



# 2024

## Room to Read

# Annual Report

## India



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# Who we are

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At Room to Read India, we believe that World Change Starts with Educated Children® - it begins in the classroom, in the laughter of a child discovering new words, in the confidence of a girl daring to dream beyond expectations and in the quiet persistence of teachers shaping futures every single day.

Since 2003, we have been working hand in hand with governments, educators and communities to ensure that every child in India can read with fluency and joy and that every girl has the skills and agency to make decisions about her future.

Our mission is simple yet profound — to nurture foundational learning and life skills in children so that they can learn, grow and thrive with dignity and equality. In 2024, this mission reached new milestones as we deepened our partnerships across states, accelerated system-wide change in foundational literacy and inspired thousands of adolescents to become changemakers in their communities.

***We envision an India where every child has room to read — and, through education, the power to transform their world.***



# What we do

*We are making the impossible possible, through education.*

We support children in communities experiencing deep educational, gender and economic inequities, where investments in education accelerate positive change.



## **Our Literacy Portfolio**

Develops children's literacy skills and nurtures a love of reading.



## **Our Gender Equality Portfolio**

Supports all adolescents, particularly girls, to develop life skills that promote gender equality.



Across our programming, we partner with educators and local communities to implement innovative and dignified learning approaches for children, enabling them to pursue lifelong learning and make informed decisions. We also collaborate with government, social and private sector partners to enhance and transform learning systems to benefit the most children, as quickly as possible.



# From our leadership

*“Every child’s first story marks the beginning of something larger — the story of possibility.”*

2024 has been a year of renewal and recognition for Room to Read India. From expanding our Literacy and Gender Equality Portfolio across new geographies and celebrating a record-breaking Read-a-thon of 3.4 million children across 10 states, to being honored as a Social Impact Icon and one of India’s Top 100 Best Workplaces for Women, our journey this year has been defined by collaboration, action and commitment.

Our programs reached deeper into communities, our partnerships with government systems grew stronger and our evidence base became richer — showing that when learning is joyful and inclusive, change is inevitable.

We have seen teachers rediscover their love for reading, parents becoming active partners in their children’s education, and girls turning their dreams into action.

These everyday acts of courage and commitment remind us that systemic change begins with human connection.

As we step into the next chapter of our story — guided by 25 years of Room to Read’s global legacy — we remain committed to ensuring that every child in India has access to quality learning, and every adolescent has the freedom to imagine its future.

**Poornima Garg**  
*Country Director,  
Room to Read India*



# Our influence

In 2024, Room to Read India reached thousands of classrooms, millions of readers and communities united by one belief — that literacy and gender equality are powerful levers of change.

Our collective efforts translated into tangible progress: children reading faster and with greater comprehension, adolescents building confidence and leadership, and educators transforming classrooms into vibrant spaces for learning.

## Literacy Portfolio:

**2,04,66,633**

Children benefited  
(till 2024)



**69,06,497**

Children benefited in 2024  
(active)

**12,058**

Educators trained and coached on  
effective literacy practices in 2024



**1,39,933**

Schools benefited from literacy  
programming in 2024

**73,24,437**

Total books distributed  
(till 2024)



**18,95,562**

Books checked out from Room to  
Read libraries cumulatively

**2,465**

Government officials trained in  
literacy-related topics in 2024



**3**

Authors and illustrators trained  
in children's literature in 2024

**251**

Total original titles  
published (till 2024)



**841**

Total Adapted titles published  
(till 2024)

## Gender Equality Portfolio:

**16,270**

Adolescents benefited in 2024



**3,96,050**

Adolescents benefited (till 2024)

**2,562**

Adolescents graduated secondary school in 2024



**8,832**

Adolescents have graduated secondary school (till 2024)

**77%**

Of surveyed previous-year graduates enrolled in tertiary education and/or employed



**98%**

Of adolescents advanced to the next grade in 2024



*Every number represents a story — a child discovering its first book, an adolescent standing taller, a teacher feeling pride in its students' progress. Together, we have witnessed it all.*



# Our theory of change



**1.**

**Benefiting more children, more quickly**

By 2027, reach 50% of primary grade children in operational states.



**2.**

**Scaling gender equality programming**

Expand reach to 700,000+ girls in grades 6-12, through a strategic blend of Deliver & Accelerate models tailored to thematic & geographic priorities.



**3.**

**Emphasizing dignity in our work**

Inclusive of dignity and gender responsive strands in program design and associated learning materials.





