

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP; A BLOSSOMING DREAM.....

Young people have a strong voice; they are full of energy and often have a keen interest in innovation. They are the keys to change in their communities, so training up young leaders is very important. The 'Generation Next Group' program is one way in which future leaders are being developed. SIL Bangladesh's program focuses particularly on young leaders from the smaller ethno-linguistic communities.



Generation Next Group aims to bring about community change by developing 'second line' leadership. As young people realize that they are an asset to society and that they have the tools to bring about change, they can begin to take initiative. Groups of young people follow a manual which looks at issues

such as human rights, racism, cleanliness and gender discrimination. They begin to make plans for their local area and to communicate with others in order to implement them. This experience prepares them for leadership in the future. In October 2016 SIL Bangladesh organized a training programme in Rajshahi with 48 participants.

It was the first time that we had brought together young leaders from four different ethnic communities for Generation Next Group training. The goal is to empower the young people



"We have now started the journey with the Mahle, Kol, Koda and Koch communities.

We look forward to seeing youth leadership flourish."

For more information on topics mentioned in this newsletter, please go to .  
[http://www.silbangladesh.org/development/youth\\_development](http://www.silbangladesh.org/development/youth_development)

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LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Jan: 08-19- Health Training with Mahle, Kol, Koda, Koch communities.

Jan: 15-19 — MT AL Material Development with Kol & Tripura communities.

Jan: 21-23 — MLE Teachers Training with Koch community.

Jan: 21-28 — MLE Teachers Training with Mahle, Kol, Koda, Koch communities.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP; A BLOSSOMING DREAM...(CON'T)**

and help them preserve their distinctive cultures and languages. The two-day workshop aimed to develop the participants' knowledge of human rights and leadership skills.

At the beginning of the program most of the participants did not know one another and many were shy about expressing themselves. But a light was going on inside their minds. As they introduced



themselves, they started to share their ideas and talk about their willingness to take on challenges on behalf of their communities. As part of the program they began to dream about future leadership opportunities. They considered the big picture in their villages and tried to find solutions to the problems. They also realized their own responsibilities towards their villages.

SIL Bangladesh is focusing particularly on ethnic minority communities in order to promote and protect their rights, since they are among the most vulnerable groups in Bangladesh. We have now started the journey with the Mahle, Kol, Koda and Koch communities. We look forward to seeing youth leadership flourish.

Written by: Jewel Rozario.

**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.**