



Mission Million Books Report



2021 Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust

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LETTER FROM OUR TRUSTEE

Books have proved to be a very powerful medium to impart and share knowledge. A book in the hand of every child is a tool to understand and comprehend numerous viewpoints from across the world. At Ratna Nidhi, we believe that every child should have at least 1 books to read despite any challenge. Ratna Nidhi launched Mission Million Books to provide ONE Million Books to the underprivileged.

To reach this mission, we have successfully partnered with schools, colleges, NGOs etc. This year, we associated with Akshaya Patra, Rotary India Literacy Mission, Rotary International, Pratham and a number of other Institutes. World Bank has been our partner in providing a variety of books from different genres along with donors who consistently donate pre-loved books.

Years of experience clearly demonstrate need of books. Especially amongst underprivileged students. To ensure easy access to books for longer durations at affordable rates, RNCT has initiated Ratna Nidhi Library at Babulnath, Mumbai and Palanpur Gujarat with on cloud Library Management System (LMS). The LMS model has been developed to keep a track of books available, and lending

behavior. This system over time will develop into a monitoring mechanism.

I hope that this program will ignite hope and aspiration for many to dream and look ahead in their lives. We look forward to your participation in our Mission Million Books program.

Rajiv Mehta

Trustee

Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust

MEET THE TEAM

Trustees

Rajiv Mahendra Mehta
Asha Mahendra Mehta

Advisory Board

Nitin Khanapurkar
Dr. Ravi Ballamudi
Ashok J Kothari

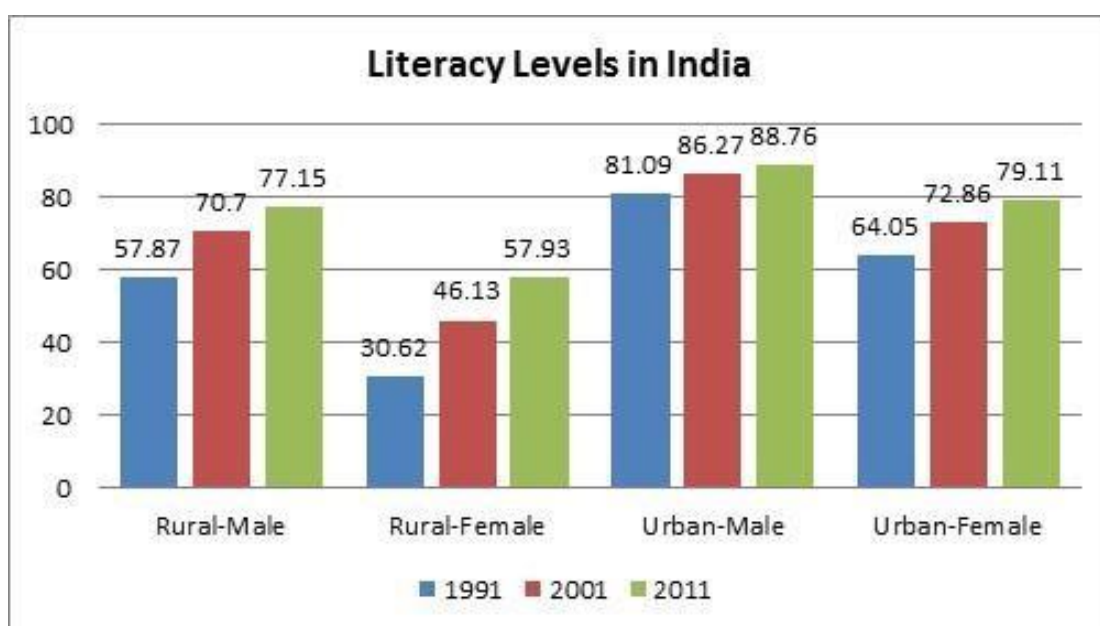
Team

Priti Mehta
Ragini Parmar
Richika Padubidri
Priyanka Dalvi
Sonia Verma

THE NEED

Access to Quality Education is not Equal

India is stream rolling her way into development, but illiteracy continues to plague a large section of the society. The [7th All India Education Survey](#) shows that at least 35 million children aged 6 - 14 years do not attend school and a major reason for that is the high cost of private education and the need to work to support their families. Student dropout rates increase alarmingly in class III to V, its 50% for boys, 58% for girls.

