



KEY FINDINGS

SHERPUR ETHNIC SURVEY

SES 2024



Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Statistics and Informatics Division
Ministry of Planning

**Overall Direction**

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Acknowledgement

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is the institution responsible for providing statistics at the government level as per section 6 (d) of the Statistics Act, 2013. BBS conducts various socio-economic surveys and publishes reports. Based on the demand of Sherpur district administration, BBS has undertaken this special project to establish the database and socioeconomic status of minority ethnic groups in Sherpur district. The 50 officially recognized ethnic minorities in Bangladesh have a population of about 1.6 million, which is about 1.0 percent of the total population of Bangladesh (PHC 2022). There are two broad categories of ethnic minority population in Bangladesh: those living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban) in the southeastern Chattogram Division, and ethnic groups living in the northern part of the country (Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet) which are considered as ethnic minorities of the plains.

The 8th Five-Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for a focus on minority populations to ensure inclusive growth and development. Micro-ethnic groups in the plains of Bangladesh live in historically and socially marginalized, isolated and largely impoverished areas. However, some ethnic minorities hold a mixed view of Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, animist or other religious beliefs. Their language, cultural practices, food, drink, clothing and social structure (some are matriarchal) differ greatly. Furthermore, there are differences among ethnic groups in education, economic activities, and wealth ownership. Determining the exact number of these people and determining their socioeconomic status (income, employment, poverty, health, water, sanitation, education, women employment and infrastructure) is essential for the smooth implementation of the country's development programs and the creation of a non-discrimination society.

Sherpur district in the northern part of Bangladesh under Mymensingh division has been home to various ethnic groups for many years. Some of the plains ethnic groups like Koch, Garo, Hajong, Rajvanshi, Hudi, Banai and Burman live in the hill valley of Sherpur. The government has undertaken the 'Socioeconomic Status Survey 2023 Project of Minorities Living in Sherpur District' to ensure their quality of life, literacy status, economic welfare, access to health care and basic social services.

The following important data and information will be provided in the final report detailing-

- The socio-economic status of minority population of Sherpur district;
- A benchmark database of minority population of Sherpur district for development planning, policy formulation and implementation;
- Ensuring 'Leave no one behind' by collecting SDG disaggregated data on ethnic minority population in Sherpur district;
- Formulation of Management Information System (MIS) with PMT score indicating socioeconomic status for database management;

However, a few of these are available in this report as 'Key Findings'.

We express our gratitude to the Hon'ble Advisor, Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Ministry of Planning for his generous support and cooperation. We are highly thankful to the respected Secretary Mr. Md. Mahbub Hossain, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) for his valuable guidance. We acknowledge the valuable suggestions and wholehearted administrative support provided by the respected Director General of BBS, Mr. Mohammed Mizanur Rahman. Special thanks to the Additional Secretary, SID, Dr. Md. Moinul Hoque Anshary, and DDG of BBS, Mr. Mohammad Obaidul Islam for their kind support. Thanks to our Ex Senior Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, ndc for her valuable guidance during the survey period. Our sincere thanks to members of the Project Implementation Committee and Project Steering Committee. Special thanks to the concerned officials of the Sherpur District administration for their cordial assistance.

We are also thankful to all distinguished officials of BBS and SID who were engaged in monitoring the SES 2024 data collection. We extend our gratitude to all respected individuals, organizations, and agencies involved in implementing this project.

Finally, I am thankful to Dr. Dipankar Roy, Joint Secretary, SID for his kind support and valuable contribution to this project. I am indebted to all the 'Enumerators', DD Sherpur and JD Myemensingh for their utmost dedication and sincerity for this work at field level. My heartfelt thanks to Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed MPH, Focal Point Officer, Poverty and Livelihood Statistics Cell, BBS for his kind support. Thanks to Mr. Md. Alamgir Hossen, Deputy Director & Focal Point Officer, SDG Cell BBS for reviewing the report patiently. I also thank Mr Shapon Kumar, Deputy Director, National Accounting Wing for his administrative support of the Project.

My special thanks to Mr. Ashadur Alam Prodhan, Statistical Officer, National Accounting Wing and PLSC, BBS and Mr. S. M. Anwar Husain, ASO, BBS, for accomplishing technical support in preparing the CAPI interface, training, field operation, data management, and data analysis efficiently. My sincere thanks to all hard-working support staff of the SES Project, BBS, for their devoted service since the inception of the project.

We believe that the 'Key Findings: SES 2024' would be extremely helpful to get a quick impression of the latest updates on Sherpur Ethnic People in Bangladesh. Your kind opinion and valuable suggestions in improving the future activities of SES team would be highly appreciated.

Dhaka,
September 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Farhana Sultana.

Farhana Sultana
Project Director,
SES 23 Project, BBS



ACRONYMS

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
EA	Enumeration Area
FY	Fiscal Year
HH	Household
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NSO	National Statistical Organization
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PLS	Poverty and Livelihood Statistics
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SES	Sherpur Ethnic Survey
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SSNP	Social Safety Net Programme
WBG	World Bank Group

Introduction



The Sherpur Ethnic Survey (SES) 2024 was conducted to assess the socioeconomic status of the minority ethnic groups living Sherpur District in Bangladesh. This is a special survey, requested by the district administration of Sherpur District. The initiative has been taken to find out action-based statistics produced by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) as a national statistical organization. To ensure 'Leave no one behind' and to make a benchmark database, SDG disaggregated data on the vulnerable and marginalized people of ethnic minority, the SES 2024 has been conducted. Thus, achieving the SDGs, particularly the ethnic people, will necessitate added efforts from all ministries, agencies and grassroots actors to improve effective coverage of basic social services like health, culture, food, education, nutrition, drinking water, improved sanitation, employment, NEET, labour force, disability at all the administrative levels in Sherpur, Bangladesh.

The SES 2024 is a full ethnic count survey on the resident of Sherpur. Firstly, the number of ethnic people has been traced out from Population and Housing Census (PHC) 2022. Based on the ethnic populated areas in Sherpur District, the enumeration areas (EAs) of PHC have been taken. Since then, during 1-15 March, 2024 (total 15 days), the listing operation has been done throughout the Sherpur District. The resident of Sherpur ethnic people who live in elsewhere (outside of Sherpur) in Bangladesh, has been considered in the listing operation. After the listing operation, the main survey has been conducted on 30 May-13 June 2024 (total 15 days). It is worth to mention that, the current dwelling of ethnic household in Sherpur and those who came back from abroad in the last 6 months, has been considered in the main survey operation in the Sherpur Ethnic Survey (SES) 2024. The coverage of the ethnic people was ensured by the local ethnic society and organization as well as verifying the existing database managed by district commissioners' office of Sherpur.

The draft ethnic survey questionnaire was developed by the BBS and then, it was shared to the stockholders including Sherpur Deputy Commissioner Office, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Academy of Small Ethnic Groups (BIRISHIRI). Since then, the questionnaire was finalized by a consultation workshop held on 3 April, 2024 at the BBS Head Quarters.

To accelerate SDGs in Bangladesh, various perspective at local level means improvement in functioning of service points and efficient implementation of services. The survey outcome will help to improve the ability of local administrations including local government to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable local development. At various policy deliberations, emphasis was given to assess and improve coverage of basic social services. The utilization of evidence of effective coverage would significantly translate 2030 agenda in the country.

The report will be useful to the public and private sector's duty-bearers, policymakers, development partners and researchers to understand the coverage and pockets of deprivation existent in the basic social and economic services experienced in Bangladesh particularly in Sherpur District.





SHERPUR
ETHNIC
SURVEY

SES
2024



Key Findings



HOUSEHOLD AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter deals with household and demographic characteristics obtained from SES 2024. It includes average household size, sources of drinking water, access to electricity, toilet facilities, household composition, sex ratio, literacy rate, level of education etc. It is worth mentioning that SES has been done only within the Ethnic People of Sherpur District in Bangladesh.

