

Urban Poverty in Bangladesh

A Country with Enormous Potentials

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Bangladesh

Poverty Head Count Ratio

Table 1: Poverty Headcount Ratio at Urban Poverty Line (% of urban population) in Bangladesh

Year	Poverty headcount ratio at urban poverty line (% of urban population)
1992	42.7
2000	32.5
2005	28.4
2010	21.4

Source: The World Bank

Shefali: A Case Story

- A typical story of how the urban poor live:
Tough life
- Managing meager resources
- Children's education
- Living conditions,
 - crammed, shared cooking facility, utilities
- Transportation

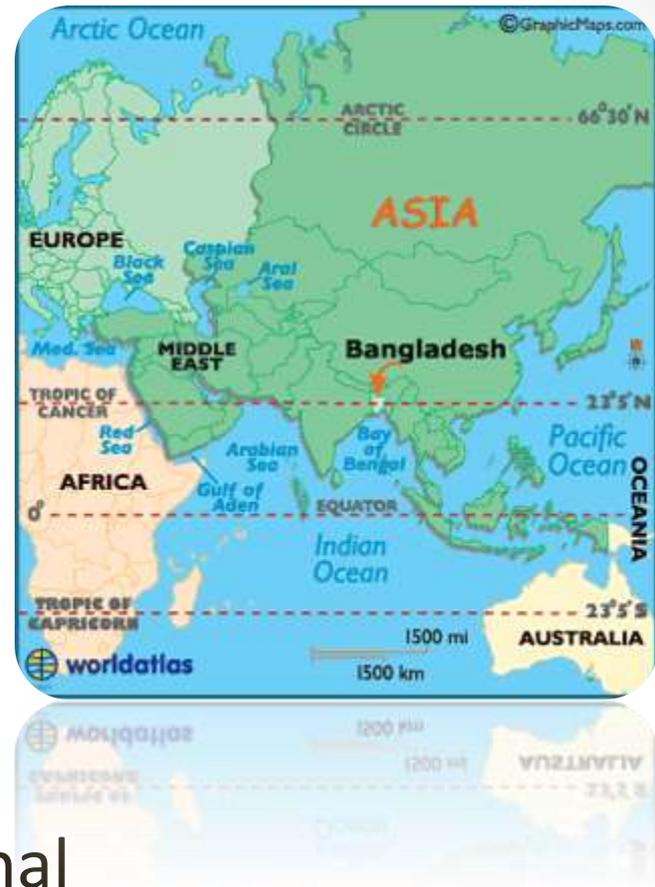
Definition of Urban Poverty

- Employment and Income
- Housing and Services
- Unhealthy environment
- Limited social protection
- Health and education



Bangladesh

- Area: 143,998 sq km
- Population: 163,654,860
- GDP per capita: \$2,000
- Urbanization: 28% of total
- Total adult literacy: 57%
- Population below international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day: 43%



Urbanization in Bangladesh

- Rate of urbanization: 2000-2005 23% increase
- 3.4% per annum
- Present poor population: 50 million
- Housing: 3007 slums



Government and other Services

- Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (2007-2015)
- Urban Primary Health (2005-11)
- Unicef program
- Microfinance for the Urban Poor
- DSK

Who are the Urban Poor?

- Cleaners
- Garbage collectors
- Domestic Help
- Vendors
- Construction
- Factory and Transport Workers
- Day labourers
- Vehicles drivers, cart and rickshaw pullers



Where do they come from?

- Poverty stricken rural areas for livelihood
- Young population
- Families migrate leaving behind children

How do they go to work, transportation?

- Walk
- Rickshaws
- Vans
- Minibuses
- Crowded
- Unsafe



Where do they live?

- Slums
- Several families live together
- Rented rooms
- High rent



Where do the children get education?

- Only 18% go to school
- Primary schools
- NGO run schools



Coping Strategy: Case stories

- An Adolescent Boy
- A Garment Worker
- A Colony

Challenges

- Poverty
- Very vulnerable (rural urban same)
- No good housing
- Bad transport facilities
- Job searching
- Lack in social support
- Poor schools, no hostel facilities
- General lack of recognition

Conclusion and Recommendation

- Urban sector contributes more than 50% of the GDP
- Poverty Reduction and reduction of Inequalities
- Growth of Urban Population
- Dependent on Cash Economy, so vulnerable to fluctuations of Income
- Bangladesh is a country of enormous Potentials
- People resilient

Conclusion and Recommendation

- Economy growing at 6+% over couple of decades
- Garment Industries employs 3+ million women
- Food production trebled in 30 years
- Good social indicators
- Need: Political Stability; Comprehensive Poverty Reduction; consciously focusing on the poor
- Can become a middle-income country by one decade

Thank you very much

非常感谢