

Projapoti Daycare – Rahim and Anika

Rahim is 4 years old and his younger sister Anika 15 – 20 months, it is hard to tell. Both go to the MATI Projapoti Daycare and live in Sankipara, just around the corner from the MATI Office. Their family conditions should serve as an example why even a considerably moderate fee, can still be an incredible burden for some families.

To protect their personality-rights and dignity, we request, that should this case-study be replicated anywhere, the names should be changed to protect their identity.

Rahim and Anika are the youngest among five siblings. They are being raised by their mother single-handed, as their father has an original family somewhere in a village, where he stays most of the time. Rashida, the mother of Rahim and Anika is his second wife. He comes for short visits every few months, but does not support the family financially. The maternal grand-father of the children also stays with them. The seven persons live in a tiny room, half of which consists of a bed. Apart from Rahim and Anika, there are three older girls in the family, Kona (5-6), Anona (7), and Brishty (10).

Rashida is working in two households and earns 1800 TK monthly. This is her regular income. Whenever she gets the opportunity, she tries to earn more by taking any work that comes her way, so in some months she has 2000 or 2500 Tk. She also works for food. The grandfather is a day-labourer who also tries to get whatever work is possible. At the moment he is helping at the stall of a pita-maker, which is however a seasonal business only running in the winter months. At the moment he earns 3000 TK with this per month. As he is suffering from Asthma, 2000 Tk of his income are needed to pay for his medication. Another 2000 Tk they have to pay for their room. So they survive on next to nothing, and have 5 children to feed. Before the Daycare opened, the elder sisters Brishty and Anona stopped going to school to take care of the younger ones. Now, since January 2017 they are re-enrolled in Primary School, Kona is enrolled for the first time. MATI supports Brishty with a stipend of 350 TK each month, otherwise the mother could not have afforded her school-uniform and other materials.

At the moment Rashida is in debt with 2000 Tk with the family she works for. So from her income she also has to pay back this debt, which she took to pay for food, medication and school materials. They try to eat 2 meals per day. If there are any left-overs from the evening meal, they have it for breakfast. Rashida is glad that the two youngest get breakfast and lunch at the Daycare. Especially since Anika is underweight. The whole family also comes to

the free “Thursday Lunch” at MATI, which is always an indicator that families hunger, otherwise they would find it too shameful to come, even though MATI tries to create a nice atmosphere and MATI staff also take part in the meal.

The way we see it, this family is not able to pay a monthly fee for their two children, yet the mother is depending on sending them to the Daycare so that she can earn a living and the older sisters can go to school. The DC is also very important for brother Rahim, who has some behavioural problems, which he might be able to overcome with the help of ECD-approach.



Anika, right, with other Daycare children on the MATI swing