

Bangladesh



Pre-Primary Literacy

Project: 102454
Tax Deductible



172m

people in Bangladesh

74.66%

is the literacy rate in Bangladesh

26%

of the population are 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.

With the literacy rate in Bangladesh still around 74%, education remains a significant need in this nation. These children need to be taught at a younger age to gain a basis in education that 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.

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 in Bangladesh, 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.

The program goal is for 600 children in 30 literacy classes to follow a two-year pre-school curriculum. At the end of 2024, 300 students from 15 classes move into the next class and the 300 students in their second year complete a final exam and graduate, ready to start primary school in grade one. In 2025 BBS will start 15 new literacy classes for Santal language communities.

Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact is 3,000, providing long-term educational, social and spiritual benefits for the rural children involved.

In 2023, BBS started 15 pre-primary literacy schools in three locations, with a total of 300 students studying from July. In 2024, 600 children in 30 literacy classes continue the two-year curriculum, with the class running four days each week.

Books were distributed in each school, with the local church leaders, pastors and community leaders all working together for the schools. This project brings 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.

Testimony

Keya, a 4-year-old student at the Binodpur Pre-Primary Education Center, has shown remarkable development. Her mother shares, "At first, Keya didn't want to go and cried when we brought her there, so I had to sit with her during the classes. She couldn't speak or write vowels, consonants, or English letters, nor could she count numbers. But now, she confidently goes to the centre alone, and has made significant progress in both literacy and social skills. I believe this experience will help her transition smoothly into primary school, and she will thrive on her own."*

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Please pray for the children that they will be encouraged to come to class regularly.
- 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.