricultural goods. Additionally, Leguna, Nochimon, Bus and Trucks are also scene in Meherpur.

2.2.3 Traffic Congestion

Despite the well-paved roads, traffic congestion is a regular issue in certain areas due to the narrowness. In the bazar areas, narrow roads combined with heavy traffic cause frequent, short-term jams. Rickshaws and auto-rickshaws contribute to this by stopping randomly, adding to the chaos. In the mornings, vehicles with agricultural products park on both sides of the road in the Boro Bazar to unload their goods, further blocking traffic. Motorcycles parked in front of shops also reduce road space, hindering both vehicle movement and pedestrian flow. During the evening, from Paurashava Hall to Char Rastar Mor becomes particularly congested due to the food carts and their customers crowding the road, slowing down traffic even more. These factors together lead to regular traffic congestion, affecting smooth transportation and pedestrian mobility in the key areas of the town.

2.3 Livelihood Pattern:

2.3.1 Gathering Places:

Inside the Municipality area the main gathering places are the tea stall, open spaces like Shahid Shamsujjoha Park or Pauro Guest House, religious places and Gorh pond bank. Old people mainly spending their free time in religious places or tea stall. Young people are mainly spending their free time in Shahid Shamsujjoha Park. Pauro Guest House or Gorh Pond Bank. They also pass their free time in playing sports at High School Playground. During the evening people gather in the food carts and pass their time with friends and family.



Image: Pauro Hall



Image: Shahid Shamsujjoha Park



Image: Gorh Pond



Image: Tea & Coffee Stall

2.3.2 Informal Activity:

Informal business activities in Meherpur significantly contribute to the local economy. These include street food stalls serving affordable meals, small retail shops offering daily essentials, and local artisans producing handmade crafts. These activities create job opportunities, enhance community connections, and meet local needs, playing a vital role in the area's economic landscape. A challenging issue observed there about the growing number of informal or mobile activities, whose have no permanent place for their business. The informal activities which are temporary or mobile shops sitting on the footpath or beside the road side are mainly identified in the study. These shops usually sit on the van in different time duration of the day. There are several informal business activities in Meherpur Municipality. In my reconnaissance survey, I can see that tea stall, fruits stall Infront of permanent shop space or road side, mobile fruits stall, cattle food like grass or leaf, mobile fast food, mobile chatpoti stall, mobile fuchka stall, mobile nuts stall, plastic stall on roadside, Muchi, Umbrella maker etc.



Image: Mobile Banana Stall



Image: Fruits Stall Infront of Commercial Space



Image: Coconut Shop on Road Side

A large number of informal activities include the fruit vans. As I have visited the place in the season of Banana, a lot of Banana vans are observed throughout the area. A lot of green Coconut businessmen also sat in different places on the van or in front of the shops beside the road side. Other fruits were mainly Guajava, Apple, Pineapple, Grapes, Orange, Malta etc.



Image: Mobile Fuchka Shop



Image: Mobile Nuts Shop



Image: Mobile Fast Food

Another important informal activity are the food vans. These vans mainly sat in front of the Paurashava Hall, Samsujjoha Park and Paurashava Bhaban along two sides of the Boro Bazar Road. The food items mainly include Fuchka, Chotpoti, Jhalmuri, Burger, Peanut, Chickpea, Popcorn and Lemon Drinks.



Image: Cattle Food



Image: Plastic Shop on Road Side



Image: Muchi

The other prominent informal activity includes cattle foods like big grass, jackfruit leaf, straw etc. Even the households, living in the core Paurashava Area have cattle mainly Goat, which are fed with these locally available resources. The cattle foods are coming mainly from the outer part of the Paurashava area. A lot of farmers are cultivating the grass and living on it. Plastic shop in front of Shahid Shamsujjoha Park. They sell different types goods which are related in kitchen house. They also sell plastic sports material for young people. The cobblers are mainly found near the Boro Bazar Char Rastar Mor. Four were observed in a nearby distance surrounding this intersection. They are sitting in the same place since many years. One informed that, he is sitting in the same place for 33 years and there at the same place his brother, father and grandfather also sat.



