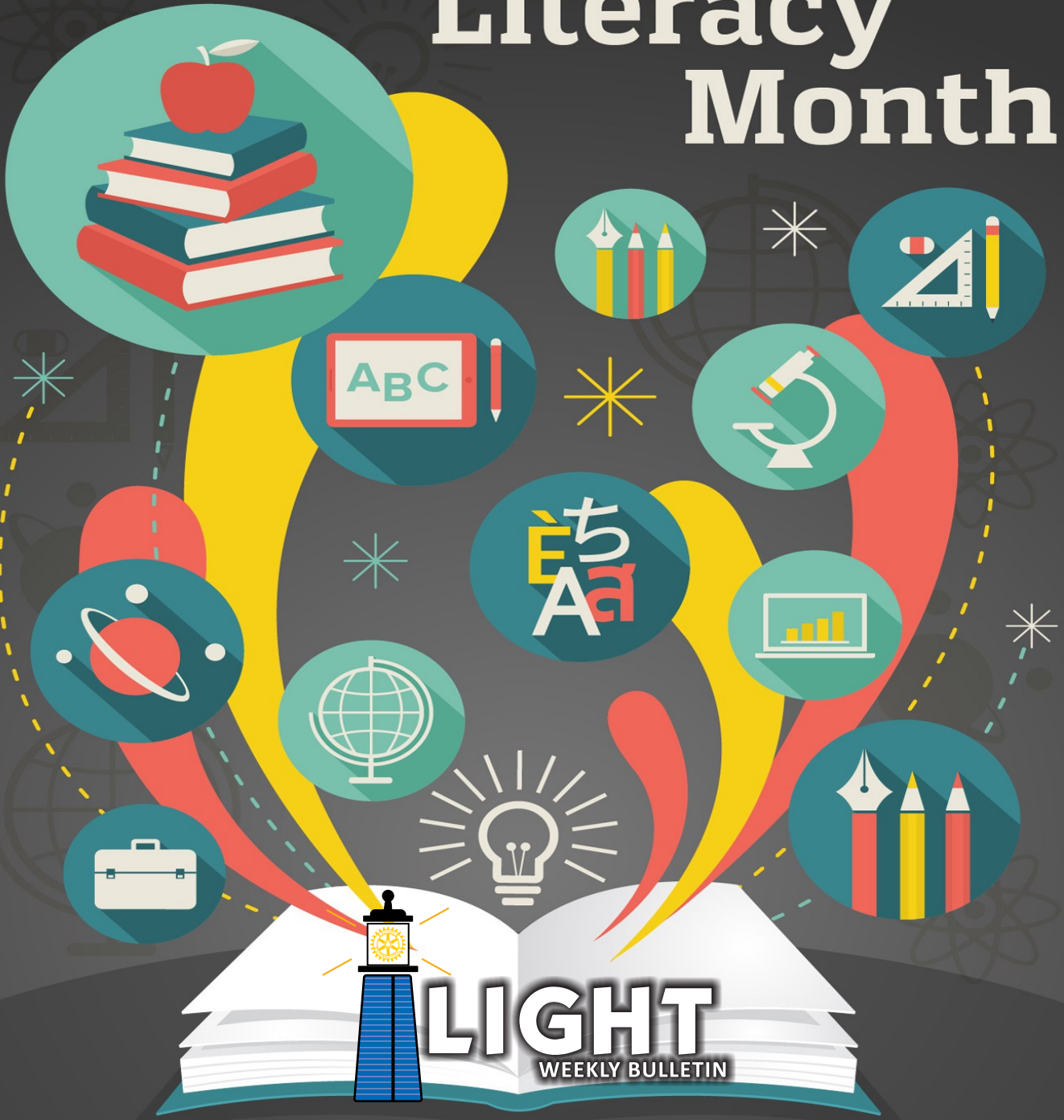




# March into **Literacy Month**



**September - Basic Education & Literacy month**

**Today is our 2143rd RWM  
Members attended last RWM : 15**



**Sappy Anniversary Greetings :**

Sept 12th R'let Anika, D/o Rtn. Dr. Amitabh Ray  
Sept 13th PP Ranjit Basu



## EDITOR-SPEAK

A man, on such a high post, acquired ample of degrees, lives a lavish life. In a nutshell, “highly literate”. But, does that mean he is “highly educated??” Let us know the difference. Educated are always literate but literate are not always educated.

