



[Registration No.] 284

[Author] Bushra Shahriar

[E-mail] bushra.architect@gmail.com

[Co-Author] Uttam K. Roy

[Abstract No.]

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Resilient Community for Resilient City: Case of urban flood mitigation in Dhaka City

[Abstract]

Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, is one of the world's most rapidly growing and very high-density megacities, and is an urban hotspot for climate risks. Dhaka is located in the central part of Bangladesh and lies in the sub-tropical monsoon zone. The city experiences about 2,000 mm annual rainfall, mostly during the monsoon, and experiences a water-logging problem every year, causing diseases, stresses, and economic losses. This calls for a resilient and sustainable urban strategy. Building urban resilience to floods is essentially a process of adaptation and learning from the river. The proposed paper discusses and argues that a community acquainted with the river and living with the river must take the benefits of a natural co-living and adaptive resilience instead of only spending in infrastructural retrofitting. The paper attempts to assess the feasibility of the 'Resilient Community' concept towards the resilience to Urban flood mitigation. The study adopts an integrative approach in streamlining resilient community strategies into mainstream planning actions. The paper presents a literature review in a contextual and critical manner, citing the efficacy of resilient community concept and its indicators. After that, it shows the case of Dhaka, and its flood mitigation crisis using a comparative analysis against the indicators of a resilient city. The approach is expected to provide an edge to the traditional planning and mitigation of urban flooding, particularly to Dhaka city and similar other contexts in general.