



Rotary
India Literacy Mission

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Rotary India Literacy Mission and DAV College Forge a Powerful Partnership to Promote Adult Literacy

In a momentous collaboration that promises to bring about transformative change, Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Managing Committee of DAV College. This partnership is set to drive adult literacy initiatives across the country through DAV's extensive network of 900 educational institutions, boasting a student population of more than 30 lakhs.

Under the banner of the 'Diksha' program, this collaboration will



empower each student within the DAV educational institutions to identify adult learners within their communities and guide them toward literacy. It is a groundbreaking initiative that aims to harness the collective strength of DAV's vast student community to promote education and eradicate illiteracy.

The MoU was signed in a distinguished ceremony held in Delhi and was graced by the presence of Sri Punam Suri, a renowned educationist and the driving force behind the DAV institutions. Alongside him were distinguished guests, including the Rotary District Governor of 3011, Jitendra Gupta, District

Literacy Chair, Pran Mehta, and Adult Literacy National Committee Chair, Ramesh Chander.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in the mission of achieving Total Literacy and Quality Education in India. By leveraging the extensive reach of DAV's educational institutions, RILM aims to transform the lives of countless adult non-literates and create a ripple effect of education and empowerment.



Message from PRIP Shekhar Mehta on Behalf of Team RILM

Detailed report on Page 2

Igniting the Flame of Literacy

Detailed report on Page 3

A Grand Gathering at Patna, Bihar

Detailed report on Page 5

Introducing E-SCHOLARSHIPS

Detailed report on Page 7

Resilience & Education Captures Hearts

Detailed report on Page 8

From Challenges to Educational Success

Detailed report on Page 11

Bithi Sarkar's Journey

Detailed report on Page 12

Message from PRIP Shekhar Mehta on Behalf of Team RILM



Rotary India Literacy Mission is embarking on its 10-year journey, on behalf of the organization, I want all of you to participate in the mission to make India Totally Literate. When we look back on our journey, celebrating our accomplishments, and exchanging meaningful experiences provide a wonderful opportunity to recognize the unwavering dedication and hard work contributed by all those involved.

Undoubtedly, achieving Total Literacy is one of the most important areas of concern particularly in a diverse and populous country like India. Empowering adult non-literate individuals with the ability to read and write can bring about a profound transformation in their lives and society at large. Our different initiatives to reach remote areas and engage with a multitude of stakeholders exemplify the commitment necessary to bring about such positive change.

We already decided that throughout the year, each issue of Literacy Times will feature something that defines RILM and its impact on our stakeholders. It could be a cherished image, reflections on the people, thoughts, and places that have inspired us.

RILM has been rigorously working in the remote pockets of the nation, collaborating with multiple stakeholders to transform 50 million adult non-literates into literate individuals. We believe that your extensive support will turn this ambitious goal into a reality.

I extend heartfelt congratulations to everyone who has played a critical role in making this dream a success, and I hope your ongoing efforts lead to even greater achievements in our mission to Make Total Literacy in India!

Let's, 'Dil Se Baat Karo..RILM Se Juro..'

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VIDYA - Educating through Each One Teach Many Model

Rotary India Literacy Mission Launches Igniting the Flame of Literacy

South 24 Parganas, West Bengal - In a commendable effort to eradicate illiteracy and empower marginalized communities, Team RILM has initiated a groundbreaking campaign in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal to transform 1,064 non-literate adults into literate individuals through the launch of 30 'Vidya' centers across the district.

The project has been launched in collaboration with the **South 24 PG Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (SNP+)**, an organization dedicated to supporting individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. This strategic partnership seeks to address the pressing need for adult literacy and education in the region.

Khitish Mondal, Director of the South 24 PG Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (SNP+), expressed heartfelt gratitude, saying, "We are extremely grateful to Rotary India Literacy Mission

to introduce Adult Literacy here. It's not just about reading and writing; it's about empowerment, growth, and self-confidence. These classes are designed to foster a supportive learning environment where everyone can thrive..."



The 'Vidya' centers have become beacons of hope in different parts of South 24 Parganas, offering non-literate adults an opportunity to acquire essential literacy skills.

The impact of Rotary India Literacy Mission's work extends beyond South 24 Parganas. We have successfully reached out to **over 47,500 adult learners across the nation** through more than 1,600 centers. Their dedication to eradicating illiteracy continues to make a profound difference in the lives of countless individuals.