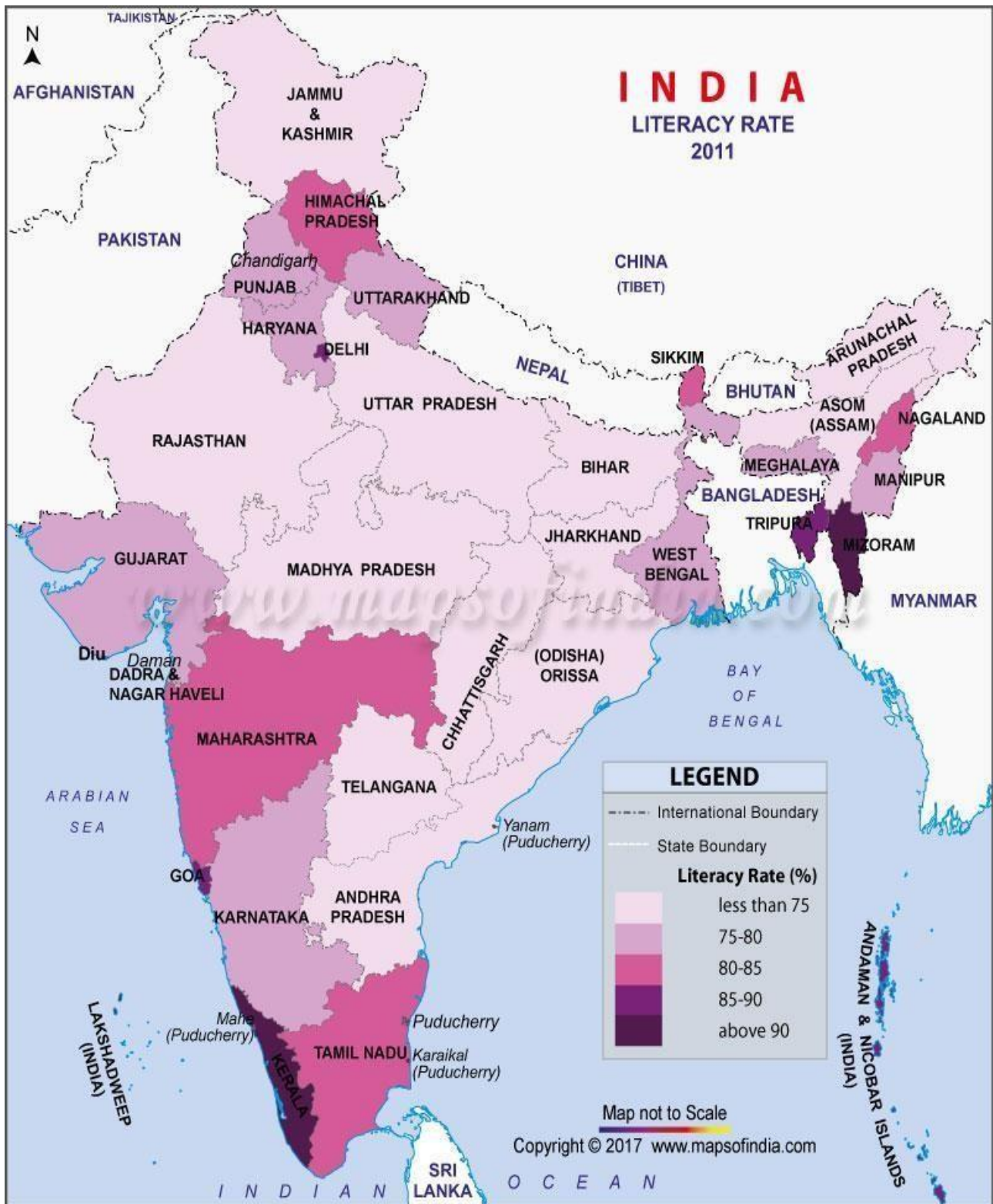


Graphical representation of literacy levels in India

A crucial factor in receiving a good education is access to books. Other than providing knowledge, books play a crucial role in developing better vocabulary, emotional intelligence, imagination, fostering natural curiosity, and improving attention span and focus.

Education is the most important component of various constituents of social infrastructure. Students that are well-educated and eventually receive proper training, can accelerate the pace of economic development.

