

A New Start

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

Study! At this age? Impossible! This is often the reaction of adults when they are asked about starting their studies again. Recently, SIL Bangladesh has started working on an adult literacy program with speakers of Tripura-Usoi, in partnership with BTABC (the Bangladesh Tribal Association of Baptist Churches). Learning to read is made easier by starting in the mother tongue.

SIL carried out a sociolinguistic survey with the Tripura community in 2007 and worked with them some years later on mother tongue materials for children. More recently there was some engagement with Tripura young people through the Active Citizens project. It is hoped that this new initiative will also contribute to preserving their language and culture.

SIL facilitated an orthography workshop to help Tripura-Usoi speakers discuss their spelling rules and develop their spelling guide, produce a primer (a book for learning to read) and a maths book. The primer includes reading lessons which cover stories about income generation, savings, hygiene, pre and post-natal care and rearing domestic animals. The maths book covers numeracy skills including addition, subtraction and multiplication. There are also opportunities to learn how to make a budget, keep a record of expenses and deal with banks.

Speakers of Tripura-Usoi live mainly in the hilly districts of Bandarban and Khagrachari, in southern Bangladesh. Most community members depend on jhum farming (a type of slash and burn agriculture). Both men and women participate in jhum farming. They often live in quite remote areas, with limited access



...SPECIAL COMMENTS

The participants will be empowered to change their own lives as well as those of the future generations. Tripura-Usoi speakers are keen to access education and increase literacy levels throughout their community.

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

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LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SIL

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to infrastructure and education. A small number of young people have accessed higher education by moving away from their communities. Low levels of literacy have sometimes been an obstacle for community members. For example, they have not always been able to enjoy the facilities that the local government provides.

Several community members have trained as tutors for the adult literacy program. There are now five groups in the Bandarban area, in five different villages, with around 100 members. The tutors have been trained in how to run the classes and how to encourage adults in their learning later in life. Adults have different strategies for learning from children. The five groups are meeting for an hour's lesson, three times a week for five months.

It is hoped that these 100 people will complete the course successfully and will be able to read and write fluently in their mother tongue. The participants will be empowered to change their own lives as well as those of the future generations. Tripura-Usoi speakers are keen to access education and increase literacy levels – throughout their community.

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

Aug 4-5, 2019 : MTBAL monitoring visit & Follow up training with Ushoi Tripura comm

Aug 09, 2019 : International Indigenous day observation with Kol, Koch, Kurux & Mahle com.

Aug 7-10, 2019 : Awareness Raising Event on protect Dengue fever with Kol, Koch, Kurux & Mahle communities

Aug 7-11, 2019 : Vaccination Campaign with Kol, Koch, Kurux & Mahle communities

Aug 14-18, 2019 : Awareness Raising Event on Declaration of child rights. With Kol, Koch, Kurux and Mahle communities.

Aug 21-22, 2019 : Seminar on ensuring security services, Health services, Gender Equality training and GNG meeting with Mahle community.

Aug 25, 2019 : Family Awarded program.