# 4.

## **Structuring learning and innovation**

Capture and share learning from systemic engagements through tailored knowledge products and foster cross-team innovation via Learning Circles to drive evidence-informed practices and continuous improvement.

# 6.

## **Tailoring Fundraising & Brand Building Approaches**

Collaborate with the Development team to develop new pitches informed by insight from our Accelerate work and to drive innovative approaches for upcoming pilot initiatives.



# 5.

## **Acting as a Workforce Multiplier**

Strengthen team capabilities through evolving roles, structured learning and coaching, while promoting adaptability and a culture of continuous, peer-driven learning to stay responsive to shifting priorities and emerging needs.

# 7.

## **Evolving Metrics & Measurements**

Our commitment to research and evidence helps us narrow our priorities and investment decision. Focus on data-driven decision making.



# Our learning agenda

*At Room to Read India, we view learning as a continuous journey — not only for children, but for ourselves as an organization.*

*Every study, every insight, every classroom observation strengthens the way we serve India's education ecosystem.*



With over two decades of implementation experience across diverse contexts in India, we understand what it takes to deliver and scale quality outcomes for children. In the coming years, we are strengthening our organization-wide learning agenda with greater structure and intentionality — both to deepen our own practice and to contribute meaningfully to sector-wide knowledge.

Our learning agenda serves as a roadmap to define the questions we ask, the innovations we test and how we build and articulate our point of view in our core areas of expertise. Grounded in evidence from direct implementation and partnerships, we aim to keep our programming strong while continually pushing the boundaries of what is possible in education.

## Key learning questions

- What are the most effective pathways to scale our literacy, life skills and gender equality programming through system, program and thematic partnerships?
- How do different scale-up pathways compare in terms of cost-effectiveness?
- What strengthens the supply, quality and diversity of children's and adolescents' literature that supports literacy and life skills?
- How do libraries shape primary learner outcomes such as reading habits, literacy, life skills, lifelong learning and dignity?
- How does our life skills programming contribute to improved well-being and self-worth?



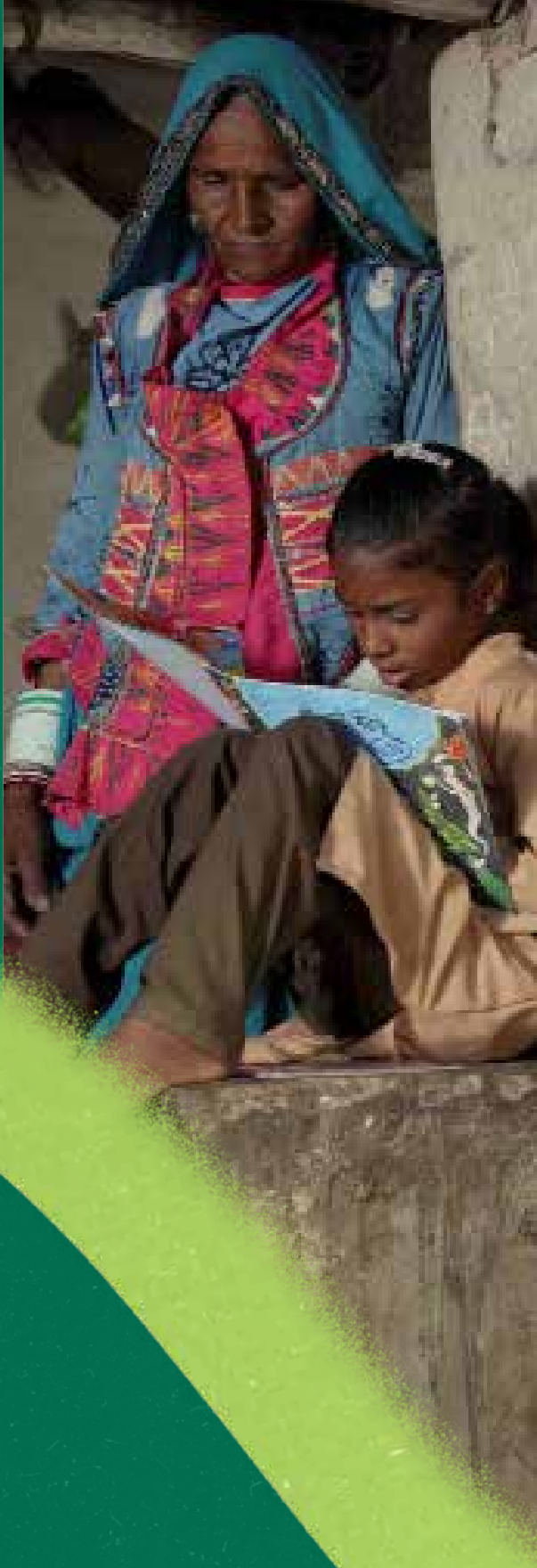
## Benefitting more children, more quickly

