



Rotary

Spectrum



RI District 3291

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Health and Literacy initiative at school by RCSLMK on Saturday, September 3, 2022

Rtn Dr Ajit K Majumder writes



Rotary club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata has been Adding smiles to children of State Government run schools in Bengal chapter under Literacy project - Ezee schools of RI District 3291 in West Bengal.



Rotary club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata (RCSLMK), on Saturday, September 3, 2022, had its fifth Eye Screening and Dental Checkup of students at Bidyadhari Vidyalaya Duttabad in association with Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI) West Bengal Child care council.

The aforesaid fifth program of Cataract Screening, Dental & Health Checkup and educational supports was held for primary school students within age group of 5 to 11 at Bidyadhari Vidyalaya Duttabad EA Block Bidhannagar. Opposite to DA 49, Salt Lake, near Metro Rail Pillar no 50. on Saturday, September 3, 2022 from 11.00 hours onward till 14.00 hours.



Altogether seventy-seven (77) kids had their vision checked. It was found that 41 (53%) students showed visual deficiencies that could be reversed and corrected easily. Those identified having impaired vision were referred to Susrut Hospital, Salt Lake for further assessment & management. Susrut Hospital team merits praises for conducting eye screening of the kids.

Dental checkup revealed that seventy-six (76) kids had problems with poor oral hygiene. Problem of acute nature was noticed among about 50% of them. Rotarian Dr Rajesh Goel, Consultant Neonatologist did the Dental checks along with general health checkup.



Other activities on the occasion were distribution of learning and drawing tools along with confectioneries among kids. All teachers of the school were felicitated with gifts on the eve of celebration of national Teacher's Day on September 5, 2022.



RCSLMK members present were President Archana, Secretary Kusumji, Rajesh Chirimar, Dr Rajesh Goel with spouse and son, club Treasurer Ashok Surana, Zonal AG Mait Goswami and I.



We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

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At the end of the fifth program of Cataract Screening, Health Checkup and educational supports RCLSMK completes screening of 670 students against a target of screening 2000 students. Those detected with vision defect will be advised & sponsored power glasses.



Members of Rotary club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata have been coming forward to donate coloring books & crayons, stationeries, sports equipment in each program. These will lure the children back to school.



Spectrum editor **Dr Rajesh Goel** celebrated his young son's birthday with school children on September 3, 2022. We are thankful to our members led by RCLSMK President Archana & WICCI President Sreya and Kavita Agarwal.

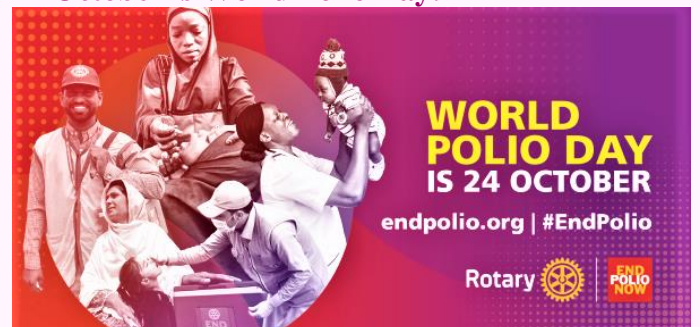


Rtn Rajesh Chirimar being Mayor-in-council, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, becomes the right person to identify and coordinate with each schools for the project. Spouse Sweeta and club member Dr Rajesh Goel decided to let their son celebrate his birthday with the school kids.



The smiling son of the proud parents Sweeta and Dr Rajesh shared cakes, confectioneries and gift of smile with each student to let them join the celebration of his birthday.

24 October is World Polio Day!



As World Polio Day approaches, we're getting ready to amplify our message about eradicating polio to protect the world's children from this devastating disease.

We've made tremendous progress so far, and now's the time to intensify our fight to make polio the second human disease ever to be eradicated. In 2020, the World Health Organization's African region was certified free of wild poliovirus, showing that eradication is possible even in very difficult circumstances. The wild poliovirus remains endemic in just two countries — Afghanistan and Pakistan, but as long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere. So let's use World Polio Day to advocate for the support we need to end polio in countries where children are still at risk.

Get involved

Take action this World Polio Day by hosting virtual and community events, creating fundraisers, and sharing posts about the importance of polio eradication on social media.

Use the World Polio Day Toolkit to find resources and tips for planning activities and promoting a polio-free world.

Register your club's participation in World Polio Day to show how your club is taking action to eradicate polio. If you register your events, fundraisers, and promotions by 13 October, you'll get early access to Rotary's World Polio Day Global Update, one week before the program airs on 24 October on Rotary's Facebook page and endpolio.org.

