

Revitalization is a Catalyst to Preserve the Historic Urban Areas through Adaptive Reuse

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Abstract

Globally, owing to significant impacts of climate change and human-induced natural degradation, archeological sites are increasingly in a vulnerable condition. While possessing the range of solutions, the evolving environmental conditions challenged the traditional management structure and viable strategies to revitalize the built heritage through adaptive reuse. The conservation medium of built heritage has altered from adaptive reuse modules with structural adaptation from natural calamities, human interaction to preserve the hidden treasure of the past. Bara-Bazar, an ancient city situated in Jhenaidha, was developed by the 19 mosques of the Sultanate period which were the core focus point to explore community, losing their pried for lacking of proper maintenance and many other natural calamities. Adaptive reuse can be a catalyst to reinvigorate the site by highlighting the community need. The purpose of this paper is to address the historical strength of the site with its properties, following the distinctive features, opportunities, and obstacles as well as its emphasis on the practice of adaptation. In methodology, the case study approaches critically review local policies and associated climatic problems through the use of several tools to collect field evidence and synthesize it appropriately, for collecting data participatory observation, questioner interview, photography and activity mapping playing the vital role to assess the need for interpretation and the best approach for revitalizing the archeological site.

Keywords: *Revitalization, Historical urban areas, Adaptive reuse*

1. Introduction

Historical buildings refer to monuments, groups of edifices, and sites of historical aesthetics. Archeological, technological, economical, or anthropological principles, quite apart from the acknowledgement of economic gains in the protection of built heritage sometimes overwhelming costs of their protection, which was one of the reasons for avoiding these problems. The area of historic ecosystem preservation, safeguarding, and stewardship has grown greatly, not just in terms of institutional reach but also in terms of scale. The global commodification of cultural properties, as well as an increasing knowledge of heritage values, have contributed to the increase in prominence of World Heritage status. The Arts and Crafts Movement, as well as the writings of William Morris and John Ruskin, among others, came to characterize a conservation movement that influenced conservation activities for years to come. These philosophies, which were inspired by romanticism and rationalism, shaped contemporary conservation throughout the twentieth century are enshrined in various foreign charters and conventions, like the World Heritage Convention. Heritage survival has become a genuinely global priority in the twenty-first century, when heritage has never been more commercially viable and threatened.

The scope, sophistication, and richness of Bangle's built heritage, which forms the urban landscape to extend it from generation to generation, are reflected in the two hundred years of history and rich culture. Before the Cultural Revolution, urban architecture and building design were heavily inspired by the British colonial period, which profoundly dominated the demographic, resulting in only a small and gradual progression of architectural styles. The heritage conservation ideology changed from similar spiritual principles, which advocated setting consistency and structural dignity, to restoration of the historic fabric. This approach is stated in the existing law as "no originality to be changed." The easiest way to resolve different forms of obsolescence is to revitalize through adaptive reuse, which is essential for long-term urban conservation. The revitalization process not only increases physical appearance but also improves social and economic viability(Doratli 2005).

In the framework of preservation and promotion of historical buildings' cultural worth, revitalization was proposed as a means of converting a life-sustaining environment. Because the historical area was formed by centering the Sultania mosques, the major focus of conservation has shifted from individual structures to area-based conservation. Mosques in Barabazar were the most influential force in establishing the community in that period, but due to a lack of nourishment and adequate maintenance, they are losing their power, as is the community's ability to preserve its contextual identity. Adaptive reuse of existing mosques may be a method of revitalizing the historic locality that satisfies both the community and the authority. Parallel to the re-evaluation of these sites, as well as the shifting dimensions and goals of preservation and conservation, a considerable focus has been put on the acknowledgment of architectural, cultural, and historic importance. During the 1960s, several nations established a defensive, reactionary, and powerful conservation movement that was obstructive to progress. However, since the 1960s, there has been a significant shift in attitudes regarding the preservation and protection of old urban areas. Ward believes that the physical environment, which serves as a living record of a country's social progress, can only be understood as part of a continuous process. Conservation is a controlling factor in the pace of development in that cycle(Ward and Studies 1968).

