



Kishalay

READ India Newsletter

Editor's Note

We are pleased to share the latest edition of our newsletter with all the recent happenings at READ India.

READ India works with rural communities and enables them to learn and earn under the concept of Library to Livelihood. They visit the GYANKOSH (READ India Knowledge Centre) interact with the team and the peer group, which helps them towards their holistic development.

This newsletter will give you the insight of the latest events and seminars organised across India.

Hope you enjoy reading it and feel free to share your feedback to:
poojadureja@read-india.in
Happy Reading!

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Innovations to achieve SDGs, Plaksha University



Panel Discussion focused on the following:

- How the NGOs are working for community development
- Scope for engineering students to get involved and learn
- Challenges encountered in the work
- Sharing of students' perceptions and insights from experts



A networking meet of NGOs working in Haryana and Punjab was organised by Plaksha University, Mohali, Punjab.

The purpose was to share global knowledge for local development by designing innovative projects addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On 8th November 2022, Dr. Geeta Malhotra (Country Director, READ India) was invited for the panel discussion on Projects in Community Service – Scope for Engineering Students.

Dr. William Oakes, Director EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) from Purdue University, US also shared his thoughts.

The other organisations present were Pehchaan Ek Safar, Sanjhi Sikhiya, Institute of Blind, who shared about their achievements and challenges. The purpose of panel discussion focused on how the graduate and postgraduate science students can bring innovation in execution of the programmes by the not-for-profit sector.



Elegance in every weave.

We cordially invite you to
THE GRAND HANDLOOM FAIR
Organised by **DASTKAR**,
the exhibition showcases Sarees,
Suits, Dupattas, Stoles and
Home Furnishing.

Dates:
10th-21st November 2022

Time:
11AM - 7.30PM

Venue:
Nature Bazaar, Andheria Modh,
Anuvrat Marg, New Delhi - 110074.

Visit us at Stall - 61



We look forward to your presence.



Dastkar Exhibition, New Delhi

In 2016, READ India explored the option of working on the concept of Farm to Finish and initiated the work with the guidance of experts like Sonal Baid, who travelled to the remote READ Knowledge Centres and interacted with the rural women. She encouraged the women and READ India team to initiate the process.

Organic cotton was procured from the farmers and also from Wardha, looms were set up with the guidance of experts and the initiative was turned into action. It took time to motivate, encourage and learn the weaving and natural dyeing skills. Selected women were sponsored for training at Weaving Service Centre, Jaipur, Government of Rajasthan. The fabulous Khadi products were on display at Nature Bazaar, New Delhi, an exhibition organised by Dastkar from 10th to 21st Nov. 2022.



Various organic products were displayed at Dastkar Exhibition like Sarees, Shawls, Shirts, Kurtas for both men and women made from



organic cloth, Rugs, Yoga Mats, door mats etc. All these products were woven by marginalized rural women. This proves the fact that if given opportunities, these women can showcase their untapped talent! Special thanks to the team especially women from the READ Knowledge Centre in Geejgarh having a unit of Geejgarh Mahila Hasta Kargha Samuh, who have contributed for making this exhibition successful.

READ India has made rapid strides in Khadi for Nation and Khadi for Fashion!

Role of Social Entrepreneurship and contributions towards women empowerment

AISECT/Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal and Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi organised a Seminar on Women Empowerment: Creating, Nurturing and Transforming the Society, on 4-5 November 2022 at the University campus. Dr Geeta Malhotra, Country Director, READ India, delivered the keynote address on Role of Social Entrepreneurship and its contributions towards women empowerment. Dr Malhotra emphasised on the integration of social and economic empowerment as these two aspects are integral to women empowerment.

Other presenters were from AISECT, Jamia Milia, IP University, apart from the faculty and students of the host university.



Children's Day Celebrations at Schools



On 14th November 2022, Springwood School celebrated Children's Day at Springwood Preschools in NCR and Uttar Pradesh. The day focused on children and their engagement in extra-curricular activities with the teachers. The day commemorated with immense joy and enthusiasm where children were welcomed by the teachers by giving them chocolates as a token of love. The celebrations began with the Morning Prayer, followed by variety of fun filled activities and games planned by the teachers for their children. An art and craft activity was done with the children where the kids made rose flowers.

The tiny tots of preschools brought their favourite lunch. The teachers organised Children's Day special activities for the students by involving them into various games like find the ball, musical chair, dance competition etc.

Children's Day was celebrated at Z.P School Ladgaon, quiz and drawing competitions were held and 20 students actively participated.



Inauguration of Garima Grih, New Delhi

READ India in partnership with PVR Nest contributed immensely by setting up various skill development and behavioural change communication programmes, empowering the women of the marginalized communities at Garima Grih, a public welfare initiative of PVR NEST, the CSR arm of India's leading film exhibition company, PVR Limited in association with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Garima Grih is a multi-utility safe community centre that empowers women through digital literacy and employment generation programmes. There is a 'Jan Suvidha Kendra (Common Service Centre), 'Mahila Sashaktikaran Kendra (Women Empowerment Centre). PVR Nest has renovated the facilities in association with MCD. READ India partnered with PVR Nest, to make women learn stitching and sewing and digital literacy skills.



Skills to Succeed Review Meeting

Skills to Succeed Review Meeting was organized on 17th & 18th November 2022. Trainers from across READ India Centres participated in the meeting.

Following topics were discussed:

- How to manage data and its authenticity
- Training updates, status of the two quarters and planning for the next two quarters
- Exposure visits to Dastkar Exhibition to know gauge customer response on products and on the quality products displayed at the exhibition
- Trainers shared their experience regarding the Product Finishing, Pricing Packaging and Styles
- A brief overview on importance of Branding and role of READ India in social media were discussed



Annual Day Celebrations and Global Citizen Forum Meet, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Akbar along with the team Ms. Farha & Mrs. Eesha Chauhan attended a 2-Day programme 'Annual Day Celebrations and GCF Meet' held at Modipur, Rampur on 19th & 20th November 2022. The following dignitaries were present: Dr. B K Modi (Founder of Modipur Rampur), Ms. Kristin Engvig (CEO of WIN Conference), Ms. Juliana (WIN Conference), David Garcia (CEO of Wellness Techgroup), Mr. Don (GCF Member) and Ms. Shivani Wadhwa (GCF Member).

Objectives of the Meeting were:

- To interact with the members of the GCF (Global Citizen Forum) and Modi Academy
- To share about READ India's work in Rampur through its READ Knowledge Centres with the GCF, WIN organization, youths and the community of Rampur

Ms. Farha, a young leader from the Rampur Community, shared her eventful journey at the meet. She narrated how with the support of READ India, women can indeed come forward and do extraordinary work. How she broke barriers and overcame challenges despite the fact that she comes from a conservative Muslim family. Today, she's supporting her family and fulfilling her dreams. Little wonder, she's perceived as a role model within the community. Members present heard her story with rapt attention.

