

Generating strategies to strengthen socio-cultural integration, conserve cultural identity along enhancing Recreation and Tourism: In the context of Shamsheer Nagar, Moulvibazar-3223, Bangladesh

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Abstract

Landscape incorporates not only the topography and ecology of a particular region but also the culture and lifestyle of the local inhabitants. Landscape study and Design can influence and protect Socio-cultural practice and values. Moreover, a Cultural landscape comprises of distinguished pattern of land use and lifestyle. In the context of Shamsheer Nagar, a town in Moulvibazar-3223, Bangladesh distinguished landscapes are enjoying inhabitants from different ethnic origin. The flat lands are mostly containing Bengali settlements, Commercial activities and farmlands. On the other hand, Terrain landforms are home of Tea Production Industries and diverse ethnic settlements. Leading life in invisible captivity within Tea Industry, ethnic tea workers communities also confronts socio-cultural discrimination from the majority Bengali community. In addition to that, lack of recognition and self-esteem always pushes the ethnic communities backward. Despite having high potential for recreation and tourism, this vicinity is yet to meet optimum experience for all user groups due to the lack of proper provisions. The objective of this study is to review the Socio-cultural disrepair of the ethnic Tea Worker community as well as to assess the Outdoor recreation and tourism provisions for the local communities and tourists. An integrated improvement plan has been proposed along with specific goal oriented recommendations for Landscape Planning and relevant Policies to minimize socio-cultural gap between ethnic tea worker communities and mainstream Bengali people as well as to enhance recreation and tourism.

Keywords: Social Integration, Cultural Landscape, Community Development, Tourism, Heritage

1.-Introduction

Tea is one of the major exporting crop of Bangladesh since mid-nineteenth century. Currently there are 164 Tea gardens in Bangladesh with an approximate population of 350000.¹ Most of these tea gardens are located in the North-Eastern districts of Moulvibazar and Sylhet. Ethnic roots of these tea laborers are from different states of India. Due to century-long hegemony of the employer, isolated living from mainstream Bengali community, Cultural & language barrier ethnic tea worker communities remained ignored.²

Playful cultural landscape in a combination with diverse ethnic culture has added remarkable dimension to the paradigm of recreation and tourism in Shamsheer Nagar, Moulvibazar. Study shows that, Natural and Cultural attractions became very important elements to influence preference while choosing tourism destinations. Hence, of studies have been done on tourism and attractive destinations.³ As a tourist attraction, culture can be considered as an vital force to encourage conservation o Cultural, Religious, Industrial and Historic features.⁴ Donert & Light (1996) urged that, Heritage tourism can reintroduce people to cultural roots.

On the basis of analysis and findings from the contextual study on Shamsheer Nagar, an integrated goal oriented landscape development plan has been proposed along with relevant policy recommendations to reduce socio-cultural gaps between mainstream Bengali community and ethnic Tea Worker communities as well as to improve recreation and tourism provision in this vicinity. The prime vision of this study is to generate guidelines to encourage community based sustainable landscape development.

2.-Methodology

As the socio-economic disrepair of the Tea Worker communities in different tea gardens are almost the same in Bangladesh, relevant literature review has been carried out to depict the general living condition of the ethnic Tea Worker communities in this region. Moreover, physical survey has been executed to compare the findings from literature review with the real context of Shamsheer Nagar Tea garden owned by Duncun Brothers (BD) Limited. Tea garden related data has been collected from Administration personnel of Samsheer Nagar tea garden.

Physical survey has been carried out to assess the outdoor recreation provision in the town area. In addition, an online survey has been conducted over 50 town dwellers using Google Forms to assess their preferences for outdoor recreation. Town related data has been collected from Local Government Body known as 4th Shamsheer Nagar Union Parishad as well as from its website. Physical survey along interviews has been carried out to assess the existing recreation provision for the ethnic Tea Worker communities.

Existing tourism practice and preferences have been assessed through extensive on spot observation. Potential of Cultural and Heritage tourism has been identified by specifying different Cultural, Religious, Historic and Natural structures and elements those have significant heritage values.

Finally, issues and problems found from the above mentioned analytical studies have been summarized and possible improvement plan has been proposed in terms of Landscape Design and Planning along recommendations for relevant policy development.

3.-Background and Context



Figure 3.11 Bangladesh in World Map
Source: <http://www.freeworldmaps.net/asia/bangladesh/location.html>



Figure 3.12 Area of interest in Bangladesh Map
Source: <https://east-usa.com/world/bangladesh-map.html> (edited by Author)

