



ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Empowering through literacy



Transforming lives through functional literacy



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Rotary Club of Bombay is conducting a pioneering initiative that hopes to eradicate adult illiteracy and promote adult education across India. We aim to make adults functionally literate using the traditional classroom model.

The cost of making an adult functionally literate is approximately INR 335 per person only. This includes the India Humanity Foundation Primer Kit consisting of various books and flash cards, stationary, final exam facilitation costs, graduation certificates and salaries to the coordinators/facilitators.

The Adult Literacy Program is intended to promote and strengthen education of non-literate adults with an aim to help learners achieve functional literacy over a period of 3 months. Among other things, Learners acquire a vocabulary of around 700 key words, enough for day-to-day needs such as reading destination signs on buses, filling in deposit and withdrawal slips in Banks, and newspaper headlines, besides being able to learn simple arithmetic adequate to maintain household and other accounts.

In addition to basic reading, writing and arithmetic, the introduction to the advantages of the Government Schemes such as Aadhar, Pradhan Mantri Yojanas, etc are taught to them.

In a society plagued by poverty, casteism, gender inequality and poor education, Adult Literacy empowers a generation toward positive change within India.

Completion of our Adult Literacy Program results in confidence, employment, upliftment for family and society as a whole, improved political representation, smaller families, poverty reduction and so much more!



THE VALUE OF ADULT LITERACY

In a society plagued by poverty, casteism, gender inequality and poor education, Adult Literacy empowers a generation toward positive change.

When an adult completes our Adult Literacy Program, he / she gains:

- ✓ Confidence.
- ✓ The ability to be self sufficient.
- ✓ The ability to impact youth and family.
- ✓ Better job opportunities.
- ✓ A better understanding of social pressures and quality of life.

WHO QUALIFIES AS AN ADULT NON-LITERATE?



Read aloud at a speed of 30 words per minute



Understand and copy 7 words per minute



Read and write numbers from 1 to 100



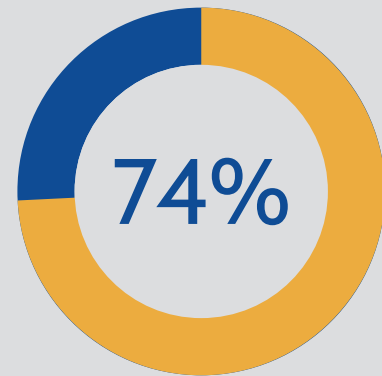
Read aloud and understand road signs, posters, & newspapers



Take dictation at 7 words per minute



Perform simple calculations - addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division



The average literacy rate in India

- States with literacy rates below 70%
- States with literacy rates below 80%
- States with literacy rates above 80%

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

- ▶ Identify low-literacy villages through community surveys and local data, in partnership with village leaders and self-help groups
- ▶ Conduct door-to-door enrollment drives to register interested adult learners, with a focus on women and marginalized community members
- ▶ Recruit local teachers, field supervisors, data reporters, and a project coordinator from within the community
- ▶ Train all personnel in adult learning pedagogy, classroom management, learner assessment, monitoring and evaluation, and data reporting
- ▶ Establish village-based literacy centres in accessible community spaces such as panchayat halls and school rooms
- ▶ Distribute learning materials to every enrolled learner, including primer books, flash cards, writing sheets, and stationery
- ▶ Deliver structured 90-day literacy classes covering reading, writing, numeracy, and practical life skills such as accessing government schemes, banking, and financial inclusion
- ▶ Conduct standardized assessments every three months and award graduation certificates to learners who successfully complete the program