**Literacy**, the ability to read and write, is often equated with **Education**, but is not the same. Literacy is a step to education. For me, education is the complete development of a person in terms of knowledge, sensibility and most important, behaviour in different situations.

Literacy can be forgotten but education cannot. Frederick W Robertson said, “Instruction ends in the school term, but education ends only with life.”

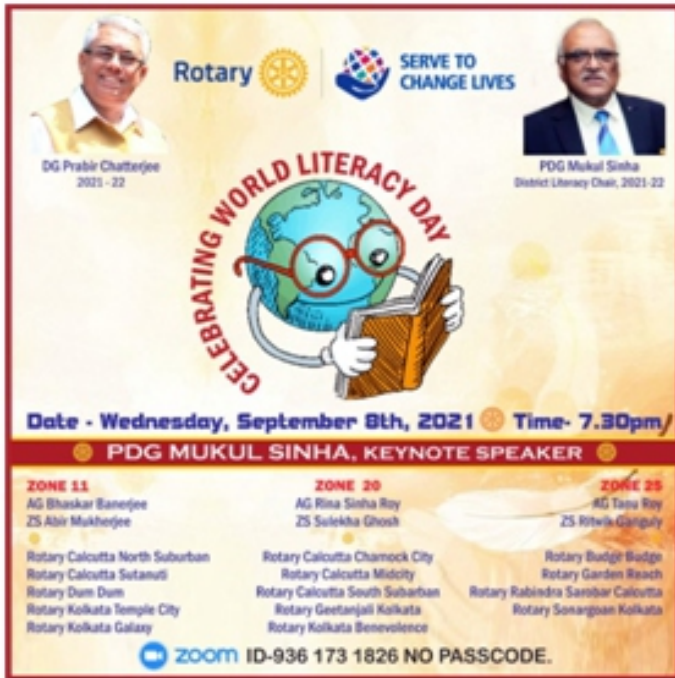
One can also be educated, without being literate. What matters is “awareness”. Awareness comes through knowledge. If one is educated, he need not have to prove his literacy. Literacy teaches us “how” to read and write and education us teaches “what” to read and write. Literacy is akin to “formal education”, which we all learn in our school, colleges and acquire degrees, but education is what we learn through experience. Experience is our teacher which makes us educated in real sense, no matter how much we are literate.


India, now coming under the bracket of developed country, has a high literacy rate in the present scenario. But, is there also the growth in education?? Unfortunately, “NO”. The education rate is simultaneously dwindling. India, giving birth to ‘N’ number of skilful people, graduates, managers who lack in ethics, broadened vision and “skills” in real sense.

We are all blessed with certain ideas, extraordinary skills, leadership qualities. These leadership qualities, these skills, should be utilized for the well being and betterment of the organization. These should never be misused. We can see many of them get involved in unethical practices, their leadership skills takes the shape of arrogance, they hardly use there “literacy” in a right way and hence, according to me, are called **“UNEDUCATED LITERATES.”**

Literacy cannot make a person wise but education can. An educated man can only bring around changes in society and contribute to the development of society, which leads to the development of the nation. In India, almost all the literate persons know the saying “Honesty is the best policy”. But the question arises whether all of them practise it in their life and daily activities. I think each one of us knows the answer to this question. The answer is ‘no’. Very few people practice it in reality, though everyone knows it. We deliberately try to eschew the fact and this is something which differentiates between an educated mind and a literate mind.

Therefore, be educated, not “just” literate, as education remains forever with us where ever we go and literacy remains just on a piece of paper.



