



Highlights ➤ DG, DSHE and Director, Secondary visited EIA school ➤ Professor Dr. S. M. Alamgir Kabir joined as Project Director in English in Action ➤ EIA teachers celebrated the World Teachers Day

Dear Reader,

English in Action have passed another year with accomplishment. As we look back across 2016, there are many achievements to celebrate in English in Action. We have provided orientation and support to teachers, education officers and head teachers. Successful school visits by senior Bangladesh Government officials and a UK minister over the past 6 months have led to some powerful discussions about classrooms and learning.

Looking forward to 2017, we will complete our formal programme of orientation in primary and secondary and reach our target of 51,000 teachers. Through our work with Education officers, we will touch many more teachers as materials are spread across Upazilas and learning is shared amongst all teachers in different platforms.

An exciting event to look forward to is the Teachers' Voices Conference (TVC). Teachers in all Divisions have been carrying out action research in their classrooms to find ways of improving how they teach, and they will come together for a National Conference in March to share their work.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to a successful 2017.

EIA Team

First Centre for Excellence Workshop at NAPE

The National Academy of Primary Education (NAPE) and English in Action (EIA) are jointly working to establish a Centre for Excellence (CfE) in English Language Teaching and Learning at NAPE. Guided by a 'Joint Implementation Group' (JIG), the first 2-day workshop under the CfE umbrella was organized on 20th December 2016 in Mymensingh.

The purpose of this workshop was to orient NAPE faculty members on English language skills development practices using relevant resources associated with effective Teacher

Professional Development (TPD) approaches. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Md. Shah Alam, Director (Joint Secretary), NAPE and Ms. Tahmina Akhter, Deputy Director (Admin), NAPE. With great enthusiasm, the Assistant Specialists, Specialists, Senior Specialists from all faculties of NAPE have actively participated in different session activities during the event. It is anticipated that NAPE faculty members may continue such activities as part of the periodical practices at Centre for Excellence and develop their professional skills further.



"Why can't other teachers teach like you?" -British Minister to EIA teacher

British Minister of State for International Development, Mr. Rory Stewart, has observed an English class facilitated by the teacher, Rebeka Sultana, in National (Shokal) Government Primary School in Mirpur, Dhaka on 29th August. He appreciated the way the teacher used different teaching aids and facilitated an interactive lesson in English to meet the learning outcomes. After class, the Minister asked the teacher, "Why can't other teachers teach like you?" He highly appreciated the innovations that EIA brings in classroom.

The UK Government is committed to support Bangladesh to become an economically prosperous and developed country. The Minister wanted to reaffirm the issue by his three days visit with a range of people; including Ministers, high level Government Officials, development partners, civil society people and the business community, who have benefitted from the UK's support. EIA is funded by UKaid, so the Minister wanted to learn how it is implemented inside the classroom.

After class observation, the Minister also talked with the students to know about their level of communication in English. He also asked them about the United Kingdom. The students also talked to him about cricket and the England cricket team in English without any hesitation.

Fahmida Shabnam, Education Advisor, DFID; Sue Williamson, Team Leader, EIA and Sudeb Kumar Biswas, Head of Teacher Training and Support, EIA accompanied the Minister in the visit.



Joint Working Group (JWG) avenues for future collaboration in Secondary

Joint Working Group (JWG) identified different areas where EIA can work jointly with relevant government agencies and programmes at secondary level to integrate effective good practices and lessons learned as part of mainstreaming initiatives.

The JWG headed by Director-Secondary was formed in March 2016. It is consisted of

representatives from Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM), Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme (SESIP) and English in Action (EIA).

Main objectives of JWG are to identify areas

and contents, recommend the process, time line and strategies for integration of EIA good practices, materials and techniques into the teachers' professional development (TPD) system and structure at secondary level.

EIA teachers celebrate World Teachers Day through social media

Teachers are the heart of the EIA programme. They are the changemakers, who are changing lives of millions across Bangladesh. EIA values the contribution of teachers and celebrated the 50th World Teachers Day (WTD). Thousands of teachers across Bangladesh joined a social media campaign in this day.

To profile the status of teachers, 5th October was adopted as the WTD from UNESCO's recommendation in 1966. From then, positive responses to WTD show a significant awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education. This year's theme for WTD is

'Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status'.

In that day, EIA teachers were engaged through Facebook and Twitter. They have sent their messages, photos and videos expressing their feelings and mentioning their favourite things about being a teacher.

World Teachers' Day 2016



'English in Action has changed myself, my students and my family.'

Mahmudul hoque
Assistant Teacher
Chittagong

World Teachers' Day 2016



'I love to see an attentive class'.

Shahinur Akter
Assistant Teacher
Itna, Kishoregonj

World Teachers' Day 2016



'I am friendly with my students that is what I like most in my profession.'

Md. Zahedul Islam
Assistant Teacher
Gobindogonj

World Teachers' Day 2016



'I love to do outdoor activities with my students'.

