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Cultural Festival

'Hooray! We have won and are honored and encouraged by this recognition in this festival. This will be a great encouragement for our future initiative for our society and community!' This was the response expression of the youth who attended the Youth Fair and Cultural Competition.

On 30th May 2023, SIL Bangladesh arranged a day-long festive event for the youth of five communities (Mahali, Kol, Oraon, Koch, and Hajong) called 'Youth Fair and Cultural Competition-2023' with the theme, "Bloom where you are planted". This colorful cultural festival was fully arranged for the youth and the leaders of these five communities as a joint venture from the Youth Ambassadors for Change (YAC) and the SOMPRITI project. The purpose was to provide the young indigenous people an opportunity to celebrate their culture and achievements through the SAPs. It is also aiming to change the views and prejudices towards the minority language communities; to create a respectful environment in the community; and to advocate to the local government for policies and initiatives that promotes cultural rights and preservation. The objectives are also linked with the purpose that to celebrate the culture of these communities, to give them the platform to know each other, to know each other's culture, and to have a growing respect for each other's heritage, resources, and strengths with the presence of government officials. In the Opening Ceremony with the Raising of the Flag, the National Anthem, Oath Sentence Reading, Flying Pigeon, and the lighting of the seven candles by the Country Director of SIL Bangladesh Mr. Cornelius Tudu as the Chairperson of the event, was present along with the Associate Director-Program Mr. Pintu Peris, the Regional Director of CARITAS Rajshahi, Project Leaders, other staff, community leaders, and the youth leaders, youth Ambassadors.

Highlights



Data Validation Workshop

Data Validation Workshop was organized with 16 participants from the Teli and the Rajoar Communities at Rajshahi.

Key Dates

July '23: Food processing Training with Mahali Communities
July '23: Gender Awareness with Oraon, Mahali communities and the local Government Officials Group.

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

Cultural Festival

Later the selected youth groups presented the Social Action Plan implementation in details; how they have included themselves in the social structure and decision making process in democratic way with their challenges, achievements, and learning along with the future dreams for their initiatives and their future leadership journey. The next part was the culture and traditional presentation, where the five communities, one by one, presented their cultural traditional dances. Both the presentation and the dance performances were judged by the selected judges, and the winners were announced.

It was pleasing and effective to have the Senior Assistant District Commissioner; the Executive Magistrate of Rajshahi district Mr. Abdullah Arafat as the chief guest, the Country Director of SIL Bangladesh Mr. Cornelius Tudu as the chairperson, and other honorable guests from different levels of the society at the closing ceremony. All of these guests encouraged the participants who participated in the competition and those who won, along with the recognized potential youth Ambassadors and Generation Next Leaders. The project Leaders shared the whole journey of Youth Ambassadors and the Generation Next Groups. The chairperson Mr. Tudu said, "At the end of the day, we all should be branded through our activities for the benefit of society; so that people can recognize us not for the expensive clothes we wear or the gadgets we carry." The Chief Guest Mr. Arafat said, "We all should preserve our language and culture as this is our identity and the asset of our country". Youth leaders expressed their feelings "We are so honored and proud to be part of this Festival with 300 in the audience. This recognition and the award will encourage us to step forward to do good for our society. Our heartfelt thanks to SIL Bangladesh for making us part of this event." Hope through this cultural festival event the youth of the community will be encouraged more to advocate to the government for policy and to promote their cultural rights and preservation in wider range.

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Local Feeds of May' 23



Data Validation Workshop was organized with 22 participants from the Malo, Mushohor and the Turi Communities .



Cultural Competition and SAP Showcasing winners from the Kol, Koch, Hajong, Oraon and the Mahali Communities.

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