

Kishalay

READ India Newsletter

READ India Summit 2024 - The Transformative Role of Libraries



READ India Summit 2024 was held on 16th March 2024 in Gurugram. The Annual READ India event witnessed overwhelming participation by the stakeholders, renowned experts from the field, the trustees and the talented team of READ India.

The transformative role of libraries is the need well defined by the experts and librarians present on the occasion. People's commitment, partnerships, collaborations and CSR support helped READ India to demonstrate its model in rural India by reaching to 'one woman, one family, one village' with books and other resources at their doorsteps and building their capacity to manage and own the libraries.



The Chief Guest of the day, Dr. R.K. Sharma, United Nation Information Centre, India & Bhutan, and the Founding trustees of READ India including Mr. Jay Vikram Bakshi, Ms. Kalpana Dasgupta, and Maj. Gen. Surat Sandhu reaffirmed the critical roles that libraries play in building sustainable communities.

Dr. Geeta Malhotra, Country Director - READ India shared how libraries are often the first 'safe space' that community women and girls have access to. She elaborated on how later these libraries support community progress while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Editor's Note

We are pleased to share with you the latest proceedings of READ India in our Newsletter KISHALAY. We captured the events and happenings at READ India Centers. Hope you enjoy reading it. Feel free to share your thoughts to: anamica@read-india.org

Happy Reading!



This day also exhibited how we are 'stronger when together' and the power of partnerships and collaborations. We are all united by a common vision of creating community progress and will continue envisioning the future together.

On the day, we were joined by our community partners, who are an example of what human capacity can achieve when given a voice. These included women and men from tribal regions of India who shared their inspiring stories of transformation.

The audience also witnessed the release of the book, SAFAR – Sakshamta Se Safalta Tak, entailing the transformative stories of READ stakeholders. Followed by WEE exhibition of handmade products from around the country made by the stakeholders themselves.

Now, en route to our 18th year.



Libraries for Building Resilient Communities



Libraries play an important role for rural communities having access to books in their own villages managed by the local stakeholders even in the era of technology. Access to needed books add great value in continuing their higher education. At the same time, it is important to know the meaningful use of technology. Rural libraries are the platform for building resilient communities keeping the values and local culture intact. READ India is harnessing the potential of rural people, enabling them to use the power of positivity and passion for progression in their lives.

The Coforge Public Library – Of Books and Beyond



Spread over 12,500 sq. ft. area, the well-stocked public library houses more than 10,000 books, covering a wide range of subjects – Professional Reading, Reference & General Books, Children Books and magazines & newspapers. Access to the library is free for all who walk in. And multiple benefits for people who take up membership, which, too, is free.

Based on the concept 'Books and Beyond', the library is aesthetically designed with judicious use of space and stunning interiors, to make every user feel inspired.

At the library, students, researchers, industry experts, professionals from diverse fields come together under one roof to access knowledge resources, books, etc. Besides, facilitating opportunities for cross-learning through focused programmes, seminars and workshops, networking and creating learning space for upgrading their skills for self-growth and development.

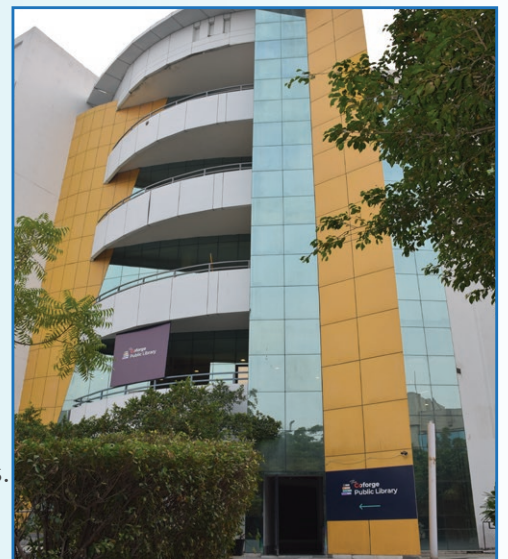
Furthermore, The Coforge Public Library has dedicated Children Play and Reading Area. Wherein, specially



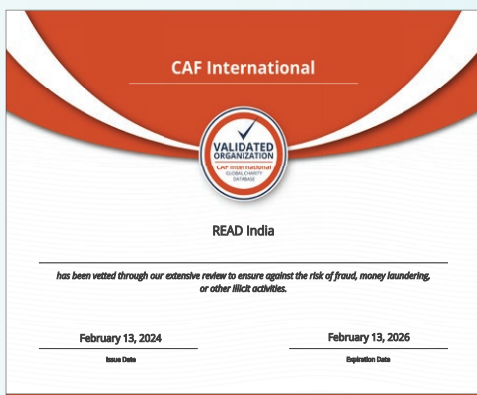
trained team members help children play indoor games and listen to captivating stories.

In short, The Coforge Public Library is a hub of intellectual activities, in pursuit of knowledge and excellence, in the heart of a busy metropolis.

The Coforge Public Library, B-25/1-4, First Floor, B- Block, Sector – 59, NOIDA.



CAF International Validation for READ India



READ India is proud to receive CAF Validation, a testimony to READ India's impeccable credentials and dedicated service to the communities.

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is a leading international not-for-profit organization set up to provide strategic and management support to corporates, individuals and non-governmental organizations with an aim to promote and support strategic giving for a more equitable and sustainable society.

CAF International conducts vigorous and fair authentication process to help establish faith among NGOs and enables greater engagement with corporations.

