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The weekly bulletin of Rotary Ballygunge

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Director speak

Shaping the future with literacy

As September unfolds, Rotary International embraces the significance of the Basic Education and Literacy Month. This month serves as a beacon, guiding us in our shared mission to empower individuals through the transformative power of education.

Education, in its truest form, is the foundation upon which we build a future of promise and potential. It is more than just an academic pursuit — it is the key to unlocking opportunities, breaking the chains of poverty and fostering innovation. Rotary's commitment to education is unwavering, as we believe that every individual, regardless of their circumstances, deserves the right to learn and grow.

This month, our focus sharpens on bridging the gaps that hinder access to quality education. Among the most pressing challenges is the need to address educational disparities, particularly those based on gender. We must work tirelessly to ensure that every child, whether boy or girl, has an equal opportunity to learn. By doing so, we lay the groundwork for a society that values equity and inclusivity, where everyone has the chance to succeed.

However, our dedication to education must extend beyond the classroom and beyond childhood. The staggering reality

is that over 775 million adults worldwide are illiterate, representing 17 per cent of the global population. This statistic compels us to widen our focus to include adult literacy. By providing adults with the tools to read and write, we empower them to fully participate in society, enhance their livelihoods, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. A literate adult population is not only a sign of individual progress but also a catalyst for collective growth and development.

As we embrace this month of focus, we are reminded of the words of Malala Yousafzai: "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world." These words capture the essence of Rotary's mission to drive change through education. By investing in both children and adults, we invest in the future — one that promises brighter tomorrow for all.

Let September be a time of renewed commitment and action. Together, let us champion the cause of education, ensuring that every person has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. In doing so, we not only change individual lives but also build stronger, more resilient communities and a more prosperous world.

Anirudha Roychowdhury
RI Director, 2023–25

Condolence Meet of Late Ashok Kumar Chandra on September 5, 2024



We have remembered our very beloved and respected "Ashok da" through this condolence meet. Our members shared his vision and thoughts he had brought into the mission of our club during the tenure while he acted as the President. We all last met him during the last Installation ceremony 2024. We won't forget you Dada. Love and respect from all the members of RCB.

Sparsh, District Membership Seminar



On 31st of August 2024 at Kalakunj, District membership seminar (Sparsh) was organized. Many clubs with their President and new members and club officials attend the same with much enthusiasm. Chief Guest PDG Sharat Chandra, Regional Co-ordinator (Zone 6), PDG Jhulan Basu, Assistant Zonal Co-ordinator (Zone 6), DG AKS Dr. Krishnedu Gupta delivered their speeches in turn and emphasized on the importance, significance of membership growth & retention. Other speakers included PP Anand Sharma on membership scenario of the District 3291. PP Kaushik Sen on youth membership, PP Dr. Rina Malpani on Lady membership. In between PP Dr. Mahesh Maheswari introduced the district membership team. PDG Ravi Sehgal, DMC moderated the seminar eloquently. From our club other than DES PP Amitava Chakraborty, PP Ashif Shah (member of the District Membership team) President Dr. Amlan Bhattacharya, Club Secretary Anirban Sarker, PP Asit Bhol attended the coveted seminar. The audience was enriched and there were a lot of takeaways.

Teacher's Day Celebration



On September 5, 2024, we celebrated Teacher's Day at Gandhi Vidyalaya, Entally. We also did health and dental check-ups for the students. We gave dental kits to students. The students presented a wonderful cultural program on the occasion. As a part of Easy Svol program of the Rotary, we felicitated the Teacher's by certificate in recognition of their services. Lastly, we distributed food packets among the students. RC Ballygunge was pleased to be a part of this event. The program started from 9.30 a.m. and

continued till 1.30 p.m. where students displayed their talents in a colourful program. 30 teachers were felicitated at the event. Our President gave a inspirational speech to the students. It was followed by the health check up with height and weight measurements of school children. Toothpastes, Toothbrushes, biscuits and food packets were distributed to the children of the school by RCB. From our club President Dr. Amlan Bhattacharya, Past President Ashif Shah and Youth Chair Rtn. Sabari Bose was present. In scorching hot weather, it was a memorable eventful day. PP Gurudas De, Chairman Nabadisha along with the President Dipender Sharma and PP Shukla Di of RC Gitanjali was also present at the event.

Editor's Column

Dear readers,

I welcome you to the month of September, the basic education and literacy month. A month which brings awareness among the masses, opens avenues for opportunities as well as self -advancement and improvement.

Being able to read and write means being able to keep up with current events, communicate effectively and understand the issues that are shaping our world around us.

Thank you for showing your interest in reading our weekly bulletin. Please receive and enjoy your e copy and endeavor to share it with your friends and family. Its an endeavor on the part of the club to keep you all updated on our Rotary club activities.

Lastly, apologies for not publishing the last week's bulletin!

