

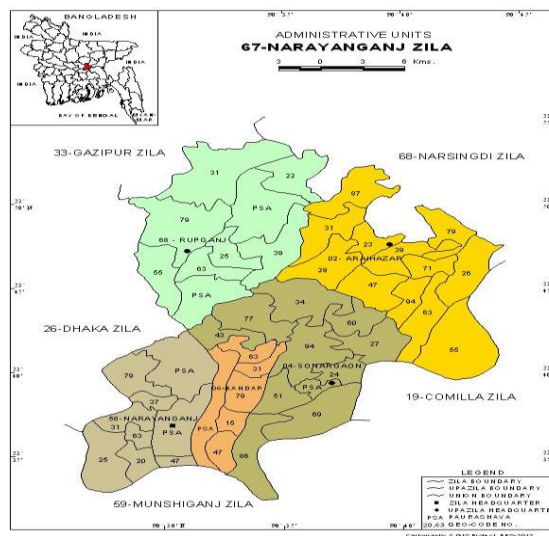


IMPROVING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH

অভিবাসী তথ্য কেন্দ্র

MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE

Profiles of districts



1. Name of district: Narayanganj
2. Profile of the district:

Legend goes that one *Bicon Lal Pandey* (also known as *Benur Thakur* or *Lakshmi Narayan Thakur*), a Hindu religious leader, acquired this region from the East India company in 1766. He declared the markets located on the bank of the river Shitalakshya as endowed property by a will to meet the expenses of the worship of god Narayan and consequently, the place got the name Narayanganj.

a. Governance or political structure

Narayanganj is the oldest and the most prominent river port of Bangladesh. Narayanganj district is bounded by Gazipur and Narsingdi districts on the north, Brahmanbaria and Comilla districts on the east, Munshiganj district on the south and Dhaka district on the west.



Narayanganj, a former sub-divisional town of Dhaka district was upgraded to a district on 15 February 1984. Formerly, it was a subdistrict (upazila) of Dhaka district. The total area of the district is 683.14 sq. km of which 62 hectares is under forest.

There are five upazilas in this district. These are: Narayanganj Sadar, Bandar, Rupganj, Sonargaon, Arai hazar. Arihazar is the largest upazila (183.35sq km) of Narayanganj whereas Bandar is the smallest (55.84 sq km). There are 07 Police stations and 39 unions in this district. Total number of villages in this district are 1374. The only one city corporation of this district is Narayanganj City Corporation, which was established in 2011. Narayanganj city corporation has 5 municipalities or paurasabhas.

Narayanganj district is under Dhaka division. This district is located beside the capital city of Bangladesh, just 16 km away from Dhaka city.

Bangladesh follows downward local government structure. Like many other districts, Narayanganj local government is divided into two parts: rural local govt. and urban local govt. Rural local government has 3 tiers: district (zila) parishad, sub-district (upazila) parishad, union parishad. Urban local government has 2 tiers: city corporation, paurasabhas.

b. Economy

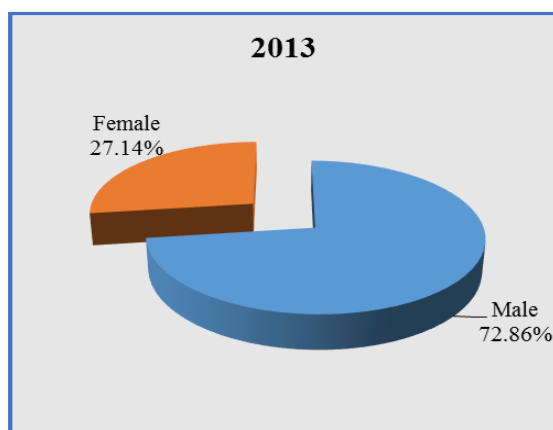
The importance of Narayanganj increased with the arrival of Portuguese and English traders in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries respectively. With the formation of Pakistan in 1947, Narayanganj was transformed into the center of jute industry. On 1951, the world's largest jute mill Adamjee was established on the east bank of the Shitalakshani river in Narayanganj. Thus, the district is pioneer in merchandising and manufacturing of jute, yarn and dyeing items. Cottage industry like weaving abounds in this district. Sonargaon, a place in Narayanganj, was historically famous for manufacturing a species of very fine yarn 'Muslin'.

International trading, import and export business, garments industries, knitwear garments, shipyard, brickfield etc., create employment opportunities to the people, facilitating additional income to the household population. The rural economy of Narayanganj is agricultural. Narayanganj is the main hosiery production center of Bangladesh. There are many brickfields in this district.

