

Celebrating **20**
Years
of Inspiring Rural Prosperity
READ Nepal



2011

Message from President; READ



Dear Friends,

Few development programs in Nepal have grown and thrived for more than 20 consecutive years. READ Nepal has flourished, building 50 rural Community Library & Resource Centers (CLRCs) from one end of Nepal to the next, from north to south. Children who never had books available to study for the SLC, are now passing the examinations and heading to university. Families who lived in mud huts in the jungle, have earned sufficient money from bee keeping or mushroom farming skills, they honed in READ CLRCs to build brick homes. Women who were illiterate have mastered reading, benefitted from microcredit, and learned from health and reproductive care classes in the centers. Computers and internet facilities open the world to children, teachers and communities.

READ's success is testimony to the ability of Nepalese to manage their own lives successfully, if given the opportunity and sufficient support, and to the incredible commitment of the READ Nepal staff and advisory board, who have worked tirelessly to benefit their country people.

The next step for READ Nepal is to become self-sustaining, able to continue creating new CLRCs, establishing sustaining businesses and collaborating with other NGOs without outside support. Then, success in the next 20 years will be totally assured.

Congratulations to all,

Dr. Antonia Neubauer
Founder, READ Global

Message from Executive Director; READ Global



Dear friends,

In 2011, READ Nepal celebrated an impressive milestone— 20 years partnering with communities to bring education, enterprise and community development to rural villages in Nepal through libraries. As I listened during the anniversary celebration to stories from the many villagers whose lives have changed forever because of programs offered at their local READ library, it struck me how amazing it is that libraries can serve so many different purposes in a community.

Because of READ's work in Nepal, we know that a library is a place where a villager can access health services and health education programs that might save lives. A farmer is able to access agricultural information that can increase his earnings from his crops and allow him to provide a better future for his family. A woman can join a saving cooperative and start saving money for the first time in her life—and perhaps even start her own business with a loan she receives from the cooperative. The education of students around the country has been enhanced through access to books and computers available at the library – resources that may not be available at their school. And the life-changing skill of literacy is making it possible for parents to become educated as adults and therefore understand the importance of education for their own children.

We have witnessed READ libraries transforming entire communities, making rural villages the kind of places where families are able to grow and thrive. This is a shining moment for READ Nepal. The success of the READ model is a direct result of the talented and passionate staff and board members of READ Nepal who have worked hard to bring more libraries to communities. I cannot thank them enough for their incredible work. READ's success is also due to the commitment of the many communities that have partnered with READ during the past 20 years. READ has learned a great deal from our partners, and we are now taking all of these best practices and lessons learned and implementing the READ model in Bhutan and India. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our partner communities – and also congratulate them for the amazing work they have done that is now being replicated in neighboring Asian countries.

As READ looks toward the future, it will do even more to provide access to technology to the many rural villagers who still lack consistent access to the internet. We will strengthen our own programs to ensure that READ is maximizing its impact in every village. And we will continue to work in deep relationship with every community so that our learning as an organization will continue.

Here's to another 20 years of sustainable libraries!

In service,
Tina
Executive Director
READ Global

Message from Country Director; READ Nepal



Dear READ supporters,

This year we were proud to celebrate 20 years of building Community Library & Resource Centers in rural Nepal. The celebration was incredible – it was an inspiration to watch and hear stories from all of our beneficiaries and supporters– from librarians and library users, to successful leaders in the district and advocates of literacy and economic empowerment. Libraries are unique in their capacity to bring change to rural communities for so many reasons – and we saw this recognized in the celebration of the 20-year anniversary of READ.

We have learned a lot about sustainability from the communities we have partnered in the past twenty years. It has been an inspiration to see them sustain their community libraries independently long after our period of direct engagement with them – by taking responsibility for the sustaining enterprises that generate income to support their libraries. We value this kind of functional community participation. “We did it all by ourselves!”, this is the line I have heard from our communities over and over – and it has been an awakening for me. What makes READ special is this kind of community ownership of libraries- the community will never let their library die. It is this partnership that makes our model successful.

READ Nepal is now in the process of constructing our 50th library in Panauti. It will be the first Community Library & Resource Center to be built entirely using local Nepalese contributions. We are trying to encourage civic participation to fulfill our needs, and I think this project is a testament to the local appreciation for READ’s work in Nepal. I am confident that next year will be full of enthusiasm and positive growth, and that it will bring even more exciting milestones for us to celebrate together.

Thanks to our partners, donors and all READ enthusiasts for making all of this a reality! And thanks to our team – from the READ staff to our partner community members – it wouldn’t be possible without you!

I’m excited to share these wonderful memories from the past year and some sneak peeks into the future in this report!

Best always,
Sanjana Shrestha
Country Director; READ Nepal

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Cover photo: Participants of literacy class at Shiva Shakti Nawa Durga Community Library and Resource Center, Nawalparasi.

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ACRONYMS

CLRC	Community Library and Resource Center
DDC	District Development Committee
ECD	Early Childhood Development
IFLA	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
LMC	Library Management Committee
MEDICT	Mobilization for Education and Development through Information and Communication Technology
NAAL	Norwegian Association for Adult Learning
NCLA	Nepal Community Library Association
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
READ	Rural Education and Development
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TDF	Town Development Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee

Glimpse of some peoples and events those keep inspiring us





Who we are

Rural Education and Development (READ) Nepal is an INGO affiliate of READ Global – a US-based nonprofit that believes that empowering rural communities is critical to alleviating poverty. READ Nepal works to establish, promote and strengthen Community Library and Resource Centers (READ CLRCs) in remote areas of Nepal. READ was launched in Nepal by Dr. Antonia Neubauer in 1991 in response to the wishes of a local trekking guide, Mr. Ang Domi Sherpa, to open a library in his remote village of Junbesi, Solukhumbu. READ has now evolved into a network of self-sustained Community Library and Resource Centers in South Asia. Including in Bhutan and India. So far, READ Nepal has established 53 READ Centers in 39 districts of Nepal.

