



Sri Lanka Library Completion Report

Dear Cafe Eikaiwa,

I am so pleased to share the following library completion report with you! The library at St. Joseph's College., which is just one of the 152 libraries we established in Sri Lanka in 2013, is already deeply cherished by the school's students and teachers. I wish I could bottle and send you the joy that exudes from the children whenever they open a new book or recognize a new word for the first time. They are on their way to becoming avid, independent readers, and I cannot wait to watch as class after class of students learns to read using the books and materials you have helped us provide. Thank you for supporting our efforts to promote literacy and bring this wonderful new resource to this community!

Our team has been very busy ensuring all of the libraries we established in 2013 are functioning well and educators have the skills they need to best leverage library resources. We have been working with teachers and librarians to create book checkout systems, make the libraries comfortable and welcoming for students, and organize reading materials so they are easy to access and find. We regularly visit each school to see how our libraries are doing and provide coaching and support to help school staff improve their library management and resource utilization skills.

Room to Read Sri Lanka and our government partners will continue to support these libraries over the next three years to ensure activities are running smoothly and provide additional assistance to educators as needed. Ongoing support for our libraries over the next three years will consist of:

- Refresher trainings for teachers and librarians
- Continued support and monitoring visits
- Delivery of materials designed to maintain student interest and build teacher and librarian capacity
- Activities to engage communities and promote library sustainability

In addition to these support efforts, we have also started work on another 78 new libraries this year. With every new library we create, and every student we reach, we get one step closer to a world where every child is guaranteed access to a quality education. I want to thank you again for believing and investing in Room to Read and our partner communities. Because of people like you, the children in our programs now have the opportunity to pursue a better future filled with all of the possibilities literacy provides. For that, I and my staff are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Shevanthi Jayasuriya
Country Director, Room to Read Sri Lanka

Prepared for: Cafe Eikaiwa

With your help, Room to Read established a Separate library in Sri Lanka!



Project Details

Project ID: LK-RR-13-0130
Name: St.Josep's College.
State/Province: Eastern Province
District/Zone: Trincomalee
City/Village: Thillainagar
Grades: 1 through 13

Number of Students
Female: 0
Male: 970
Total: 970

Number of Teachers
Female: 27
Male: 27
Total: 54

Project Location

St.Josep's College. is located in Trincomalee, which is a port city in the Eastern province of Sri Lanka. The city supports strong fishing and agricultural economies. Many of the villagers who live in this area are dependent on rice cultivation, which is mainly done during the two rainy seasons. Despite Trincomalee's fertile landscape, most residents live in poverty and often have to travel to neighboring cities in search of employment during the dry seasons.

As with most rural communities in Sri Lanka, children in Trincomalee struggle with school attendance and are often forced to care for younger siblings or forgo their education to help support their families. The literacy rate is currently 17 percent below Sri Lanka's national average and many of the city's schools and facilities are in great need of repair and support. Room to Read anticipates making a significant impact on both the quality and availability of district-wide education in this region.

Partner Organization

Room to Read partners with local organizations in many of the communities where we work. Through this model we are able to leverage existing local expertise, build the capacity of smaller non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and extend the reach of our program. Working with local corporate and NGO partners also ensures the sustainability of projects as these organizations will remain invested in the success of a project long after we have completed our commitment of support. Our partner in this project is Trincomalee District Development Association.

The Trincomalee District Development Association was started in 1983 to help victims of racial violence. The organization has a variety of projects including nutritional support to pregnant women, industrial training for youth, livelihood activities, and provision of basic facilities for rural populations. This organization has been supporting the

implementation of Room to Read libraries by providing regular support and monitoring visits in the Trincolamee district since 2009.

Library Details

Separate libraries are established in a designated room of the school. This is often an unused storage room or a former teacher's office. This important type of library is designed to create a print rich environment that enables and supports the creation of a habit of reading in students. The room is stocked with books in addition to shelving, furniture, games, posters, and library stationery. The furniture is designed in a way to ensure that children can easily see and access the books. The walls are covered in maps and literary posters and students feel at ease and welcome to read books freely. Students may come to the library to use the books and resources during break time, before and after school, or when teachers bring students to use the library during the library period.

Resources Provided

The School Libraries team works hard to select the most appropriate and engaging reading materials to stock the libraries. The Room to Read Book Publishing program in Sri Lanka works closely with the School Libraries team to provide culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate books for our libraries in Sri Lanka. In addition, the Sri Lanka team purchases books from local language retailers and publishers in Sri Lanka. The books selected play a vital role in supplying students with relevant and engaging learning materials. Room to Read has provided the following books and other resources to this library:

- 744 local language books published by Room to Read
- 424 non-Room to Read local language books
- Chair - Students; Cupboard; Desk - Students

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the libraries, Room to Read aims to increase the participation of families and communities around our schools. Our goal is that by engaging families and communities, there will be increased awareness and support of literacy both in school and at home, resulting in the sustainability of our programs and program outcomes—children's reading skills and habits.

