



Save the Children

# Shishur Khamatayan-**MLE**

Supporting Hardest to Reach through Mother  
Tongue Based Multilingual Education



## Background:

A study conducted by UNDP-CHTFD found that the dropout rate of indigenous children is much higher than the estimated national rate, children dropping out especially in the early years of primary school. Primary school completion rate is 41% whereas national 79.9%. One of the most critical barrier to education for these children are that they do not understand national language Bangla, the language used in school, and the curriculum does not relate to their culture or communities. There is also inadequate coverage of primary and pre-primary services in the hill tract remote areas, and children have to travel long distances to reach the schools in a very difficult hilly landscape. Unfriendly teaching approach and poor learning environment is also assumed to be one of the reasons for the high dropout rate of children from ethnic minority groups. So, Children brought up through this unhealthy and unfriendly language environment.

## Project Objectives:

- To create access to schooling in remote hilly areas of Chittagong Hill Tract and Cox'Bazar
- To ensure child friendly environment in the class room
- To ensure mother tongue and local culture in curriculum and teaching learning materials
- To aware community on MTBMLE & quality education
- To ensure child participation in education
- To support Govt. to develop mother tongue based policy guideline and mainstreaming

**Geographical Coverage:** Khagrachari, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati

### Language coverage

- Chakma
- Marma
- Tripura
- Rakhaing

**Implementing Partners:** Zabarang Kalyan Samity, Rakhaing Development Foundation,ASHIKA Manobik Unnayan Kendra

**Project duration:** • January 2014 - February 2017

**Funded by:** IKEA Foundation, Save the Children Korea, SC-Johnson, C&A foundation

### Components

- MTBMLE Pre-Primary( 2years;Age gr. 4-5)
- MTBMLE early grade
- Community Learning Circles
- Parenting Education



## Major Interventions:

1. National Education Policy 2010 supported on Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education.
2. MTBMLE Pre-Primary education provision has been created under National Pre-Primary curriculum.
3. Ministry of Primary and Mass education have constituted three committees for operationalizing MTBMLE within Govt. system. Committees are Steering Committee, Curriculum (Technical) Committee, and Training Management Committee. Govt. has selected Save the Children as a member of those committees for SC's showcasing evidence on MTBMLE.
4. Bangladesh Govt. has been selected Language based Pre-Primary Book writers from the Language Committees which formed by Save the Children.
5. Bangladesh Govt. will start MTBMLE from 2017 in five indigenous languages in Pre-Primary.

## Major Achievements:

1. It's really difficult to find out at least SSC passed teacher
2. Teachers dropped out from the school for new job after their capacity building
3. Children can see Mother tongue reading materials only in the classroom not in the community
4. CHT community locations are in a challenging geographical area and difficult to regular monitoring as like plain land school

## Major Challenges:

- Mother tongue based multilingual Education need to continue up to Grade-4 in Govt. level for quality education and need to show case for advocacy
- Children's Mother tongue reading materials should be in the community level for their Reading skill enhancement
- Quality community MLE teacher need to link with the Govt. system as they are resource of the Mother tongue based education



“

I love my school. I can play here, my teacher loves me. She never punish me. Every day I meet with my friends. We learn, we draw picture and we sing a song together in our Chakma language. I also learn Bangla Alphabets in school.

”

– **Paromi Chakma**

(Student/Girl/Age-5, Shotorokful Ankur  
Pre-school Nondeswar Karbaripara,  
Khagrachori)