

## THE TALE OF A NEW JOURNEY

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

*'Is your organization going to work in our village?'* asked a lady during the PRA survey back in September 2020. I saw a ray of hope in her eyes as the survey team was working in a Koch village in the North West of Bangladesh. Though the survey team did not yet know when the work would start, they answered, "We hope to start working with you as soon as possible, but we might not be able to address all the issues of your village which the survey results will reflect. However, we will try our best to serve the community with our project as soon as possible."

Covid-19 has been teaching a lot of new things to the world. People all over the world are learning to adjust to "new-normal" things in their regular activities of life. SIL Bangladesh is also trying to adjust to the new normal things like the rest of the world.

According to the strategic priorities that were set, capacity building and localization are among the mandates of SIL Bangladesh. The process was started a few years ago. However, in this exceptional year of pandemic, it has been challenging to implement the previously planned events. However, it is



equally important to continue the development work. All over the country, people have different mindsets regarding the pandemic situation. Nowadays, some people are maintaining extra protection everywhere, whereas others seem careless regarding the virus. We were always concerned about protecting ourselves as well as the community people. But there were still some restrictions concerning conducting training and seminars. Despite all these challenges and questions, we managed to arrange the **Training of Trainers (ToT) on Learning Circle (LC)** for our field staff when the pandemic situation was a somewhat under control in our country. It was quite easy as the number of participants was limited to six from five geographical areas.

## ...SPECIAL COMMENTS

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LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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## THE TALE OF A NEW JOURNEY..... Cont'd

**Learning Circle** is one of the most famous and most significant components of SIL International Bangladesh. It is a platform for people to share their experiences and learning and implement new learning in their daily lives. SIL has witnessed many life-changing stories from the Learning Circle group members



since 2011. SIL believes that a learning circle gives people a platform to learn and grow together as a community. The Training & Consultancy team (T&C team) had still been hesitant to hold the training, feeling that it would be challenging for the field staff to deliver the four-day training with only one facilitator.

However, with the advantage of having a resourceful and dedicated Team, SIL completed the Learning Circle Volunteers training in two areas using digital media, and the other area managers and field

staff joined online. The T&C team was supporting the team from the head office as appropriate.

The T&C team, as well as the area managers, found it helpful to observe the each other's facilitation of the training. All the facilitators (the area managers) identified some areas for improvement at the end of the training which they then consciously avoided in the second training, and the field staff observed more confidence in facilitation than previously.

In the end, the training and consultancy team was satisfied with the performance of the field staff as well as the practice teaching sessions of the newly appointed volunteers. SIL looks forward to seeing the community people take full charge of their development in the future.

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