Image: Tea Stall on Drain at Full Bagan Para



Image: Tea Stall in front of Shahid Shamsujjoha Park



Image: Tea Stall on Drain at Bos Para

Tea stalls in Meherpur are vibrant social hubs, serving as popular gathering spots for locals. These stalls offer a variety of tea, often accompanied by snacks like biscuits and fritters. They play a crucial role in daily life, providing a space for people to relax, catch up with friends, and discuss local news. The lively atmosphere, combined with the aroma of freshly brewed tea, makes these stalls an integral part of the community, fostering social connections and local culture. In Meherpur, tea stalls are often set up on drains, footpaths, or roadside areas, reflecting the informal nature of street vending. These stalls are easily accessible and cater to the busy lifestyles of locals, providing a quick and affordable option for tea and snacks. Despite the challenges of location, such as limited space and cleanliness, these stalls thrive due to their convenience and the vibrant social atmosphere they create. They contribute significantly to the local economy and culture, becoming essential meeting points for the community.

2.3.3 Motorbike:

Meherpur, a district in Bangladesh, has a growing culture of motorbiking, influenced by the rise in local transportation needs and the popularity of motorbikes for commuting. The roads in and around Meherpur are increasingly frequented by motorbike users, making it a common sight to see individuals and families using bikes for daily errands and travel. Local businesses have also adapted, with shops offering motorcycle repairs, accessories, and services. However, safety remains a concern, prompting initiatives for better road awareness and traffic regulations. Overall, motorbikes are becoming an integral part of life in Meherpur, providing convenience and mobility to its residents.



Image: People are using Motorbike



Image: Motorbike Park on the Drain

In Meherpur, motorbikes have become a popular mode of transportation, frequently used by locals for various purposes. Residents often use them not just for commuting but also for leisurely outings, such as visiting tea stalls with friends. The convenience and affordability of motorbikes make them ideal for quick trips, whether for work, shopping, or socializing. This trend highlights the integral role of motorbikes in everyday life in Meherpur, blending practicality with social culture.

In Meherpur, young people frequently use motorbikes for transportation to educational institutions and sports activities. While this mode of transport is convenient and popular, many riders neglect safety precautions, such as wearing helmets. This lack of safety gear increases the risk of accidents and injuries. Promoting helmet use and road safety awareness is essential to protect young riders and ensure safer travel in the community. Implementing educational campaigns and stricter enforcement of safety regulations could significantly improve overall road safety for young motorbike users.

2.4 Civic Facility:

2.4.1 Education:

Meherpur Municipality offers a range of educational facilities, catering to various levels of education. The area has several primary and secondary schools, both public and private, providing foundational education to children. Notable institutions focus on academic excellence and extracurricular activities. There are two Govt, High Schools in Boro Bazar Area.



Image: Boro Bazar Govt. Primary School



Image: Meherpur Govt. Technical School & School



Image: Meherpur Govt. College



Image: Meherpur Govt. Girls College

In addition to schools, Meherpur has colleges Meherpur Govt. College and Meherpur Govt. Mohila College that offer higher education, including vocational training programs to equip students with practical skills for the job market. The local government and community organizations are also working to improve educational access and quality, emphasizing the importance of education for community development.

2.4.2 Health Facility:

Meherpur Municipality is home to a 250-bedded hospital, a nurse training center, and several private medical facilities. However, despite these resources, the overall health facilities in the area are considered below standard. Challenges such as limited access to specialized care, insufficient medical equipment, and a shortage of healthcare professionals affect the quality of services. Efforts are needed to improve infrastructure, enhance training programs, and ensure better healthcare delivery to meet the community's needs effectively.



Image: Meherpur Nursing Institute



Image: 250 Bedded General Hospital



Image: Life Care D-Lab Hospital Ltd.