Use Raise for Rotary to start a World Polio Day online fundraiser. All contributions will go to the PolioPlus Fund. The top Raise for Rotary World Polio Day 2022 fundraisers will be featured on My Rotary.

Quality Education & Literacy Change Lives

Posted on September 8, 2022 by Carolyn Johnson, Chair of the Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group



"Reading changed my life," declared the twelve-year-old boy from the back row of the class. This reaction was in response to asking students what they thought about the books that Rotary club and district programs provided to their classrooms in rural Guatemala. In addition to quality literature, these programs provide professional development for teachers – training and support in strategies to inspire and engage their students as readers.



These students and their teachers are learning that 'reading' is not rote identification of words on a page, but an opportunity to get involved and be inspired by stories, learn about far-away places, and meet people who have changed the world. Education is the key to opening doors to the world, yet many cannot access that opportunity.

Rotary members change lives by ensuring that students have access to books, to technology, and to well-trained, inspiring teachers.

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month, a time for Rotary members to focus awareness on our involvement with literacy and education and recommit to finding solutions that meet needs of illiteracy and gaps in education in our own communities and internationally.

BELRAG, Basic Education and Literacy Rotary Action Group, is committed to supporting Rotary members in their efforts to bring awareness to the severity of illiteracy throughout the world and its impact on the quality of life. We first encourage every Rotary and Rotaract club to look within their own community to identify opportunities to make a difference locally. Consider the variety of needs and projects where your club can make a difference:

- **Early learning:** projects to support literacy rich, hands-on activities where children can explore and experiment in their environment.
- **Educating girls:** partnerships to promote girls' re-entry to school: prior to COVID, 79 million girls did not attend school; an additional 20 million girls may never return to classes when schools reopen.
- **Access for children with disabilities:** identify and address the range of barriers and lack of professional expertise that prevent children with varied physical or intellectual abilities from attending school and fully participating in learning.

- **Mentoring out of school or underperforming youth:** school closures from COVID increased the number of children not meeting minimum reading levels by at least 15%. Consider partnerships to develop learning opportunities outside the traditional school day or classroom setting.
- **Technology to enhance basic classroom instruction:** take a pro-active approach to encourage and support the safe and responsible use of technology to improve the quality of education.
- **Adult literacy:** 781 million adults are illiterate: two thirds of them are women. Establish convenient, accessible programs to enable adult learners to acquire competency in reading and numeracy skills.
- **Professional development:** teachers must have the opportunity for continuous learning and upgraded skills. Identify on-going programs to support literacy or numeracy instruction, classroom management, use of technology, or strategies to promote hands-on learning.
- **Access to libraries and other literacy resources:** ensure that students have choices from a wide variety of quality reading materials in their native language. There is no better inspiration for readers than access to a rich resource of books – in the classroom or through libraries.
- **Numeracy:** develop programs to support students in acquiring basic math skills and concepts such as counting, solving number problems, estimating, measuring, sorting, and noticing patterns.

BELRAG can assist your club by providing information and support for your basic education and literacy projects. We offer informational programs to clubs and webinars to create better awareness of illiteracy and spotlight excellent projects where clubs can get involved or replicate. Our Professional Experts Teams can offer advice for project development, implementation, and monitoring.

Literacy Month Awards

Each year, BELRAG offers \$500 awards for exemplary community-based projects. For example, last year, three Rotary clubs and one Rotaract club were selected to receive the award for their outstanding projects. You can read about the previous awardees and their projects here.

We are now accepting applications for the 2022 Literacy Awards **through 30 September**. Review the contest flier and these points of consideration.

We are also pleased to announce that, through our partnership with Save the Children, Early Learning Grants are offered to clubs serving rural, high poverty communities in the US. Grants are available for up to \$15,000. Projects should promote early learning, Kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading proficiency and/or 5th grade math proficiency.

As Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". When we engage with projects that promote quality education and literacy we can truly change lives, change the world. If, as Rotary members, we focus our attention on quality education for every community, we could prevent many of the other challenges as well such as lack of access to clean water, poor health, conflict, and environmental degradation. BELRAG is helping Rotary members meet this challenge. Won't you join us?

BELRAG Chair Carolyn Johnson can be reached at cjj2@icloud.com. Find more information about BELRAG by visiting www.BELRAG.org.

