Community Libraries - powering development
About my presentation

- About Nepal
- About READ
- Unique components of model
- Priority areas
- Achievement
Nepal Snapshot

- 28 million people
- More than 25.16% living on less than $2 per day.
- 80% live in rural areas
- Per capita GDP US$762
- Poor infrastructure
- Literacy rate - 65.9%, Male 75.1%, Female 57.4%
**Australia** (7,692,024 km²) is 52.3 times as big as **Nepal** (147,181 km²).

**Victoria (Australia)** (227,416 km²) is 1.55 times as big as **Nepal** (147,181 km²).
Daily life of Nepal rural community
Vision & Mission

READ believes empowering rural communities is critical to alleviating global poverty.
READ Nepal Evolution

Dr. Antonia Neubauer in 1989

Wish of Aangdomi Sherpa

The First Community Library Junbesi Solukhumbu - 1991

1991 → 2016
Supporting model

Fund for running the library
Challenges

- No reading habit
- Needs are different
- Library for literate only
- Less people in the library
- Minimum use of library
Solutions from community themselves

CLRC as nexus for community development

Library for all

Need based programs

Library
Children section
Women section
Audio visual section
Meeting/training hall
ICT section
Youth section

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Library
Community Engagement

- Increased access to, usage of, and exchange of knowledge, information, and resources
- Increased economic opportunities for community members.
- Increased life long learning opportunities for everyone including children, women, and youth.
- Increased women empowerment
- Increased opportunities for youth

READ Model

- Self Reliance
- Social Unity
- Social Trust
- Harmony
- Inspiration
- Helpfulness
- Volunteerism

Community Space

- Institutional Development
- Life Long Learning Opportunities
- Economic Opportunities
- Partnership
- Children Opportunities
- Community Engagement
- Community Environment
- Social Environment
- Women Empowerment
- Community Ownership
- Increased knowledge, information, and resources
- Increased economic opportunities for community members.
Economic opportunities

- Sustaining enterprise of the library
- Need based livelihood trainings
- Saving and Credit cooperatives
Sustaining enterprise of Agyauli Community Library- storefront rental
Sustaining enterprise of Puthang Community Library - catering service
Community ownership
In picture (community contributing coins and collecting timber to build library)
Literacy retention
Literate Environment
Safe space for women
Services at your doorstep
Need based information and services
Access to information I need
Practical trainings – implement what I learn
Free Computer literacy classes
Grandparents’ Stories and My picture

People without the knowledge of their past, history, origin and culture is like tree without roots.

Marcus Garvey
Women empowerment

- Representation of women in decision making level
- Women section usage
- Gender and leadership trainings
- Literacy classes for women
READ Nepal Supported CLRCs

Updated January 2017

READ Supported Hubs: 51
READ Supported Satellite Centers: 15
Under Construction CLRC: 1
1. 75% of women surveyed reported that they can now travel outside of their home more often because of their community’s READ Center.
Monitoring & Evaluation
5 Top Findings from our Evaluation

2. A majority of women (83%) report that their confidence has increased moderately or significantly since coming to the READ Center.
Monitoring & Evaluation
5 Top Findings from our Evaluation

3. 62% of women report that they have more decision-making power in their homes or communities as a result of coming to the READ Center.
Monitoring & Evaluation

5 Top Findings from our Evaluation

4. 67% of women said they would not have had access to some or all of this information if not for a READ Center.
Monitoring & Evaluation
5 Top Findings from our Evaluation

5. As a result of having increased access to information and skills from READ Centers, more than 2/3 of Center users surveyed report that their income has increased moderately / very much, as has their ability to support their family’s economic needs.
Thanks

https://youtu.be/LrikAiQ-s7Q