

PRA SURVEY: SEEKING OUT STRENGTHS

Lots of people are sitting in the hall and a shadow of curiosity and interest crosses their faces, wondering what will happen next. Children are also present and eager to participate. When communities come together to discuss their village and way of life in a participatory way, it is called 'Participatory Rural Appraisal'. PRA surveys are a way for any ethno linguistic group to discover more about their community.

Recently we had a chance to help people dream about the future using a PRA survey. Last December SIL Bangladesh conducted a survey among two communities Mahle & Kurux in Nowgaon and Rangpur districts.



The main objective of the survey was to learn about the present condition of the communities by mapping the natural, social and financial resources and infrastructure, and to develop communications so that we could

establish a working relationship with people from the communities. Lastly, we hoped to identify the problems in the villages and help people to find the solutions for themselves.

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

Feb 4, 2018: Reflection Meeting among Kurux community.

Feb 5, 2018: Reflection Meeting among Mahle community.

Feb 11-14, 2018: Visitors visit Kol and Mahle communities.

Feb 18-23, 2018: Workshop on "Conflict Sensitivity and Peace" in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

PRA SURVEY: SEEKING OUT STRENGTHS ... (CON'T)

During the survey people mapped their village, identifying resources, strengths and weaknesses, health challenges, income and expenses. They also discussed the problems and possible solutions. They began to consider how they could use their own resources and strengths to fulfill their dreams. They suggested ways of tackling problems in the community, such as requesting government facilities, encouraging children to go to School, raising awareness among parents of the importance of education and promoting cleanliness. They also talked about reducing alcoholism and internal conflicts, making more use of their mother tongue and recognizing their culture in daily life.



By the end of the survey the participants' feelings about their village had changed. They began to see the beauty and resources that they had. They recognized that, with the right support, they have the capacity to transform their local area. They want to be united through strong leadership and minimize conflict by supporting one another.

SIL Bangladesh is working with ethno linguistic communities to promote and protect their rights, to improve their capacity and to grow their interest in taking part in community development. PRA surveys are an important part of this process, helping people to learn more about their present social, educational and economic situation. They can help to reveal more of the picture so that people can take their own local initiatives to change their lives.

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***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.***