



# Nepal

## Reading Room Donor Report

### Letter from the Country Director

Dear Mark and Prue,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the Donor Report for the Reading Room you supported in 2010. The Nepali Reading Room team has been very busy during these first few months of 2011 ensuring that the 2010 libraries are high of quality and are being used by students and teachers. During the past few months, our field staff has been working with each librarian and sub librarian along with the teachers of the school to make sure that book checkout systems are fully functioning, the library is welcoming and inviting to students, and that all of the books are well organized and accessible. The teachers and librarians were trained on these activities in the fall, and now we are providing support to them as they implement what they learned at their schools. For example, the team is working with teachers to ensure that they know how to use the books in their classrooms and how to support students in picking out the right book. It is my favorite time of year because our hard work is rewarded with the pleasure of witnessing the joy on children's faces as they are first introduced to the library and their love of reading begins to blossom. It is during these months that children and communities start to feel the impact of our work through access to the world of books. Room to Read and our government partners will continue to monitor the libraries regularly to ensure activities are running smoothly and provide additional support to teachers and librarians as needed.

In 2011, our Reading Room team will be working hard to prepare for the shift in Nepal's education strategy from primary grade schools consisting of grades 1-5 to grades 1-8. This means that many schools will be short on extra rooms as schools will quickly need to accommodate more students. Our team will be implementing Classroom Libraries for the first time in Nepal in order to meet this new challenge and demand in our local context.

Shree Jandip Lower Secondary School library, funded by your gift in 2010 is up and running, and the children and teachers are excited about the interesting and colorful books now available to them. In the following pages, we provide a brief update on this library and share the results of your generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Pushkar Shrestha, Nepal Country Director

## Project Details

**Project ID:** NP-RR-10-0212  
**Name:** Shree Jandip Lower Secondary School

**Province:** Lumbini

**District:** Palpa

**City/Village:** Masyam

**Grades:** Kindergarten to 8

### Number of Students

Female Students: 135

Male Students: 131

Total Students: 266

### Number of Teachers

Female Teachers: 6

Male Teachers: 6

Total Teachers: 12



Palpa District is indicated in blue.

## Project Description

Through your generous support, Room to Read Nepal established a Separate Library.

The library is located in the small, western Nepali district of Palpa, which has a population of 268,000 residents and a mountainous topography. With a blend of mountains and forests, Palpa's villages remain relatively isolated, lacking the infrastructure to support regular travel and trade. Most Palpa residents live as migrant farmers, primarily practicing subsistence farming, a model which leaves little money for living expenses and educational costs. Palpa is home to many different ethnic and tribal populations which are dispersed throughout its many mountain villages and communities. With an average literacy rate of 40%, Palpa struggles with providing accessible academic programs and both community members and government officials are excited to have Room to Read working throughout the district.

### Library Model

Separate Libraries are established in a designated room of the school. This is often an unused storage room or a former teacher's office. This important type of library is designed to create a print rich environment that enables and supports the creation of a habit of reading in students. The room is stocked with books in addition to shelving, furniture, games, posters, and library stationery. The walls are covered in maps and literary posters and students feel at ease and welcome to read books freely. Students may come to the library to use the books and resources during break time, before and after school, or when teachers bring students to use the library during class periods.

### Resources Provided

The Reading Room team in Nepal works hard to select the most appropriate and engaging reading materials to stock the libraries. Due to the nationwide scarcity of level appropriate books for the children in Nepal, many of the books provided to the Reading Rooms are from our Local Language Publishing (LLP) program, which is one of the largest producers of children's books in Nepal and has won several local literature awards as well. Tallest Grass recently won the eight year old and above category for best children's story while Medicine in Our Garden won the eight year old and below category for best children's story. Written in Nepali and illustrated with local pictures, they have quickly become a favorite of students. The following resources were provided to the library you supported:

- 471 LLP Books
- 557 Non-RtR Local Language Books
- Basket; Chair - Teacher; Cushion; Display Racks; Mats; Notice Board; Tables; Whiteboard

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the library, Room to Read seeks community and school co-investment from the very beginning of the project. One of the most vital contributions the school makes is to provide one or two school staff members or volunteers to serve as librarians. Communities often also form library management committees and set aside a reading period for each classes in the school schedule so that teachers may take their students to the library to teach them reading and inculcate a habit of reading.

