



Room
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Celebrating



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ANNUAL REPORT 2022

CHANGE



**IT ALL
STARTS WITH**
Education

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Sourav Banerjee

COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S *Message*

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to present Room to Read India's Annual Report for 2022. Our mission remains steadfast: to create a world where quality education for children, especially for girls, creates positive change for individuals, families, and communities.

While the past year saw schools reopen, the pandemic's uncertainty remained a concern. Challenges emerged, including learning loss. Still, the return of children to school energized us. Our team's commitment shone through as we supported states with learning recovery plans, engaging learning kits, and continuous innovation to our programs and initiatives..

2022 marked significant strides in our efforts to scale the foundational literacy initiatives including multilingual learning. We fueled awareness, aided state governments in planning NIPUN, and championed Multilingual Education. Launches like the Multilingual Self-Learning Package (a self-learning online course in video form on multilingual education for teachers), reinforced our positive influence.

Our #IndiaGetsReading campaign themed "Reading Equals," united stakeholders across 11 states, and included a record-setting #Readathon. More than 173,000 participants celebrated reading, endorsed by the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records. Our other flagship campaign, #HarKadamBetiKeSang, provided an opportunity for adolescent girls across nine states to empower themselves through the Whole School Approach.

Our partners have been pivotal in our progress. Expanding grants enabled us to enter new regions, furthering our reach and influence to benefit millions more. Our ongoing commitment to workplace equality earned us recognition as a "Great Place to Work" for the ninth year running. We also were named on of India's Best Workplaces for Women 2022 - Mid-Size (top 50) for the first time.

All of this would not be possible without our donors, partners, volunteers and staff members who recognize that education is a key tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and giving every child a chance to thrive. Together, we are continuing to transform lives and build a future where every child can reach their potential and shine.

Sincerely,

Sourav Banerjee
Country Director
Room to Read India

2022 Highlights



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

Distinguished guests from around the world convened online to discuss the importance of elevating women's voices across diverse domains. Corporate leaders and equity champions from Bloomberg and Rebel Girls shared perspectives on advocating for gender equality at the workplace. The discussions also touched upon the meaning of allyship and common barriers to gender parity.



READ-A-THON

During the #IndiaGetsReading campaign 2022, we accomplished a remarkable feat by setting a record in the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records for 'Maximum Participants Reading Multiple Literary Pieces During the Same Time Span.' An impressive total of 173,844 participants, including, students, teachers, school staff, parents, government officials and supporters, came together to make this possible.



DONOR ENGAGEMENT

In 2022, 61 donor engagements were organized, of which 24 visits were conducted virtually featuring activities like read-aloud storytelling workshops, webinars and professional development training. Some of the key supporters who visited our programs included **Ms. Veena Reddy**, Mission Director, USAID India, **Dr. Poonam Smith-Sreen**, Deputy Director, General Development Office, USAID India, **Mr. Vishal Mahadevia**, Board Member Room to Read India. Through all these stakeholder engagements, we continued advocating the larger objective of encouraging reading habits among early learners and supporting adolescent girls to empower themselves to navigate their key life decisions. Key donors who interacted with our programs throughout 2022 include **USAID, Boeing, Wells Fargo, BNP Paribas, Bank of America, Bloomberg, London Stock Exchange Group Foundation, Morgan Stanley,** and **Aurobindo Pharma** among others.



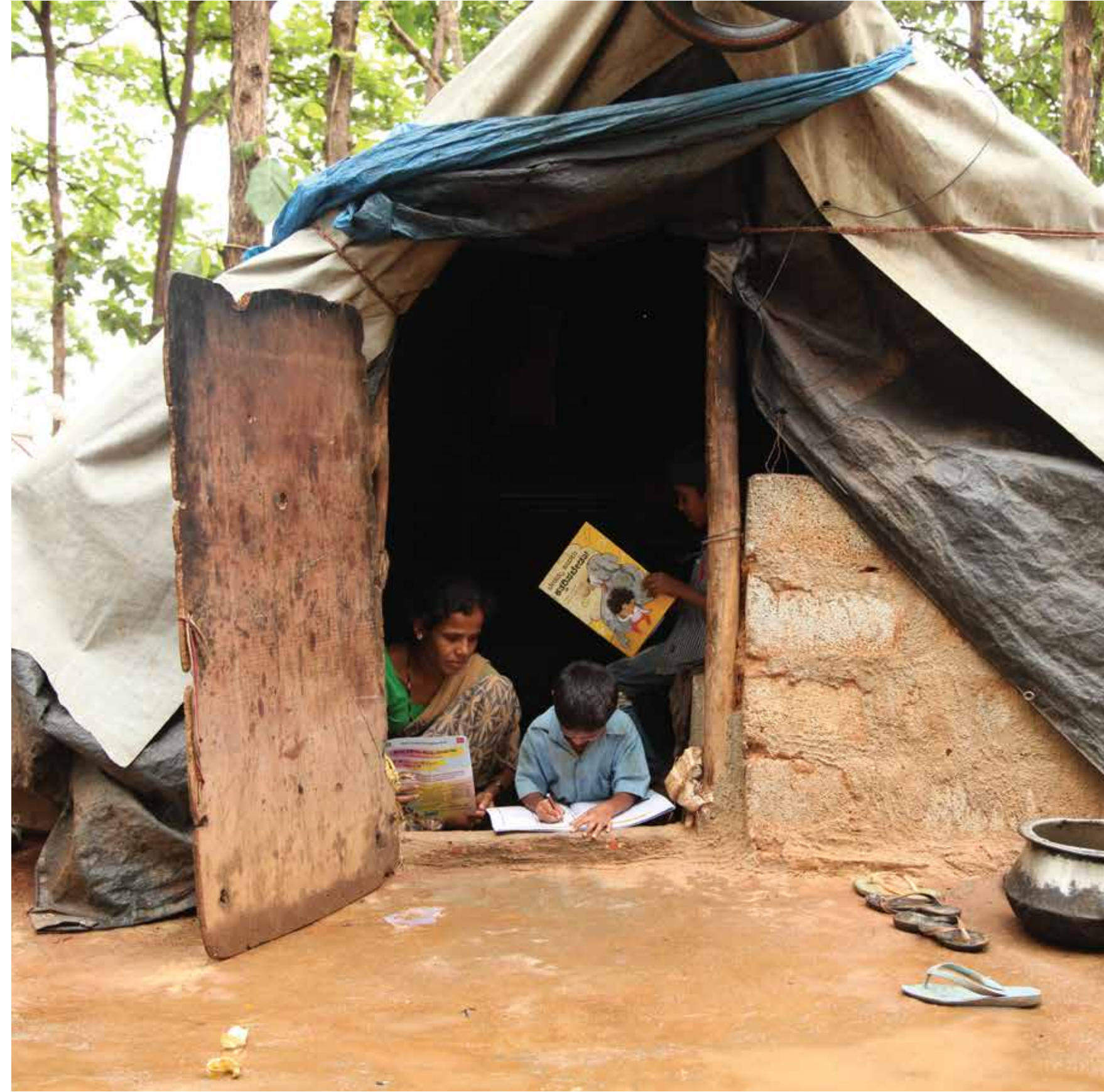
LAUNCH OF FIRESIDE CHAT 'HEADS TOGETHER' SEASON 1

Heads Together, is a fireside chat series launched by Room to Read India which brings together development sector experts (mostly heads of organizations) to discuss challenges in the education sector, larger policy needs, post-pandemic systems and innovations, and other pressing concerns about early education, gender education, inclusion, life skills and gender inequality.

Season 1 of the chat series, featured eminent guests like **Shailaja Menon**, Professor and a Language Educator, Azim Premji University, **Shaveta Sharma-Kukreja**, CEO & Managing Director at Central Square Foundation, **Geeta Dharmarajan**, Founder and President of Katha, **Sohini Bhattacharya**, CEO, Breakthrough, **Reena Dobhal**, Head Teacher, Government Primary School, Dehradun.

ALL PROGRAMS	CHILDREN BENEFITED 3,352,040	ACTIVE SCHOOLS 132,564	
LITERACY PROGRAM	CHILDREN BENEFITED THROUGH LITERACY PROGRAM 3,331,035	TEACHERS TRAINED 255,476	
	BOOKS DISTRIBUTED 434,947	AVERAGE CHECK IN-CHECK OUT 8	
GIRLS' EDUCATION PROGRAM	GIRLS REACHED 21,005	GIRLS GRADUATED 1,044	
	GRADE ADVANCEMENT RATE	97%	
QUALITY READING MATERIAL / BOOK PUBLISHING	TITLES PUBLISHED 6	ADAPTED TITLES 8	AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS TRAINED 10
	<small>*LITERACY PROGRAM</small>		

(JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022)



NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

In 2022, Room to Read India completed several key research studies. The findings help us to continue to refine our programs. We also share our learnings with the education sector.