Average Household Size

Sherpur Ethnic Household



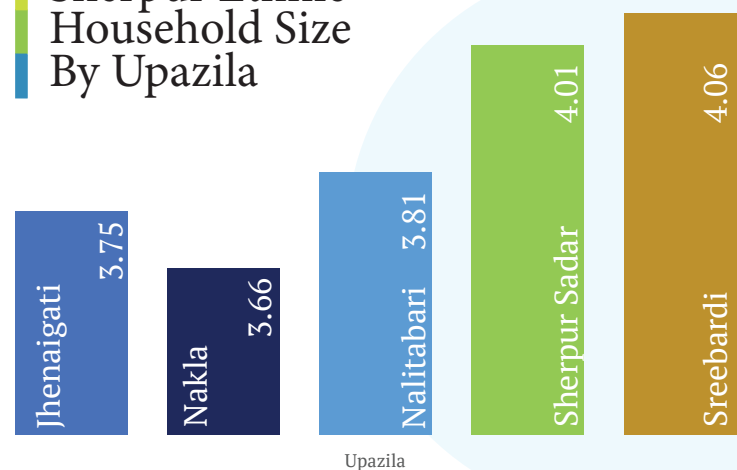
3.84

Household size refers to the average number of household members per household.

The average household size in the Sherpur Ethnic Survey 2024 is 3.84 which is very close (3.79) to the household size of Sherpur District (PHC 2022).



Sherpur Ethnic Household Size By Upazila

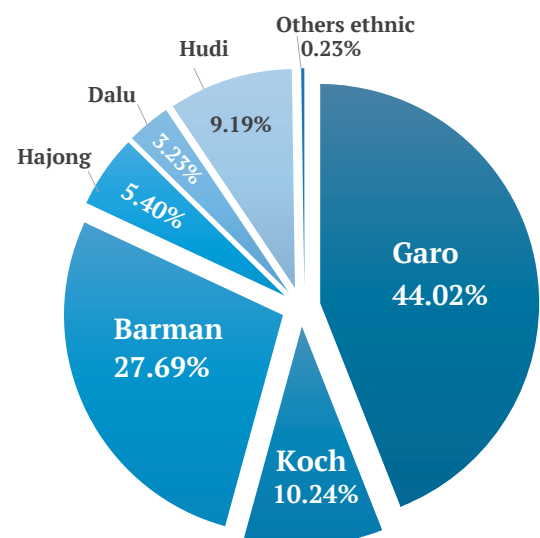


Upazila

Three Upazilas (Jhenaigati, Nakla, Nalitabari) shown in household size at below the average level (National Average). Whereas, other two Upazilas (Sherpur Sadar and Sreebardi) are at above the average level (National Average).

Distribution of Major Ethnic Group

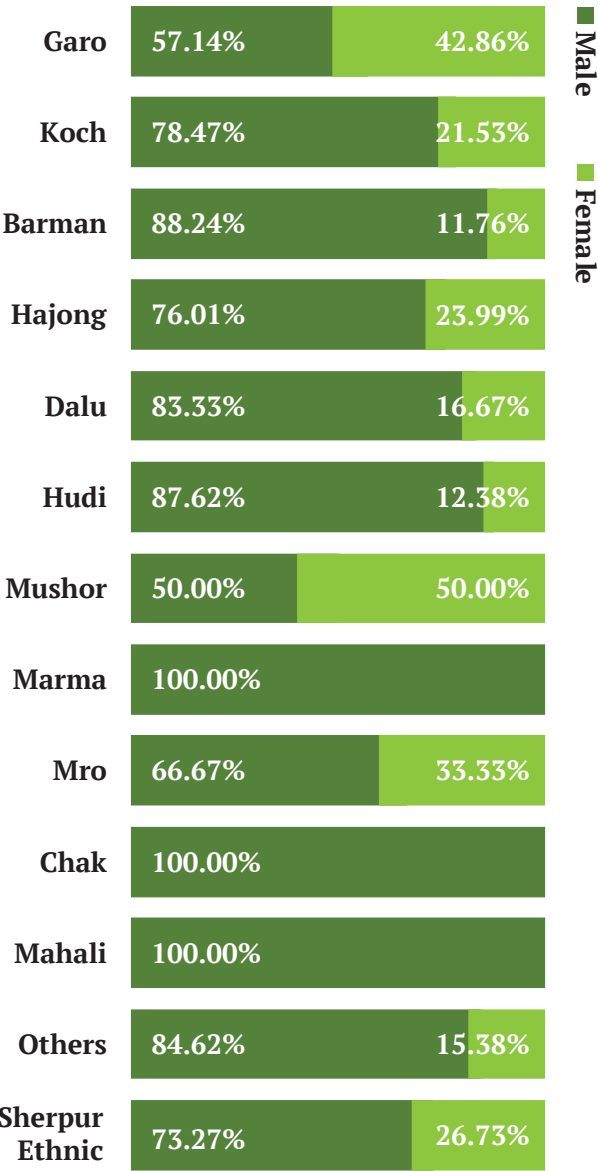
The Pie diagram shows that the Garo is the major Ethnic group in Sherpur (44.02%) followed by Barman (27.69%) and Koch (10.24%).



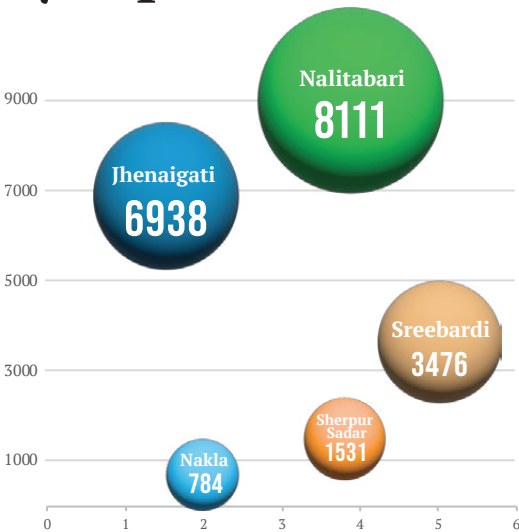
Distribution of Household Head By Sex And Major Ethnic Group

The stack diagram shows that the majority of ethnic group is male headed household (73.27%) at Sherpur District level, 26.73% of the household is female headed.

16 Ethnic Group



Number of Ethnic Population by Upazila



Total
20,840

The bubble diagram shows that Nalitabari Upazila has the highest Ethnic People (8,111) and Jhenai-gati has the second highest Ethnic People (6,938).

Sex Ratio (PERCENT)

Sex ratio is the proportion of male to female in a population as expressed by the number of male per hundred female.

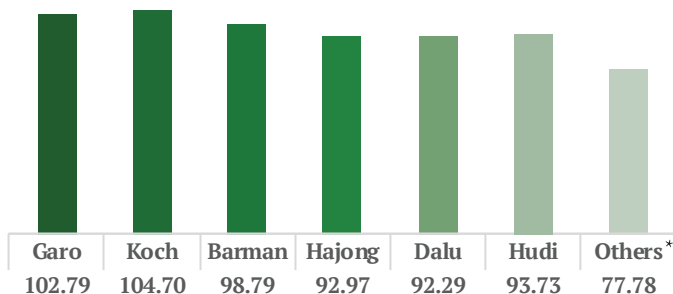
The survey shows that there are 100.04 male against 100 female. This ratio varies between Ethnic group and Upazila. It is the highest at 104.70 among Koch and lowest at Dalu (92.29). Sreebardi Upazila has the highest male (106.66) against 100 female and Nakla has the lowest (93.10).