- Carpet / Linoleum Floor Mat; Paint; Room/Space
- Carpet / Linoleum Floor Mat; Paint; Room/Space

**Training and Support**

In Nepal, the teacher librarians in Room to Read libraries received three days of basic training in library management and conducting reading activities in schools. The training focuses on ensuring the educators have adequate knowledge and skills to organize and manage the library, conduct activities with books during the reading period, and promote reading and the development of a reading culture. Future refresher trainings will reinforce these topics and provide strategies for the educator to cooperate with other teachers for optimal utilization. They will also emphasize improving the use of library resources and engaging the community in helping to maintain and ensure library sustainability.

Start Date	Length of Training	Training Topic
11/21/2010	3.0 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library activities; Teaching reading</li> </ul>

Shree Jandip Lower Secondary School library will receive three full years of support from Room to Read, which will include approximately 1,000 new books and regular monitoring visits to assess the library and provide continued support to the librarian and teachers to ensure the library provides many years of reading enjoyment for the students.

**Photos**



Exterior view of school building in which library is located.



Children reading in the library during library period.



Books and materials displayed inside the library.



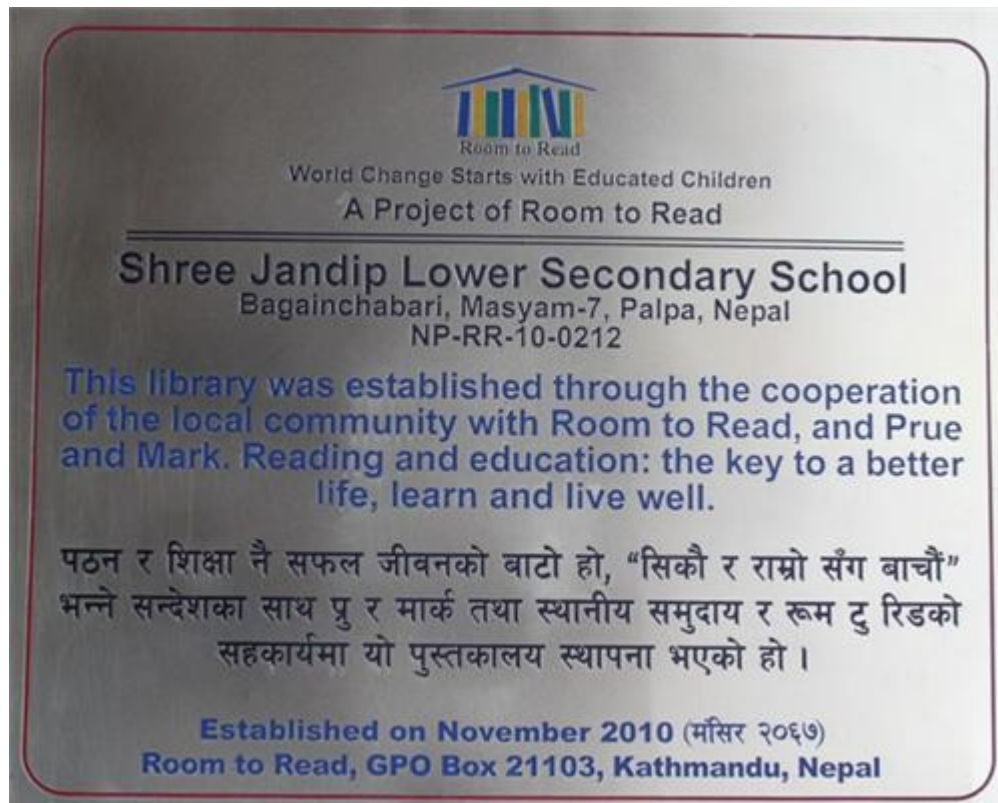
Close-up of a child reading a book in the library.



Library books, furniture, and materials on display inside the library.



Teacher conducting library activities.



Dedication plaque.