SCALING-UP EARLY READING INTERVENTION (SERI) END OF PROJECT REVIEW STUDY

Duration of study - April to July, 2022

States in which study was conducted - Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh

The purpose of the research study was to gauge the influence of the SERI project on teachers regarding their teaching methods, instructional practices, and comprehension level of early grade learners. Additionally, the study aimed to assess the degree to which the SERI approach had been implemented in four states.

Duration of study - February to June, 2022

States in which study was conducted - Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

There were two primary objectives of the study: first, to examine the perceptions of girls, teachers, and wardens regarding the life skill curriculum, and secondly, to evaluate the level of preparedness among teachers and wardens to continue the intervention and assist girls in developing life skills in the future.

“IKEA end-of-project” REVIEW STUDY

Duration of study - January to April, 2022

Across all nine intervention states of our Girls’ Education Program

GIRLS’ EDUCATION PROGRAM PIVOT STUDY

The study aimed to assess various aspects of the Girls’ Education Program pivot initiatives, such as its dosage, design, implementation plan, utility, and level of participation to determine its uptake. Additionally, the study aimed to examine the cost-effectiveness of the Girls’ Education Program pivot activities.



PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION *Model*

THE SCAFFOLDED APPROACH TO SCALING UP

Room to Read implements a unique scaffolding approach with its programs to maximize success. This comprehensive model has proven that quality is possible with adequate technical support and ownership from the government.



I-DO

Entails creating evidence of success across select government schools.



WE-DO

Consists of working with the government to simplify and standardize procedures and prepare to scale-up by expanding into a district.



YOU-DO

Consists of a government-led scale up across a state with Room to Read as a technical partner.



LITERACY Program

Foundational learning enables a child to learn, explore and develop valuable skills like imagination, empathy and critical thinking. Room to Read has created an innovative approach to literacy that treats "learning to read" as a complete experience. It's not just about reading but also about becoming independent, skilled readers for life. This approach is built on three pillars:

- **Speaking and listening**
- **Understanding written language**
- **Exposure to various texts**

These skills are interconnected and help children become motivated independent readers when learned together.

OUR LITERACY PROGRAM STRATEGIES

- Explicit instruction process
- Professional development of teachers
- Developing age-appropriate quality children's literature
- Setting up child-friendly functional libraries
- Community engagement
- Scaling up through collaborations

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES ESTABLISHED IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Children's libraries were set up in select government schools for demonstration purpose and to create evidence of success.



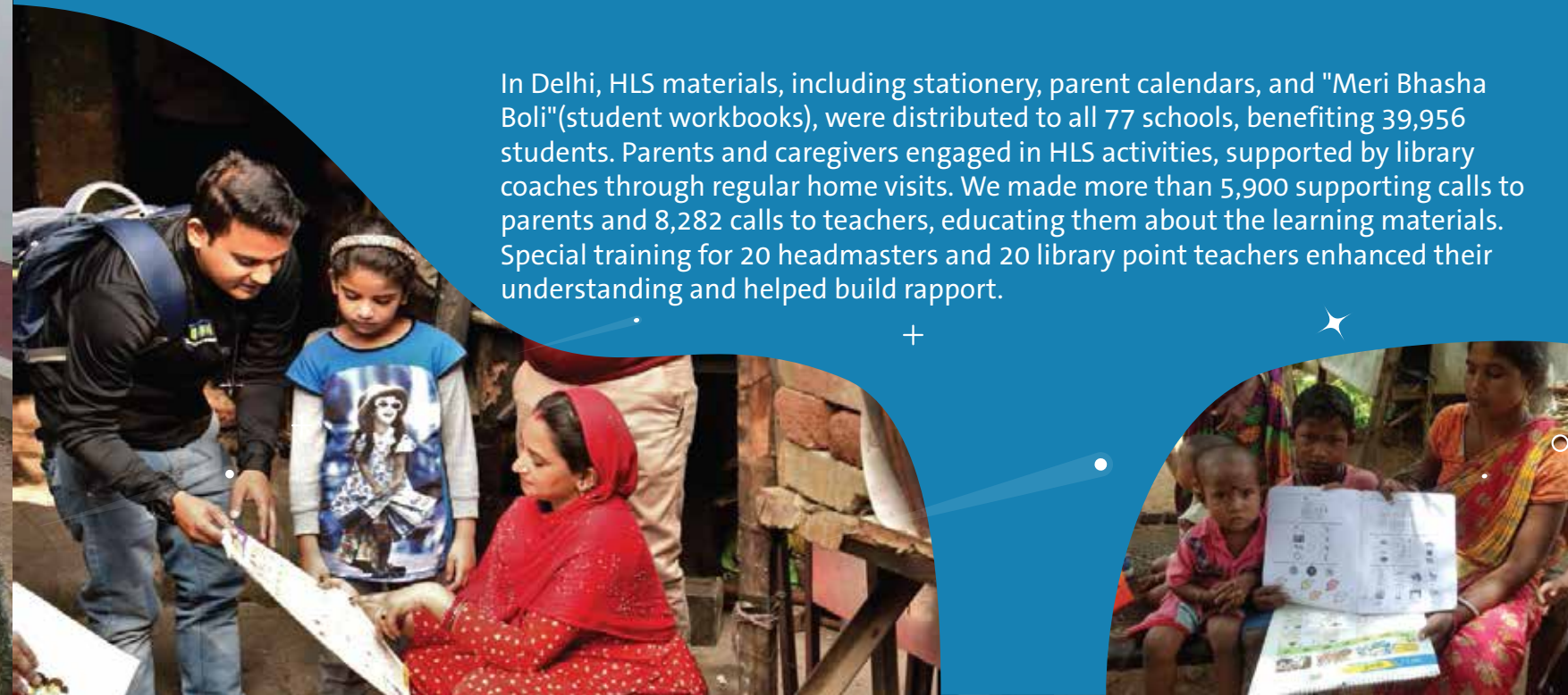
HOME AS A LEARNING SPACE

COVID-19 pandemic triggered severe learning loss due to school closures. Parents from historically low-income communities with low levels of literacy were focused on making a living then with little time to support their children's education at home. Room to Read India launched Home as a Learning Space (HLS), with support from UNICEF to support children by providing self-learning resources through WhatsApp groups that would enable them to continue learning at their homes. More than 30,000+ learning kits were given to primary school children from 25,000 families between October 2021 to May 2022.



In 2022, HLS materials were distributed in Delhi and Jharkhand. In Jharkhand, the materials reached 9,942 schools and children's homes in the Ranchi and Bokaro districts. Awareness was raised through Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) and School Management Committee (SMC) meetings in 50 schools.

In Delhi, HLS materials, including stationery, parent calendars, and "Meri Bhasha Boli" (student workbooks), were distributed to all 77 schools, benefiting 39,956 students. Parents and caregivers engaged in HLS activities, supported by library coaches through regular home visits. We made more than 5,900 supporting calls to parents and 8,282 calls to teachers, educating them about the learning materials. Special training for 20 headmasters and 20 library point teachers enhanced their understanding and helped build rapport.



GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION PROJECTS ON FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY

TELANGANA

Serving as a key technical partner for foundational literacy in the state of Telangana, Room to Read India delivered training sessions to diverse tiers of government personnel on effective library management and reading activities, including module development.

- The Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Tholimettu program module was developed for teachers, monitoring officers and community volunteers by the Department of Education and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Telangana. Room to Read India contributed to drafting selected chapters in the module.
- Storybooks developed by Room to Read India were distributed by the state across 5,000 schools in Phase-1 through the establishment of reading corners.
- Academic Monitoring Officers (AMOs) in the Siddipet and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri districts received training on setting up reading corners in 5,000 schools and how to share digital content like digital story cards, flipbooks, and stories from our Literacy Cloud platform.
- Virtual training on library management and reading activities was provided to primary school teachers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The learning module was viewed by more than 200,000 people on YouTube.



