

RESOURCE 1: "Context & facts"

To read & complete before viewing documentary

Documentary background

In late 2006, a young bloke from Brisbane travelled to Bangladesh. He was 23, still at uni and it was his first time overseas. The purpose of his trip was to distribute second-hand cricket equipment to local schools around the Dhaka region. He was able to take 20 kits of gear that was originally donated by 8 Australian schools. The other purpose of his trip was to experience another culture and see how other people lived. He took a video camera over there, filmed his experiences and was able to produce the documentary you're about see.



Bangladesh Facts

GENERAL

- Bangladesh has a population of approximately 148 million.
- Has the 7th highest population nation in the world – has more people than Russia.
- Has the highest population density in the world - it covers an area of 144,000 square kilometres (it's roughly the size of Victoria, but has almost 30 times its population).
- Its land is extremely flood prone – during the annual wet season, floods can cause thousands of deaths each year.
- Homes are usually built with natural building materials such as bamboo, mud and straw.

CULTURE

- The official and most widely used language in Bangladesh is Bangla - English is used as the second language among the middle and upper classes and in higher education.
- The two major religions practiced in Bangladesh are Islam (83%) and Hinduism (16%). Other religious groups include Buddhists, Ahmadis, Christians, and Animists.
- Bangladesh ranks fourth after Indonesia, Pakistan & India among Muslim majority nations.
- Cricket is the national sport and is a test-playing nation.

POVERTY

- 82% of the population lives on less than \$2 AUD per day.
- Most citizens are subsistence farmers, but with frequent flooding and limited market development, nearly half live under the poverty line.
- There are 18 landline and 73 mobile phones available to every 1000 people.
- Bangladesh remains among the poorest nations in the world, however, health and education levels have improved slightly thanks to it being a major recipient of foreign aid.

HEALTH

- Health problems in Bangladesh stem from malnutrition and inadequate safe drinking water and sewage disposal.
- Child mortality is a major issue – many children die of preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, pneumonia, cholera, malaria and measles.
- Life expectancy at birth is 63 years for both males and females. In Australia, life expectancy at birth is approximately 83 years for females and 78 years for males.

EDUCATION & WORK

- 60% of Bangladesh citizens of the age of 15 cannot read or write. There is gender disparity in this figure – while 50% of adult males are illiterate, the rate is worse for females at 31%.
- Over 60% of the workforce is engaged in agriculture, 11% in industries, and 26% in services.

CHALLENGES

- Flooding and tropical cyclones are recurring natural disasters faced by Bangladesh.
- Although it is a democracy, since independence in 1971, Bangladesh has had political unrest.

Sources:

World Bank Development Indicators, 2006

<http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/cache/offonce/pid/641>

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

<http://www20.sbs.com.au/worldguide/index.php>

<http://hdr.undp.org/>

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/>

*Quick Exercise (just before viewing documentary)

WORD ASSOCIATION

Write down the first five (5) things that come into your head when you hear the word MUSLIM mentioned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How is Muslim culture generally depicted in Western mainstream media?

RESOURCE 2: "Scrutinising the media"

To complete after viewing documentary

1. What was the filmmaker's experience of being immersed in a Muslim culture?

2. In what way does his experience differ from the portrayal we see in our media?

3. Should we believe everything we hear in the media about these types of issues? Is the media always a trustworthy and reliable source or should we scrutinise its messages a little more? (150 words)

RESOURCE 3: "What makes us happy?"

To complete after viewing documentary

1. What is *material wealth*?

2. What is *spiritual wealth*?

3. What is *spiritual poverty*?

4. Do you think there could be a link between *material wealth* and *spiritual poverty*? Explain your answer. (150 words)

5. List the things that are most special and dear to you in both a material sense (ie. XBOX, ipod) and a spiritual sense (ie. family, friendship)?

MATERIAL	SPIRITUAL

6. Do you think having an abundance of material possessions really gives one a sustainable happiness? Explain.

7. *"Living in such a privileged environment, we tend to take our spiritual wealth for granted."* Do you agree with this statement? Explain.
