

Church of the Nazarene, Bangladesh  
Child Development Center (CDC)  
**Report for Mr. David Argabright/South Asia Partnership**  
Reporting Period: April to June 2016

### **A big boost of Somiron**

Somiron Munda lives in Ramnagor village under Sreemongol P.S in Moulovibazar district, a hilly area. His extremely needy parents were very worried for their children's future. At that time, one day our CDC caregiver visited Somiron's home. Somiron's mother sadly shared about their life of misery. She informed the caregiver that they cannot send their children to school, they cannot feed them three times a day. The CDC caregiver advised her to enroll Somiron in the Ramnagor CDC, and she did so.

Now Somiron is a regular attendee of our CDC. He takes part in all activities there. But one day Somiron stopped coming to the CDC. Our caregiver again visited their home. She came to know Somiron doesn't want to come to the center.

But then our caregiver discovered that Somiron is a very slow learner. He couldn't read or write anything. His day labor and uneducated parents also were very busy with their work. However, the CDC caregiver encouraged Somiron to take part in our CDC program. Caregivers took extra care of the child. They praised him when Somiron did any homework or task in the class. Gradually he started to perform well in class. His mother is very happy to see Somiron's progress. His mother says, "We cannot help Somiron to prepare his lesson, but with the help of the CDC caregivers, my child has done well. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the CDC staff!"

In the past, Somiron didn't like to come to the CDC, but now every day he is the first to come to the center. He is very active in all activities. He has some friends and enjoys the games at the CDC.

Somiron says, "I couldn't write or read, but now I can. I also can say some rhymes. I feel better in the CDC". Although he is from another faith, he regularly takes part in Sunday school. He learns some Jesus stories, Jesus songs and action songs. He likes to hear stories of Jesus Christ. He can recall "Jesus feeds the five thousand people" and "Jesus walks on the water". His caregivers admire him, "Somiron was a weak learner, but he has eagerness to learn and now he is performing well in the class."

When asked about his hopes for the future, Somiron replied: "I want to be a doctor".



### **Introduction:**

Bangladesh is a South Asian small country with over-population. Here people's key problems are lack of education, nutrition and social security. The Church of the Nazarene Bangladesh is sincerely working through these issues with the holistic child development approach. We, the staff of the CDC, ensure quality education for the CDC children. We also provide nutrition, social and spiritual teaching to the children. Mr. David Argabright has been supporting 645 children (560 sponsored and 85 non-sponsored) in 8 CDCs. Participants of the CDCs are very thankful to the donors and the Church of the Nazarene for their kind love and support.

## Objectives:

- Prepare children to make a peaceful society
- Supply standard education to children and provide them with nutrition
- Give children awareness training on health and train families on food security and sanitation
- To ensure local government's facilities for villagers
- To increase number of participants in Sunday school
- Increase kingdom of God by preaching God's word through CDC's activities among non-Christians
- Make people self-reliant by forming Self Help Groups (SHG)



Children in Bachu Dighe CDC



## Working Areas:

Mr. David Argabright is supporting the following CDCs. Most of these CDCs are situated in the remote areas where people are very needy.

Name of CDC	District
Kholadanga	Jessore
Kumarkhali	Khulna
Boleya	Dinajpur
Bishnowpur	Naogaon
Ramnogor (Sylhet)	Moulvibazar
Bachu Dighe	Dinajpur
Hatbas	Satkhira
Kalupara	Naogaon
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 Districts</b>

## Educational Activities:

In the last three months, children wrote their 1<sup>st</sup> term examination. According to the CDC organizers, 90 percent of the children passed the examination. Caregivers are finding support for those children who couldn't do well in the exam. "We made a list of those who are weak learners and we are taking extra time with them", says Caregiver Ratna from Bachu Dighi. She said that children are taking preparation for 2<sup>nd</sup> term examination. New children are learning the alphabets and poems. Children of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are learning to make sentences. Our caregivers do not only teach in the CDC but also visit children's homes and talk with their parents about their studies. A child's mother Sathi from Ramnogor expressed her satisfaction of the CDC program. She says, "Beside academic lessons, caregivers

also teach morality to our children". Rubal from Boleya CDC says, "I got help from the CDC caregivers and I passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC), I thank them for their help". Now Rubal is studying in a college.