UTTARAKHAND

As part of the Project Management Unit for the NIPUN Bharat Mission in Uttarakhand (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy—a comprehensive education initiative launched by India's Ministry of Education in 2022), Room to Read India provided technical support on foundational literacy. The mission aims to enhance reading and numeracy skills nationwide and foster an inclusive learning environment

- **Creation of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy Teacher Guide and Student Activity Book:** Collaborating with the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and State Project Office, teacher guides and student activity books were co-created for primary school teachers and students (Grades 1-3). These resources were developed based on the pedagogical practices followed by Room to Read, indicating the State Government's adoption of the organization's scope and sequence for foundational learning under the NIPUN Bharat Mission. As per the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), 15,000 primary teachers and 247,880 students would be reached with these resources.

- **Creation of Balvatika module and activity books:** In collaboration with the SCERT and District Institute for Education and Training (DIET) Dehradun, guides and modules for Balvatika's Anganwadi teachers and activity books for five and six year-old children were co-created. These Teacher Learning Materials are based on the developmental goals mentioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2022 and will reach pre-primary learners across 4,447 Anganwadi centers across the state.



DELHI

Under the NIPUN Bharat Mission, orientation workshops were facilitated on a regular basis with the District Steering Committee, District Project Management Unit, State Project Management Unit, Academic Task Force, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Department of Education officials and teachers. These workshops were organized by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Delhi and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Delhi where Room to Read India acted as the knowledge partner.



- Multiple content development workshops were hosted with the SCERT Delhi such as a Vidyarambh (Readiness Package), Early Childhood Care and Education tool kit (Khel-Pitara), workbook for Grades 1-5, story-writing and illustration, co-publication of children's books and reading cards.
- Technical support was provided to SCERT to develop foundational literacy and numeracy baseline assessment papers, and training was given to Cluster Resource Coordinators to improve the data collection process.
- **A three-day illustrators workshop** was organised by SCERT Delhi and supported and facilitated by Room to Read. The workshop focused on developing 18-20 illustrated stories under the NIPUN Bharat Mission and included the participation of Project Management Unit members of the NIPUN Bharat Mission and government teachers.

RAJASTHAN

The establishment of a Project Management Unit in Rajasthan under the NIPUN Bharat Mission signifies a crucial step for Room to Read India to provide technical support as a collaborative partner to the education department. The primary focus of this partnership is to enhance foundational literacy.



Co-creation activities included:

- In collaboration with the Rajasthan SCERT and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, a **Foundational Literacy & Numeracy handbook for teachers and training module for State Resource Groups** were co-created. These reached 64,875 schools in Rajasthan.
- Assistance was provided to the Rajasthan SCERT in **developing MLE (Multilingual Education) (mother tongue-based instruction) teacher's handbook, training module for MLE, and children's literature resources**. These resources are being tested through a pilot program for MLE instruction in two districts (Dungarpur and Sirohi) of Rajasthan.
- Room to Read India collaborated on a **teacher's guide/module for Balvatika children** between 5 - 6 years old, as well as an **activity book** with the Rajasthan SCERT based on the goals noted in NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework of 2022. These packages will be used in a total of 1,000 government schools, 300 schools in Aspirational districts and 790 schools in 27 other districts.

SCALE-UP PROJECTS ON FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY

JHARKHAND

In the districts of Ranchi and Bokaro, 50 headmasters, 50 language teachers and 50 library point teachers were trained to deepen their understanding of Room to Read India programs. Some of the training sessions were attended by District Education Officer (DEO) and District School Education (DSE) officials. Instructional materials were presented to the State Project Office (SPO) of the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC).



KARNATAKA

In collaboration with Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, Room to Read India hosted a workshop on “Capacity-building of teachers in establishing, and managing libraries and conducting reading activities in schools.”

Resource persons from 34 District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) received training in the workshop. These Master Trainers will further train block resource personnel.



INDIA PARTNERSHIP FOR EARLY LEARNING (IPEL)

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), IPEL, led by CARE/CARE India, Central Square Foundation, Room to Read India, and KPMG India, aimed to enhance foundational learning in line with the NIPUN Bharat Mission. Room to Read India acted as a technical partner, focusing on foundational literacy frameworks, content development, teacher training, and multilingualism in Bihar, Jharkhand and Delhi.

Key project highlights for the year include:

- Development of a teachers' handbook, teachers' guide and activity book for children and content for Balwaadi.
- Commitment to take action and build library management capacity.
- Capacity-building of the cadre of facilitators for undertaking state-driven training on foundational literacy.
- Identification and training of resource persons for children's literature development in Chhattisgarh.
- Creation of Balwaadi and foundational literacy handbooks and workbooks.
- Organization of an exposure visit for state education department officials to help them identify areas of improvement in the implementation of foundational literacy and facilitate cross-learning.



LITERACY SCALE-UP PROJECT

Supported by the Indira Foundation, Room to Read engaged in a literacy scale-up, in collaboration with the Rajasthan Department of Education. The project spans across 22 blocks of Jodhpur with a goal of boosting children's interest in reading by providing quality children's literature through cluster-level libraries and to help teachers and Panchayat Elementary Education Officers (PEEO) become more skilled in running a complete literacy program. Key achievements for the year include:

- **Capacity building training for project implementation:**

Room to Read India trained 67 Master Trainers to form a core resource group in the state, which collaborated with Program Field Coordinators (PFC) to train PEEO and orient Chief Block Education Officers (CBEO). Over 2,300 teachers received training in classroom practices to improve their understanding of foundational literacy in Grades 1 and 2.

- **Content co-creation in collaboration with the Rajasthan SCERT and DIET Jodhpur:**

A student booklet and teachers' manual were developed for all the primary and upper primary schools of Jodhpur. Room to Read's comprehensive literacy approach will be implemented in Jodhpur across 2,679 schools through this material. This student booklet and teachers' manual are based on the 2026-27 developmental goals mentioned in NEP 2020 for primary grades.

- **Technical support to the state on Foundational Literacy:**

Implementation of NEP 2020 is a priority in the state. A district-level committee was established to understand ground-level implementation of the recommendations mentioned in the policy. Room to Read provided technical guidance around foundational literacy.



SCALING UP EARLY READING INTERVENTION - SERI

In 2015, USAID in partnership with Room to Read, India launched the SERI (Scaling up Early Intervention) project to enhance early-grade reading skills. Under SERI, Room to Read India is training teachers, aligning with government policies and goals on foundational literacy and numeracy, and making implementation cost-effective. SERI is a vital part of USAID's education efforts in India, and SERI project has helped the government of India design the NIPUN Bharat Programme 2021. The project has scaled to six states (Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) benefiting over 900,000 primary school children.

Key highlights include:

- A visit was organized to facilitate cross-learning and the sharing of best practices based on implementation models between project states.
- In Uttarakhand, piloting for the Pragati app was successfully rolled out across 13 districts.

CASE Story

INSPIRING A CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

In a remote Government Primary School, 45 km from the Jodhpur District's center, Room to Read India joined forces with the Department of Education in Rajasthan for a literacy scale-up project in 2022. With 28 children from nine Dhanis, the school had two teachers, including Bhagwanaram Inniya.

Inspired by Room to Read India's approach, Bhagwanaram decided to try to create a children's library in his school. With the help of community leaders, he gathered funds and connected with a Room to Read India Program Field Team Coordinator. Guided by her, he learned how to set up a library and make it inviting for children. Meetings galvanized support, and the Head Teacher allocated a room for the new library.

On January 24, 2023, the school inaugurated its library, with newly acquired materials, books and furniture. The school also set up a Children's Library Management Committee, which impressed the district education authorities. Bhagwanaram's dedication makes him a true changemaker. This joyful new library exemplifies how communities and organizations together bring positive educational change.



#INDIAGETSREADING

Campaign 2022

Social media Impressions
286,990

Audience engagement on Social Media
32,683

National media coverage
474

Regional media coverage
128

The annual flagship reading campaign 2022 was themed “Reading Equals.”

The Reading Equals campaign was a strong affirmation of the potential and influence of foundational reading skills, as highlighted in the NEP 2020. Reading, is a tool that equalizes, as it unlocks a realm of knowledge and creativity for children and has the potential to combat social disparities. The #IndiaGetsReading campaign recognized the efforts of foundational literacy initiatives in 12 states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh) and brought together various stakeholders to support equal opportunities for children's learning and development.



Offline reach 634,883

Teachers engaged 28,157

Children engaged 534,931

Community members engaged 69,737

Government officials engaged 2,058



TO KNOW MORE,
SCAN ME

SETTING A READ-A-THON RECORD



Read-a-thon on September 1, 2022. Room to Read India set a record for maximum participants reading together at multiple locations at the same time. With a total participation of **173,844**, including school students, teachers, and supporters, this incredible achievement was recorded by the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records - the record keeping agency adjudicating the activity.



