

Dipto Tripura: English in Practice



Rangamati is one of the most beautiful parts in Bangladesh; it receives tourists from around the world. One day, two tourists – John and his friend – were visiting Rangamati and were trying to find the Chakma King’s Palace, but no one could tell them where it was.

Dipto Tripura – a Class 5 student at Shah Government Primary School, Rangamati – was playing in the field with his friends when he noticed the tourists with some locals; they looked like they were struggling with something. Because Dipto learns English at school, when he got closer to the tourists he understood what the problem was. Using the English he had learnt at school, Dipto was able to help the tourists find their way to the palace. The foreigners were very pleased and told Dipto how grateful they were.

Dipto was proud as he was able to help the tourists and excited to tell his teachers at his school about what had happened and so was Ms. AsruChowdhury, Dipto’s English Teacher. It was the news of the year for the school. Teachers, students, parents kept on talking about it. Many came to Ms. Asru to congratulate her too.

Asru has been teaching English in this school for years. It has always been a challenging task for Asru, like many of her colleagues across Bangladesh, to teach English to the students. Especially, in an area like Rangamati, where English is often the third or fourth language and where they are hardly exposed to English outside classrooms. But after being trained by English in Action, and by engaging students in the interactive methods and materials from English in Action, the scenario started to change in a very positive way. It changed the total atmosphere in the classroom, removed fear of students regarding English and confidence in students like Dipto was a change she could definitely see.

Inspired by English in Action, Asru also tried other techniques to keep her students motivated. One such technique was to give them incentives. She announced that for every student who would always try to speak in English in the class will get five extra marks in their examination.

Dipto took his teacher’s words very seriously! He tried his best and with EIA songs, rhymes, games, stories etc. and the way teacher taught in the class, it was not difficult at all. His class results were usually average; however his English results started getting better and better.

Yeasmin Ali

Core Trainer, EIA