



Dear friends of the library,

It has been months now that the lockdown has lifted, yet our country has truly opened its eyes only last month with the schools and colleges opening up. A bittersweet challenge arose for us when the library lacked its most eager crowd till noon. Some schools even go on till 4:30 pm and only a bunch of kids are present at the library regularly in the meantime.

The library waits quietly yet eagerly, looking out for its friends. And soon bright faces start pouring in straight from school, wearing their school uniforms and the spirit of pure enthusiasm. Turns out our children are going to learn a lesson in time management and prioritizing from here on and we are up for it.



A total of **300 visitors** turned up this month, out of which **20 adults** and **41 children** visited the library for the first time. We stocked **34 new books** in the library and issued a total of **175 books**. As usual competitive books were issued the most.

The whole air of Hardoi is brewing of a secret vigour and determination which it never saw before. As announced in our previous report, we have begun work for the [National means cum merit scholarship \(NMMS\)](#) along with the help of school teachers and Gram panchayat Bansa. The NMMS is the government's attempt to maintain eagerness towards education in government schools and our attempt is to tap into these opportunities already present and stimulate academic sincerity and enthusiasm among children of the village.



Hardoi alone has about 234 seats for this scholarship out of which hardly 40% forms used to get filled, that too without much preparation or hope. This initiative is turning out to be a very challenging one for us due to the 2 year long pandemic which has sent our schooling, (especially government schooling) into a stubborn stagnancy. It's hard for children to associate with what they were learning before the schools were shut, let alone equip their minds with the +2 levels of school they have to now deal with. Somehow all these difficulties are encouraging us all the more, since we are feeling all the more responsible. We're using this opportunity to highlight to the schools and children where there are huge scopes of improvement and where all we've been ignorant or unaware for so many years.



Currently we are regularly hosting general knowledge and logical reasoning classes for this competition at the library. All these classes are being hosted by school teachers, our librarian or by Jatin himself. We are filling forms for the students and have arranged for a pick and drop facility at the test center for the day of the exam. Other than these we provide them with all the stationery they need to study and organize regular quizzes and mock tests for practice.

After having prompted enthusiasm and awareness around this scholarship in the district, the need of securing high marks has escaped our priorities. The goal of our initiative is that children take their education and their time seriously even when the opportunities and awareness appear meek. It's thrilling to be a proactive part of this process but with all said and done we are still sharing the exam jitters with our students and it's a sweet reward in itself to be able to experience this journey with them.



On 15th of October, we decided to do a small movie screening of 'I am Kalam' for APJ Abdul Kalam's birthday. He has been a hero in every sense then and now and this event turned out to be another warm get together for the children and some adults.

Other than this our volunteers planned on hosting a Chaat party at the library to freshen the mood and steer some scattered attention back to the library, it's safe to say that we enjoyed this idea just as much as the children did.

Amidst the stressful routines children suddenly have to cope with, reading for pleasure has subsided from its already slippery stance in Bansa. However, it's reassuring to observe that reading aloud sessions are becoming more and more interesting, children have started reading aloud for their group of friends and crowds now without any of our help.



Every new plan or policy in small villages like ours takes every last bit of strength and courage to execute but we like to only keep in view the sheer shining enthusiasm and energy in the eyes of our visitors.

[Read and bloom where you are planted!](#)

Here's to the Rural Library Movement!

Anusha & Jatin

9<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

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