**Rotary**  **SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

**CELEBRATING WORLD LITERACY DAY**

**Date - Wednesday, September 8th, 2021** **Time- 7.30pm/**

**PDG MUKUL SINHA, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

ZONE 11	ZONE 20	ZONE 25
AG Bhaskar Banerjee ZS Abir Mukherjee	AG Rina Sinha Roy ZS Sulekha Ghosh	AG Taru Roy ZS Ritvik Ganguly
Rotary Calcutta North Suburban Rotary Calcutta Sutanuli Rotary Dum Dum Rotary Kolkata Temple City Rotary Kolkata Galaxy	Rotary Calcutta Charnock City Rotary Calcutta Midcity Rotary Calcutta South Suburban Rotary Geetanjali Kolkata Rotary Kolkata Benevolence	Rotary Badli Budge Rotary Garden Reach Rotary Rabindra Sarobar Calcutta Rotary Sonargoon Kolkata

**zoom ID-936 173 1826 NO PASSCODE.**

## Remove barriers to education of girls



### Shekhar Mehta, President, Rotary International

Greetings, my dear Changemakers. I am sure you are having an enriching experience as you Serve to Change Lives. One of the ways you can make the greatest change in a person's life is to help them learn to read. Literacy opens up the world to us. It makes us better

informed about life in our own communities and opens vistas to other cultures. Reading and writing connects people and gives us another way to express our love for one another.

*September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary.* Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 per cent of the world's adult population — 762 million people — lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtain better housing, healthcare and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year.

Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians. We don't have to travel far from our homes to encounter those whose lives are being curtailed because they struggle with reading, rely on others to read for them, or cannot write anything more than their own name.

Starting this month, consider how your club can Serve to Change Lives through literacy: Support local organisations that offer free programmes to support adult literacy or local language learning, or that provide teachers with professional development centred around reading and writing. Become literacy mentors, or work with an organisation like the Global Partnership for Education to increase learning opportunities for children around the world. Have conversations with local schools and libraries to see how your club can support their existing programmes or help create needed ones in your community.

In India, the TEACH programme, a successful collaboration between the country's Rotary clubs and its government, has demonstrated how to scale up literacy efforts to reach millions of children. And at a time when schools across India were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme's e-learning component reached more than 100 million children through national television.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."



**Rotary Garden Reach celebrated Teachers' Day on September 5th, 2021. Celebration & felicitations of teachers at Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust, Daranda, Ilambazaar. Members present were PP Prosenjit Barua & Rtn. Shweta Bose Barua.**

## Let's aim for quality education for all children



**AS Venkatesh, RI Director, 2021–23**

The last few weeks have been hard. In addition to the pandemic, we were witness to an earthquake

in Haiti, uncontrolled fire in Greece and the developments in Afghanistan. While our thoughts are with those affected, incidents like these only reinforce the relevance of organisations like Rotary. Rotarians have been working tirelessly to improve the lot of the less fortunate around the globe.

Our commitment to world peace is stronger than ever. Peace is not just an absence of war. There can be real peace only if each and every one in this world is assured of food, clothing and shelter. There can be peace only if we can create a disease-free world. There can be peace only if every one has access to affordable basic education. These are precisely the areas which Rotary clubs and Rotarians are focusing on in their quest to make this world a peaceful place.

To make a difference, one has to dream big and aim higher. We cannot be content with small changes as these changes may not last if they are not significant enough. Our service has to change lives. Large service projects, with significant impact, are the need of the hour. I urge every club to set their sights higher and soon you will realise that you have found a way to reach those goals. That is the magic of good intent and selfless thoughts.

Rotarians in India have pledged to make this nation fully literate and in this month, which is designated Basic Education and Literacy month, let every club do an activity that will propel us closer to this goal. This pandemic may have pushed many children out of the education network and it is our duty to locate, identify and put them back in school. Let every child in this country have access to quality education. Let every school be a happy place that a child looks forward to going to. In short, let us make quality education available, accessible and affordable to every child in this country. A literate population can make a difference to several other spheres of activity as well.

We do not know what Rotary will be in future but it will depend, to a large extent, on what we do today. Let us do all we can to script our organisation's future.

