

Building Resilient Communities

Table of Contents

04 | Note from the Trustee Note from the CEO Empowering Rural Communities for Sustainable Growth Empowering Women through Livelihood Skilling Empowering Communities through Education, Livelihood and Health 10 12 Learning for Holistic Development Transforming Lives through Education, Skills and Community Empowerment 14 16 Sarvajanik Library: Empowering Minds, Enriching Lives 18 READ Summit 2024 Financial Statement



From the Desk of the Founder-Trustee



Touching Lives, Driving Sustainable Growth

As the Founder-Trustee of READ India, I feel immense pride and gratitude as I reflect on the remarkable progress we have made together in 2023-24. This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration, with our dedicated field teams, generous donors and supportive partners working in unison to create transformative change across the communities we serve.

READ India's initiatives have not only empowered individuals but also set new benchmarks in education, skill development and sustainable livelihoods. The impact of our work is reflected in the countless stories of hope and transformation emerging from the ground, showcasing the strength and potential of the people we are privileged to support. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to

Dr. Geeta Malhotra and the entire READ India team for their tireless efforts, innovative strategies and steadfast commitment to our shared mission. Their hard work has ensured that our vision is brought to life, creating a ripple effect of positive change that inspires us all.

As we move forward, I am confident that READ India will continue to build on this momentum, touching more lives and driving sustainable growth in underserved regions. Together, we can achieve even greater heights.

Jay Vikram Bakshi

Reflections from the CEO



Building Resilient Communities: Engaging and Empowering for Holistic Development

At READ India, we are dedicated to empowering underserved communities by fostering resilience through education, women's empowerment, health, hygiene and sustainable development. These pillars help us address the complex social, economic and environmental challenges, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Education is the cornerstone of transformation. It breaks the chains of poverty and unlocks untapped potential. Our Libraries and Gyan Kendras in underserved areas offer books that spark curiosity and growth, while vocational training equips individuals with skills for economic independence. Adult education initiatives enhance literacy and numeracy, helping learners thrive in an everevolving world.

Women are the backbone of any resilient community. READ India strengthens this core by focusing on their transformation, which in turn drives community-wide change. Our programs provide entrepreneurship training, financial literacy and leadership development, empowering women to create sustainable livelihoods and step into roles of influence. Safe spaces and open dialogue foster solidarity and gender equality, weaving a stronger social fabric and contributing to overall community progress.

Health and hygiene are fundamental to resilience. Through healthcare awareness camps, hygiene education and nutritional support, we bridge gaps in access, especially in remote areas. Workshops on sanitation and healthy practices establish lifelong habits that protect well-being and elevate quality of life.

Community development fosters unity and sustainable growth. Our initiatives include infrastructure improvements like libraries, digital labs and clean water systems, alongside capacity-building programs that empower local leaders to implement impactful projects. By preserving cultural heritage, we nurture pride and identity, creating cohesive communities committed to progress.

At READ India, we take a holistic approach, ensuring every initiative contributes to building a self-reliant society. We envision communities where individuals reach their fullest potential, live dignified lives and thrive despite challenges. Together, we are sowing the seeds of transformative progress, one resilient community at a time.

Dr. Geeta Malhotra

Empowering Women through Livelihood Skilling

Over the past year, READ India has focused on addressing key socio-economic challenges and women empowerment through livelihood skilling across marginalised communities in India.

Key 2023-24 Initiatives

Skills to Succeed Program:

Accenture India's CSR initiative trained 7,500+ women this year, equipping them with marketrelevant skills to boost employability and entrepreneurship.

Gender Equality and Empowerment:

Empowering women through leadership development, economic independence and targeted skill-building initiatives.

Health and Well-being:

Community Health Workers training and awareness drives improved rural healthcare access.

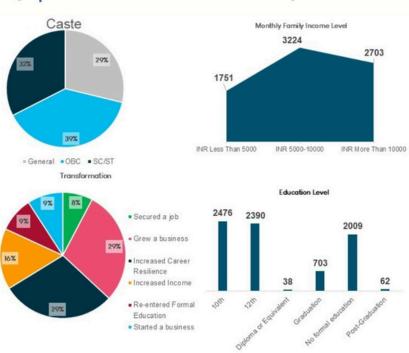
Quality Education:

Digital programs for thousands of young girls bridged digital and employability skill gaps.



