

**0731-121: Principles of Urban Planning**  
**Topic 2**

# **Commonly Used Terminologies for Urban Areas**

Nafisa Farid Moumi (BURP, BUET)  
Lecturer, Department of Real Estate  
Daffodil International University

# Urban Area: Bangladeshi Context

In Bangladesh, the urban areas have been classified into six categories according to their functions and sizes:

- **Megacity**
- **City**
- **Town**
- **City Corporation**
- **Paurashava/ Municipality Area**
- **Other Urban Areas**

# Urban Area: Bangladeshi Context

**Megacity:** It is a metropolitan area having a population of **10 million or more**. Dhaka is the only megacity in Bangladesh. The largest megacities are: **Tokyo, Delhi and Shanghai**. Dhaka's current position is **9<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://www.macrotrends.net/cities/largest-cities-by-population>

**City:** It is an urban area with a population of **1,00,000 and above**. Altogether there are **35** such cities in Bangladesh. Among them, **11** are governed by “City Corporations”. The **24** other cities are governed by “Municipal Corporations/ Paurashava”.

**Town:** It is an urban area with a population of **less than 1,00,000**. There are **490** towns in Bangladesh. Most towns are governed by “Municipal Corporation/ Paurashava”.

# Urban Area: Bangladeshi Context

**City Corporation:** According to the City Corporation Act, 2009 the following criteria are considered for establishing a new city corporation:

- (a) total population;
- (b) population density;
- (c) source of local income;
- (d) economic importance of the area;
- (e) infrastructural facilities and opportunities to expand; and
- (f) public opinion.

There are currently **12** city corporations in Bangladesh: Dhaka North City Corporation, Dhaka South City Corporation, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Comilla, Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Sylhet City Corporation.

# Urban Area: Bangladeshi Context

**Paurashava/ Municipality Area:** According to the Paurashava Act, 2009, an area will have to fulfil the following criteria to become a Paurashava/ Municipality:

- a. **Three-fourth** of the people is involved with the **non-agricultural** profession.
- b. **33 percent** of the land is **non-agriculture** type.
- c. **Density** of the population is not less than **1500** on average in each sq. km.
- d. **Population** will not be less than **50 thousand**.

**Other Urban Areas:** It includes those upazila headquarters that are not paurashavas. The only exception is the **17 unions** adjacent to Dhaka City Corporation under Dhaka Metropolitan Area. These unions are treated as other urban areas based on their urban characteristics.

# Metropolitan Area

- A **metropolitan area** is a region consisting of a **densely populated urban core**, and its **less-populated surrounding territories**
- Metropolitan areas include one or more **urban areas**, and **intervening rural areas** that are **socioeconomically tied to the urban core**, typically measured by commuting patterns
- The area of **Dhaka Statistical Metropolitan Area** is 2161 square kilometers, of which Dhaka City Corporation occupies 301 square kilometers (*Census, 2011*). The Dhaka Metropolitan Area includes Dhaka city corporation (North and South), Savar, and Keraniganj upazila from Dhaka district. It also includes a few Upazilas from Narayanganj, Gazipur, and Narshingdi Districts.

# Suburb

- A suburb is a **mixed-use or residential area**, existing either as part of a city or as a **separate residential community** within commuting distance of a city.
- Suburbs first emerged on a large scale in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as a result of **improved rail and road transport**.
- In general, they have **lower population densities** than inner city and most residents commute to central cities or other business districts for employment.



# Urban Conurbation/ Agglomeration

- A conurbation is a region comprising several **cities, large towns, and other urban areas** that, through population growth and physical expansion, have **merged to form one continuous urban area**.
- In most cases a conurbation is a **polycentric urbanized area**, in which transportation has developed to link areas to create a single urban labor market.
- The term “conurbation” was coined in 1915 by **Sir Patrick Geddes**
- Example: San Francisco Bay Area, Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, New-York Tri-state area etc.



# Primate City

- A primate city is the **largest city** in its country or region, **disproportionately larger** than any others in the urban hierarchy.
- First proposed by the geographer Mark Jefferson in 1939.
- He defines a primate city as being “**at least twice as large as the next largest city and more than twice significant.**”
- Aside from size and economic influence, a primate city will usually have precedence in all other aspects, such as being the **centre of politics, media, culture, and education** and receiving most internal migration.
- Example: Compared to Chattogram, Dhaka is a primate city.

# Satellite Town

- When a big city reaches a certain stage in respect of **growth** (area and population) it becomes unmanageable. Satellite towns are one of the efficient options for **managing city growth**.
- The movement between the **parent city** and the **satellite town** should be fast, easy, comfortable, and affordable.
- The growth of the satellite towns should be controlled. It should never have the equal status of the main city.
- Example: Uttara (15 Km away from city center). It was planned during the 1960s and renamed as Uttara Residential Model Town in 1980 .

# Satellite Town Characteristics

- **Mainly used for residential purposes with independent daily necessities and other functions including:**
  - Small-scale economic activities
  - Retail shops
  - Primary and secondary education facilities and
- **Depends on the main city for:**
  - Major employment opportunities
  - Some specific higher-order services and commodities
  - University for higher education
  - Luxury markets

# Smart City

- The smart city concept integrates information and communication technology (**ICT**), to optimize the **efficiency of city operations and services**.
- Smart city technology allows city officials to interact directly with both **community and city infrastructure** and to **monitor** what is happening in the city and how the city is evolving.

## Watch:

<https://youtu.be/bANfnYDTzxE>

# Smart City

## **Example: Singapore**

- Collects data on daily living, such as, the government system can detect when people are smoking in prohibited areas.
- Launched cameras to monitor crowd density, cleanliness of public spaces, and exact movement of locally registered vehicles.
- The data are stored in an online platform “Virtual Singapore”, giving the government access to how the city is functioning in real-time.

# Smart City

## **Example: Smart Dubai Initiative**

- Using government provided app, “Dubai Now”, people can pay speeding ticket (detected by public camera)
- The same app can be used to pay electricity bill, calling a taxi, finding nearest ATM, tracking a package, report a violation to Dubai Police, tracking visa status, renew vehicle registration etc.

# Smart City

## Example: Barcelona

- **Smart lighting:** public lighting that adapt and dims when there is no activity, but brightens up when sensors detect motion.
- **Parking sensor:** Drivers can get real time information on app which locates free parking spots. Sensor on the street curbs use lighting and metal detectors to know if the parking area is loaded/ occupied.
- **Garbage sensors:** Vacuum network through pipes sucks up trash below the ground. Automated waste collection lowers the pollution.



**THANK YOU!!**

Email: [nafisa.bre@diu.edu.bd](mailto:nafisa.bre@diu.edu.bd)

Contact: 01943685750