

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE BANGLADESH DISTRICT
Report of Child Development Centers
Funded by Argabrights
January–March 2010

Introduction:

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries with 160 million people, 49 percent of whom live below the national poverty line. In addition, child malnutrition rates of 48 percent are the second highest in the world. Enrolment of over-aged children in pre-school education made the gross enrolment ratio as high as 30.5%. However, over half of the four- to five-year-olds at school were actually enrolled in primary school and not in pre-school. Moreover, 71% of the four- to five-year groups were out of school. Only a third of the four- to five-year-old children enrolled in schools had the opportunity to attend NGO-run non-formal schools.

A new year has started, and Bangladesh Nazarene Mission is continuing to help these underprivileged children.

Working Area of CDC:

The Argabrights support 9 CDC's in the Jessore, Mongla, Birgonj and Birol districts. There are 989 children receiving support from the 9 centers.

Sl.No	Name of area	CDC Center	Name of the Center	Present Number of the children
1.	Mongla area	2	Joymoni CDC	125
			Holdibunia CDC	100
2.	Birol area	1	Vatpara CDC	132
3.	Jessore area	5	Dapkhali CDC	132
			Paikpara CDC	120
			Arifpur CDC	133
			Ramnogor Chor	96
			Shiraj Singa	75
4.	Birgonj area	1	Baharpur CDC	76
	Total	9		989



Children in Paikpara CDC



Children are studying in Vatpara CDC (Birol)

Education:

In early 2010 the children moved on to new grades. Some older children went to the Government school and some new children registered in the 9 CDC centers. The centers ensure formal schooling and special coaching programs for the children. The children get new books, bags, khata, and pencil for the new educational year. The children are

very happy to come to the center regularly. The teachers are taking care of individual students according to their needs. Children are currently preparing for their 1st term exams. They are studying attentively.



Children receiving new uniforms in Joymoni CDC



Children with new school bags in Dapkhalai CDC (Norail)

Health & Nutrition:

All 9 CDC centers provide one nutritionally balanced meal (Hotch potch) to the children for 6 days per week. The new children who still seem malnourished find this food very good. Also the children who are attending Government school from this year on come at lunch time and have food with the other children. In the month of January we measured the height and weight of the children. We installed a tubewell and latrine for the 2 new CDC's in Ramnogor chor and Shiraj shinga for safe drinking water and proper sanitation. Also, the Health workers are giving health awareness lessons to the children and mothers.

Social and Cultural Aspects:

In the first quarter of the year a number of important national days are observed with great admiration. The 9 centers have arranged observation of different days such as 21st February (International Mother Language Day) and 26th March (Independence Day). On these days rallies and cultural programs are held. The children take part in a cultural program; they present songs, recite poems, and perform traditional Bangladeshi dances.

Spiritual and Moral Aspects:

"Bring up [your children] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (*Ephesians 6:4*)

All 9 CDC's also focused on children's spiritual growth. Children can grasp the essence of almost every truth. In fact, they are better equipped now to assimilate spiritual truth than they will be when they are older. So the centers' teachers simply present the truth to the children through bible stories, songs and skits. We believe that one day these children will work for God's kingdom.



Children are singing and praying in Joymoni CDC



The cook is preparing nutritious food for the children

Case study-1

Name: Prodip Chandra Das
CDC: Arifpur
Area: Jessore

Prodip is the oldest child of his parents. His father is a day laborer. His mother Rita Das is a house wife and takes care of Prodip's little brother. Prodip's family lives near a small town which is why their living expenses are quite high. His father Babul Das is the only earning member of the family. He has to provide food for five persons every day.

He sometimes wondered how he could send his boys to the school. One day he heard about the Arifpur CDC from one of his neighbors. He first did not believe that this kind of center can really exist near a city. So he went to the center and talked with the teacher of the Arifpur CDC. The teacher told him about the CDC activities. Prodip's father was very happy, so he registered Prodip in the center. Prodip is now in nursery class. He is starting to learn rhymes, numbers, the alphabet, etc. Prodip feels thrilled to learn new things every day. He is a very nice and obedient boy.

Prodip loves his teachers. He also attends Sunday School. He likes to pray, sing and listen to Bible stories. Prodip's family is satisfied and grateful about the activities of Arifpur CDC. They are from Hindu background. To share the love of Christ with them, the pastor of the Arifpur Church of the Nazarene visits their house regularly and invites them to join the Sunday service.



Case study-2

Name: Sweetie Akter
CDC: Joymoni
Area: Mongla Area

Sweetie is the youngest child of her parents. Sweetie's father's name is Alom Siddik and her mother's name is Khadiza Begum. Her father is a small seasonal business man. Before cyclone Aila he did farming on his own land but when the cyclone attacked all the crops and cultivation land were destroyed by salt water. Because of the salinity in the land he could not do farming anymore. Sweetie's mother is a house wife. Her father is the only earning member of the family.

Sweetie's older sister attends class five. When cyclone Aila struck, their house was washed away and her sister lost all her books and notebooks. Sweetie's father was very much disheartened because of all the losses. At that time Sweetie's father heard about Bangladesh Nazarene Mission.

Sweetie's father went to the local church pastor. Pastor Francis Halder is the pastor of Joymoni Church of the Nazarene. Sweetie's father told him about their situation. Then the pastor told him about the CDC and also that BNM distributes educational materials for cyclone affected children.

Sweetie's father took Sweetie to the center and registered her in kindergarten; now she is studying in class one. Also her older sister got books and other materials for her education. Sweetie and her sister's life are totally changed. Now they both are going to school. Sweetie is learning songs, poems, English, Math, and Bengali. She has nutritious food at lunch time. Her health is improving. Sweetie's family is happy for her.

They are Muslims. But Sweetie attends Sunday School and her family sometimes comes to the church. We hope and pray that one day God will talk to her heart and she will accept Jesus Christ as her personal savior.



Case study-3

Name: Uthan Mistree

CDC: Holdibunia

Area: Mongla Area

Uthan Mistree is a student of Holdibunia CDC. His father's name is Sotten Mistree and her mother is Smrity Mistree. Uthan's father is a day laborer and the only earning member of his family. This is why he is not able to provide proper education and nutrition for his son. Sometime he does not have any work. Uthan's family lives in a house made by straw which is very weak; heavy rains and winds can ruin everything. So their life is always at risk.

In this critical condition of his life, one day Uthan's father heard about the CDC from one of their neighbors. He took Uthan to the center and requested to register him there. Uthan had not gone to school before, so he didn't want to stay in the classroom; he wanted to play with other children. He did not brush his teeth and always wore dirty clothes. His father and mother could not take care of him properly, because they were very busy with their work. The teacher in the CDC did not rebuke Uthan for his bad habits but started counseling him, teaching him about good habits, and started to be friendly with him. Now he always comes to school on time, he wears clean clothes and is also friendly to the other children in the CDC.

From the beginning the family had a good communication with the church pastor and JF team members. If there was any program in the CDC they joined in the program and found the rules and the activities very satisfying. They sent their child to Sunday School. Uthan likes to attend Sunday School. He likes the songs and the stories.

The good news is that Uthan's family was Hindu before but now they have become Christian and they attend church regularly. Also Uthan's father received a job in Bangladesh Nazarene Mission's Disaster Risk Reduction Program as a field worker. Uthan's Father says, "When I got the chance to register my boy in the center, from that day, all sorts of good things have happened in our family. I believe that God has chosen our family to work for Him."

