



RID 3291
Rotary
Garden Reach



Light

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

September 3rd, 2024 - Vol. 47 No. 10

2281st Regular Weekly Meeting
Attendance: 14

Birthday Greetings
Sept 6th PP Naresh Kr Jain
Sept 8th Spouse Dr. Minu, Wife of PN Dr. BN Jha

Literacy is a bridge from Misery to Hope

Fifty years ago, almost one-quarter of the world's youth lacked basic literacy skills compared to less than 10 per cent in 2023. Young people in Asia and Africa, in particular, are far more likely to be literate today than they were in 1946.

Whilst there has been major progress, however, 750 million adults and 115 youth – two-thirds of whom are women – are still illiterate. An estimated 263 million primary school-age children worldwide still face **'silent exclusion'** i.e., they are either out of school, or enrolled by learning little.

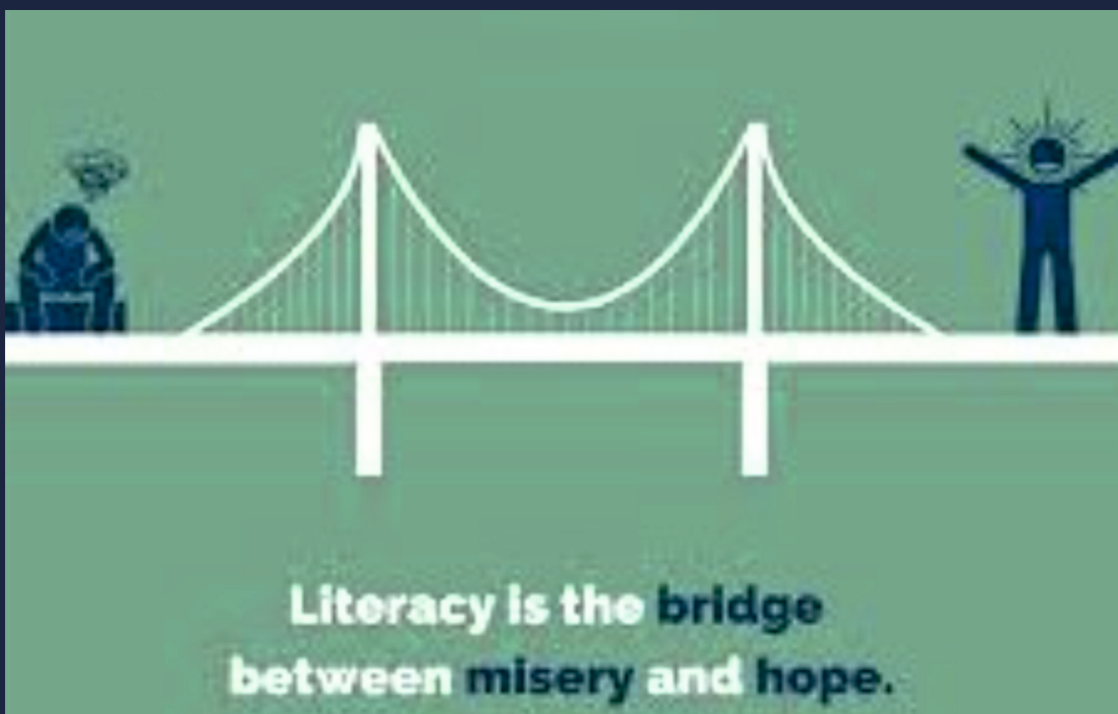
The absence of basic literacy and numeracy is a huge impediment to individuals in their daily lives. Tasks that we take for granted, such as reading a prescription, filling out a form, sending a text message, are challenges to illiterate adults and youth, and often prevent them from obtaining the most essential services and exercising their basic rights.

As a result of the inequalities within the global education system, many developing countries have witnessed mounting levels of youth unemployment, largely owing to undeveloped skills that are required in today's progressive job market. Therefore, when countries focus on **Youth and Adults' Literacy**, the effective linkages between literacy and skills need to be determined. Today's youth need to be trained with the adequate skills and competencies – at school levels – that would allow for a smooth transition into the labour force. Moreover, the focus needs to move from merely literacy to professional skills that guide an individual to possess a diversified set of proficiencies which are suitable for lifelong development.

The emergence of digital mobilization has further amplified the literacy gap between developed and developing countries. This requires from us a new strategy – which couples vocational and technological skills within the literacy agenda. Countries that have successfully implemented this strategy enjoy high rankings for measures of education and skills across varied age cohorts.