There are 1,58,643 economic units in Narayanganj. Major economic activities are:

Major Economic Activities (by establishment)	Number	Percentage
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles	84583	53.32
Manufacturing	20635	13.01
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	14676	9.25
Transportation and Storage	5314	3.35
Education	2126	1.36
Human Health and Social Work Activities	1000	0.63
All Other Economic Activities	30273	19.08
Total	158643	100

There are 8,61,792 people engaged into these economic activities whereas highest number of people are engaged in manufacturing work. According to Census 2013, the total number of males engaged in these economic establishment are 627898 and females are 233894. The male and female ratio of engagement in economic activities were:



c. People's demographics: culture, religion, economic status, skills, education, etc.

Total population of Narayanganj is 29,48,217. Number of males is 15,21,438 and females is 14,26,779. Population density is 2,863 per sq. km.

The highest number of people in this district are from the Muslim community. The second most practised religion is Hindu. There are also people from different religions e.g. Buddhist, Christian and other religions who are living peacefully with their brothers from different faiths.

As the district is very close to Dhaka city, in general, the majority of people speak the conventional Bangla language, although, different dialects can be seen in different regions of this district.

Culturally Narayanganj is an enriched region. From ancient period, folk culture like Jarigan, Palagan, Murshidigan, Meyeli Geet, Mystic songs etc. is an integral part of the people of Narayanganj.

Jamdani saree is one of the famous industries of Narayanganj. It is the legacy of world-renowned Muslin saree. Jamdani is very popular among the Bengalis and also all over the world.

There are several tourist spots in Narayanganj that portray cultural heritage of the district. Namely, Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation in Sonargaon, Panam Nagar, Russell Park and Zoo at Rugganj, Zamindar Bari and Zinda Park at Murapara, Mary Anderson Floating Restaurant at Fatulla, Isha Khan Fort at Hajiganj, Sonakanda fort, Tomb and Mosque of Bibi Mariam in Narayanganj Sadar upazila.

There are in total 1653 educational institutes in this district. Literacy rate is 51.75%. Noted educational institutions: Government Tolaram College (1937), Narayanganj Government Mohila College (1964), Sonargaon Degree College (1969) etc.

d. Migration related profile

Bangladesh is a labour surplus country. There are several factors contributing to the pool of surplus labour. First, about 2 million people enter into the working age group every year. Second, female participation in labour force is also increasing over time by taking advantage of the favour of attitudinal change of the society coupled with motivational change of women. Third, the growing mechanization of the agricultural sector that lessens the demand for workers and pushes more people out of that sector. However, the domestic economy, albeit growing, still lacks the ability to fully absorb the incremental labour force. Inevitably, a portion of the labour force has to find a job abroad. Government is also working through the ministry of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment to facilitate the process of Bangladeshi workers going abroad for jobs.

In addition to providing jobs, migration has become an important source of remittance in Bangladesh, which in turn, provides the direct and indirect growth stimuli in the economy.

Bangladesh was the 7th largest remittance receiving country in 2019. Dhaka division has the second highest concentration of migration in the country.

Narayanganj is located in this division. As a result, Narayanganj is one of the districts from which a large number of Bangladeshi go to overseas. From 2005 to 2019, the total number of people migrated from this district was 2,18,912. In 2019, 15,808 people migrated in overseas with employment. In 2020 (up until May), 3,876 people have migrated.

Percentage share of migrant households in total households in Narayanganj is 6.30%. This also varies depending on the upazila. Percentage share of migrant households in total

households in Arihazar upazila is 12.89%, in Bandar it is 5.86%, Narayanganj Sadar 4.58%, Rupganj 7.32% and in Sonargaon it is 3.81%. According to population and household census 2011, 81% of total migrants of this country reside in the rural area while the remaining 9 percent reside in the urban areas.

e. Special feature of the district (including special holidays or cultural events)

Throughout the year Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation arranges different kinds of folk festivals. MRCs can take the lead to install a booth there to reach mass people with migration related information.