100.04

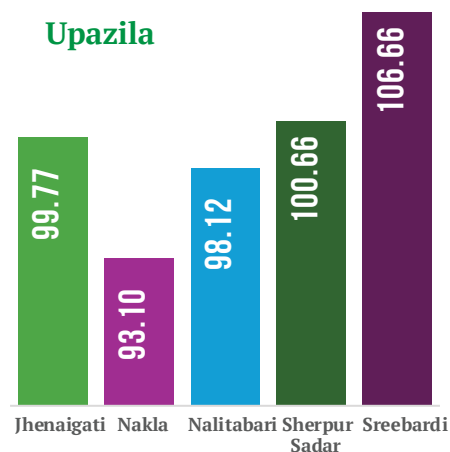
(PERCENT)

Sex Ratio (Percent)



* 'Others' comprises rest of the ethnic group.

Upazila



Literacy Rate

(7 Years & Above)

According to the Population and Housing Census, BBS, literacy rate refers to the percentage of the population who are able to both read and write.



64.08%

At district level, 64.08% of the people are literate. According to PHC 2022 the literacy rate in Sherpur District is 63.57%.

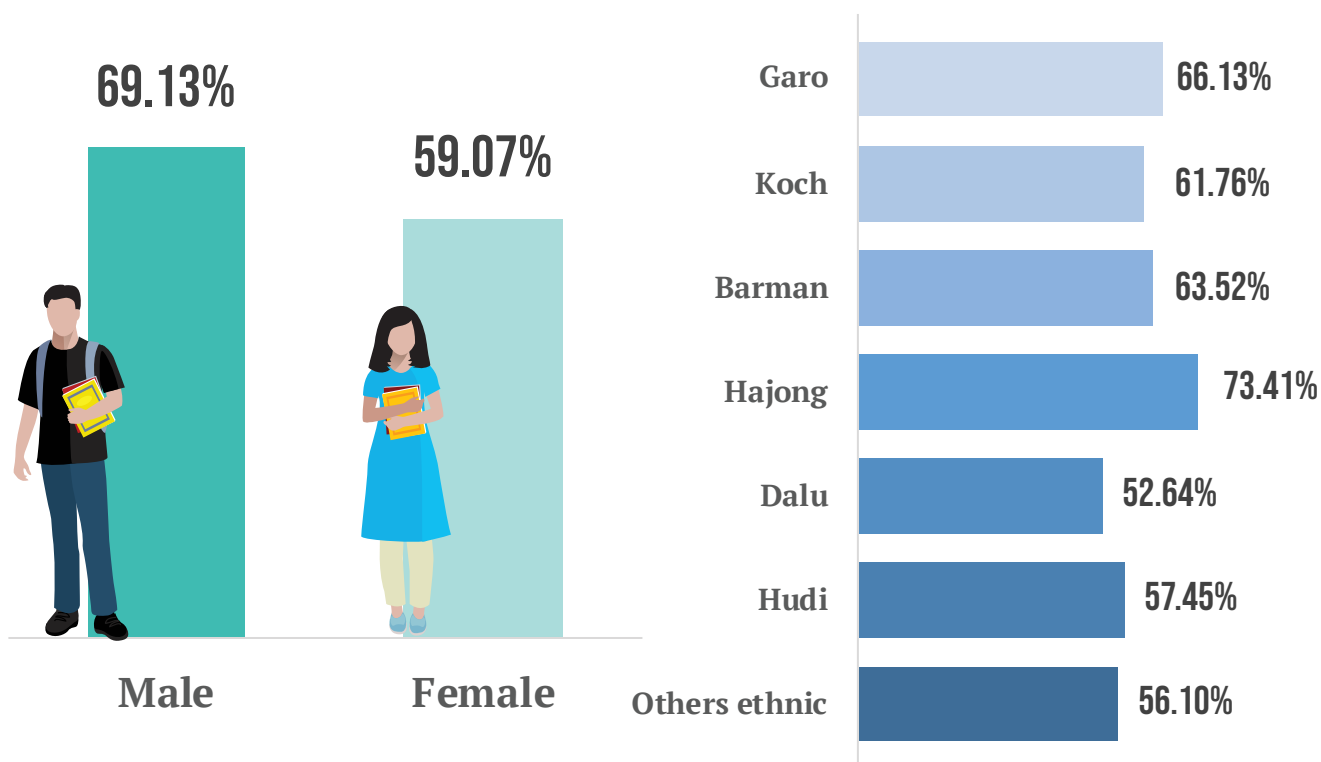
64.29%

The rate of literacy in rural areas is 64.29% which is slightly lower than the national average (71.68% PHC 2022).

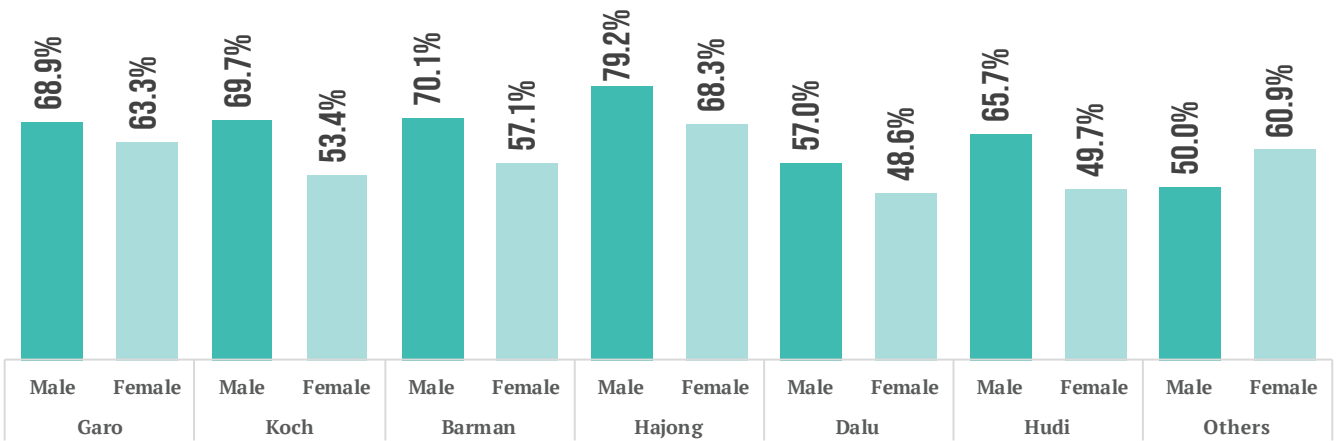
62.56%

The urban literacy rate is 62.56% which is lower than the national average (81.45%, PHC 2022).