The stark socio-economic disparity in our country can be witnessed when we observe various children's access to quality education and educational supplies. Most children do not have access to good quality educational books. Noticing this gap, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust started the 'Mission Million Books' program, wherein we aim to donate 1 million books to low-income schools and colleges. Through this program, we are attempting to give multiple children access to good quality educational aids. Moreover, while reading is considered beneficial, In India there are a very few well managed, reader friendly libraries especially for the underprivileged.



Literacy Rate in India, Census 2011

MISSION MILLION BOOKS

Mission Million Books kick started in the year 2016 with the goal to distribute ONE Million Books. Till date we have donated over 9 lac books and established 4000 libraries.

To expand the reach, RNCT has continued to develop associations with partner associations and NGOs. RNCT has been able to forge an association with **Akshaya Patra** to establish libraries in 15000 school, in 14 states in 5 years. With **Rotary India Literacy Mission**, RNCT has committed to send 100 books in every Happy School Library established by Rotary. RNCT is also providing books to Pratham in the various centres/ schools where they are functioning.

Books have been donated in different, schools, institutes, colleges, and individual study centres in our own capacity too.



Multiple renowned organisations such as The World Bank Family Network, Alibaba Group, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Gov. of Maharashtra and Crossword have partnered with us over the years to help make this program a success.

Over years, through our experience and being in conversation with different NGOs, colleges & institutes, there has emerged a need to have a library, which is easily accessible, offers affordable rates for lending books for a longer duration. This requirement has been the highest amongst students who require a range of reference books for studying. The underprivileged students feel this need the most.

Therefore, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust has developed a **Model Library in Babulnath, Mumbai** with a stock of 20000 books and in Palanpur, Gujarat. These libraries provide books for long term borrowing with affordable/free memberships for the underprivileged. The record of these books is kept on cloud through our Library Management System.

MISSION MILLION BOOKS



Ratna Nidhi
Library at
Babulnath,
Mumbai and
Palanpur,
Gujarat



4 Exhibitions organised
till date



Direct dispatches to
institutions

Library on wheels



Setting up libraries across
India

Various verticals under the Mission Million Books program

EXHIBITIONS

Mission Million Books: Exhibition 1

The first book exhibition was organized on 29th & 30th September 2016. The event commenced with an inauguration ceremony, attended by Mr Guru Gowrappan, Global MD, Alibaba Group, Mr Rajiv Mehta, Chairman, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Mohan Shenoi, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sandee Barasia, Managing Director, Delivery, Ashok Kothari, Chairman - Trustee, Nava Samaj Mandal, Deepak Goyal, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mgage, Kinjal Shah, CEO, Crossword and Vinay Bhartiya, Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, Alibaha.com (India). The need for improving access to education through Mission Million Books was echoed by all the partners on the dais. The exhibition saw a rich repository of books in Science, Maths, History, Geography, Liberal Arts, Computers, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Fiction and Non-fiction books. 1,05,000 books were **donated to 535 schools** and colleges from Mumbai, Purse, Thane, Raigad, Kolhapur and Aurangabad. We also donated 25,000 notebooks.



Mission Million Books: Exhibition 2

The Second Exhibition was organized at Baramati at the prestigious Vidya Pratishthan Institute on 26th and 27th March 2017. It was inaugurated by Shri Sharad Pawar, Honorable MP & President, Vidya Pratishthan. With a sprawling campus of 156 acres, the Pratishthan houses 25 Institutions, where more than 23,000 students are nurtured daily. A month-long campaign ensured over **52,000 books were displayed** at the exhibition. 51,000 books were donated to 1104 schools and colleges at Baramati over two days. The exhibition saw a rich repository of books in Science, Maths, History, Geography, Liberal Arts, Computers, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Marathi books, Fiction and Non-Fiction.



"Thank you, Shri Rajiv Mehta of Ratna Nidhi Trust, for distributing over 50000 books to over 850 schools, colleges in Baramati & Pune. Also, Thank you to Mr.Chris Wang, Country Head, Alibaba India, Kotak & Crosswords for the social initiative of Educating Young India"

- Shri Sharad Pawar

Hon'ble Member of Parliament & President, Vidya Pratishthan

Mission Million Books: Exhibition 3

The third exhibition was organized at the prestigious Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara on 8th and 9th July 2017. Over 50,000 books were donated to 472 educational institutions at Satara. The exhibition saw a rich repository of books in Science, Maths, History, Geography, Liberal Arts, Computers, Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Marathi books, Fiction and Nonfiction books.