Purnima Roy
Head Teacher
Ishwardi

World Teachers' Day 2016



'Almost all my students in English class understand my command and also can speak regular classroom language, this is my success as an English teacher.'

Jinat Afrin
Assistant Teacher
Rajshahi

World Teachers' Day 2016



'I do not only teach my students also encourage them to take lead'.

Robiul Alam
Assistant Teacher
Rangpur

World Teachers' Day 2016



'I like to watch my students doing various activities in classroom'.

Azizunnessa Reba
Assistant Teacher
Habiganj

World Teachers' Day 2016



'I enjoy sharing experiences with my colleagues at school'.

Sabina Yasmin
Assistant Teacher
Puthia, Rajshahi

“Now I am not only a teacher, I am also a classroom researcher”

-Shamima Sultana, Assistant Teacher in Noakhali

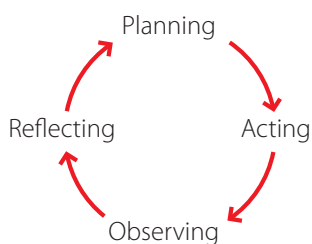


In 2015, when I started to work for the Teachers’ Voices Conference (TVC), I realized my passion about my profession has increased. “Now I am not only a teacher, I am also a classroom researcher.” I am searching scopes for further betterment of my class. The activities I am doing and the evidence I am keeping for it are my own resources. I can grow professionally on the basis of these activities.

Through my study in TVC, I am exploring mainly two questions:

- How can I improve my skill as an English teacher and
- How can I make the lessons fun and include everyone

Whenever I plan to apply a new technique in classroom I follow the following four steps:



Previously, I was making lesson plan, but now, I am following these steps. I plan my lessons that in which part, I want to apply a new technique. Then I act in my class by actually implementing the technique.

Then comes observing, which is done by videoing myself, or by my peer teacher or head teacher or by the students. I have used classroom evaluation form for my peer teacher and head teacher. My students are also giving feedback to me in smiley (emoticon).



Students are giving feedback in smiley

Then comes reflecting on what I have done in my classroom and what I could do differently. On the basis of these results, I can plan what I will do in my next class.

In TVC, I am also working with three peer teachers in our upazila, who are also doing the same study, outside my school. Sometimes our activities are matched with one another, but our classroom situation is not the same. I also collect information what they are doing in their classroom. After hearing from them, I can also think of applying those in my classroom. I also want

to mention Md. Sadek Hossain, Instructor, URC of our upazila, who has helped me a lot and guided me to improve the process.

I also felt some challenges while doing the study; I have observed that some students are not participating in the classroom activities. I was thinking why these students are not participating. I wanted to talk with them, but I thought, if other students can help me in this case, I will get more authentic reasons. So, I made some small groups that were out of my study line. I have selected six leaders in my class, to lead in each small group consisting of six members. I have written some questions on the board, like: why the group members are not participating in the classroom activities and what is their expectations from my class. The leader is supposed to discuss the questions with their group members. At the end of the group work, I have collected data from my group leaders and it became clear to me. Some girl students have shared, “if I say something in English I may make mistakes and the boys will laugh at me”. Some students shared they were weak or nervous. So, I found the students do not have confidence to represent themselves.

TVC made me capable to do this. Now, I am thinking about my classroom deeply. If my students didn't learn anything, it makes me think about the facts why they are not learning. That's why I can say, I am a classroom researcher.



Shamima analyzing data at home

(Transcript collected and edited from the interview of Shamima Sultana with EIA Communications team; Shamima Sultana is Assistant Teacher of Kalachandpur Govt. Primary School, Noakhali)

Director General, DSHE and Director, Secondary visit EIA schools

"If the teachers give their full effort inside the classroom, they can win their students". Prof. Dr. S. M. Wahiduzzaman, Director General, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education shared the importance of classroom learning during his visit at EIA intervene schools in Narayanganj Sadar on 22nd October 2016.

Prof. Wahiduzzaman appreciated the participatory teaching and learning activities in the classes conducted by Md. Abdur

Rahim, Jibon Chandra Das, Md. Enamur Rahman and Md. Mokarram Hossain, assistant teachers of Fatullah Pilot High School and Hariharpara High School. He motivated the students with tips to excel in English, "think in Bangla but speak in English."

The head teachers and assistant teachers of these schools are involved with EIA intervention since 2015 and from then they are arranging teacher development meetings in the sadar upazila – supporting

teachers and sharing their experiences with each other for professional development.

Benzir Ahmed, District Education Officer, Narayanganj; Sue Williamson, Team Leader, EIA; Zahir-Bin-Siddique, Deputy Team Leader, EIA; Md. Anowar Hossain and Muhammad Monir Hossain, Head Teachers of these schools and representatives of school managing committees (SMC) were also present during this visit.