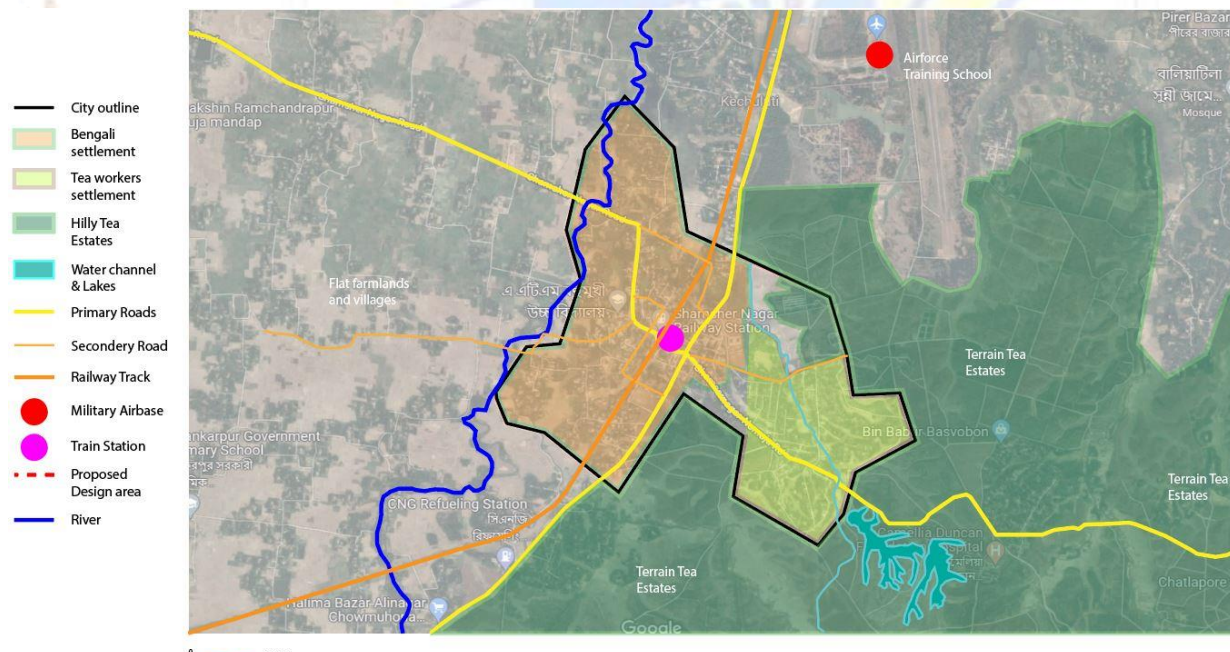


Figure 3.13 Shamsheer Nagar in local context
Source: Screenshot from Google Satellite View
Edited by Author

3.1 Tea Industry and Settlement

3.1.1 Brief History of Tea Labor Migration from India to Bangladesh

Tea production in Bengal and Assam province was initiated by the British ruler during 19th century.⁵ Commercial Tea cultivation started in Sylhet region in 1857.⁶ Warm and humid climate with 203 cm average rainfall and 260 c average temperature especially in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Chittagong regions are much favorable for Tea production.⁷ Tea Industry in Bangladesh covers 1% of national GDP.⁸ Around 0.3 million people are involved in this Industry directly or indirectly among those 75% are women.⁹ Ancestors of most of those Tea workers were from different ethnic origin of

central India.¹⁰ The first Tea laborers had migrated from mostly some famine affected regions and also treated as people of lower race from India.¹¹ Most of them were from Bengal, Chota Nagpur, Maddha Pradesh, Jukta Pradesh, Madraj etc.¹² This migration can simply be explained through the Neo-classical theory of W. Arthur Lewis in which it has been said that, Migration of labor occur when there is an potential area of development and surplus labors are available at the Hinterland.¹³

The wage of Tea plantation worker was much less than other agrarian worker in Sylhet but at the same period, managing livelihood was even more difficult at thousands miles away in some parts of India and that was the triggering factor for migration.¹⁴ It has been argued by Emmer (1986) that, indentured migration takes place as a result of rational and deliberate choice by the labors having a hope of better future and to escape from the present life under oppression.¹⁵ "Had it not been for the eagerness of the British Colonies to obtain cheap labor for their plantations, it (migration) would never have taken place at all" stated C.F. Andrew, a former Christian missionary who was associated with Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.¹⁶ Having all the reasons of Poverty, Natural Calamities, demand of cheap labor, hope for a better future it is explicit that, laborers were tricked into slavery.¹⁷ Their culture and language were also got affected due to foreign working environment and dominant native culture.¹⁸

3.1.2 Current Scenario

Tea estates are mostly located at the peripheral regions of Bangladesh and these remote areas are mainly controlled by the owner authority. Due to this scenario Tea workers voice are less heard or addressed. Since the beginning till date, Tea Capital managed to keep their hegemony unchallenged. Unfortunately the current Labor Act 2006 is just like a conspectus of old laws having colonial legacies. Studies shows that there is no significant change over the relation between State and Tea Capital till today.²⁸ Tea workers are still suffering from Poverty and even cannot meet their daily basic needs.²⁹ Tea workers meet most of the 'criteria'³⁰ defined by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights to be considered as vulnerable group in a society.³¹ Their daily income is below the extreme poverty line of 1.25 Dollar (128 BDT as per the exchange rate on 02.12.2022) per day.³² Due to a Tea worker strike across the Tea estates demanding increment of wage up to 300 BDT, government directed the employers to set the minimum wage per day as 170 BDT that was 120 BDT only.³³ They have never got rid of food insecurity and malnutrition.³⁴ Living since more than a century still they have a very limited right over the land properties.³⁵ Nominal medical facilities are available for the workers across the industry.³⁶ Available educational facilities are also not adequate.³⁷