Mission Million Books: Exhibition 4

On 22nd April 2018, we had our 4th MMB Exhibition in Mumbai. Through the exhibition, we donated 3.6 lakh educational books to 1000 low-income schools and colleges in Maharashtra. The World Bank Family Network Book Project donated 40,000 educational books for this exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms Swaroop Sampat (Chief Guest), Actor & Educationist; Mr. Vinay Bhartia, Senior, Vice President, Strategic Partnership, Alibaba Group; Mr. Rajiv Mehta, Trustee, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust; Mr. Ramnath Subramaniam, CEO, Maharashtra Village Social Transformation Foundation & Mr. Ashok Kothari, Trustee, Nava Samajh Mandal.

RATNA NIDHI LIBRARY AT BABULNATH

Ratna Nidhi Library at Babulnath, Mumbai houses 20,000 books to readers. The state-of-the-art infrastructure makes it possible for book lovers to search the books at the library and issue at will. Different genres of books like academic, self -help, motivational, spiritual, etc are available. This library functions through on cloud Library Management System ensuring access to books readily. We have established a similar model in Gujarat at our centre in Palanpur, Banaskatha District.

Mission: To ensure a comfortable world class environment for easy and affordable access to books





Ratna Nidhi Library At Babulnath, Mumbai

LIBRARY ON WHEELS

Education is not a problem; Education is an opportunity.

– Lyndon B. Johnson



3067
books
read

1500
kms
travelled



2500
children
reached

2300
library
cards
made



Some Indian villages, districts and pockets of rural areas are extremely inaccessible. The students in these areas face problems like food and water shortage, and lack of access to healthcare and sanitation. Access to world-class educational books is not one of their primary concerns.

Far from urbanisation, children living in these remote areas do not have access to basic education and the ones who have the slightest exposure to any sort of education, its standard does not match the required

But we, at Ratna Nidhi believe that educating our future generation is what paves way for development. To bridge this gap, Ratna Nidhi, in association with ACC Ltd. set up a 'Library on Wheels' in Maharashtra.

This **mobile library** travels around rural Maharashtra, making books accessible to children from low-income backgrounds. Library on Wheels on the move in the rural most villages in India, providing free access to books, conducting reading programs, thereby influencing young minds and enable them to explore a world beyond their academics.



OUR ASSOCIATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Our associations and partnerships have been critical in working towards Mission Million Books. Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust in association with Akshya Patra plans to establish libraries in 15000 school, in 14 states in 5 years. This project has been initiated in 2021.

With Rotary India Literacy Mission, RNCT is committed to provide 100 books for every Happy School Library created.

With Rotary International, we are in process to export container of books to Ghana. With this project, we hope to ensure that children across the world read and take benefits of books. Our scope of work expands from India to outside India as well.

With Pratham also we are providing books for their schools and study centres.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Setting up Libraries

We have reached out to schools and colleges in rural India providing them with access to good quality books. We now want to establish libraries with Library Management System for people in prisons, children's homes, old age homes and shelter homes.

Mission Million Book International

Export of books are in process to create library access in the world. The requirement of books is a universal need. We have partnered with Rotary International to provide a container of books in Africa as well.

