

# 1 Comparative Study of Urban Area Extension and flood Risk in 2 Dhaka City of Bangladesh

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## 7 **Abstract**

8 Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh could be the best illustration of human activities and  
9 associated environmental change. The capital Dhaka expanded rapidly between 1960 and 2005  
10 built up areas increased approximately 15,924 ha, while agricultural land decreased 7,614 ha,  
11 vegetation decreased 2,336 ha, wetland /lowland decreased 6,385 ha, and water bodies  
12 decreased about 864 ha. The amount of urban land increased from 11

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14 **Index terms**— Urbanization, Flood Risk, Geomor- phology, Hydrology.

15 Historically, the direction of urban expansion of Dhaka has greatly been constrained by the low elevation  
16 of lands, surrounding rivers and risk of flooding also geomorphologic and hydrologically Dhaka city are greatly  
17 vulnerable to seasonal inundations. The present paper discusses comparative analysis of urban growth and flood  
18 risk in newly buildup urban areas of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Both primary and secondary data have been used  
19 in the present research. This study suggested comprehensive measures including structural and non structural  
20 measures that will be included a number of flood control and mitigation programs as well as alternative valuable  
21 resources for urban planners and decision makers to devise sustainable land use and environmental planning.

22 geographically Dhaka is located between 23° 58' and 23° 90' North latitudes and 90° 33' and 90° 50'. East  
23 longitudes, topographically, the area is a flat land and is located mainly on an alluvial terrace, popularly known as  
24 the Modhupur terrace of the Pleistocene period [1]. Dhaka is surrounded by four major river systems, namely the  
25 Buriganga, Turag, Tongi and Balu, which are flowing to the south, west, north and east sides, respectively. Dewan  
26 and Yamaguchi (2008), [2] found their study that Dhaka expanded rapidly between 1960 and 2005, the amount  
27 of urban land increased from 11% (in 1960) to 34% (in 2005). The surface elevation of the area Dhaka are ranges  
28 between 1 and 14 m and most of the built up areas located at the elevations of 6-8 m [3]. The previous study about  
29 Dhaka city considering the hydrological aspects found that the surrounding rivers like the Buriganga, Turag, Tongi  
30 and Balu,(Fig- 1) are mainly fed by local rainfalls and also receive spills from three mighty rivers crisscrossing  
31 the country, namely the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna through their tributaries and distributaries in the  
32 monsoon. In terms of geomorphologically, hydrologically and socioeconomically the newly built-up northeastern  
33 parts of Dhaka city are greatly vulnerable to seasonal inundations.

34 Both primary and secondary data have been used in the present research. Composition of the total inundated  
35 area and extended urban areas has been made on the basis of some recent satellite imageries, old and new city flood  
36 maps that exhibit the flood situation of Dhaka City, as well as ground survey and observations. Furthermore an  
37 elaborate questionnaire designed for the purpose of gathering information related to urban growth and historical  
38 flood hazard in Dhaka city of Bangladesh. The secondary information sources were various organizations such  
39 as Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhy (RAJUK), Bangladesh Water Development due to the destruction of the  
40 Cottage Industries of Dhaka. Moreover the establishment of small industries made Dhaka more important. After  
41 the independence of Bangladesh on December 16, 1971, the city's population raised suddenly to 1403000 in 1974  
42 [5]. The interpretation of the 2003 and 2005 land cover maps are indicated that Dhaka is being started to expand  
43 in all directions, specifically to north-east, south-east and southern trends by filling up low lying areas. Dhaka  
44 is expanding apace, at an average rate of 4.24% yearly projected to be the third largest mega city in the world  
45 by the year 2020 (World Bank).In order to lessen the flood susceptibility, earth filling is a very popular means of

## 1 B) LEVEL OF URBANIZATION:

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46 land development in Dhaka Metropolitan [5]. The earlier direction of the built up land was followed by north,  
47 north-west, and west trends, but the current trend shows a horizontal expansion [2].

### 48 1 b) Level of Urbanization:

49 Urbanization refers to the proportion of a nation's population living in the urban areas. Its demographic  
50 meaning emphasizes largely on only two variables, population and location. The demographic approach focuses  
51 on location but it largely ignores individual behavior and the structure of occupations, in its most concise form  
52 it postulates that urbanization is a process of population concentration. Urbanization is indicated by an increase  
53 in urbanization over a period of time. For example, in 1981 the total population of Merul Badda one of extended  
54 urban area of Dhaka city was 32,120 and the urban population was 110 million [5]. Hence  $U_n = 110/32,120 * 100$