3. Potential MRC activities in the district

Grassroot level:

- a. Courtyard meetings:** Twice in a month courtyard meeting could be conducted in two different unions. Assistance from the local government such as union parishad (council) chairman is needed to implement this. As it will be in union parishad, target audience would be people who are living in the remote areas of the district. Safe migration topic will be covered.
- b. Information fairs in the union level:** These fairs will take place in the Hat area. Hat is a weekly open market place or shopping area where thousands of people come to shop. MRC could install information stall here twice in a month. Local government permission is required.
- c. Para-counsellor:** These people will be trained by MRC. They will provide door to door support on migration and make the people aware about migration, will spend a significant time at union council office to facilitate any migration issue that should come, they will make liaison with union chairman and prospective migrants. They will have constant communication with MRC. Permission from Local govt. and MoEWOE required.
- d. Capacity development of the local government:** MRC will provide training to the members of union council. This will enhance their capacity to deal with migration matters and will give them a clear idea about the process of legal and safe migration. Permission required from local govt. ministry and MOEWOE.
- e. Rapport building with local government:** This would be a continuous pursuit as their support would be required for the smooth operation of MRC's activities in the respective district.
- f. Meeting with women's association:**

District Level:

- g. Information fairs in the city conducted in every 3 months:** This would be a big event. In the centre of the city corporation or in a place where most people get together. Information stalls, cultural show (incorporating the information of migration) could be implemented. This could also be held on different occasions.

Permission required from city corporation, DEMO Dhaka, law enforcing agency etc.

- h. PEOS in TTC and BIMT every month:** Twice in a month, PEOS will be conducted in TTC and BIMT. PEOS module will be provided free to the participants from MRC. Permission and support would be required from MOEWOE, BMET and DEMO Dhaka.
- i. Advocacy for opening a district-based migrants welfare society:** As there is a gap of information in regard to district wise migration data, for example, how many people and who are the people coming to and going abroad from Narayanganj for labour migration or other kind of migration? what are their present status? what is the status of returnee migrants etc. so creation of a district-based migrants welfare society would be proposed. This society will collect and keep district wise migrant data from BMET and work for the welfare of the migrants. MRC will cooperate with them and provide MRC's services to them. This welfare society will also refer MRC to their members so that they could be benefited from MRC services. What would be the organogram of this society would be decided in collaboration with the govt.
Permission would be required from government particularly from MoEWOE and ministry of social welfare. Assistance would be required from BMET, DEMO Dhaka.
- j. Mobile information booth/stall:** Twice in a week, in front of prioritised academic institution, mobile information booths will be established. This booth will be there for 4 hours (peak hours preferred). The concept is simple. One chair and one table and one big umbrella for the shade are needed. These stalls will be decorated with proper MRC branding and equipped with migration related publication materials. MRC will outsource the people who will operate these stalls and be present during these hours.
Permission would be required from relevant academic institutions and respective municipal authority.
- k. Information corner/bookshelf:** In the prioritised academic institutions' libraries or in a place where most of the students gathers, there would be a small bookshelf established. These small bookshelves will contain different migration related publications and information materials. Students can collect these for free. They would be the target audience. Through this they will have easy access to migration related information. Bookshelves will be refilled twice in a month.
Permission required from respective institutions authority.
- l. Campus ambassador:** In the prioritized academic institutes MRC will select some campus ambassadors. This will be a voluntary work and they will be trained by MRC to deliver information to the students when they will be asked. They will also be engaged as volunteers in any big event by MRC that should take place in Narayanganj.
Permission may be required from the institution authority.
- m. Weekly distribution of info. materials:** Leaflet, flyers could be disseminated in every week in couple of Mosques (particularly after Friday congregation), Mandirs etc.

4. Directory of relevant local officials

Members of Parliament			
Sl No.	Electoral Constituencies	Name	Contact and Email
1.	Narayanganj-1 (Rupganj upazila)	Golam Dastagir Gazi	Mob: 01726891992, narayanganj.1@parliament.gov.bd
2.	Narayanganj-2 (Arihazar upazila)	Md Nazrul Islam Babu	Mob: 01712290290, 01711530625 narayanganj.2@parliament.gov.bd
3.	Narayanganj-3 (Sonargaon upazila)	Leakoat Hossain Khoka	Mob: 01933390000 narayanganj.3@parliament.gov.bd
4.	Naryanganj-4 (Narayanganj Sadar partial and Narayanganj)	Shamim Osman	Mob: 0197772779, narayanganj.4@parliament.gov.bd
5.	Naryanganj-5	A. K. M Salim Osman	Mob: +88 01713 435200, 01713 435220 narayanganj.5@parliament.gov.bd

District Administration					
Sl No	Name	Designation	Address	Contact No.	Email
1.	Jasim Uddin	Deputy Commissioner	Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Narayanganj, Postal code: 1400	Phone (office) 02-7646644, Mob: 01713081353	dcnarayanganj@mopa.gov.bd

