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CONSTRUCTED READING ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

Prepared for: Book Off Aug Campaign

Overview

Project ID #: **LK-CRR-09-0008**
Name of School or Community: **Diulgaskotuwa Kanista Vidyalaya (Matale)**
Partner Organization: **Janasrana Development Services**

Location

Village/City: Dambaghamula
District/Zone: Matale
State/Province: Central Province
Country: Sri Lanka

Description: Dambaghamula is located in the hill country district of Matale. It is 136 km away from Colombo (4 hours by car).

Although the views are incredible, travel to this region is limited by narrow, windy, and bumpy roads in poor condition.



Map of Sri Lanka.

Student/Teacher Information

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN		NUMBER OF TEACHERS	
Female:	185	Female:	13
Male:	<u>181</u>	Male:	<u>0</u>
TOTAL:	366	TOTAL:	13

GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS: Grades 1 through 5

Community / School Profile

The proposed Constructed Reading Room (CRR) will be built in Dambagahamula Village in Matale District, which is a historic district in Sri Lanka. Matale District is the location of the famous Sigiriya Rock Castle, Aluwihare Temple, the Knuckles Mountains, and Dambulla Cave Temple. Matale District is one of the least developed districts in Sri Lanka. Agriculture is the main occupation in this district. The main crops are tea, rubber, vegetables, and spices because of the fertile soil.

Most of the residents of Dambagahamula Village work as farmers on crops that have two harvests a year. Therefore, when they are not harvesting, many people travel to other villages to look for work. There is a severe lack of basic facilities (housing, running water, electricity, toilets, roads, medical care, schools, etc.) in this village. Most of the villagers receive Samurdhi funds from the government as part of a poverty reduction program.

Current Situation and Reason for Support

Currently, the school library is operating out of a small corner of a multipurpose building built in 1950. The walls are made of bricks and timber, but they are cracking. The roof leaks and leaves the library and students exposed to the weather. The building was recently condemned, but there are no other spaces in which to hold classes. The library has 2 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 checkout system, allowing students to bring home books to share with their families.

The school's enthusiasm for education is apparent, and Room to Read is pleased to establish a CRR at this school.

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 indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and have a much farther reach. Working with NGO partners also ensures the sustainability of the project. These organizations will remain invested in the success of the project long after Room to Read has completed our commitment of support. Our partner in this project is Janasrana Development Services.

Date Established

October 20, 2009

Project Details

Description of Construction

The completed CRR at Diulgaskotuwa Kanista Vidyalaya Primary School is a spacious, 800-square-foot building with a lot of light and ventilation. This is a single story building with an open reading area. There are two built-in wall cupboards that the teachers use to display various learning materials. The new Reading Room building is painted yellow, green, and blue. It is an attractive addition to this small community that draws a lot of positive attention.

Description of Library Establishment

Room to Read has provided 2 student tables, 10 student chairs, 1 librarian table and chair, 1 lockable cupboard, and 1 book display shelf. They have also provided enough stationery for library management and student use. The library currently contains 82 local language books, 187 English books, and 802 books appropriate for primary school students.

Resources Provided

Challenge Grant Provided by Community - 13.96% 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 - 86.04% of total

187 English Books

802 Non-RtR Local Language Books

82 LLP Books

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

Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Desk - Students; Desk - Teacher; Display Racks

Stationery

Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Cupboard; Desk - Students; Desk - Teacher; Display Racks