RILM Expands Efforts in Madhubani, Bihar

RILM's dedicated team recently reached the picturesque district of **Madhubani in Bihar**. Our goal was to **launch 51 'Vidya' centers** under the Adult Literacy program, a transformative initiative aimed at empowering **2,040 adult non-literates**. This endeavor is carried out in collaboration with Sarvo Prayas Sansthan, a local NGO deeply committed to the cause.

Pappu Kumar Mahto, the coordinator of Sarvo Prayas Sansthan, expressed his enthusiasm for the project, saying, "We work on different programs but never had an

opportunity to identify and transform non-literate adults in my community and neighboring areas. Now we have also become a part of this mission..."

RILM acknowledges the importance of support from individuals and organizations across the nation. They believe that collective efforts are instrumental in achieving Total Literacy in India. The hashtag #totalliteracyinindia has become a rallying cry, uniting all those who are dedicated to the cause of education and literacy.



DIKSHA - Educating through Each One Teach One Model

DPS School Megacity

It has always been a usual day at DPS Megacity, but on this particular day, something extraordinary happened.

The school buzzed with excitement as the students from Grades 6 to 12 gathered for a special event—an Awareness Programme like no other. The purpose? To ignite the spark in the hearts of young minds of making our country fully literate, especially following the "Each One, Teach One", Diksha model.

A staggering of 2,500 students brimming with enthusiasm and determination, had come forward to be part of this noble mission.

In the words of Principal Mrs. Indrani Sanyal, "Education is the beacon that lights up the

path to a brighter future. "Reputed School DPS Megacity has indeed lit that hope and working towards making a brighter, more literate India.

Amidst the sea of eager faces, PDG (Past District Governor) Prabir Chatterjee took center stage to motivate students. His words instilled & a strong feeling of service amongst student volunteers for their country. They realized that they were not just students but torchbearers of change.

By embracing the Diksha Model DPS Megacity has done more than just to conduct an awareness program. They had set the stage for students, especially in nurturing leadership qualities, empathy, and social responsibility.



Sushila Birla Girls' School

Sushila Birla Girls' School undoubtedly stands as a testament to education's enduring power. The excitement amongst the Teachers and Students of Sushila Birla Girls School has been overwhelming. They were super excited to take on the responsibility of enhancing literacy in our country through the 'Diksha' model i.e. 'Each One Teach One'.

In a world where illiteracy perpetuates a cycle of ignorance and vulnerability, Schools like Sushila Birla Girls School definitely are a beacon of hope. Around 200 students from this esteemed school joined the orientation programme and took the pledge to make our country fully literate.

Rtn. Rubena Chatterjee Co-Curricular Coordinator at Sushila Birla Girls' School is the driving force

behind this programme who spearheaded the mission in her esteemed school.

Improving their basic literacy will allow adults to reach their full potential in their personal lives as well. So they will gain more confidence to step out of their comfort zones and explore more of the world.

As the Adult Literacy Orientation Program unfolded, Sushila Birla Girls' School became a hub of transformation. In the words of the school's motto, '**Lighting the Path of Literacy,**' Sushila Birla Girls' School embarked on a journey to light up not just their path but the paths of countless adult non-literates by ultimately creating a more literate and informed community.



A Grand Gathering at Patna, Bihar

A historic day for Rotary India Literacy Mission as more than 600 students from private schools across Bihar gathered at Rabindra Bhavan in Patna, Bihar. The occasion? The 11th Pratibha Samman Samaroh was organized by the Private Schools and Children Welfare Association.

The event was nothing short of spectacular, bringing together young minds with a shared vision – to promote literacy and education in India. It was a day filled with enthusiasm, inspiration, and the promise of change.



The highlight of the event was the presence of Shekhar Mehta, President of Rotary International for the year 2021-22, and the Chief Advisor of Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM).

Mr. Mehta, a stalwart in the field of literacy and education, delivered a powerful message to the eager students.

He encouraged them to actively participate in the mission and to uphold the core principle of **'Each One Teach One'** under the **'DIKSHA'** program initiated by Rotary India Literacy Mission.

His words resonated with the audience, inspiring a collective commitment to make a difference in the lives of others through education.

Let's continue to uphold the values of the Rotary India Literacy Mission and work towards a more literate and empowered India.



