

FIGHTING AGAINST MUDDY ROADS.....

Babudayang is a Kol village in northwestern Bangladesh. It is an area of great natural beauty, but the infrastructure is poor and travelling by road is very challenging, especially when it rains. In September, four representatives from two donor agencies, the Swedish Pentecostal Movement and the Swedish Mission Council, visited our project area to see the progress of our Health, Education and Livelihood Program (HELP). As the part of this trip, we visited Babudayang village. I had heard about the village and the condition of the road from my colleagues, but this was my first visit since starting my job with SIL as Project Leader of HELP in July.

When we were planning the visit, we discussed the fact that we might need to cancel the trip to Babudayang if it rained. However, the day started out sunny, so there were no problems with our plan. We set out for Babudayang just after lunch and arrived at the spot where we had to park our minibus. We then continued on foot for about two kilometers. We really enjoyed the beautiful scenery as we walked. Finally, we reached Babudayang where we met with students and teachers from the multilingual education school, members of the school management committee and the adult literacy group, and young people from the Generation Next group.

In the middle of our discussions, it started to rain. We finished our meeting but the heavy rain kept falling. We waited until it had eased a little, then decided to set off with our umbrellas as we had a meeting scheduled in a different village. This was the beginning of our struggle. The road was extremely muddy and slippery and it was hard for us to walk, especially for our guests. We had to take very slow and careful steps, while holding on to the visitors. The heavy rain started again and our umbrellas offered little protection for our clothes and bags. As we walked, one of our visitors told me that this was a great experience for her – and one she had never faced before. She said, “I am facing difficulties, but at the same time I am

“We want to continue to partner with them, fighting against poverty until they achieve their development goals.”

For more information on topics mentioned in this newsletter, please go to .
http: <http://www.silbangladesh.org/>

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

Nov 08-11: Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training with YMCA.

Nov 08-11: Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training. With Oraon-Kurux community.

SIL BANGLADESH
LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

SIL

SIL Bangladesh
Avenue 2, Road 15, House 974, Mirpur
DOHS, Dhaka 1216.

To subscribe to this publication ...

E-mail: silupdate_bangladesh@sil.org

Feel free to forward this newsletter to others
so that they can consider subscribing.

FIGHTING AGAINST MUDDY ROADS...(CON'T)

enjoying this moment and I think I will remember it until I die.”

Finally we reached our destination and stopped fighting against the muddy roads and the rain. But I had a different struggle on my mind - the fight against poverty in the Kol community in Babudayang. Our visitors commented on the great need in this area and encouraged SIL to continue working alongside the community. The Kol people are a minority group who have been very marginalized by society. They are among the poorest communities in Bangladesh. We want to continue to partner with them, fighting against poverty until they achieve their development goals.

Written by: Uzzal Azim

**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.**