

Church of the Nazarene Bangladesh
Child Development Centers (CDC)
Report for Mr. David Argabright/South Asia Partnership
July to September 2016

The Transformation of Shrove Roy

Shrove's parents are immensely happy about their child's positive changes.

Our sponsored child Shrove lives with his parents at Boleya village in Dinajpur. His father is a day laborer and mother is a housewife. His elder brother Kishor Kumar studies in a nearby school. His lower educated parents have a strong desire to educate their child. Shrove's father said, *"I couldn't complete my study in school due to poverty, I hope my child Shrove will complete his study by help of the CDC support"*. He informed us that he is the only breadwinner in his family and they don't have any farmland. Therefore it was almost impossible to manage the study costs of his child. Now Shrove is getting education and nutrition from Boleya CDC.

At first Shrove didn't come to the CDC regularly. Frequently the caregivers visited Shrove's home to bring him to the CDC. Shrove was a weak learner. Our caregivers helped him sincerely and now Shrove is very active. He started performing well in class. His mother says, *"My child Shrove was weak in study but he was very naughty. He got involved in quarrel with his playmates. By getting help of the caregivers Shrove changed himself."*

Shrove's caregiver mentioned that Shrove now performs well in examinations and his health is good. He plays with his friends. Shrove actively takes part in Sunday school. He learns stories by attending Sunday school. Besides academic lessons, he has also gained moral lessons. He respects his parents, elderly people and caregivers.

Four grade learner Shrove is dreaming to be a police officer. He says, *"Someday I will be a police officer, I will work to reduce injustice in our society."* His mother is a member of an SHG. She took sewing training offered by the Church of the Nazarene. She bought a sewing machine. Now she is making extra money for their family. She happily says, *"The CDC caregivers helped us to learn sewing and I am thankful to them."*

Shrove's father expressed his gratitude to the CDC authority and donor for their generosity in support of his children.



Background:

Kalupara is a small village situated in Rajshahi district, North-Western Bangladesh. Local Nazarene missionaries reached out with the gospel among members of another faith in this village in 2010 and some people received Jesus as their new God. Presently 35 church members attend the church. Kalupara is a village of those who are extremely needy, living hand-to-mouth. They live on farming and day laboring. People of different faiths live here in a relation of brotherhood. In 2013, a CDC was established in the village for the needy children. Children took part in all programs of the CDC spontaneously. By receiving our support children are becoming educated and physically healthy. Many people of other faiths are recognizing Jesus Christ through our program. Furthermore, local church members have a healthy relationship with local leaders.

Objectives:

- Ensure quality education for children
- Protect children from malnutrition
- Make the guardians aware about health and nutrition
- Promote Christian values to CDC children and preach the gospel
- Help parents to generate income through SHGs



Children enjoy food in Bachu Dighe CDC



... and in Kalupara CDC.

Working Areas:

Mr. David Argabright & SAP are supporting a total of 8 CDCs in 7 districts in Bangladesh.

Name of CDC	District
Arifpur	Jessore
Kumarkhali	Khulna
Boleya	Dinajpur
Bishnowpur	Naogaon
Ramnogor (Sylhet)	Moulvibazar
Bachu Dighe	Dinajpur
Hatbas	Satkhira
Kalupara	Rajshahi
Total	7 Districts

Educational Activities:

Children of CDCs attended all activities aptly. Our caregivers are working heart and soul to educate needy children. Children wrote their examination and most of them passed. Our caregivers visited children's homes and advised their parents to take care of their children. A child's mother Rupaly says, *"I check my child's exercise book daily. I give her extra time and she does her studies properly."* Our caregivers try to stop drop-outs, therefore, our caregivers made visits in the village. Momota from Ramnagor CDC says, *"Many children couldn't write anything, but after being enrolled in the CDC, they can write the alphabet; I am happy to see it."* A child's mother from Boleya said, *"My child couldn't pass the examination; the caregivers helped her and now she passed the examination."* To make children's lessons enjoyable our caregivers use some creative methods. Sometimes children do group study. Children are now taking preparation for the annual examination.



A caregiver is teaching in Bachu Dighe CDC



Children are happy about their new school bags in Kalupara

Health and Nutrition:

Sound health, sound mind. We provide nutrition and health training to the children for their sound health. They receive hotchpotch four days each week. Our caregivers teach children how to wash hands and advise them to use footwear while they use the lavatory. Rafiq says, *"I didn't use footwear while I use the lavatory and became sick often, but after using footwear now I don't get sick."* We suggested children's mothers to feed nutritional food to their children. Our caregivers and health workers taught them about health and nutrition. They advised those who are pregnant to deposit money so that they can use the deposited money during their child's birth, if needed for hospital costs. A child's mother said, *"Our child told us to clean our hands before eating; she learnt that at the CDC. I am satisfied about her learning."* Our caregivers advised parents to feed de-worming tablets to their children. Mukta's mother said, she didn't know the importance of feeding de-worming tablets before she learnt that at the CDC during a parents' meeting.



Receiving de-worming tablets in Boleya CDC



Washing hands in Bachu Dighe CDC

Social and Cultural Activities:

Children are also part of our society. They should know what is right and what is wrong. We taught them some civic sense, such as to pay respect to elderly people, love their country etc. In this quarter, children learnt songs, dances and recitations. A child Khakon says that he has learnt a song in the CDC. It was merely possible being a child of the CDC. Children of the CDC observed national days. On 15 August was National Mourning Day. On that day the nation's founding father, Sheik Mujibur Rahman, died along with

most of his family in 1975. Children of the CDCs pay respects to Sheik Mujibur on this day. Caregivers told them the importance of the day. Children also observed Friendship Day on August 7. On that day, they exchanged greetings between their friends in the CDC. The children of the CDC have the opportunity to play on the CDC grounds. They play various kinds of local games and get fresh recreation.



Children attend PT in Bachu Dighe CDC



... and play games in Hatbash CDC.

Spiritual Activities:

Most of our children come from another faith, but they all willingly take part in Sunday school and Sunday prayer service. Our caregivers taught them hymns and stories from the Bible. Some non-Christian children have memorized the Ten Commandments. A child from Bishnowpur says, *"I have learnt a prayer that I say before I eat."* A Sunday school camp took place at Bachu Dighe in September where local pastors spoke from the Holy Bible. Sudip, a participant of the Sunday school camp, said he learnt some stories from the Sunday school camp. He was encouraged to be a pastor by the pastor's sermon. From the same CDC, a child named Roni said, he likes to attend Sunday school. He says, *"I learn some hymns, stories and plays. I like to perform these."*



Sunday School in Boleya CDC



Sunday School in Hatbash CDC

Income Generation Activities:

The self-help group is a platform where children's mothers can learn how to make money and how to be self-sufficient. Every week they sit together for weekly meetings and collect money. They take the money

from the SHG as a loan and do small businesses. Many of the SHG members are earning money by doing income generation activities. Mullica Roy, an SHG member, says, she does house farming and earns money. Caregivers talk to them against child marriage, dowry and drug addiction. She added, *"The SHG helps us to develop our life therefore we are very happy with the CDC authority"*.

Outcomes of the CDC:

- Stopped dropout; children are going to school regularly
- They are becoming healthy and punctual
- Children know biblical values and sharing with family
- They know about Jesus Christ and learn religious songs
- They can play at the CDC
- Guardians are becoming self-reliant through SHGs



Conclusion:

Above all, those children who are participating in the CDC program are growing physically, culturally, mentally and spiritually. One day, they will contribute to the Church, community and nation. We thank David Argabright and the South Asia Partnership for their kind support.