

“I wasn’t confident before, but I am now.”

Laura, at six years old, is one of the newest and youngest members of the English in Action (EIA) family. She is a Class 1 student from Mirpur, Kustia, who loves to laugh and eat, and keeps you busy with her endless school stories. I met her in Khulna at one of our EIA teacher workshops. Well, of course, she is a little young to be trained in EIA teaching methods or to be facilitating - sorry if I misled you! Laura was accompanying her mother, Teacher Facilitator (TF) Laboni Nusrat.

English in Action is an inclusive programme which embraces social dynamics. The team understands that the teachers participating in the programme have families and that EIA professional development must fit with this – this is why EIA does not discourage teachers with their children to attend activities such as the workshops. By this, we ensure that it doesn’t become a reason to miss the training.



Laboni enjoyed every bit of her time at the workshop, working with other teachers from her upazila, most of whom were elder than her. She was overwhelmed by the way that the EIA core trainers and her fellow teachers embraced her daughter throughout the workshop.

Laboni feels proud to be a part of EIA. She has taken on the role to change the way English is taught and learnt in classrooms. As a TF she looks forward to using her skills to effectively support the teachers from her upazila. This will not only develop her own knowledge and skills, but also enable her to facilitate and share knowledge with other teachers so that English is used more widely in schools.

I asked her how she felt about EIA after five days of training, facilitating a cluster of teachers, and using EIA in your own classroom. She said: “I wasn’t confident before, but I am now. The teachers from my upazila now value me more. I was always an active teacher, but I lacked skills in some areas; now I am brushing my skills. Students are now more active in the classrooms and love the audio materials. Now they try to speak, even if their sentences are broken English. I am known as an EIA representative in my upazila and that is a great feeling.” Laboni also believes the practices and methods she has learnt will help her to progress to higher levels.

There are 229 TFs like Laboni across Bangladesh working as agents to facilitate the EIA approach in schools in the up scaling phase.

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