Spatial Organization,
Residential Land and Housing
Conditions of High-Density
Rural Areas in Homna Thana

I Bang Ladesh (cS l' \ I.. �.�~�e� lna KhanL___ Executive Summary

There has been �t�r�~�m�e�n�d�o�u�s� population growth in Bangladesh for the last three

decades. The countrpa/ in

Qadeer's paper has examined, on a broad scale, the impact of high population density I

on settlement patterns and residential economy of the rural areas in South Asia. This I report examines a �~�m�a�l�l�,� high-density rural area in Bangladesh. It is primarily
[

concerned with the bffects of population pressure on spatial organization and the

provision of residential land in the selected high-density rural mauzas (smallest I

administrative unit) lof Homna Thana, a subdistrict, in the Comilla District of Bangladesh. The purpose of the paper has been to undertake an empirical analysis of the propositions undJrlying the concept of the Ruralopolis.

I

Homna Thana has a Irural density of 1253 persons per square kilometers and an area

I

of 180.13 square kilometers. Based on the availability of data relating to Homna Thana, only 86 rural mauzas have been included in this study. Population density is the independent varik.ble and the rural settlement pattern, residential land supply, and

housing conditions le dependent variables. The following are the findings of this [
report:

Findings:

(I)  Homna Th1 is a slice of high-density rural Bangladesh; it is largely rural
with only one urban mauza. However, there are minor differences in the

socio-econo1ic characteristics of the rural and uman areas ofthe Thana. The

ratio of

to be employed in non-farm activities, as the land cannot sustain such large numbers ofworkers.
(II)  There is a limited degree of correlation between the population size and density. The very high-density mauzas have small area and are growing rapidly. Settllements with rural densities of 1000-3000 persons per square kilometers ard most common.
I 
I 

(III)  Majority of the settlements is linear inform with homesteads lined along paths

and roads. 'Q1e distribution pattern of the settlements in the very high-density I rural mauzas �~�s� directly related with the existence

(VI)  The settlement pattern in the village of Ramkrisnapur illustrates that linear settlements have developed along the riverbank and rural kuteha