Bangladesh Trip
DAY 2---Kapasia Village Visit

Kapasia
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April 20th, 2014
We are staying at a nice hotel called Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka. It is in the heart of the commercial center of Dhaka.

We had an early start today. Waking up at 6 O’clock, the group had a preliminary discussion up until 7 am.

This is the first group picture, right before we left off on the site visit.
It was a 3-hour driving trip. We started off from our hotel at 7:00 am. Dhaka has a heavy traffic in the morning. We drove past the commercial district, farmer’s market and construction sites. After 2-hour driving, we finally got to the off-grid area. We started to see the woods and little carpenter shops along the way.

COO of Solaric, *Enayetul Haque*, met us at the Embassy. Then, we drove together to the Kapasia Village----the Pilot Village of their Solar Mini-Grid System.
At 9:40 am, our car turned into a small trail in the woods. With the Solar Panel entering our sight, we were finally at our destination. Solaric’s local employees and the village entrepreneur were waiting for us already. They gave us a warm-welcome. Around us, there were some of villagers with full curiosity. The picture in the upper corner is the COO of Solaric, Enayetul Haque, was giving us a general overview of the power house. The man standing by him is the technician of this mini-grid. He is in charge of all the power outages and mechanical problems. The picture on the right is us in the power house taking notes when the technician was giving us the overview.
A well-rounded tour was kicked off at 10 AM. The first stop was the power house, where the generation components of the mini-grid are installed. Solar panel, control panel and display, solar battery and pre-paid meter were thoroughly introduced by the technician and Enayetul Haque. Questions about the system specific problems were raised by students along the introduction. The main finding is that 220V DC output at household level can entertain both AC and DC appliances, which depends on ‘household’ s own choice.
After spending 30 minutes in the powerhouse, the entrepreneur, Md. Lbrahim kindly let us enter his house as a good example of the system application. There are three types of electric appliances in this tidy room: two fans, one TV and two lights. The power of the TV is 14 Watt; the power of the light is 8 Watt; the power of the fan is 10 Watts. The technician also showed us the pre-paid system. The picture on the lower left hand side is the technician showing us how to operate the pre-paid code generator.
Enayetul Haque (COO) explained the energy consumption of the poultry farm, one of the six anchor businesses. It mainly uses compact fluorescent lamps.

We were told that the poultry farm was powered by generator and the monthly cost on lights powered by nano-grid is reduced to $10 from $25.
After visiting several households and the poultry farm, the team returned to the power house at about 11:00.

With a better understanding of the village consumption on the electricity, we talked about our current calculation of energy demand along the way back and got ready to enhance our valuation model.
Under the assistance of Enayetul Haque (COO) and the local entrepreneur, we had a thorough idea of the Solar Nano-Grid System. At the end of the trip, Enayetul Haque and our team had a picture together.

Rodrigo, on behalf our team, gave flashlights to the entrepreneur and employees of Solaric as gifts and thanked them for showing us around the village and how their Nano-grid System operates.
At 3 O’Clock, we were finally back to the hotel, appreciative of having the opportunity to tour the village, the exotic sight-seeing on the road, and the warm welcome we received from Solaric and the villagers. The gaze at the site was an education not only on entrepreneurship, but also on how much the mini-grid project can influence villagers’ life.

At 6:00 pm, we gathered at the hotel lobby to synthesize the information we each got today. We prepared question list for tomorrow’s meeting with Solaric.