

Syloiti in Bangladesh

Want to reach them?

14+ MILLION
People Group Population

6 MILLION
in Sylhet District

SUFI ISLAM
Predominant Religion

2 MILLION
in Sunamganj District

6 ADULTS
Current Field Workers

2.3 MILLION
in Maulvi Bazar District



ABOUT SYLOTI MUSLIMS IN BANGLADESH

In the early 1300s, a troupe of 360 Sufi mystics from Yemen and Saudi Arabia, set up their rule in the city of Sylhet, the capital of the region. Through signs and wonders (occult power) of these Muslim mystics rather than the sword as in most Islamic expansion, the mystical Bengali Hindus began a mass movement to Islam. As a result, today there are 180-200 million Muslims in Greater Bengal.

MAP OF SYHLET



Bangladesh is one of the 5 great centers of **Sufiism** and Sylhet is the spiritual capital for Bengali Muslims of Greater Bengal. The mazars, grave shrines, of these Sufi Pirs are all in the Sylhet region. They are the primary pilgrimage for Muslims of Greater Bengal. In addition, before the arrival of these Sufis from the Middle East, Sylhet was a part of the Kamrup, known to be the South Asian **capital of witchcraft**. Perhaps these Sufi occult practitioners were drawn to Sylhet because of its already being a hot bed of occult practice, or perhaps Satan drew them to increase his hold. Nevertheless, **the Sylhet region is a place of intense spiritual battle**.

The only team to work in Sylhet with Muslims in their heart language, living in their midst saw an insider movement breakthrough of perhaps 1000 baptisms in 2001; however, out of that group there are very, very few real disciples today, and it stopped growing.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_British_Raj
- Greater Bengal includes Bangladesh, West Bengal State and Assam State of India.
- Much of the spiritual history of Sylhet was gained from *The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier, 1204-1760* by Richard Eaton, University of California Press; Reprint edition (July 31, 1996).
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pir_\(Sufism\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pir_(Sufism))
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sufism_in_Bangladesh

SYLOTI MUSLIMS IN BANGLADESH

Overview & OPPORTUNITIES

Pray! Go!

LIVABILITY

Fifty-percent of the Bangladeshis in the USA are Sylotis, 98% of the Bangladeshis in UK are Sylotis, and 60% of Bangladeshi workers in the Middle East are Sylotis even though Sylotis represent around 10% of the population of Bangladesh. This brings in huge amounts of foreign exchange and is the reason that even in rural Sylhet there is more wealth to be seen. That does not mean there are no poor but that **many have external sources of income.**

The metropolitan city of Sylhet is a city of one million people and is the third most important city in the country. With a small-town feel, where few foreigners live, it also boasts an international airport, a few malls, adequate hospitals, and a growing business environment.

Moulvi Bazar city with only 60,000 in population, is nestled in a district of mostly tea plantations and the rest of the 2 million people. There is no disciplinmaking movement work actively going on in this district. **An aspiring Team Leader or team members could apprentice with veterans in Sylhet for two to three years** to gain welcome and an identity into this district and the next.

Sunamgonj city has an even smaller population than Moulvi Bazar, but the district is home to 2.5 million. It is a large district area-wise and used to be one of the more backward districts in the country due to few usable roads and much of the district going underwater during the long Monsoon season. It is one of the most neglected areas of the country as far as the Gospel is concerned.

These three cities are within a 2-hour drive from each other. The areas represent high population densely living in a small area with few foreigners. It is religiously conservative in both practice and dress, so women would cover here to match local customs.

Weather is tropical and humid, with a monsoon season from April to October and a dry, temperate to hot season November to March.



SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

While it is a challenge to practice business ethically, **legitimate foreign business people** are respected and welcomed. **Entrepreneurs** can be coached to apply for business visas to start a new company, or work with an existing kingdom company. **Service-based businesses with training or consulting focus** may do well. Also, **MBA programs are available on a student visa.** Students could network with other business professionals and perhaps get a teaching position on graduation.

The greater Sylhet area is majority rural with plantations and farms. Professionals with experience in **sustainable agriculture and related fields** might contribute to increased yield and distribution opportunities for farmers. While NGOs are found throughout the region, traditionally they are not focused on disciplinmaking movements.

Search *Edges of Earth Sylhet* on YouTube to see travel vlogs of the area.

Is God speaking to your heart about the Syloti people in Bangladesh? Reaching people in this area offers a unique opportunity for influencing how Syloti's throughout the world learn about the Savior they have never known.