As a global philanthropic organisation, we are committed to play an active role in advocating for literacy programs and continue to make valuable contributions to achieving the **SDG4**. This is part of our core mandate to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning by 2030, by supporting education programs in early childhood development, access to quality primary and secondary education, technical and vocational education and training for youth as well as a particular focus on education in emergencies and protracted crises.

Education is simply the best path out of the crisis; it is the surest long-term investment in development. Girls and boys must go to and stay in school. No one should end schooling without being able to read. This means they must have something to read - good libraries - and good teachers to help them. We must think big, to make literacy happen outside formal schooling - in the workplace, in libraries and community centres. We can do much more with new information and communication technologies to widen learning opportunities for all. This requires alliances for literacy, especially with private sector companies.



It is high time we reconsider ourselves to be the best devotees on earth; it is the perfect time we introspect, instead of munching on the nonsensical palpable aura of calling ourselves **'human'**!

-Editor

PRESIDENT - Rtn. Biswajit Saha • SECRETARY - Rtn. Mohan Bandaru • TREASURER - PP. Timir Roy • EDITOR - PP. Tanu Roy

Charter Day - September 11th 1977 • Regn. No. - 16169



PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER AND
SANITATION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION AND
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SUPPORTING THE
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RI President Stephanie A Urchick – September’s Message

The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it’s a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president’s representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.



It wasn’t long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother’s village, Jakubova Vol’a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community centre of Jakubova Vol’a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community centre and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother’s house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn’t stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community centre.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin’s home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can’t stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I’m not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community centre listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.



Biggest Cancer killer in Women

The credit for developing this easy to use and relatively low-cost cancer screening device goes to Dr. Geetha Manjunath, Founder & CEO of the Bengaluru-based Niramai Health -Analytics. Addressing a session of the UN General Assembly in September 2023, she described herself as a computer scientist, with a PhD in AI, who has now turned a social entrepreneur. *“We have pioneered a new way of detecting breast cancer using AI and radiation-free thermal scans. Breast cancer is the largest cancer killer in women today, being the topmost cancer in women in 159 countries and the second largest in others. Over 680,000 women die every year due to this cancer in India and other developing countries, where breast cancer has a 50% mortality rate, which means that every alternate woman detected with breast cancer is dying. Which is a pity because this is completely curable and nobody needs to die from it.”*

The high mortality rate, Dr. Geetha explained to the UN delegates, was because of late detection. “In countries such as India, we are unable to provide comprehensive screening and detection with technologies such as mammography, ultrasound etc because of the cost factor and skills needed for performing the imaging and shortage of experts to interpret these images. Hand examination is the standard method of doing population screening for breast cancer today. Such an examination can only detect a 2 or 3 cm lesion, by which time it is too late as the cancer has already reached Stage 2 or 3, and the result is a 50% mortality rate.”

The technocrat told the assembled leaders that as this was a global problem it needed to be taken seriously, and gave them details about the new AI-aided technique developed in her lab “which comes at a fraction of the cost (of traditional screening methods) and requires minimal skills to operate. The device is portable so it can be taken out to remote areas to screen women for this dreaded disease, to detect it early and at stage zero. The test is radiation free and done in complete privacy, where nobody sees her or touches her when she is not wearing any clothes.”

Dr. Geetha said the screening done by her device is clinically validated and has been done in many countries, showing “excellent results, with over 120,000 women benefiting from it. This is just one example of how innovations using AI can benefit society. In this forum, I urge the ministers, policymakers and representatives of countries to please consider making a countrywide policy on cancer screening and detecting early cancer, particularly breast cancer because it is the top killer in women.

After all women form the central core of the family, when the woman is sick, the whole family is in turmoil, if she is healthy, family is happy. I also urge you to support more women entrepreneurs,” she concluded.



Well done, India!

Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee

The Rotary Foundation is the backbone of Rotary, the shining jewel in Rotary's crown. It allows us to put our service, thoughts and ideas into action.



Rotarians of our zones have shown that they are committed and fully supportive of the Foundation. In 2023–24 India was Number 2 in the world with a contribution of nearly \$32 million to TRF. Five districts contributed over \$2 million each and 10 districts contributed over \$1 million each. What is more, an Indian district — RID 3141 — was the Number 1 contributor and four districts were among the top 10 worldwide. That is truly remarkable. Compliments to the 2023–24 district governors, district and regional TRF teams of our zones for this great effort.

The trustees of The Rotary Foundation have set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$500 million for 2024–25. As a team, all of us will work together and achieve this goal.