Figure 3.1.21 A Hospital in Shamsher Nagar tea garden Source: Author



Figure 3.1.22 An Elementary School in Shamsher Nagar tea garden Source: Author

According to a report from International Labor Organization (ILO), "Tea garden laborers are among those who are usually excluded from a number of government services with a view that they should be cared for by tea garden authorities."³⁸ Tea workers are mostly deprived from Government Social welfare services and the Local Government consider it as duty of the Tea Industry owner.³⁹ Non-governmental Organizations are allowed to provide financial and social services within the Tea gardens those are mostly focusing on Educational and Financial aids.⁴⁰ Moreover it is evident that they feel uncomfortable outside of their territory due to their isolated habitat, fear of discrimination and language barrier.⁴¹

Due to all these Socio-cultural and economic oppression since centuries, psychological condition of these ethnic people got affected. In some cases they do not know even their basic rights. They suffer from inferiority complex as well as feel demotivated and insecure.⁴² To alleviate from such psychological disrepair, it is important to prioritize their basic needs to be fulfilled. Maslow's (1943) hierarchy of needs idea shows that, to reach the peak of human motivation defined as Self-actualization, fulfilling the previous phases are prerequisite.⁴³ According to this theory, Basic needs (Physiological & Safety) and Psychological needs (Love, belongingness, acceptance etc.) are the first and second priority to be fulfilled respectively. It's a pity that ethnic Tea worker people's fate is stuck at the very bottom of this hierarchy model.

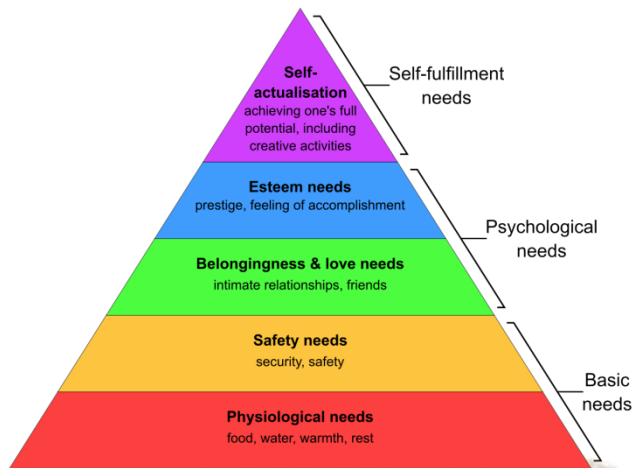


Figure 3.1.21 Maslow's (1943) Hierarchy of Needs Pyramid

Source: Androidmarsexpress. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs2.svg - Wikimedia Commons.

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3.1.3 Ethnic People and Culture

More than 3,000 Tea workers lives in the Tea Gardens of Shamsher Nagar.⁴⁴ They live within the Tea Estate territory that is usually not near to the settlements of mainstream Bengali people.⁴⁵ Therefore, their neighborhood is solely composed of their own culture and community. They live in a very simple form of House units mostly made of Mud, Bamboo, Brick and Metal Sheets. In addition, Cow-shade and small veneration space are also commonly seen. Almost every family keeps domestic animals i.e. Cow, Goats and use to grow some vegetables around the house yards. Some of them also Cultivate paddy and some sells wood and grass in the local market. Along the major circulation roads within the neighborhood, few small grocery shops can be seen.⁴⁶ Majority of these ethnic people are Hindu though some Muslims and Christians are also there.⁴⁷ Vivid spiritual vibe can be felt throughout the settlements as small scale veneration features i.e. Worship Structures, Idols, Sacred Scarf enfolding tree etc. are very common interventions besides fully functional Temples.



Figure 3.1.31 Small Grocery Shop in an Ethnic Neighborhood

Source: Author



Figure 3.1.32 Small Worship Structure in the Neighborhood

Source: Author



Figure 3.1.33 Mud and Brick Houses along Mud road

Source: Author



Figure 3.1.34 Sacred Scarf enfolding a tree

Source: Author

Apart from the major religious festivals, Hindu ethnic communities also practices some additional religious and social rituals most of which are performed in close contiguity of nature. Number of Spiritual signs and symbols might be encountered very often while roaming even far away from the neighborhood. According to a report submitted to International Labor Organization (ILO)-“...tea plantation workers prefer to use two tiers of ethnic identity. First, they identify themselves as part of the tea laborers community and secondly, they identify with ethnic groups of their ancestors, who migrated from different Indian states during British era...38 ethnic groups were identified.”⁴⁸

3.2 Shamsheer Nagar Town area and Settlement

3.2.1 Town and Bengali Settlement

Shamsheer Nagar is a place of Natural and Cultural harmony. Throughout diverse cultural landscape, the amicable atmosphere among communities from different culture left it as a preferred place to live in. Apart from the native inhabitants, many outsiders (mostly Businessman) prefer to be settled here not only for the charming atmosphere but also for the high potential of Commerce.

The historic Airbase is one of the major attraction for the amateur visitors. It was a major hub for ‘Over the Hump’ flights from British India to China during World War II.⁴⁹ The 61st US Air Service Group used this Airport as an Airbase at the same period.⁵⁰ The historic significance of Shamsheer Nagar Airport was enhanced later in 1971 during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, as it has been used as the forward Airbase by the Air Wing (known as Kilo Flight) of the freedom fighters force that has been called as ‘Mukti Bahini’.⁵¹



Officers of 61st Air Service Group, 10th Army Air Force
Shamsheer Nagar Air Base, India, August 1945

Figure 3.2.11 US Air Service Group at Shamsheer Nagar Airport during 1945
Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/franksplenet1775362062/>



Figure 3.2.12 Kilo-Flight Personnel 1971
Source: <https://baf.mil.bd/website/kilo-flight.php>

This Airport has also been used for Commercial Flights but currently this service is not available due to lack of demand. Currently it is a training school for newly recruited Airmen.