55 The degree or level of Urbanization may be denoted as,  $U_n = (U_p / T_p) * 100$ ;

56 Where  $U_n$  : level of urbanization  $U_p$  : Total urban population  $T_p$  : Total population  $0=0.34\%$  The study  
57 explains an upward trend line of changing pattern of the level of urbanization. The level of urbanization of the  
58 study area is increasing gradually. 6Changes in land use are the end result of a variety of forces that drive the  
59 millions of separate choices made by individuals and governments. c) Flood Risk in Dhaka City of Bangladesh:

60 Regionally, the Dhaka is located in the central part of Bangladesh, and lies in the sub-tropical monsoon zone  
61 under the humid climatic condition. The city experiences about 2,000 mm annual rainfall, of which more than  
62 80% occurs during the monsoon season [June-September]. The city of Dhaka, especially its lower areas have been  
63 suffering from floods of varying magnitudes and nature. The extent of spread, depth, duration, frequency and  
64 overall nature of these floods are peculiar and greatly different from each other. Analysis of flood-data (i.e.  
65 hydrological reports) reveals that at least one eighth of total area of the city of Dhaka goes under water during a  
66 normal flood. However, during the time of some severe inundations (i.e. 1988 flood and 1998's) about two-thirds  
67 or more area of the city was submerged under the floodwater [6]. Normally, the ordinary floods or rain-fed  
68 inundations of the city stay for shorter period. However, in the low-lying areas ??955, 1970, 1974, 1987, 1988,  
69 [7], 1998 and 2004 flood water went well in to the heart of the city consecutively. d) Flooded Area:

70 The total flooded areas of normal flood in and around Dhaka City is found to cover about 25 sq. km or about  
71 17 percent of the urbanized area where 42.78 percent of the submerged area is under low land with an elevation  
72 of 1.5 to 5m heights. These areas cover some parts of Dakshin Khan in the northeast, Barua, Khilkhet, Dumni,  
73 Bahatra, Kallyanpur, Baunia, Chak Digun, lower part of Mohammadpur, Joarsahara and Badda (Fig- 2). During  
74 the severe floods of 1988, about 10 sq.km (11.75%) area of 6-13m elevation zone went under flood water in Dhaka  
75 City's urban area and 21.22 sq.km (29.67%) and 50.52 sq. km (33.93%) of 1.5-5 and 5-6m elevation zones were  
76 flooded respectively [6]. In total about 82 sq. km of about 66 percent of the area of the city was affected by  
77 this severe inundation of 1988. However, this was an unusual occurrence in the city. e) Depth and Duration of  
78 Normal Flood in Dhaka City:

79 The maximum and average depth of normal flood in Dhaka city is 5.7m and 3.0m respectively ??BWDB 1989  
80 and ??slam 1996). In some areas of the city the depths of floods sometimes are being controlled or influenced  
81 by the local construction situation. The minimum and average flood duration in Dhaka City is 12 and 32 days  
82 respectively [3]. On the other hand, the depth of flood of 1987 was 1,0m in Uttar Khan while it was comparatively  
83 higher in Baunia and Bailjuri with a height of about 3.9m in the same elevation. This study find out that, recent  
84 unplanned urban development in Dhaka city of Bangladesh have directly impact on drainage system of the city,  
85 from the above discussion it is evident that the low-lying areas of the City of Dhaka, especially its eastern  
86 and western buildup fringes are greatly vulnerable to seasonal inundations. The study further reveals that the  
87 spree of recent urban growth and the associated structural development have significantly been affecting the  
88 urban-inundations and drainage failure in the City. The process of ceaseless human interferences in the form of  
89 encroachment in the lowlands (i.e., bils, Jheels, Khals, etc.) of the City and unplanned construction of roads,  
90 building embankments etc. in different parts of the city are also affecting the hydrological situation of Dhaka City.  
91 In the recent views, the drainage failures and the resultant flooding and submersions of parts of the City have  
92 been gaining momentum. Constructions of flood protection embankment in Demra area (DND) and Kurmitola  
93 area have proven to be a partial failure in achieving maximum benefits.

94 Only some appropriate integrated environment-friendly adjustment-oriented measures may bring some success  
95 in this respect. At the same time special attention need to be given to the facts that the normal natural  
96 settings i.e. morphological and hydrological situation of the City should not be disturbed in the process of  
97 urban-development. With this respect the endangered and extinct khals (channels) and, rivers and other existent  
98 important wetlands of the city should be preserved and saved for the sake of the smooth functioning of the City's  
99 choked and disturbed drainage system. <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>

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Figure 1:



Figure 2: Figure 2 :

