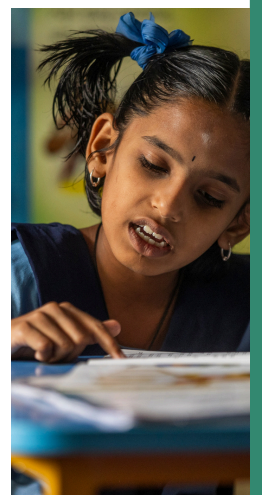




the *India* Chapter

Room to Read India's Quarterly Newsletter | April - June 2025



From the Leadership

Dear Readers,

We're delighted to bring you highlights from our work between April and June 2025, a quarter marked by purposeful strides and positive influence.



As NIPUN Bharat Mission completes four years, our efforts remain deeply aligned with its mission. Through strategic partnerships and programmatic innovations, we continue to strengthen foundational learning and contribute to the national goal of ensuring every child attains the desired learning outcomes by the end of Grade 3.

A key highlight this quarter is our new partnership with the **Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC)**, Government of Jharkhand, to establish a State Project Management Unit (SPMU) for a five-year period (2025-2030). In collaboration with trusted partners, the SPMU will support government school systems to improve implementation and accelerate learning outcomes — helping reach more children, more effectively.

We are also proud to share that ***She Creates Change***, our storytelling initiative celebrating real stories of girls discovering their power, was honored with the **Webby People's Voice Award**, a powerful affirmation of our global community's belief in the potential of girls.

In this edition, you'll also read about our continued collaborations with corporate partners — support that is enabling children to build strong foundational literacy and helping young women gain the agency, life skills and career preparedness to thrive in a fast-changing world.

We hope this newsletter keeps you informed and inspired by the progress we're making together. Thank you, as always, for being a vital part of our journey.

Happy reading!

Rishi Rajvanshi

Rishi Rajvanshi
Program Operations Director
Room to Read India



Spotlight

Transforming Primary Education at Scale

Room to Read has formally partnered with the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) and Government of Jharkhand to establish a **State Project Management Unit (SPMU)** for Quality Education in Primary Grades.

On May 30, 2025, the partnership was formalized with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a five-year period (2025-2030), signed by **Mr. Shashi Ranjan, IAS, State Project Director of JEPC**, and **Ms. Poornima Garg, Room to Read India's Country Director**, in the presence of **Dr. Avinav Kumar, SPO-Quality Education at JEPC**; to support children from Balvatikas to Grade 5.

The SPMU will strategically improve primary education by strengthening instruction, upskilling teachers, building robust support systems, ensuring data-informed decisions and encouraging momentum through campaigns, partnerships and governance. It will provide support to approximately 35,000 schools at both state and district levels to enhance quality education.



Our *She Creates Change* initiative won a Webby!

Our landmark film series *She Creates Change* is officially a **Webby Award People's Voice Winner** in the category of **Video & Film – Public Service & Activism (Branded)**! This award recognizes original digital storytelling created on behalf of a brand or organization to inspire social impact, civic participation and policy change. Out of more than 13,000 global submissions, only the top 12% were selected as nominees — and we are honored to make it all the way to the list of winners. **Read more.**



Accelerating Literacy in Himachal Pradesh

Accelerating our literacy efforts and expanding into newer geographies, we've signed an MoU on June 20, 2025, with the Government of Himachal Pradesh, represented by **Mr. Rajesh Sharma, State Project Director**.

We will provide technical assistance and encourage a vibrant reading culture statewide. The ultimate goal is to develop a sustainable and effective school library system that promotes reading habits and improves educational outcomes for children in Himachal Pradesh. **Read more.**



Program Snapshots

Room to Read Artwork Featured in *Becoming* Exhibition

Artwork from Meri Aankhein, Laali and Bolo Ek Saans Mein, three Room to Read titles were featured in 'Becoming', an exhibition of the journey of illustrations in children's books in India, curated by **Richa Jha**, founder of *Pickle Yolk Books*. Instead of being arranged chronologically, artwork at the exhibition was arranged so that visitors can walk through the different 'becomings' of self, space and time, making for many thought-provoking instances. The exhibition took place at New Delhi in April 2025. [Read more.](#)



Ghar Par Shiksha 2.0 – Summer Camp 2025

Our 'Ghar Par Shiksha 2.0' Summer Camp initiative successfully ran from May to June 2025 across nine states where we have a presence. Through a national-level digital nudges program delivered via teacher-led WhatsApp groups, we significantly enhanced parental engagement in children's summer learning. Easy-to-use nudges, including short videos, Literacy Cloud stories, and home-based activities, reached over 15,000 families via YouTube and resulted in approximately 7,000 story reads on Literacy Cloud.



Let's Learn

Curious how a children's book can tackle climate change and migration?

Our colleague, **Deepali Agarwal**, *National Program Coordinator, Quality Reading Material*, in her article offers interesting insights into Room to Read India's publication 'A Home for the Hargila'. [Read more](#).



Read the book in [Hindi](#), [English](#), [Telugu](#), [Marathi](#) and [Kannada](#).



Room
to
Read.

