**Background:** Sunamganj Sadar, the second largest upazila of Sunamganj zila in respect of

population, came into existence in January, 1877 as a thana and was upgraded to upazila in 1983. Nothing is definitely known about the origin of the upazila name. According to the history of Sreehatta written by Sayed Mujtaba Ali, the upazila might have been named after the name of a Soldier named ***Sipahi*** ***Sunamuddin*** who fought for the independence of the country in 1957.

**Area and Location:** The upazila occupies an area of 290.71 sq. km. including 6.54 sq.km. under

forest. It is located between 24º49´ and 24°96´ north latitudes and between 91º14´ and 91º27´ east

longitudes. The upazila is bounded on the north by Biswambarpur upazila and India, on the east by Chhatak and Dowarabazar upazilas, on the sourth by Dakhin Sunamganj, Derai and Jaganathpur upazilas and on the west by Jamalganj upazila and Biswambarpur upazila.

**Union-Ward, Mauza-Mahalla and Village Characteristics:** The upazila consists of 1 paurashava,

9 wards, 44 mahallas, 9 unions, 120 populated mauzas and 268 villages. The average population of each

ward and mahalla are 7259 and 1485 respectively. On the other hand, the average of size of each union,

mauza and village are 23743, 1781, and 797 respectively.

**Housing and Household Characteristics:** In the upazila, there are 49557 households. Distribution

of household by type shows that there are 99.55% general unit, 0.08% institutional and 0.37% other unit.

**Household Size:** The average household size (General) for the upazila is 5.6 persons, for rural

area the size is slightly higher i.e. 5.7 and for urban area the size is slightly lower i.e. 5.3.

**Type of Housing Structure:** In the upazila, 7.2% general household live in pucca house, 17.3% in

semi-pucca house, 73.8% in kancha house and the remaining 1.7% live in jhupri which is shown in a

pie-chart below:

**Housing structure by type, 2011**

**Source of Drinking Water:** In Sunamganj Sadar upazila, 88.7% of general household get the

facility of drinking water from tube-well, 2.9% from tap and the remaining 8.4% household get water

from other sources.

**Sanitation:** In the upazila, 37.3% of general household have sanitary latrine, 51.4% non-sanitary

latrine and the remaining 11.3% have no toilet facility.

**Access to Electricity:** All the 9 unions of the upazila have brought under the Rural Electrification

Program. However, a total of 47.4% of the general household reported to have electricity connection

in the entire upazila in 2011 as against 15.4% in 2001.

**Population Characteristics:** According to Population and Housing Census 2011, the total

population of the upazila is 279019 of which 139561 are males and 139458 are females. The sex ratio of the upazila is 100 in 2011 which has remarkably decreased as against in 2001.

**Growth Rate:** The decadal population growth rate for the upazila is (-) 24.02% and annual

compound growth rate is (-) 2.67%. The decadal growth rates over the last half-century are shown

below:

**Decadal growth rate of population, 1951-2011**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Decades** | **Growth Rate (%)** |
| 1951-1961 | 3.6 |
| 1961-1974 | 49.4 |
| 1974-1981 | 19.3 |
| 1981-1991 | 26.7 |
| 1991-2001 | 21.1 |
| 2001-2011 | (-)24.00 |

**Literacy and Education:** Information on Literacy and Education is furnished below:

**Literacy:** In Sunamganj Sadar upazila, it is found that 38.8% populations aged 7 years and over are

literate. Literacy rates by sex of three consecutive censuses are shown below:

**Literacy rate by sex, 1991-2011**

Literacy rate is also shown in a Bar-Diagram below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **1991** | **2001** | **2011** |
| Both Sex | 23.9 | 35.3 | 38.8 |
| Male | 29.6 | 39.5 | 41.3 |
| Female | 17.8 | 31.0 | 36.2 |