Class in Boleya CDC



Class in Ramnogor CDC



Class in Bachu Dighe CDC

### Health and Nutrition:

We all know that health is a key element for happy life. The CDC looks after children's health. Health workers checked nails, hands and hair of the children. Health workers taught the children to wash their hands before a meal and after using the latrine. Most of the people didn't have a latrine at their house. After establishing the CDC, caregivers and health workers advised them to set up a latrine and many of them have done it. "Earlier I became sick because I didn't wash my hands with soap, but now I am well" says Raton, a child from Kalupara CDC. Another child Prame Babu's father said his son wouldn't clean his teeth, but now he cleans them regularly in the way he learnt it from the CDC. Children received de-worming tablets from our CDC. Our caregivers collected the de-worming tablets from the local government's health department. Children are aware about primary health. Our caregivers advised children and their parents to plant fruit trees at their home so that in the future they can harvest fruits and can fulfill their nutritional demand.



Handwashing in Bachu Dighe



Praying before lunch in Bachu Dighe



Medical checkup in Bishnowpur CDC

### Social and Cultural Activities:

In the last three months, the CDC children participated in a cultural program every Saturday. Caregivers taught them dances, songs, reciting and small drama. They perform these during the cultural program. Dola, a child from Bachu Dighe CDC, says, "I learnt a song and I enjoy singing songs". Furthermore, caregivers always try to guide them how they should greet elderly people, teachers and other respected persons. Children observed the Bengali New Year on April 14, Labor Day on May 1, Mother's Day on May 8, World Environment Day on 5 June. Children wore local traditional dresses during Bengali New Year 1423. At that time, they ate panta bhat (traditional food). Children attended a sports competition during the Bengali New Year celebration. On Mother's day children's mothers came to the CDCs and caregivers spoke about the role of mothers in the family. Children gave flowers to their mothers on Mother's day. Children attended a rally on World Environment Day on 5 June as well. At that time the local Parishad Chairman (local government leader) was present and he spoke. Children planted trees that day at their home.



Prayer in Bishnowpur CDC



Prayer in Ramnagor CDC



Bible study in Boleya CDC

### Spiritual Activities:

Other faith children can get to know Jesus Christ from the CDC program. "I attended Sunday school camp where I learnt some stories of the Holy Bible" says a child from another faith. She also said that she memorized some Bible verses. Normally, caregivers teach children prayer in the CDC and sometimes they also conduct Sunday school camps. Sometimes parents also join in the Sunday school to see what their children are learning. If anybody becomes ill, parents and children request prayer. Nomita Roy, a caregiver of Bachu Dighe CDC, said that they taught 10 new hymns in Sunday school this year and all children spontaneously sing hymns now during prayer service.

### Self-Help Group Activities:

Hundreds of children's mothers are active members of SHGs and they are investing their money and labor for income generation under the supervision of CDC caregivers. The CDC caregivers are helping them by training them how to make money through small businesses and house farming. Gradually, their deposited money is increasing. In the SHG meetings, caregivers also taught about some social issues such as child marriage, dowry, corruption and social prejudice. "We came to know child marriage affect our daughters badly, so I never support any child marriage" says Bimola Roy from Boleya CDC.



### Outcomes of the CDCs:

- Drop-out rate reduced and 100% enrollment ensured
- Parents are willingly sending their children to school
- Children's health is improved
- Children are performing well in the class and can improve their hidden talents
- Children have grown more punctual and disciplined
- Cultural development is boosted
- Children are more interested to join Sunday school
- Non-Christians know about Jesus Christ and receiving him as Savior
- Parents become self-reliant and women are empowered

### Conclusion:

Through the CDC program, hundreds of children are changing their lives by education, nutrition, social and spiritual support. On behalf of the CDC participants, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. David Argabright for his kind support and love.