Ms. Sekiya talks to children in the Little Doctor training session in Rangpur District (other pictures are from the same venue)

"Your height is..." Little Doctors try to measure the height.

Children learned how to check eyesight, thanks to support from the Deep Eye Care Foundation (DECF)

Quiz program on body measuring. Children look up eagerly at Ms. Sekiya.

If even one of these children...

Ms. Sekiya, who worked as a leader of the training session, was sent to Bangladesh in September 2012 for Community Development. Before that, she worked for a Japanese TV program production company as an assistant director for three years. She enjoyed the job, but was exhausted by long and irregular hours of work. One day, a poster on the wall of a subway caught her eye. It was for recruiting Overseas Cooperation Volunteers for JICA.

"Let's change the world, and yourself!", the poster said.
Ms. Sekiya had been interested in international cooperation for a long time, but her actual job could not have been farther from her dream. She had almost made up her mind to change jobs after working for 3 years. She saw the poster just at the right time. She joined JOCV. Her outstanding planning ability, which she had developed through creating TV programs, coupled with her enthusiasm, powered the Little Doctor training session forward.

One unique feature was that other JOCVs working in Rangpur District actively helped to run the Little Doctor training session. To ensure that the body measuring went smoothly, JOCVs divided the forty children into several groups and led them to different sections for height, weight, and eyesight in different order. They then patiently helped children learning how to read the scale and read aloud the measurement. Ms. Sekiya could not have done it alone. This body-measuring session would become a new model for JOCVs' cross-sector collaboration.

Ms. Sekiya is passionate about the idea that "we must make the children feel proud of themselves to raise awareness." In this session, JOCV members tried to make children feel special—for example, by arranging buses to bring children to the venue. At the end of the session, they distributed expensive sweets and juice to reward them. Such small achievements actually raise children's awareness and foster their sense of responsibility.

"If even one of these children becomes a doctor in the future, our activities will do something better for 1,000 people", Ms. Sekiya says.

Each volunteer must face the front line of development assistance on their own. The results of their efforts cannot be quantified and are often invisible. Still, the volunteers feel strongly that their efforts are worthwhile. Today, the eyes of the children listening to Ms. Sekiya's speech were sparkling, hinting at the potential for a brighter future.

Change a person, and you change the world.