About Nepal

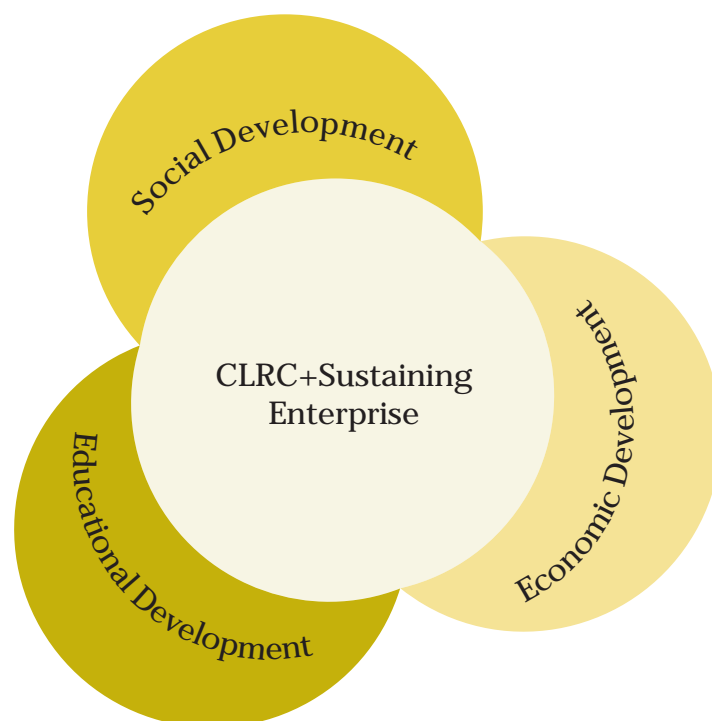
With a population of about 27 million people – more than half (57%) living on less than \$2 per day – Nepal is one of the poorest nations in the world (World Bank Databank). 82% of the population live in rural areas (UNESCO Institute for Statistics), and for more than one third of the rural population, it takes four hours or more to get to the nearest all-weather road, one that does not wash out in the monsoon season (IBID). This poor infrastructure makes it hard for rural Nepalese villagers to access resources. So while primary education is hypothetically free in Nepal, some 37% of adults still can't read – and nearly half of all women (48%) are illiterate. (IBID). Schools are often inaccessible and have no books for a library or resources for a computer lab, and during the dry season, load shedding causes electricity to be unavailable for up to 16 hours per day, and only 8% of the population uses the Internet (World Bank Databank).



The READ Model

READ brings together Education, Enterprise and Community development along with Community co-investment and management to create lasting social change in rural communities. READ partners with rural villages to build Community Library and Resource Centers (CLRCs) that offer knowledge, information and opportunities to villagers that lack the most basic educational resources. READ works with each community to seed sustaining enterprise that will generate much-needed income to sustain the center over the long run. READ CLRCs are community owned and operated, so that each community embraces the management and development of its respective center.

READ CLRCs are designed to serve whole communities and their surrounding areas. Resources are available for all – adults, children, students, teachers, women and even those who are illiterate.



Each READ supported CLRC provides the following valuable educational resources:

- 1 A library with 3,000-5,000 books, magazines and newspapers in both English and the local language.
- 1 An information communications technology (ICT) section with computers, Internet access (where available) and computer skills training.
- 1 A women's empowerment section providing a safe space for women and girls to attend classes and trainings and receive medical exams.
- 1 An early childhood section with child-friendly furniture, educational toys, and reading materials.
- 1 An Audio Video section including TV, video, DVD player, telephone, fax and copying services.
- 1 A training/meeting hall where staff and partners conduct programs on literacy, health, livelihood skills and more.
- 1 Each CLRC is paired with a "sustaining enterprise" that is seeded by READ and then operated by the community. In addition to creating local employment and providing a service to the community, the earnings from the enterprise help cover the operating expenses of the READ Center over the long run.