- ☀ *The TRF priorities for 2024–25 are:*
- ☀ *Support End Polio Now by contributing to your district's PolioPlus Society — help your district achieve a minimum of 50 members or grow the PolioPlus Society by 20 per cent by the end of 2024–25.*
- ☀ *Become a Paul Harris Society member by donating \$1,000 to the Annual Fund every year and encourage others to join too.*
- ☀ *Lead by example: When each Rotarian gives to TRF it strengthens our ability to touch lives and transform communities.*
- ☀ *All Rotary clubs must contribute to the Annual Fund. Increase the number of donors by 20 per cent.*
- ☀ *Focus and leverage CSR India grants*
- ☀ *Always keep an eye on stewardship of TRF funds*
- ☀ *As a team let us reach our Endowment goal of \$2.025 billion by 2025. By increasing our endowment, we can ensure that Rotary does good in the world well beyond our lifetime.*

Each one of you and those within your family of Rotary can work to achieve the dreams you, and all Rotary members, have for our community and the world. And our Rotary Foundation can make that happen.

Together let us keep doing good in the world. That is the Magic of Rotary and TRF.



Difference between Education and Learning

What is Education?

Education is the process of receiving or giving methodical instruction. Education is a structured and specific process of passing knowledge, values, skills and attitudes from one generation to another in a society, which can be beneficial to an individual.

Education is a most important factor to the progress of a society, and it is compulsory in many countries up to a certain age. Education is also considered as a basic human right. Education is a branch of learning which can be reflected in the form of mark sheets or certificates.

What is Learning?

Learning can be defined as the obtaining of new skills, knowledge and values. In learning knowledge and skills are gained through study, experience or being taught. We can say, learning is the permanent change in a person's knowledge or behaviour due to experience. Learning can occur consciously and unconsciously through education, schooling, training or personal development.

Learning is the natural ability of the human mind to observe, process and adjust. An individual never stops learning, since new information is discovered and processed every day.

Education vs Learning

In education, knowledge is acquired through a teacher or a textbook. In learning, knowledge is gained through various sources like study or experience. Education is a system and learning is a process.

To educate, a teacher is required from whom the knowledge is assumed to be correct. A person can educate others, and be educated in turn from the education process regardless of what specifically is learned.

Formal education takes place in a specific structured environment, and multiple students are educated under a certified and trained instructor in one classroom. In formal education, there is a set of curriculum, and students may not be really interested in what they are being taught, but they memorize their lessons to get marks and pass the exams. While Learning is not limited to a certain age or period in life; we learn throughout our lives by experiences. Learning is understanding and experiencing whatever we saw, it is not listening and accepting what we are taught.

Main Difference of Education vs Learning

The main difference between education and learning is that learning is the process of obtaining the knowledge or skills through study, experience or being taught while education is the process of receiving or giving systematic knowledge. Both words education and learning are related to acquisition of knowledge.

Learning is the process involving the way of getting knowledge, skills and attitude, while education is facilitation of learning by using methods such as discussion, training, teaching and research. It is stated that education is a small part of learning and the term learning has a broad meaning. We are not born with knowledge but we learn throughout of our life and it helps us to lead our life in a better way.

*The basic difference between **Education and Learning** is that they are achieved in different ways, but it is much possible to be educated and not learn anything.*





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Keeping Clubs Calm

Sometimes the peace Rotarians seek to make is a local matter. Very local.

Ramtanu Sen was about to resign from Rotary. It was a sad day for him; he loved being a Rotarian. But he had become enmeshed in a conflict with another member of his club. Although he tried to engage with that member to defuse the situation, the problem persisted. Ramtanu left that club and joined another, where he is very happy. But he has not given up on addressing the larger issue: **“Now I am looking at conflict resolution in Rotary clubs,”** he says.

Conflict resolution is something we humans have been trying to master at least since the first Cro-Magnon tribal steering committee.

And while bench-clearing brawls may be rare at your Rotary club, that does not mean your meetings always end in a chorus of “Kumbaya” – especially at a time in history when the fractiousness of the world seems to seep into our lives in unexpected ways.

Many Club and District personnel attest that “The frequency and intensity of conflict in some clubs are growing” and that “there are clear examples of bullying and people being downright rude”. There are even reported cases of “people not leaving things alone, and pulling the scab off something you think has been resolved.”

While several past and current district leaders agree that “Every club has issues – they might be minor, minuscule, or not that fundamental, but, we have all got issues”.