QUALITY READING MATERIAL / BOOK Publishing

Recognizing the gaps in availability for quality reading materials for children in India, Room to Read India started publishing books in local languages in 2005. Since then, we have published 226 books in various Indian languages to cater to the diverse needs of young children across geographies.

6 new titles, 2 global titles, 8 adaptations, and 22 reprint titles in 5 languages

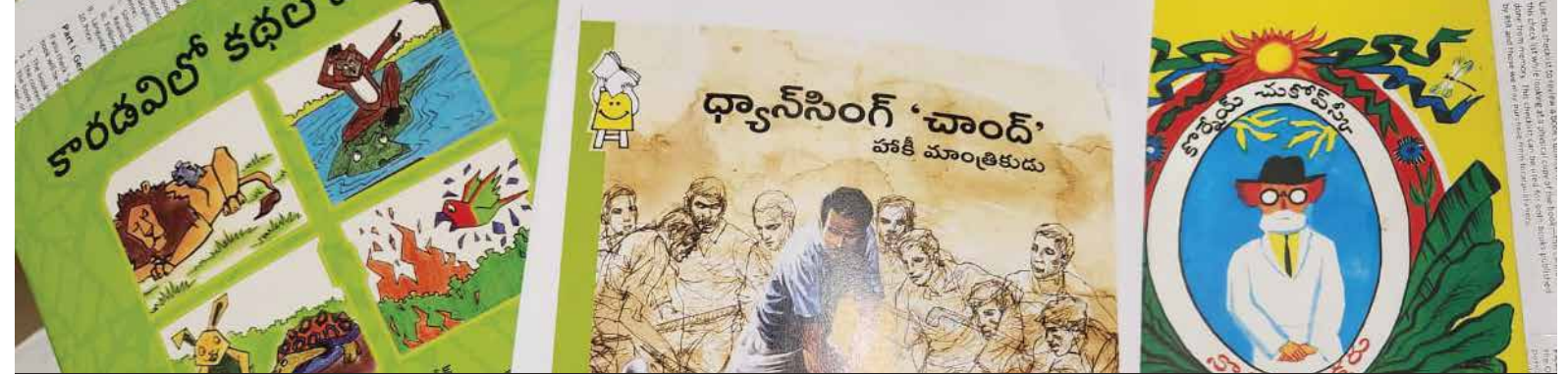


Resources printed for the year include:

- Primer Cards - 50 cards for Grades 1 and 2 on Hindi letters
- Non-Fiction Cards - 20 cards for Grade 3 in five languages

Co-Publishing

The list now comprises a total of 24 titles, with the inclusion of 11 LLP titles: three adaptations, six reprints, and two newly introduced titles.



WHAT IS AN IDEAL BOOK COLLECTION (IBC)?

The Ideal Book Collection is a curated list of books based on Room to Read's knowledge and expertise on what constitutes a quality children's book collection for libraries. Books in an IBC are leveled for each stage of reading, allowing children to progress from simple to complex texts as appropriate.

WORKSHOP IN TELUGU

A workshop in Telangana was organized in 2022 to curate an Ideal Book Collection in the Telugu language. After a review of more than 740 books, 381 were selected for the IBC.

WORKSHOP IN HINDI

In Delhi, an Ideal Book Collection workshop was held to curate a collection of children's books in Hindi. More than 300 books were reviewed and assessed based on the quality of the text, illustration, printing and themes.

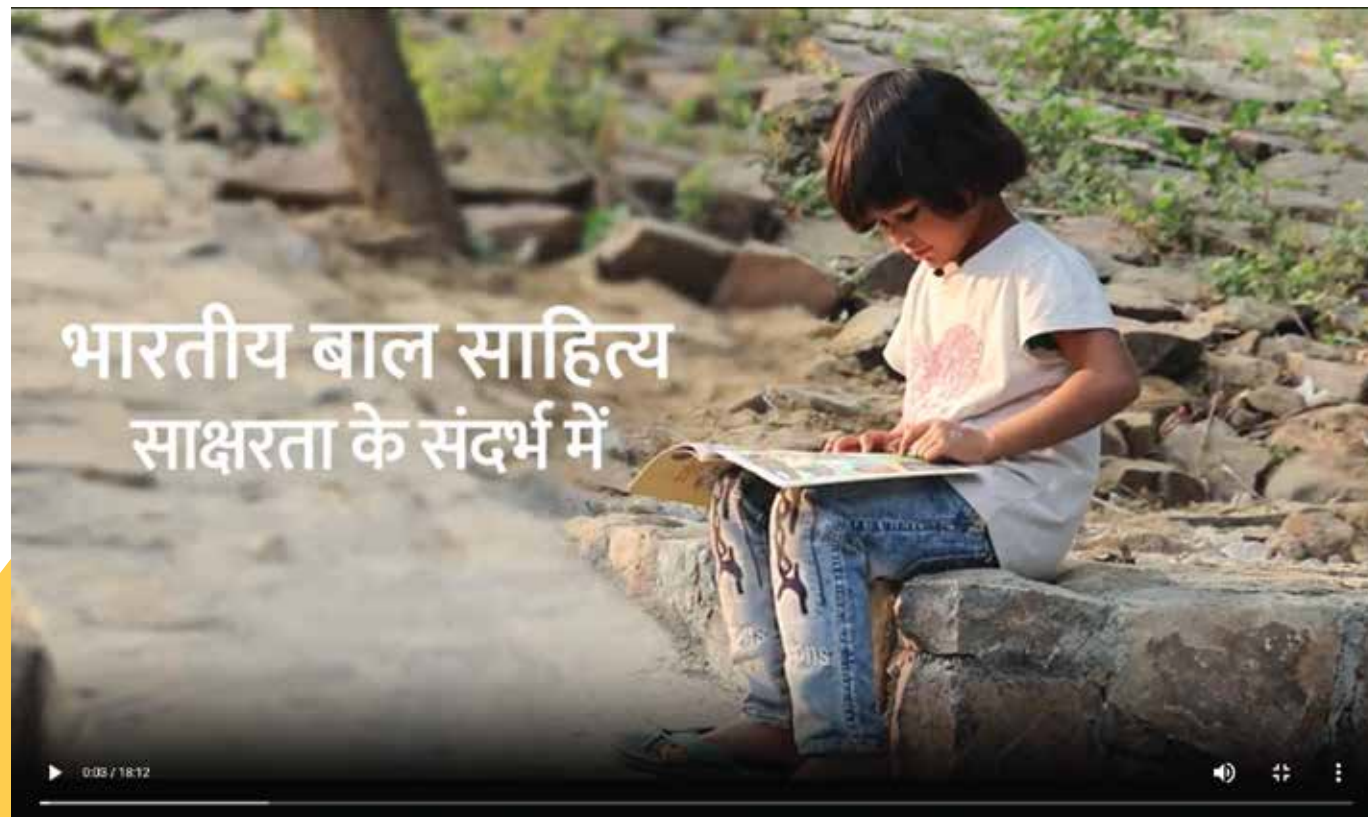
During the workshop, a panel of 10 people, including children's book editors, children's literature scholars, teachers and professors selected books that will now be part of the Hindi Ideal Book Collection -- a list of quality reading materials for children ages 5 to 12. These books have been procured for Room to Read India libraries across the states in which we operate. Now, we have 1,500 books in the Hindi IBC.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAP VIDEO - "MERI KITAB KAHAN HAI?"

While children's literature is a well established genre globally, in India it is still in a nascent state. For a country with hundreds of local languages and dialects, ensuring children have access to books they understand and relate to is even more challenging. Most of the literature produced for children is in English, followed by Hindi and a few other languages.

These gaps were unpacked with the short video of "Meri Kitab Kahan Hai?" where relevant voices from the industry spoke in-depth about the topic.