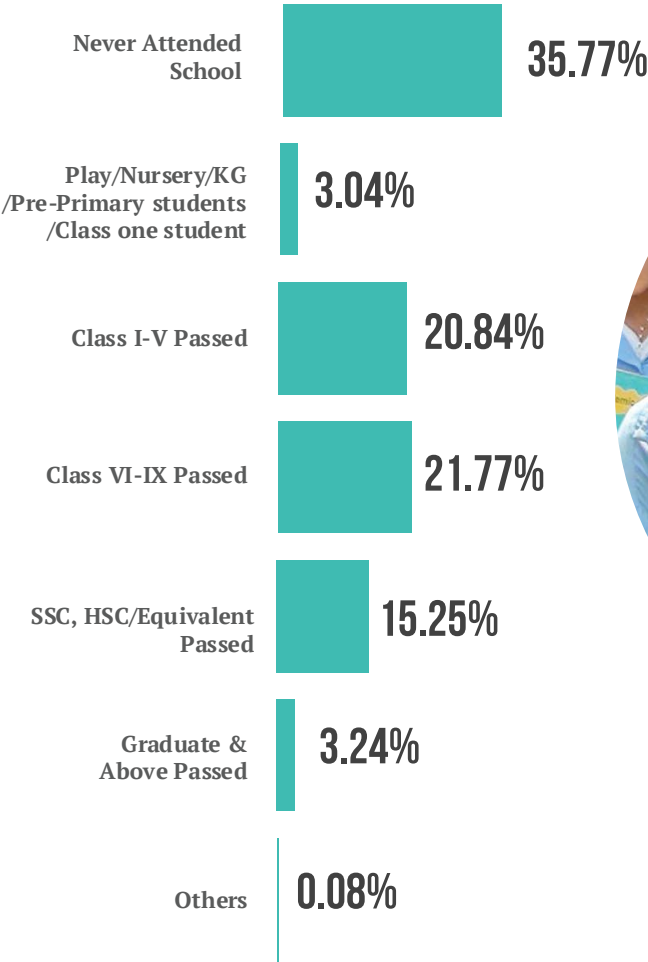
Literacy Rate By Ethnic Group And Sex



Literacy Rate among Ethnic Group by Sex

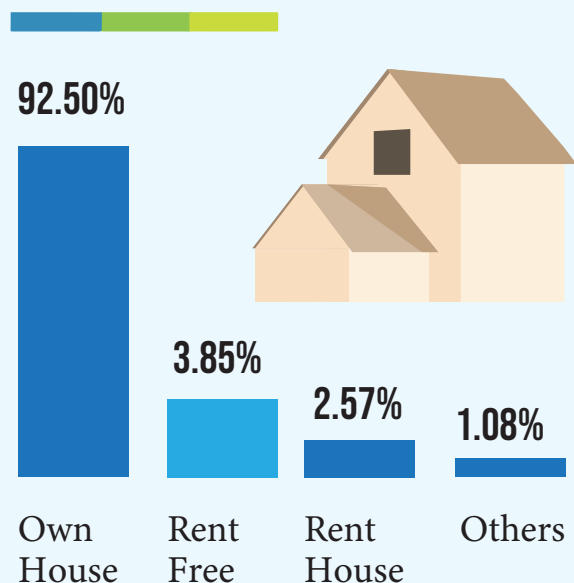


Level of Education



Distribution Of Households (%)

By Type Of Ownership Of Dwelling House



Access To Electricity: National Grid

At the district level, most of the dwelling houses have access to electricity, 98.32% with National Grid 97.77% and 0.55% solar as their main source of electricity.



0.55%

SOLAR



97.77%

**NATIONAL
GRID**



1.68%

NO ELECTRICITY



WATER & SANITATION

This chapter deals with main source of drinking water, improved and unimproved water, access to toilet facility by location.

Main Sources of Drinking Water



1.86 %

SUPPLY

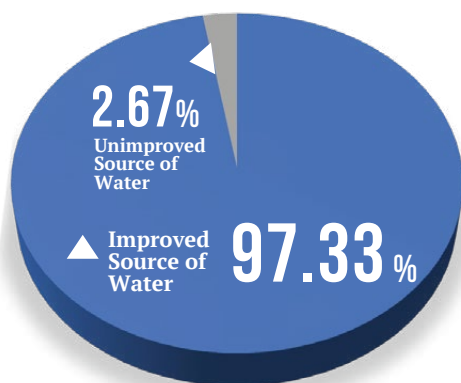
At the district level, only 1.86% of the dwelling houses are found using supply water.

88.49 %



TUBEWELL
(DEEP/SHALLOW/SUBMERSIBLE)

At the district level, most of the dwelling household are found using tubewell water (88.49%) as their main source of drinking water. It is 88.75% in the rural areas and 86.56% in the urban areas.



Drinking Water

At the district level, 97.33% of the ethnic dwelling household have improved source of water and 2.67% has unimproved source of water

- Improved Source of Water
- Unimproved Source of Water

Access to Toilet Facilities

Locality Variation



87.15%

of households reported that they have **access to improved toilet facilities**



11.12%

of the households reported that they have **access to unimproved toilet facilities**



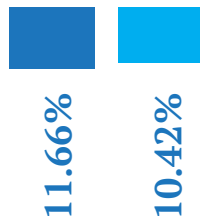
1.33%

of the households openly defecate, i.e., they **do not have any toilet facilities**.

IMPROVED



UNIMPROVED

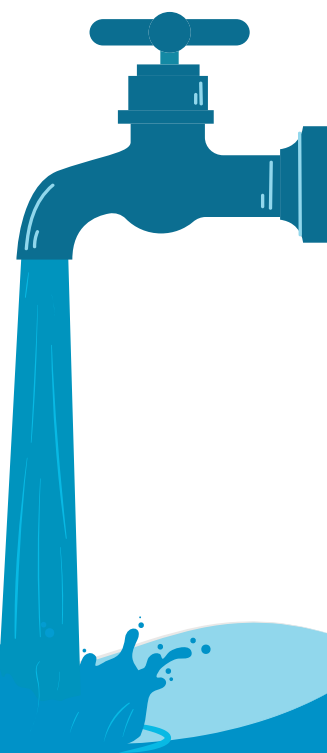


OPEN DEFECACTION



■ Rural ■ Urban

The survey findings show that there has been an urban rural variation on toilet facilities. Improved facility rate (88.67%) is slightly higher in urban areas than that of rural areas (86.95%).





EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT

This chapter deals with employment and unemployment by sex disaggregation and location variation.

Employment Rate (15 Years & Above)



Those who have worked for at least 1 hour in the last 7 days for salary/wages or profit or for their own food consumption are considered to be employed according to ILO guidelines.

51.84%

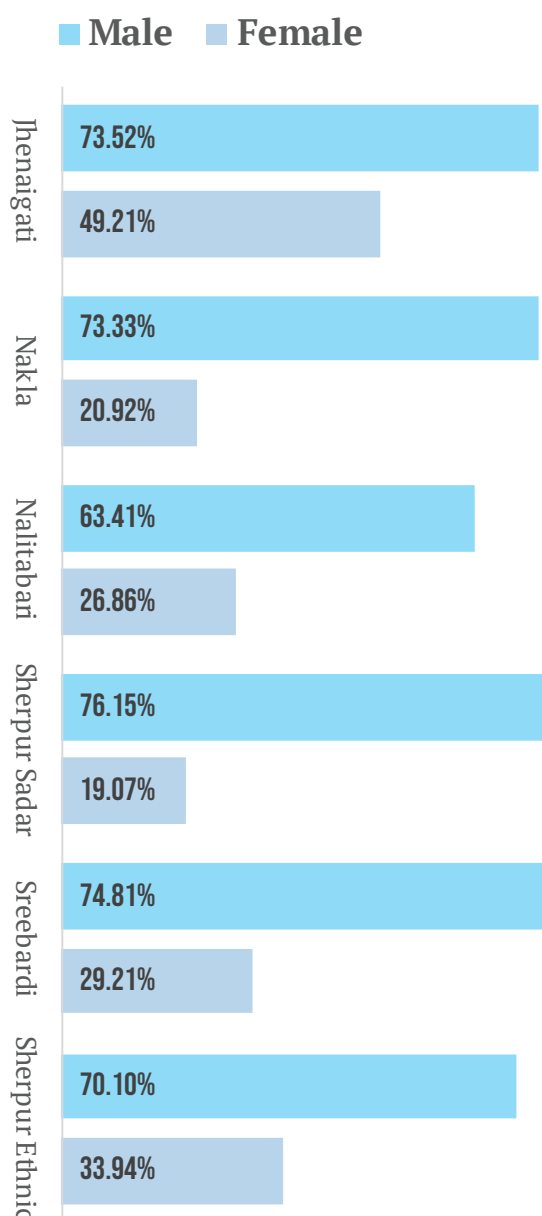
At district level, 51.84% of the ethnic people are employed.

51.63%

The rate of employment in rural areas is 51.63% which is lower than that of the national average.

53.34%

The urban employment rate is 53.34% which is higher than that of rural areas.



Unemployment Rate (10 Years & Above)



The unemployed population is mainly those who have not worked for at least 1 hour in the last 7 days but were ready to work in the last 7 days and are looking for work for pay/wage or profit in the last 30 days.

