

LEARNING CIRCLES: THE HAJONG COMMUNITY SHARE THEIR LEARNING.....

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aspire to transform our world by 2030. These global goals have been set to enable people everywhere to live in a peaceful, safe and livable environment. SIL Bangladesh is working alongside ethnolinguistic communities to make progress towards these goals.



The Hajong are a small community in northern Bangladesh, facing significant economic challenges and with limited educational opportunities. Many members of the community work in other people's fields as day laborers. SIL Bangladesh has been working with the Hajong people in Sherpur District, to establish 'learning circles'. The circles are groups of 7 to 12 people, meeting together once

a week to work through the "Amrao Pari" books (*We can too*) developed by SIL. They then apply what they have learnt in their daily lives.

Nisha Rani Hajong is a member of a learning circle in Deflai village. She told us, "*I did not know much about poultry rearing before joining the learning circle. Now, I have learned and I have 30 hens. I am earning a lot by selling hens and am able to cover my children's educational expenses*".



Sorbory is part of the learning circle in Noukuchi-Chaptapara. She told us, "*I was not able to talk in front of others. Since joining the learning circle I have found the confidence to speak up. Now I can talk with others very easily. I have learnt about the responsibilities and*

facilities of the Local Government from reading the learning circle books. I had no tube well at my house. So I got in touch with the Local Government and received a

"We trust that as people become more aware about health, economics and social values they will have many more opportunities to bring about change in their communities."

For more information on topics mentioned in this newsletter, please go to .

http: http://prod.ban.sil-dev.info/resources/bd_monthly

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajong_people

... SNAPSHOTS ...
WHAT'S PLANNED FOR
THIS MONTH

April: Hajong Teachers Training.

April: Learning Circle MSC story collection with Mahle community.

April: Health Screening

April: Seminar with government officials.

April: MLE School Monitoring visit.

April: Program evaluation with Kurux and Hajong.

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LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

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new tube well. They set up it near my house. It's not only me who is using the water - my neighbors' are also using it.



Sunity Hajong belongs to the learning circle in Noukuchi- Namapara. She shared her experiences: *"I am pregnant. I was not aware before of the special care needed in pregnancy. Now, I have learnt about pregnancy care through reading the "Caring for Pregnant Women" lessons in the learning circle book. I go to the doctor for regular check-ups. Vegetables are part of my meals. I avoid heavy work. My husband has also learnt about pregnancy care. He helps*

me whenever I need it".

Suchitra Hajong is a member of the learning circle in Gandhigaon village. She told us, *"The learning circle has taught to me how to help others. A few months ago, my neighbor Rehana became pregnant. I went to her and talked to her about safe delivery. I follow up with her regularly. She had a safe delivery and has her child. Both of them are well. So, I am grateful for the learning circle".*



We are encouraged to see how these families are using their learning. We trust that as people become more aware about health, economics and social values they will have many more opportunities to bring about change in their communities.

Written By: Prodip Kisku.

SIL Bangladesh helps communities achieve their development goals while retaining their ethnolinguistic identities. SIL Bangladesh is an organization in SIL International's LEAD Asia network – Language, Education, and Development.