Brief outline of the Global Grant 1991152

Purpose: 'Fight against Anemia in Women'

Objectives: Treat women of Anemia by screening and treatment and prevent by educating them

Title: 'Matri-Raksha' - protection of mothers

Scope of work: Provide screening camps, minor and major surgeries, medicines, awareness training, healthcare professional training and providing diagnostic equipment at community health centers

Coverage: Both districts of 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

Sponsors: Rotary clubs of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata of District 3291, India and Nidau-Biel, Biel-Bienne, Biel-Buttenberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

Grant Partners: Rotary Foundation India, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International,

Associates: Related Government and civic bodies, NGO's

QUOTE

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela

UNWIND

From Washington DC Airport ticket agent:

A New York lawmaker, (Jerrold Nadler) called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to whom?"

I said, 'No, why do you ask?'

He replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said (FAT), and I'm overweight. I think that's very rude!"

After putting him on hold for a minute, while I looked into it. (I was dying laughing). I came back and explained the city code for Fresno, CA is (FAT - Fresno Air Terminal), and the airline was just putting a destination tag on his luggage..

September Is Basic Education & Literacy month

TAILPIECE

New malaria vaccine is world-changing, say scientists

By James Gallagher, Health and science correspondent, BBC on September 8, 2022



Child being vaccinated. Image source, Katie Ewer

A malaria vaccine with "world-changing" potential has been developed by scientists at the University of Oxford.

The team expect it to be rolled out next year after trials showed up to 80% protection against the deadly disease.

Crucially, say the scientists, their vaccine is cheap and they already have a deal to manufacture more than 100 million doses a year.

The charity Malaria No More said recent progress meant children dying from malaria could end "in our lifetimes".

It has taken more than a century to develop effective vaccines as the malaria parasite, which is spread by mosquitoes, is spectacularly complex and elusive. It is a constantly moving target, shifting forms inside the body, which make it hard to immunize against.

Last year, the World Health Organization gave the **historic go-ahead** for the first vaccine - developed by pharmaceutical giant GSK - to be used in Africa.

However, the Oxford team claim their approach is more effective and can be manufactured on a far greater scale.

Trial results from 409 children in Nanoro, Burkina Faso, have been **published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases**. It shows three initial doses followed by a booster a year later gives up to 80% protection.

"We think these data are the best data yet in the field with any malaria vaccine," said Prof Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute at the university.

The team will start the process of getting their vaccine approved in the next few weeks, but a final decision will hinge on the results of a larger trial of 4,800 children due before the end of the year.

The world's largest vaccine manufacturer - the Serum Institute of India - is already lined up to make more than 100 million doses a year.

Prof Hill said the vaccine - called R21 - could be made for "a few dollars" and "we really could be looking at a very substantial reduction in that horrendous burden of malaria".

He added: "We hope that this will be deployed and available and saving lives, certainly by the end of next year."

Malaria has been one of the biggest scourges on humanity for millennia and mostly kills babies and infants. The disease still kills more than 400,000 people a year even after dramatic progress with bed nets, insecticides and drugs.

There are around 400,000 deaths from malaria every year

This malaria vaccine is the 14th that Prof Katie Ewer has worked on at Oxford as "this is not like COVID where we have seven vaccines straight away that will work... it's much, much harder".

She told the BBC it was "incredibly gratifying" to get this far and "the potential achievement that this vaccine could have if it's rolled out could be really world-changing".

Why so effective?

The currently approved vaccine - made by GSK - shares similarities with the one developed in Oxford.

Both target the first stage of the parasite's lifecycle by intercepting it before it gets to the liver and establishes a foothold in the body.

The vaccines are built using a combination of proteins from the malaria parasite and the hepatitis B virus, but Oxford's version has a higher proportion of malaria proteins. The team think this helps the immune system to focus on malaria rather than the hepatitis.

The success of the GSK vaccine has partly paved the way for Oxford to be optimistic of having their vaccine out next year - such as by assessing how feasible a vaccination programme in Africa would be.

It is hard to give a direct comparison of the two vaccines. GSK's has gone through large real world trials whereas Oxford's data may appear more effective due to being given just ahead of the peak malaria season in Burkina Faso.

Prof Azra Ghani, chair in infectious disease epidemiology at Imperial College London, said the trial results were "very welcome", but warned it would take money to get vaccines in arms. "Without this investment, we risk losing the gains that have been made over the last decades and witnessing a rising tide of malaria resurgence," Prof Ghani said.

Gareth Jenkins, from the charity Malaria No More UK said: "Today's R21 vaccine results from Oxford's renowned Jenner Institute are another encouraging signal that, with the right support, the world could end child deaths from malaria in our lifetimes."