3.80%

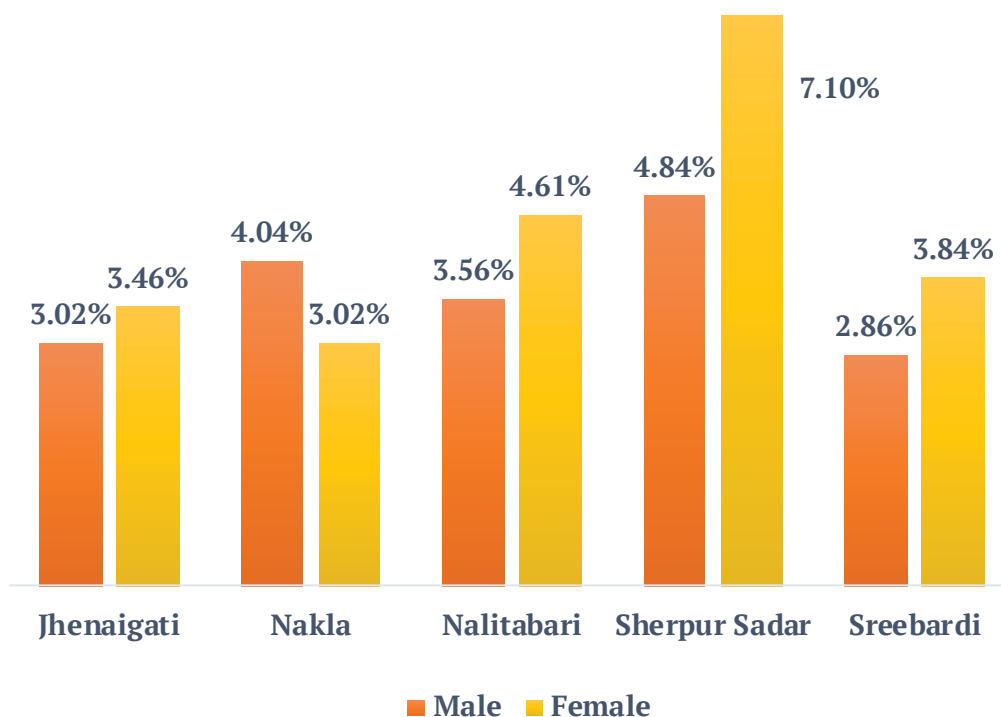
At district level, 3.80% of the ethnic people are unemployed.

3.71%

The rate of unemployment in rural areas is 3.71% which is slightly lower than that of the district ethnic average.

4.49%

The urban unemployment rate is 4.49% which is higher than that of rural areas.

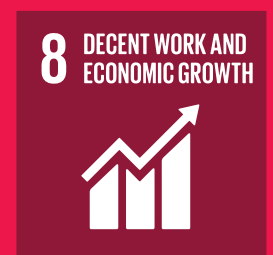




NEET

(Not in Education, Employment or Training)

This chapter deals with NEET. NEET refers to Not in Employment, Education or training. It is an SDG indicator (8.6.1) with proportion of Youth Population age between 15 to 24 years.



NEET

Age Group 15-24



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



24.73%

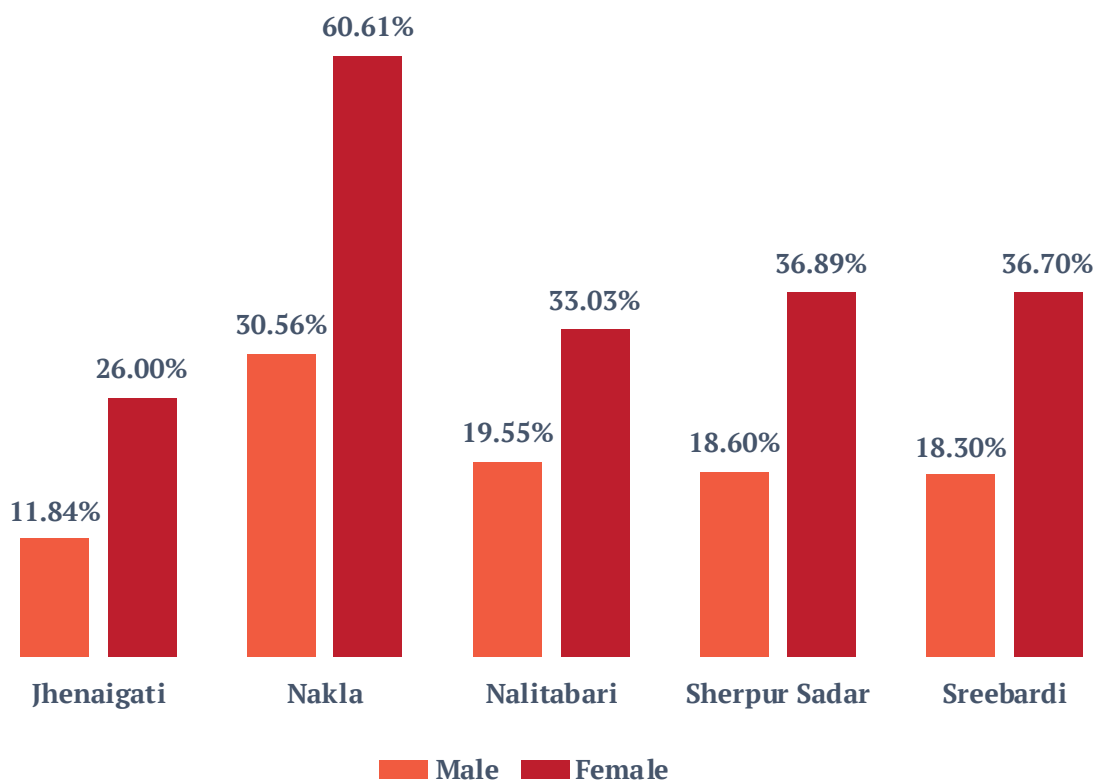
At the district level, 24.73% of the ethnic people are NEET. That means, they are completely not in education, employment or training. According to PHC 2022, the overall NEET population is 34.84%.

25.29%

The rate of NEET in rural areas is 25.29% which is slightly lower than that of the district average (37.22%, PHC 2022, Sherpur Rural).

20.85%

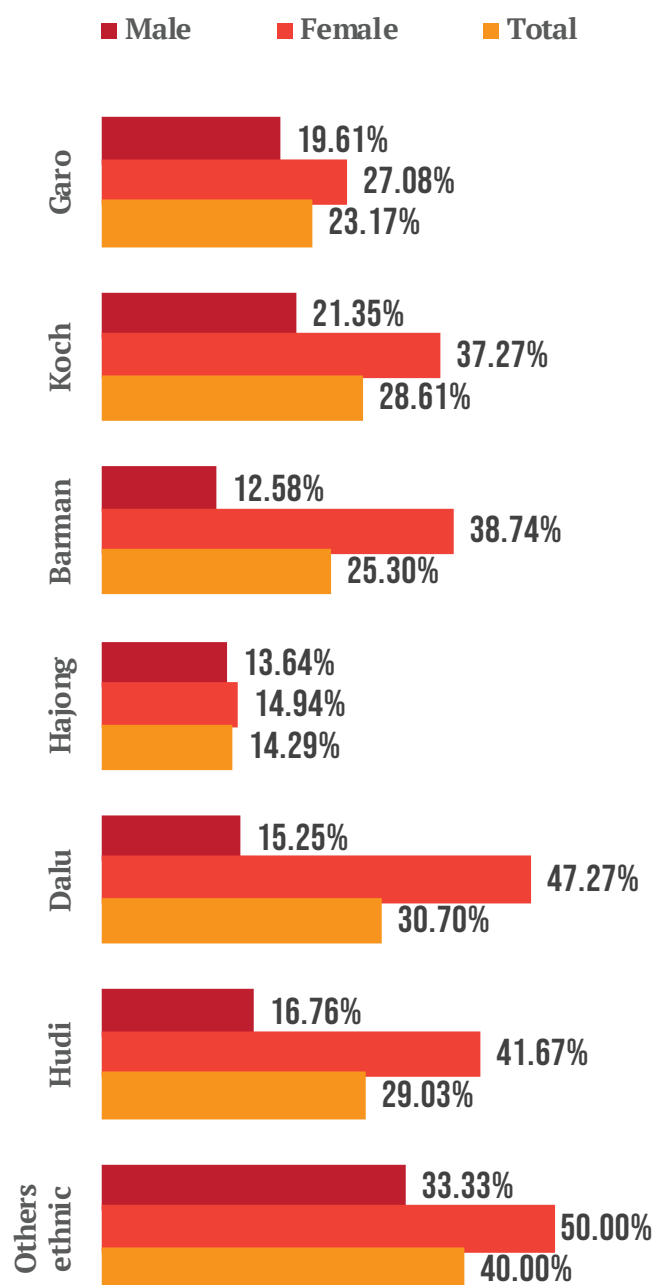
The urban NEET is 20.85% which is higher than that of rural areas (31.95%, PHC 2022, Sherpur Urban).