Scaling-up Early Reading Intervention (SERI) project is a decade-long initiative (2015–2025) that strengthened government systems to improve foundational literacy across six states, reaching over 3.5 million children. Through co-created materials, teacher training, supportive supervision and policy engagement, SERI embedded evidence-based reading practices and informed national reforms such as NIPUN Bharat. An external Learning Study (156 interviews) found that the phased “I Do–We Do–You Do” approach enabled states to independently lead reforms, driven by strong collaboration and trust. Sustainability was most robust where reforms were anchored in policy, budgets and governance structures, especially in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh. SERI demonstrates a scalable model for durable literacy reform supported by five thematic Learning Briefs capturing key field insights.

## Insights from Prevail project

As part of the Strengthening Foundational Literacy Project in two districts of Jharkhand, two learning studies captured insights from the first year of implementation. The first examined the design and delivery of instructional materials, highlighting the value of early government collaboration, alignment with NIPUN and structured pedagogy in supporting teachers, along with the need for strong planning and cluster-level mechanisms for effective distribution. The second explored capacity-building for educators and officials, where a cascade model enabled scale and participants valued the comprehensive literacy approach and scaffolded techniques. Pre–post assessments demonstrated the role of real-time data in strengthening training design and delivery. Together, the studies offer guidance for deeper system alignment, stronger middle-cadre support, and better translation of training and materials into classroom practice.





## Learning through partnerships

Our collaboration with the Jacobs Foundation and Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) Africa aims to test scalable teacher coaching models across government systems, integrating Room to Read's foundational literacy expertise with TaRL's data-driven approach.

Each study, pilot, and innovation helps us refine our programs, influence education policy, and strengthen India's capacity to deliver joyful, evidence-based learning to every child.

# Our reach

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## Literacy

### Technical strengthening

We advanced system-level literacy reform through national dialogue, targeted state pilots and educator capacity-building. A national consultation on *The Science of Reading* convened 16 literacy experts and school leaders to foster peer learning and shared strategies. State collaborations deepened on-ground efficacy: a review of the **Balvatika pilot in Uttar Pradesh** informed Year 2 design improvements; support to **Rajasthan's Multilingual Education pilot** strengthened material quality and government engagement; and in **Mission Ankur districts**, data-driven reviews led to revised KPIs, new reading fluency resources and sharper strategies for learning outcomes. Additionally, we built capacity of **approx. 100 MCD teachers** on effective library management, contributing to stronger implementation at scale.

### EdTech for scale

Digital access to reading expanded significantly through Literacy Cloud. In 2024, the platform reached **120,418 users**, a **45% year-on-year increase** driven by state partnerships and social media.

engagement, wide distribution of awareness materials and stakeholder collaboration. A four-week summer campaign, '**Ghar Pe Shiksha**', run in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, promoted parental involvement and led to a **200% increase in direct clicks**, now set to scale across all Room to Read states in 2025. State-level mandates accelerated usage: **Rajasthan** adoption grew from 342 to **7,000 users**, **Delhi** from 400 to **7,576 users** and Telangana reached 13,707 users following departmental directives. The **GEP Life Skills course** was integrated on DIKSHA in **Chhattisgarh**, with **1,764 teachers** completing it. Additionally, a **Library Management Course** was contextualised and translated into Kannada and has been submitted to the Karnataka government for DIKSHA upload, expected to serve **5,300 teachers** across two districts.

### Quality Reading Material

We continued strengthening the children's literature ecosystem through high-quality and age-appropriate content. *Har Ghar Hargila* received **3rd prize** in the Children's Book category by the Federation of Indian Publishers. *The Rebel Girls' She Creates Change* anthology was adapted into **three Indian languages** and uploaded to Literacy Cloud to broaden access. Our work with government school teachers on the co-creation of children's literature was presented at the IBBY Congress 2024, highlighting the importance of local-language literature in the educational ecosystem.



## Gender Equality

In 2024, we strengthened our leadership in gender-transformative education through thoughtful content innovation, strategic program expansion, and community-led advocacy. This year marked a meaningful shift in how adolescents, educators, and families engage with life skills, gender equality, and social justice across diverse learning environments.

