

VISION

THE DOWNTOWN TIMES



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

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Basic Education & Literacy Chair Message



Literacy Committee Chair
Rtn. Rachna Rathi

Adult literacy is a crucial aspect of personal and societal development. It refers to the ability of adults to read, write, and understand information, which is essential for everyday tasks and lifelong learning. Here's a simple overview of why adult literacy matters and how it benefits individuals and communities.

Enhancing Personal Lives

- 1. Improved Employment Opportunities:** Literacy skills open doors to better job opportunities. Adults who can read and write are more likely to secure stable employment and advance in their careers.
- 2. Health and Well-being:** Literate adults can better understand medical instructions, health information, and prescriptions, leading to improved health outcomes.
- 3. Financial Stability:** Literacy enables individuals to manage their finances more effectively, understand contracts, and make informed decisions about loans and investments.

Strengthening Families

- 1. Supporting Children's Education:** Literate parents are better equipped to help their children with homework and foster a learning environment at home. This support is crucial for the academic success of the next generation.
- 2. Breaking the Cycle of Illiteracy:** When adults improve their literacy skills, they set a positive example for their children, encouraging them to value education and strive for academic success.

Empowering Communities

- 1. Civic Participation:** Literate adults are more likely to participate in community activities, vote in elections, and engage in civic duties. This participation strengthens democracy and community cohesion.
- 2. Economic Growth:** A literate work force is essential for economic development. Businesses benefit from employees who can read and write, leading to increased productivity and innovation.
- 3. Social Inclusion:** Literacy promotes social inclusion by enabling individuals to access information, communicate effectively, and participate fully in society.

Overcoming Challenges

Despite the benefits, many adults face barriers to literacy, such as limited access to education, work and family responsibilities, and socio-economic factors. Adult literacy programs are essential to address these challenges. These programs provide tailored learning opportunities that accommodate the unique needs of adult learners, helping them to overcome obstacles and achieve their literacy goals.

Conclusion

Adult literacy is a powerful tool for personal growth, family support, and community development. By investing in adult literacy programs, we can create a more educated, healthy, and prosperous society. Literacy is not just about reading and writing; it's about empowering individuals to improve their lives and contribute positively to their communities.



CLUB ACTIVITIES

Talk Show On “Banking”

On 4th of September, 2024, Our club organized a talk show on banking at a regular weekly meeting in Rotary Bhawan. Our guest speakers were Mrs. Henna Thapa, branch manager of Laxmi Bank, Teenpain!, and Mrs. Aarti Karna, Operation Incharge of Laxmi Bank, main branch, Biratnagar. Speakers provided valuable insights about banking, mobile banking, savings accounts, educational loans, etc. Our Rotaract clubs and Interact clubs also joined and benefitted from this informative session. Food packets were distributed to everyone after the program



Adult Literacy Program

Basic Education and Literacy. This Program supports the Rotary Nepal Literacy Mission (RNLM) of total literacy in Nepal. On World Literacy Day (8th September), 3 months Adult Literacy Program was started for 50 illiterate women of Buddhanagar village. Coursebooks, copies & stationery were provided to everyone. 50 illiterate women and their families would benefit from this program. There is a need for women's education in rural areas to eliminate various social problems and develop multiple opportunities for them.





Club Activities

Bal Diwas Celebration

On 13th September, 2024, We celebrated Bal Diwas with Cerebral Palsy Children at CP Centre in Adarsh Vidyalaya run by our club. Cerebral Palsy Day Care Centre is our signature project. We distributed juice, Horlicks, choccos, and rice pudding for the children and decorated the place with balloons. Total cost – 1,500/- NPR donated by Past President Rtn. Archana Sharma. 15 children of the center benefitted from this celebration.



Handover of Desks and Benches

On 13th September, 2024, Our club handed over 11 pairs of desks and benches to the principal of Shree Janta Bal Adharbhut Vidyalaya, Jehda on the occasion of Bal Diwas. The students of the school will be the beneficiaries. This significantly improves the learning environment, student health, attendance, engagement, and overall academic success while fostering community growth and supporting teachers.



Activities for Child Development

On 13th September, 2024, Under "C" of the TEACH module of RNLM, we organized various activities for the students of Shree Janta Bal Adharbhut Vidyalaya, Jehda on the occasion of Bal Diwas. We organized games for classes 1, 2, and 3. Handwriting competition for classes 4 and 5 and spelling competition for classes 6, 7, and 8. All the winners were given prizes. All the students were given fruits, juice, and biscuit packets. 362 students of the school were the beneficiaries.





Club Activities

Free Pediatric health checkup

On 14th of September, 2024, Under our initiative, Rotary Arogya Mission, we organize monthly health checkup camps. This month on the occasion of Bal Diwas, we organized a free pediatric health checkup camp at Birat Nursing Home in collaboration with Birat Nursing Home.

A team of expert and experienced doctors comprising neonatologists, ophthalmologists, dermatologists, dentists, ENT specialists, nutritionists, and general physicians examined the children. 25% discount was given on tests and treatments. All the children who came were given fruits, water, and balloons. 360 children, aged 14 years and below from rural communities and underprivileged classes were the beneficiaries.



Handover of Sewing Machines

On 17th September, 2024, Our club handed over 7 sewing machines to Adarsh Vidyalaya. We had an agreement with the school management that there would be continuous training program for skill development and empowerment of girls at Adarsh Vidyalaya. Students of the school will benefit from this program. These kinds of programs will empower women and girls, boost school attendance, foster community development and creativity, and give students practical vocational skills and employment options.



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Club Activities

Flood Relief Program

On 29th September, 2024, Our club arranged rations for flood victims at Jehda-1, Dhuni village. Ration included rice, flour, puffed rice, rice flakes, pulses, salt, masala, oil, instant noodles, vegetables, and ready-to-eat snacks. 400 people (approx. 80 families) were benefitted. Such programs ensure immediate food security, preventing malnutrition and reducing stress. It helps stabilize communities, prevents social unrest, and reduces financial burdens on affected families.



World Heart Day

On 29th of September, 2024, Under our ongoing initiative, Rotary Arogya Mission, we organized an awareness program on heart health in collaboration with Birat Medical College Teaching Hospital on World Heart Day. Event highlights included a session by Dr. Prashant Shah (cardiologist), Psychosocial counseling and stress management by Ms. Tulasa Karki, and a Healthy diet for a healthy heart by an expert team of dietitians and nutritionists. 150 people, including Rotarians, medical staff, and members of our society, attended and benefitted from this program.



MEDIA COVERAGE



FUN FACTS





BIRTHDAY

September

- 5th September- Rtn. Rashi Mehta
- 9th September- Rtn. Rekha Rathi
- 10th September- Rtn. Shobhana Duggar
- 18th September - Rtn. Girija Sarda
- 22nd September - Rtn. Sapna Singhal
- 25th September - Rtn. Sima Lalwani
- 26th September - Rtn. Kiran Karna
- 28th September - Rtn. Kumud Lunia



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Editor's Note

Rtn. Poonam Rathi



Dear Fellow Rotarians,
Greetings,

Education is the cornerstone of building a brighter future. At Rotary, we have always championed education, encouraging and supporting children in their pursuit of learning. As we enter the month of Autumn, we proudly celebrate it as the 'Education and Literacy' month. I am pleased to bring you the 3rd edition of the VISION Magazine for 2024-25 highlighting our ongoing efforts and initiatives that continue to make a lasting impact in the realm of education.

Rtn. Poonam Rathi

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