

Youth Leadership: Mahle Students' Seminar 2019

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

Patrick Baskey is the Chairman of the Mahle Youth Association. In October 2019 he took part in the Fourth Mahle Students' Seminar, in the Rajshahi region of Bangladesh. He said afterwards that he had found the youth leadership class instructive, and added, "I will be able to participate in various types of social action, and young people will be inspired to be leaders by me."

The seminar was organized by the Mahle Youth Association, in partnership with SIL International-Bangladesh. It brought together sixty students of school and college age and was based on the theme, "**Young People's Role in Leadership and Development in Society**". There was positive feedback from the participants. Abraham Hembrom said, "I will be a good leader, and good leaders are very much needed in society. I teach the children in my village for free and this is how I'm trying to make a positive contribution to my society." Bristi Mardy said that by participating in the seminar, she had found out about her role in society.

The main session was conducted by Cornelius Tudu, SIL's Country Director. He addressed questions such as "What is leadership?" and discussed the qualities and importance of leadership. He also looked at how leadership roles are played in society. The participants made important contributions. They worked in teams of six to draw pictures, showing what they hope to see in their society in five years' time.

Among others, Mr. Dipok Ekka, the Education Officer from Caritas Bangladesh in the Rajshahi region, conducted a session on child safety. In his discussion, Mr. Dipok Ekka spoke about the importance of protecting children. He addressed child rights, child labor and ways to prevent child abuse. Mr. Theotonious



...SPECIAL COMMENTS

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

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Dec 01-02, 2019: Project Documentary (CREM).

Dec 07, 2019: Pre-Christmas Celebration with all staffs and family members.

Dec 08-11, 2019: Series awareness on Bad effect of Alcoholism, Adolescent Care and Early Marriage with Kol-Koda, Mahle, Koch community .

Dec 09-10, 2019: Bolte chai with Kurux Koch community

Dec 14-16, 2019: Sports program & Victory day observation with Kol, Mahle and Koch community.

Dec 23-31, 2019: Christmas Vacation.

Youth Leadership: Mahle Students' Cont'd

Hembrom, a lecturer at Rajshahi College, lead a session on modern education and career development. He discussed the obstacles to Mahle students accessing higher studies. Mr. Michael Mardy conducted a session on the role of Mahle young people in preserving culture and their contribution to development issues. He acknowledged that the Mahle community have been marginalized in the area of development. In the past their ethnicity was not officially recognized by the Government and they were therefore unable to access some government benefits. Now, however, the Mahle have been added to the list of recognized ethnicities and included in the Government Gazette.

A cultural program took place as part of the seminar. Fr. Fabian Marandi, advisor to the Mahle Youth Organization, said that he was very pleased with the responsiveness and participation of those who attended the seminar. The participants also expressed their thanks to SIL International-Bangladesh for supporting and arranging the seminar. The young people are determined to work for the development of their community.

Written by: Santosh Hemrom.