PROGRESS REPORT FROM BATCH JULY 2022 TO OCT 2026

Batch	#BEN	Start	End
Vaidu	757	Jul-22	Feb-23
Palghar Batch 1	4,096	Sep-22	Feb-23
Palghar Batch 2	4,018	Mar-23	Jun-23
Mumbai Dharavi Batch 1	800	Jun-23	Aug-23
Mumbai Dharavi Batch 2	1,488	Aug-23	Nov-23
Palghar Batch 3	3,818	Sep-23	Nov-23
Palghar Batch 4	4,469	Nov-23	Jan-24
Mumbai Dharavi Batch 3	1,500	Dec-23	Feb-24
Palghar Batch 5	713	Jan-24	Mar-24
Mumbai Dharavi RILM Batch 4	1,500	Feb-24	Apr-24
Palghar Batch 6	2,500	Mar-24	May-24
Mumbai Wadala Batch 1	800	Mar-24	May-24
Palghar DSF RILM Batch 1	30,000	May-24	Jul-24
Mumbai Mankhurd RILM Batch	1,000	May-24	Jul-24
CACR RILM Wada Batch 1	350	Jul-24	Sep-24
CACR RILM Wada Batch 3	350	Aug-24	Oct-24
Mumbai Dharavi Batch 5	5,000	Dec-24	Mar-25
Palghar DSF RILM Batch 2	30,000	Dec-24	Mar-25
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 3	1,000	May-25	Jul-25
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 4	9,000	Jul-25	Oct-25
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 5	10,000	Aug-25	Nov-25
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 6	10,000	Sep-25	Dec-25
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 7	10,000	Oct-25	Jan-26
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 8	10,000	Nov-25	Feb-26
Palghar DSF IHF Batch 9	10,000	Dec-25	Mar-26
Palghar Pragati Pratisthan	1,500	Jul-25	Dec-25
Byculla Jail	115	Aug-25	Nov-25
Arthur Road Jail	50	Sep-25	Dec-25
Yerwada Jail	70	Sep-25	Dec-25
Palghar Pragati Pratisthan	34,000	Oct-25	Oct-26
TOTAL	1,90,394		



ACTION PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR 2026-27

As we look ahead to the upcoming year 2026-27, it is important to lay down a solid foundation for success. This year we aim to educate an additional 60,000 adults in Palghar / Mumbai, with the ultimate goal of making Palghar completely (100%) adult literate.

New Deployments in 2026-2027

60,000 adults in Palghar with Diganta Swaraj Foundation

34,000 adults in Palghar with Pragati Pratishthan



COST BREAKUP FOR A BATCH OF 60,000 BENEFICIARIES

60,000

Total No of Beneficiaries

50
Class size

1,200
No of Teachers

6
No of Supervisors

1
No of Project Head

3
No of Data Reporter



Item	Qty	Rate/unit	Months	Total
Primer Material - Books and Flashcards	60,000	55		33,00,000
Exam Paper Printing	60,000	5		3,00,000
Certificate Printing	60,000	15		9,00,000
Stationary	60,000	15		9,00,000
India Humanity Foundation License Fees	60,000	5		3,00,000
Chalk Boards	660	800		5,28,000
Professional-service honoraria for literacy instructors	1,200	3,000	3	1,08,00,000
Stipends for field supervisors – temporary, deliverable linked professional-service fees for monitoring and mentoring	6	10,000	12	7,20,000
Honorarium for project coordinator – project-based management support	1	40,000	12	4,80,000
Honorarium for data reporter – activity-based payment for verified data collection and reporting tasks	3	10,000	12	3,60,000
Teachers Training	1,200	500		6,00,000
Supervisors Training	6	3,000		18,000
Project Management Fees				8,65,200
GRAND TOTAL				2,00,71,200
Cost per Beneficiary				335



IMPACT STORIES



Diksha and Her Mother Manisha
from Ghanwal Village

Ghanwal, one of the most underdeveloped villages in Mokhada, is home to Manisha and her family. Manisha's education was cut short after only one year of school due to family responsibilities and

economic hardships. She never imagined a different path for herself.

Hope arrived when the Read to Rise Adult Literacy Program established a village learning centre in Ghanwal. Trained by the Diganta Swaraj Foundation, a local woman from the community became Manisha's teacher — someone who understood the language, the rhythms of village life, and the courage it takes to sit in a classroom as an adult.

Manisha began attending classes every evening at the panchayat hall, learning alongside other

women from her village. Slowly, letter by letter, she began to read. One evening, she picked up her daughter Jyoti's schoolbook and read a sentence aloud. Jyoti looked up in disbelief — and then broke into a wide smile.

Manisha is deeply grateful for the program that gave her this chance. She now helps Jyoti with her homework, fills out forms at the bank on her own, and holds her head a little higher each day. What began as 90 days of structured classes has transformed into a lifetime of confidence.

In the remote village of Poshera, a 90-year-old grandmother named Yamuna Badade had long harboured the dream of learning to read and write. Growing up, Yamuna was denied the opportunity to attend school due to the absence of one in her village and societal restrictions that prevented her from attending schools elsewhere. Later in life, she faced even greater challenges when she suffered from paralysis.

When the Read to Rise literacy centre opened in Poshera, Yamuna's granddaughter Dipika urged her to enrol. Despite her age and the lingering effects of her illness, Yamuna walked into

the classroom — the oldest learner in the batch, and perhaps the most determined.

Her teacher, a trained local instructor appointed by the Diganta Swaraj Foundation, adapted lessons patiently to Yamuna's pace. Seated among women decades younger, Yamuna practiced letters, copied words, and slowly learned to write her own name. Dipika would sit with her grandmother after class, reviewing the day's lesson together — a ritual that deepened their bond and made every small milestone a shared celebration.