Adaptive reuse (conversion) of buildings, which is the main focus of this study, is described by Fitch (1990, p. 46-47) as the only economic way through which old buildings can be saved, by adapting them to new uses. This organization of space may call for other levels of intervention as well. However, it should be kept in mind that revitalization of a historic urban neighborhood should be more comprehensive rather than focusing on an individual building(Rahbarianyazd 2014). This sort of intervention (adaptive reuse) when occurs in a big area will change the function of the quarter which is referred to as functional restructuring or a more limited restructuring that brings in new uses able to support the quarter's existing economic base, has been termed a functional diversification. In the field of restoration and promotion relating to the cultural heritage of historical buildings, revitalization is a way of changing a life-sustaining environment. As the key approach to HBR, adaptive reuse is gaining traction in academic debate for its importance in bringing economic, social, and environmental benefits, contending that whether heritage buildings can lead to gentrification and social inclusion. Revitalization of the heritage is a new method to conserve our past with the original fabric which will represents the context with contextual need (Dokmeci and Ozus 2005).

In principle, the philosophy and methodology adopted for the conservation of 20th-century heritage should be no different from that utilized for buildings from the more distant past. However, there are several characteristics of modern buildings, such as material and structural innovation that pose new conservation challenges particularly with the conservation of the original fabric. Two key aspects are required for the preparation of a study on the adaptive reuse of existing buildings: theoretical and functional information. To remove causes of deterioration, structural analysis and design of interventions, not only the characterization of materials and their deterioration must be registered, but also information on the structural use and its formal and stylistic documentation is needed to understand the value of the history.

2. Case study

Barobazar Situated on the north bank of the moribund river Bhairab. The archaeological ruins of Barobazar lie in Kaliganj upazila under the district of Jhainadah. It is 16 km north of Jessore district town' and 12 km south of Kaliganj Bazar. Khulna-Parvatipur railway and Jessore-Jhainadah highway run parallel through Barobazar market. From the historical documentation of archeological department, Barobazar contains about 12th mosques and these group of mosques are constructed in Sultania period and with the development of civilization it's demolished day by day but in 20th century people are starting to explore the pride of the history which is badly influenced our day to day life. The archeological department were starting excavation to find out the hidden treasure in barobazar, jhainaidha and found such a hidden history which play a basic role on the contextual people, even now most of the people are cherishing the tradition of the Sultania Period. Gorar mosque, Jor-bangla mosque, Monohor mosque, Gola-kata mosque all of these mosques were followed shear wall with doom structural system. The authority is trying to excavate the lost pride and restoration of the mosque for further use and established an archaeological site for the visitors. Local people can play vital role for the revitalization of the historical mosques by adding social inclusion according to contextual need. But at present Barobazar represents a flourishing business center.