Director General, DSHE on his visit

On the same day, Prof. Md. Elias Hossain, Director, Secondary visited Joymontop High School and Singair Pilot High School in sadar upazila of Manikganj. By experiencing the relevance of EIA materials in teaching and learning situation, Prof. Hossain instructed

the Education Officers to ensure the availability and use of these in all schools of the upazila. He also showed interest to issue a circular with a brief guideline to all USEOs (Upazila Secondary Education Officers) to access and download the materials from

NCTB's website.

The EIA team, along with the teachers thanked the senior officials of secondary education for their visit and sharing their experiences.



Director, Secondary on his visit

Professor Dr. S. M. Alamgir Kabir joined as Project Director in English in Action

The English in Action team is very delighted to have Professor Dr. S. M. Alamgir Kabir in the team as the Project Director. Mr. Alamgir started his career from the education cadre and gathered more than 16 years of experiences in education sector. He has working experiences in different Government colleges as Associate Professor and Head of Department and recently he has been promoted to Professor.

Dr. Alamgir also has working experience as Second Secretary of Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dr. Alamgir said, "EIA is using technology for preparing English contents on the basis of curriculum. If the practices continue in all schools in Bangladesh, the ultimate result will be found in the overall development of the country and the day is not so far when Bangladesh will become a developed country." The EIA team is looking forward to benefitting from the experiences of Dr. Alamgir.



EIA Project Director, Professor Dr. S. M. Alamgir Kabir (in middle) is welcomed by EIA Deputy Team Leaders Mr. Zahir-Bin-Siddique and Ms. Kirsten Zindel

District Training Coordinators across the country are informed about EIA initiatives

EIA is now in the Institutionalization and Sustainability phase and holding several consultation meetings with different government bodies. Participating in the periodical consultation meetings with Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme (SESIP) is one of them. EIA was privileged to be invited to take a session in the orientation training of the newly recruited District Training Coordinators

organized by SESIP, which took place from 3rd to 7th October 2016 in National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM).

The District Training Coordinators are currently being recruited by SESIP under the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE). From now on, the District Training Coordinators will work from different District Education Offices and will be responsible for planning, implementation

and ensuring quality of all trainings of secondary level within their assigned Districts.

In the session facilitated by EIA, an overview on EIA and the changes that EIA is bringing to teachers and students was shared with Coordinators from 54 Districts. EIA is looking forward to working more closely with them in implementing the secondary programme around the country.



EIA good practices are carrying forward with local resources

Keraniganj upazila has created an example to carry forward one of the good practices of EIA by using their own resources. On 20th December, head teachers and assistant teachers of 63 primary schools gathered for the follow up meeting in 23 No Ramerkanda Government Primary School solely arranged

by their own logistical support, like: food, venue, projector, laptop and resource persons etc.

This is also a continuation of local support; the teachers are getting from Abul Bashar Mohammad Faqujjaman, UNO and Majeda Sultana, UEO of Keraniganj as they also

arranged the orientation on communicative language teaching for these teachers just a year back. Like other follow up meetings initiated by EIA, the objective of this meeting was to create a platform to share experience of teachers and learn from each other. EIA has given technical support to the meeting.



EIA contributes to design of the New Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) in Bangladesh

Having a voice in shaping the next primary sector-wide programme has long been an aspiration for EIA, as it is one of the most effective platforms for sharing experiences and expertise. Since inception in 2008, the project has worked to find out what works best for English teaching and learning and teacher development in the country context and what we can draw on from experiences in other countries worldwide. Rich learning based on strong evidence has emerged and now it is an opportune time to be invited to take part in designing the Post PEDP III. It is a

testimony to team effort not only within the project but also, meaningful collaboration with Government officials in different institutions and the development partners.

Findings from on-going research studies have highlighted the growing impact on pupils' English Language competence and teachers' level on confidence in conducting interactive lessons. Different elements of the teachers' professional development model used by EIA, including innovative materials and approaches to pedagogy, teacher

development and support have been proven effective in delivering a good quality programme. This has been acknowledged by the Government and wider stakeholders. As a result, with support from DFID Bangladesh, EIA will contribute to designing the in-service and pre-service teacher training and ICT and education components of Post PEDP III.

The team is excited to have this great opportunity.

My fear from English is gone

I am Mim. My close friend's name is Sristy. She is very good in English. When we were in class-3, I was very weak in English. But my friend Sristy always got good marks in this subject. I did not have any interest in English. Always I wanted to go far from English.

Some days ago, we were introduced with new ways of learning lessons by our English teacher, Aporna Toleapatre. It gives me much pleasure, because it removes my fear from English. When our teacher plays lesson related audio on speaker, we get a clear idea about correct pronunciation. It improves our listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. We also learn new words from various games, such as: Bingo game, Silent Mouthing, Miming, Acting etc. We learn new grammar by chain drill and by throwing paper ball with our class friends. We learn rhymes with action. We enjoy when we hear various greeting songs and action songs. In a word we are now 'learning by doing'.

So, I am much more confident in English. Even now, I can compete with my close friend Sristy. I believe I will get high marks in English.

Rubayet Jahan Mim
Class-IV

Bharon Shahi Model Govt. Primary School
Dhunat, Bogra



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