Shekhar Mehta Inspires Thousands



More than 50,000 adult learners have already been enrolled through over 1,600 centers across the country under the RILM-Adult Literacy programme.



Our Recent Events

Rotary India Literacy Mission and Deshbandhu Swimming & Athletic Club Unite for Blood Donor Support Program in Kolkata

In a heartwarming display of community spirit and support, Rotary India Literacy Mission in association with Deshbandhu Swimming & Athletic Club recently organized a food distribution program in Shyambazar, Kolkata. This initiative aimed to express gratitude and provide essential support to blood donors who selflessly contribute to saving lives.

The event drew people from diverse backgrounds, united by a common purpose - to give the gift of life through blood donation. Doctors, students, homemakers, and professionals came together, demonstrating the unwavering spirit of giving that runs deep in the city's veins.



Bridging Educational Gaps Nationwide through E-Learning

Rotary India Literacy Mission is taking strides towards making quality education accessible to all, regardless of geographical barriers. Our collaboration with NCERT and various SCERT departments across the country is turning the dream of equitable education into a reality.

Multimedia Content for Classes I to XII

RILM has developed exclusive multimedia content for students from classes I to XII, with a special focus on those residing in remote areas. This content has been meticulously vetted by NCERT, involving dedicated teachers connected to NCERT and SCERT. It's not just an opportunity for students but a giant leap towards making E-Learning an inclusive approach.

Access the Content

To access these educational episodes, you can visit the National Television channels of NCERT through the PM-eVidya portal. Additionally, the Government of India's national educational mobile app, Diksha, is another avenue through

which this content can be accessed.

Expanding Reach: Students of Mizoram are now getting access to E-Learning content

This comprehensive content is now poised for telecast on various National PM-eVidya channels and the PM-eVidya channel in Mizoram. It will also be available on the Diksha Portal, managed by the Central Government.

Reaching New Horizons

Our E-Learning content is on a journey across the nation, already making strides in states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Punjab, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, and Nagaland. With each step, we are inching closer to the vision of a more literate and empowered India.

The Rotary India Literacy Mission continues to embrace technology as a means to bridge educational disparities and foster a brighter, more knowledgeable future for all. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue our journey towards inclusive education.



Introducing "E-SCHOLARSHIPS"



Empowering Education for All: Building on the remarkable success of the Lakshya Scholarship, Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) successfully launched the "E-Shiksha - For all" initiative. This groundbreaking endeavor aims to provide students across India with unprecedented digital learning opportunities.

Here are some key highlights of this transformative initiative:

Accessibility for All

"E-SCHOLARSHIPS" offers students access to the esteemed "Think & Learn Premium" app by BYJU'S. Each student receives a single license, unlocking a world of educational content meticulously designed to cater to a wide range of subjects and learning levels.

Extended Duration

The access provided through a single license extends over three consecutive years. This extended period ensures that students can continue to benefit from these valuable digital learning resources, thereby maximizing their educational journey.

Sponsorship Model

We believe in the power of community and collaboration. Rotary districts and clubs play a pivotal role in making this initiative accessible to students in need. By contributing Rs. 1000 per student, they can sponsor students' participation,

effectively bridging the financial gap that often hinders access to quality education.

Exceptional Value

"E-SCHOLARSHIPS" boasts an incredible market value of approximately Rs. 80,000 per scholarship, considering the access it provides to the BYJU'S app. This means that students can access premium educational content at a fraction of the cost, opening doors to boundless knowledge.

Real-Life Success Story

The impact of our efforts is evident in the success story of students across India who benefited from the E-Scholarships and used the "Think & Learn Premium" app. They demonstrated improved learning concepts and achieved better academic results.

Wide-reaching Impact

The combined efforts of the Lakshya Scholarship and "E-Shiksha - For all" initiatives have positively transformed the lives of more than 4000 students from various states across India. These states include West Bengal, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra. This showcases the broad reach of our program and its ability to empower students nationwide.

The "E-Shiksha - For all" initiative represents a significant stride in our commitment to bridging educational gaps and empowering students to enhance their learning outcomes.



Seerat's Inspiring Journey of Resilience and Education Captures Hearts

In a heart-touching story of unwavering determination, Seerat, a courageous 9-year-old, has defied the odds and embarked on a remarkable journey towards education. Her life took a heartbreaking turn when her father's sudden demise left her family shattered, forcing her elder brother to leave school and find work in Srinagar. He, along with her mother, relocated from Sopore to Makhdoomyaree, ushering in a new chapter in their lives.

