

## Identifying the Urban Areas of Bangladesh Using Nightlights

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The purpose of this paper is to 'discover' and measure urbanization in Bangladesh using nightlight data, obtained via satellites, from 1992 through 2013. LGED uses revenue generation for classifying areas as urban in three levels, A, B, and C. The mean of the nightlight intensity, over these LGED categories, is used to identify 'urban' areas, both at a point in time and, with the appropriate reference point, over time. A linear categorical regression model examines the correlation between nightlights and categories. Most *sadar upazilas* are 'urban' areas and some places are 'urban' against every nightlight benchmark. However, some upazilas are 'urban' according to nightlight intensity but are not that developed by LGED criteria—a discrepancy to be clarified by independent evidence. This paper also examines some further possible applications of nightlights.

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