Readership Development: Book Clubs

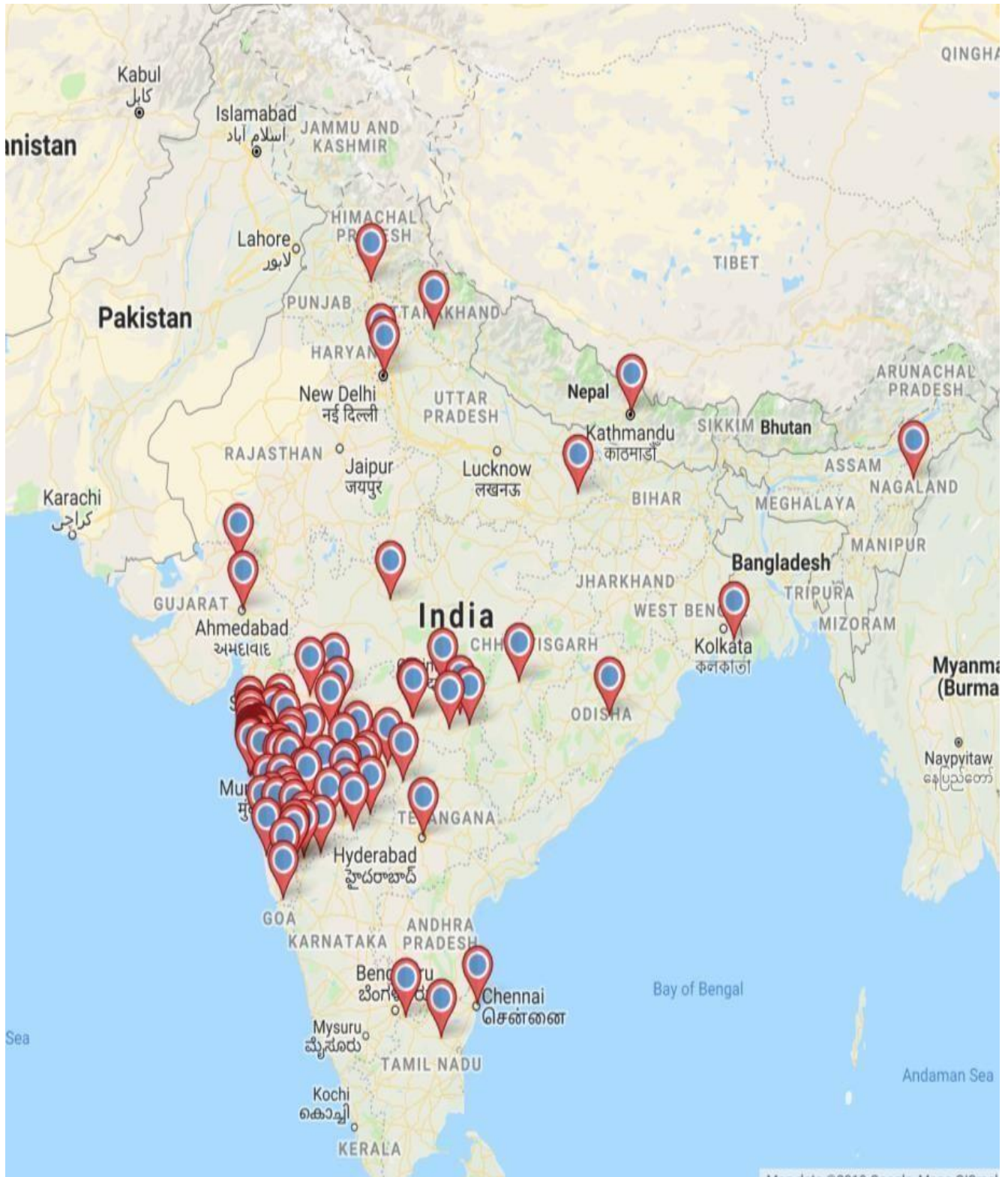
Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust has embarked on a journey to inculcate better readership habits in students.

Thus, we present to you Ratna Nidhi Book Clubs.

