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CONSTRUCTED READING ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

Prepared for: Book Off Aug Campaign

Overview

Project ID #: **LK-CRR-09-0014**
Name of School or Community: **Allekona Kanista Vidyalaya (Monaragala)**

Location

Village/City: Allekona
District/Zone: Monaragala
State/Province: Uva Province
Country: Sri Lanka

Description: Allekona Village is located in the hilly area of Monaragala District. It is 198 km away from Colombo.

Narrow, windy, and bumpy roads in poor condition limit travel to this region. Although the trip is beautiful, the drive from Colombo takes 6 hours.



Map of Sri Lanka.

Student/Teacher Information

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN		NUMBER OF TEACHERS	
Female:	68	Female:	14
Male:	<u>62</u>	Male:	<u>4</u>
TOTAL:	130	TOTAL:	18

GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS: Grades 1 through 11

Community / School Profile

The proposed Constructed Reading Room (CRR) will be built in Allekona Village in Monaragala District, which is the second largest administrative district in Sri Lanka. Monaragala District has nine official areas. There are approximately 98 people per square kilometer in this district the average family size is 5.6 members. Monaragala District is one of the least developed districts in Sri Lanka. There is a lack of basic facilities, including housing, running water, electricity, toilets, medical care, and schools. Agriculture is the main occupation in this district. Unfortunately, scarcity of water makes this a difficult way to make a living. Most of the villagers receive Samurdhi funds from the government as part of a poverty reduction program.

Most of the residents of Allekona Village are farmers or fishermen. The paddies are cultivated twice a year using water from local reservoirs. During the off-season, the farmers must travel to other villages in search of work. Most of the homes in this area are made of brick and mud or cement.

Current Situation and Reason for Support

Currently, the school library is located in an old building in need of repairs. The walls are made of bricks and cement, but they are cracking. The roof leaks and leaves the library and students exposed to the weather. The library has 4 cupboards and approximately 100 square feet of usable space. Even with the poor conditions, the librarian is dedicated to creating an educational environment for the students. The librarian has worked hard to create a check-out system, allowing students to bring home books to share with their families.

Because this school serves a community that lives in extreme poverty, students dropping out of school is an issue. The high dropout rate has led the school officials and Room to Read to implement our Girls' Education Program here. The school's enthusiasm for education is apparent, and Room to Read is pleased to establish a CRR at this school.

Date Established

November 4, 2009

Project Details

Description of Construction

The new primary school CRR is approximately 800 square feet. It is a spacious building with plenty of light and good ventilation. The single-story building has an open area for reading and other classroom activities. There are two built-in wall cupboards, which the teachers use for displaying various educational materials donated by Room to Read. The exterior of the building is painted yellow, green, and blue color. It is an attractive addition to the community.

Description of Library Establishment

Room to Read has provided 2 student tables and 10 student chairs, 1 librarian table and chair, 1 lockable cupboard, 1 book display shelf, and various stationery. In addition to furniture and stationery, Room to Read donated 60 local language books, 200 English books, 802 primary-level books, and education materials such as puzzles and games.

Resources Provided

Challenge Grant Provided by Community - 13.93% of total

Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Electricity; Fence; Land; Library Maintenance; Monitoring and Support; Obtain Legal Clearances and Titles; Skilled Labor; Sponsor Groundbreaking Ceremony; Transportation of Materials; Volunteer Labor
Electricity; Land; Librarian; Library Maintenance

Provided by Room to Read - 86.07% of total

200 English Books

802 Non-RtR Local Language Books

60 LLP Books

Chair - Students; Cupboard; Tables

Building Design; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Cupboard; Display Racks; Doors; Flooring; Locks; Monitoring and Support; Paint; Roof; Skilled Labor; Transportation of Materials; Windows