Today, Yamuna knows the alphabet and can write her



Yamuna Badade and Her Granddaughter Dipika
from Poshera Village

name. Her joy and pride are evident each time she picks up a pencil. She is deeply thankful for the program and the trained teachers who believed that no one — regardless of age — is beyond the reach of learning.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (1929 – 2029)

A Century of Service Above Self: Charting the Legacy of Mumbai's Pioneer Club

AS THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY APPROACHES ITS HISTORIC 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2029, WE HONOR A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION.

Founded as one of the earliest Rotary chapters in Asia, the club has seamlessly woven itself into the civic and humanitarian fabric of Mumbai—championing landmark health initiatives, massive educational infrastructure, and sustainable urban welfare projects.

HISTORIC MILESTONES & CENTURY OF IMPACT

1929

Charter and Foundation: Formally established as the Rotary Club of Bombay on March 19, 1929, pioneering the movement of structured civic service in Western India and bringing together legendary business minds and community visionaries.

1950s – 1960s

Post-Independence Civic Leadership: Stepped in to build vital urban amenities, funding medical wards, setting up early public health initiatives, and establishing vocational centers designed to bolster a rapidly growing city.

1970s – 1980s

Deep Institutionalization: Spearheaded massive child welfare and eye care projects. The club laid foundations for standard-setting healthcare delivery systems in rural pockets around Bombay, including comprehensive medical camps.

1990s – 2000s

The Fight Against Polio & Global Growth: Actively drove the Rotary International PolioPlus campaign across Mumbai, mobilizing thousands of volunteers. Coincided with large-scale water harvesting structures and foundational literacy setups.

2010s – 2020s

Modern Infrastructure & Integrated Upliftment: Launched deep-impact rural empowerment models, comprehensive urban slums renewal programs, and achieved landmark global recognitions—including the landmark USD 214,465 Adult Literacy Global Grant.

2029

The Centennial Vision: Celebrating 100 years of uninterrupted service by launching mega legacy projects across Mumbai, expanding smart classrooms, ecological restoration, and establishing an enduring endowment for century two.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ROADMAP

Mega Legacy Projects

Mega Legacy Projects: Launch of deep-impact healthcare and urban infrastructure initiatives built to serve Mumbai for the next several decades.

Centennial Coffee Table Book & Gala:

Archiving a century of rich institutional history, prominent members, and historical photographs coupled with a global celebratory summit.

100 Communities Initiative

Adopting and empowering 100 localized community hubs through clean energy, water security, digital literacy, and holistic healthcare setups.

TRANSFORMING LIVES



DHARMSHALA

RCB has provided 100 furnished 1BHK MHADA flats at Bhoiwada, Parel, on a long lease to provide free stay for cancer patients (and their relatives) who reside out of Mumbai and are undergoing treatment at Tata Memorial Hospital. RCB has created a 100-flat hostel for cancer

patients and their attendants with complimentary and subsidized accommodation, inclusive of daily meals, housekeeping and shuttle to the hospital. Since its inception, over 2200 patients have benefited from this project.



BIODIVERSITY PARK

The Rotary-HDFC Kalina Biodiversity Park, an inspiring initiative of the Rotary Club of Bombay in collaboration with HDFC Asset Management, is a dedicated project aimed at restoring the natural flora and fauna of the Kalina region. This carefully designed space

emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing the ecological biodiversity of the area. The park not only serves as a sanctuary for wildlife but also educates the community about the critical role biodiversity plays in sustaining a healthy environment.



DIALYSIS MACHINES

The Rotary Club of Bombay has established 18 dialysis centres across Palghar and Mumbai, located in areas such as Manor, Ghatkopar, and Borivali. These centres provide free or heavily subsidized treatment to alleviate the financial and emotional strain on patients, easing the burden of

kidney disease for hundreds of families. Achievement - Nearly 1,000 patients receive close to 80,000 dialysis cycles annually with the use of 90 machines.



ANAND YAAN

Ananda Yaan, a Rotary Club of Bombay initiative, serves Mumbai's Senior citizens, offering health, educational

and social activities to enhance their independence and quality of life

SERVING ACROSS CAUSES



PEDIATRIC CANCER CARE

Rotary Club of Bombay has been set up to provide financial support to children with cancer, ensuring they have equal access to quality healthcare. From the moment a child walks into the hospital, receives a diagnosis, and is presented with a cost estimate, time is of the essence.

