

Saifuzzaman Rana



The Kajoli Early Childhood Learning Model is a pre-school model innovated through action research. One of the earliest decisions of RIB was to support an action research project on educational needs of the economically under privileged community. The action research began on 1 January 2003 in Kajoli, a village located in the Sreepur thana of Magura district in the south west of Bangladesh. The main objective of the project was to develop an early childhood learning model specifically for children from the under privileged communities in Bangladesh. By April 2008 this model has been adopted in 135 centers (villages) in 26 districts in Bangladesh. This was possible because RIB solicited interest from individual volunteers to actively involve the community in setting up a learning centre and sustaining it. The volunteer was to be seen as an Agroni or champion. An advertisement in the media has led to numerous applications. RIB is still being inundated by applications from prospective Agronis to help give necessary technical assistance like training, advice and logistic support to help open more centers in disadvantaged communities all over the country.

There are two key words in the title. One is 'empowering' and the other is 'marginalized'. What do these terms mean in practice.? Empowering implies agency. For example A is a boy. He does not know how to read and write. When someone teaches him how to read and write, he feels empowered. One can be empowered in different ways. The other word in our discussion is 'marginalized'. 'Marginalized' refers to a group of people who are deprived of opportunities and have no share in the advantages enjoyed by others. Basically it means being in a disadvantaged situation. When we use the term 'marginalized' some questions arise. How does a person become marginalized? What factors contribute to marginalization ? I think there can be many reasons for a person's marginalization. For example an ethnic or religious minority group can be marginalized because they do not have the same opportunities as others, or are excluded from participation on account of their differences. People who have no money, no influence can be marginalized for economic or political reasons. In this regard, we can say a rich man or a person of the mainstream can become marginalized. The sense of marginalization is multi-dimensional and refers to people who are deprived or disadvantaged both socially and economically, in different cases and situations.

Kajoli Early Childhood Learning: A Model for Empowerment of Marginalized Communities



Sl. No	Name of the Organization	Duration of time		Number of	Amount of Taka		Total
		From	To		Wages	Cash	
01	Noranchal Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A (northern) Shalpar	Aug 2009	March 08	04	35	3 Great 1 Cow	11,200
02	Katari Panch prast Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	September 07	March 08	04	30	2 Great	4,200
03	Chandakana Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	September 07	March 08	04	30	2 Great	4,300
04	Bani Vira Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	2 Great	4,300
05	Deokani Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	3 Great	4,300
06	Chor Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	2 Great	4,300
07	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	2 Great	4,200
08	Panchal Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	1 Cow	4,300
09	Panchal Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	2 Great	4,300
10	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	26	2 Great	4,200
11	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	3 Great	4,100
12	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	24	3 Great	4,300
13	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	3 Great	4,300
14	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	3 Great	4,300
15	Shalpar Kajoli Model 3A Shalpar	August 07	March 08	04	30	3 Great	4,300
Total				447	24	23,100	92,900