Our strategy to engage communities involves:

- Meeting and collaborating with the local community before the library is established;
- Creating a literacy committee that coordinates community activities to promote reading such as parent meetings and literacy events;
- Developing a plan with the literacy committee to continue engaging the community and sustain the literacy program even after Room to Read's support ends;
- Supporting the school to identify a community mobilizer to liaise between the school and community; and
- Providing regular support and capacity building to school principals and teachers to engage families and communities in reading.

Trainings

In Sri Lanka, all librarians and teachers involved in libraries receive eight days of trainings in year one and three days of trainings in year two and three of Room to Read support. These trainings build on each other and serve as refresher courses and venues for working through problems that have arisen during the year.

The Sri Lanka School Libraries program also supports educators by providing coaching and program implementation feedback during support visits that take place an average of once per month over the three years of Room to Read support. During these visits, the School Libraries team oversees the establishment of the library, provides tailored assistance on training topics, encourages school management to involve teachers in daily library operations, and promotes family and community engagement in reading. The team also assesses library quality by using a rating tool, which evaluates the library's functionality across 19 indicators. Room to Read staff use these ratings to determine the frequency and type of support they provide to each school, and to assign extra support time for schools with greater needs.

Start Date	Length of Training	Training Topic*
6/1/2013	2.0 days	Book leveling; Importance of libraries and reading; Library management; Library period and reading activities; Other; Sustainability
6/8/2013	1.0 days	Importance of libraries and reading; Library period and reading activities; Other

** Some trainings are provided for various groups of stakeholders (teachers, librarians, field facilitators, etc.) at different times. Because of this, the same training may be listed more than once.*

St.Josep's College. library will receive three full years of additional support from Room to Read, which will include books, additional training for the school teachers and librarians, support for family and community engagement, and regular support and monitoring visits.

Photos



Exterior view of the school building where the new library is located.



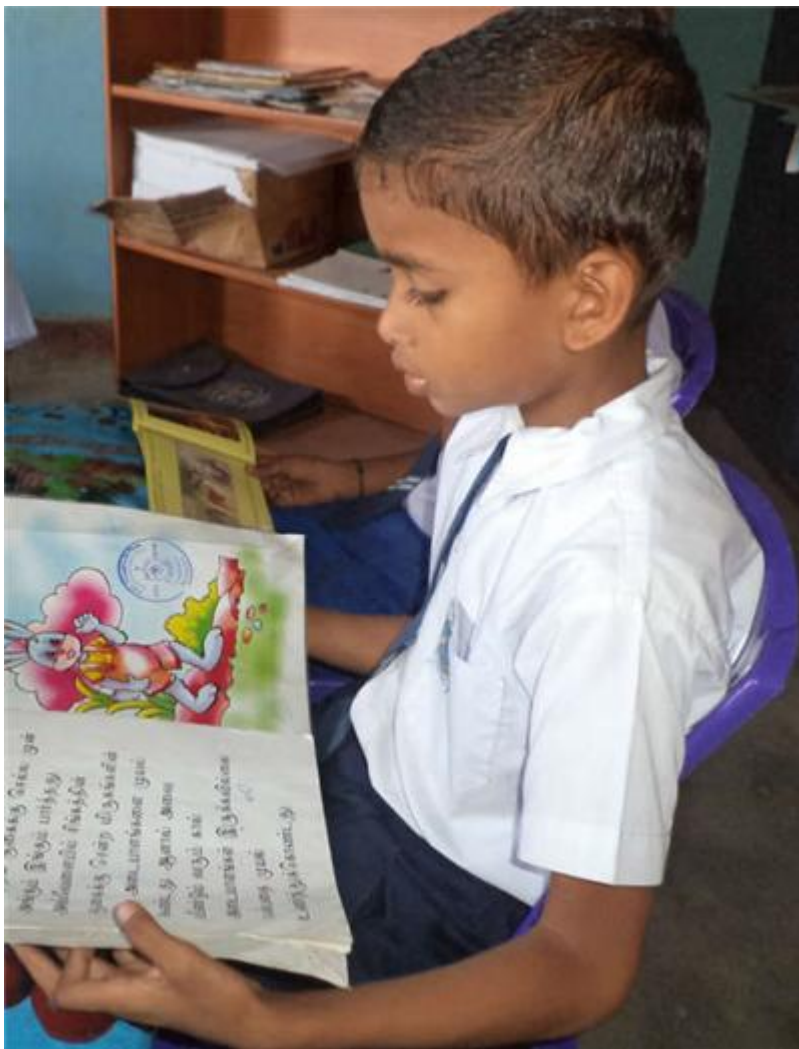
A teacher engaging students in a reading activity.



Furniture and other resources provided by Room to Read.



Children selecting books to read during a visit to the school library.



A student enjoying one of the new books.