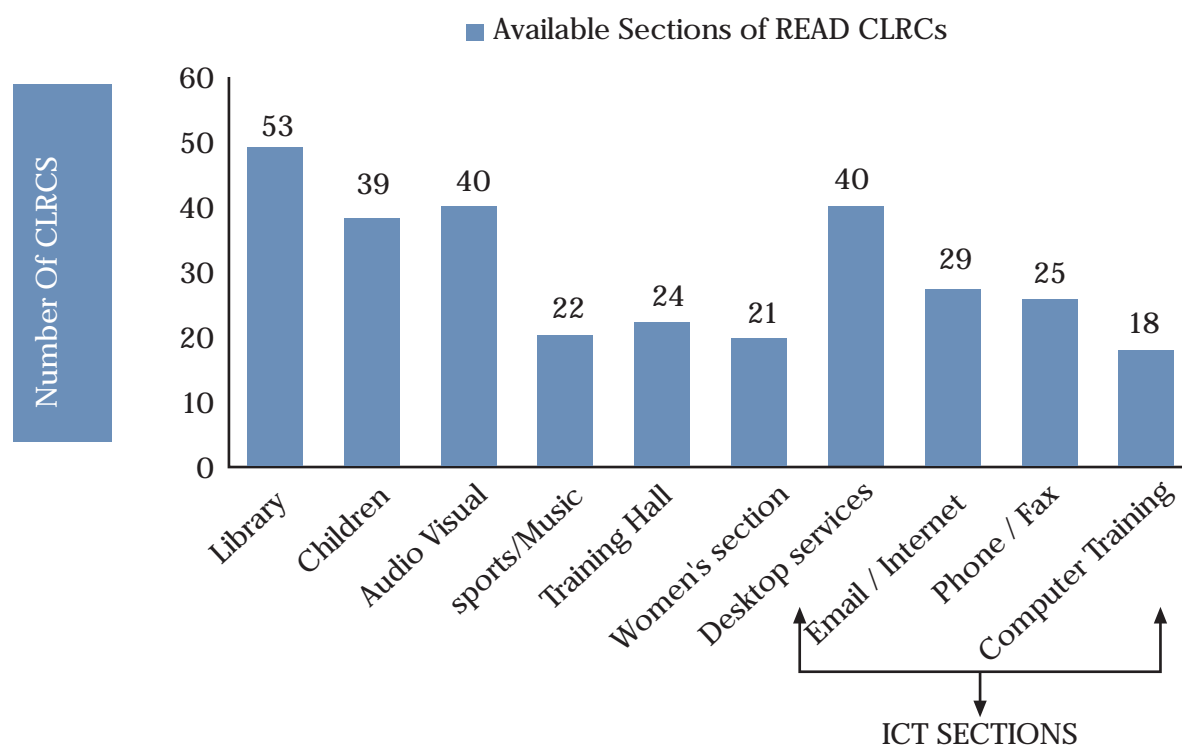
Achievements

In 2006, READ Nepal won the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Access to Learning Award, a global award given annually in recognition of the innovative efforts of public libraries or similar organizations to connect people to information. The following year, READ received a replication grant from the Gates Foundation to bring its unique sustainable model to Bhutan and India.

READ CLRCs in Nepal

- 53 libraries with 4500 books on average in each READ Center
- 40 Audio visual sections with television set, educational and informational CDs, DVDs
- 39 children sections fully stocked with children's books, toys, puzzles and games
- 79 Sustaining Enterprises
- 40 ICT sections

Status of available sections at 53 READ CLRCs



Outreach activities

- READ Nepal has supported to establish more than 8 school libraries in remote villages of Nepal.
- In 2007, READ Nepal financially supported Dillibazar Prison Library and Nakkhu Prison Library in collaboration with Prison Fellowship Nepal.

Support to other libraries

READ Nepal not only builds community libraries, but also provides technical support to strengthen other libraries. READ Nepal has technically supported SWC library, TEWA Children's library and Ashrya library.

READ Centers: Intervention point for Community Development

READ CLRCs are more than just libraries; they are hubs for community development. In 20 years, these centers have evolved as vehicles for rural transformation - inspiring more than one million people in rural communities .

READ CLRCs are initiated and owned by communities themselves, and sustained by income-generating projects of their own. READ CLRCs empower rural people with relevant information and skills for the progress of their respective communities.

READ CLRCs offer programs in many sectors- educational development, economic activities and social activities.

Educational Development

Education is crucial to empower individuals and communities. READ CLRCs provide access not only to reading materials but also to knowledge and information through various educational events such as educational competitions, National Reading Campaigns, educational outreach projects through mobile libraries and schools, book exhibitions and much more. READ CLRCs also conduct regular literacy classes women and elderly citizens, providing educational opportunities relevant to their needs.

Economic Activities

READ CLRCs enhance the economic capabilities and independence of rural communities by providing training in livelihood skills, as well as microfinance programs and savings cooperatives. Livelihood skills training such as vegetable farming, beekeeping and animal husbandry encourage the economic empowerment of rural communities. Savings cooperatives provide access to credit to run small businesses. Moreover, READ CLRCs sustaining enterprises often generate income for local villagers in addition to meeting the operational cost of the CLRCs. So far there are 79 sustaining enterprises in 53 READ CLRCs.

Social Activities

READ CLRCs offer social services to meet the basic needs of the entire community -regardless of caste, language, religion and region. Social services include health activities, women's empowerment training, ICT activities and childhood development programs.

Health Activities

READ CLRCs offer basic health services to rural communities by organizing a wide array of health-related activities such as regular health camps, eye clinics, dental clinics, reproductive health awareness programs for women, safe motherhood trainings, blood donation programs, HIV/ AIDs awareness programs and counselling to provide health-related information.

Women's empowerment

"Even when we want to sit together and discuss our problems, we do not have any space, and tea shops are not a place that our society accepts for women. Libraries being a place of education, we can now have easy permit from our husband and families as libraries are a place of education." This is the voice of women in towns where READ CLRCs are operating.

In 2010, READ made a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to empower 16,000 women and adolescent girls by 2014.

As part of this commitment, many READ CLRCs offer a women's section – a safe place for women and adolescent girls to meet and discuss their needs and challenges. This space provides a forum for women to speak and learn by facilitating their access to knowledge and information.

READ CLRCs also offer many programs to women, including literacy programs, non-formal education classes, livelihood skills and capacity building trainings. Special awareness campaigns are also offered regarding women's rights, gender equality and domestic violence. Women form their own groups and run their own saving and credit cooperatives out of READ CLRCs. For the past twenty years, READ CLRCs have encouraged women's participation, adopted equity-based approaches promoting gender equity and women's inclusion.

Information Communications Technology (ICT)

Today Information Communications Technology (ICT) has become a global phenomenon and is crucial for developing country like Nepal. But most rural villages in Nepal still lack access to ICT. Only 7.9% of the population had access to Internet in 2010, and frequent load-shedding up to 16 hours a day – means that even with access to an Internet connection, lack of electricity makes connectivity a huge challenge.

Because of this, READ CLRCs provide computer, Internet and email facilities to people in underprivileged rural areas. People who are computer literate can deal better with the modern world which in turn helps to improve their socio-economic condition as it enables them to get information about the world market and technology. So far, 40 READ supported READ CLRCs have computer centres that provide programs ranging from basic computer lessons to advanced courses for professional purposes, and free internet services.

