




**Room to Read Sri Lanka**  
**Overview of the Organisation and the Programmes**






### Our Mission

*We partner with local communities throughout the developing world to provide quality educational opportunities by establishing libraries, creating local language children's literature, constructing schools, providing education to girls, and establishing computer labs. We seek to intervene early in the lives of children in the belief that education empowers people to improve socioeconomic conditions for their families, communities, countries, and future generations. Through the opportunities that only education can provide, we strive to break the cycle of poverty, one child at a time.*



### Our Vision for Sri Lanka

***“ We dream of a Sri Lanka where all the Children are educated and specifically touched the lives of 1 million Sri Lankan children by the end of 2010 and inspired their parents, communities and the school administrations to actively engage and promote educational opportunities. ”***



### Why Education?

**Education is a Right of the child**

**It is the most effective way to empower the disempowered**

**Education is the most effective tool to breaking the cycle of poverty**




## How it was started?

John Wood's visit to Nepal

- Book donation programme – 2,240,976 English books
- Establishing libraries – 5167 bi-lingual Libraries
- Constructing schools – 442 schools ( 1.7 million children)
- Providing scholarships for girl children – 4036 girls
- Publishing children's story books in local languages – 226 titles ( 2,099,000 books)
- Establishing Computer Rooms & Language Labs – 108 Computer Labs and 47 Language Labs

Impacted on 1,758,020 Children's lives



## In Sri Lanka


Started operations in 2005

**By the end of 2007.....**

- Established 240 Libraries in Remote Schools
- Constructed 107 Pre-schools and 08 Primary Schools
- Given 300 scholarships for Girl Children
- Published 17 Titles and 20 Posters in Local Languages

**In 2008 we are planning to.....**


- Establish 210 more Libraries (Total 500)
- Construct 38 Pre-schools (145) and 05 Primary Schools (13) 05 Libraries (05)
- Give 500 scholarships for Girl Children (800)
- Publish 12 Titles (29) and 10 (30) Posters in Local Languages



## Our Core Values

### Teamwork / Partnership

We help team members achieve their goals, even if we are busy or it's not our responsibility. We celebrate team members' successes (professional and personal). We are accessible and approachable. We seek others' input and we share what we know. We collaborate with partners




## Our Core Values (Contd.)

### Making Change Happen –

We are not complacent; we see a need and we take responsibility for improving the situation

### Effective Programs –

We monitor and evaluate our programs regularly to understand our impact on the lives of children; we adjust programs as needed to improve them. We add programs based on need and if they are a good fit. We build expertise in our program areas and share this expertise with others




**Our Core Values (Contd.)**

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World Change Starts  
with Educated  
Children

**Positive**  
We have optimistic, can-do attitudes. We are undaunted by set backs. We offer each other constructive feedback on how to improve. We recognize good practices and accomplishments. We are cheerful in the office. We focus on strengths, solutions and hope, rather than barriers, problems and fear

**Passion**  
We speak with enthusiasm about the mission and programs of Room to Read and the countries that we operate in. We all have a personal story that connects us to the mission. We are energetic




**Our Core Values (Contd.)**

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**Integrity**  
We are honest, fair, and ethical in all of our actions. We admit mistakes when we make them. We work with our in-country teams to avoid corruption. We stand up to those whose actions do not demonstrate integrity. We apply the "New York Times Test" (Would we be okay if this story was published on the front page of The New York Times newspaper?) to all of our actions


**Transparency**  
We help insiders and outsiders to understand our intentions, rationale, processes, actions, decisions and results. We share information internally and externally. We include internal and external stakeholders in our decision making. We raise and address problems as they are identified



**Our Core Values (Contd.)**

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**Culturally Sensitive & Locally Based**  
We respect and embrace each others' differences. We understand how our programs operate in each country. We learn about and are interested in the cultures of the countries in which we operate. We visit the countries and we support inter-country rotations. We hire host country nationals and partner with local NGOs whenever possible. We share best practices, understand country differences, and tailor our programs to meet local needs. Communities seek us out; we do not impose our programs on anyone




**Our Core Values (Contd.)**

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**Strategic**  
We take advantage of opportunities as they arise. We are flexible and reprioritize when needed. We make time to respond to others' needs. We are willing to go outside our normal routines to meet team needs

**Balance**  
We each know what balance is for ourselves and our supervisors encourage and work with us to maintain strategies and structures to achieve that balance. We prioritize regularly with our supervisors to ensure we are working on what is important; we appreciate the potential for burnout and seek to prevent this by working smart. We encourage activities outside of work and flexible work schedules when possible. Supervisors acknowledge when an employee makes the "extra effort" to meet a Room to Read need



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## Our Core Values (Contd.)

**Results Oriented**  
We set high goals and meet them. We focus our energies on activities with the greatest impact; we are efficient, but not at the expense of quality. We know what is expected of us and we hold ourselves accountable for meeting commitments in a timely manner and achieving objectives; we are reliable. We quickly identify and resolve problems / barriers to achieving results




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## Key Elements in Our Way Forward.....

**Active Participation of our 'Stakeholders'**

- Partnership with the Government/Administration
- Partnership with the Parents/Community through the Management Committees
- Partnership with the locally based Organisations
- Partnership with the Suppliers/Service Providers (Donate books for our libraries)
- Participation and Partnership of Children as LLP Writers/Illustrators, Librarians and Management Committee Members




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## Way Forward... (Contd.)

**Adding Excellence to whatever we do...**

- Our Reading Rooms to be the most colorful, most active libraries and children love to be in....
- Our LLP books to be the most colorful, exciting, award winning children's story books which has the highest demand in the country
- Our Pre-schools to be the most child friendly learning environments where the quality of learning at its highest standards
- Our RtG Scholars to be the 'shinning stars' among other students in the school



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**Thank You !**  
**Nandri !**