



**SIL** THE SIL BANGLADESH  
MONTHLY

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### INSTANT CHANGE MAKER

“I don’t have any academic qualifications for dancing. I have been inspired by the call to ‘Be the change maker’ and tried out this first in front of such a huge audience.” This was the reaction of Archana Koch, a participant in the Koch Youth Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 of the Youth Ambassadors for Change (YAC) project. She added, “While I was watching the little girls performing in this (cultural event), I thought, ‘I can take the step to perform here today, and if this can make any changes in the audience, they can do something well for their change; they can be change makers.’”

After Archana’s charming performance, one of the guest speakers was pleased by her impromptu steps and gave her a gift (got as a greeting gift for attending the conference) and promised her to bear the expense of her dance costume, take her to a professional dance teacher to polish her steps and arrange a district level dance event for her. Another member of the Koch Community gave her 100 TK (BDT) for her courage.

On this same month, SIL arranged Youth Ambassadors Training with the Koch community, and Archana also participated there. After the sessions in a closing event, she performed a song in the Koch language, and the meaning of the song was to come all the people to change yourselves and change your community. She shared, “I learned this song from my childhood and never thought about the meaning of the song. Already in earlier years, one of our community authors had invited us to come forward and lead our society. But today I realized the meaning and the calling.

#### Highlights



**Hajong Youth Conference**

#### **Hajong Youth Conference**

On 7th September Hajong Youth Conference held with 439 Hajong youth in Mymensing District.

#### Key Dates

- Oct '22:** Staff Meeting of SIL BD .
- Oct '22:** Youth Ambassadors Training with the Hajong Community.
- Oct.'22:** MLE Teachers Refreshers Training with the Mahali, Kol and the Hajong Communities.
- Oct.'22:** FGD with the Banai Community.

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

## INSTANT CHANGE MAKER

So, I'm encouraging you all to please come and change yourselves and let us bring change to our society through our small initiatives. I am so happy to be a part of this training. In this training, every session was so meaningful. I want to give thanks to SIL for providing this wonderful opportunity for us." Archana is a young girl of the village of Nowkuchi, Jhinaigati in Sherpur District. She is living with her family of four members. In her family, she has her father, mother, and younger brother. She is waiting to get admission for graduate-level studies.

'Be the change Maker' is the calling of Youth Ambassadors for Change (YAC). SIL Bangladesh started by working with the youths of four indigenous communities through this project. The youth program aims to enhance active youth participation in civil society among the indigenous population of Bangladesh and empower them to become leading agents for change in their communities. Creating new platforms and opportunities for dialogue will enable young people from different indigenous groups and areas to exchange experiences. These platforms will also cater to a strengthened dialogue with the local leaders and government representatives.

Archana is the role model for every youth to break their inferiority complex or hesitation and take a step to "Be a Change Maker." Through these Change Makers, we can build strong united indigenous communities .

Written by: Shanta Maria D' Costa, Asst. Project Leader, YAC.

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## Local Feeds of September' 22

### Koch Youth Conference



**Koch Youth Conference**  
held in Sherpur with 250 Koch participants with the presence of Local Member of parliament.

### Youth Ambassadors Training



**Youth Ambassadors Training**  
held with 31 participants from the Koch community in Sherpur.

### Focus Group Discussion



**Focus Group Discussion**  
with the Hudi and the Patro community.

**SIL**

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