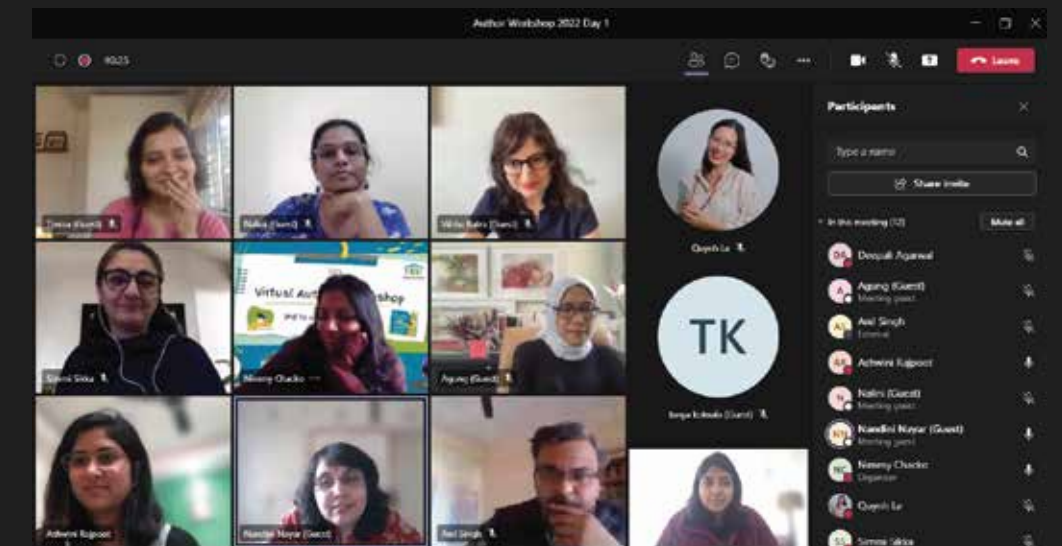
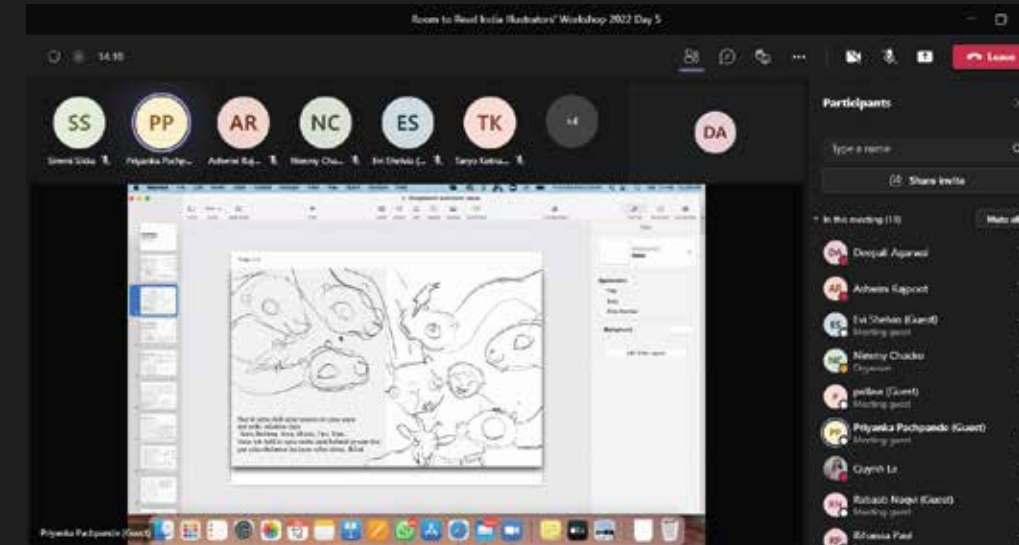


Watch video here



AUTHOR ILLUSTRATOR WORKSHOP

This year we hosted a virtual Author and Illustrator workshop where authors and illustrators came together to develop high quality children's literature.



A World of Education starts with you. [Donate today.](#)



LITERACY CLOUD

The new digital space for your children!

Room to Read initiated its publication program in 2005, and now we are taking our efforts online to ensure that all children have access to quality literature. Our online platform, LiteracyCloud.org, offers over 1,600 age-appropriate book titles in 24 global and six Indian languages. Literacy Cloud enables a new generation of teachers and young learners to access original, high-quality children's books in their local languages. We envision this platform as a knowledge hub to spread the joy of reading and make literature accessible to all.

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THIS FREE ONLINE PLATFORM

SPREAD THE WORD!!



DIGITAL PRODUCTS

Developed IN 2022



Instruction videos

This video series is designed to educate and assist teachers in their day-to-day classroom transactions, strengthening their understanding of topics such as oral language development, phonological awareness, print concept, decoding, etc. These topics are aligned with NIPUN and intended for use in FLN training across states. The video series consists of 10 animations on effective instructional practices available in Hindi.



Library videos

This series of 10 animations around effective library management and practices is designed to help people set up a child-friendly library that promotes early literacy and reading habits.



Parent engagement

To aid parents in creating a conducive home learning environment during school closures, we developed a series of animated videos showcasing engaging tools like oral discussions, storytelling, and book reading. These videos have become a valuable resource, and have been shared in schools and added to student workbooks and parent activity calendars.



Multi-Lingual Self Learning Package (MLSLP)

This series consists of four modules designed to introduce teachers to multilingual education. It includes quizzes and reflection activities to help educators enhance their knowledge and teaching practices. These are available in English, Hindi, Telugu languages on the DIKSHA platform.

GIRLS' EDUCATION Program

The key to empowerment is to have the confidence and ability to make independent decisions about one's future. When girls are trained in crucial life skills, they are more effective in negotiating key life decisions, expressing their thoughts asserting their rights.

By providing girls with life skills and mentoring, our Girls' Education Program is designed to help young women stay in school and create positive change for themselves, their families and their communities.

PARTICIPANTS IN OUR GIRLS' EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVE:

- Online and offline life skills training
- In-person and remote mentoring support
- Community engagement and home visits
- Need-based online and offline material support



Imagine a world where every girl could tap into her own power!

This is the very essence of *She Creates Change*, an initiative aimed at unraveling this potential.

Created by Room to Read, *She Creates Change* utilizes a groundbreaking approach that encompasses animated and live-action films, books, and audio stories, all of which amplify the voices of girls. The primary objective is to promote gender equality by sharing these stories widely.

The girls featured in *She Creates Change* have actively participated in Room to Read's Girls' Education Program.

By elevating the stories of relatable young women and making them accessible across various media platforms, Room to Read is taking a significant stride toward expanding its Girls' Education Program. Through the dynamic anthology of *She Creates Change*, the goal is to empower girls in every corner of the globe, equipping them with essential life skills and a comprehensive curriculum.

Yashika, a graduate of Room to Read's Girls' Education Program in India, is among the inspiring individuals

highlighted in *She Creates Change's* inaugural year. Despite facing numerous safety challenges and familial pressures, Yashika displayed incredible perseverance in pursuing her secondary education. Along the way, she discovered a passion for karate, which became not only a form of self-defense but also a means to showcase her determination. Her passion and dedication to the sport earned her the nickname of "Karate Girl."

In early 2020, Yashika's hard work and dedication paid off when she was chosen to compete in the National Karate Championship held in Mumbai. Her outstanding performance led to her winning a gold medal, marking a significant achievement. Today, Yashika serves as a role model and a source of inspiration for numerous young girls, showcasing the power of determination and the pursuit of one's passions.

**Read more about
#SheCreatesChange here**



GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION PROJECTS

BOOK ON TRANSGENDER IN CHHATTISGARH

At the request of Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission, the Girls' Education Program and Literacy Program teams jointly developed two books on portraying transgender characters for Government schools. Two titles "Adla Badli" (Grades 5 to 8) and "Saryu Bana Sayana," (Grades 9 to 12) originally developed in Hindi, were translated into three regional languages - Chhattisgarhi, Surgujiya and Halbi - with the support of government teachers (Chhattisgarhi and Surgujiya) and the Cluster Academic Coordinator (for Halbi). The two books in four languages have been shared with the department for their printing and distribution.



Scan to read Adla Badli



Scan to read Saryu Bana Sayana

Government Support of Life Skills Curriculum Training in Chhattisgarh

After the implementation of Project Vijayi across the state, Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission recommended the implementation of life skills curriculum across all day schools of the Sarguja Division, which comprises five districts (Sarguja, Surajpur, Balrampur, Jashpur and Korja). A total of 2,500 teachers were trained virtually by Room to Read India on 21st Century life skills.

TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCERT IN UTTARAKHAND

The State Council of Education Research and Training in Uttarakhand and Room to Read India helped establish a State Resource Group (SRG) focused on discussing modern life skills and gender-responsive teaching. As part of this effort, the SRG is creating an online self-learning training program with the SCERT. This program is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of all teachers and educators in the state, specifically on 21st Century skills. The goal is to enable the creation of inclusive and safe environments for adolescents and enhance their expertise in teaching life skills.

