

Church of the Nazarene Bangladesh
Child Development Center (CDC)
Report for Mr. David Argabright/South Asia Partnership
Reporting Period: April to June 2015

Repentance of Mousumi's father

The CDC caregivers noticed since many days Mousumi and her sister didn't come to the Boleya CDC. The caregiver visited their home and heard a sad story about them.

Mousumi's father wanted a boy child, but both of their children are girls. He was not happy at all. He didn't love his children because they were girls. Being illiterate he had strong social prejudice that a girl child is an ill omen! In the future, a boy child could earn money and could take responsibility of elderly parents. But for a marriage of a girl child, parents would have to give dowry. Mousumi's mother explained, "My husband doesn't like my children. He tried to remarry so he could get a boy child." She felt discriminated by her husband because of this problem.



"We didn't have peace in the family and looked for any solution and in the meantime the CDC caregiver was present at our house," she added.

The CDC caregiver sat with her husband and counseled him that girl children shouldn't be neglected. "At first he didn't want to hear me, but when I earnestly requested him he heard me. Finally I was able to motivate him that a girl child should not be neglected," informed the caregiver.

Mousumi's mother was very happy. "My husband used to quarrel about my girl children. He wanted to abandon me. Local leaders sat with him to solve our problem, but they couldn't do anything. The CDC caregiver was successful and now my husband loves my two beloved children."

14-year-old Mousumi and her younger sister Sumi attend Boleya CDC. They are performing well in class. They both get love and affection from their father. He brings new dresses for his children. He spends time with them. Now he says, "I was blind. I couldn't realize the value of a girl child, but now I understood that a girl child also can make money if she gets an education. I express my gratitude to the CDC authority for correcting me." He also said that he will help to fulfill his children's dreams as his elder daughter wants to become a teacher. "I will help by my best effort so that Mousumi can be a teacher," he said.

Mousumi's mother is a member of a Self Help Group (SHG) and she helps her husband. Mousumi didn't know Jesus Christ, but she and her family came to know about Christianity. She attends Sunday school and likes stories about Jesus.

Rita's happiness

Rita, 30, is a member of Ramnagor Monipuri Self Help Group. She and her husband have two children. They live in Ramnagor (Sylhet) Monipuri village in her father-in-law's house with another six family members. Her husband works in a tea garden company as office assistant and is the only earner of their family so it's difficult to bear all the expenses.

Rita is very skilled in making various types of clothes for men, women and children. She used to produce some clothes at home only for her family members. But in this time she faced many economical problems and her mental stress gradually increased which created misunderstandings with family members.

In this situation, she came to know about Ramnagor CDC and its activities from their neighbors. After some days she contacted the CDC caregivers. She joined Monipuri Self Help Group (SHG) and attended meetings every week. She heard about the SHG's goal, objectives, importance and how it could economically strengthen a woman. She also heard about some experiences from members of the SHG who made success. Later, she discussed and shared this with her husband. He gave her permission to join there. Rita and her mother-in-law got involved in Ramnagor Monipuri SHG.

This wise decision brought success to Rita. She took a small loan and started producing clothes and selling them in the local market.

In the self-help group, which by now has saved 12000 Taka (153 USD), Rita plays the role of secretary. She and her mother-in-law are earning money and increasing their deposited money in the SHG. Now they want to open a "Bank Account" on the name of "Ramnagor Monipuri Self Help Group".

Rita says, "I am thankful to Ramnagor CDC and Church of the Nazarene Bangladesh to give me this good opportunity of being member of the SHG here. Now economically we are well. We make clothes not only for my family members but also for earning money." She is dreaming to extend her business. "I have a dream to make my business bigger; therefore, I will take a shop in the local market so that I can make more money and contribute to my family".



Introduction

Bangladesh Nazarene Mission and the Church of the Nazarene Bangladesh are jointly serving needy children in remote areas by holistic child development. Country's very common challenges are political unrest, poverty, unemployment, malnourishment and natural disaster etc. In the last three months, the political situation was stable. We were able to conduct our CDC program aptly in our working area. Mr. David & the South Asia Partnership have been supporting around 600 children in 8 CDCs.



Objectives

- To provide coaching, counseling to the children
- To ensure children's education and enhance general knowledge
- To upgrade nutrition status among the children and families
- To utilize local resources
- To grow awareness on social issues like addiction, early marriage & dowry
- To enhance spirituality through Sunday school, Sunday worship
- To built a civic sense in children
- To initiate income generating programs with guardians

Working areas

Mr. David Argabright is supporting a total of 8 CDCs in 7 districts in Bangladesh.