3.2.2 Town Inhabitants & Popular Culture

Plum fruit produced from Plum garden within the Airbase territory is popular throughout the District. BAF Shaheen School & College operated and managed by the Airforce is the top choice for primary and secondary education in Moulvibazar District. Terrain topography of the century old Tea Industries in harmony with Paddy fields, Lakes and Ethnic Tea Worker villages are in the focus of Tourists. Ethnically people of Shamsheer Nagar can be divided into two groups – Bengali Community and Tea Worker Communities of diverse ethnic origin rooted in different States of India. The majority are of Bengali ethnicity. They are mostly Muslims, Hindus and some Christians from religious perspective.

Settlements of these communities can be seen over the flat land that is the West part of the Town area along vast farmlands and villages beyond the City area throughout the West. Around eight thousand Bengali people lives within the town area.⁵² Most of them are businessman got settled here from the nearby villages since decades. Besides, A good number of businessman from different Districts migrated with their family and got settled here.



Figure 3.2.21 Main Entrance of Shamsher Nagar Airport

Source: Screenshot from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNeaAkfyf9I>



Figure 3.2.22 Pitha Utshob

Source: Author



Figure 3.2.23 Gold-cup Football Tournament

Source: Author

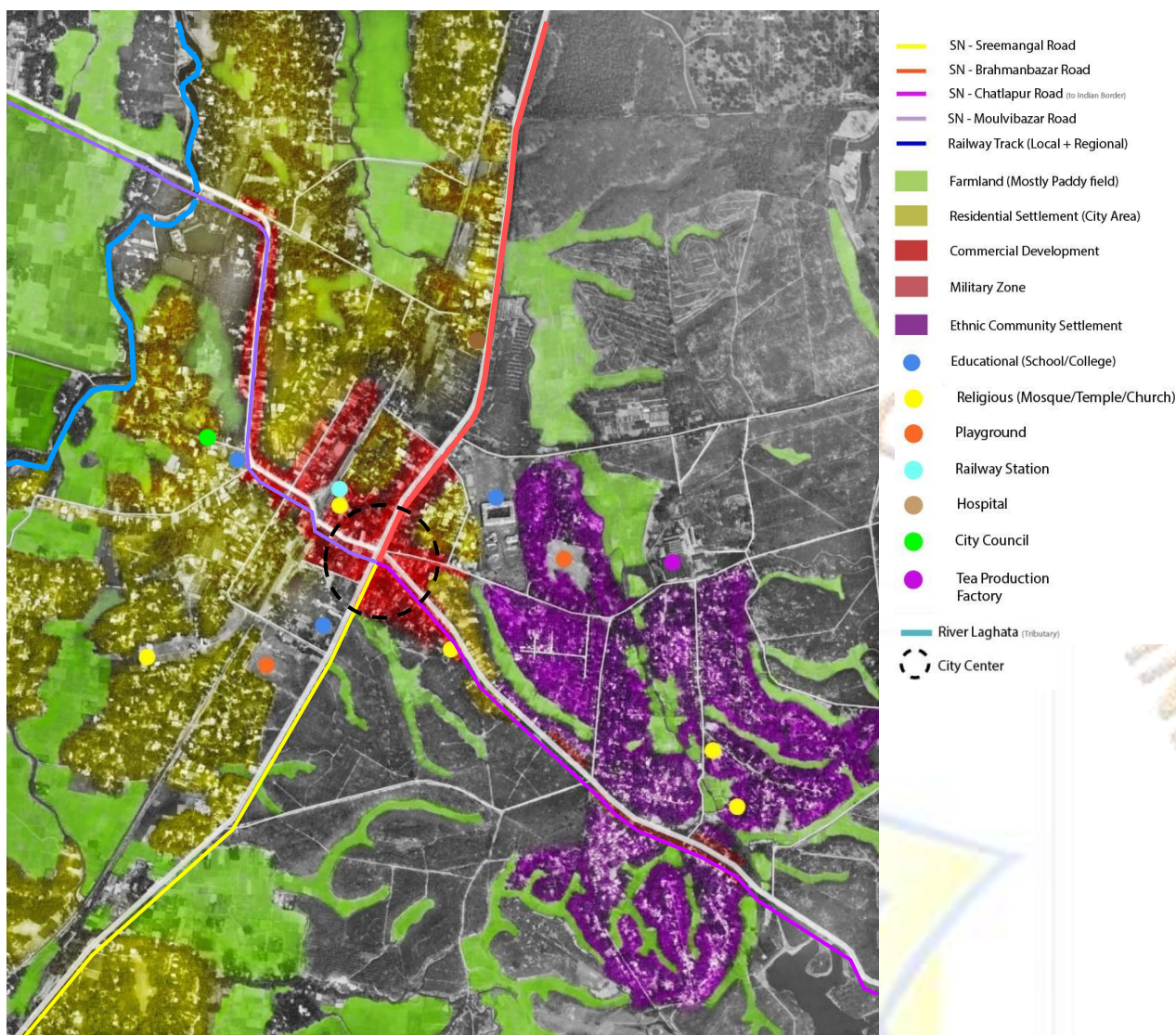


Figure 3.2.24 Settlement and Land use map of the Town area of Shamsheer Nagar
 Source: Google Satellite view edited by Author

Apart from the religious festivals ‘Pitha Utsob’ during Winter, ‘Boishaki Mela’ during early Summer and ‘Shamsheer Nagar Gold Cup Football Tournament’ during Winter are the most notable cultural and recreational events where huge number of people from different districts gathers along with the natives.