TECHNICAL AND KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPLEMENT LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS IN CHILDCARE INSTITUTIONS IN DELHI

Room to Read India launched a pilot program in five Childcare Institutions (CCIs) in Delhi, targeting 250 girls. This project received support from the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) and the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) to address the challenges faced by girls post-pandemic, such as increasing school dropout rates and learning loss.

In these Childcare Institutions, structured life skills interventions were conducted, which involved two monthly sessions on various life skills, followed by self-paced activities during the week. Staff and volunteers working with children in shelters learned about the importance of life skills and to gain their support for implementing the program in Childcare Institutions.



DISTRICT LEVEL TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIP IN UTTAR PRADESH

The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Lucknow, has set up a District Resource Group to serve as a platform for collecting ideas and expertise on gender-related programs across KGBVs (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya's). The DIET administration along with Room to Read India and other civil society organizations such as Pratham and Rocket Learning, actively participated in conversations surrounding life skills programming and ongoing strengthening government initiatives like Mission Shakti and Rani Lakshmbai Aatmsuraksha Karyakram, among others.

The program design for life skill implementation in Uttar Pradesh (UP) emphasizes the utilization of engaging learning materials, which include comics and animated video series. The themes chosen for UP have been carefully aligned with the geographical context and specific needs of the region. This contextualization process was conducted in close consultation with KGBV cell.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN & CHILD WELFARE IN DELHI

Department of Women & Child Welfare has formed block-level protection committees to look after the safety of girls. Due to Room to Read India's active engagement with adolescent girls, six social mobilizers were included as part of village/urban protection committee in their respective blocks to facilitate proactive work on gender and girls' education.

GIRLS' EDUCATION SCALE-UP PROJECTS



PROJECT KASTURI

Room to Read India, in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh, initiated a 3 year Girls' Education Program intervention in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in YSR Kadappa district through a collaborative approach.

This year Project Kasturi was launched in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, in September 2022 in the presence of the Commissioner of School Education (AP), IAS Shri. S. Suresh Kumar and Secretary, KGBVs, Smt. G. Nagamani, as well as other government officials. The project has been extended to 11 more KGBVs where the team will be training teachers to conduct life skills sessions with more than 2,000 girls in 17 KGBVs in the upcoming academic year.

PROJECT NAYA SAVERA

In Rajasthan, under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, the district administration of **Baran** collaborated with Room to Read India on the project "Naya Savera"(New Dawn). The Baran district is in the Southern part of Rajasthan at the border of Madhya Pradesh. The project was a life skills-based project initiated by the local collector, Mr. Narendra Gupta, for Sehariya girls. The Sehariya community is a historically vulnerable tribal community that is still challenged by various inequalities and issues. As part of the collaboration, teachers from 168 schools in two blocks, Kishanganj and Shahbad, were trained on topics such as communication.

The specific focus of the project was to enhance the health of women and children by combating anemia, create opportunities for adolescent girls to empower themselves through life skills development, and provide sustainable livelihood support for all Sahariya families. While the district administration took the lead in overseeing the project, Room to Read India provided technical assistance to the government. Eleven thousand girls were benefited through this project.

PROJECT VIJAYI

In partnership with the IKEA Foundation, this project aimed to provide opportunities to adolescent girls in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan to empower themselves by completing their education successfully. Room to Read India has been worked to enhance the project by providing training, and distributing educational materials to government-appointed facilitators. The goal was to standardize and improve various aspects of the program.

In the current year:

- In Chhattisgarh, Room to Read India supported the SCERT as a "Knowledge Partner" on topics such as life skills, gender education and teacher education. We helped develop position papers on curriculum, pedagogy and gender education.

A workshop was held in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha to share the findings of an evaluation study and the progress of Project Vijayi. The event was attended by various officials, teachers, alumnae, and adolescent girls.

- In Rajasthan, a virtual teacher training program was conducted, training 370 teachers and wardens from 186 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) across 31 districts. These trained teachers then delivered life skills sessions to 18,934 adolescent girls from 186 KGBVs.
- A gender sensitization workshop on 'Gender Discrimination and Different Identities' was conducted in Jodhpur to enhance the capacity of Additional District Project Coordinators and Assistant District Program Coordinators. The workshop covered various themes related to gender and the importance of life skills for adolescents. Sixty officers from all 33 districts of Rajasthan participated in the orientation.



LIFE SKILLS PROJECT IN GADWAL DISTRICT, TELANGANA

In 2020, a project in partnership with Warburg Pincus was launched around life skills. Key achievements of the project in 2022 include:

- The successful technical partnership with the Gadwal District of Telangana which entailed training and printing of Life Skills Education (LSE) materials, including the Student's Handbook and Teachers' Handbook.
- Collaborative training sessions in partnership with SCERT and Samagra Shiksha where 128 teachers, including Master Trainers and Girl Child Development Officers, were trained. Additionally, high school teachers from 92 schools were also trained in life skills education.





The Life Skills Glossary 1.0 was released composed 54 comprehensively defined sets of life skills, developed in the Indian context.

Adolescent Tool Pilot: In March 2022, the pilot study was conducted with 10,031 students for the well-being tool and with 10,038 students for the future-readiness tool. The study covered students from Grades 6-8 and 9-12 from 310 schools in Almora, Dehradun and Pauri.

Teacher Tool Pilot: In April 2022, the pilot study of the teacher tool was conducted with 250 teachers in Almora, Dehradun and Pauri.

System Tool Pilot: The system tool pilot was completed with 46 stakeholders across different levels in June 2022. Subsequently, one-on-one discussions with state officials were also conducted to gather their feedback and suggestions on the tool.

Large Scale Assessment: The state has incorporated the Large-Scale Assessment (LSA) of the social & emotional well-being tools, teacher tool and system tool across 13 districts. An orientation workshop was conducted on August 26, 2022, to introduce the Life Skills Collaborative and its tools to 13 government representatives. The workshop included discussion of the Large-Scale Assessment and the finalization of an action plan.



LIFE SKILLS COLLABORATIVE

The Life Skills Collaborative (LSC) focuses on championing the life skills India's young people need to thrive, through an extensive on-the-ground outreach program. The Collaborative started in January 2021 and is composed of 18 organizations that share a common vision. Room to Read India has taken on the role of government engagement partner for the collaborative.

This year, together with the Uttarakhand Education Department, Room to Read India piloted projects in three districts of the state to create a Life Skills Glossary, as well as assessment tools for adolescents, teachers and the education system.

#HARKADAMBETIKESANG

Campaign 2022

In 2022, the annual flagship Girls' Education Program campaign focused on building understanding and measuring safety and security of adolescent girls in schools. The campaign's core idea relied on the Whole School Approach (WSA) to raise awareness of the value of a multisectoral approach to strengthening schools as empowering spaces. As part of the campaign, a safety mapping exercise was carried out by girls in nine Indian states to explore safety and enabling mechanisms with input by the school authorities.



Room to Read India received overwhelming participation for the campaign and successfully received **185,008** impressions online across all social media handles.

Impressions
185,008

Engagements
25,192



THE CAMPAIGN REACHED:



10,842
Teachers



179,038
Adolescent girls



9,255
Family and
community
stakeholders



443
Government
officials



KISHORI MELA



Taking place on Children's Day in November, Kishori Mela engaged parents, school administrators and other important stakeholders across nine states. The fun, day-long event, provided girls with a platform to voice their concerns and commit to creating safer and more enabling places for themselves.

CASE *Story*

Shreya (name changed), a Grade 12 student and an Alumni of our Girls' Education Program, is affectionately known as 'Book Didi' or 'Kitabo wali Daakia' in her community. Her mission? To ensure education reaches every child in and around her village.

During a life skills session, Shreya learned about children forced to drop out of school due to financial struggles. Determined to help, Shreya began tutoring children related to her classmates and friends. COVID-19 halted her efforts, but her creativity shone. She transformed her bicycle into a movable library, taking books to children unable to attend school.

Shreya's compassion was nurtured by her family's community service. Post COVID-19, she tackled re-enrollment and financial needs, initially attempting fundraising. When that fell short, she took a job and used her salary to support children's education. Breaking gender stereotypes, she became a courier, inspired by a life skills session on gender equality.

Shreya's story resonates as she not only initiated change but inspired others. She showcased how dedication and creativity can bridge gaps in education. Her journey encourages young individuals to challenge norms, and shows that pursuing passion can create meaningful change.



