The mother tongue is the language that children learn from their mother and a Mother-tongue-Based Multilingual Education Program is an education system where indigenous children begin learning in their mother tongue. In the Bangladesh context, mother-tongue-based education is not yet popular, and ethnic children still struggle in starting their educational life in a second language. I might not be able to fully understand their difficulties but I can feel their helpless feelings through my experience with learning a second language at an early age. But SIL Bangladesh is trying to spread a new ray of hope among Bangladesh ethnic communities through their MTB MLE program, so that community children can have a strong foundation in their mother tongue and prepare themselves to study in a second language. To fulfill this vision, SIL Bangladesh creates opportunities for their team members to receive training in developing various skills to build up their capacity. The introduction to the L1 MLE course was one such opportunity in which four members from Bangladesh (Zenith Mousumy Sarker, Shanta Maria D’ Costa, Dony Gomes, and Scholastica Shefaly Rebarue) participated. It was not a new concept for me; it was like getting something new out of the old. It gave me an opportunity to think afresh, not only enriching my knowledge but inspiring me to work with renewed zeal.

SPEECH FROM DIRECTOR

Dear friends, partners, colleagues & well wishes,
Merry Christmas to you all. I am so happy for each one of you that you are part of SIL International. In this joyous season merry days and happy smiles are my wishes for you all. I believe our whole team has received His blessings and grace personally and organizationally throughout the year. Wishing you a Christmas that is full of light. Have a great time with your family and beloved ones.

Cornelius Tudu
Country Director - SIL BD

Key Dates

Dec’22: Dialogue with Local Governments Kol and Hajong Communities.
Dec’22: Christmas Celebration with SIL BD staff.
Dec’22: Orientation of Enlighten Hearts Project with SIL BD staff.

SIL Bangladesh helps communities achieve their development goals while retaining their Ethnolinguistic identities.
Every topic in this training was interesting and learnable. Through this training, I came to know about so many books, research that people had conducted and so many theories about the ways in which the mother tongue is important for children’s education. We also learned about literacy materials and teaching methods, different approaches for teacher training and effective advocacy progression for involving the community, parents, and other influential members from different levels to successfully run this educational program. For me, the most interesting and effective part was the group discussion. The participants, who were involved in the training, were from different countries and running the same program in different contexts joined in that training. It was good to hear their experiences, challenges, and success stories. It gave me new insight into my work. The pre-reading assignment was most effective in helping me to prepare myself before the session and keep my understanding on the right track.

In 2023, SIL Bangladesh is going to start MTB MLE with another new community. For me, it is an opportunity to apply my learning to run the program successfully. This Christmas, may God bless SIL Bangladesh so that they can spread their light of hope into other communities.

Written By: Scholastica Shefaly Rebarue.