Unfortunately, it can take anywhere from 7 to 21 days for a family to receive the first help from a funding agency or organization, often resulting in delays in starting crucial therapy.



PEDIATRIC HEART SURGERY

Financial assistance and partnerships with reputed healthcare facilities have enabled Rotary Club of Bombay to offer paediatric heart surgeries to children with congenital heart disease. For the children and families from economically challenged backgrounds, this is a

chance at a better life. Whether a patient requires a simple intervention or a complex surgery, the Rotary Club of Bombay ensures that the necessary care is provided without delay. Importantly, the cost of surgery is entirely borne by the Rotary Club of Bombay,



PROPOSED MID-DAY MEAL KITCHEN

The proposed Centralized Mid-Day Meal Kitchen will have the capacity to prepare and distribute up to 25,000 nutritious meals daily for school children. Equipped with modern, automated cooking systems and stringent hygiene standards, the facility will ensure consistent quality and food safety. The project aims to combat

classroom hunger, improve nutrition, and enhance student attendance and learning outcomes. Efficient logistics and distribution mechanisms will enable timely delivery of freshly cooked meals to beneficiary schools. This initiative will create a lasting impact on child health, education, and community well-being.



BHAVISHYA YAAN

IRCB started this initiative with an aim of providing better quality of education to students of the city's municipal schools. The project educates students with the help of courses which includes

spoken English, computer skills and other life skills, in addition to their school curriculum. This helps them with better career opportunities.

GLOBAL GRANT AWARD

GLOBAL GRANT APPROVED: USD 214,533 FOR ADULT LITERACY

We are proud to announce that the Rotary Club of Bombay has been awarded a Rotary International Global Grant of USD 214,533 — one of the largest ever secured for an adult literacy initiative in India. This milestone is the result of years of rigorous program implementation, meticulous documentation, and a proven track record of transforming lives across Palghar District.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LITERACY & DIGNITY



The **Read to Rise: Rotary's Literacy Initiative** addresses one of the most persistent barriers to socio-economic progress in rural Maharashtra — adult illiteracy. Using a structured, traditional classroom model delivered through village-based learning centres, the program brings functional reading, writing, and numeracy skills directly to the communities that need them most.

In its initial 18-month phase, the program aims to bring 66,000 adults to literate status across Palghar District — primarily women and marginalized community members who were historically denied access to formal education. Each learner completes a structured 90-day course, assessed through

standardized testing and recognized with a graduation certificate upon successful completion.

The grant funds are being deployed across teacher recruitment and training, learning materials, chalkboards, stationery, supervision, monitoring and evaluation, and program management — ensuring every rupee is directed toward measurable, community-level impact. Implemented in partnership with the Diganta Swaraj Foundation, the program is designed to continue and expand independently well beyond the Rotary-funded phase, through CSR partnerships, government literacy schemes, and philanthropic support.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & IMPACT VISUALS



VILLAGE-BASED LITERACY CLASSROOMS

Structured 90-day literacy classes conducted in panchayat halls and community spaces across Palghar's villages, bringing education to learners' doorsteps.



TEACHER & SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Locally recruited instructors trained by the Diganta Swaraj Foundation in adult learning pedagogy, classroom management, and learner assessment — ensuring culturally sensitive, community-owned delivery.



DISTRIBUTION OF LEARNING MATERIALS

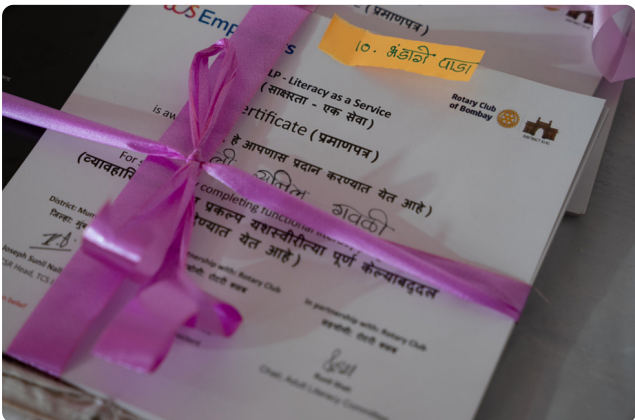
Primer kits, flash cards, writing sheets, and stationery distributed to every enrolled learner, giving them the tools to learn, practice, and retain new skills.



GRADUATION & CERTIFICATION

Standardized assessments conducted every three months, with graduation ceremonies recognizing each learner's achievement — building confidence and inspiring further participation across villages.

GLIMPSE OF ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM





Rotary
Club of Bombay



Celebrating 97 Years of Service

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