## What Does Service Mean in Rotary? Simple Stories of Inspiring Rotarians

### Literacy in Ecuador

**Rachael Blair, Rotarian from the Annapolis club**

“When you work on a future vision grant, you confront the issues faced by fellow Rotarians overseas. You form a bond. You learn what matters in life and the balanced approach needed to have an impact. You learn to appreciate the beautiful work that comes to fruition when everyone is working together with respect and trust.” Rachael knows what she is talking about. She has led several international projects, including a recent Ecuador literacy project that produced a book of stories from its beneficiaries. This was Rotary's first collaboration with the Organization of American States. The OAS requested a project for early grade reading. With the help of a former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, Amber Gove, the team found a willing partner in the University of Andina Simon Bolivar. The Rotary Quito Occidente was also an ideal partner since a previous project – a water grant for three schools - had worked very well. Rachael visited the literacy project sites three times: “I was very moved by the response of the teachers. They could not believe that Rotary clubs would take such an interest in their professional development, especially clubs from overseas. I was humbled by their discipline and motivation. They reminded me that when you nurture and support others, they shine and bring their very best skills and talents to the table. They do this because of their support network. That's what Rotary is, a support network of like-minded people who want to have a positive impact based on mutual and creative collaboration.” What is Rachael's advice to Rotarians? “You need to understand the project scope and Rotary rules and regulations. You need to be patient. You need to persevere. You need to be culturally sensitive. You need to accept the fact that one person will have to move things along with diplomacy and understanding.” As to her advice to the Rotary Foundation: “These projects require many people in the Rotary hierarchy to be on board for their approval. I spent a lot of time getting people on board for signatures. Raising funds was a big issue and very time consuming. I would want to see Rotary restructure the funding aspect of global grants.”



Rotary Garden Reach in association with RCC Champa Mahila Samity felicitated 80 retired teachers coming from all schools of Sundarbans area; on the occasion Teachers' Day, which was celebrated on September 5th, 2021. Rtn. Sudip sponsored bags, medals, 'uttario' & stationery for the retired teachers. Rtn. Biswajit sponsored stationery kits for 40 school children. Also 35 school children were presented with 140 exercise/note books by Rotary Garden Reach each getting 4 Oxford note books sponsored by Swapna Printing Press.

All the teachers were treated to lunch where President made a small contribution of Rs. 2,000. Members present Rtn. Amitav, PP Ashfaque Ahmed, Rtns. Samiran, Biswajit, Sudip & spouse & their two children, Abhijit and his son.

## New Club makes disability advocacy a Priority

**Ken Masson, President, Rotary World Disability Advocacy**



The need for human rights for people with disabilities is worldwide. From the largest to the smallest countries, there are opportunities for Rotary to

improve the dignity, respect, and quality of lives for people with disabilities. That is why we chartered the Rotary World Disability Advocacy. We saw so many possibilities of what Rotary could do.

We reached out to disability advocates around the world, and many were willing to team up for the cause by agreeing to be charter members of this unique club. Disability advocates do not always get the recognition they deserve but they all are extremely passionate about human rights.

As a result, we formed a uniquely diverse club. Our 20 charter members represent eight countries – and 18 of our members are new to Rotary. We are also a comparably young club, with our average age being around 32.

We are a cause-related e-club and are affiliated with the district's Rotary Disabilities Advisers Group. Since early this year, the group has been focusing on helping Rotary become more welcoming to people with disabilities.

There is no other club quite like this. Disability rights have always been lower in priority in many human rights endeavours. However, for us, it is our top priority – and we plan on having an impact in many counties and many people's lives.

We are thankful for the support we are receiving from other Rotary members. If you have a passion for increasing human rights for those with disabilities, contact us at [rotarydag@gmail.com](mailto:rotarydag@gmail.com)

## Five ways to help stop COVID-19 in your community

### Literacy in Ecuador

#### Educate people on the importance of vaccination

As of the last week of June, only 1 percent of Nigeria's population had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; the country has struggled with a lack of supply, receiving its first 4 million doses through the COVAX vaccine-sharing program in March. In the meantime, Rotary members in the country are using connections they have made through their polio eradication work to advocate among political leaders, health care workers, the media, and traditional and

religious leaders for the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations. They are reaching the general population through informational campaigns on social media, television, and radio, as well as public service announcements broadcast in public squares.

#### Advocate for fair and equal vaccine distribution

The Rotary Demerara, Guyana, has been conducting medical missions in remote parts of the country for decades, which has given members firsthand knowledge of the needs of the communities in those areas. In March, partnering with the country's Ministry of Health and its Civil Defence Commission, club members travelled by boat to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to the Indigenous villages of Muritaro and Malali. Traditional leaders were among those receiving the vaccines, setting an example for their communities. "Our linkage to these communities and history with our polio efforts gave residents confidence that Rotary wouldn't leave them behind when COVID-19 vaccines became available," said club member Lancelot Khan.