Childhood Development

Child development is a foundation for community and economic development. About 39 READ CLRCs have children's section which offer engage-appropriate books, educational materials and toys that help advance their overall development. This section receives the highest number of visitors in most READ CLRCs. Most children's sections offer Early Childhood Development (ECD) daycare programs for pre-schoolers, where the children learn actively while playing. This service also helps local mothers by giving them the free time to work while their children are in day care.

20 Year Anniversary Event

The 20th anniversary of READ Nepal was celebrated with an event organized at the Malhar Convention Center of Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Tahachal on November 2, 2011. All local guests who have made contributions to READ Nepal in the past 20 years were invited.

Among the honored guests were Dr. Antonia Neubauer; Founder of READ Global, Ms. Tina Sciabica; Executive Director of READ Global, Ms. Purna Kumari Subedi; Honorable Vice-Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly, Mr. Janardan Nepal; Joint Secretary at Ministry of Education, all the Country Directors and staff of READ Nepal, READ Bhutan and READ India, Advisory Board Members of READ Nepal, participants from READ CLRCs and members of the Nepal Community Library Association.

Dr. Antonia Neubauer, reminiscing, said, "People used to laugh at the idea of using libraries as a catalyst for development. Now, READ has reached out to women, dalits and people at all ends of the social spectrum, offering opportunities for themselves and their families."



Major Highlights of the event:

- Documentary show on 20 years of READ Nepal
- Publication Release of "Library Profile 2011" and "Case Studies 2011"
- Awards ceremony: READ Nepal honored 20 personnel and institutions associated with READ Nepal's CLRCs in 20 different categorized awards.
- Cultural dance program with Newari, Tharu and Khajadi dance
- Short Melodrama to show how READ founder was inspired to build the first READ CLRCs at Junbhesi, Solukhumbu
- Capacity Building and Awareness Training from November 3-6, 2011 at RIRC training hall, READ Nepal.
- Stalls from READ CLRCs in the hotel to showcase locally produced handicrafts and edible items for sale
- Marking Milestones - To mark the 20th anniversary, READ Nepal announced its plans to build its 50th CLRC – the Gyan Bikas CLRC in Panauti village- using all-local Nepali funds

Awards and recipients:

1	Community Library Initiator	Mr. Ang Domi Sherpa, for initiating the first READ CLRC at Junbheshi Solukhumbu
2	Best Librarian	Ms. Ambika Poudel, Gauradaha CLRC, Jhapa for her 15 years of contribution as a librarian
3	Best Library Management Committee	Jhuwani READ CLRC, Chitwan for building partnerships with various organizations for educational, health and economic development activities.
4	Best Local Contributor	Mr. Ram Krishna Gurung, Chitwan for contributing land and cash for the establishment of Rameshwor CLRC, Chitwan
5	Best Sustaining enterprise	Thak CLRC, Tukuche, Mustang that has a furniture factory as sustaining enterprise. The income from the sustaining enterprise has been used in educational and social development.
6	Best READ Center for Impact Creation	Jhuwani CLRC, Chitwan for bringing positive changes in educational, social and economic development of the community.
7	Best READ Center for Women's Leadership	Puthang CLRC, Marpha, Mustang-the only CLRC to have all-female Library Management Committee.
8	Best Satellite Center	Dibya Jyoti CLRC, Chitwan for its exemplary performance, linkage with a Hub Center, and practical implementation of various fundraising activities
9	Best READ Center for Economic Development	Jhuwani CLRC, Chitwan for its outstanding economic activities.
10	Best READ Center for Educational Development	Chaturbujeshwor CLRC, Sarlahi for educating more than 500 women through its literacy classes.
11	Best READ Center for ICT usage	Jhuwani CLRC, Chitwan for providing regular computer trainings and free Internet access to the community.
12	Best READ Center for Health Awareness	Jhuwani CLRC, Chitwan for the success of its ambulance service sustaining enterprise and health camps.
13	Best READ Center for Innovation	Laxmi Memorial CLRC, Syangja for its FM community radio service.
14	Best READ Center for Library Services	Tikapur CLRC, Tikapur for its updated library sections with systematic record keeping and documentation.
15	Best Conflict Manager	Mr. Narendra Kerung, Panchthar for his ability to convince and negotiate with others during conflicts raised in the organization and society.
16	Best READ Center for Partnership Building	Laxmi Narayan CLRC, Lamjung for its ability to work in partnership with government, non-government and private partners in the fields of health, educational, economic and social development.
17	Best READ Center for Policy Advocacy	Moti CLRC, Phalebas, Parbat for its contribution to advocating the importance of community libraries in Nepal.
18	Best READ Center for Inclusiveness	Bardibas CLRC, Bardibas, Mahottari for having Dalit, Janajati, Women and in other minority groups Library Management Committee.
19	Best READ Center for Women's Empowerment	Jhuwani CLRC, Chitwan for its active initiation in empowering women through literacy, economic development and cooperative management.
20	Best Sub-Committee Library	Women's Sub-Committee, Rameshwor CLRC, Chitwan for its active participation in supporting the Library Management Committee.

Beneficiaries Voice

Helping a teenage girl realize her dreams of becoming a nurse

Soni Tulachan, a 17 year old girl from Souru, Kewang -7 Mustang district

"I am from a middle class family. Due to socio-cultural reasons girl's education is restricted in my village. But, I didn't give up my studies. I went to my aunt's house in Tukuche village for further studies, as there were only primary schools in my village. There, I studied at Yogendra Higher Secondary School till class 10. In the beginning, it was very difficult for me to develop relationships with new people in a new place, and the hesitation deep inside me troubled me so much that I felt lonely.