Minutes of the 2504th RWM held on 29th August 2024 at The International Club, Kolkata for Joint RWM with RC Arunoday Howrah (Club Id 223562)

- 1) President called the 2504th RWM to order.
- 2) President requested all to rise for the National Anthem and the same was sung in chorus by the members and guests present.
- 3) President informed the members that on 5th September 2024 a service project will be done at the Gandhi Vidyalaya on the occasion of the Teachers' Day. The project will focus on Health and Hygiene including Dental checkup. Members were informed that 28 teachers would be felicitated and approx. 200 students would be provided food packets during the said programme
- 4) President informed the members that on 5th September 2024 a condolence meet will be held, as part of the RWM, in the memory of our beloved member PP Rtn Ashok Chandra.
- 5) President informed the members that on 14th September 2024, a service project will be conducted on "Mental Health" at the Rotary Sadan. There would be separate counselling sessions for the students of Gandhi Vidyalaya and their parents, and the programme will also include participation by trained Psychiatrists.
- 6) President informed the members that on 30th August 2024, a "Silent Protest March for Justice and Peace" has been arranged by the District 3291 which will start from the North Gate of Victoria Memorial at 5 PM. The Silent Procession shall begin at 5 PM in front of the North Gate of Victoria Memorial in front of the statue of Rishi Aurobindo, then proceed towards Birla Planetarium, cross the road and turn right towards The Academy of Fine Arts and Rabindra Sadan, then turn left towards Nandan, reach the crossing and turn and proceed towards Nehru Children's Museum and Rotary Sadan, reach the crossing and turn left and reach Birla Planetarium, where the rally will end.
All members were requested to wear their "Rotary Pin" with pride.
- 7) President informed the members that on 31st August 2024 a programme will be conducted by District 3291 on Membership Development.
- 8) President informed the members of a proposed Global Grant jointly with RC Arunoday Howrah and RC Garden Reach. The Global Grant will focus on prevention of Cervical Cancer and related vaccinations of the under-privileged women.
- 9) Rtn Tanu Roy delved on the proposed Global Grant project, as was mentioned by the President of RC Ballygunge. Rtn Tanu Roy encouraged mid-size clubs like RC Ballygunge, RC Garden Reach, RC Arunoday Howrah to come together and to pool their common resources. He opined that the combined strength of the mid-size clubs would immensely help in conducting successful projects involving Global Grants.
- 10) RC Arunoday Howrah conducted their RWM.
- 11) President handed over to the Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee., for the happy announcements.
- 12) Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee welcomed the members to join the RWM and to participate in important matters concerning the club.
- 13) The Minutes of the last meeting was confirmed.
- 14) Joint Secretary, Rtn. Joydeep Mookerjee, handed over to the President for business.
- 15) President terminated the meeting (RWM 2504).

Members Present - 11 (RC Ballygunge), 04 (RC Arunoday Howrah) Guests Present - 02



Basic education and literacy are one of The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus. We know that basic education and literacy are essential for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and economic development, and promoting peace.

Consider these facts:

- If all women completed primary education, there would be 66% fewer maternal deaths.
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five.
- If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

The world is making good progress in this area. According to a 2014 United Nations Millennium Development Goals progress report, literacy rates among adults and youths are on the rise and the gender gap in literacy is narrowing. But pressing global needs remain:

- 58 million children worldwide are out of school.
- Even after four years of primary schooling, as many as 250 million children cannot read and write.
- 781 million adults are illiterate.

Rotary supports activities and training to improve education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

Area of Focus Statement of Purpose and Goals:

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to ensure that all people have sustainable access to basic education and literacy by:

- Involving the community to support programs that strengthen the capacity of communities to provide basic education and literacy to all;
- Increasing adult literacy in communities;
- Working to reduce gender disparity in education;
- Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to basic education and literacy.

Parameters for Eligibility:

The Rotary Foundation considers activities targeting the following to be within the scope of the basic education and literacy area of focus:

- Access to quality basic primary and secondary education;
- Educating adults in literacy;
- Providing training in teaching literacy, curriculum development, and school administration;
- Strengthening educational experience through improved materials and facilities;
- Community management of education systems;
- Vocational training teams supporting the above activities;
- School desk purchases, when accompanied by a detailed and verifiable plan to improve basic education and literacy;
- Scholarships for graduate-level study in programs related to basic education and literacy.

The Rotary Foundation considers activities targeting the following to be outside the scope of the basic education and literacy area of focus and as such are not eligible for global grant funding:

- Projects that consist exclusively of equipment purchases;
- Projects that provide tuition or school supplies without the means for the community to provide these in the future.

Minutes of the 2505th RWM held in the Cosy Room of International Club, Kolkata, on 05/09/2024.

- President called the 2505 th RWM to order.
- The President requested all to rise for the National Anthem which was sung in chorus.
- The President announced the dedicated Memorial Service for our beloved Rotarian PP Asoke Kr. Chandra will be held after the RWM attended by his family; friends in Rotary and our members in RCB. He welcomed the family members of PP Asoke Kr. Chandra.
- President declared the successful completion of our project on Teachers Day held at our Interact Club, Shri Gandhi Vidyalaya; and briefly discussed the proceedings of the project. The chairperson of the district project Nabadisha joined hands with our club and actively contributed and participated. It was followed by a cultural programme by the students.
- The President announced one project has been planned on 14 th September to be held in Rotary Sadan at 10:30 am. It is a panel discussion & workshop with interactive sessions covering basic problems of mental health and the beneficiaries will be the students and their parents/guardians. The panel will comprise of doctors, psychologists. President requested all members to attend the programme.
- President announced on 21 st September another project has been finalised with Interact Club of Shri Gandhi Vidyalaya, for eye check up camp in their school premises. Followed by the installation of Interact Club.
- President declared one more project is in the preliminary stage covering the Literacy Project arena of Rotary Services; where we will distribute some computers/systems/desktop peripherals to schools.
- President announced a cloth distribution project will be held as done every year during the Durga Puja festival. He requested PP Sanjoy Dey to come forward with the proposal. The same was discussed and initial planning finalised.
- The President requested members to come forward with suggestions / thoughts / feedback, if any.
- President handed over to the Secretary for Club Business.
- The Secretary welcomed and thanked the Guests / family members of PP Asoke Kr. Chandra and members of RCB for joining the RWM followed by the memorial service and announced the Club Business.
- Minutes of meeting confirmed.

Members Present - 12, Guests Present - 05