Narayanganj District Council					
Sl No.	Name	Designation	Address	Contact No	Email
1.	Md Anwar Hossain	Chairman	Zila Parishad, Narayanganj	Phone: 7646518	zpnarayanganj@gmail.com

Narayanganj Upazila (Sub-district) Council					
Sl no.	Upazila	Name	Designation	Contact No	Email
1.	Arihazar	Md. Shajalal Mia	Upazila chairman	Mob: 01713461639 Phone (office): 02-6754012	shajalal@gmail.com
2.	Bandar	M. A Rashid	Upazila chairman	Mob: 01818579438	chairmanbandar@gmail.com
3.	Narayanganj Sadar	Abul Kalam Azad Biswas	Upazila chairman	Mob: 01711485959	chnarayanganjsadar@gmail.com
4.	Rupganj	Md. Shahjahan Bhuiyan	Upazila chairman	Mob: 01711530665	upzcrupganj@gmail.com

				Phone (Office) :02-765001	
5.	Sonargaon	Md. Mosarf Hossain	Upazila chairman	Mob: 0181926607 Phone (Office): 7634912	sonargaonuzp@gmail.com

Narayanganj City Corporation

Sl No	Name	Designation	Contact No	Email
1.	Dr. Salina Hayat Ivy	Mayor	Phone (office): 88-02-7648430, Mob: +88-01714033011	mayor@ncc.gov.bd

Narayanganj Municipalities

Sl No.	Name	Contact person	Desigation	Contact and Email
1.	Arihazar	-		
2.	Gopaldi	-		
3.	Tarabo	Hasina Gazi	Mayor	Mob: 01916815339, Phone: hasinagazi05@Gmail.com
4.	Kanchan	Dewan Abul Bashar (Badsha)	Mayor	Mob: 01795239052, Phone: 029343483 kanchan.pourashava@gmail.com
5.	Sonargaon	Md. Sadekur Rahman	Mayor	Mob: 01748-264042, mayor.sonagaon@gmail.com

5. Directory of other stakeholders who can be potential MRC partners

a. CSOs

NGOs						
Sl No.	Name	Work Area	Scope of Collaboration	Contact Person	Address	Contact No, Email
1.	BRAC	Microfinance, skill development, migration, gender, health nutrition, education, human rights, etc.	Migration, Human rights, gender, skill development	Md. Humayun Kabir	BRAC Regional Office, 98/1, North Chasara	01730346312 bdc.narayanganj@brac.net
2.	ASA	Financial prog. foreign remittance, loan, health, program, psychotherapy, health, primary education, etc.	Foreign remittance, psychotherapy, loan	Syed Zahidul Islam	H-41, Block-A, Road- 01, North Chasara, Chanmari, Fatullah	01726875127, narayanganj@asabd.org
3.	BURO Bangladesh	Microfinance, remittance, health, hardcore poor	Remittance, Craft prog.	Pradimkumar Sharma	H-433, R-04, Block: D, Siddirganj	01701250195, am.narayanganj@bu.rob.org

		development, craft prog, etc.				
4.	Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP)	Migrant rights, predeparture intervention, reintegration, livelihoods for returnees, migrant family organisation, etc.	All	-	Arihazar Field office, Dighirpar school road, Arihazar.	01852-258860, okup.ent@gmail.com
5.	Social Un-obstructive Help Association	Safe migration, remittance, financial literacy training, adult education, skill development, etc.	Safe migration, remittance, financial literacy training,	Md. Najrul Islam Dhali	H-64, R-01, Lane-2, Block-A, Sanarpar, Siddhirganj	01712797249
6.	AED Bangladesh	Environmental prog., health and hygiene, wash, etc.		-	126/6, Sadar Upozila Road, Chashara	-
7.	American Center for International Labor Solidarity (Solidarity Center)	Worker rights for garments and seafood processing, rights of Bangladeshi migrants, etc.	Training on safe migration and anti-human trafficking.	Mohammed Irfan Ali	House # 12; 1st Floor; Road # 1; Block-A; Village: Sastapur; PO: Sastapur; PS: Fatullah; Upazilla: Narayanganj Sadar	+88 01727 654623, iali@solidaritycenter.org
8.	Caritas	Education, disability, street children, microfinance, reproductive health, migrant, disaster risk reduction, rehabilitation, etc.	Technology for migrant, rehabilitation.	Md Al Farid	Vill: Hatabo, P.O. Masumabad, Upazila: Rupganj	01955590539, 01710930121, faridcaritas2@gmail.com
9.	Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS)	Women credit, family planning, non-formal education, awareness raising, microfinance, housing project, human rights education, etc.	Human rights education.	-	62/1, Lucky Bhaban, AKM Samsujjoha road, North Chasara	+88 02 9125038, 9143100 manabik@bangla.net
10.	Pidim Foundation	Micro credit, educating children with disability, etc.		Md. Shahidul Islam	Kanchpur, Sonargaon, Narayanganj	01756787419
11.	Centre for Development Innovation	Microcredit, savings, remittance prog. solar prog., etc.	Remittance prog.	-	House # 17, Road # 13 Pisciculture Housing	Phone: 9141891, 9141893 Email: info@cdirbd.org