Then I got a chance to visit the READ CLRC in Thak. Gradually I became a regular visitor, because the wide collection of stories, poems, and literature books in the library interested me. I read stories and biographies of successful people. After going through these books, I felt I could do something. Slowly I started to participate in different programs organized by the CLRC, which boosted my confidence level, and all my hesitation started to vanish. Then I started to participate in education competitions organized by the school like quiz contests, poems and essay writings that I often used to win.

Now, I am recognized by villagers; school and the library committee members praise me. The learning environment at the Thak CLRCs always motivated me to study more and in no time I became voracious reader. I was very impressed with the biography of Florence Nightingale and at that moment I decided to become a nurse. After class 10, I studied hard to get through staff nurse examination. With the access to reading materials at the library, I passed the examination. Now, I am a Staff Nurse and will achieve my dream of becoming a nurse like Florence Nightingale soon. I thank READ Nepal and Thak library."



Beekeeping, Vegetable and Mushroom Farming help a villager earn a living



Som Lal Chaudhary, 44 years old, from Bachhauli VDC Jhuwani, is a farmer who is one of the beneficiaries of Jhuwani READ Center.

“I own a small piece of land. There are 8 members in my family. The income that that I earned with my farming business was insufficient to support my family members, and our house was in disrepair. Then, I came into contact with the Jhuwani CLRC. Now I am a lifetime member of the library. In 2001, I participated in the 3-day vegetable farming and 7-day beekeeping training. Then, I started my own vegetable farm and set up my own beehives. Later, in 2008, I participated in mushroom farming training provided by the Jhuwani CLRC and started mushroom farming as well. Now, I earn good money with these income-generating activities. As my economic condition began to improve, I built a new house. Now my home no longer leaks when it rains.

The honey I produce is consumed around the village. I sell honey to Dabur Nepal Ltd through an organization related to Nepal beekeeping. I have even started conducting my own trainings on mushroom farming to pass on my knowledge to other villagers. My economic and social status has improved. I have been able to save NRs. 2 lakhs annually. I am very grateful to the Jhuwani CLRC for making me who I am today!”



Changing social norms: Empowering a woman to read and write

Ms. Heera GC, a 40 year old women from Nawalparasi district, is one of the beneficiaries of adult literacy classes conducted by the Agyauli READ Center

"I came from the western region of Nepal. I am a regular visitor of the Agyauli CLRC. Earlier I was unable to read and write, because in those days there was a misconception that if girls were allowed to go to school they would elope. My parents also did not let me study, believing that investing in a girl's education is unnecessary since she will marry young and leave the family. They believed that only sons should be allowed to study.

Being illiterate, I used to feel embarrassed during the community meetings and social activities where a signature was required. I used to avoid such functions due to my inability to sign. I am also a human being, if only I had got the chance to study, I would have done so and led a successful life like others. I always wonder why my parents did not let me study.

Meanwhile I came to know about the Agyauli CLRC, where I attended an adult literacy class. Before attending the class, I asked for my husband's permission. But he denied my request. I was hurt badly that day, and I decided to attend class secretly. Having finished my evening household chores, I secretly went to literacy class with my small baby. I continued my studies without my husband's knowledge. Soon, I learned how to read and write. Gradually I became able to read school sign boards, hoarding boards and hospital rules.

Now, I can confidently write my signature at any social function I attend. I can read books. Now my husband has realized that women can also perform the same tasks as men, and has stopped scolding me. He gives me permission to go to the library, so I no longer have to do it secretly. At present, I am a member of the "Mero Sahara" women's saving cooperative at the CLRC. Apart from all these achievements, today I am able to speak in front of you all. In reality, the community library has totally changed my life. I express my heartiest gratitude to READ Nepal for establishing the Agyauli CLRC."



Wall magazine editor to president of journalist's association



Satyendra Jagebu from Ilam, the eastern part of Nepal, became a successful president of a Journalist's Association after being a librarian at the Janakalyan CLRC

"I was an untrained youth without any knowledge and skills on social work. I was in dark, walking aimlessly without knowing my future. Then, I came into contact with the Janakalyan CLRC. In 1998 I was offered the opportunity to work as a librarian at the CLRC – giving me a sense of responsibility. While working I came across people from different ethnic groups and backgrounds. I also developed the habit of reading newspapers and magazines, which improved my general knowledge. At that time, READ Nepal gave training on publishing wall newspapers and fortunately, I was one of the participants. Soon, my interest in the wall magazine publication grew strong, and I thought it would be great if I could inform others about my village through the newspaper. This pushed me to journalism. I started to write news related to Ilam, women's empowerment in local publications.

Eventually, I went from being a village reporter to a national journalist – reporting for various publications from Ilam. My work experience as a librarian at the CLRC led me to be selected for the post of treasurer, and then president of the Umbrella Association of Journalists. Under my leadership, a three-story building - worth more than NRs 50 lakhs - was constructed for the headquarters of the association. I even set up an information center for the ease of collecting and editing news. Moreover, I developed a system for proper functioning of similar associations. At present, I am working as a major editor of the Ilam daily, and am working to establish the Ilam communication center.

As a publisher and editor from Barbote VDC, I have been publishing a weekly magazine called "Village News in Village Voice." I would like to give credit to the CLRC for helping me succeed. If READ Nepal had not established the community library, I would not have earned the name and fame which I have today. So, I cannot see myself separate from the library. The library has become an integral part of my life. Finally I would like to express my gratitude to all my elders and READ Nepal for establishing the READ CLRC in my village."

I realized the importance of my life

Sunita Dangi, 22 years of age, from the mid-western development region of Nepal is a role model for all differently abled people.