Image: Jonota Clinic

2.4.3 Drainage:

Meherpur Municipality has been working to improve its drainage facilities, although challenges remain. The drainage system primarily consists of open drains and canals, which are essential for managing rainwater and preventing flooding during the monsoon season. Efforts have been made to maintain and upgrade these drainage systems to ensure better water flow and reduce waterlogging in urban areas. However, issues such as encroachment, littering, and inadequate infrastructure can hinder efficiency. Local authorities continue to address these challenges, aiming to enhance drainage management for better sanitation and environmental conditions in the municipality.



Image: Open Drain in Fullbagan Para



Image: Covered Drain in Kathuli Road



Image: Broken Drain in Dhop More



Image: Covered Drain in front of Paurashava Bhaban

2.4.4 Dumping Point:

In Meherpur Municipality, designated dumping points are established for waste management, aiming to keep the area clean and organized. These sites are crucial for the disposal of solid waste collected from residential and commercial areas. Local authorities work to manage these dumping points, although challenges like illegal dumping and overflow can occur. Efforts are ongoing to promote better waste segregation and recycling practices among residents, alongside initiatives to improve sanitation and hygiene. Community awareness programs are also important in encouraging responsible waste disposal, helping to maintain a cleaner environment in Meherpur.



Image: Dustbin in Thana Road



Image: Dustbin on Kathuli Road



Image: Dustbin in Char Raster More

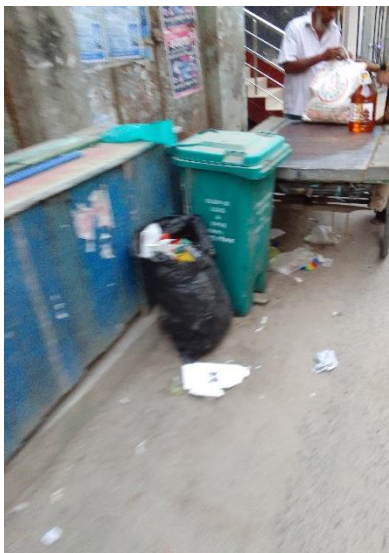


Image: Dustbin in Char Raster More



Image: Dustbin Bos Para



Image: Dustbin in Keshobpara

2.4.5 Water Supply:

Meherpur Municipality provides water supply services primarily through a central water tank that serves the core municipal area. This facility is essential for ensuring access to potable water for residents. The municipality has implemented a system to distribute water from the tank, catering to the needs of the local population.



Image: Water Tank in Meherpur Municipality

While the central water supply is a significant improvement, challenges such as seasonal shortages and infrastructure maintenance can affect availability. Efforts are being made to enhance the water supply system, including plans for expanding access and improving the quality of water to ensure that all residents have reliable access to clean drinking water. Community awareness about water conservation and management is also a key focus in promoting sustainable usage.

2.4.6 Recreational Facility:

Meherpur Municipality features several key recreational facilities that enhance community life. Gorh Pond Bank offers a peaceful environment for relaxation and leisurely walks, surrounded by natural beauty. Shahid Shamsujjoha Park serves as a vibrant gathering spot, equipped with walking paths and green spaces, making it ideal for social events and family outings. Shishu Park is dedicated to children, providing safe play areas that encourage outdoor activities. Together, these facilities promote social interaction, physical activity, and a connection to nature, enriching the overall quality of life for residents.



Image: Shahid Shamsujjoha Park



Image: Gorh Pond



Image: Shishu Park



Image: High School Playground

2.4.7 Housing Pattern:

In Meherpur Municipality, housing patterns reflect a mix of traditional and modern influences. The area features a variety of structures, from single-story homes to multi-story buildings, often made of brick and concrete. Many houses are designed with open courtyards, allowing for natural ventilation and community interaction. In urban areas, residential developments are increasingly accommodating growing populations, leading to denser housing. Traditional thatched-roof houses can still be found in some parts, showcasing the region's cultural heritage. Overall, the housing patterns in Meherpur highlight a blend of practicality and local traditions, adapting to the needs of its residents while maintaining cultural identity.