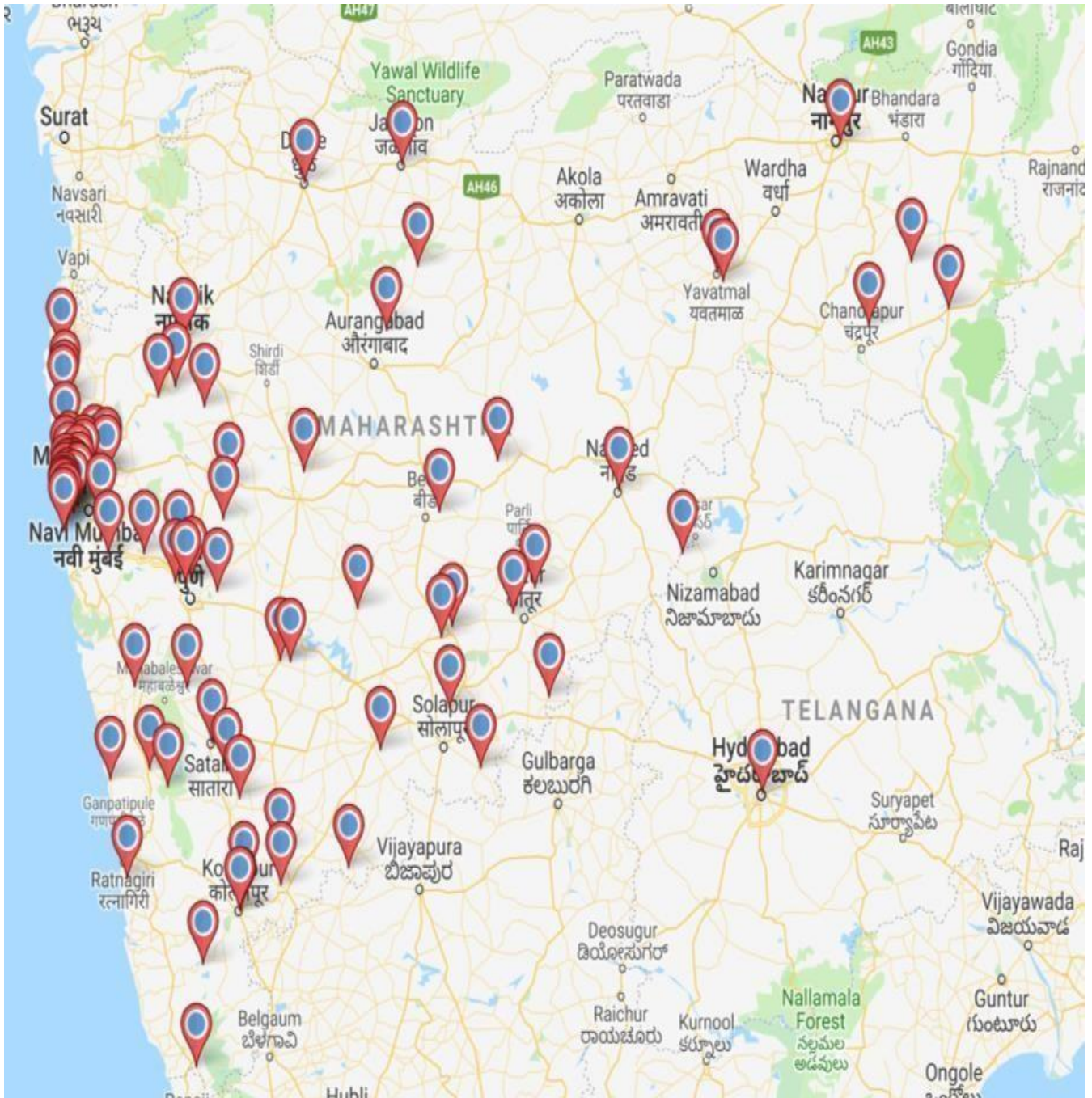
Library on Wheels

Ratna Nidhi intends to start multiple Library on Wheels projects across Maharashtra like the existing project in Chandrapur. With this, we hope to reach the innermost, inaccessible pockets of rural India.

IMPACT



Geocoded map of Ratna Nidhi MMB Program's reach in India



Geocoded map of MMB's reach in Maharashtra (India)

TESTIMONIALS

“Mission Million Books is one step towards helping improve the accessibility of quality reading material to Indian students. This is a great initiative and helps us in reaching rural India with books that will empower thousands of children. ”- **Chris Wang, Alibaba.com, India**

“The books collected from here will give students an opportunity to gain more knowledge and value education. Here the books are free of cost whereas in the market the same books are heavily priced. We are thankful to Alibaba Group and RNCT.”- **Zilla Parishad Primary School**

"The exhibition displays a large variety of books ranging from the primary section to senior classes, covering several subjects - Mathematics, Science, English, Computer Science etc. These books will not only benefit the students but will also teach me many things. I am thankful to Mission Million books for this great initiative." – **Katewadi High School, Baramati**

“Thank you very much for 977 books worth lakhs of rupees. It will definitely help our students to enrich their reading skills and knowledge forever. I hope you will help us to do our best in the field of education. Thanking you for all our staff and institution.”- **Principal, Maharshi Walmiki Vidyalaya, Walhe, Pune**

“It was a wonderful project. We got medical books which would be very useful to our students as well as our faculty. Thank you for inviting us and making us a part of this huge initiative.”- **Sant Ghadge Maharaj Ashram School**