"My hometown is in Bardia. Physically I have problems with both my legs. So, I use artificial legs for walking. In this way, I am different from others. All my friends and neighbors used to tease me because of my disability. They used to discourage me by saying that I cannot do anything and I am good for nothing. I fell into a depression because of this. I stayed in a hostel till secondary level school, and my hostel life was like a prison. I had a hard time studying there. Since I was the only differently abled student in my school, I hesitated to interact with others and befriend them. I had a problem interacting with others. In the school library, there were no books and it was very hard to spend my leisure time. I used to get upset when people visited my room at the hostel and usually hid in the corner. In the midst of all the troubles, I continued studying but my perception and thinking remained the same.

In 2009, I went to Kohalpur for my B.A. studies. Campus life also didn't interest me. But soon I realized that my college was close to the Gyanodaya CLRC. I started to visit the library, and soon became its member. I became a regular visitor - spending 2 hours every day in the library. I read several books on Sociology, Philosophy, Humanities and Politics. I developed the habit of reading books and unknowingly, there was a change in my attitude. Soon, I developed a strong bond with the library and I began to go there when it opened, and stayed there till it closed. Reading different insightful books helped me identify my problems. Within 3-4 months I found a change in my perception on life. I started to accept everything in a positive way- even the hatefulness of people towards me. I started to participate in discussions and meetings. Now, at campus, I have many friends. I feel that I can face all sorts of challenges ahead. This library has made me a more capable person. Today, all of my feelings of fear and depression have gone away and I have become more confident and self-reliant woman. The library has become a source of inspiration. I think community libraries should also be established in other places also. Thanks to the Gyanodaya CLRC for helping me realize the importance of life. I salute to the library."



2011 Updates

READ CLRCs Under Construction

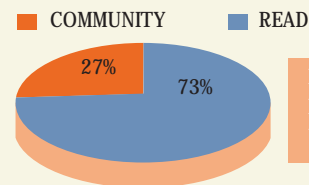
Janajagaran READ CLRC, Nuwakot

Location	: Kumari VDC-9, Nuwakot District, Central Development Region
Reach	: 16,384 people
Sustaining enterprise	: Micro Finance- Jagaran Agriculture Cooperative
Sections	: Library, Children, Women, Audio-Visual, Computer and Meeting hall

Though the construction of Janajagaran CLRC was initiated in 1992, it was halted due to a lack of a strong library management committee and other technical difficulties. However, in 2009, after an agreement was made between READ Nepal and the local community, the new building was constructed.



COST SHARING



Project Cost
NRs : 4,120,683
USD : 57,231.7

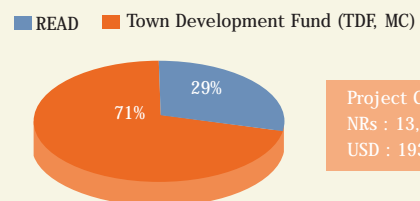
Deepshikha CLRC, Kaski

Location	: Lekhnath municipality, Kaski District, Western Development Region
Reach	: 41,369 people
Sustaining enterprise	: Storefront rentals
Sections	: Library, Children, Women, Audio-Visual, Sports and Music Section

Deepshikha CLRC is being built in partnership with the Town Development Fund (TDF), READ Nepal and the local community.



COST SHARING



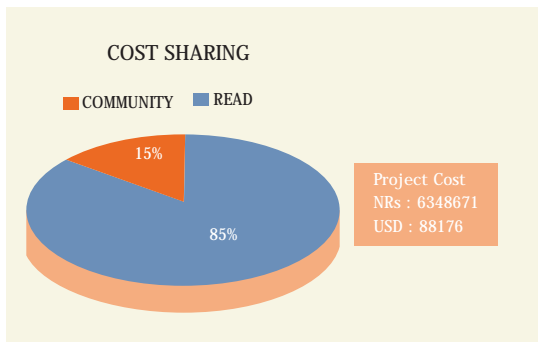
Project Cost
NRs : 13,964,976
USD : 193,958

Lumbini Tinau CLRC, Rupandehi



Location	: Dudharakchya-5, Rupandehi District, Western Development Region
Reach	: 25,350 people
Sustaining enterprise	: Storefront rentals
Sections	: Library, Children, Women, Audio –Video, Computer, and Training Hall.

Lumbini Tinau CLRC has a Research and Development (R&D) Center which is a project funded by the High Level Commission for Information Technology (HLCIT) under the coordination of READ Nepal. Till date, 125 people have become life members of the Center.

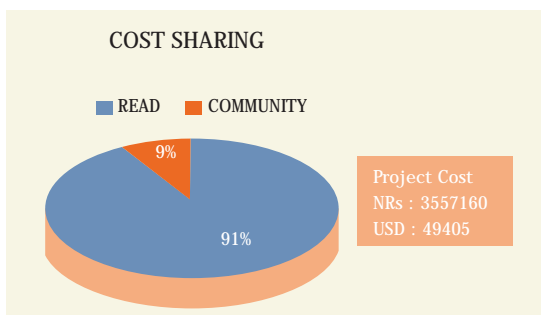


Kolti CLRC, Bajura



Location	: Kolti-2, Bajura District, Far-Western Development Region
Reach	: 20,262 people
Sustaining enterprise	: Storefront rentals
Sections	: Library, Children, Women, Audio -Video, Sport and musical and Training Hall.

The Kolti CLRC is situated in Kolti-2, Bajura District, Karnali, one of the most remote districts of Nepal. The construction of this center has been delayed due to its remote location and the occurrence of natural disasters during rainy season.



New Addition in READ Family

Gyan Bikas CLRC, Panauti

Location : Panauti, Kavrepalanchowk District,
Central Development Region

Reach : 20,506 people

Sustaining enterprise : Souvenir shop and Guest lodging

Sections : Library, Children, women, Audio
-Video, Computer section and
Seminar Hall.