Chapter Three: City Rhythms and Emotional Landscapes:

3.1 Overall Emotion after Observing of the City

The emotion of the mind during visual activity encompasses a range of feelings and reactions influenced by what we see. Visual inspection can evoke emotions such as joy, sadness, fear, or nostalgia, depending on personal experiences and context. Nature scenes often bring calmness and peace, whereas urban environments might inspire energy or anxiety. This emotional response is not only personal but also cultural, as shared experiences can shape how groups respond to visual inspection. Meherpur Municipality has its own unique charm, though the midday hours can feel a bit slow and unexciting. However, as the afternoon rolls in, the city bursts into life, especially in the municipal area, where energy and activity fill the streets. It's heartening to see a relatively clean environment, with less garbage compared to larger cities, which adds to the appeal. Despite the quieter moments, there's a sense of community and vibrancy that makes exploring Meherpur a rewarding experience.

3.2 Change of Emotion during different time period of a day

In the Morning (6.30 am. to 10.30 am.): Meherpur Paurashava is a small developing town with a rural and cultural ambiance. In the morning, Meherpur Municipality exudes a calm and peaceful atmosphere. The streets are quiet, with only a few people going about their early routines. This tranquil period offers a sense of stillness, allowing residents to reflect and prepare for the day ahead. Early in the morning after the fazar prayer the older people go out for the morning walk. As the sun rises, the lively Katcha Bazar begins to awaken, becoming the busiest spot in the area. Here, the vibrant colors of fresh vegetables and fish, along with the sounds of haggling and laughter, contrast with the morning serenity. The hotels and katcha bazars start their activities after 7.00 am. Cleaners are seemed several places sweeping the roads. Peoples' activity during this time is very limited. Only in the katcha bazar area feel very active. Students also go for the privates not so early. The overall emotion during this time frame is good to me.

