



**L'ARCHE
BANGLADESH**



L'ARCHE BANGLADESH



MYMENSINGH



34

3 houses.

21 welcomed in a L'Arche home.

COUNTRY STATISTICS

Total population (in millions)	161.0
Per capita income	\$3,341
HDI (Human Development Index)	0.579
HDI rank	139/190

WORK ACTIVITIES

- > Making candles, greeting cards, bookmarks, embroidery, bracelets and other beaded items.
- > Home visits – residential Core Members and Assistants provide weekly visits to families in the community caring for a family member with a disability.

CREATING CHANGE

- > The community has recently completed the construction of their very own home! This has created a wonderful sense of permanence for the community, which had been renting all their houses and workshop buildings for the last fifteen years.
- > The community used the experience of building a house to also build relationships with local government officials and local leaders.
- > Over the past 15 years, the attitudes of people in the neighborhood toward persons with an intellectual disability has significantly changed - the community now feels accepted by the neighborhood.

CONTEXT and CHALLENGES

- > Social stigma and prejudice towards persons with an intellectual disability remain strong and influential in society.
- > The huge gap between the rich and the poor makes it difficult to fundraise for the poor.
- > Very little government support for persons with a disability.

VISION for THE FUTURE

- > To provide Assistants with a livable wage and professional growth opportunities, which will promote a more stable and healthy community life.
- > To improve the quality of life in our rented houses by completing necessary maintenance.
- > To secure a stable financial structure for the community through increased local funding, and through continued support from international donors.
- > To promote interreligious dialogue within the community at all levels of community life.



INTRODUCTION to A CORE MEMBER: **Shahanaj**

When Shahanaj was young, she was separated from her family and taken to an orphanage outside the capital city of Dhaka. This was a very traumatic experience. She moved to L'Arche in 2007. Although she continues to miss her family terribly, especially her mother, she also continues to grow and accept L'Arche as her home. She loves birthdays, and basically any celebration where she can wear a sari! She has a beautiful smile, and a love for life, and these qualities help keep the community vibrant.



« TO BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY MEANS TO MAKE JOURNEY TOGETHER THROUGH SHARING OUR LIVES, WORKING TOGETHER, EATING TOGETHER, PRAYING TOGETHER, CELEBRATING TOGETHER ETC.

Ganesh
Mymensingh