Co-Writing a Brighter Future for Children

Room to Read, in partnership with Government of Madhya Pradesh, trained government school teachers to create children's literature in local languages as part of a long-term system-strengthening initiative

Room to Read empowers children with foundational literacy skills and life skills that promote gender equality, driven by the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children. Committed to accelerating learning outcomes at scale, the nonprofit has positively influenced 10 million children across all countries. In India, it has been transforming young lives since 2003, reaching over 10 million children across 10 states.



86 | THE GOOD SIGHT

Spotlight on Room to Read India's efforts to co-develop children's literature

Room to Read India has been spotlighted in FLN special edition of 'The Good Sight Magazine' for our work with Rajya Shiksha Kendra on the co-development of children's literature in Madhya Pradesh. [Read more](#).

Ever wondered how Room to Read India tackles the incredible linguistic diversity of a nation to ensure every child can read?

Our colleague, **Stuti Jain**, *Manager – Instructional Design & Technical Support*, in her blog unpacks the nuances of the topic. [Read more](#).



Partner of Choice

DOEN Foundation visits our Girls' Education Program in New Delhi

On April 29, 2025, **Ms. Kristine Kim**, *Senior Director at the DOEN Foundation*, visited one of our Girls' Education Program schools in Delhi. She actively participated with students in life skills activities designed to build critical thinking, communication and problem-solving. Her discussion with the school principal highlighted the socio-cultural barriers girls face and our program's tangible progress in addressing them. Inspired by the students and educators, Kristine expressed deep appreciation for the program's vital role in broadening girls' career ambitions, especially by encouraging non-traditional paths.



Adolescent Girls Explore Banking with BNP Paribas in Mumbai



On April 11, 2025, 10 of our Girls' Education Program participants in Mumbai gained firsthand exposure to the dynamic world of banking and finance at the BNP Paribas office. The session highlighted how technology is reshaping modern banking—from digital transactions to cybersecurity and risk management. What truly stood out was BNP Paribas's keen interest in expanding this exposure to more schools, underscoring the power of engagement in widening career paths for young women.

Room to Read participate at IMC Trading Day

On June 17, 2025, we participated at IMC's Annual Trading Day. This event also marked the culmination of the IMC Art Contest, which featured inspiring artwork submitted by children from Room to Read-supported schools across India. As part of the celebration, IMC had set up a dedicated Library Corner within their office premises to highlight the importance of reading and literacy.



Employer of Choice



Earth Day 2025: Growing Green Together

In spirit of sustainability and collective responsibility, we recently marked Earth Day 2025 and engaged teams across states to celebrate their “Green Buddies” — the plants that bring peace and positivity to their workspaces. The overwhelming response to our Earth Day competition showcased inspiring stories and reflections from across the states on team members’ deep connection with nature. These reminded us that even the smallest acts of care can nurture both our environment and our well-being.



Announcements



Room to Read Children's Literature Awards 2025

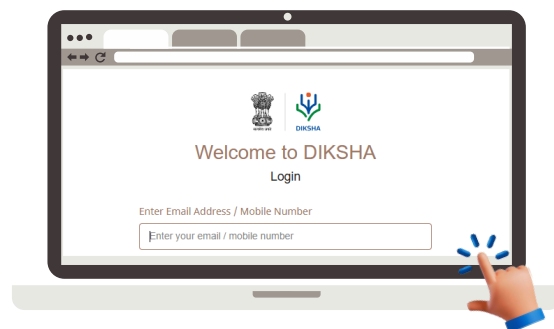
As part of The Room to Read Children's Literature Awards 2025, we conducted a webinar, titled ‘What do young children's book creators want?’ featuring new voices in Indian children's book publishing. The webinar was an open chat about the panelists’ experiences in the industry, their motivations, challenges and big dreams for children's books. It provided some interesting insights into the current landscape of children's books in India through the lens of young creators who bring enthusiasm and passion to this space. [Read more.](#)



[View full recording](#)

DIKSHA Hosts New Child-Friendly Library Course for Teachers

Our new 4-module Online Child-Friendly Library Course for teachers is now LIVE on the DIKSHA platform. Piloted with all primary teachers in **Vijayanagara** and **Bellary** districts in **Karnataka**, the course comprehensively covers library creation and management, effective reading strategies and children's literature. This DSERT-validated course empowers primary teachers to establish and manage vibrant school libraries, conduct engaging reading activities and encourage deeper comprehension and cognitive skills in children.

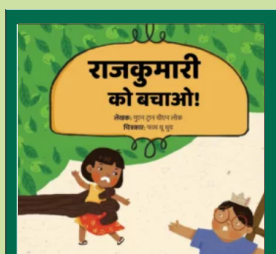


[Access the course](#)



Literacy Cloud

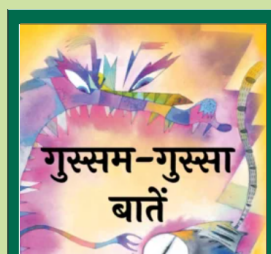
Our top four picks for you!



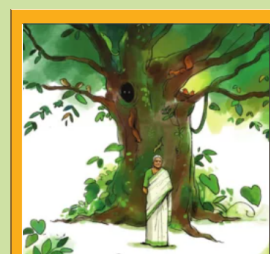
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Room to Read India is a global nonprofit currently operating in 12 states - Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

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