STRATEGIC Partnerships

UNICEF PARTNERSHIP

Teacher training on Life Skills Education in Gujarat

In 2019, UNICEF and Room to Read India collaborated to create Self-Instructional Package for life skill educators. Working together, Unicef and Room to Read India also designed and developed a capacity-building program for 200 teachers and conducted a two-day orientation for representatives of Gujarat based organisations - ITOWE Foundation and Samvedana Trust.



COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL BOOK TRUST

Collaborative workshops were held with the National Book Trust of India to develop publishing guidelines on children's literature. The workshop brought together various stakeholders, including eminent authors, illustrators, designers, book sellers, distributors and publishers to discuss and deliberate on best practices in the children's publishing space. The guidelines on best practices and quality recommendations for children's books are intended for use by all those who use children's literature as consumers, creators, and producers. This was an important step in ensuring that young readers have access to high-quality and age-appropriate books that can support their learning and growth.

EVENTS

Room to Read India's annual flagship reading campaign 2022 concluded on the International Literacy Day with a national seminar, jointly organized by the United States Agency for International Development and Room to Read India in New Delhi. Seminar participants included like-minded organizations, bilateral agencies, senior government officials, CSRs, authors, illustrators, and academics. Two engaging panel discussions were held: **"Literacy and Literature Together - Opportunities and Challenges"** and **"Our Gaze - the Text and the World."** These sessions brought together subject experts and thought leaders to discuss the role of reading skills in supporting foundational learning under the NEP 2020. The focus was on understanding the influence of children's literature on the learning and reading cycles of children, especially early grade learners.

View the full event recording here:



National Seminar LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY

November 7, 2022
Shangri-La Eros, New Delhi

The national seminar that kicked off the Girls' Education Program campaign discussed the safety of adolescent girls in schools and the role of Life Skills in 21st-Century education, in strengthening the agency and voice of adolescent girls. In the context of India, where youth are still struggling with aspects of structural inequalities like caste, class, religion, disability, gender, or sexuality, life skills can play an instrumental role in enhancing equality and social justice as well as individual empowerment. Room to Read India has been a consistent advocate for the positive influence of life skills in building agency and aspiration.

Government officials, other eminent guests from across Room to Read India intervention states, and like-minded organizations attended the national seminar. Two engaging panel discussions, **"Framing Life Skills Education for Equality"** and **"Strengthening and Supporting Life Skills Educators"** brought insightful perspectives to the fore.

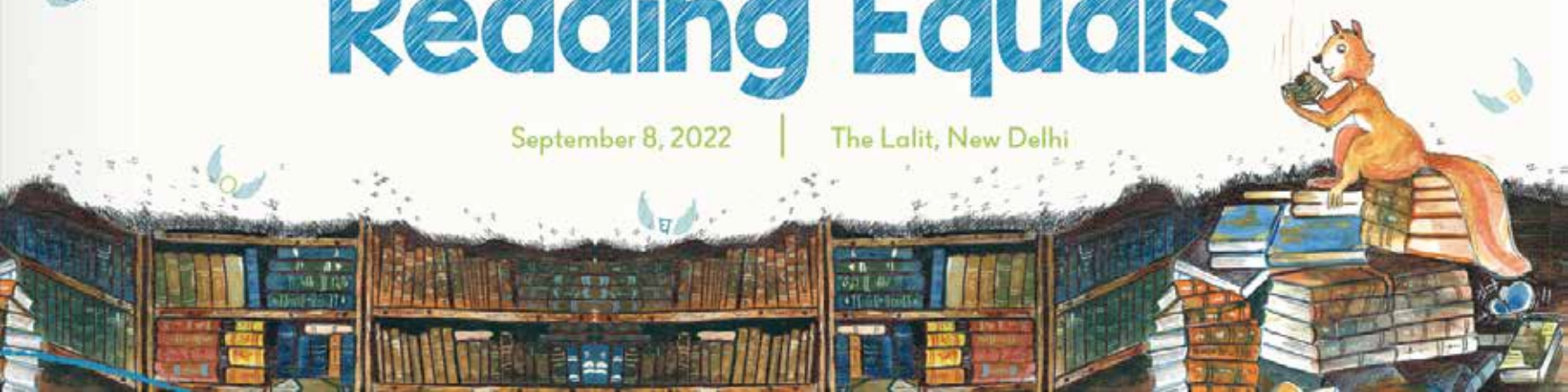


View the full event recording here:



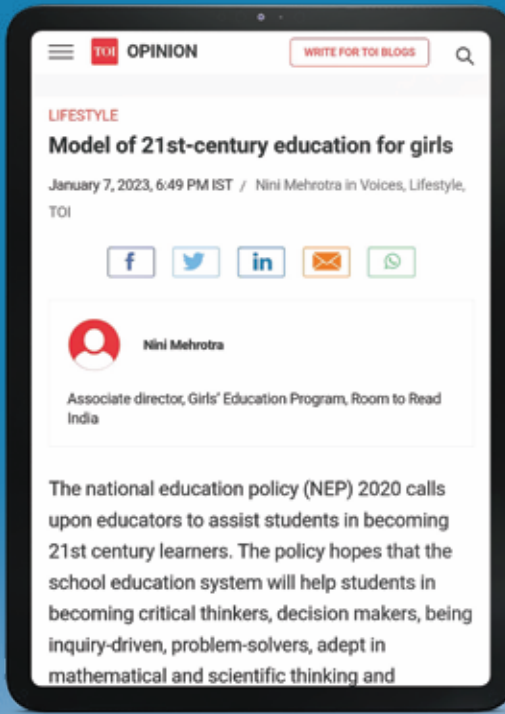
#IndiaGetsReading National Seminar Reading Equals

September 8, 2022 | The Lalit, New Delhi



MEDIA COVERAGE

Room to Read was proud to be featured in 319 news articles in 2022.



“रुम टू रीड” की “जीवन कौशल से समानता और सशक्तिकरण” विषय पर कार्यशाला का आयोजन



Reaching beyond the confines of classrooms

Room to Read India has shifted its focus from in-class programs to embracing EdTech, enabling technology to connect and scale learning outside of school walls and reach children wherever they are.

COVID-19 has been an unsettling phenomenon for the education sector. Learning has shifted from in-classroom to online learning. While this is a new off-education, EdTech in India remains a largely unexplored space, especially regarding the school's ecosystem. Lack of digital literacy, digital skills, and technical content, and lack of teacher capacity and infrastructure are all contributing factors to this problem. Room to Read India has shifted its focus from in-class programs to embracing EdTech, enabling technology to connect and scale learning outside of school walls and reach children wherever they are.





AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

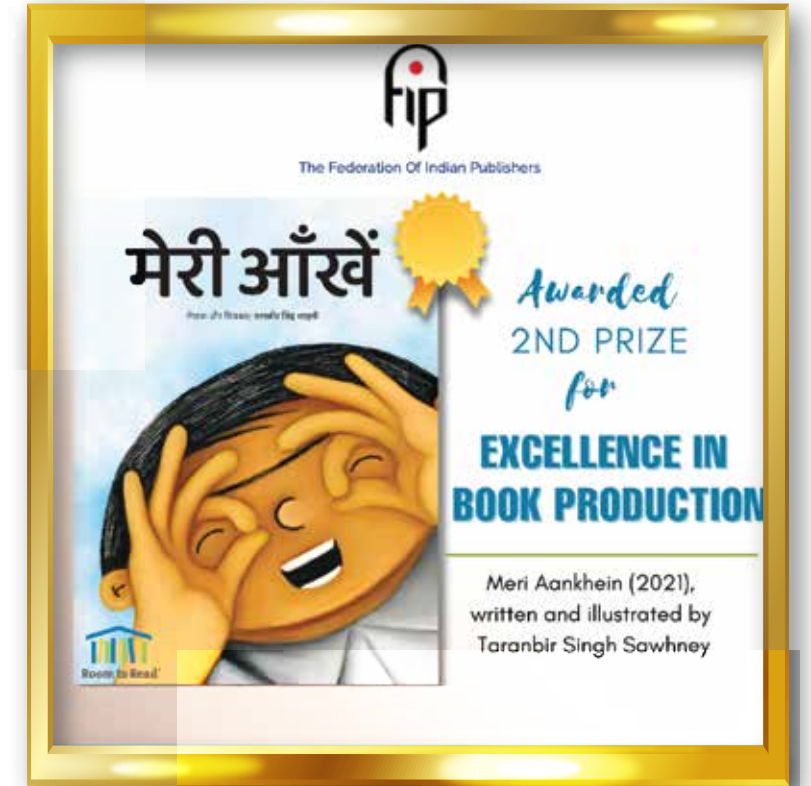
Recognized as one among 50 Best Workplaces for Women in 2022 by the Great Place to Work Institute, India



