



the *India* Chapter

Room to Read India's Quarterly Newsletter | January - March 2025



From the Leadership

Dear Readers,



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the inaugural edition of **The India Chapter** - Room to Read India's quarterly newsletter. Through this medium, we aim to share powerful stories, strategic milestones and insights from the communities we work with as we collectively shape the future of education in India.

The name *The India Chapter* reflects not just a new communication medium, but a living, evolving narrative - one chapter in a much larger story of Room to Read that is spread across 28 countries, bringing transformation through education. Since 2003, when we began our journey in India, we have been privileged to partner with governments, communities and changemakers to drive forward the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) agenda. The positive influence of our work today is built on decades of learning, adaptation and deep-rooted collaboration.

As we step into a new strategic cycle, we are focused on scaling our literacy and gender equality portfolios with even greater intent, ensuring that we reach **more children, more quickly**, helping them achieve meaningful learning outcomes, faster. This edition showcases some of the exciting ways in which our work is evolving to meet this ambition.

Inside, you'll find stories of innovation and influence - from state-level adoptions of quality children's literature to national recognition and global forums spotlighting our work. These are not just milestones; they are indicators of a movement gaining momentum.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and belief in our mission. Together, we are not just writing the next chapter for Room to Read India, we are helping millions of children write their own.

Happy reading!



Poornima Garg
Country Director



Spotlight

Economic Survey Report 2025

Room to Read's two key initiatives have been acknowledged in the Economic Survey Report 2025! **Mission Ankur (Madhya Pradesh)**, where we are an implementing partner, and the **Life Skills Collaborative (Uttarakhand)**, which pioneers Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), were highlighted for their significant contributions to educational reform and children's well-being, aligning with national educational frameworks.

**ECONOMIC
SURVEY**
2024-25



Hong Kong Gala Participation

At the **Room to Read Hong Kong Gala**, our supporters had the opportunity to hear directly from **Priya**, an alumna of our **Girls' Education Program** in Chhattisgarh, who shared her powerful journey. Standing before a distinguished audience and delivering her speech in a language (English) that is not her mother tongue, Priya's confidence and resilience were truly remarkable. Her story resonated deeply with attendees, offering a compelling testament to the positive influence of our programs. [Read her story.](#)

CIES Participation

Room to Read India participated in the **Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) Conference 2025** in Chicago. Representing the organization were Saktibrata Sen, Senior Director – Programs, and Stuti Jain, Manager – Instructional Design and Technical Support.

[Read more](#)



HT Media Crafting Bharat Awards 2025

Our Country Director, Poornima Garg, has been recognized as a Social Impact Leader at the HT Media Crafting Bharat Awards 2025!

[Read more](#)

Best Paper Award at Amity University

Our work in bridging service gaps in public education has gained academic recognition! A paper co-authored by Ratul Chowdhury, Senior Manager – Learning & Innovation, received the Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Public Policy 2025, organized by Amity University, Uttar Pradesh. [Read more](#)



Program Snapshots

Room to Read Engages Young Readers at Book Fairs in Delhi and Goa

Room to Read India connected with young book lovers at two vibrant events!

At the New Delhi World Book Fair, author Mamta Nainy and illustrator Isha Nagar led an energetic workshop on colors and feelings. [Read more](#)



At The Goa Book Fair and Children's Literature Festival, illustrator Ambika Karandikar engaged children with a reading from her book, **Sea, Listen to Me**, followed by a creative session where they transformed their fears into imaginative artwork. [Read more](#)

Let's Learn

I Don't Believe It!
Do You?



Ignorance is bliss.

However, as we launch our *Climate Justice Leadership* program for adolescent girls, let us deepen our understanding of climate change. [Take this quiz](#) to gauge how much you know and to empower yourself to take action. Don't forget to explore the website for resources designed to build knowledge on climate change.



SCAN HERE

Take the
Quiz!



Partner of Choice

What Works Hub for Global Education visits our Literacy Program in Uttarakhand

Ms. Heather Leigh Kayton, Senior Education Specialist (*centre in image*) at *What Works Hub for Global Education*, visited Room to Read's Literacy Program schools in Uttarakhand on January 29, 2025. Upon visiting the schools, Ms. Kayton could see the implementation of structured pedagogy in practice. Following the field visit and along with Room to Read India's leadership, she engaged in a discussion with officials from SCERT Uttarakhand to learn in depth about our system-level work.



Hilton Offers Hospitality Insights to Girls' Education Program Alumnae in New Delhi



On February 7, 2025, Hilton Gurugram hosted Room to Read's Girls' Education Program alumnae for an inspiring exposure visit into the world of hospitality. Led by Ms. Shruti Kumari and team, the girls explored hotel operations and learned about career paths through a presentation on Hilton's Learning and Development programs, which included placement and internship opportunities. Hilton applauded their confidence and enthusiasm, opening a window to exciting future careers for these young women.

Jharkhand Adopts Room to Read Storybooks to Promote Early Literacy

In a significant boost for early literacy, the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) has adopted 60 Room to Read storybooks and distributed them to **35,000 schools** across the state reaching approx. **25 lakh children**. These engaging books are designed to cultivate a love of reading and build essential language skills in young learners. Teachers are enthusiastically incorporating these new resources, encouraging enjoyable and meaningful reading experiences for children across Jharkhand.



Employer of Choice



International Women's Day

Observing International Women's Day on March 8, 2025, Room to Read India hosted an engaging talk show fostering open dialogue on **gender equality** in the workplace, covering leadership, inclusivity, and work-life balance. Employees shared valuable perspectives on building an inclusive environment and the vital role of allyship.



Complementing this, our social media campaign integrated with the International Women's Day theme of '**Accelerate Action**,' building upon Room to Read's global '**You Create Change**' campaign momentum. Recognizing the urgency for progress towards gender parity, our week-long online campaign (March 2-8) highlighted how individual actions contribute to accelerating change for a more gender-equal world. Our social media outreach generated **48,110 impressions** across platforms.

Announcements



Room to Read Children's Literature Awards 2025

The first category of the Children's Literature Awards 2025 is now **open**! Publishers are invited to nominate their books for the Hindi-language *Teacher-Librarian's Choice Award*, where teachers and librarians will vote for the books children have enjoyed most in their reading spaces.

To submit entries, please complete the nomination form:
<https://shorturl.at/sK8YH>

For detailed submission guidelines or any queries, you can write to us at
RTR.IndiaAwards@roomtoread.org

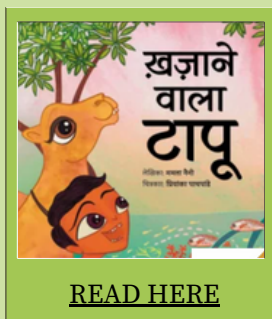


Literacy Cloud

Our top four picks for you!



[READ HERE](#)



[READ HERE](#)



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[READ HERE](#)



Room to Read India is a global nonprofit currently operating in 10 states - Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Through education, Room to Read is transforming the lives of millions of children to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We are working with the government, local communities and partner organizations to build a world where all children have room to read, learn and grow and can use their skills to accelerate positive change. We support children in communities experiencing deep educational, gender and economic inequities.



www.roomtoreadindia.org