Shiva Shakti Nava Durga CLRC

Location : Agauli-4, Godar, Nawalparasi

Reach : 24,521 people

Sustaining enterprise : Wheat farming

Sections : Library section, Women section, Audio -
Video section and Computer section.

This is a Satellite Center of the Agauli CLRC – established through the MEDICT Project in 2011.



Deurali CLRC

Location : Deurali-5, Belawa, Nawalparasi

Reach : 18,914 people

Sustaining enterprise : Turmeric farming

Sections : Library, Women, Audio -Video and
Computer section.

Deurali CLRC was established as a Satellite center of the Agauli CLRC through the MEDICT Project in 2011.



Partnership Project

MEDICT Project

“Mobilization for Education and Development through Information and Communication Technology” (MEDICT) Project

Partner organizations :

READ Information and Resource Centre (RIRC) Nepal, in partnership with Norwegian Association for Adult Learning (NAAL) and financial support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

Implementing CLRCs :

- Jhuwani CLRCs and its satellite centers from 2010
- Agyauli CLRCs and its satellite centers, Nawalparasi from 2011

In 2011, as a part of the MEDICT project, 18 literacy classes, 3 income-generating trainings, 2 Microenterprise promotion trainings, 7 computer trainings and 6 Institutional capacity building trainings were conducted at implementing CLRCs.

Total Beneficiaries	
Basic literacy class	189
Adult advanced literacy class	187
Cooperative management training	66
Farm based income generating training	91
Micro enterprise promotion training	42
Computer training	165
Advocacy and lobbying training	54
Institutional Development training	45
Leadership building, gender and social inclusion training	56

Practical Answers Service

The Practical Answers Service is a joint venture of Practical Action and READ Nepal, and seeks to help rural communities by answering questions in the fields of education, health, agriculture/livestock, and Law. Enquiries are collected by a focal person appointed at each READ CLRC and sent to experts from Practical Action and READ Nepal. The enquiries are responded to through email, brochures, booklets, flyers, group discussions, interaction with experts, health camps, video shows, FM radio and more.

Implementing CLRCs :

Jhuwani CLRC in Chitwan, Agyauli CLRC in Nawalparasi, Gyonodaya CLRC, in Banke and Tikapur CLRC in Kailali.

In 2011, out of 2930 enquires collected on various issues, 1850 enquires were responded.

Activities	
Training	2
Interaction programs	16
Animal health camp	4
Human health camp	4

Total Beneficiaries	
Interaction program	177
Human Health Camp	337
Animal Health Camp	210

Education Economic and Social (EES) Programs

EES is the third phase program of READ Nepal.

Implementing CLRCs :

READ Nepal has implemented EES programs in the newly established CLRCs of Tikapur, Gyanodaya, Dadeldhura, Sirijhunga, Lomanthang and Kolti.

Beneficiaries			
	Male	Female	Total
Education	772	956	1728
Economic	28	252	280
Social	1708	2238	3946
ICT	487	557	1044

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

As the pilot project, READ has implemented a Women's Empowerment program in 3 CLRCs: Laxmi Narayan CLRC, Lamjung; Laxmi Memorial CLRC, Syangjha and Gauradaha CLRC, Jhapa.

Impacts of the program

- Increase in women's participation in Library Management Committees
- Increase in women's membership in READ Centers
- Increase in support for capacity enhancement and women's empowerment from local communities
- Improvement in health and sanitation

Benefitted women	
Laxmi Narayan READ Center	288
Laxmi Memorial READ Center	263
Gauradaha READ Center	331

Buidling Strong Library Association (BSLA)

The International Federation of Libraries Association and Institution (IFLA) has supported the Nepal Community Library Association (NCLA) to strengthen its library association through the 'Building Strong Library Association' project, effective from August 2011 to December 2012. Its first workshop was conducted from November 7-9, 2011 with 24 participants from NCLA, its member CLRCs and READ Nepal. Trainers were Mr. Michael Robinson, Hongkong and Dr. Chihfeng Lin, Taiwan.

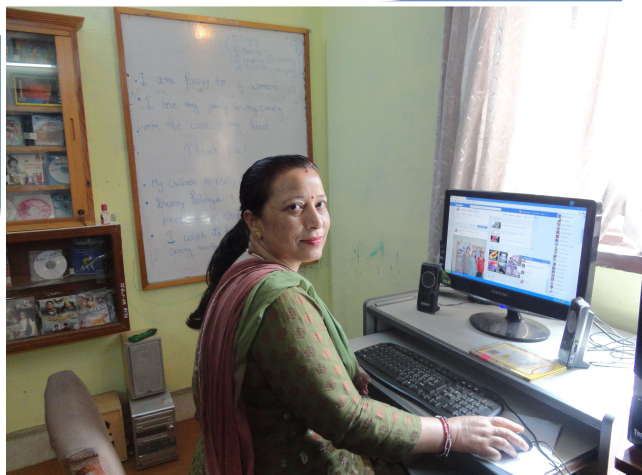
Literacy class in Rajbhanshi language

In partnership with SIL international, READ Nepal has conducted literacy classes in Rajbhanshi language through the Gauradaha CLRC. SIL international has been working to promote literacy through education in local languages. The first and second phase of literacy classes were completed in 2011.

English Language Class

READ Nepal, in partnership with LDSC has been conducting free English language classes for poor and needy women at the RIRC. More than 40 women benefitted from the class.

Read Information and Resource Center Update



Read Information and Resource Center (RIRC), a model CLRC continued its regular programs in 2011. RIRC established its own computer center with the support from Mr. Curtis Wong; Nepal Director, SIL International. The computer center provided free service to women, students, and other library users who do not have access to computers and the Internet. Also, RIRC's literacy and English language classes had benefitted the women of nearby areas. Moreover, various awareness programs conducted by RIRC had benefitted more than 300 students of government schools and women of nearby areas of the CLRCs.