NEET

Sex Disaggregation of NEET by Ethnic Group

The bar diagram shows that female (32.88%) ethnics have higher proportion who are not in education, employment or training than that of male (17.21%) ethnic people. On the other hand, Dalu and other ethnics have the highest proportion of NEET for both male and female.



MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME, FINANCIAL INCLUSION

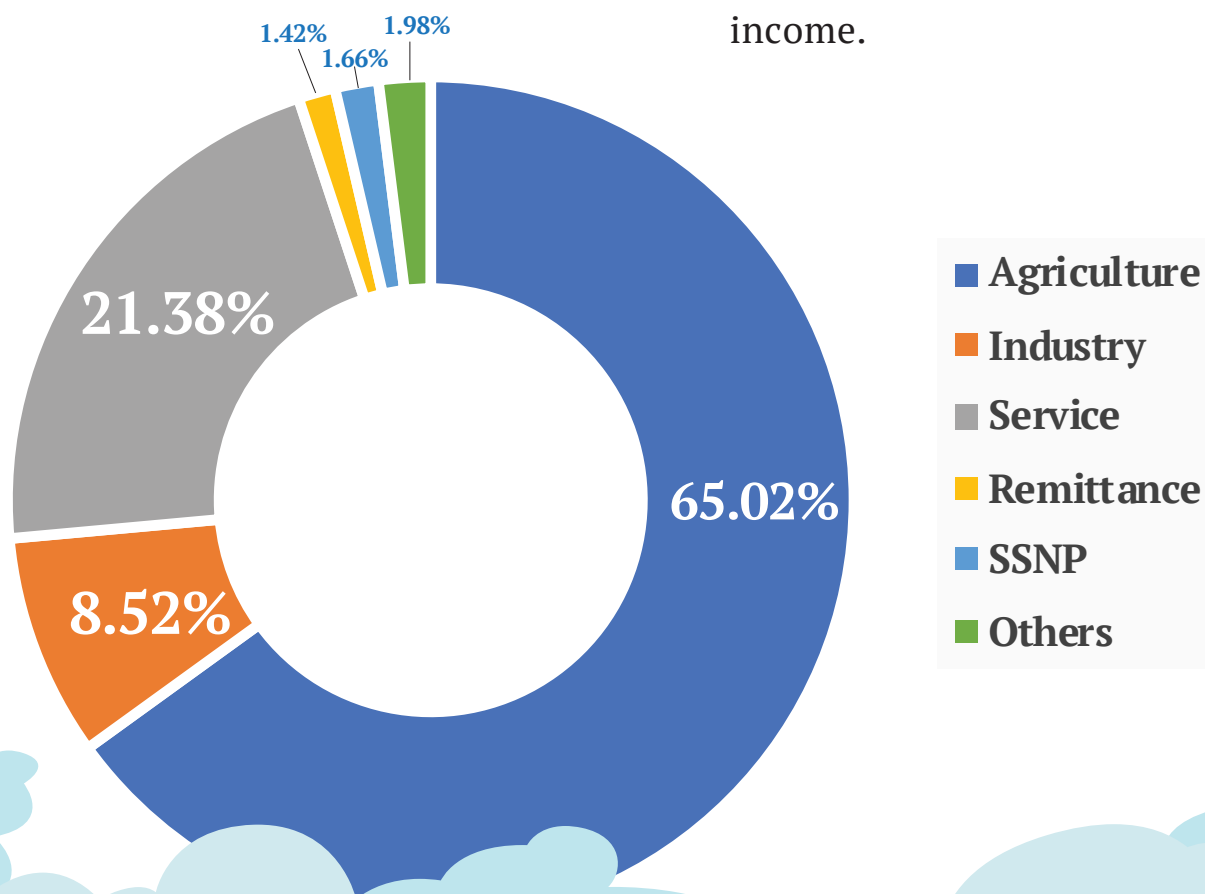
This chapter deals with main source of income, financial inclusion like international remittance and domestic remittance receiving household (Cash/Kind).



Main Sources of Income

(%) By Sector

At district level, the major sources of household income are found from the agriculture, accounting for 65.02%, and service accounting for 21.38%, which was the second largest income generator of the ethnic people. It is notable that, 1.42% of the household depends on remittance as main source of income.



Percentage of Remittance Receiving Household

(Cash/Kind)

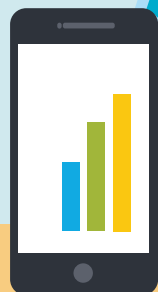
Remittance means typically transfer of cash or kind from a well-meaning individual or family member to another individual or household in any locations.

21.11%

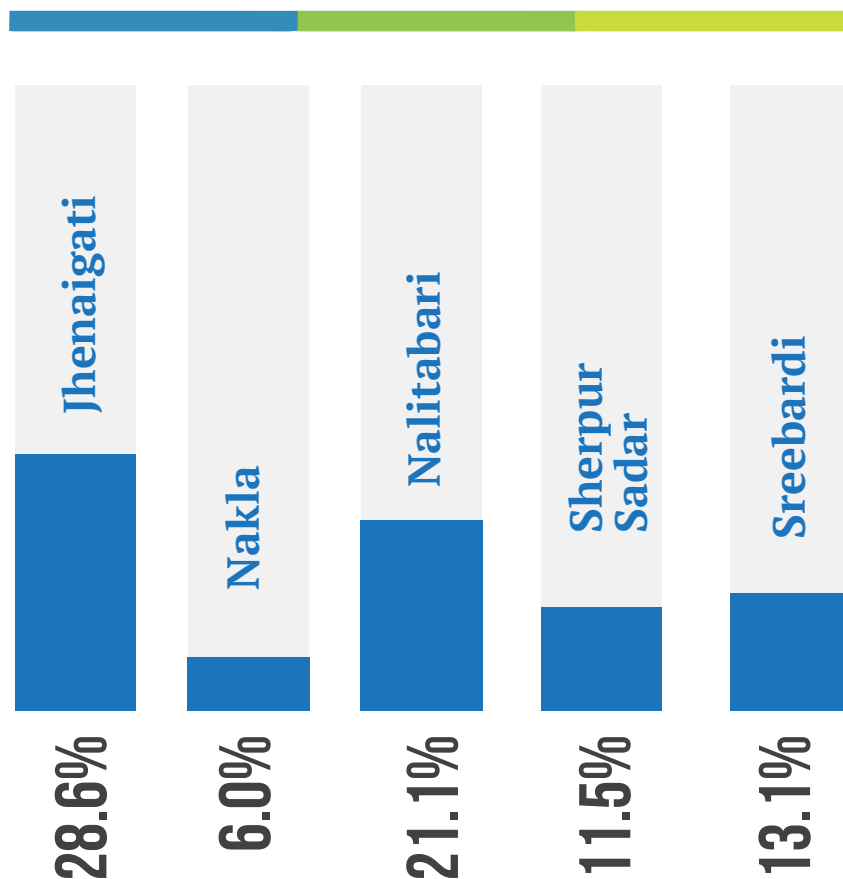
**DOMESTIC
REMITTANCE**

0.53%

**INTERNATIONAL
REMITTANCE**



Distribution of the Domestic Remittances by Upazila



The stack bar shows that, the domestic remittance receiving household is found the highest at Jhenaigati Upazila (28.6%), followed by Nalitabari (21.1%). Nakla shows the lowest at 6.0%.