Trainings

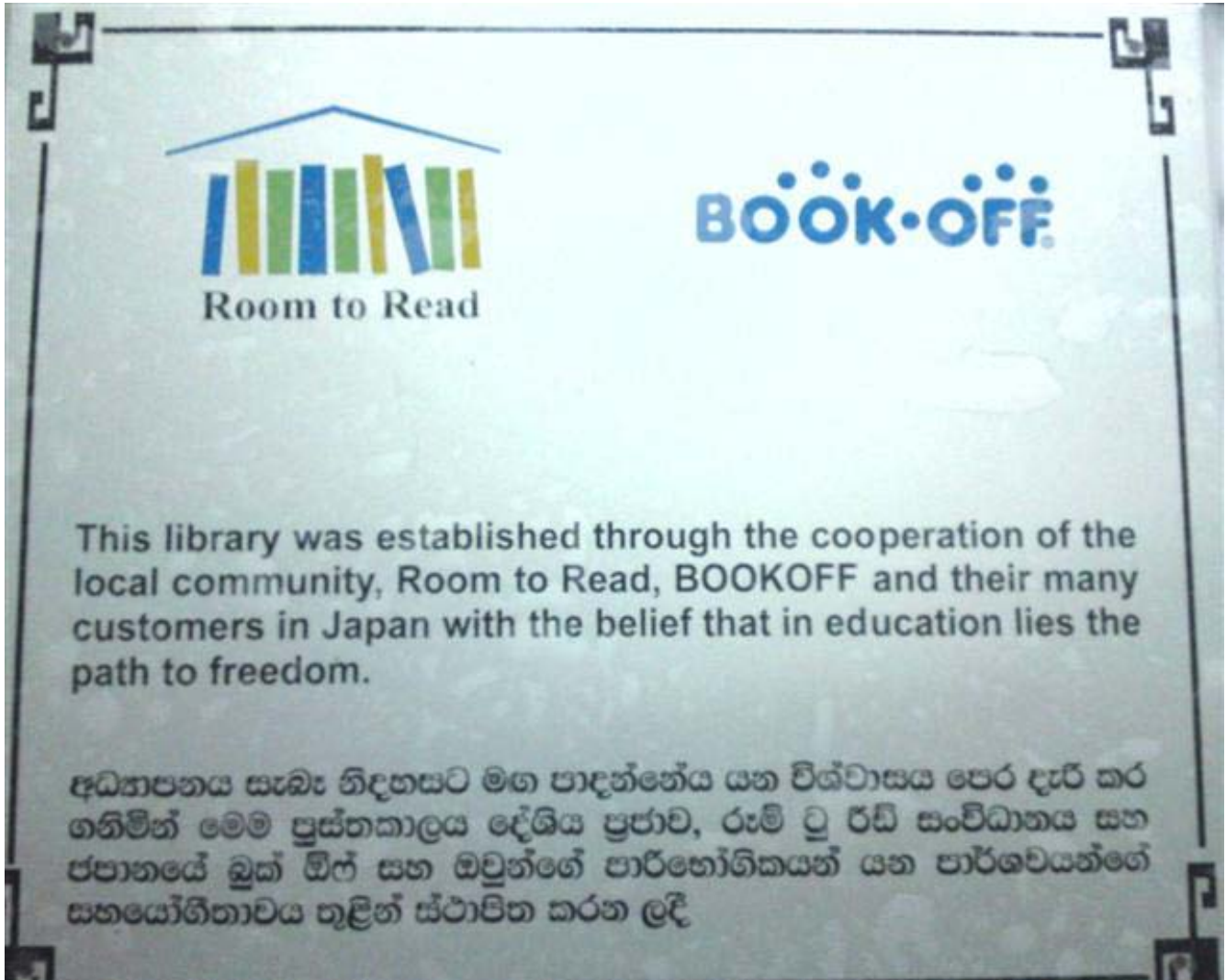
Basic Construction Techniques; Building Maintenance; Early Childhood Education; Financial Management; Water and Sanitation

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

Comments

During the opening ceremony, Miss Kalpani Novodaya, a 10-year-old student and head prefect, said, "As the saying goes 'Reading makes a man fit company for himself and others.' I have already read some of the books donated to the library, but there are many more that I have not read, and I plan to read them all. It is our duty to read the books and preserve them for our younger brothers and sisters. If we read at the primary stage we will find learning more interesting in upper classes. Therefore, I encourage my friends to read as many books as possible."

The school principal said, "Previously, we had only a few books in a cupboard, but we could not loan them to students. We did not have the space for students to read. We barely had room to conduct classes. Therefore we could not encourage the children to read during their free time. Today the children have been gifted with a permanent building and books suitable for them. It was only possible through Room to Read and the donor, who have gifted us with books and space. May gods give them strength and power to continue with their good deeds."



The dedication plaque affixed to the new Constructed Reading Room.



The entrance to the Constructed Reading Room.



The interior of the Constructed Reading Room is also painted in bright colors.



The students rush to the bookshelves to select new books during their scheduled library time.



Room to Read provided colorful furniture for the Constructed Reading Room.



The Constructed Reading Room is painted in bright colors.



This student enjoys the new picture books provided by Room to Read.