3.2.3 Demographic Scenario

Approximately 3000 people of ethnic Tea Communities live within the proposed site and its immediate surroundings. Majority of them are employed in the Tea Industry though some of them have small shops, Auto-Rickshaw as means of earnings. Some of them also work in the town markets as sales workers. Within the town area, approximately 8000 people live. Most of them are businessman by occupation.

On the basis of on-spot observation and survey along interviewing people from Bengali and ethnic Tea Worker communities, following regular outdoor activities have been recorded.

Table: 3.2.31 Regular outdoor activities of local communities in Shamsher Nagar

Aspects	Town Dwellers	Ethnic Tea Community
Socio-Cultural	-Meet-up / Neighborhood chitchat -Occasional events / Fair (early summer & winter) -Religious festivals	--Meet-up / Neighborhood chitchat -take care of domestic animals -Religious & ethnic rituals
Economic	-Business -Jobs (Upazilla & District Town), Educational Institutes, Tea Company	-Labor for Tea Industry -Wood & Grass sale -Small Shops -Auto-rickshaw -Labor in City Market
Recreational	-Meet-up -Walk -Sports -Gardening	-Sports (mostly Kids) **No outdoor recreation provision

3.2.4 City Inhabitant’s view and preferences for outdoor activities

An online survey has been carried out in order to assess the preferences and general views of the City inhabitants for outdoor activities. The survey has been conducted from 07.09.2022 to 17.09.2022 with Google form Questionnaire sent to the participants through email and social media. Based on 11 questions, participants have been given options to choose their answers from. The responses are as follows-

Table: 3.2.41 Town inhabitant’s preferences for Outdoor recreation activities

Participants	50
Age	26-35 (40%), 36-45 (40%), 46-60 (15%)
Gender	Male (72%), Female (28%)
Topic	Response
Duration of Stay at this vicinity	20+ Years (80%)
Frequency of Spending Time Outdoor (Weekly)	More than once (36%), Only in Weekend (33%), Daily (20%)
Preferred place for Outdoor recreation	Tea Garden area (77%), Market area (11%)
Preferred outdoor activities	Gather/Meet-up (47%), Walk / Run (19%)
Important to have Park / Promenade / Open Public area nearby	Agree (92%)
Prefers Tea Garden area for Outdoor recreation	Yes (91%)
outdoor time can improve Relation between People & Communities	Agree (100%)

Like to meet people outdoor from different Communities	Yes (72%)/Sometime (22%)
Like to visit Cultural Events of different Communities	Yes (65%)/Sometime (26%)
Sharing Public Places with different Communities can enhance Social bond & understanding	Agree (48%), Strongly agree (50%)
Provision for sharing & interaction can benefit the Communities involved	Agree (90%)
Important to have Park / Promenade / Open Public area nearby	Agree (92%)
Prefers Tea Garden area for Outdoor recreation	Yes (91%)
outdoor time can improve Relation between People & Communities	Agree (100%)

4. Cultural and Heritage Values Study

A recent study⁵³ on Khakiachara Tea Estate shows that tea gardens have diverse significant heritage values. Six criteria of heritage values have been identified in this study⁵³ with specified tangible and intangible cultural and natural elements. These are: Historic, Social, Spiritual, Scientific, Symbolic and Aesthetic values. On the basis of this research on Khakiachara Tea Garden, the following comparative study has been developed to depict the existing scenario of Shamsher Nagar tea garden in terms of Cultural and Heritage values.

Table 4.1 Comparative study of tangible elements those have Cultural and Heritage values in Khakiachara Tea Estate and Shamsher Nagar Tea Estate

Aspect	Khakiachara Tea Estate	Shamsher Nagar Tea Estate
Historic	Chora, Nachghar, Bungalow, Factory	Chora, Nachghar, Bungalows, Factory, Camelia Hospital, Durga Temple, Shiva Temple
Social	Nachghar, Central Field, Market	Nachghar, Sport Field, Club House, Commerce along road
Spiritual	Chora	Temples, Old Banyan tree & other plants, Idols in Nature
Scientific	Factory, Nursery & Plantation	Factory, Nursery & Plantation
Symbolic	Nachghar, Bhanga Pahar	Lake, Golf Course, Nachghar
Aesthetic	Nachghar, Tea garden trails	Lake, Golf Course, Nachghar, Tea garden trails, Bungalow & Hospial Landscape