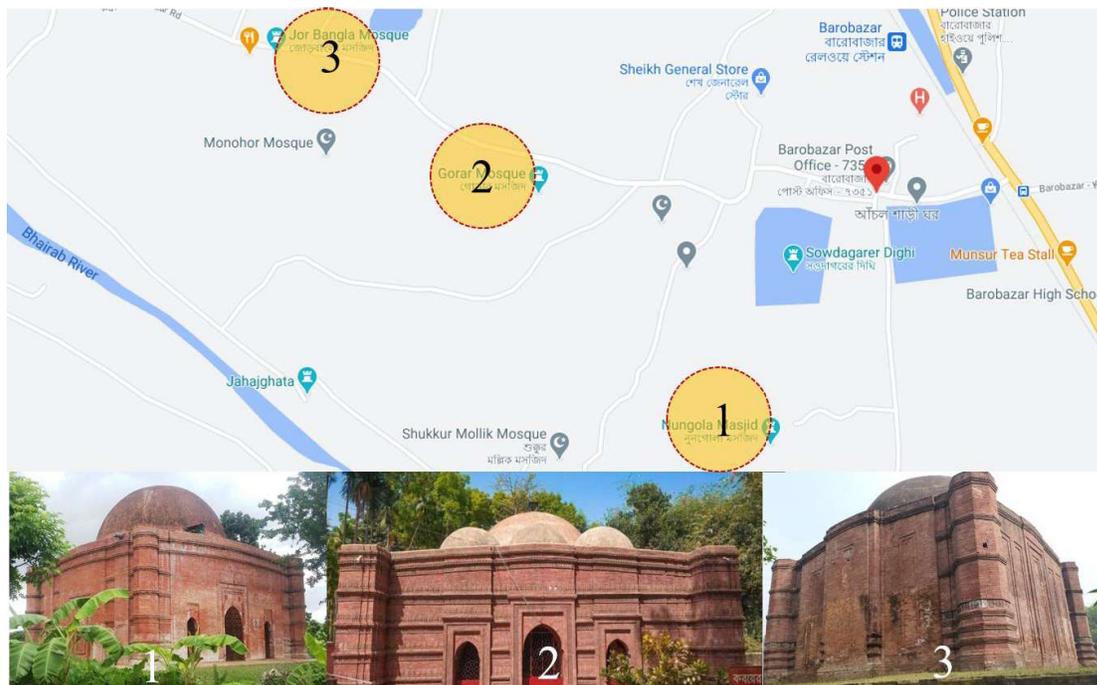


Figure 1 Location map of the Baro-bazar archeological site,(1)Nungola mosque,(2)gorar mosuue(3)jor-bangla mosque(source: site survey & google)

All of these mosques and adjacent tanks represents the architectural style of Khan Jahan Ali's period but day by day they are demolished for lacking of nourishment of the contextual people and for climatic change. Most of the mosques are demolished totally under the ground which is impossible to figure out but another mosques like Jor Bangla mosques, Golakata mosque, Perpukur mosques are still trying to serve the community people as a prayer space which is not enough to preserve the significant site. Adaptive reuse can be a contextual approach to increase the vibrancy of the ancient site which will open a new door for all from home and abroad which can ensure economic sustainability for the community people.

3. Methodology

The study takes the case-based approach to explore how adaptive reuse preserves historically significant structures in the context of Bangladesh. The method allowed researchers to develop an in-depth analysis of the cases. The study requires a thorough understanding of the present condition of selected structures and background significance. The historical data of the archeological site of Bara-Bazar and other related documents have been collected from secondary sources. Google Scholar, PubMed, and other online sites of national archives were used for ensuring the authentication of the resources. Different research articles were carefully reviewed for apprehending the concept ‘Adaptive Reuse’.

Adaptive reuse is an established method that uses to preserve historically significant structures all around the world. In some ways, this can revitalize the area by adding a new dimension. The study conducts informal discussion, semi-structured interviews of the communities, who are the main stakeholders. Key informant interviews of the respondent of authority also take for bringing out the further planning regarding the heritage structure. Additionally, spatial mapping, detailed drawings, photographs are using for a thorough understanding of the structure.

4. Results and Discussion

Cultural heritage is constantly under pressure, not only from conventional causes of degradation, but also from changing market circumstances, which aggravate the problem by introducing even more alarming disruption or loss phenomena. The restoration of monumental structures and individual buildings of architectural importance was originally the subject of historical and cultural heritage conservation. However, it has become increasingly apparent around the world that, in the guise of city extension or modernization, demolition work, frequently carried out in fear of what is really being destroyed, as well as irrational and improper restoration work, is heavily depending on historic places. Since these are the major issues, upon which the discussions in this paper are built, these two contextual attributes: ‘obsolescence’, which is defined by Lichfield (1988) as: “the mismatch between the services offered by the fabric of the historic quarters and the contemporary needs”; and ‘development dynamics’ that these areas face, which is related to their attractiveness, will be briefly reviewed