Together, these efforts broadened awareness, opened new pathways for growth and empowered adolescents, especially girls, to step forward as confident, capable changemakers within their communities.



## Curriculum and content development:

In 2024, we deepened our commitment to creating inclusive, contextualised learning experiences that reflect the realities of young people across India. Our Life Skills Curriculum for Grades 6–12 was refreshed and reimaged to align with global frameworks, gender-transformative education principles, and India's national priorities—ensuring it remains adaptable, relevant and resonant across diverse cultural contexts.

To amplify adolescents' voices, we developed three new **GupShup periodicals** — reflective reading materials

created with and for young people — focusing on *LGBTIQ+ inclusion and understanding diversity, climate change and emotional well-being*. These periodicals ensured that adolescents' perspectives shaped both the narratives and the learning approaches.

We also released a renewed edition of **Satrangi Comics**, our gender-responsive comic series for adolescents, redesigned to meet evolving system needs and to inspire dialogue on equality and empowerment.

Additionally, six **She Creates Change** film-based learning modules were developed to support adolescent engagement, strengthening girls' leadership, creativity and sense of agency through storytelling and reflection.

## Scale-up and technical assistance:

We expanded our technical footprint across states, strengthening both school systems and government partnerships:

- In Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the program reached 200+ educators and 5,000 girls through targeted scale-ups.
- Uttarakhand expanded through SCERT and Samagra Shiksha, reaching 1,870 schools, showcasing successful government integration.
- In Telangana, tribal refresher training and leadership development enriched equity-focused implementation.
- The life skills course was uploaded on DIKSHA, improving access for 5,000 teachers statewide and reinforcing digital learning ecosystems.

These expansions highlight the program's capacity for scalable and sustainable influence.



## Gender mainstreaming within the literacy portfolio:

Our approach transcends campaigns, embedding gender-responsive practices into foundational educational systems. In 2024, the program advanced gender mainstreaming within the Literacy Portfolio by:

- Conducting a Gender Landscaping Study in six Project SERI states, with Uttarakhand successfully adopting the recommendations.
- Applying a gender lens to over 3,000 pages of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM), resulting in a comprehensive Reference Guidebook for gender-equal classroom use.
- Developing a Gender Responsive Education (GRE) Training Suite, delivering more than 95 hours of capacity building for educators.
- Launching a holistic GRE Kit and advocating for gender mainstreaming via state-level presentations with government and donor partners, driving systemic policy adoption.

# Our partners in progress

*Education is a shared responsibility — and every achievement we celebrate in 2024 was made possible through strong partnerships built on trust, innovation and purpose.*

*Across India, Room to Read worked alongside government departments, corporate and philanthropic partners, and community stakeholders to bring foundational learning and gender equality to scale.*



## List of donors from 2024:

- Ardian Fondation
- Atlassian India LLP
- Archsone Properties (India) Private Limited
- Bajaj Finance Limited
- BNP Paribas
- BAE Systems India (Services) Private Limited
- Central Square Foundation
- Greater Pacific Capital India Private Limited
- ExxonMobil Services & Technology Private Limited
- Foundever CRM India Private Limited
- EdCIL India Limited
- Epsilon Foundation
- FactSet Systems India Private Limited
- Hamlet Constructions (India) Private Limited
- Prevail Fund
- The Boeing Company
- JSW Foundation
- Oracle India
- Bloomberg
- Indira Foundation
- Morgan Stanley India
- OakNorth Global Private Limited
- PI Foundation Trust
- Restaurant Brands Asia Limited
- RG Manudhane Foundation for Excellence
- Ramkrishna Jaidayal Dalmia Seva Nyas
- Roshan Lal Public Charitable Trust
- Tata BlueScope Steel Private Limited
- Warburg Pincus India Private Limited
- Wells Fargo International Solutions Private Limited
- USAID India
- Mastek Foundation
- IMC India Securities Private Limited
- Ernst & Young Foundation



# Celebrating our community

## # IndiaGetsReading: Make Room for Early Learning

The sixth edition of *India Gets Reading* in 2024 united millions under one mission — to make early learning every child's right. The campaign, themed “**Make Room for Early Learning**”, reached over **4.4 million participants** and culminated with a *National Seminar* at New Delhi.

The highlight was a record-breaking **Read-a-thon**, where **3.4 million children** across 10 states read simultaneously for the same time span, an achievement now etched in the *India Book of Records* and *Asia Book of Records*.