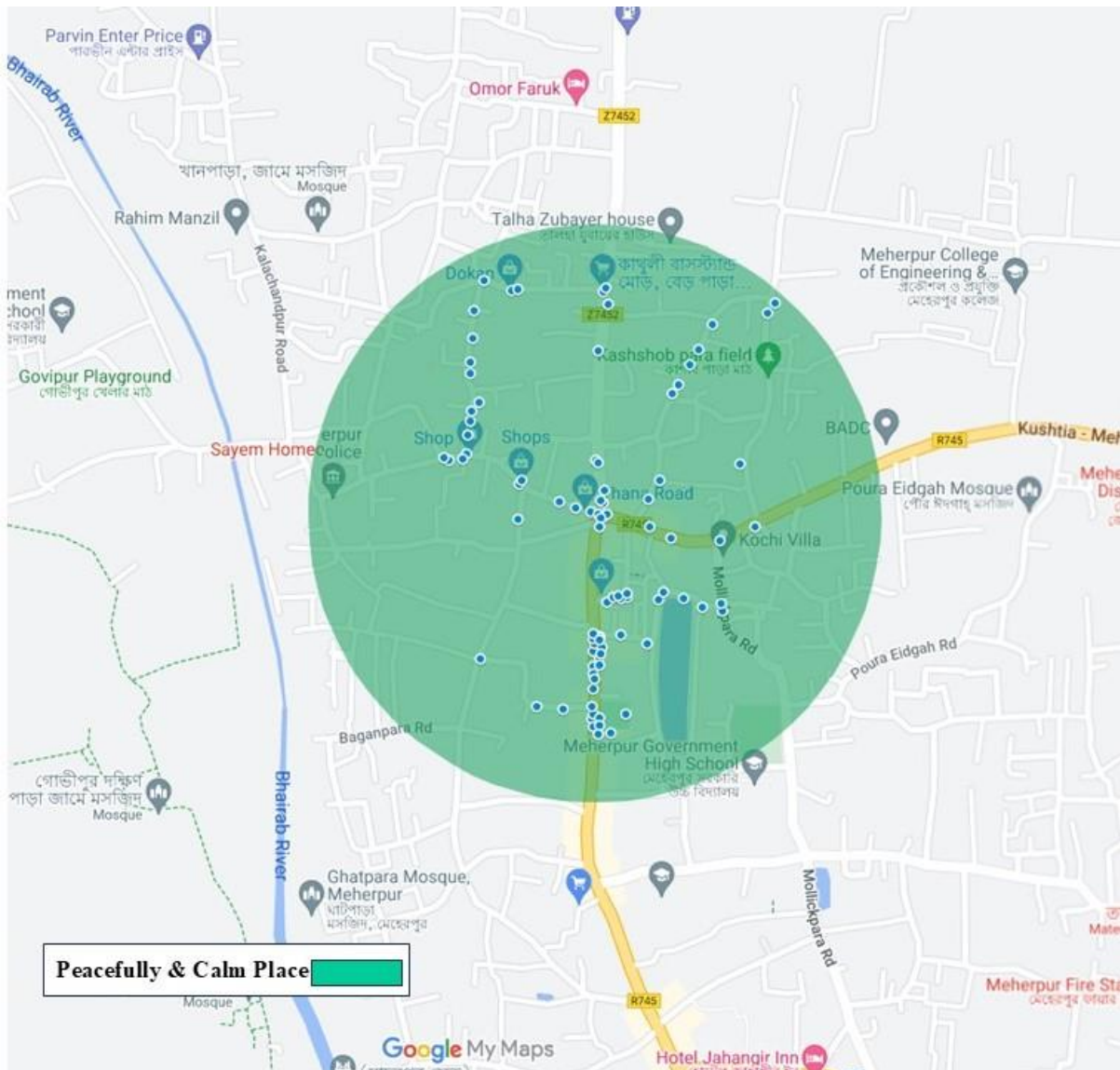