However, “It is difficult to talk about conflict in clubs because many Rotarians do not realize that there is conflict in clubs,” Ramtanu says. “If we want Rotary to continue as the great organisation it is, we need to start changing the way we conduct our Rotary club meetings. It is about clubs putting greater emphasis on how they discuss issues, rather than what they discuss. We found that people were leaving clubs because they were not listened to or were not spoken to appropriately. Talking and listening should be an important part of Rotary. Into this comes an awareness of bias, diversity, and stereotypes.”

Rotary clubs are not the only place where conflict occurs, of course. An entire field of study is dedicated to systematically learning how to ratchet down disagreements, cool emotions, and help everyone be happy with getting less than they wanted. Conflict resolution is not something that was invented recently.

“One of the watchwords we use is, ‘**Get curious before you get furious**,’” he says. “In other words, ask, ‘Why did you say that? Why did you do that?’ before you get angry.

In a lot of cases, people just fly off the handle and walk out the door.

It is therefore about saying, ‘Hang on a minute. Let’s discuss this. Let’s open this up. Tell me why you feel



like this. What have I said that's upset you?"

It is a way of defusing the situation.

In helping to train incoming Club Presidents in conflict resolution, it is stated that "It's all about listening to people. And when they say something, you need to be able to repeat it back to them. So, you are saying, 'I think this is what you said,' so there are no misunderstandings and we both know what we are talking about."

Ramtanu developed a brilliant test where you have to describe something, but you cannot use nouns. The test consists of two people sitting back-to-back, so neither one can see the other. One person has to draw what the other person is describing.

What tends to happen is that you draw something completely not what was being described.

It shows you that your listening skills are not as good as you think they are and it shows that you have to listen more to what is actually being said.

The exercise also shows the speakers how their words can be misinterpreted, so everyone involved learns how communication can go wrong.

"People, especially older people, in Rotary think they know how to talk to each other, but they actually may not. They think they are listening, and they are not."

"The first, basic thing is to listen – to really listen, as a mirror to the other person," she says. "I might reflect back what the other person has said, and it might be absolutely to the letter what they said. And they may come back to me and say, 'No, no. I did not say that.'"

This happens because often we say things that we do not mean or mean things that we do not say. But an even bigger obstacle is that we all think we are right.

Finally, the person who has the conflict chooses the first step forward, followed by the others. This gives each party more ownership over the outcome.

5 strategies for Conflict Resolution:

- ❖ Recognize that all of us have biased fairness perceptions.
- ❖ Avoid escalating tensions with threats and provocative moves.
- ❖ Overcome an 'us versus them' mentality.
- ❖ Look beneath the surface to identify deeper issues.
- ❖ Separate negotiable from non-negotiable issues.

"We cannot afford to do this. Rotary is too important to the world to lose Rotarians over silly disagreements."





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Minutes of the 2280th RWM held on August 28th, 2024 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. President call the meeting to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem. President Biswajit requested all members to stand and observe a minute silence for Late Samir Ghoshal, past member of our club who passed away on August 15th, 2024.
2. Medical camp at RCC Badartala to be conducted as the last date is postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. PN Dr. BN Jha and Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri stated the medical camps to be conducted after September 15th, 2024 due to the current situation prevailing in the city.
3. Charter Anniversary Celebrations: menu and registration charges were discussed and confirmed, agreed by all the members. Around 70 members/spouses and guests are expected to attend the September 11th celebrations at BNROC. The venue is reserved.
4. President requested all the members to attend the 1st Annual Function of our Bharatgarh Rotary School on September 8th, 2024. Once the members confirm their attendance necessary logistic arrangements will be made. Lunch is sponsored by IPP Shweta and the cake will be sponsored by PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta. Members may please express their participation in the group.
5. On the request received from "Kolkata Mary Ward Social Center" (KMWSC) for a visit to their center and to conduct a medical camp for the children aged between 5 to 15 years. The date will be decided after September 15th. Meanwhile the Club Secretary requested if members are interested a visit to the center can be arranged.
6. A Desktop Computer, received from "Shiksha Labh" function is to be donated to Dongaria Ashram on September 7th, 2024 is agreed to and it is requested that members may confirm their participation.
7. Rtn. Amar Saha introduced a prospective member in Mr. Kajal to the Club members.
8. The Club Secretary conducted the Club business.
9. On confirmation of the minutes, President Biswajit terminated the meeting.



DID YOU KNOW?

One of the most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics in the world is the Rotary "4-Way Test." It was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932 when he was asked to take charge of the Chicago based Club Aluminum Company, which was facing bankruptcy

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