

Findings from the field - 2

The last EIA newsletter reported on some of the impacts of the programme on teachers' classroom practices, including more evidence of spoken English in the classroom and a substantial increase in student participation.

The same research also highlighted two other important areas of impact: improvement in teachers' English (communicative language skills in particular) and generating an enjoyable learning environment in English lessons.

Improvements in teachers' English

95% of primary teachers and 98% of secondary teachers (EIA research study 2a) say that EIA has helped to improve their own English language skill significantly. Teachers' confidence in English means that the students are likely to improve faster too. One secondary teacher explained: *"In the past I used Bangla as a medium of instruction but now I use English and get good responses from the students."*

It is anticipated that these improvements will help to develop further language skills through specifically targeted EIA materials for teachers' in 2011.



Student enjoyment

Both primary and secondary students report that the kinds of activities promoted by EIA are the ones they enjoy most. A secondary student told researchers: *'Group work is my favourite. When madam does not only reading but also explains the meaning, asks questions, then I feel joyous. I love conversation in pair work.'*

Communicative activities such as songs and games are not just fun but, as a secondary teacher explained, make the students more motivated to learn English too.



Active learning

The 490 EIA teachers whose lessons were observed as part of the research have been making big changes in their classrooms. It is apparent that both teachers and students are already benefitting from an 'active learning' approach to English.