She diligently focused on household chores as education took a backseat. However, fate had different plans in store, and the story would soon take a heartwarming twist, thanks to the intervention of dedicated project volunteers.

These selfless volunteers, recognizing Seerat's absence from school, decided it was time to make a difference. They took proactive steps by connecting with her teachers, visiting her family, and engaging in heartfelt conversations with Seerat's mother, Posha Begam. They successfully convinced Posha to enroll Seerat in the Asha Kiran Centre in Makhdoomyaree, where she would begin to receive the support she so desperately needed.

They introduced Seerat to engaging group



activities that not only captured her attention but also ignited her passion for learning. Step by step, they meticulously nurtured her academic skills.

Last October marked a significant milestone in Seerat's journey - she was admitted to Class 3 at the Government Primary School in Rakh Molla. Today, Seerat stands as a shining example of courage and perseverance.

This heartwarming success story stands as one of the flagship interventions of the Rotary India Literacy Mission, conducted in collaboration with Child Rights and You (CRY).



What's New!

RILM Extends Education Efforts to Correctional Homes in West Bengal



The words of Carol Burnett resonate deeply, "When you have a dream, you've got to grab it and never let go." Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) has taken these words to heart as they continue their tireless efforts to transform lives through education. Our latest endeavor has led them to collaborate with correctional homes across India, marking a significant milestone in their journey.

In association with the Department of Correctional Administration, Government of West Bengal, RILM has ventured into a new realm of

impact by working with adult non-literates in correctional facilities. This initiative aims to provide education and hope to those who have found themselves in challenging circumstances.

Suman Chakraborty, OC Community Services of Midnapore Central Correctional Home shared his thoughts during a recent briefing session. He said, "We have never thought that apart from our regular duty, we could also get an opportunity to transform someone's life with education. It is indeed a great experience to be a part of the development of our country."

This partnership between RILM and the correctional homes demonstrates the organization's commitment to leaving no stone unturned in their quest for Total Literacy and Quality Education. Their approach is holistic, recognizing that education can be a powerful tool for transformation and rehabilitation.

Rotary India Literacy Mission Honors Outgoing IG Prison for Transformative Work



In a heartfelt ceremony that celebrated the power of transformation through education, Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) recently honored Mr. Sanjay Singh, IPS, the outgoing Inspector General (IG) of Prison at Alipore Women's Correctional Home, Kolkata. Ms. Jhila Roychowdhury, Senior Director of RILM, led the felicitation, acknowledging Mr. Singh's instrumental role in making the initiative possible.

Mr. Sanjay Singh, IPS, played a pivotal role in bringing about positive change within the

correctional system, particularly in the realm of education and rehabilitation. His dedication and commitment to this cause have paved the way for transformative opportunities for inmates.

PDG Prabir Chatterjee, who leads the Adult Literacy Committee of Rotary International District 3291, was also present at the ceremony. His presence highlighted the collaboration between Rotary and the correctional system in India, emphasizing the importance of education as a means of empowerment and rehabilitation.

RILM has embarked on a mission to extend its educational initiatives to inmates within correctional homes, recognizing the potential for profound change that education can bring. The organization has already commenced work with inmates at the Midnapore Correctional Home and is gearing up to launch similar programs at the Presidency Correctional Home in West Bengal.



Rotary Clubs Unite in Kolkata for Total Literacy Initiative



A day of immense significance unfolded as over **28 aspirants from various Rotary Clubs** in Kolkata came together, pooling their resources and enthusiasm to make strides towards achieving Total Literacy in India. The event marked a testament to the unwavering commitment of Rotary Clubs and their leaders in driving educational initiatives across the nation.

Shekhar Mehta, President of Rotary International (2021-22) and the Chief Advisor of Rotary India Literacy Mission, expressed his elation at the event, saying, "It is indeed great to witness such

enthusiasm from presidents and other dignitaries of Rotary Clubs. I do hope that this initiative will definitely help us to shape the future of the mission to make our country Totally Literate..."

The event saw the convergence of presidents and esteemed members of various Rotary Clubs in Kolkata, all with a shared vision of **fostering education and eradicating illiteracy in India**. Their collective efforts stand as a testament to the belief that education is the cornerstone of progress and empowerment.