Figure 4.1 Chora
Source: Author



Figure 4.2 Tea Factory
Source: Author



Figure 4.3 Sports Field
Source: Author



Figure 4.4 Shiva Temple
Source: Author



Figure 4.5 Idols in Nature
Source: Author



Figure 4.6 Nachghar
Source: Author



Figure 4.7 Commerce along main road
Source: Author



Figure 4.8 Club House
Source: Author



Figure 4.9 Camelia Lake
Source: Author

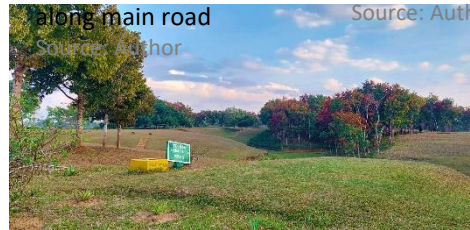


Figure 4.10 Golf Course
Source: Author



Figure 4.11 Trail through Tea Garden
Source: Author



Figure 4.12 Cultural & Heritage value mapping of Shamsher Nagar Tea garden area
(Source: Google Satellite view edited by Author)



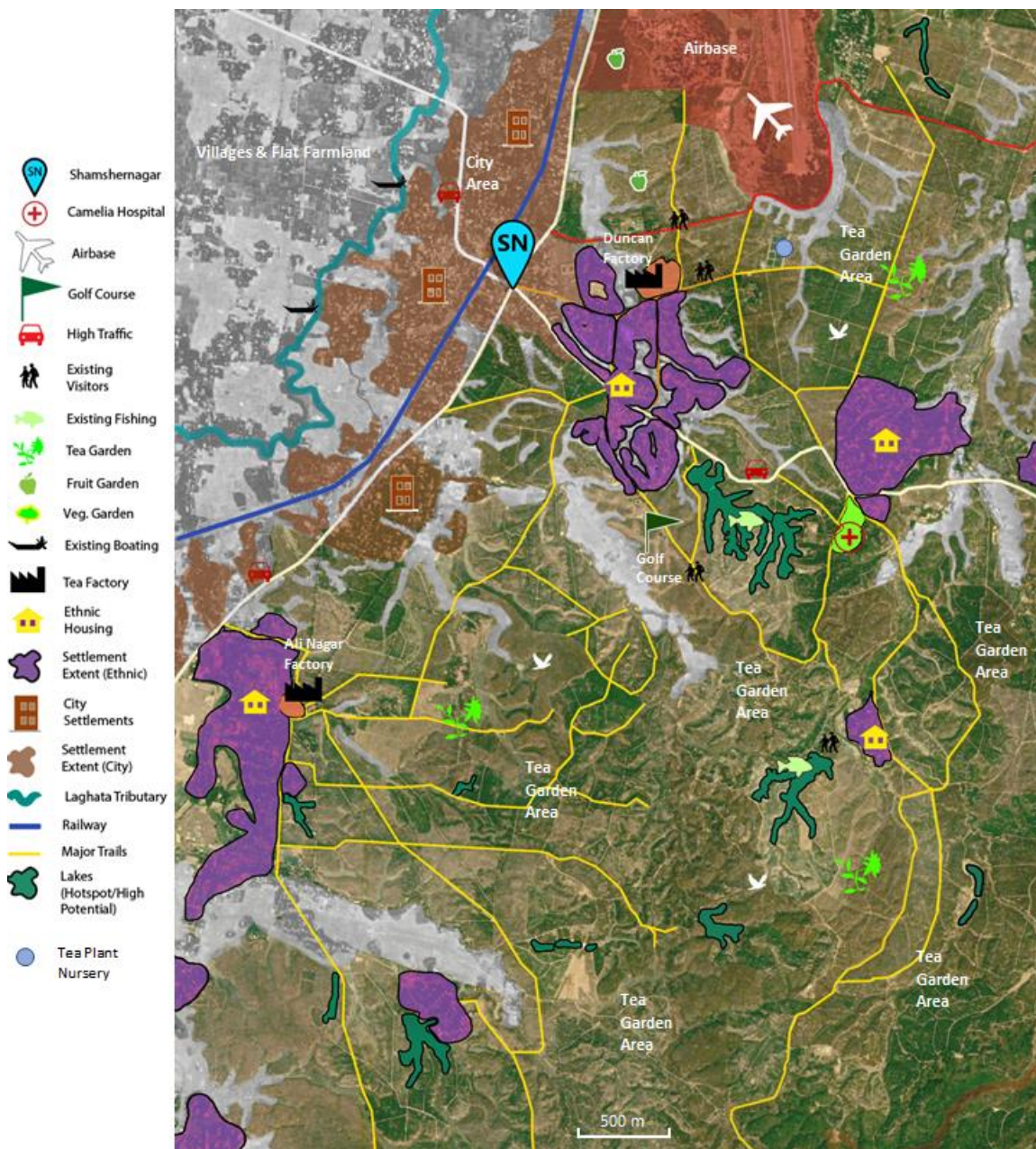
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5. Current Tourism scenario

Figure 5.1 Existing Tourism scenario around Shamsheer Nagar Town & Tea Garden
(Source: Google Satellite View edited by Author)



In general, Eastern terrain Tea garden zones have high tourism value compared to Western flat farmlands and villages. Laghata tributary is located at the West to the City area with a high potential of river approach development for recreational purpose.

