

## From the Editor's Desk

The past three months have been very busy! As many of our supporters are already aware, in April of every year we start our annual reconciling process. Every basket of books is reconciled at the end of the academic year. This begins once all our books are returned to the Pustakaar office. Each book is taken out and cleaned. Books that have minor damage are repaired. New serial numbers

are printed and stuck onto all of the books. Lost books – of which there are many! – are noted and their serial numbers are removed from our inventory. Damaged books are removed from circulation and sold as scrap. New books are purchased, and fresh baskets are remade for the next academic session. It is a painstaking process, and requires all hands on deck.

reconcile one single basket of fifty books, and we were lucky to get through a few baskets a day with a whole group of volunteers! We then met with a library software firm and they created a database platform that was made especially for us, with our unique basket numbers. It takes us half the time with fewer people today using the NewGen library database. We are fortunate to have library software

and even a digital scanner to help us now, but many of our volunteers will remember sitting on the floor and hand writing book serial numbers on sheets of paper!

Finally it's June, and much of the reconciliation process is over. By the time you are reading this newsletter, all baskets should be ready for the next academic session.



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Even five years ago, we were doing all of this by hand and entering serial numbers into an Excel sheet. It took two people working in tandem to

### Books Update

863 - Bought

901 - Missing

1797 - Damaged

3064 - Received as donation

14,772 - In stock

Shobha Bhansali

Shruthi Hegde

Karuna Koripella

## Two New Partnerships



*Engrossed learners at a CKE centre*

We are happy to partner with Sai Life Sciences to have Pustakaar fixed libraries in Sai Life sponsored schools in Shamirpet and Gachibowli. In Gachibowli High School and Gachibowli Primary School volunteers will do reading sessions in 4th and 6th grades. For the four schools Shamirpet: Koltur Primary School, Koltur High School, Keshavaram High School, and Tumkunta High School, Pustakaar will put together a fixed library. We will visit the schools every three months and rotate the books out to give them a fresh set of books for the next quarter.

Chotu ki Education (CKE) is a NGO that works to educate children in slum developments. The four centres are located around Miyapur. The children are all various ages, and sometimes with no school exposure. In certain cases, even adults come to these CKE centres to learn to read. Pustakaar team visited the centres and is working with CKE trainers to explain our Pustakaar program. We have taken our baskets to expose them to storybooks and are working to teach them basic English skills.

## Rainbow Foundation - Community Learning Centers



*With children at a Rainbow Foundation home*

Pustakaar has been working with Rainbow home orphanages and started our pilot program of the Google Read Along with Lenovo tablets at five of their orphanages last year. Along with expanding our Read Along program to all 14 of their orphanages, we are also partnering with them as they expand to supporting children in community centres in Hyderabad. The two centres are in Musheerabad and Gudimalkapur. In the coming weeks, we will be visiting these centres and establishing small lending libraries. We will also be working with their community teacher and training them on teaching English as a second language.

## *Volunteer Profile*

### **Aditi Khandekar**



I was introduced to Pustakaar's projects by another volunteer, Anita Sharma, long before I actually became part of the volunteering team. The idea of spreading the joy of reading was enticing to me and so when the opportunity to volunteer presented I jumped aboard.

I am primarily involved with online story-telling. It began with just reading the stories and then helping the children read them back to me. But interacting with Shruthi and other volunteers helped me come up with creative, fun ways of

engaging these young minds. It also helped that team Pustakaar has created activities, guidelines, and other resources to make these sessions as effective as possible. The young girls that I read for/ with always put a smile on my face. They enthusiastically participate in reading and trivia/ word games that follow the reading. They sometimes surprise me by doing the writing project I give them casually. Thanks to Saba for facilitating these interactions.

Over a year into it, I cannot help but wonder if I have taught more or learned more in the process. I look forward to continuing the online sessions in future and hope to also partake in some of the offline sessions soon.

### **Pustakaar Volunteer Meet**



*Volunteers at the Pustakaar office engaged in discussions*

Pustakaar was happy to host a volunteer meeting in our office on 14th May. We discussed projects that were done during the 2021-2022 academic session. Volunteers Ms Andal, Ms Joyeeta and Ms Shailaja inquired about continuing Zoom sessions and how in-person sessions will resume in schools. We went over Read Along pilot at Rainbow homes and how we are expanding the program during the next academic session. We also spoke about expanding our current scholarship program to

include another school. We hope to have another volunteer meeting the beginning of August and would like to have more regular meetings in future. A big thanks to all our volunteers and we hope to see many of you during the next school year!

Amit Chakravarty, a new volunteer, is helping us edit and design this newsletter. Thanks to Amit for giving a professional look and feel to the Pustakaar newsletter.

## Your support keeps us motivated

There are different ways you can help us. Donate Lenovo M8 tablets for using the Google Read-Along app for children to use. Each tablet costs INR 11,000. Support scholarships for students in Grades 6-10 in families impacted by Covid. A modest sum of INR 20,000 will support one child to keep going to school.

### Bank Details for Donations:

Account Name: Ansh Foundation

Account Number: 111405000966

IFSC Code: ICIC0001114

**\*\*Kindly write your name in the reference line so we can track donations\*\***

### Contact Info:

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Instagram: [@pustakaar](https://www.instagram.com/pustakaar)

## *From Our Archives*



*In 2017 we started Pustakaar sessions at Kokapet Upper Primary School. The school has a lovely campus. Our volunteers Tony and Dipti are seen with the children.*