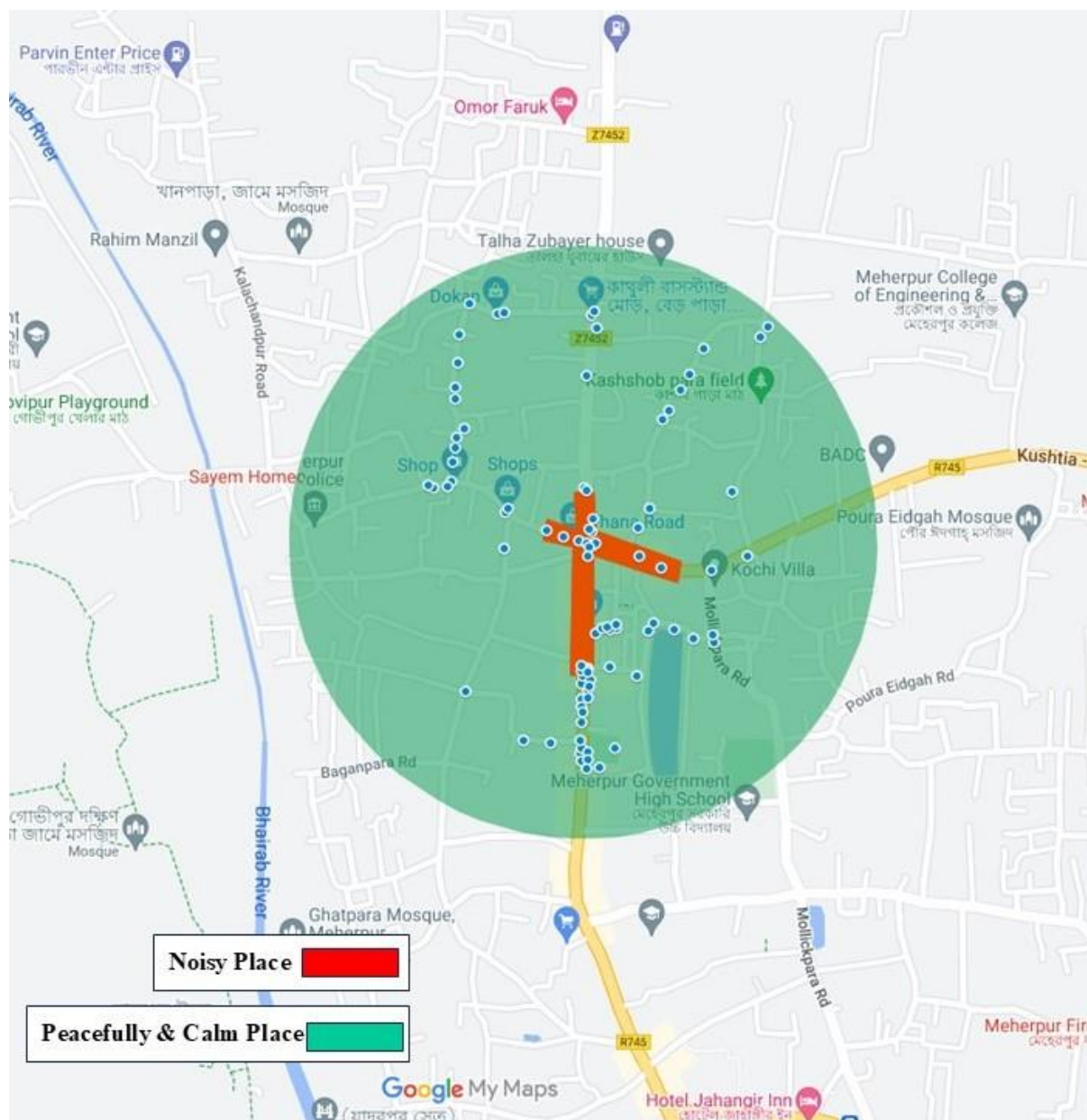


