



REVIEW

DHAKA'S MICRO-COMMUNITIES

Why People Crave Belonging More Than Ever

Dhaka is a city of crowds, yet loneliness quietly thrives within it. In a metropolis where traffic steals hours and routines feel endless, residents are searching for something deeply human.

Over the past decade, this search has given rise to a range of micro-communities, small, passion-driven groups that offer a renewed sense of identity. From photography circles, artisan collectives, to hiking groups and heritage preservation efforts, micro-communities are reshaping how people connect in a fragmented city.

Preserving the past to find belonging

One of Dhaka's most active heritage-based micro-communities is "Save the Heritages of Bangladesh," a Facebook group with over 140,000 members that has evolved into a nationwide heritage preservation platform.

The group organises monthly tours, usually accommodating 30-40 participants, but sometimes may include up to 100. To date, the initiative has completed 109



tours in more than 60 districts across Bangladesh.

According to Sazzadur Rasheed, an architect, academician and admin of the group, they identify unprotected heritage

sites and formally inform the Department of Archaeology under the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The group has submitted the names of around 500 heritage sites, many of which are currently

under government review for official listing.

The group initiates both online and offline awareness campaigns, alongside legal efforts for the preservation of damaged or unknown heritage sites.

Rasheed says, "People are becoming more curious about heritage," while mentioning the group's diverse membership, including architects, archaeologists, students, journalists, photographers, doctors, bankers, and professionals from many fields.

He believes the appeal goes beyond history alone. "People naturally love the past," he notes. Rasheed also emphasises that these micro-communities give people space to breathe, and often become part of their identity in a city like Dhaka, where life is exhausting and fast-paced.