Impacts & Outcomes (April 2023- March 2024)

Connected	Improved	Transformed	Transformation percentage	
7678	7678	6365	82	
	Achieved			
Total number of	7678			
Number of wor	e 763			
Number of wo	375			
Number of won	el 446			
Number of	1425			
Number of v	1428			
Number of wor	436			
Numb	1492			



The program was implemented in 11 states, 26 districts and 162 villages across India; through READ India Centres supported by Accenture. 7678 Number of Women Skilled 82% 6365

Trainings on Micro-Enterprise Development in Rural Communities covering a range of skills, including



Stories of Change

Anita:

A homemaker-turned-administrator who now supports her children's education through her newfound income.

Shivani:

An 18-year-old nursery teacher whose training at a READ Centre opened new doors of opportunity.

Meena Devi:

From homemaker to entrepreneur, she now manages a successful food products business.



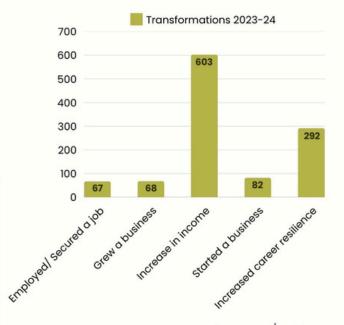


Empowering Rural Communities for Sustainable Growth

In 2023–24, READ India, in partnership with Culver Max, advanced its Women Livelihood Skilling project, Kaushalta Se Safalta. Focused on marginalised women and girls in Baran, Rajasthan and Nuh, Haryana, it helped over 1,100 stakeholders in 15 villages gain life skills for socio-economic empowerment. Through Community Library & Resource Centres, the program continues to create pathways for self-reliance and lasting change in rural communities.

The READ Model integrates three pillars: **Educational Development** with libraries, digital tools and training; **Economic Development** with skill-building for entrepreneurship and employability; and **Community Development** through health, sustainability and inclusion programs.

Key features include 3,000+ books, digital literacy, women's resources and vocational training.



Key Interventions and Impact

Livelihood Skill Development:

Programs like "Kaushalta se Safalta" empower women aged 18-45 with skills in stitching, beauty & wellness, food processing, teacher's training, community health worker, handicraft and technology.

Outcomes:

40% of women transitioned to income-generating activities.

Over 60% of trained women saw an increase in family income (₹5,000–7,000 per month).

Economic Empowerment through Micro-Enterprises:

READ India helped establish small businesses, such as spice processing, food products (e.g., Amla candy) and hand embroidery.

Outcome:

Market linkages were created to sell products, fostering financial independence.

Health and Well-Being:

Community health workers were trained to improve rural healthcare, focusing on prevention, maternal care, and basic services.



Education and Digital Inclusion:

CLRCs provided IT-enabled learning and promoted digital literacy, alongside programs for early childhood development and teacher training for marginalised women.

Social Inclusion and Gender Equality:

Programs focused on empowering women, enhancing self-confidence, leadership skills and reducing gender disparities in education and employment.









Transformative Stories:



Manisha Kushwaha from Bhanwargarh, Baran, Rajasthan, ran a small grocery shop while struggling with her husband's low income. After enrolling in READ India's Beauty and Wellness

program, she started offering home beauty services alongside her shop. Now successfully managing both, she inspires other women to join READ programs for change.



Savita, a 30-year-old from Sundh village, Mewat, struggled financially with her husband's barber shop earnings. Determined to change her life, she joined READ India's Sewing &

Stitching program. Mastering skills, she opened a boutique and later a cosmetic shop. Today, she runs both businesses successfully, supporting her family



Rajkumari Mehta, a 12th pass widow from Baran, Rajasthan, supports her children through farming and SHG membership. After attending READ India's health worker training, she gained

vital health knowledge and inspired 15 women to join. Now a respected change-maker, Rajkumari thanks READ India for empowering her towards self-reliance.



