

OCTOBER 2020

## RAPHAYEL KOL'S Now HAPPY FAMILY

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

The village of Babudying is situated in the border area of Rajshai- Chapainowabgonj District. It is located in Godagari Upazila's 3no. Mohonpur Union. The Kol community has been living in this area for a very long period. The village communication system is undeveloped as it is quite an isolated area. This village is living without the benefit of education and health facilities as there are no government supported institutions in the area.

I joined SIL Bangladesh in 2017 as a field supervisor. After a short two-day orientation, I was sent to be introduced to the community. I was disappointed to see the condition of the community and the long distance of the working area from my local office. My supervisor encouraged me and helped me to concentrate on the work. Within six months, I had built good relationships with the community people. I had no need to look back.

Through directly dealing and regularly meeting with the community people and the youth, I have identified a few youths with potential. One of them is Raphayel Kol who is an active member of GNG. I have encouraged



Photo: Raphayel Kol

expand his business.



Photo: Israel Hasda

the young people to be active in a different club and become entrepreneurs. We arranged special training on entrepreneurship. A few days after that Raphayel shared his desire to start a small grocery shop. I suggested him to start on a small scale and he got started.

After a few days he felt he should

### ...SPECIAL COMMENTS

I recall Raphayel's words in every steps of my life. Their happy and smiling faces inspire me to continue on with the work. Raphayel and his wife are a great example of how a couple can achieve happiness in their lives in spite of hardships.

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

http: <http://www.silbangladesh.org/>

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LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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October' 20: Seed Distribution among the Kol and Koda Community.

October' 20: Learning Circle ToT.

October' 20: Seed Distribution Among Koch and Hajong Community.

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## RAPHAYEL KOL'S NOW HAPPY FAMILY..... Cont'd

So, he borrowed capital from his relative. He started another enterprise using his three months of profit. He bought fifty ducklings. With the hard work of Raphayel Kol and his wife, their grocery shop has been expanded. They bought a cow with the capital of selling the ducks and the profit from the shop. Now, they have three more cows instead of one. Every day they sell one and half litter of milk and get 70:00 (seventy taka) BDT. Raphayel Kol goes to the town twice a week to purchase items to sell in his shop and on other days he spends time selling the items in his shop. His wife manages the family and house works and take cares of the cattle. This is how they are making a living and being successful in their lives.



Photo: Raphayel's family

I met Raphayel's wife when I visited his shop to taking a few photos. I asked Raphayel, how his life is now? He replied with tears of joy, 'I was unemployed and my family responsibilities, poverty, sorrows, and frustrations made my life miserable. I asked many people for help but, no one was willing to help me. I was so frustrated and the tension of the expense of daily living was drive me crazy. Then, you came to us and gave suggestions to start this business. I just followed your advice and now we are living a healthy financially sound life. My wife, daughter and mother are very happy with me.

I recall Raphayel's words in every steps of my life. Their happy and smiling faces inspire me to continue on with the work. Raphayel and his wife are a great example of how a couple can achieve happiness in their lives in spite of hardships. Seeing what has happened their lives, I am motivated in my continuing work with the community.

Written by: Israel Hasda.