



Room to Read India Fact Sheet

Room to Read believes that World Change Starts with Educated Children.® We envision a world where all children have room to read, learn and grow and can use their skills to accelerate positive change.

Through education, Room to Read is transforming the lives of millions of children to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We support children in communities experiencing deep educational, gender and economic inequities. As the future of the world's children stands at a tipping point, Room to Read has prepared a way forward to make sure education endures, even in challenging situations.

INDIAN CONTEXT

- India is home to 250 million students and 1.5 million schools¹
- There are 120 million adolescent girls² in India
- The rural-urban children enrollment data is recorded as 70-30%³
- 51% of students in rural areas are in private schools⁴
- 80% of children studying in Grade 3 struggle to read a Grade 2-level sentence⁵
- Approximately 60% of adolescent girls complete secondary schooling⁶
- Only 2700 children's book publishers in the entire country⁷



OUR LITERACY PROGRAM

transforms primary schools to enable children to become independent readers and lifelong learners.

Our Literacy Program trains and coaches teachers, creates and provides quality books and curricular materials and establishes libraries filled with diverse children's books in local languages that can be enjoyed at school or home. We partner with state governments to test and implement innovative models through evidence informed pedagogy that help children succeed in school and develop literacy skills with a love of reading.



OUR GIRLS' EDUCATION PROGRAM

develop life skills that promote gender equality.

We support girls as they develop their power as positive change agents by providing critical knowledge, life skills classes, mentorship, peer support, and family and community engagement. Our program supports all children to build knowledge and skills with which they can create a gender-equal world. We help governments deliver similar programs through collaborative system strengthening efforts.



OUR RESULTS

20,466,633

children benefited since 2003, which has resulted in children reading 2-3 times faster and with greater comprehension.

396,050

girls supported through our Girls' Education Program since 2005, with a 98% advancement rate.

12,058

teachers and librarians significantly enhanced their skills in 2024.

**We work in 29 countries
around the world.
In India, since 2003.**

[1]Source: Performance Grading Index Report by Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD, Government of India 2021-22

[2]Source: Census 2011

[3&4]Source: SOTTTER_23_Report.pdf (tiss.edu)

[5]Source: ASER 2022

[6]Source: Progress on girls' access to education: What the new UNESCO data reveals | UNESCO

[7]Source: India Book Market Report 2022 – Nielsen Book Data

OUR REACH

Room to Read first implemented our Literacy Program in India in 2003 and since then we have benefited more than 20 million children. We are currently working directly with 12 state governments (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi NCR, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh) to support young children unlock their full potential through education.

OUR DIFFERENTIATOR

System-level reform — We facilitate system reform through partnering with governments, funding agencies and publishing partners to change at scale. We are committed to system-level integration in three key areas that include strengthening supportive supervision, co-development of Teacher Learning Material and developing training manuals and training plans for primary school educators.

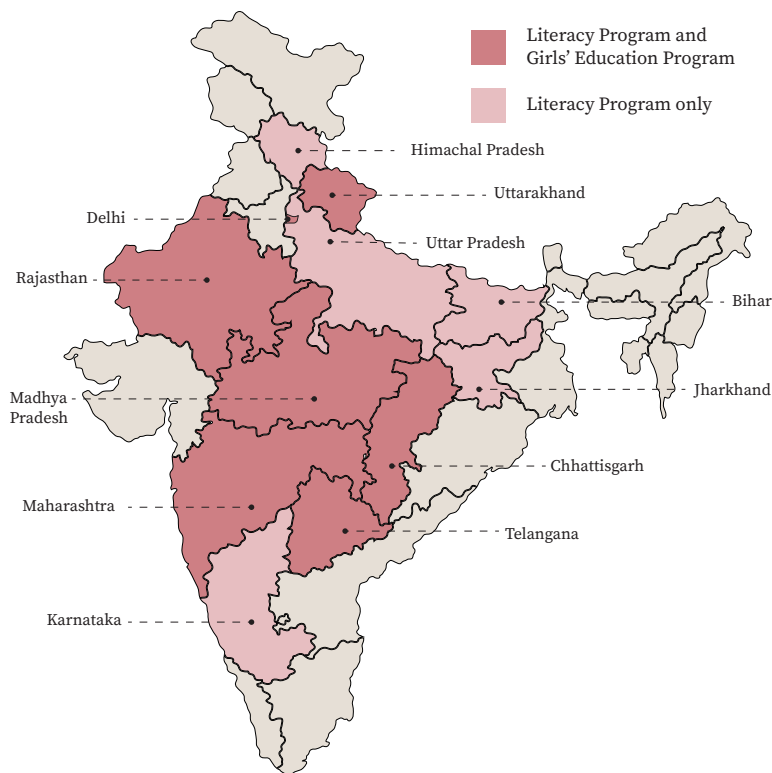
Proven effectiveness — Children in Room to Read's Literacy Program read **two to three times faster** and with greater comprehension than children in comparison schools. A survey of the Girls' Education Program alumnae found that **80 percent of girls** who were a part of the program have completed tertiary education programs/courses.

In the SPOTLIGHT

NIPUN Bharat Mission — Room to Read India has been recognized by the Government of India as a key contributor in closing of the NIPUN Bharat Mission guidelines.

Global recognition — Our literacy intervention in India was recognized as one of only eight programs globally that are “**effective at scale**” by the Center for Global Development’s “**Learning at Scale**” research initiative, implemented by RTI International.

Co-developed titles — We co-developed 220 story books/cards with 10 states governments.



INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

Fiscal Excellence

For every INR 100 donated to Room to Read, 85 percent goes to our programs.

Educational Leadership

- Recognized by India and Asia Book of Records for the “largest simultaneous multi-location read-a-thon” in 2022, 2023 and 2024
- Hundred Global Collection recipient — ranked #1 for impact and scalability out of more than 3,400 education-focused organizations (2023)
- Children's Champion Award in Education category by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2023)
- Federation of Indian Publishers Award for Excellence in Book Productions (2022)

PRESS

Room to Read has received significant national media coverage including:

- The Asian Chronicle • New Delhi Times • Pioneer
- Hindustan Express • Financial Times • Zee 5
- The Hans India • Daily Hunt • DNA • Hindustan
- Times of India • The Guardian

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