

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE BANGLADESH DISTRICT**  
**Report of Child Development Centers**  
**Funded by Argabrights**  
**April–June 2010**

**Introduction:**

Over half of Bangladesh's children are living in poverty and there is widespread deprivation amongst them in the basic areas of food, sanitation and shelter, with limited ability to escape their circumstances, according to experts. Recently a study showed that 64 percent of children are deprived of sanitation, 57 percent are deprived of nutrition, 52 percent are deprived of information, 41 percent are deprived of shelter, 16 percent are deprived of healthcare and 8 percent are deprived of education.

Children are the future leaders of a nation. To lead the nation towards prosperity, comprehensive child development programs are needed on a priority basis. Thanks to the support of the Argabrights, Bangladesh Nazarene Mission is participating in the effort to raise children as worthy citizens of the country. Through Child Development Centers, BNM is meeting the physical, social, spiritual and educational (cognitive) needs of children and transforming young lives into healthy followers of Christ.



Children in Joymoni are receiving a nutritious meal.

The Argabrights support 9 CDCs in the Jessore, Mongla, Birgonj and Birol districts. There are 862 children receiving direct support from these 9 centers and 127 children receiving additional support.

Sl.No	Name of area	No. of CDCs	Name of the Center	No. of children benefiting directly	Children getting educational support
1.	Mongla area	2	Joymoni CDC	80	45
			Holdibunia CDC	70	30
2.	Birol area	1	Vatpara CDC	121	11
3.	Jessore area	5	Dapkhali CDC	132	-
			Paikpara CDC	80	40
			Arifpur CDC	133	-
			Ramnogor Chor	96	-
			Shiraj Singa	75	-
4.	Birgonj area	1	Baharpur CDC	75	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>862</b>	<b>126</b>

**Cognitive Development:**

The children of these 9 CDCs wrote their 1<sup>st</sup> term exam during the month of April. The children did very well in their exams. Nursery and KG children only attended oral tests. After exams were held, children received one week of summer holiday. Now they are attending regular classes again.

The teachers are giving special coaching to the children who are attending the Government schools. Those children come to the center after their school classes are finished.

### Physical Development:

All 9 CDCs had a health check-up for the children during this quarter. A Nazarene village doctor visited the center once a week to check the children's health. The CDC teachers contacted the Government health care department and collected de-worming tablets for the children. Health workers had health awareness trainings for the parents four times each month. Every day the children have physical training classes. In PT classes the children are doing different kinds of exercise. Teachers also encourage the children to eat local fruit and teach them about the nutritious food value of local vegetables.



A Nazarene village doctor is checking the children's health.



Mothers are attending a health awareness training.



Children performing a cultural song with dance.

### Social and Cultural Aspects:

In this quarter the children celebrated Bengali New Year on 14<sup>th</sup> April. On that day, the CDCs organized cultural programs for the children. The girls and boys were dressed in their national Bangladesh costumes. The children presented songs, recited poems, and performed traditional Bangladeshi dances and drama. Besides that the children also observed Mother's and Father's Day in the centers. The teachers encouraged them to draw pictures and write something about their parents. The children enjoyed these times and had lots of fun during the activities.

### Spiritual and Moral Aspects:

These 9 CDCs observed "The World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk" on 5-6 June. All the children prayed with their teachers for other children at risk. Through this the children learned that there are many children around the world who are also facing similar problems as they are facing here in Bangladesh. The children prayed for David Argabright for his cycle ride for children in South Asia. The teachers told them about David Argabright and why he did this. These two events helped the children to learn about the power of prayer and the need for prayer.

## Success Story

**Name:** Beauty Biswas

**CDC:** Ramnogor Chor

**Area:** Jessore

Beauty is the only child of her parents. She knows that she has a father but has not seen him very often. That's because several years ago Beauty's father had a serious illness and afterwards he became mad. With his mental disorder, he left the house and nobody knows where he is now. Beauty lives with her mother in a house made of jute stick and tin. There are no other relatives to take care of them. Beauty's mother works in other people's houses to be able to afford some food for them. She used to take Beauty to work with her, because there was nobody to take care of the child. So Beauty did not have the opportunity to go to school.



One day the local Nazarene church pastor went to visit Beauty's village and also visited Beauty's house. He started talking with Beauty's mother Suchitra Biswas. Beauty's mother told him about their situation. When the pastor heard her story his heart was moved with compassion and he told her about the Center and the CDC program. Beauty's mother asked the pastor to help her to register Beauty at the center. Now Beauty attends Class One of Ramnogor Chor CDC. This the first time for her to stay alone somewhere without her mother, so at first Beauty did not want to come to the center. But the teachers showed her love and care and became friendly with her. Now Beauty is coming to the CDC regularly. Her health is improving because she receives a nutritious meal daily. Beauty also attends Sunday school. She likes singing and eagerly listens to the Bible stories. Beauty's mother is grateful about the activities of Ramnogor CDC and also attends the Sunday service. Beauty knows about Jesus now. She believes that someday God will heal her father and they will live together happily. Beauty's mother also asks prayer for her husband's recovery and for Beauty, that she will continue her studies and have a successful future.

## Conclusion:

The proper nourishment for children is of monumental importance. But we find that there are two different teachings in this area: God's way and the world's way. The CDCs are doing their best to serve the children and guide them in the right way. We believe that some day these children will be a witness for us. Finally we would like to say a big thank you to the Argabright family for their support of another 3 new CDCs in Boleya (Birgonj), Bisnupur (Naogaon) and Kumarkhali (Mongla).