Image: Emotion Map of Morning Survey Period

During the late Morning to Noon (10.30 am. to 2.00 pm.): This is the most active time frame in a day. People become very lively. All the shops begin to open after 10.30 am. The bazar areas start their activities in fully. People from all ages seems too busy with their particular work and destination. Women and children come for shopping mainly within this time. The wholesale markets- vegetable arot and fish arot, come to an end around 11.00 am. The retail shops remain open all day long until all their products are finished. Office and other occupation holder seem going for their work. Most of the males use Bikes even in a shorter distance. Females and child use Auto-rickshaw or Easy Bikes for their movement. The bazar areas become very congested during this time. Bikes are parked here and there in front of the shops. Auto-rickshaws and Easy Bikes stop randomly which also feels bad. The emotion in this time is not very satisfactory.



From the late Noon to Evening (4.30 pm. to 6.30 pm.): During the mid-noon the area become again inactive. People movement seems a reduced amount. The shopkeepers seat very inactively. The town get life again around 4.30 pm. The food carts begin to start their shops. They seat mainly in front of Paurashava Hall to Paurashava Bhaban, on both side of the road. People from all ages come to take a bite and for gathering. The town look very lively during this time in these places. I also enjoy this vibe of the area, the cheerful people and the overall environment.

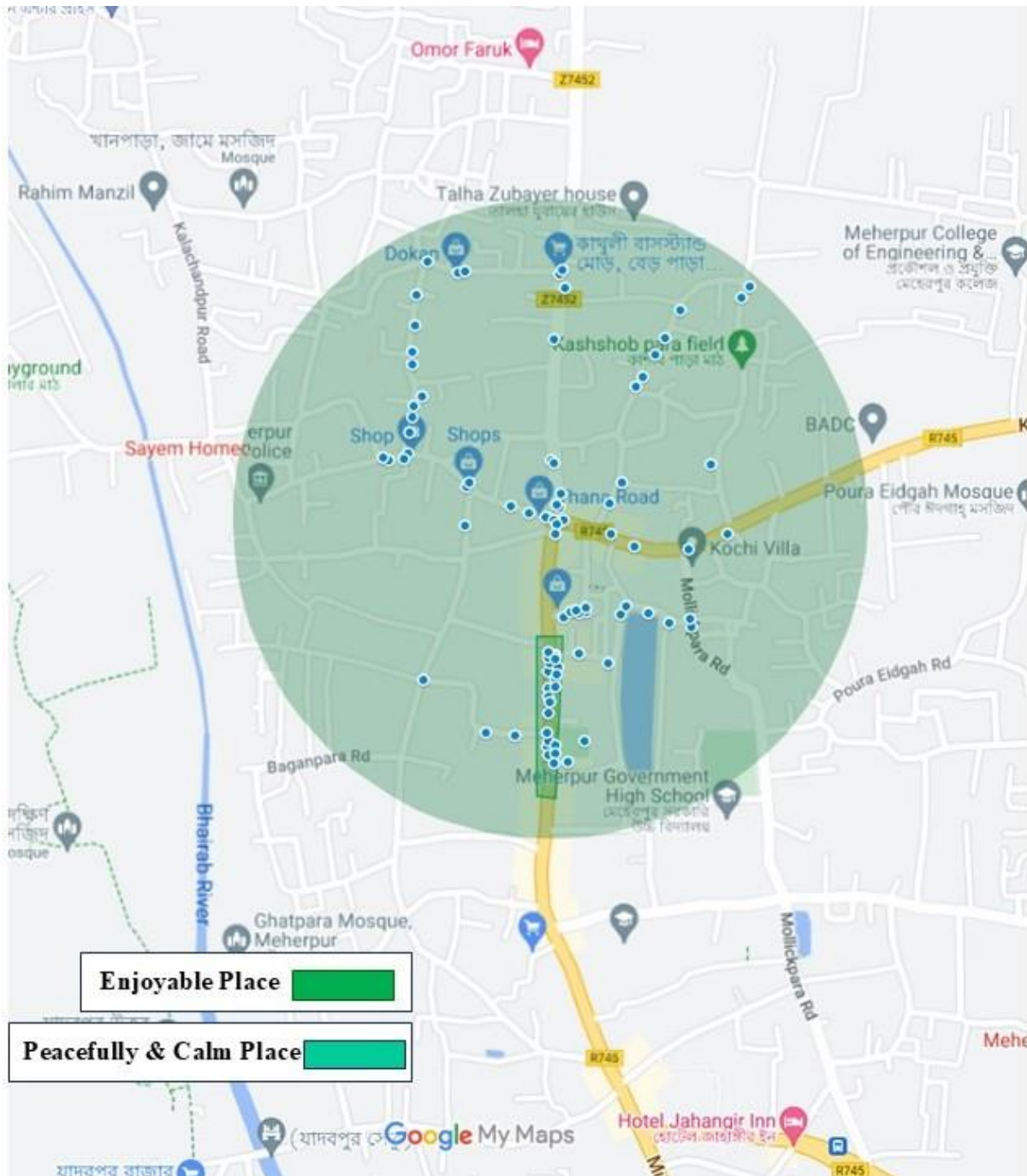


Image: Emotion Map of Noon to Evening Survey Period

3.3 Mental Map

A mental map is a person's internal representation of the world around them, shaped by their experiences, perceptions, and knowledge. It includes how they visualize spaces, places, and their relationships to one another. Mental maps can vary significantly from person to person, influenced by factors like culture, geography, and personal experiences. They help individuals navigate their environments, make decisions, and understand their surroundings, serving as a cognitive tool for organizing information about locations, distances, and routes. In Meherpur Municipality, creating a mental map of the roads I walked through the cities to capture the essence of the area. By marking key locations like the Business Hub, Informal Hub, and important buildings, I can visualize the city's layout and its dynamic character. This exercise

Hand-drawn map of a village layout. The map shows various buildings and roads. The legend at the bottom explains the symbols used:

- S → (House)
- M → (Murali)
- M₁ → (Murali)
- M₂ → (Murali)
- M₃ → (Murali)
- R → (Rural)
- K → (K)
- 1 → (1)

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Chapter Four: Case Studies: Local People's Perception

