



## Pre-Primary Literacy for Rural Children

### Overview

The Bangladesh Bible Society (BBS) is seeking to reach preschool-aged children with the word of God through a literacy course in the rural and remote areas of Bangladesh.

### The Need

There are more than 172 million people in Bangladesh, and approximately 26% of the population are children. A large percentage of people live in rural areas and children are prevented by distance from attending pre-schools. In later schooling, their lack of familiarity with the national Bengali language means attaining literacy is challenging.

In Bangladesh, tribal children all start school in the Bengali language even though they speak in their mother tongue. Some of these tribes do not even have their language in written form, so learning literacy in Bengali is the only option.

These children need to be taught at a younger age, so that they can gain a basis in education which will help them when they begin their primary school education, or catch up on the studies they have missed due to language difficulties at national schools.



# 172m

people in Bangladesh

# 74%

of the population are functionally literate

# 26%

of the population are children

**"My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways ..."**

Proverbs 23:26, NIV

# Goals

The goal of the literacy program is to educate pre-school aged children in remote areas who cannot access distant schools due to their youth and poverty. Bible Society's literacy class will help them learn basic literacy skills, beginning at four years old, in their villages. Students will learn to read, recite and write in Bengali, preparing them for formal schooling. Children will also learn to connect with the word of God through the classes and have their relationship with God strengthened.

Classes which began in 2023 will continue in 2024, with the first group finishing at the end of the year. In 2024, 30 new classes, with 600 students, will be started in different areas, and an evaluation will be conducted to help with planning in upcoming years.

---

# Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is 1,500.

In 2023, BBS started 15 pre-primary literacy schools in three locations, with a total of 300 students studying from July. Books were distributed in each school, with the local church leaders, pastors and community leaders all working together for the schools.

This project will bring children together in groups to learn to read, equipping them for their formal schooling ahead. It will also allow them to learn to read the word of God.

---

# Testimonies

"This program is excellent for the children, which I could not have in my [childhood]. Everyone should support to this program." — Bishop Philip, Chairman, Talitha Koumi Evangelical Church, Dhaka

---

# Prayer Needs

- Please pray for the children that they will be encouraged to come to class regularly.
- Please continue to pray for the teachers, that they will be successful in teaching the students.
- Pray for the church leaders, pastors, and community leaders, for their full support of this program.
- Please continue to pray for the betterment of the political situation in the country.