

## Community Library

As an innovation, CARE India has piloted 06 community libraries in its intervention district viz. Bahraich, Balrampur & Shrawasti district of Uttar Pradesh.

**Goal:** To serve a platform of sharing and learning amongst the community and inspire members of the community to read.

### **Objectives:**

- To inculcate reading habit in children and youth by disseminating relevant information and organizing events.
- To provide relevant information concerning wholesome family life, providing materials about health, family welfare, health care, education, current affairs government schemes and policies.
- To provide opportunity to girls to engage with the community in a meaningful manner

**Duration:** The pilot of community library started from November 2013 in 02 villages of Shrawasti district. Now it has expanded to 06 villages of 03 districts.

### **Detail description of community library:**

Community Libraries in identified villages are opened in spaces provided by community and are managed by Girls Collectives (Kishori Samooh) established by CARE India. Kishori Samooh gets support from CARE India Staff, School teachers, SMC members and the local Panchayat.

These community libraries serve a village with an adequate population as an information center. It has an important role in adult education programs. It also serves as a link between community and school by providing adequate reading and learning opportunities to children. It seeks to make available library and other associated learning opportunities to students and the local community, in a region where there are no such facilities available.

The core activities of the project are:

- To provide easy access to relevant information and Education materials for children and adult.
- Organizing periodic reading sessions/events for children and others.
- Sharing information with community periodically or as and when they need
- Organizing, Managing and updating Materials by Kishori Samooh & SMC members.
- Story telling sessions by adolescent girls and community members.
- Co-ordination with community and others

### **Some of the unique features are:**

- **Development of Community based libraries as accessible spaces to different members in the community:** Create community spaces where the entire community can read, debate learn and engage in a variety of literacy related activities. The libraries are established within the community in a common place which is accessible to one and all.
- **Libraries to be managed by skilled adolescent girls:** the libraries are managed by a group of girls who receive capacity building support not just in management

of the libraries but also in promotion of the library as a place of learning and fun. CARE India has been promoting leadership in communities through the formation of peer supportive girls' collectives. These collectives are non-financial in nature and are mentored by an older member from the community.

- **Libraries to be promoted as living cultural and information centers:** The concept of a library is expanded it will not be a place just for books, the centers will be promoted by the girls collectives as centers of cultural and social significance. Efforts are made to link the space with information that will influence health, livelihood choices
- **Conduct of classes of adult illiterate and adult neo literate:** The libraries will double up as locations where children from school / girls from collectives will be engaged in promoting literacy amongst adult illiterate. As an example, teevrakishorisamooch of Tajwapur block is conducting classes for 20 – 25 women on basic literacy.
- **Books & Magazines:** The books kept in the library are mostly from National Book Trust, Children Book Trust, Eklavaya Publication and Tulika Publishers. These books are popular and cater to all the age groups of the community.
- **Provision of Newspaper:** Provision of hindi daily newspaper has attracted the community members to the library. In the morning hours, 10 – 15 community members come to library to read the newspaper, and they discuss, debate and share their ideas on various issues.

#### Way Ahead:

- The community library can be linked with various government schemes for resources and its sustainability such as Saakshar Bharat Yojna, Financial Assistance to Panchayat Library, etc
- ICT component can be included, which will attract the youths from the community.
- The community library will serve as an information centre which will promote filling / downloading e-applications of various schemes / exams.

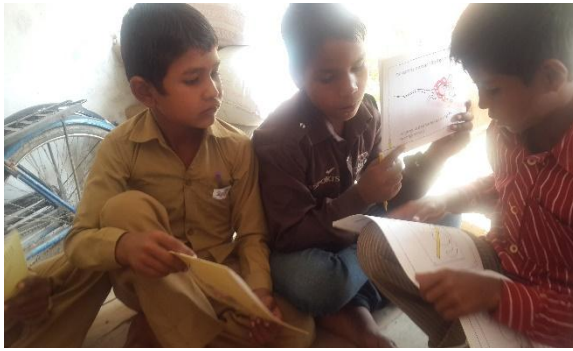
#### Glimpses of Community Library:



Girls Collectives in Library



Children Reading Books & Community Watching



Children Reading Books



Children Reading Books



Children Reading Books



Children Reading Books



Events organised at Community



Community Library at Balrampur



Community Participation in the event.