DISABILITY

This chapter deals with ethnic disability by Upazila and sex disaggregated disability.

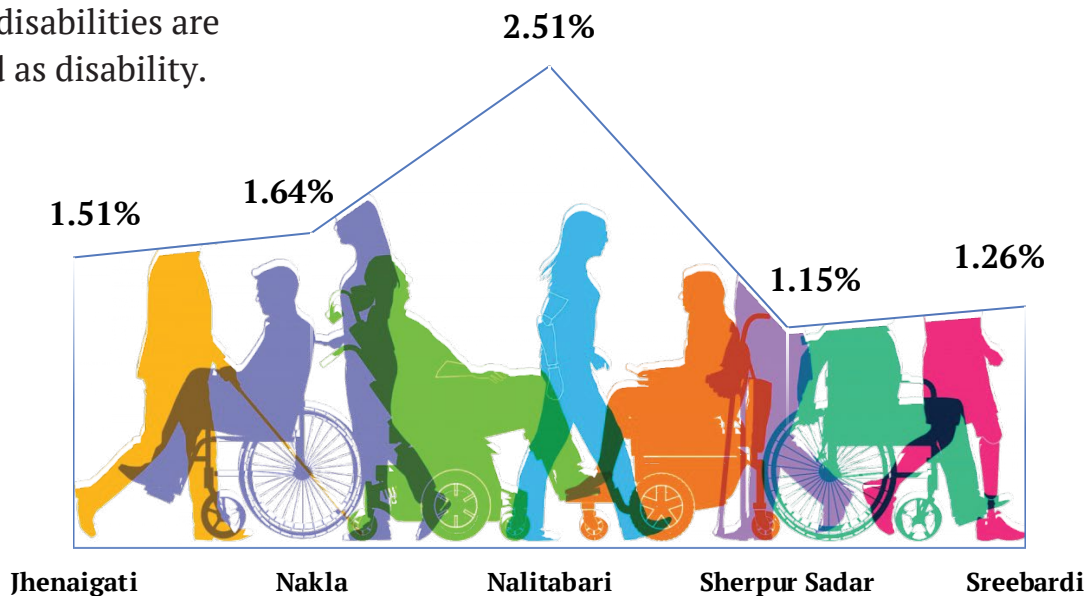


Persons with Disability

1.84%

According to the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act, 2013, 10 (Ten) types of disabilities such as autism, physical, mental, visual, speech, intellectual, hearing, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, and other disabilities are considered as disability.

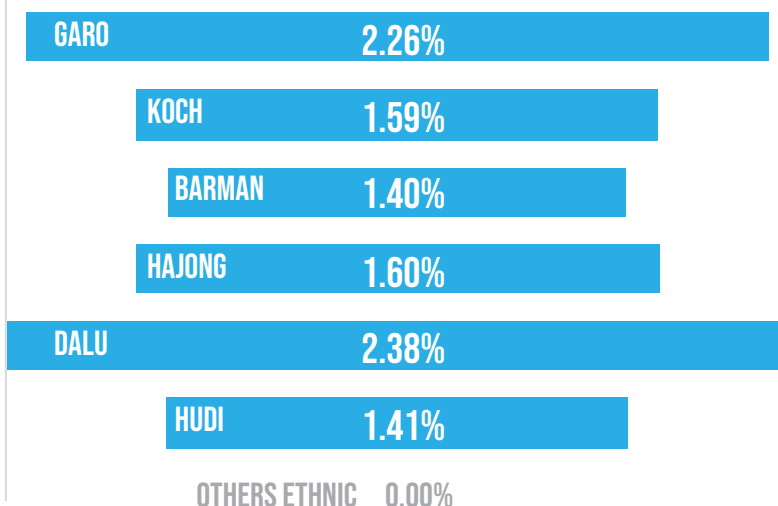
At district level, 1.84% of the ethnic people has at least one disability in Sherpur District.



Persons with Disability by Ethnic Group

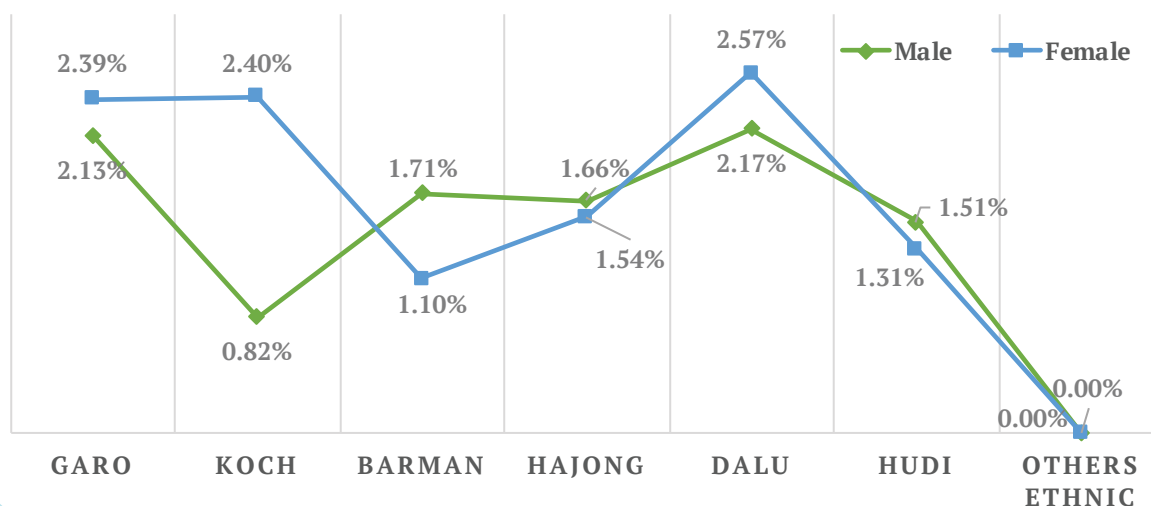


The funnel chart shows that the Dalu has the highest number of persons with disability at 2.38% followed by Garo (2.26%).



Sex Disaggregation of the Persons with Disability by Ethnic Group

The line chart shows that female (1.87%) ethnics have higher disability than that of male (1.80) ethnic people. On the other hand, Dalu has the highest disability for both male and female.



ANNEX

KEY FINDINGS | SES 2024

Concepts & Definitions



Access to Electricity

Percentage of households with access to electricity from the national grid or solar.

Employment

Those who have worked (people aged 15 years and above) for at least 1 hour in the last 7 days for salary/wages or profit or for their own food consumption are considered to be employed according to ILO guidelines.

Unemployment

The unemployed population (people aged 10 years and above) is mainly those who have not worked for at least 1 hour in the last 7 days but were ready to work in the last 7 days and are looking for work for pay/wage or profit in the last 30 days.

Ethnic Population in Sherpur

The people reside within the Sherpur District are counted and those who came from abroad in the last 6 months are considered. The population residing outside of the Sherpur district are not considered in the population in the Sherpur Ethnic Survey 2024.

Household

Household is a dwelling unit where one or more persons live and eat together under a common cooking arrangement. Household is considered to consist of all the people who live in a single housing unit, regardless of their relationship with each other. This includes family members, roommates, or other individuals who share a living space.

Household Head

Head of household means a member of the household who is the decision-maker regarding the different activities of the household. This household is also being run under his command. In case of the Sherpur Ethnic Survey (SES), a member is regarded as the head of a household whom the other members consider him so. Generally, the eldest male or female earner of the household or the main decision-maker is considered to be the head of the household.