Total beneficiaries	
Computer Class	61
Literacy Class	18
Orientation Programs:	
Earthquake	70
Good habits	63
Child Sexual Abuse	138
Women Health	17

Upcoming highlight

Nepali le Sakchhaun Campaign:

To mark 20 years of service in Nepal, READ has launched a campaign to construct a READ CLRC in Panauti using only funds raised from Nepalese. During the past 20 years, READ Nepal has established 49 READ CLRCs, primarily with funds received from international donors and partners. So with this campaign READ hopes to inspire a culture of giving in the Nepali society – where community development efforts have traditionally been driven by international funds. This inspiring project combines both civic participation and corporate partnership for community development.

The READ CLRC in Panauti – Gyan Bikas Community Library is READ's 50th CLRC. Panauti is a historical and cultural place of Nepal. Thus the library building will be built using traditional and cultural architecture as designed by Mr. Rabindra Puri, UNESCO Heritage Award Winner.



Our Partner Organizations

Thank You for supporting us...

Anuvuti International
Asia Foundation
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Change Fusion Nepal
Coppades
Empower Generation
E- Network Research and Development (ENRD)
Equal Access International
German Embassy
High level Commission for Information and Technology (HLCIT)
Hridaya Group
Indian Embassy
International Climate Champion Network (ICCN)
Kathmandu University
Latter Day Saint Charities (LDSC)
Midas Technology
Ministry of Education
National Library
Nepal Federation of Environment Journalists (NEFEJ)
Nepal Library association (NLA)
Nepal Red Cross Society
Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD)
Norwegian Adult Association of learning (NAAL)
One World South Asia
Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)
Practical Action Nepal
Prisons Fellowship
Queensland University of Technology
Room to Read
Rotary Club International
SIL International
Tempus International
Town Development Fund
UNESCO Nepal
World Education

Financial Report

Rural Education and Development (READ) Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Balance Sheet as on 31st December 2011

Particulars		Current Year Amount NPR.	Previous Year Amount NPR.
Sources of Funds			
Reserve & surplus		530,436.18	2,981,060.79
Severance Reserve Fund	1	1,768,017.21	1,338,117.21
Total sources of funds		2,298,435.39	4,319,178.00
Application of Funds			
Fixed Assets	2	1,517,187.69	1,789,901.14
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Program Advance	3	42,954.00	108,330.00
Cash and Bank Balance	4	3,829,070.95	8,277,997.46
		3,872,024.95	8,386,327.46
Less, Current liabilities & Provisions			
Other Payables	5	3,089,896.25	5,848,188.60
TDS Payable	6	863.00	17,862.00
		3,090,759.25	5,866,050.60
Net Current Assets		781,265.70	2,520,276.86
Total Application of Funds		2,298,453.39	4,319,178.00

Significant Accounting policies & Notes to the Account 24



Parshu Ram Pandey
Finance Officer




Sanjana Shrestha
Country Director



FCA Yoddha Raj Oli
Partner
P.Y.C. & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Date: 9th March, 2011
Place: Kathmandu

READ Nepal Team in 2011

Board Members

Advisory Board Member

Mr. Bhola Kumar Shrestha

Ms. Era Shrestha

Mr. Hem Raj Gyawali

Mr. Manohar Bhattarai

Dr. Nirmal Kandel

Mr. Rabindra Puri

Dr. Shanti Basnyat

Emeritus Board Members

Dr. Mohan Man Sainju

Ms. Rita Thapa

Prof. Shankar Raj Pathak

Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma

Country Staffs

Ms. Sanjana Shrestha

Country Director

Ms. Pratima Sharma

Programme Manager

Mr. Suhrid Prasad Chapagain

Buisness Development Manager

Mr. Parshu Ram Pandey

Regional Finance Officer

Mr. Chattra Bahadur Khatri

M&E Officer

Ms. Pushpa Bhadel

Admin Coordinator

Mr. Chin Kaji Shrestha

Field Officer

Mr. Raju Babu Shrestha

Field Officer

Ms. Sharada Maharjan

Finance Assistant

Ms. Devi Maya Rai

Office Aid

Ms. Bina Lama

Security Guard

Project Staffs

Mr. Sushil Timsina

Project Officer

Ms. Sabita Shrestha

Project Assistant - NCLA

Ms. Deepa Subedi

Librarian

Mr. Arjun Maharjan

Field Supervisor

Ms. Anjali Basnet

Library Assistant

Mr. Lal Bdr. Bhandari

Field Supervisor

Ms. Parbati Sodari

Receptionist

Mr. Prabha Wagle

Programme Assistant

Mr. Saajan Thapa

Field Supervisor

Ms. Sarita Sharma

Library Assistant

Ms. Sirjana Pradhan

Administration Assistant

Ms. Subhadra Dahal

Library Assistant

Mr. Sujan Shrestha

Field Supervisor

Ms. Saraswoti Maji

Office Helper

Interns

Ms. Cynara Manandhar

Ms. Anju Tamrakar

Ms. Basanti Lama

Ms. Ranjana Subedi

Mr. Ritendra Thapa Magar

Mr. Udeep Regmi

Field Staffs

Mr. Bijaya Chaudari - Chitwan

Ms. Kalpana Bhandari - Rupandehi

Mr. Hum Bhahadur KC - Nawalparasi

Mr. Krishna Timilsina - Nuwakot

20 years Celebration Special





Snapshots of 2011







READ Nepal

Inspiring Rural Prosperity

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Nepal



● Program sites of READ Nepal