Recognized as a Great Place to Work in the mid-size category by the Great Place to Work Institute, India



Recognized by The Federation of Indian Publishers as Second Prize Winner for Excellence in Book Productions



Recognized by India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records for setting a record for bringing 173,844 participants together to read during the same time span

TRUSTEES & LEADERSHIP *Team*

Trustees



Geetha Murali
CEO
Room to Read



Narasimhan Raghavan
Board Member
Room to Read



Apala Majumdar
Director



Pooja Vinayak Sharma
Director

India Development Board



Gaurav Dalmia
Chairman of Dalmia
Group Holdings Board Chair



Mickey Doshi
Managing Director and
Country CEO of Credit
Suisse India



Khozem Merchant
Partner – India Head at
Brunswick Group



Salil Gupte
President,
Boeing India



Sumati Raheja
General Manager of
K Raheja Corp



Ravi Raheja
Group President of
K Raheja Corp



Vishal Mahadevia
Managing Director, Member of the
Executive Management Group at
Warburg Pincus

Country Leadership Team



From left to right: Sourav Banerjee, *Country Director*; Sajit Menon, *Director, Program Operations*; Poornima Garg, *Deputy Country Director*; Jitender Bansal, *Senior Director, Accounting and Finance*; Kaushlendra Kumar, *Director, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation*; Saktibrata Sen, *Program Director*

State Leadership Team



Chary Narsimha
Community Manager,
Program Operations,
Telangana and Andhra Pradesh



Raja Sekhar
Community Manager,
Program Operations,
Maharashtra



Aparupa Negi
State Coordinator,
Program Operations,
Karnataka



Nishant Shrivastava
Community Manager,
Program Operations,
Rajasthan



Yeshvardhan Uniyal
Community Manager,
Program Operations,
Madhya Pradesh



Protik Banerjee
State Coordinator,
Program Operations,
Chhattisgarh



Pushplata Rawat
Community Manager,
Program Operations,
Uttarakhand



Abhijeet Singh Bist
State Coordinator,
Program Operations,
Delhi



Suraj Pandey
State Coordinator,
Program Operations,
Jharkhand and Bihar



- Atlassian India LLP
- Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
- BAE Systems India (Services) Pvt. Ltd.
- Bajaj Auto Limited
- Bajaj Finance Limited
- Bloomberg
- BNP Paribas
- CAF America
- Capitaland Hope Foundation (India)
- CARE US
- Central Square Foundation
- Delhi Aviation Fuel Facility Private Limited
- EXL Service
- ExxonMobil Services & Technology Private Limited
- Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd
- Indira Foundation
- International Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.
- Kodak India Private Limited
- LTIMindtree Limited
- Mastek Foundation
- Micro Focus
- Morgan Stanley India
- Powerica Limited
- Restaurant Brands Asia Limited
- RG Manudhane Foundation for Excellence
- Room to Read Global Services Private Limited
- The Boeing Company
- The Neel and Raa Foundation
- UNICEF
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Warburg Pincus India Private Limited
- Wells Fargo International Solutions Private Limited

CAPITALAND

“We, at CapitaLand Hope Foundation, are delighted with our partnership with Room to Read. We would like to thank all the team members of Room to Read for their full assistance and cooperation in working with us to inculcate reading habits among students of the Government school we partnered with.”

**- Anirban Choudhury,
Head – Communications,
India Business Parks, CapitaLand Investments**

EXL

“Children are the changemakers of tomorrow. Room to Read's commitment to help children acquire literacy skills and special focus on preparing young girls chart their own course in life reflects EXL's idea of creating a gender equal world through our global CSR initiatives. Having seen the program implementation and its impact first hand, EXL is happy to associate with Room to Read and provide children studying in government schools of Delhi, access to education via libraries.”

**- Satyajit Gupta,
Vice President, Assistant General Counsel and Head of India Legal, Global Head of CSR,
EXL**



Room to Read India Trust
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022
(All amounts in ₹, unless otherwise stated)

Schedule	As at 31 March 2022	As at 31 March 2021	
Sources of funds			
Funds			
Restricted fund	1	6,32,33,710	15,17,75,265
Unrestricted fund	2	2,68,11,296	4,44,07,815
		9,00,45,006	19,61,83,080
Liabilities and provisions			
Current liabilities	3	3,62,17,957	1,62,38,884
Provisions	4	2,37,97,700	2,28,91,328
		6,00,15,657	3,91,30,212
		15,00,60,663	23,53,13,292
Applications of funds			
Property, plant & equipment	5	98,26,896	97,54,869
		98,26,896	97,54,869
Current assets, loans and advances			
Cash and bank balances	6	9,84,84,411	19,07,77,221
Loans and advances	7	1,61,29,282	1,09,70,512
Other current assets	8	2,56,20,074	2,38,10,690
		14,02,33,767	22,55,58,423
		15,00,60,663	23,53,13,292

Significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements 13-14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

This is the Balance sheet referred to in our report of even date.


For Walker Chandlok & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No.: 001076N/N500013



Tarun Gupta
Partner
Membership No.: 507892

Place : Gurugram
Date : 6th Oct 2022



For and on behalf of
Room to Read India Trust


Sourav Banerjee
Country Director


Apala Majumdar
Trustee

Place : New Delhi Place : New Delhi
Date : 6th Oct 2022 Date : 6th Oct 2022



Room to Read India Trust
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2022
(All amounts in ₹, unless otherwise stated)

Schedule	Year ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2021	
Income			
Grants and donation	9	55,20,83,123	49,29,93,742
Other Income	9-A	41,30,434	28,47,732
		55,62,13,557	49,58,41,474
Expenditure			
Program expenses	10	45,26,07,499	41,38,65,380
Personnel expenses	11	10,58,41,140	10,41,64,331
Depreciation	5	54,93,831	63,36,198
General and administrative expenses	12	2,77,94,366	2,35,35,916
		59,17,36,836	54,79,01,825
		(3,55,23,279)	(5,20,60,351)
Deficit for the year after depreciation			
Add:- Depreciation for the year transferred to capital assets fund		54,93,831	63,36,198
Deficit for the year before depreciation		(3,00,29,448)	(4,57,24,153)
Add:- Amount transferred to Project Fund		1,24,32,929	4,71,72,992
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year transferred to General Fund		(1,75,96,519)	14,48,839

Significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements 13-14

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.

This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.


For Walker Chandlok & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No.: 001076N/N500013



Tarun Gupta
Partner
Membership No.: 507892

Place : Gurugram
Date : 6th Oct 2022



For and on behalf of
Room to Read India Trust


Sourav Banerjee
Country Director


Apala Majumdar
Trustee

Place : New Delhi Place : New Delhi
Date : 6th Oct 2022 Date : 6th Oct 2022



Room to Read India Trust**Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2022***(All amounts in ₹, unless otherwise stated)*

	Year ended 31 March 2022	Year ended 31 March 2021
Opening balance		
Cash in hand	30,454	35,021
Cash at bank	19,07,46,767	13,71,87,631
	19,07,77,221	13,72,22,652
Receipts		
Donations & Grants	47,96,10,387	59,82,01,332
Interest income	29,81,178	28,24,199
Sale of property, plant and equipment	7,81,135	58,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,28,190	-
	48,38,00,890	60,10,83,531
Payments		
Program expenses	44,70,41,641	40,97,35,862
General and administrative expenses	13,25,95,688	12,76,89,216
Property, plant and equipment purchased during the year	66,65,745	41,75,017
Other (net current liabilities)/ net current assets	(1,02,09,374)	59,28,866
	57,60,93,700	54,75,28,961
Closing balance		
Cash in hand	25,667	30,454
Cash at bank	9,79,55,321	19,07,46,767
Fixed deposits	5,03,423	-
	9,84,84,411	19,07,77,221

This is the Receipts & Payments Account referred to in our report of even date.

For **Walker Chandok & Co LLP**
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration No.: 001076N/N500013



Tarun Gupta
Partner
Membership No.: 507892



Place : Gurugram
Date : 6th Oct 2022

For and on behalf of
Room to Read India Trust



Sourav Banerjee
Country Director

Apala Majumdar
Trustee

Place : New Delhi Place : New Delhi
Date : 6th Oct 2022 Date : 6th Oct 2022





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