Name of CDC	District
Arifpur	Jessore
Kumarkhali	Khulna
Boleya	Dinajpur
Bishnowpur	Naogaon
Ramnogor (Sylhet)	Moulvibazar
Bachu Dighe	Dinajpur
Hatbas	Satkhira
Kalupara	Rajshahi
Total	7 Districts

Educational Activities

"My son stood 1st in school because he got free coaching in the Bachu Dighe CDC" said Jamala, mother of Joy. Joy is a sponsored child in Bachu Dighe CDC and he studies in a nearby government school. He takes part in coaching in our CDC. For outstanding performance, Joy and his family members are very happy.

Children wrote their 1st term examination and most of the children passed in the examination. Caregivers are trying to discover the problems of those who couldn't do well in the exam. They have been taking extra care with the weak learners. It is also mentionable that some children wrote the public examination Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and they all passed. Caregivers taught alphabets to the new children in the CDCs. A weak learner said that she solved her weakness through the coaching of the Boleya CDC. "I was weak in English grammar and by teaching of our caregivers now I can easily understand English grammar," said Orpita, a child of Boleya CDC. The CDC caregivers conducted parents meetings for children's guardians and many parents were present in the meetings each month.



Class time in Hatbas CDC



Health and Nutrition

In the last three months, many seasonal fruits were available. We provided the CDC children with seasonal fruits and they enjoyed it. Our feeding program is working significantly. "When I feel hungry, I can't concentrate on my study. Before coming to school, I used to eat something like 'panta Bhat' (soaked rice) in the morning and take nothing while staying at the school till evening," said Rafiq. He became our sponsored child and getting nutritional food and

coaching in the Boleya CDC. Like Rafiq, many children expressed their satisfaction over the feeding program of the CDC. Some children said that in the past they were weak physically, but now they are healthy and more attentive in class.

We not only give them food, but also ensure vaccination and de-worming tablets which prevent many physical challenges. Local government health department conducts vaccination camp in our CDCs and many children, including non-sponsored children, receive vitamin tables from the CDCs. Caregivers also taught the CDC children about cleanliness and tidiness.



Meeting for "Assembly"



De-worming camp in Bachu Dighe



Children taking part in PT in Bachu Dighe



Children play in Hatbas CDC



Children play in Bachu Dighe CDC



Social and Cultural Activities

We want the CDC children to also learn social and cultural activities. Therefore, we teach songs, recitation, dance etc. Usually, children come here from different families and faiths. They learn from each other. Most of them don't have access to learning songs and dances that they can learn in our CDC. Caregivers also taught them how to greet elderly people, teachers and other respected persons.

Children performed songs and dances during cultural programs. On May 28, 2015, Rev. Sukamal Biswas, Director of Bangladesh Nazarene Mission, and some guests visited Bachu Dighe CDC. At that time children performed a nice cultural program for them. A child's mother commented, "My daughter was very shy, she couldn't sing but I saw she can sing a song very spontaneously. I am so happy."

Caregivers conducted national and religious day events for the CDC children. Children celebrated Bengali New Year and they wore local traditional dresses. They also attended a sports competition during the Bengali New Year celebration. Children attended a rally on World Environment Day on 5 June as well.



A child performs a dance in Hatbas CDC



Children sing a song in Bishnowpur CDD

Spiritual Activities

We all know that religion is a key component in our life. It affects us significantly. Therefore, the CDC not only provides education, nutrition, but also provides spiritual support. Caregivers taught prayer, conducted prayer services. Every child prays in the CDC and they also practice it at home. They join in Sunday school every Sunday. A child of another faith said, she likes to join Sunday school where she came to know about the kind Samaritan and many other heart-touching stories that she told her family members. Children also like hymns. A child of another faith learnt a hymn and sang it at her home.

Children prayed for Mr. David Argabright's safe bicycle ride in all CDCs in Bangladesh. "Children also pray at home for Mr. David Argabright's safe bicycle ride" informed a CDC caregiver. Day by day people of other faiths also become interested in joining the Sunday prayer service. They do prayer requests and many got answers.



Children pray for David Argabright's bicycle ride in Birol and Ramnagar CDCs.

Self Help Group Activities

Without economical salvation no nation can go forward. Therefore, we have formed Self Help Groups (SHG) in our working areas and gradually numbers of the SHGs are increasing. It helps to generate income source for children's guardians. Children's mothers are doing small businesses and becoming self reliant. Members of SHGs also get involved against social problems like early marriage, dowry, women violence etc.

Outcomes

- Non-Christians learn about Jesus Christ and receive him as Saviour
- 100% enrollment is ensured and drop-out rate reduced
- Parents are willingly sending their children to school
- Children's health is improved and they have grown more punctual and disciplined
- Children are doing well in class and can improve their hidden talents
- Cultural development is boosted
- Children are more interested to join Sunday school
- Parents are becoming self reliant and women are being empowered

Conclusion

Children are the most beautiful gifts from God for a family. We are taking care of needy children and being partner of development. We are thankful to Mr. David Argabright. We wish and pray for his sound health. Please pray for us too.



A caregiver visits a child's family in Ramnagar CDC area