#### Address vaccine hesitancy by sharing accurate, fact-based information

Singapore has been steadily vaccinating its population, but significant pockets of people remain hesitant to take the vaccine. The Rotary Club of Singapore worked with the National University of Singapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health to launch a public health ambassador program in June. In addition to organizing a webinar to answer questions from the public, the school put on a workshop directed at Interactors, Rotaractors, and Rotarians to equip them with the knowledge and skills to dispel myths and educate communities about vaccine safety.

#### Encourage mask wearing and proper hygiene practices

With limited vaccines available, Pakistan faced a third wave of COVID-19 cases this spring. The Rotary-supported polio resource centre in Bannu is using its expertise to educate the community about hand washing and other precautionary measures against infection. More than 25 women attended a session in May led by health care workers.

#### Support health agencies' vaccine distribution efforts

Rotary members in District 2060 (Italy) became

critical government partners in getting vaccination sites up and running earlier this year. Within a week of an initial call for volunteers in January, more than 150 Rotarians and Rotaractors stepped forward, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, lawyers, and a notary to help with paperwork. Impressed, the medical

authorities in Verona put the district in charge of all volunteer activities related to COVID-19 vaccination in the region, including scheduling patients, assigning shifts, and reporting data. By the end of May, more than 700 volunteers had participated, and more than 300,000 people in the region were vaccinated.

### **Minutes of the 2143rd RWM held on August 31st, 2021 at BNR Officers' Club**

1. President Amitav called the 2142nd RWM to order and requested members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. President informed the members about the Installation meeting of Rotaract Garden Reach to be held on the September 7th, 2021 at 5 pm. President informed that the Rotaract President Rtr. Nandini has sent an open invitation to all the members of the Rotary Garden Reach for the installation ceremony.
3. Rtn. Dr. BN Jha informed the club about the joint project for Covid vaccination of 51 handicapped and blind persons with BNR Hospital and Swarnym Foundation. He said that he has already received the list of 51 handicapped persons for Covid vaccination. Rtn. Dr. Jha informed that the beneficiaries will be brought by Mr. Ajit Verma of Swarnym Foundation. The beneficiaries will be first treated to lunch at BNR Officer's Club and then later taken to BNR Hospital for free Covid vaccination.
4. President spoke about the medical camp to be held for 100 elderly & married women and girl child to be held at the School and office of Swarnym Foundation, GT Road, Liluah on the September 19th, 2021.
6. President informed and discussed with the members about the medical camp and clothes distribution camp to be held on September 26th, 2021 at Daspur Shri Shri Ramkrishna Sevashram, West Medinipur.
7. President briefed the members about the upcoming projects -Teachers Day Celebration at Shivganj, Sunderban, wherein 80 teachers will be felicitated on behalf of Rotary Garden Reach. Bags, uttario, writing pad & pen. Rotary Garden Reach will also distribute 140 school exercise books to 35 School children & Rtn. Biswajit to distribute 40 educational kits to school children.
8. Charter Day Celebration was discussed. All cultural programmes to be in house programme. Charter members will be felicitated at their residence.  
President will felicitate some of our club's Rotarians on the Charter Day. District delegates for the Charter Anniversary to be invited by the President and AG Tanu, the list to be decided.
9. President informed the house that an invitation letter from Nayantara Memorial Trust was sent to our club for joint celebration of Teachers' Day at Nayantara Memorial Office at Daranda. PP Prosenjit and Rtn. Shweta agreed to represent Rotary Garden Reach.
10. President discussed about the progress of setting up of Auxilliary Nurse Midwife Vocational Training Centre at the premises of Nikhil Banga Kalyan Samity, Samali Village, Bakrahat Road and requested PP Dr. Arabinda Ray to brief the members about the details of the training. PP Dr. Arabinda briefed the members about the programme and the cost involved.
11. On the request of the President, Club Secretary Rtn. Tamal conducted the club business.
12. The minutes of the last RWM were confirmed.
13. With no other business to conduct the president terminated the meeting.



**#PEOPLEOFACTION**