1 B) LEVEL OF URBANIZATION:

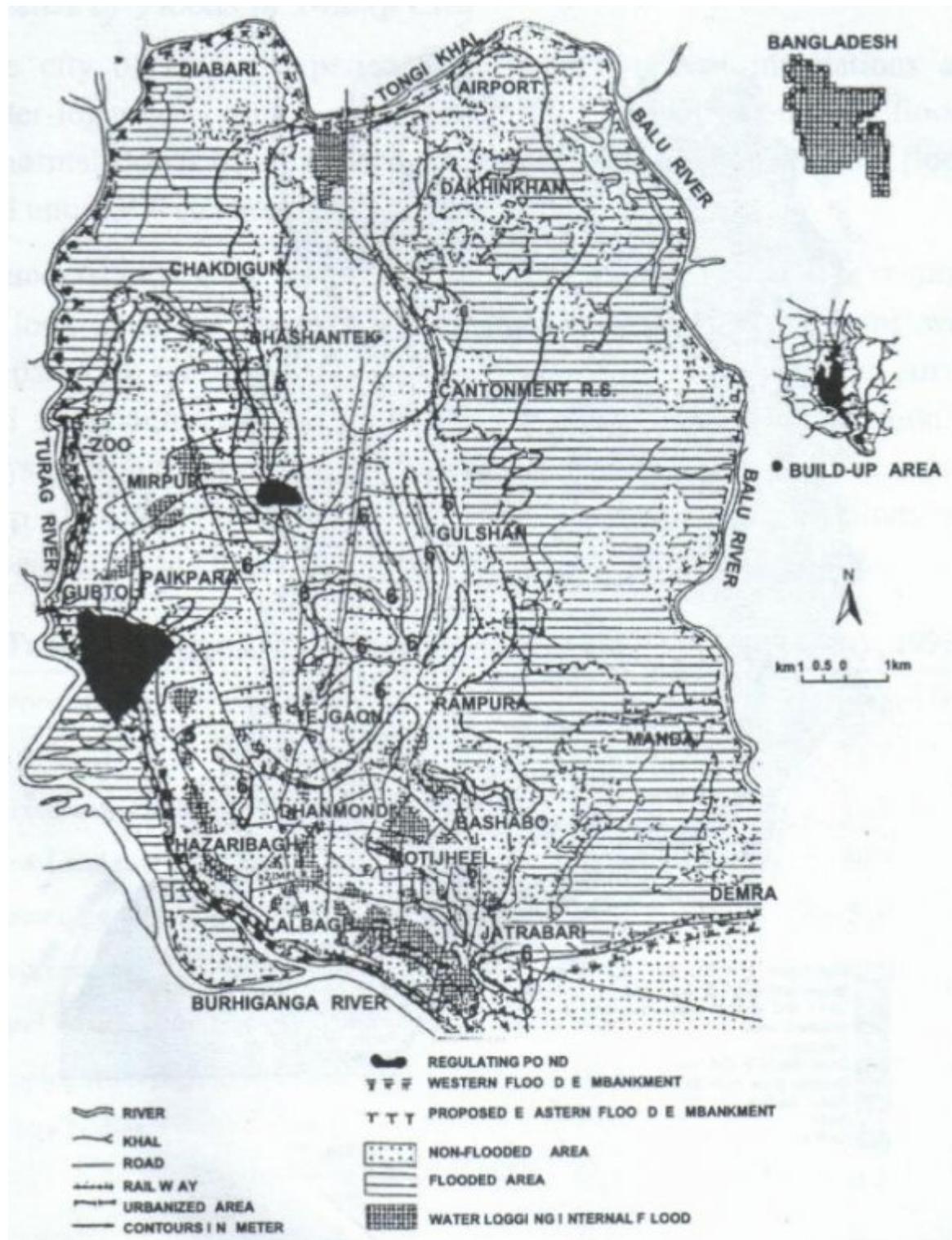


Figure 3:

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Md. Abu Taleb

Abstract -Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh could be the best illustration of human activities and associated environmental change. The capital Dhaka expanded rapidly between 1960 and 2005 built up areas increased approximately 15,924 ha, while agricultural land decreased 7,614 ha, vegetation decreased 2,336 ha, wetland /lowland decreased 6,385 ha, and water bodies decreased about 864 ha. The amount of urban land increased from 11% (in 1960) to 34% (in 2005).

Figure 4:

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Year	Total Population	Growth Rate	Total Population	Urban	Level of Urbanization
1981	32,120	0.34	110		0.34
1991	45,000	0.83	240		0.53
2001	73,156	1.86	890		1.21
2004	76,615	2.45	1880		2.65
2008	85,032	2.74	2500		2.94
2015*	90,758	3.43	3340		3.68

[Note: (\*Projected) Source : BBS, 2004 and Field Survey, 2008.]

Figure 5: Table 1 :

**1 B) LEVEL OF URBANIZATION:**

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