## #HarKadamBetiKeSang Adolescents as changemakers

In its fifth year, our flagship gender equality campaign empowered **64,000 adolescent girls** to reflect on their role as changemakers. Through dialogues, workshops and storytelling sessions, girls built life skills and self-confidence, while parents, teachers and community members joined as allies. The campaign concluded with a national seminar at New Delhi.



# You Create Change: International Women's Day 2024

Inspired by *She Creates Change*, this 10-day digital campaign celebrated women leading transformation in their communities. Through stories, art and reflection, it reached more than **100,000 participants online**.

## Children's Literature Awards

October 2024 saw the second edition of the *Room to Read Children's Literature Awards*, recognizing authors, illustrators and publishers for enriching India's storytelling landscape.

Room to Read titles - *Har Ghar Hargila* and *A Hop, Skip, and Jump* were longlisted for different categories of the Binod Kanoria awards and *Har Ghar Hargila* also won third place at the **Federation of Indian Publishers' Awards for Excellence**.



# Financials

**Room to Read India Trust**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025**  
*(All amounts in ₹, unless otherwise stated) \**

	Schedule	As at 31 March 2025	As at 31 March 2024
<b>Sources of funds</b>			
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted fund	1	33,67,87,340	24,43,38,836
Unrestricted fund	2	8,88,03,836	9,70,66,801
		<b>42,55,91,176</b>	<b>34,14,05,637</b>
<b>Liabilities and provisions</b>			
Current liabilities	3	2,39,84,179	3,71,27,327
Provisions	4	2,68,34,738	2,47,22,582
		<b>5,08,18,917</b>	<b>6,18,49,909</b>
		<b>47,64,10,093</b>	<b>40,32,55,546</b>
<b>Applications of funds</b>			
Fixed Assets	5	1,49,69,540	1,83,61,688
		<b>1,49,69,540</b>	<b>1,83,61,688</b>
<b>Current assets, loans and advances</b>			
Cash and bank balances	6	38,08,14,512	30,80,04,946
Loans and advances	7	3,06,86,455	2,38,94,030
Other current assets	8	4,99,39,586	5,29,94,882
		<b>46,14,40,553</b>	<b>38,48,93,858</b>
		<b>47,64,10,093</b>	<b>40,32,55,546</b>

**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 **Bansal & Co LLP**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm's Registration No.: 01113N/N500079

*Amit Kumar Singh*  
**Amit Kumar Singh**  
 Partner  
 Membership No.: 532180



Place : New Delhi  
 Date : 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

For and on behalf of  
**Room to Read India Trust**

*Poonima Garg*  
**Poonima Garg**  
 Country Director

*Apala Majumdar*  
**Apala Majumdar**  
 Trustee

Place : New Delhi  
 Date : 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

Place : New Delhi  
 Date : 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

**Room to Read India Trust****Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025***(All amounts in ₹, unless otherwise stated)*

	Schedule	Year ended 31 March 2025	Year ended 31 March 2024
<b>Income</b>			
Grants and donation	9	64,16,04,420	83,79,85,843
Other Income	9-A	1,68,18,274	45,46,774
		<b>65,84,22,694</b>	<b>84,25,32,617</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Program expenses	10	47,91,25,736	58,20,53,636
Personnel expenses	11	13,82,01,775	14,78,65,745
Depreciation	5	66,25,318	71,79,333
General and administrative expenses	12	4,93,58,148	5,15,43,671
		<b>67,33,10,977</b>	<b>78,86,42,385</b>
<b>(Deficit) /Surplus for the year after depreciation</b>		(1,48,88,283)	5,38,90,232
Add:- Depreciation for the year transferred to capital assets fund		66,25,318	71,79,333
<b>(Deficit) /Surplus for the year before depreciation</b>		<b>(82,62,965)</b>	<b>6,10,69,565</b>
Add:- Amount transferred from Project Fund		-	-
<b>(Deficit) /Surplus for the year transferred to General Fund</b>		<b>(82,62,965)</b>	<b>6,10,69,565</b>

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 **Bansal & Co LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm's Registration No.: 01113N/N500079

*Amit Kumar Singh*

**Amit Kumar Singh**  
Partner

Membership No.: 532180



Place : New Delhi

Date : 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

For and on behalf of  
**Room to Read India Trust**

*Poornima Garg* *Apala Majumdar*  
**Poornima Garg** **Apala Majumdar**  
Country Director Trustee

Place : New Delhi

Date : 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

Place : New Delhi

Date : 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025



  
Room  
to  
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