Yet, I would also journey even further away from civilization during my time in Rangpur because 5 or more days out of every week I spent out in the field. These places were the most desolate places one could think of. Most of my time I felt so alone out there yet I survived and I wouldn't be the same person I am right now if I had not experienced this.

RDRS operates out of Rangpur yet none of their field work takes place there, all the administrative duties are taken care of in Rangpur, but all the field work, like working with the poor, working with schools, were all done outside of Rangpur in areas even more rural and desolate. Words cannot be placed on paper to describe my experiences and feelings in Bangladesh, it was the most eye opening, life-changing experience I have ever encountered.

One of the most cherished moments I will always hold with me was working with this one tiny school on the Char islands. I spent a day with the children there talking about myself, learning about them, showing them where Canada was and where my home was (with a translator of course). These beautiful children showed me in words and actions how you can be happy no matter where you are, smiles across the faces of all children. One thing that I will always remember is that no matter where you go, a smile is a universal language and no matter what language you speak, a smile is the same in every language.

From attending children's school class to sitting in on board of education meetings, I did a lot of job shadowing with RDRS members to observe what they do to better empower the rural poor. In the process, I earned a better understanding of how NGO'S like RDRS operate, and came to respect the tremendous dedication of this organization and the people who run it. It expanded my mind on how much NGOS like this actually help the poor, from the smallest things like providing children with high energy biscuits, to providing micro finance loans to struggling farmers. Also the beauty of Bangladesh was exposed to me in a different way when I visited Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

As Iqbal use to quote to me from a Bangla saying,

"You come to our shore as a stranger
We invite you to our home as a guest
Hoping when you leave our shore you leave as a friend"

I have certainly left Bangladeshi more then a **friend**

As my experience in Bangladesh was life changing and I am just waiting for the day I get the opportunity to go back. At my young age of twenty I have been to over 10 countries in this world, and Bangladesh is one country that I hold in my heart, body and soul forever.

He can be communicated through e-mail irahman@global-bd.net

Quiz Answer: Germany

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