Sania Khan despite restrictions from her orthodox family, Sania from Ferozepur Namak village in Nuh pursued her passion for teaching by joining READ India's Nursery Teacher Training

program. The training equipped her with essential skills, leading to a teaching role at R.K. International School, earning her family's pride and respect

Challenges and Future Directions

READ India faced challenges such as rapidly changing skill demands and regional stigmas around women's empowerment program. To mitigate these, READ conducts constant research analysis, market analysis, strengthening partnerships and introduced hybrid learning models. Moving forward, READ India aims to expand skilling programs, strengthen data collection and leverage digital platforms for outreach and impact.

READ India's approach has proven that education, skill-building and community-driven initiatives can break the cycle of poverty, foster self-reliance and create resilient, prosperous communities.

Empowering Communities through Education, Livelihood and Health

In 2023-24, READ India's Community Library & Resource Centres (CLRCs) in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh and Pune, Maharashtra, empowered marginalised communities through targeted interventions in education, livelihood, health and digital inclusions with the invaluable support of Avery Dennison (India) Private Limited.

Bridging Educational Gaps

CLRCs enhanced educational outcomes by providing books, digital tools and skill development programs. Over 200 children improved their reading and writing skills, while 150 individuals gained essential IT knowledge. Spoken English programs benefitted 71 participants, boosting communication skills and career readiness.

Women's Empowerment & Livelihood

Vocational training empowered 200+ women in tailoring, beauty and wellness, enabling them to start micro-enterprises and achieve financial independence. Entrepreneurship and financial literacy training further helped many establish sustainable businesses and increase household income.



Health & Hygiene Awareness

READ India conducted 96 health awareness sessions, benefitting 810 community members. These sessions covered menstrual hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention, significantly improving community health and reducing waterborne diseases.

Youth Development & Employability

Career counselling, personality development and life skills training prepared 200 youth for the workforce with soft skills, interview preparation and networking opportunities.

By focusing on education, health and livelihoods, READ India's 2023-24 programs built self-reliant, resilient communities, driving long-term socioeconomic growth.





Impact Stories



Ms. Rajni Bhati from Muradgarhi village struggled financially after marriage. She joined READ India's free tailoring course, trained for three months, and earned her certificate. Today, Rajni runs a home-based sewing business, earning ₹9,000−₹10,000 monthly. She credits READ India and Avery Dennison for empowering her to support her family.



Savita, a Class 10 graduate, joined READ India's Beauty & Wellness course despite financial struggles. After three months of training, she partnered with local parlours and started taking makeup and mehndi orders. Earning ₹5,000−₹6,000 monthly, Savita is now financially independent and grateful to READ India and Avery Dennison for the opportunity.



Tushar Balasaheb Dasgude joined READ India's Kardelwadi Centre as a **Librarian** after completing his B.Com in 2020. Passionate about social work, he enrolled children in school, guided thousands through career counselling and health sessions and mentored the youth. In 2023, **Tushar was selected as a Revenue Assistant**, crediting READ India and Avery Dennison for his success.

Learning for Holistic Development

For over two decades, READ India has transformed marginalised communities through its Community Library & Resource Centres. Since 2007, these centres have built resilience and strengthened social cohesion across 50+ rural villages in Aurangabad MIDC, promoting reading, higher education, digital learning and skill-building programs for sustainable community development, with the support of Perkins India Private Limited.

Key SDGs and Initiatives:

Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3): Educate students in Z.P. Schools and community girls on hygiene, nutrition, disease prevention and adolescent health.

Quality Education (SDG 4): Improve literacy skills, provide books for competitive exams and introduce digital skilling programs

Climate Action(SDG 13): Promote tree planting and water conservation programs with community involvement.

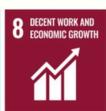
Clean Water And Sanitation (SDG 6): Implement educational programs on water hygiene, install purification plants in schools and ensure equitable access to clean water.

Gender Equality & Reducing Inequalities (SDG 5 & 10): Focus on improving literacy and providing skilling programs for women, enhancing their earning potential and empowering them to start micro-enterprises.