Chair - Teacher; Desk - Teacher; Shelves

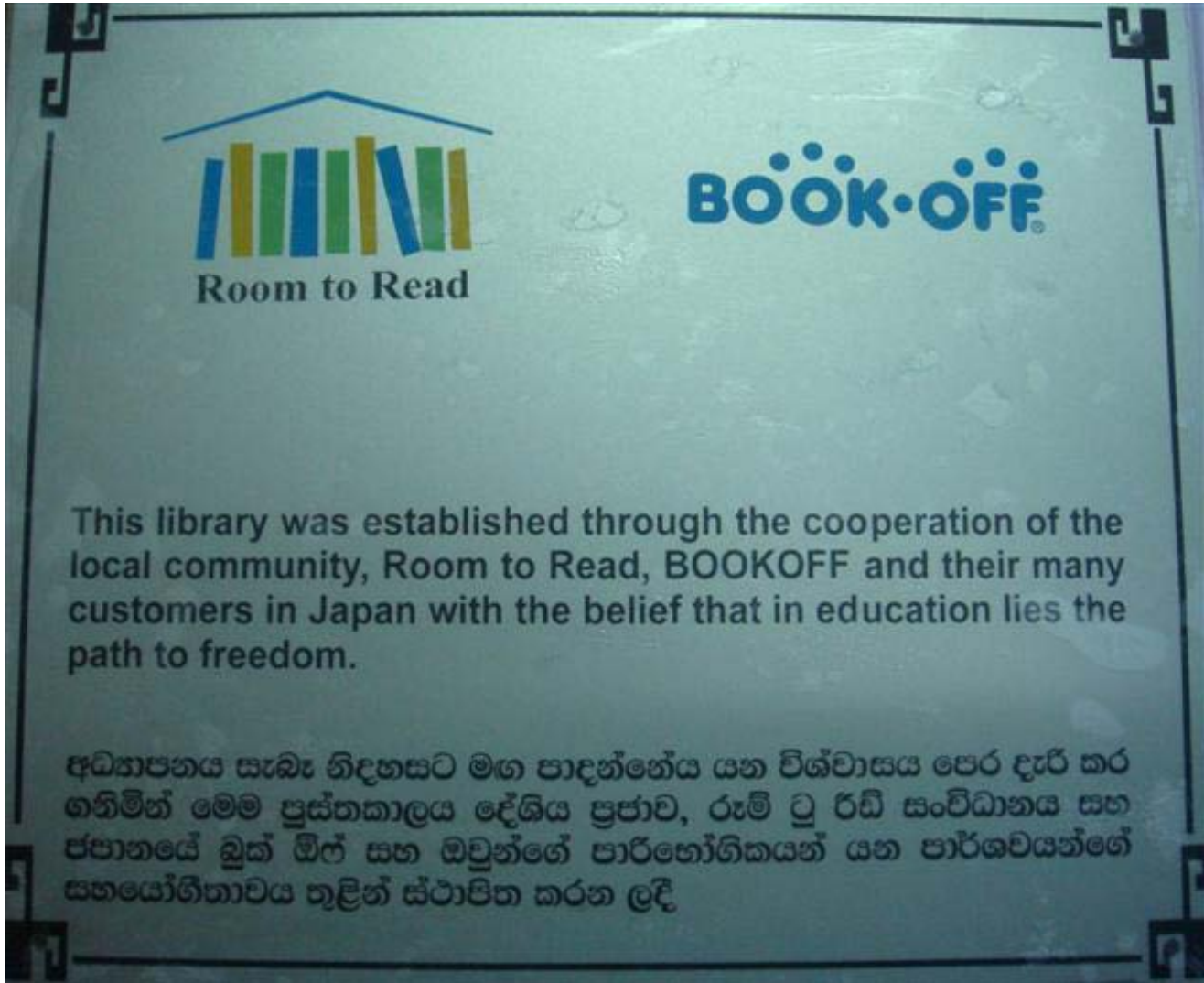
Trainings

Book selection; Library activities; Library set-up / management

Basic Construction Techniques; Building Maintenance; Early Childhood Education; Financial Management; Water and Sanitation

Comments

During the opening ceremony, the principal and president of the construction committee, Mr. H.M. Gunaratne, said "We only had two cupboards of books, which remained locked most of the time. This was not a proper library. In addition to a lack of books, we didn't have enough space for the children. Today, we stand before a building well suited for reading and storytelling. This is a wonderful facility that can serve as an example to neighboring villages. We thank Room to Read and the donors who have gifted the children with books and a reading space."



The dedication plaque on display at Allekona Kanista Vidyalaya School.



The Constructed Reading Room is painted yellow, green, and blue.



The Constructed Reading Room is an attractive addition to this community.



The students can't wait to read their favorite books.



The interior of the Constructed Reading Room is filled with light.



Room to Read provided colorful furniture, books, and educational materials.



The children have never had so many books to choose from.



The Constructed Reading Room has an open area in which the children can gather.