Household Member

Household members are permanent family members, as well as, boarders and lodgers, servants and other employees who often live in the household and take food together. These also included persons temporarily away from the household, persons whose usual place of residence was elsewhere but found staying with the household at the time of enumeration have not deemed a member of the household.

Concepts & Definitions

Household Size

Household size refers to the average number of household members.

Improved Toilet Facilities

Improved toilet facilities are those that “ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact,” Improved sanitation facilities include flush or pour-flush to piped sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with slabs and composting toilets.

Literacy Rate

Literacy rate refers to the percentage of the population who are able to both read and write.

Migration

The movement of persons away from their usual place of residence either across an international border or within the country.

NEET

NEET refers to Not in Employment, Education or training. It is an SDG indicator (8.6.1) with proportion of Youth Population age between 15 to 24 years.

Open Defecation

Open defecation is the practice of people defecating in the open, such as in fields, forests, bushes, bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces or with solid waste, rather than using a toilet or other designated sanitation facility.

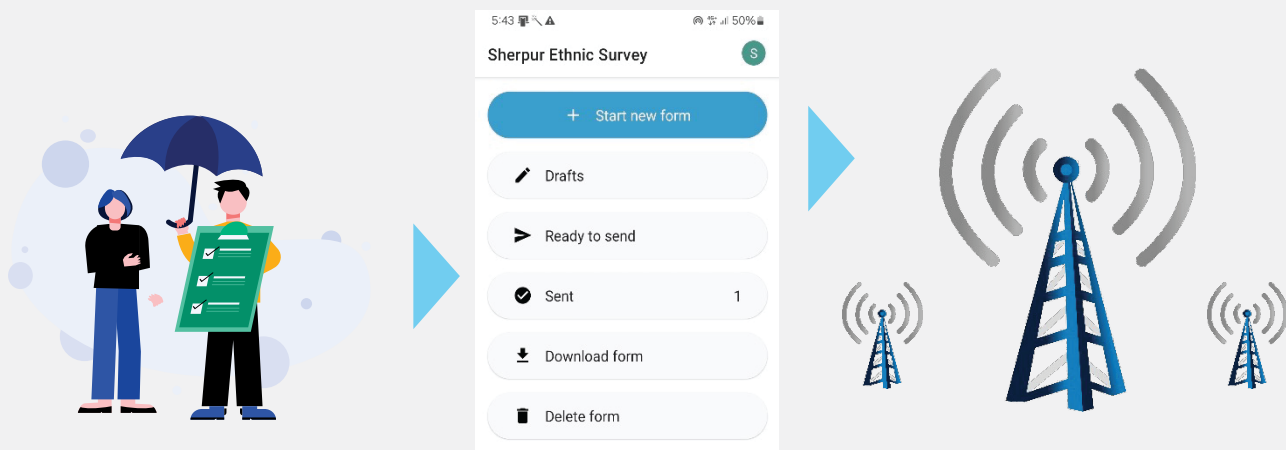
Sex Ratio

It is the number of males per hundred females. Sex ratio = (number of male / number of female)*100

Supply/Piped Water

Water supplied by local government or any other entity to the dwelling household, compound, yard or plot, to neighboring household through pipe or public tap/stand-pipe are considered as supply water.

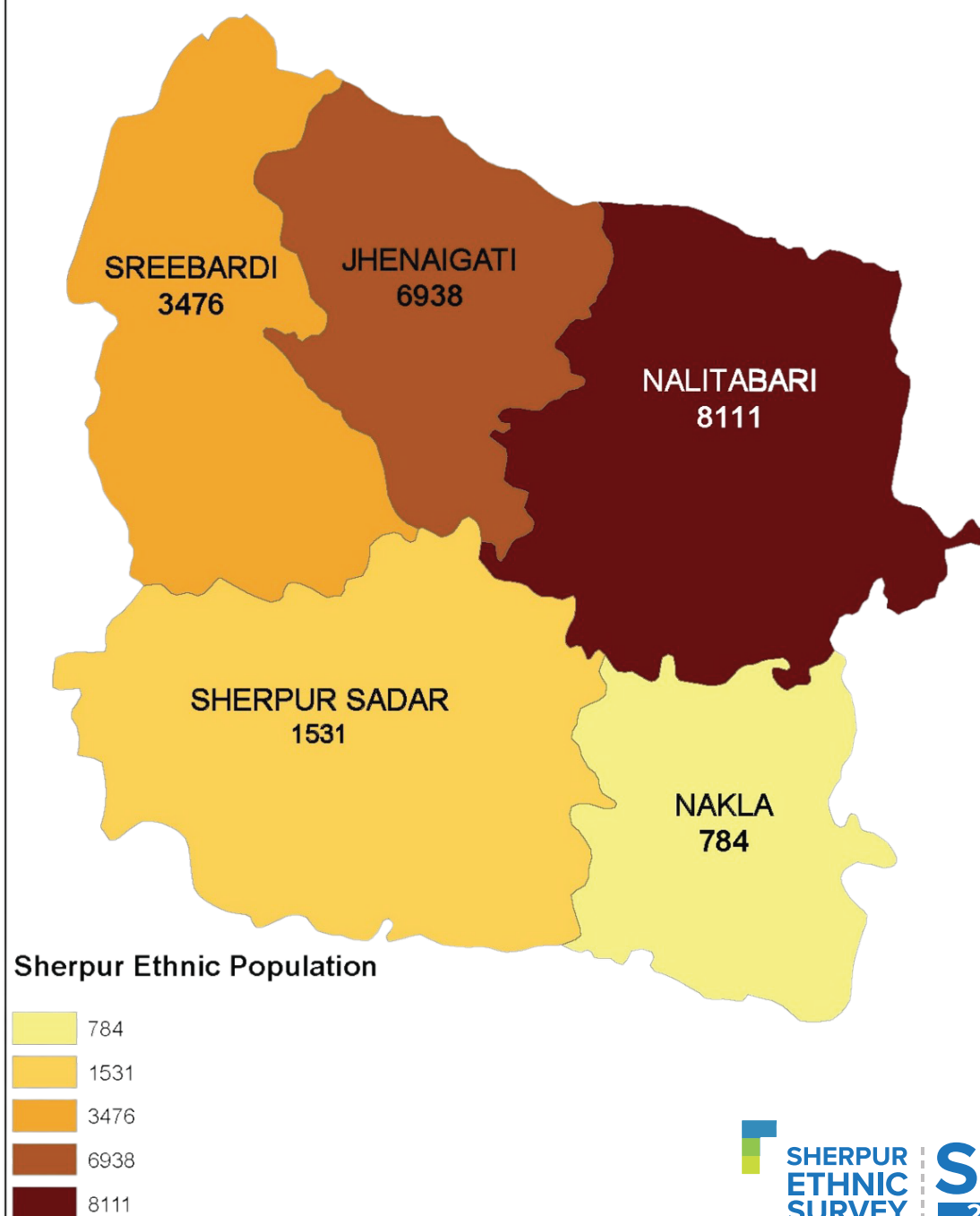
Digital Architecture & Features



ANNEX 2

DISTRIBUTION OF ETHNIC POPULATION BY UPAZILA

Sherpur District Ethnic Population in Number by Upazila



ANNEX 3

SES 2024 Team

At a Glance

A. Core Team Members

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Mr. Shapon Kumar, Deputy Director, BBS

Mr. Md. Ashadur Alam Prodhan, Statistical Officer, PLS Cell, BBS

Mr. S M Anwar Husain, Assistant Statistical Officer, BBS

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Mr. Sayed Amzad Ali, Office Assistant

Mr. Md. Foysal, Office Assistant

Mr. Md. Mostofa, Office Assistant

Mrs. Samuja Begum, Office Assistant

Mr. Md. Suzan, Driver

SHERPUR ETHNIC SURVEY

2024

SHERPUR ETHNIC SURVEY 2024



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