Skilling Intervention under Programme- CLRC Aurangabad



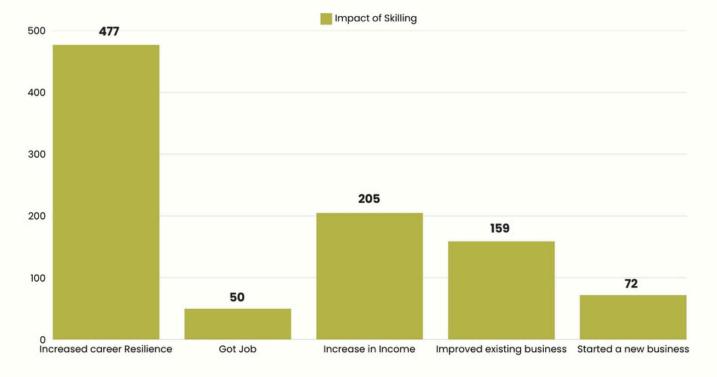












13

Training Outreach (2023-2024)

Components	Stakeholders
Reading & Writing Sessions	321
Spoken English Classes	50
Pre-School	46
ECD	60
Health & Awareness Sessions	1708
Basic & Advanced Sewing	199
Beauty & Wellness	199
Basic & Advanced Computer Skills	202
Nursery Teacher Training	42
CHW Training	42
Total	2869





READ India's Community Library Model

The READ India community library is a transformative social initiative that fosters knowledge, empowerment and community cohesion. More than just a space for books, it provides educational resources, skill-building opportunities and platforms for knowledge-sharing. By enhancing literacy, economic opportunities and well-being, it equips individuals with the tools for success.

Key impacts include:

- Knowledge Access & Lifelong Learning: Offering books, digital resources and educational materials to support literacy and learning.
- Skill Development & Economic Empowerment:
 Vocational training and entrepreneurship programs boost employability.
- Cultural Preservation & Social Cohesion:
 Promoting local heritage and fostering social harmony.
- Community Engagement: Encouraging civic participation through discussions and initiatives, strengthening democratic values.

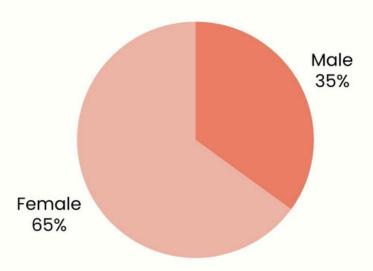
Transforming Lives through Education, Skills and Community Empowerment

READ India runs Community Libraries and Resource Centres in Mewat and Sri City, supported by International Flavors and Fragrances under its CSR initiative. These centres aim to transform communities through education, empowerment and access to resources.

Key Programs and Services:

- Reading and Writing Program: Daily readaloud sessions, fluency practice, spoken English classes, storytelling and poetry recitals by staff and volunteers help children develop a love for reading. Age-appropriate books and resources turn reading into a joyful habit.
- Early Childhood Education: Focused on the holistic development of children's social, emotional, cognitive and physical wellbeing, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning.
- Women's Livelihood Program: Equips women with sewing and beauty skills, empowering them to contribute to family income and community development.

The chart shows how the centres are being used by the communities



- IT Training: Offers students essential computer skills to improve career prospects.
- Health Awareness Sessions: Address key issues like safe drinking water, basic health and hygiene and menstrual hygiene for girls and women.
- Soft Skills Development: Sessions on communication, teamwork, leadership and entrepreneurship prepare participants for future success.
- READ Library: Provides free access to books, fosters reflective thinking and encourages community engagement through activities and discussions, making it a vibrant learning hub.





Focus of our interventions on SDGs:

- Under Livelihood training women are taught tailoring to help establish livelihood of their own.
 More than 250 women beneficiaries were trained under basic stitching course.
- Nearly 240 participants gained basic computer proficiency through IT training. Additionally, 200 children aged 2 to 6 are enrolled in early childhood education, focusing on their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development
- 100 Beneficiaries enrolled from minority community and 41 PWD beneficiaries enrolled at READ CLRC- Sri City.
- Dedicated health awareness sessions were conducted in the communities. 300 beneficiaries educated on health-related issues like Seasonal Diseases, Health and Hygiene, Nutritional Intake, Balanced Diet, safe drinking water, Communicable Diseases, Oral Health, Menstrual Hygiene, importance of hand wash and hand wash technique.

