STEPS TOWARDS ACHIEVING EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH PARTICIPATION: BANGLADESH CONTEXT

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Our Country...

- Total land area - 130,172 Km2 (50,260 sq. miles)
- Total population - 157.9 million (2015)
- The population density - 1252 per Km² (3,241 people per mi²)
The scenario of urban and rural area is different

34.2% of the population is urban (56,856,665 people in 2016)

Rural Population – 66.5% (in 2014)
Ethnic Communities in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh known as an ethnodiverse country
- More than 45 ethnic communities are living in Bangladesh
- Above 2% of total population
SIL International–Bangladesh is a research, training, and consulting organization which seeks to be a helpful partner to community-owned language and development initiatives.

Goal: SIL International–Bangladesh exists to serve ethnic communities of Bangladesh so that the communities achieve their language, education, and development goals while retaining their cultural and linguistic identities.
Mahle, Koch, Kol, Koda

Why we’ve chosen these groups?

Most vulnerable rights-holders:

- Mahle, Koch, Kol, and Koda ethnic minorities are the vulnerable rights-holders
- Kol and Koda are especially vulnerable as ‘floating people’
- Children and women: not only face discrimination for their ethnic and religious identity, but also as women and children.
Violated Human Rights:

Multiple rights are being violated

- Right to education (UDHR – Article 26): Very limited access to school, they are not yet recognized as indigenous groups by the government and so cannot claim this as a legal right.
- Rights ‘in’ and ‘through’ education
- Right to non-discrimination (UDHR Article 2):
- Right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family (UDHR Article 25)
- Right to democracy (UDHR Article 21)
Specific Needs:

- Employment opportunities
- Food security
- Adult education
- Children education
- Access to health services and medical facilities
- Sanitation
- Sustainability of their language and culture
- Leadership and conflict resolution

How do the problems manifest:

- Community trapped in a cycle of poverty
- Low self esteem/poverty mindset prevents them of thinking/taking action towards any alternative future
- Due to the lack of education and landlessness, many are day laborers; not earning sufficient to sustain their families
- Children suffer from malnutrition and other diseases
Areas need to build capacity to impact their own situation:

4 key areas need to be developed within the community

- unity
- self confidence
- awareness
- capacity

In 3 different levels

- Individual level
- Civil Society level
- Institutional level
Main Activities of the Project

Beginning Stage:

- Baseline Survey
- Reflection Meeting
- Planning Sharing Meeting
- Awareness-raising Event
- Tutors Selection and Training
- Volunteers Selection and Training
Main Activities of the Project (cont.)

**Education:**

- **Learning Circle:**
  - 12 learning circles (3 male & 9 female groups)
  - 140 group members (38 male, 102 female)

- **Adult Literacy:**
  - 10 groups (3 male & 7 female groups)
  - 96 group members (32 male, 64 female)

- **Multilingual Education**
  - 7 schools (10 preparation classes)
  - 11 tutors & 113 students
Main Activities of the Project (cont.)

**Health:**

- Health Awareness Raising Events on general cleanliness, alcoholism, safe delivery, childcare, pre- & postnatal care, HIV/AIDS, disability, early marriage, safe drinking water, and malnutrition
- Traditional Birth Attendants Training
- Series Awareness Sessions on bad effects of drug addiction, adolescent care, & early marriage
- Awareness Raising Seminar on ensuring local government health service
Main Activities of the Project (cont.)

Generation Next Group:
- Leadership & Planning meeting with Generation Next Group
- Language and Culture Preservation Meeting
Main Activities of the Project (cont.)

**Advocacy and Networking:**

- Awareness-raising events on the benefit of MLE with govt. school teachers and officials
- Seminars on child protection with govt. school teachers and officials
- Seminars on indigenous rights with leaders, govt. officials, influential persons
Stepping forward to Achieve the Goal…

- **Mahle, Koch, Kol, and Koda** communities are empowered to achieve their education and development goals while strengthening their linguistic and cultural identities.
All about participation....
They are Growing up with confidence...

This is not the End.... but a good **Beginning**......