Although playful terrain landscape of the Tea gardens is the common attraction for the visitors, number of Lakes surrounded by Tea gardens are the ultimate destinations for many visitors. In addition, numerous interconnected Trails created a huge Trail network which can be called 'A heaven for Hikers.

Table 5.1 SWOT Analysis of the existing tourism scenario in Shamsheer Nagar

Strength	Weakness	Opportunities	Threats
-Good connectivity with local and national transport -Existing popular national Tourists Spots within the Upazilla -Existing and potential hotspots with Lake within a radius of 4 Km -Playful landform (Terrain, Flatland, Water body) -Nature dominant atmosphere (View, Sound, Smell) -Trail sprawl through vivid nature -Cultural diversity -Functional diversity	-Lack of direction and information for the visitors -Insufficient weather protection measures for the Tea Workers and visitors -No rest point for hikers -Lack of diversity in activities for visitors	-Improve connectivity among the potential tourist hotspots -Provide weather protective measures, rest points, static observation provision -Explore culture and ethnic lifestyle -Experience Farming, Boating, Fishing -Introduce camping and picnic facilities -Active and passive economic benefit for the ethnic tea worker communities	-Climate change -Poor waste management

6. Discussion

Observation, Survey and Studies during this research shows that there are three key issues which are vital for the socio-cultural and economic development of the local people of Shamsheer Nagar especially for the ethnic Tea Worker communities. These are: (i) Improvement of Recreational provisions for Bengali and ethnic Tea Worker communities (ii) Socio-cultural integration and harmony between mainstream and ethnic communities (iii) Improvement of tourism provisions.

Respective considerations and relevant proposals in response to these issues have been discussed below.

- i) Findings shows that despite having ample natural setting all around, there is still lack of proper outdoor recreation provisions for all age group from mainstream and ethnic communities. Regarding this need, following measures can be taken-
 - A Public Park can be developed in a suitable place near the town and ethnic settlement area which may include Walkways, Seats, Kids play zone etc. Ecology and Bio-diversity enhancement should be integrated along this plan
 - Design and materials selection should be decided carefully to conserve distinct culture and identity as well as to retain the sense of place
 - Planning for recreational provision for the ethnic Tea Worker communities should be considered within their neighborhood as they live inside the Tea industry
- ii) Socio-cultural gap between the mainstream Bengali community and ethnic Tea Worker communities is a major phenomenon in this paradigm. Moreover, financial disrepair due to employer’s century long hegemony left the ethnic Tea Worker communities at marginal level of the society. To mitigate these socio-economic issues following proposals have been developed-
 - a) Community Garden:

Gardening and farming provisions are rapidly reducing in the town area of Shamsheer Nagar. Demand of fresh locally grown vegetable and milk is also increasing concurrently. On the other hand, inside the ethnic settlement, ample land and farming opportunities are not being fully utilized due to poverty, lack of information and logistics

support. In this reality, the concept of Community Garden could be a win-win game for both Bengali and ethnic Tea Worker communities. Additionally, this kind of spot could work as a place for leisure, meet up in neighborhood, outdoor recreation and sharing platform of produced food. In general, all of these proposed provisions can bring the mainstream and ethnic communities closer.

Existing Chora (Water Channel) running across the ethnic settlement can provide required water for gardening and required nutrition as well as fertilizer can be managed by collected degradable wastage. To secure advantage of all users as well as to develop a proper Guideline, following issues can be taken under consideration for further policy development for Community Garden-

- To form a Management Team including ethnic and mainstream local people
- Policy development to select, allot and expand land for Community Garden
- Guideline to distribute space among users and right over produced goods
- Participation and Partnership Guideline to specify responsibilities and to ensure attachment of people from different communities
- If necessary, separate participation and Partnership Guidelines for Vegetable, Poultry and Dairy sectors
- Marketing and Selling policy to sell at local Market
- Policy to engage Agro experts occasionally for demonstration and consultancy
- Policy to allow voluntary labor and Organizational Service
- Occasional discussion to improve consciousness about Nature and Bio-diversity

b) Community Space (Integration of the Club house, Jagannath Temple and Weekly Market):

The existing Club House and weekly Market can be revitalized along adjacent Jagannath Temple through an integrated landscape design which can be an exhibition platform of diverse ethnic culture and heritage along local commerce. Being located at an important node of this Tea Estate, this proposed idea of community place could help to represent and conserve diverse ethnic culture and tradition.

To ensure participation, representation and benefits of the ethnic communities following areas can be taken under consideration for further Policy development and implementation for the Community Space.