Impact driven programmes at Baragaon and Fatehpur

The Baragaon Centre of READ India has successfully completed six years of its operations. Beginning with the project from Callisons, the centre has achieved significant milestones. In June 2023, the project was extended to include Fatehpur, thus reflecting READ India's commitment and dedication.



The various initiatives on community development and education had positive impact on the lives of the community people in Baragaon and Fatehpur, as evidenced by the following:

Educational Advancement: The initiative facilitated educational sessions covering a wide array of subjects, leading to enhanced academic knowledge and improved communication skills among beneficiaries of all ages.

Digital Literacy: Through ICT courses, youth gained proficiency in essential computer skills, empowering them to leverage technology for personal and educational purposes, thus contributing to their overall development.

Skill Development: Facilitated the acquisition of valuable skills among youth and women, enabling them to explore livelihood opportunities and fostering a sense of independence and self-sufficiency.

Women's Empowerment: Women were empowered through various programs aimed at enhancing their literacy, health awareness, and financial literacy, thereby contributing to their overall socio-economic empowerment.



Women Livelihood Skilling – Kaushalta Se Safalta

READ India is successfully conducting the Women Livelihood Skilling programme at its Baran Centre, including its satellite centres, Kelwara and Bhanwargarh, in Rajasthan. The programme encompasses various skill development activities including celebrations of important events.



Origami activity

Boys and girls from the community participate in this activity. The children are taught to make flowers, stars, birds, and different animals. The activity also includes story telling sessions with the origami made during the activity by the children.

This activity is conducted every week at the library, to teach something new to the children, every time.

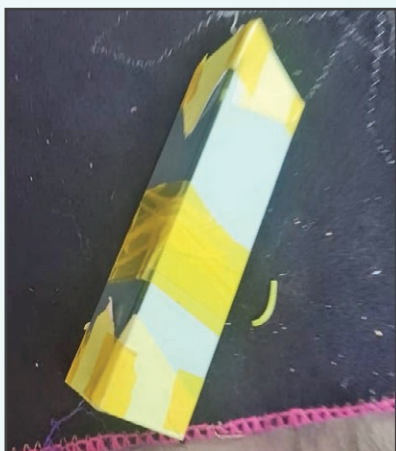
Handicraft (products from waste)

To stop use of plastic, villagers are taught to make handicraft products from waste. Waste paper and old cardboard, white soil (Khari) and urad dal are used. Products like chapati box, dhalia (basket), flowerpot etc. are being made by the beneficiaries. No chemicals are used. 30 years ago, these pots were used to store food and items, which are called Mataila in the local language. Now women in the village are making these products and using them instead of plastic made products.



Science Activity

A science activity was conducted among 15 women and young girls at READ India Bhanwargarh Centre. They were taught to make kaleidoscope models to explain the principle of reflection of light through kaleidoscope. They learnt to make kaleidoscopes from glass strips, rubber bands, colored paper, etc.



Christmas Day celebration

READ India Kelwara Centre celebrated Christmas with utmost joy. The Christmas tree was decorated with lights, flowers, chocolates, gifts, and various decorative items. Young girls, women, and children from the community participated in the celebration. 'Santa Claus' distributed sweets and gifts to everyone.



Young girls, women, and children from the community participated in the celebration. 'Santa Claus' distributed sweets and gifts to everyone.

Republic Day celebration

The community stakeholders present during the celebration were addressed by the Centre Coordinator on the importance of the day. Young girls and women participated in the celebration and performed various cultural programmes. The celebration was concluded with the distribution of notebooks, pens and sweets.

Solar Energy Panel installation at Zilla Parishad Schools, Aurangabad



With the support of Perkins India Pvt. Ltd, the Solar energy panel installation at Zilla Parishad schools in Satana and Jadgaon village were handed over by Mr. Avinash Rawte and Mr. Sagar Nikam, Manager- Technical services from Perkins India. This collaborative effort aims to harness renewable energy, reduce electricity costs, and align with environmental sustainability goals. This initiative not only empowers the community through a reliable power source but also provides educational opportunities, fostering resilience.

Inauguration of Community Library for Rural Education and Integrated Development Centre, Ladsawangi



With support of Perkins India Pvt. Ltd, READ India established a Community Library for Rural Education & Integrated Development Centre at Ladsawangi village in Aurangabad. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr. Chandrasekaran Karimkulam, Mr. Rajendra Jadhav, Mr. Avinash Rawte, and Mr. Himanshu Jindal from Perkins India Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Geeta Malhotra, Country Director, READ India, along with the stakeholders. The READ India Centre at Ladsawangi has a well-stocked Library. The centre also provides Early Childhood Development, Computer Training, Sewing & Stitching and Beauty & Wellbeing.



Launch of SAFAR - Impact Stories from across READ India Centres

सफर
(The Journey)

सक्षमता से सफलता तक
(From skilling to success)



True stories of grit and determination
from rural India.

Brought to you by:



India is the second most populous country in the world and the gap in its rural and urban distribution is vast, making it difficult for people coming from different classes to adjust with each other. While their contribution in scripting India's growth story is immense, the rural women continues to be deprived of their rights. Yet, there is another side of the story that fills us with optimism and inspiration. A series of success stories of women crossing all societal barriers which have empowered many to lead a life full of love and respect.

There are many stories of successful rural women who have become agents of change both for their families and villages, to bring about significant social and economic transformations in their communities.

Empowering and investing in rural women is also prerequisite to fulfilling the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals that aims to end poverty and hunger, protect the environment, improve health parameters and empower all women.

READ India is delighted to bring to you inspiring stories of rural women that are hard to find in mainstream media.

Dr. Geeta Malhotra
Country Director, READ India