4.1 Case Study 01: Interview of a Banana Vendor

Abdus Salam is a warm and friendly 40-year-old banana vendor, situated along Kathuli Road near Boro Bazar, just a stone's throw from the Sri Sri Shibaloi Ashram. Hailing from a village in the Kathuli Union, he brings a personal touch to his business, engaging with customers and creating a welcoming atmosphere. Each day, he sets up his stall at 9:00 am, offering a selection of bananas, including the popular "Rong Kola" and "Chapa Kola," sourced from nearby villages. Abdus Salam's routine reflects his dedication to his trade, as he stays until he sells out, often loading his van and heading home after a day of connecting with the community. His approachable demeanor and commitment to his work make him a beloved figure in the local market.



Image: Case Study-1 Abdus Salam

4.2 Case Study 02: Interview of a Cobbler

Shuvash is a dedicated cobbler who has spent 22 years working at Boro Bazar Char Rastar Mor. With a deep sense of nostalgia, he reflects on his family legacy, as both his father and elder brother were also cobblers in the same spot. Every day, he arrives around 8-9 AM and works until 9 PM, showcasing his commitment to his craft. When asked about his choice to continue in this trade, he smiles and shares that he finds happiness in his work, feeling a strong connection to his family's tradition. Shuvash embodies resilience and pride in his occupation, carrying forward a generational legacy while serving the community with skill and warmth.



Image: Case Study-2 Shubash

Chapter Five: Conclusion:

Meherpur Municipality, located in the Meherpur District of Bangladesh, is a vibrant hub that balances urban development with community needs. Established to enhance local governance, it plays a crucial role in providing essential services and infrastructure. While the municipality has made strides in cleanliness and waste management, challenges remain, particularly in busy areas. The afternoons often bring a lively atmosphere, with markets and public spaces bustling with activity. Overall, Meherpur Municipality is a key player in promoting civic engagement and improving the quality of life for its residents. Meherpur Municipality is a small yet vibrant city that balances tranquility with increasing activity. Mornings are peaceful, as residents enjoy walks and shopping for essentials before heading to work. However, as the day progresses, the city becomes busier, with both formal and informal businesses thriving. This growth leads to congestion, particularly in narrow areas like the Boro Bazar Char Rastar More, which can be frustrating for residents seeking ease of movement. Despite its lively atmosphere in the afternoons, where people of all ages gather, Meherpur faces challenges with recreational facilities, making it harder for communities to come together. Additionally, the limited dining options can be disappointing.

Meherpur's business activity is characterized by a mix of formal and informal sectors. Agriculture remains a vital part of the local economy, contributing significantly to Meherpur's identity. The economy is largely driven by agriculture, with many local farmers contributing to the market. Alongside agriculture, small shops and informal vendors play a vital role in meeting the daily needs of residents. In recent years, the growth of various business hubs has stimulated economic activity, attracted more people and fostered entrepreneurship. However, challenges such as congestion and limited recreational spaces can affect the overall business environment. Despite this, Meherpur continues to evolve, adapting to the changing demands of its community.

Informal business activity in Meherpur plays a crucial role in the local economy, providing essential goods and services to the community. This sector includes street vendors, small shops, and home-based businesses, often characterized by low barriers to entry and flexible operations. Informal businesses thrive due to their accessibility and ability to cater to daily needs, making them integral to everyday life. However, they may face challenges such as lack of regulation, limited access to credit, and vulnerability to economic fluctuations. Despite these issues, informal businesses contribute significantly to employment and local culture, fostering a sense of community and resilience among residents.

The development purposes of Meherpur Municipality focus on enhancing the quality of life for residents through improved infrastructure, public services, and economic opportunities. Key objectives include upgrading transportation networks, promoting waste management and sanitation, and expanding access to healthcare and education. The municipality also aims to support local businesses, particularly in agriculture and informal sectors, to boost economic growth. Additionally, initiatives are being developed to create recreational spaces and community centers, fostering social interaction and cultural engagement. Overall, the goal is to create a sustainable and vibrant environment that meets the needs of all residents while encouraging community participation in the development process.