For Market Area:

- Co-ordination of Market & Cultural space along with relevant function (i.e. Tea Worker rationing, Wage distribution)
- Form a committee consists of Tea Company Staff and Worker Association members to run and monitor Market functions
- Space distribution among sellers from ethnic and mainstream communities
- Display and Sell of Art and Craft products produced by the ethnic people thus encourage skill improvement
- Display, sell and store Poultry and Vegetable products produced in the proposed Community Garden
- Flexible selling provision to allow diverse commerce according to different Seasonal and occasional demand for sustainable Commerce
- Maintenance of Landscape, Structures and Trees
- Waste management

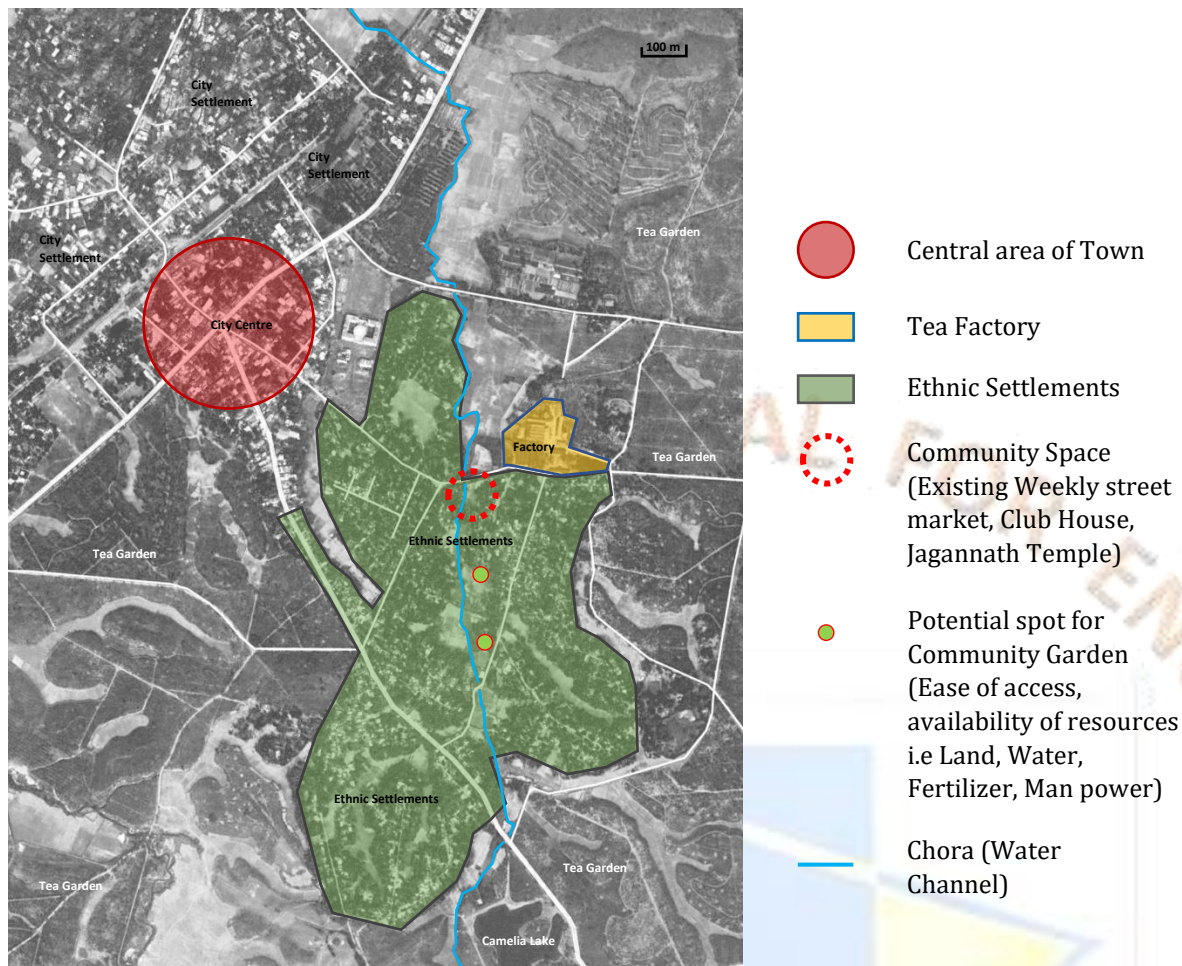
For Cultural Area:

- Co-ordination between Club and Market Committee
- Arrange and scheduling Events focusing on ethnic Socio-cultural aspects
- Display, Publication and presentation of ethnic Culture, History and Art
- Research, recover and represent extinct ethnic tradition, Folk-lore and Language
- Invite and involve interested people from mainstream community
- Information and Guideline for visitors

Common consideration:

- Estimate, Manage, Install and maintain Solar Panels to ensure sustainable energy to run these functions
- Allow and encourage multi-purpose use of this spot

Figure 6.1 existing and potential spots for Community Space and Community Garden



iii) In response to the lacking found in terms of tourism, following proposals have been developed-

- Information and direction signs should be provided at different nodes those connecting popular hotspots
- Number of shades throughout the vast trail network, should be increased to allow weather protection especially during Monsoon and hot humid seasons
- Watch tower, Observation deck etc. can be introduced in the spots with attractive viewpoints
- Diversification of recreational activities i.e. Boating, Fishing in the Camellia Lake
- Route plan, Guided tour and an integrated plan for tourists to enhance tourism experience that includes other popular national tourist spots within Komolgonj Upazilla

7. Conclusion

To contribute for the betterment of Society is the responsibility of every human being. Among these responsibilities, protecting human rights are to be considered in a priority basis. In the context of Shamsher Nagar, these social needs and human right issues can be significantly mitigated through Landscape Planning, Design and Policy development actively as well as passively. This study will help to understand the socio-cultural context of Shamsher Nagar along with shedding light on recreational and tourism scenario. In addition, specific problem oriented proposals and recommendations will be helpful for any further landscape design and planning considerations.

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