As these passionate individuals and Rotary Clubs join forces,

their impact on the landscape of education and **literacy in India is poised to be profound**. Their collective efforts bring us one step closer to a more educated, empowered, and **totally literate nation**.

The event served as a reminder that change is possible when like-minded individuals and organizations unite for a common cause. The commitment of Rotary Clubs in Kolkata stands as a beacon of hope, inspiring others to join the mission of Total Literacy in India. **Together, they are shaping a brighter future for the nation, one step at a time.**



Transformative Journey of Subramaniyam From Struggles to Academic Success

At just 11 years old, Subramaniyam's life has been marked by challenges that would have deterred many. His father, a daily wage laborer from Karnataka, and his mother, a part-time domestic worker, work tirelessly to provide for their family. With three brothers in tow, Subramaniyam's family faced financial constraints that made his education seem like an unattainable dream.

His elder brothers had to work as laborers to support the family, further complicating his access to education.

Subramaniyam's struggle to grasp concepts quickly earned him the label of a "laggard child." His progress in studies was slow, and his future appeared uncertain.

However, a glimmer of hope appeared on the horizon when Subramaniyam joined the Asha Kiran Centre earlier this year. In just three short

months, his transformation has been nothing short of remarkable. He has not only acquired mathematical skills but has also grasped the basics of his first and second languages.

He has been successfully enrolled in Class V at the Government Primary School and is attending regularly. He is a shining example of how education, support, and determination can transform a young life. With unwavering dedication, he is making every effort to excel in his studies and is paving the way for a brighter future.



Sanjana's Remarkable Journey From Challenges to Educational Success

At the age of 12, Sanjana found herself facing the hurdles of both academic challenges and financial constraints. Her parents, who work as laborers earning daily wages, struggled to make ends meet. For her family, the financial burden became increasingly heavy, making the decision to continue her education a difficult one.

Despite the financial hardships, Sanjana's interest in studying never waned. Her determination to learn remained unshaken. However, her parents were uncertain about how to balance the family's financial needs and her educational aspirations.



Asha Kiran - Prayas Centre members recognized Sanjana's potential and took proactive steps to support her. They provided guidance and counseling to her parents, helping them understand the importance of education in securing a brighter future for their child. Sanjana was subsequently enrolled in the center, where dedicated teachers worked tirelessly to assist her in her educational journey.

Her rapid progress allowed her to enroll in Class VI at the Government School, marking a significant milestone in her educational journey.

She is very good in Mathematics and is also mastering the basics of her first and second languages.

Her parents, once faced with uncertainty, are now filled with happiness and hope. Thanks to the consistent motivation provided by the teachers and the coordinator at Prayas, they have also taken an active interest in their daughter's studies.



Bithi Sarkar's Journey

Overcoming Challenges Through Skill Development



Bithi Sarkar's story is a testament to the myriad challenges that individuals often encounter in their pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families. When her father passed away, Bithi and her family found themselves grappling

with the responsibility of managing a small shop to make ends meet. The financial situation was tough, and her mother had to work tirelessly to support the family.

Despite the hardships, Bithi recognized the paramount importance of education and her desire to contribute to her family's well-being. She completed her studies in Siliguri and embarked on a relentless search for job opportunities. However, her journey was fraught with numerous obstacles and disappointments, with some individuals seeking to take advantage of her vulnerable situation.

In her quest for a solution, Bithi stumbled upon the Bandhan Skill Development Centre (BSDC) in Siliguri through an online search. Impressed by the positive feedback from students, she decided to visit the center and ultimately enrolled herself.

Initially shy and reserved, Bithi found herself in the capable hands of trainers at the Siliguri BSDC, who provided her with invaluable guidance and support to develop her skills and confidence.

She successfully attended an interview at Kutchina and secured a job at the Hakimpura Unit in Siliguri. During her probation period, she earns a commendable Rs 8.2k/month with incentives. After three months, her salary will be revised, and she will also be entitled to other statutory benefits such as PF, ESIC, and an annual bonus.

This achievement not only empowers Bithi to support her family financially but also enables her to bear the expenses of her sister's education. Bithi's story is a shining example of the transformative power of skill development and the positive impact it can have on an individual's life.



Let's Be a Part of Our Journey

We have been working on different verticals, and reaching the most interior pockets of our country, thus, we need your support to make sure that all parts of the country are getting



basic support to live their life. We need your financial support to operate seamlessly. You can contribute to us by scanning the link.

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