Border Haats: Local Economic Impact

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Where: East Khasi Hills District Meghalaya, India and Sunamgunj District, Bangladesh
• 75 meter x 75 meter. On the “zero-line
• 50 sheds for vendors.
• Vendors within 5 km radius from the Haat
• Both INR and Taka is accepted
• Total 50 – 25 from India and 25 from
  Bangladesh
• One day in a week
Border Haat Management Committee:

- Border Security Force
- Police
- Customs
- Village/Union Level Local Government
- Additional District Magistrate/SDM

Both India and Bangladesh have this Committee.
Total Transactions amounts to anything between INR 0.3-0.4 million for one day.
Traded Items
Meghalaya
- Vegetables,
- Fruits
- Beetlenut
- Bay leaves
- Spices
Bangladesh: cottage industry items
- gamchha, lungi, garments, mats
- plastic and melamine products
- processed food items, juices, agricultural produce
- household tools like spade, axe, plough, dao, etc
Benefits

- Lower price for locals due to lower transaction and transportation costs
- Higher availability of everyday requirements
- Income for local vendors
- Small time trading opportunities for villages around the area
- Development and income from support services like transport, labour, food stalls,
- Formalising of informal trade
Atiur Rahman, one of the 25 vendors from Bangladesh
• 2 women from the village of Laal Paani in Meghalaya.
• Bought three water filters from a Bangladeshi vendor.
• Bought filter for INR 450 each
• Which would cost INR750-800 in Shillong
• For their “neighbours”.
• Makes good business for them in their village
Rizwan from Narayantala, a Bangladeshi village just 1 km away

Doesn’t do much on other days since not much of opportunities

The haat is a new life line for people like him
Amal Ghosh from Bangladesh

Makes INR 1000 each day at the Haat by selling his sweets & yoghurt
Haat generates income for transport operators, support staff, Food vendors (women) and labourers
Needs

- Increasing the days of operation
- Bigger area/more sheds
- Replicating at other locations
Potential

- High demand for fish, animal products
- Regularising small time informal trade
- Improving relationship
Thank You

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