Figure 2 (1)Meherab (2)Opening (3) Column(exiting conditions of the features)

4.1 The level of obsolescence of physical, functional and locational characteristics

The archeological sites of Bara-bazar include a variety of types of obsolescence, including structural, functional, and contextual obsolescence. The structures are built in line with the

needs and requirements of the people and within the context of our country's current socioeconomic, cultural, and political conditions. Physical obsolescence occurs due to a number of factors such as the passage of time, the impact of the atmosphere, ground rotation, traffic acceleration, and improper resources (Khalfan and Ogura 2012). Functional obsolescence, on the other side, are caused by the building's functional characteristics. In their past operations, historic buildings may have failed to address the needs of the surrounding population. A functional plan designed to meet the needs of the city will give the neighborhood a new dimension. Most mosques, such as the jor-bangla mosque, monohor mosque, and gorar mosques, can be used as mosque complexes to engage people in the community throughout the adaptive reuse process. Locational obsolescence is simply a consequence of the area's functional operations. When the building was first constructed, its site was chosen based on its proximity to other uses, such as markets, suppliers, and transportation facilities.

4.2 The dynamics of the place

Very place, including various parts of cities and historic areas, has its own features and heterogeneity. A location may be appealing for investment purposes, or it may be in a stagnant state; it may be an environment in which no participant or customer shows interest, depending on the predominant internal or external dynamics (Steinberg 1996). As described in the previous section, bara-bazar and its heritage buildings are affected by the climatic hazard almost every year and people and the concern authority of the context are not concern enough to conserve the site. To conserve the site for the next generation it is very important to increase the vibrancy where community people can play the vital role. Adaptive reuse is an approach to revitalized historic mosque by ensure economic sustainability of the community. From preliminary survey analysis main obstacles are figure out behind the circumstances to clarify the basic understanding for losing pried of the area day by day. Mostly shear wall based structural system was followed in Sultania period with dome illustration. Most of the mosques like Gorar mosque, Monohor mosque, Jor-bangla mosque all of these mosques contains one to six dome on average. All are constructed on shear wall. An elegant single domed ruined square mosque (6.12m sides) of the Sultanate period with three arched entrances on the east and one each on the north and south sides having curvilinear cornice and a veranda on the east, is located about 4.8 km east of the metal road in Bilat village. The little mosque was beautifully embellished with terracotta floral art on the wall surface. The monument has now been largely renovated.

5. Conclusion

At all levels of preservation, revitalizing old urban areas of cultural and historical significance has always been a struggle. With the rapid advancement of contemporary architectural technology, preserving a structure that embodies cultural heritage in its original state while inspiring it to live a new life as a modern structure fitted to a new use is becoming an increasingly difficult task. The suggested revival strategy, as implemented in the offered proposal, adheres to current and established principles of active conservation, honoring architectural history by giving it priority. The two contextual attributes obsolescence and growth dynamics have been found to have an interdependent interaction in any event. However, regardless of what kind of features occur in terms of the two contextual qualities, technology and environmental factors have often been prioritized over other forms of action. These intensive area-wide renovation efforts, through which the efficiency of a historic urban quarter's building infrastructure has been improved, in the majority, by municipal authorities, are all directed toward the area's physical revitalization. However, in all effective situations, the proper diagnosis of the two qualitative characteristics leads to the use of the most suitable strategic

solution for the long-term economic revitalization of a particular historic region. If an environment experiences spatial or physical/functional obsolescence, it has been found that, based on the type of growth dynamics it faces, either functional reconstruction or functional diversification has been used as a strategic approach. It can be argued that deciding on an effective planning approach is the first step in revitalizing historic urban areas. It should also be remembered that until there is a clear and efficient operational, institutional, legal, and financial structure in place, as well as popular support for putting such a strategy into practice, these initiatives will not be considered a success.

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