“It’s been a very overwhelming experience. Loads of access to rich resources! Thank you. We look forward to many more.”- **Satara High School**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Shreya & Samah

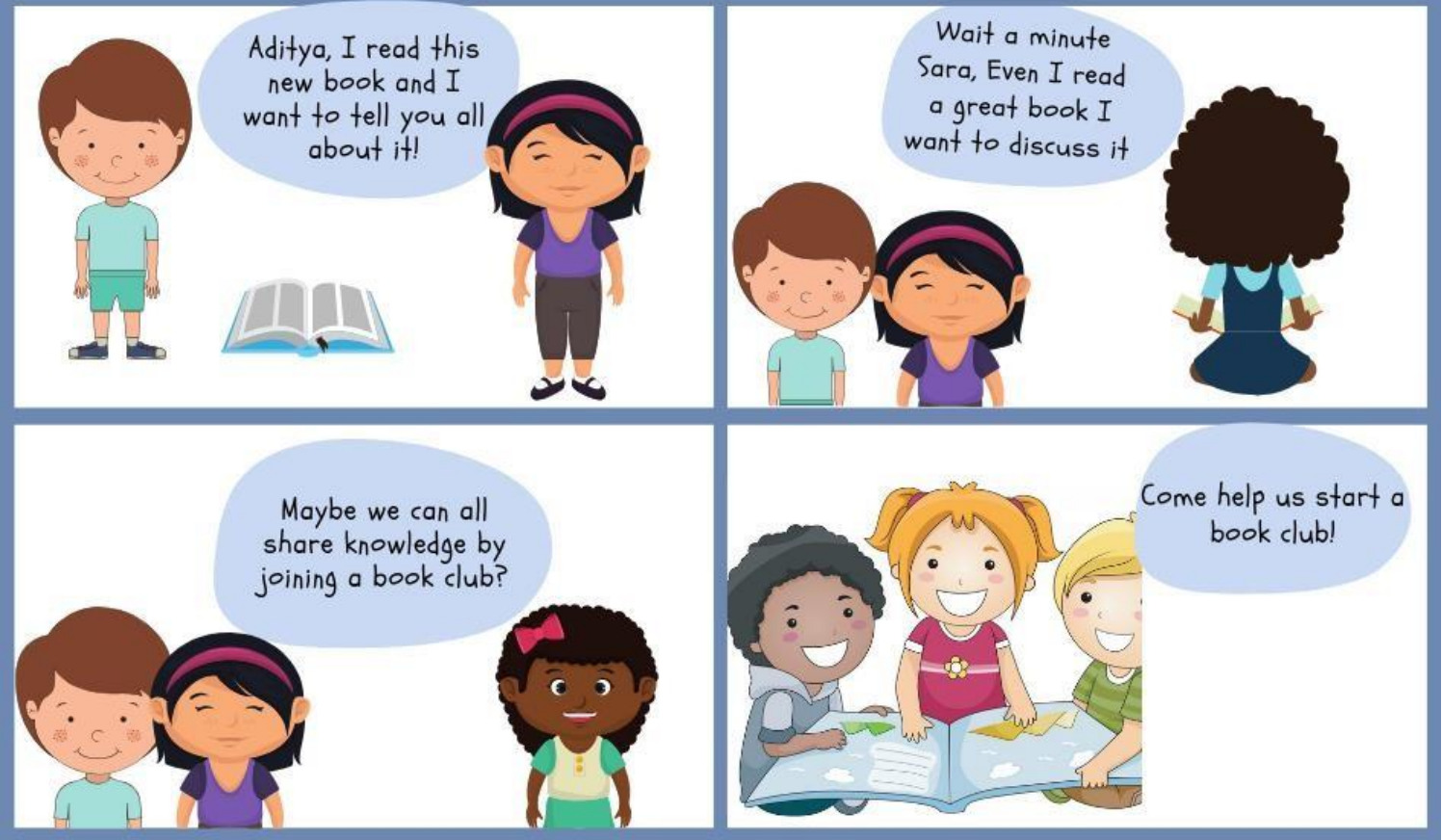
Find A Treasure



We are collecting and distributing books to children pan-India and book donations from YOU will help us to continue doing the same. If you are an author or publisher, please get in touch with us if you'd like to donate books to us. We would love to provide children access to the quality content that you have created.