Impact Story



Shyam Babu from Irugulam village gained Basic Computer skills at the READ India centre. Now a first-year B.Tech student at VEMU Institute of Technology, he works part-time as a Computer Lab Assistant. Shyam credits READ India for equipping him with the skills that made it possible.

Sarvajanik Library: Empowering Minds, Enriching Lives

Access to books and a nurturing library space has the power to transform young minds, especially for children and youth from underserved areas. It fosters curiosity, builds confidence and unlocks new possibilities for a brighter future.

In 2024, READ India, in collaboration with Tata Power under their CSR initiative, established the Sarvajanik Library in Jahangirpuri, a notified slum in Delhi. This thoughtfully designed library stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity, fostering a culture of learning and inclusion in the community. With a collection of over 3,500 books catering to all age groups, it offers a treasure trove of knowledge, encouraging children, youth and adults to explore, learn and grow.

About Sarvajanik Library, Jahangirpuri

The library has already registered close to 450 members, with an encouragingly balanced representation of boys and girls. More than just a reading space, the library has become a vibrant hub for personal development and social transformation. It provides a safe and nurturing environment, especially for children and young girls, where they can learn, express and thrive without fear or restriction.

Foundation for lifelong learning

A special focus is given to early childhood development with a dedicated section for children aged 3 to 6 years. Every day, over 50 children engage in stimulating activities that support their developmental milestones, setting a strong foundation for lifelong learning. For youth, the library offers skill-building sessions aimed at enhancing communication skills, boosting self-confidence and preparing them for future opportunities.



One Book, One Child at a time

The Sarvajanik Library is not just about books, it's about building aspirations, empowering individuals and creating a brighter future for young children and youth from the marginalised community. continue to inspire change, one book and one child at a time.



READ INDIA SUMMIT 2024

Building Resilient Communities-The Transformative Role of Libraries

On March 16, 2024, READ India celebrated 17 years of empowering marginalised communities through education and skill development. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat, READ India's journey began with a single library in the Sundarbans and has grown into a network of 60 Knowledge Hubs, positively impacting over 6 lakh lives. The READ Summit 2024 celebrated this journey of fostering education, empowerment and community development.

A Journey of Transformation

The summit opened with a ceremonial lamplighting, attended by Chief Guest Dr. R.K. Sharma, followed by the screening of Footprints of READ India, a short film documenting the organisation's evolution. Dr. Geeta Malhotra, Country Director, highlighted READ India's mission of inclusivity, empowerment and education, mentioning significant achievements such as raising the average marriage age in communities and creating sustainable opportunities.

Mr. Jay Vikram Bakshi, Founder Trustee, traced READ's origins to its first Community Learning & Resource Centre (CLRC), emphasising CSR partnerships as crucial to scaling operations. He discussed the evolving role of libraries as safe spaces for collaboration and empowerment, especially for women and outlined plans to integrate digital tools with traditional models, guided by environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles.



Libraries: Catalysts for Change

Trustee Kalpana Dasgupta highlighted libraries' grassroots impact, citing an inauguration in Beed, Maharashtra, where 800 villagers gathered to celebrate a new library. She stressed the importance of reconnecting children with books post-COVID and reimagined libraries as inclusive hubs for engagement.

Dr. R.K. Sharma from the United Nations Information Centre praised READ's alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly its work in 300 villages. He emphasised the role of libraries in education and community-driven solutions, advocating for technology to transform libraries into "connections" rather than just collections.

Empowering Women: Skills to Succeed

A film screening focused on READ India's vocational education programs, which equip women with skills in sewing, handicrafts, agriculture and entrepreneurship, empowering them to generate income and achieve financial autonomy. Social Audit expert Mr. Amit Rai praised READ's approach and its alignment with SDGs 5, 8, and 10, while panellists discussed initiatives empowering women through traditional crafts, sustainable livelihoods, and farming.

Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Mr. Ram Dahiphale from the Government of Maharashtra shared his experience of setting up a library and skill centre inspired by READ, while Knowledge Partner Mr. Harsh Arora emphasised the importance of trust in collaborations.





