

CHANGE AMONG MAHLE CHILDREN

SIL Bangladesh helps communities achieve their development goals while retaining their Ethno linguistic identities.

In Naogaon district in northern Bangladesh, there are 10 villages inhabited by Mahle people. Although they have lived on the land for many decades, since before the Liberation War of 1971, they have very few assets. Traditionally their livelihoods depended on working with bamboo, but in recent years plastic products have replaced woven bamboo items, which have affected the Mahle people’s income. As a result, it is difficult for parents to meet their children’s needs, and some are suffering from health problems, challenges with mental health and malnutrition.



Since January 2018, SIL Bangladesh has been working on the Child Rights Ethnic Minorities (CREM) Project with the Mahle community. I am Mathias Hemrom, appointed as a Field Supervisor of the project in the Naogaon area. SIL conducted a baseline survey in the Mahle villages of Bakrail, Matindar and Goyarpur, in response to the survey

data, started a nutrition program with 112 children in the villages. Children were given check-ups by a health inspector and attended sessions on health awareness, children’s rights and child protection.



...SPECIAL COMMENTS

Mr. Albrikus Mardy, a father from Matindar village commented, “I have seen an improvement in my daughter’s health and her concentration on her studies.”

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

http: <http://www.silbangladesh.org/>

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.

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

January 13-24, 2019:
Organize Health Camp in 3 villages and Reflection & sharing meeting with villagers of 4 community People

January 27-31, 2019 : Training on small entrepreneurship - tea stall, small shop, small business etc.

January, 2019 : Child Parliament/Dialogue.

January 13-17, 2019: MLE Tutors training with Mahle community.

CHANGE AMONG MAHLE CHILDREN. CONT'D

Through these sessions, they learned about keeping clean, wearing sandals before going to the latrine, washing their hands, brushing their teeth twice a day, taking a shower, drinking pure water, eating nutritious food and many more topics to help them lead a healthy life. They also learned some social lessons about respecting their elders and listening to their parents. After the sessions they had the opportunity to play indoor and outdoor games such as Ludo, Frisbee, Chess and the traditional Carom game. They enjoyed this and it also helped their physical development and mental health.

The nutrition program led to improvements in the physical and mental health of the children, including weight gain of around 3 to 5kg per child. In monthly meetings, parents and guardians also learned about children's rights and the importance of a safe and secure family life. Ms. Sabina Hemrom, a mother from Goyarpur village said, "My elder daughter now wears sandals to go to the latrine and by imitating her younger sister, keeps herself clean and brushes her teeth in the morning and at night." Mr. Albrikush Mardy, a father from Matindar village commented, "I have seen an improvement in my daughter's health and her concentration on her studies."

SIL Bangladesh is encouraged by the changes that the Mahle people have reported. We hope that this project will continue to empower the community to develop.

Written by: Matheas Hembrom

