



Sri Lanka School Libraries Completion Report

Through your generous support, Room to Read established a new library in Sri Lanka.

Project Location

The village of Denike is located in Nuwara Eliya District, about 180 kilometers from the city of Colombo. From the Country Office, it takes approximately five hours to reach the village by car. Travel to this region is limited due to narrow, bumpy, and windy roads that are in poor condition. However, these roads offer incredible views of the area.



Name: Vidyathilake Primary School

State/Province: Central Province

District/Zone: Nuwara Eliya

City/Village: Denike

Grades: 1 through 11

Number of Students

Female: 191

Male: 207

Total: 398

Number of Teachers

Female: 13

Male: 4

Total: 17



View of the completed building.



Another view of the completed building.

Community/School Profile

Vidyathilake Primary School is located in Denike, Nuwara Eliya District. Nuwara Eliya District is famous for tea production. During colonial times, English tea planters gathered in the town of Nuwara Eliya to celebrate social events. Adam's Peak, a very famous, tall, conical mountain, is also located in this district, drawing local and foreign tourists to the area. The area is also famous for cultivating vegetables as well as for growing flowers for commercial purposes.

Most of the residents of Denike are farmers or day laborers. They depend on the rains for paddy cultivation, which

they harvest twice a year. During the fallow periods, they seek work in the adjoining villages. The houses here are built with burnt or unburnt bricks, and the roofs are covered in clay tiles or corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets. Though electricity is available in the village, residents have to collect water from common wells.

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 Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation.

Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation is a local non-governmental organization in Nuwara Eliya district of the Central Province in Sri Lanka. The foundation/organization works for the people in the district; especially for the marginalized under developed communities aiming their welfare and economic and infrastructure development. Having been headed by a lady chairperson, Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation mainstreams two areas with its target communities. Namely, welfare of the members of the community at large and providing micro finance assistance for the members of its community building organization (CBO) net. The total membership of the foundation now amounts to be more than 5000 within its territory. So the foundation is equipped with necessary infrastructure facilities for its fulltime staff of 29. Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation has built up strong relationships with several international non-governmental organizations and leading finance corporations and banks in Sri Lanka. It is implementing community development programs with the funding corporation of those international organizations for one hand and on the other it has a good record of having granted micro loans of about 200 millions in micro finance activities and housing development projects. The foundation has an active mechanism of recovery, which has proven success hundred percent every time. In the welfare and community development programs, Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation works in partnership with Room to Read Sri Lanka since 2010 in the Reading Room Program as the implementation partner. The foundation carry out establishment activities do most of monitoring roles of reading rooms. The foundation actively participates in delivery activities of RtR books and education materials etc every year. All the selection surveying, awareness programs, orientations and capacity building trainings, network meetings and program progress reviews are done by Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation in partnership with Room to Read Sri Lanka. All three kinds of reading rooms (CCRR, PSRR and CRR) are established and implemented with the full facilitation and participation of the organization. As a local non-governmental organization, Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation represents the district secretary's review meetings and has built up very healthy relationship with government sector organizations. The foundation has proved its true effort of working for its people by granting stationery items and school wears for the needy students several occasions in the recent history. For an example, Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation granted stationery items and shoes for hundred selected needy students in the Reading Room schools in the district in 2011. However, Eksath Lanka Welfare Foundation hopes to reach their goal of becoming a community banker with welfare activities in the near future.



Newly completed constructed school library.



Inside of the new building with materials supplied by Room to Read.



Inside the constructed school library with the books and furniture supplied by Room to Read.



Children reading their new books.

Reason for Support

Reason for establishing the library, as outlined in the project application report:

The school teaches grades one through five. Classes are conducted in two single-story buildings. Due to a lack of space, there isn't any room for a proper library. Though space has been allocated to serve as small reading area, it is cramped and poorly ventilated and the roof leaks during rainy days. Nevertheless, the librarian set up a space for reading and a simple check-out system has been developed. At the moment, the school only has a small number of books.

Government Officials requested Room to Read to support the community and literacy by providing a suitable reading space for the children. Based on the need at the school and the commitment demonstrated by the librarian, Room to Read believes this school will benefit greatly from a Constructed Reading Room.

Project Details

Description of Construction

The completed constructed school library at Vidyathileke Primary School is a spacious 800-square-foot building with a lot of light and air. This single-story building with an open reading area is painted yellow. The roof is constructed of zinc aluminum roofing sheets to control the inner temperature of the building. The building also comes equipped with cupboards to store learning materials.

Description of Library Establishment

Room to Read has provided 3 tables and 12 chairs for the students, 1 table and 1 chair for the librarian, 2 cupboards, and 1 book display shelf. They have also provided enough stationery for library management and student use. The library contains books appropriate for primary school students.

Two training sessions have been completed. The first taught the community and school about construction management, and the second showed the librarian and teachers how to develop reading skills, manage the library, and conduct library activities.

Resources Provided

Resources Provided by Community – 17.73% of total

- ❑ Building Maintenance; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Monitoring and Support; Obtain Legal Clearances and Titles; Skilled Labor; Sponsor Groundbreaking Ceremony; Sponsor Opening Ceremony; Transportation of Materials; Volunteer Labor
- ❑ Building Maintenance; Clean Water; Electricity; Librarian; Monitoring and Support; Unexploded Ordnance Clearance; Water Supply System



Another view of the children reading the books provided by Room to Read.



A teacher helping a child read a book in the constructed school library.



Children posing in front of the new building.

Resources Provided by Room to Read – 82.27% of total

- 220 LLP Books
- 601 Non-RtR Local Language Books
- Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Desk - Students; Display Racks; Shelves
- Building Design; Construction Materials; Construction Tools; Cupboard; Doors; Locks; Monitoring and Support; Paint; Roof; Room/Space; Shelves; Skilled Labor; Transportation of Materials



Teacher engaged in constructed school library activities

Trainings

Start Date	Length of Training	Training Topic
7/28/2011	3.0 days	Book selection; Developing children’s language skills; Library activities; Library set-up / management; Library sustainability; Teaching reading
5/25/2011	1.0 days	Basic Construction Techniques; Financial Management; Project Management; Specialized Construction Techniques

Comments

At the opening ceremony, the principal said, “We had only a few old books stacked in a corner of a classroom and used it as a library. The children had many difficulties due to lack of space and ventilation. We requested the government on many occasions to support us with a separate space for reading and storing books. But since their immediate priorities were different, they were unable to help us. We thank Room to Read and the donor community who have given unconditional support in constructing the reading room.”