Looking Ahead

READ India continues to innovate with programs like mobile libraries and the Kibo app, bridging educational gaps and promoting inclusivity. With a commitment to resilient, sustainable communities, READ India remains a beacon of hope, proving that libraries are gateways to empowerment and progress.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance Sheet FY - 23-24

RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (READ) INDIA

Trust Regn. No. - 504, Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi B-2/233, Tara Nagar, Old Palam Road (Kakrola), Sector 15, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, India

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2024

(Amount in INR)

	Particulars	Note	As at March 31, 2024	As at March 31, 2023
1	Sources of Funds	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE		The second secon
1	NPO Funds			
(a)	Unrestricted Funds	3	1,10,31,150	1,83,54,599
(b)	Restricted Funds	4	47,41,503	83,83,185
			1,57,72,653	2,67,37,784
2	Non-Current Liabilities			
	Long-Term Provisions	5	37,29,728	34,78,186
	7		37,29,728	34,78,186
3	Current Liabilities			
(a)	Sundry Creditors	6	9,03,039	8,65,996
(b)	Other Current Liabilities	7	15,96,940	13,02,405
			24,99,979	21,68,401
	Total	**	2,20,02,360	3,23,84,371
П	Application of Funds			
1	Non-Current Assets			
•	Fixed Assets		1	
(a)	Tangible Assets	8	4,35,026	4,94,840
(b)	Intangible Assets			
(-)			4,35,026	4,94,840
2	Current Assets			
(a)	Cash and Cash Equivalent	9	1,94,96,665	2,95,11,148
(b)	Other Current Assets	10	20,70,669	23,78,383
			2,15,67,334	3,18,89,531
	Total	40	2,20,02,360	3,23,84,371

Brief about the Trust and summary of significant accounting policies

1 & 2

The accompanying notes numbered 3 to 17 are an integral part of the Financial Statements

In terms of our report of even date

For RAKCHAMPS & Co. LLP.

Chartered Accountants (FRN: 131094WW100083)

Shashi Mohan Jha Membership No. 098736

Partner

UDIN: 24098736BKCKK73118

Place: Delhi

Date: 27-09-2024

For and on behalf of

Rural Education and Development (READ) India

Jay Bikram Bakshi

Trustee

Geeta Malhotra Country Director

Place: New Delhi

Place: New Delhi

Date: 27.09-2024 Date: 27.09-2024

ecta Malho Tra

AND DEVELO

READ INDI

Income & Expenditure FY - 23-24

RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (READ) INDIA

Trust Regn. No. - 504, Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi

B-2/233, Tara Nagar, Old Palam Road (Kakrola), Sector 15, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, India

Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Year ended March 31, 2024

(Amount in INR)

	Particulars	Note	For the Year ended March 31, 2024	For the Year ended March 31, 2023
	Income			
1	Donations and Grants	11	10,21,25,884	10,49,17,600
Н	Other Income	12	11,03,316	93,74,321
Ш	Total Income (I+II)		10,32,29,200	11,42,91,921
	Expenses:			
(a)	Project Expenses	13	9,80,48,559	9,91,04,021
(b)	Depreciation and Amortization Expense	14	59,814	70,055
(c)	Operational Expenses	15	1,24,44,276	1,27,93,285
IV	Total Expenses (a to c)		11,05,52,649	11,19,67,361
٧	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year before Exceptional and Extraordinary items (III- IV)		-73,23,449	23,24,560
۷Ι	Exceptional items			-
	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year before			
VII	Extraordinary items (V-VI)		-73,23,449	23,24,560
VIII	Extraordinary Items			
IX	Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year (VII-VIII)		-73,23,449	23,24,560
	Depreciation transferred to Capital Assets Fund		59,814	70,055
	Balance transferred to Capital Fund		-72,63,635	23,94,615

The accompanying notes numbered 3 to 17 are an integral part of the Financial Statements

In terms of our report of even date

For RAKCHAMPS & Co. LLP.

Chartered Accountants (FRN: 131094W/W100083)

Shashi Mohan Jha Membership No. 098736

Partner

UDIN: 240 98736 BKC RLF 3118

Place: Delhi

Date: 27-07-2024

For and on behalf of

Rural Education and Development (READ) India

Jay Bikram Bakshi

Trustee

Geeta Malhotra

Country Director

Place: New Delhi

Date: 27.09-2024

Place: New Delhi

Date: 27-09,2024

Malholus

Corporates on Board with READ India



Our Values