The Bookworms

Ratna Nidhi Book Clubs



Knowledge is shared best when information flows freely. We want to provide children across Maharashtra with a platform where they can share, read, discuss and dream. You can support these children by connecting with us and sponsoring a book club.

Great Beginnings



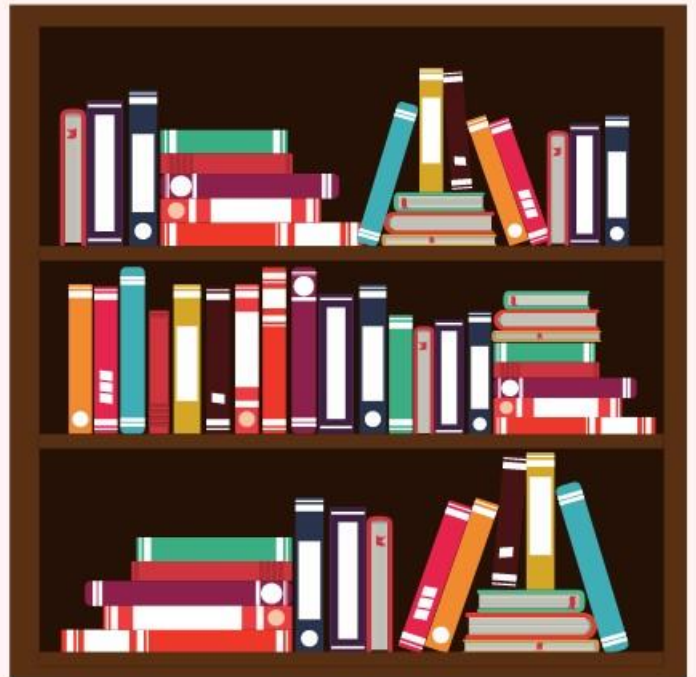
We all love books. I wish our library had more books

Don't worry children, we'll have more books soon!



Contact Ratna Nidhi if your school or college needs books

Now their library has so many new books that these children can read.....



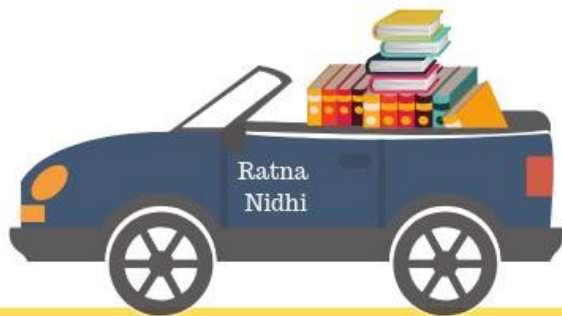
If you know a school, college or institution that needs books, refer them to us. This connection could give hundreds of children access to quality educational books.

Yash *and* the Library

Ratna Nidhi's Library on Wheels



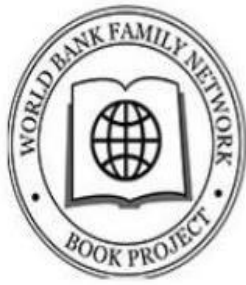
Ratna Nidhi's Library on Wheels goes from village to village to give children access to books.....



Access to quality education and educational supplies is unequal. We are bridging that gap and trying to reach rural pockets of Maharashtra. Your old car can be converted into a mobile library and will be a new home for our books. This Library on Wheels will travel to small villages in some district of Maharashtra and give many children an opportunity to read, which they won't have access to otherwise.

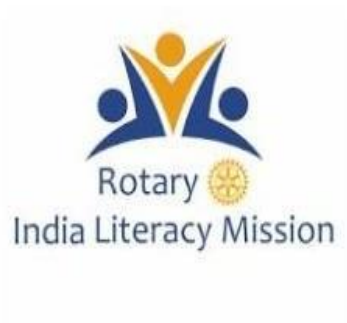
Give your old car a new purpose!

OUR PARTNERS



BOOK PROJECT

THE WORLD BANK FAMILY NETWORK



**ACC
TRUST**



CONTACT US



Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust

16 A, Khetwadi, 12th Lane, Opp. Earth View
Bldg., Opp. Pawri School, Grant Road (E),
Mumbai - 400004

Ph: 8530485324

Email: info@ratnanidhi.org