

Ansari



Introduction / History

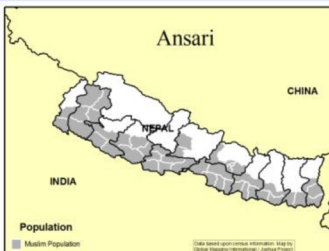
Some Ansari trace their origin back to the time of Mohammad when the prophet was given help and support by Medinan residents during his first religious war. The name Ansari has an Arabic-origin and comes from *Ansar*, which means "those who support". Still another legend harkens back to the days of Adam and Eve themselves when their sons learned the earliest weaving trade. The Ansari are well-known as cotton and silk weavers. Over 12 million Ansaris live in a wide swath across Bangladesh, north and central India, southern Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

What are their lives like?

Although traditionally weavers and textile sellers, the Ansarism are now involved in a wide range of small business in towns like Janakpur or Lumbini. Predominately in the Maithili language, though also in Nepali or Bhojpuri, these textile artisans trade with Darzi tailors and other Muslim merchants. The Ansaris are not vegetarian and widely accepting of drink and food from other communities. They tend, however, to be rather clannish and guarded about marriage within the group. Bangles and beads are commonly worn and glass bangles are a symbol of married women in some communities. The Ansaris are Muslim who practice Islamic laws for life and living, though folk Islam practices are common.

Ministry needs

The friendliness of the Ansaris can open doors for believers to develop closeness with them and opportunities to share the gospel. In recent years numerous teams have begun working in north India among the Ansaris but almost no work has begun in Nepal. Pray for the expansion of country work into the Ansari communities of Narayani, Bheri and Lumbini Zones.



Population:

Nepal : 36,000

Total : 14,949,000

Language: Maithili,
Nepali, Bhojpuri & Urdu

Believers: 0