	and Practices (CDIP)				Society Shekhertek, Adabor, Dhaka – 1207	
12.	Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN)	Microfinance, WASH, gender, etc.		Ratan Kumar Roy	32 Chanmari, Fottula, Narayanganj.	01724-858134, 01821-225372 ratanranisankail@gmail.com
13.	Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition	Health centres, reproductive health rights, HIV/AIDS, WASH, gender-based violence, etc.		Sabikun Nahar	14/3, Hazi Abdur Rahman Sarak, New chasara, Jamtoal, Narayanganj	01717242239, 01868992923
14.	Development Initiative for Social Advancement (DISA)	Microfinance, agriculture, education, health, etc.			Holding-14, Nobiganj, Bandar, Narayanganj.	01733-219981, bandar@disa-bd.org
15.	Society for People's Action in Change & Equity (SPACE)	WASH, health, Education, awareness raising, advocacy, etc.	Awareness raising, advocacy	Syed Alauddin	Adamjee Behari Camp, Siddirgonj, Narayanganj City Corporation	01701795600, alauddin.space@gmail.com

b. Academia

- Govt. college: 4, private college: 16
- High school: 149
- Madrasah: 54

Sl	Name	Contact Person	Designation	Contact No, Email
1.	Govt. Tolaram College	Bela Rani Singha	Principal	Phone: 763266, info@tolaramcollege.edu.bd
2.	Government Safar Ali College	Shaheen Sultana	Principal	Mob: 01552421334 srubi2000@yahoo.com
3.	Govt. Murapara College	Sukumar Das	Principal (acting)	Mob: 01711938373
4.	Narayanganj Government Mohila College.	Bedoura Binte Habib	Principiipal	ngmcedu@gmail.com

5.	Narayanganj High School and College	Sree Kamal Kanti Shaha	Principal (Acting)	Phone: 7635133 Email: narayanganjhighschool@gmail.com
6.	Bhoolta High School and College	Md. Aual Mollah	Principal	Mobile: 01712145746 Email: highschoolbhulta@yahoo.com
7.	Kabi Najrul School and College	Md Rezaul Karim	Principal	Mobile: 01788684484 Email: mokulbangla@yahoo.com
8.	Hossainpur SP Union College	Alhaj Md Abdul Kadir	Principal/Headmaster	Mobile: 01716748567 Email: sonargaonupazila@gmail.com
9.	Govt. Haji Ibrahim Alamchan Model School and College	Ahmad Halim Mojhar	Headmaster	Mobile: 01711-453453, 01309-112403 Email: hiacmsc@gmail.com
10.	Bhuighar Darussunnah Islamia Alim Madrasah	Md. Khalid Saifullah	Principal	Mobile: 01712263667 Email: khaifullah79@gmail.com

C. Training institutions (including private TTCs)

- TTC: 4, IMT: 1

Sl No.	Name	Contact Person	Designation	Contact No, Email
1.	Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology	Sharifa Sultana	Principal	Mob: 01711392360, sharifa0096@gmail.com
2.	Narayanganj Technical School and College	-	-	Mob: 01234567890 nganjtsc@gmail.com
3.	National Institute of Engineering and Technology (NIET)	Engr. Abdul Aziz	Principal	+8801731006989, +8801971220099, niet.edu.bd@gmail.com
4.	Narayanganj Polytechnic Institute	Engr. Abdul Baki	Principal	01711-261738 principal@gmail.com , info@npi51040.edu.bd

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3. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Narayanganj>
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5. Economic Census 2013, District report Narayanganj-Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
6. Population Monograph of Bangladesh, International Migrants from Bangladesh: Socio-economic and regional characteristics, 2011- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
7. <https://www.ngonarayanganj.org/>