

Media Center Case Study – Room to Read – Computer Lab

Cambodia, India, Nepal & Vietnam

Overview In the case of Cambodia, India, Nepal and Vietnam, less than 10 computers are available for every 1,000 members of the population. Opportunity is inherent in technology, and Room to Read works with local schools and partner Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to make access a reality. Their computer labs provide “life skills” pre-vocational training in Information Technology for disadvantaged, at-risk youth populations. The computer use helps reduce attrition rates by providing an incentive to students. Thus, the labs not only have an immediate impact of providing exposure to the outside world, they also provide for long-term growth and access to high-paying jobs for our students.

Selection Community commitment is central to their philosophy. In addition to demonstrating need and dependability, schools are required to complete “Challenge Grants” to provide infrastructure, Internet access where feasible and on- going maintenance.

Technology Each computer lab is equipped with 10 to 20 student computers, 1 teacher computer with a CD Burner, and a laser printer. Each computer is uploaded with Microsoft Office software. The installation is completed with the final addition of voltage stabilizers and cable networking. Teacher training is provided to ensure the teachers are equipped with the necessary skills to adequately transfer knowledge to their students.

	Established	Lead
Cambodia	12/2002	Mr. Min Sor
India	2003	Ms. Sunisha Ahuja
Nepal	1998	Mr. Dinesh Prasad Shrestha
Vietnam	11/2001	Ms. Thuy Mong Pham

Asia.pacific@roomtoread.org, europe@roomtoread.org

Name: Room to Read
 Functionality: Stand-alone children’s library
 Budget: approx 10,000 USD per library constructed
 Funding: donations/grants



Girl using a computer lab to contribute to the global community and improve her life situation.



Computer lab in Battambang, Cambodia with room for 4,000+ at Net Yang Secondary School



Students learning at Vietnam computer lab, Tien Hoc Le, Vietnam (Rob Poor)

Media Center Case Study – Room to Read – Language Lab

Cambodia & Vietnam

Overview In Cambodia and Vietnam, a background in foreign languages is a key to opportunity. The English language in particular opens doors ranging from world trade and foreign investment to tourism, technology, medicine and environmental protection. In many cases, mastery of English can be a ticket out of poverty for under-privileged children, providing a strong edge in today's competitive marketplace. Although the Governments in these countries strongly encourage students to learn foreign languages while in school, the quality of instruction varies dramatically throughout the country. In poor, rural areas, few teachers have ever interacted with native speakers and many lack the simple resources to teach. Even the best effort to teach and communicate can be unsuccessful.

Selection Community commitment is central to our philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of specific criteria including need and dependability.

Technology Each language lab is equipped with 40 interactive lab modules (headsets, microphones, etc.). A main control unit houses the power supply unit, cabling, television and a computer.

Established in 2005, the Tan Phuoc Language Room (Vietnam) is in a clean, well-lit space on the ground level of the school. The room is comfortable with walls repainted bright yellow by the school. The room is equipped with three ceiling fans, two air conditioners, glass doors, glass windows and lighting - all of which were provided by the school community.

Name: Room to Read
Functionality: Stand-alone children's library
Budget: approx 10,000 USD per library constructed
Funding: donations/grants



Student learning English in a Language Lab at the Tan Phuoc Secondary/High School in Tien Giang, Vietnam

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Cambodia	12/2002	Mr. Min Sor
Vietnam	11/2001	Ms. Thuy Mong Pham

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Media Center Case Study – Room to Read – Library Construction

Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam

Overview In many developing countries, communities lack the resources to establish a library. In some cases, not a single book is available to children to encourage independent learning, not to mention the opportunity to develop a lifelong passion for reading. They usually establish libraries within school buildings that have a room that can be turned into a child-friendly learning environment. However, they have discovered that many highly populated schools wish to partner with us to establish larger libraries, but they simply do not have the capacity to dedicate rooms, as their schools are already too crowded. They build stand-alone libraries in the local architectural styles to promote local pride and empowerment, and they fill them with 500-600 local language and English books encompassing a wide variety of subjects based on student age level.

Selection Partnering directly with the local community is central to their philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of need, availability of space for a library building, and willingness to co-invest with them.

Book Screening & Publishing All books are screened for age and cultural appropriateness. Room to Read also self-publishes new children’s books in the local language to create more relevant and culturally sensitive material.

Multi-lingual Libraries Local language books are generally purchased in country or locally sourced and published by Room to Read. Publishers donate English books.

	Established	Lead
Cambodia	2005	Mr. Min Sor
Laos	2006	Ms. Somphet Phongphachanh
Nepal	2006	Mr. Dinesh Prasad Shrestha
Sri Lanka	2008	Mr. Glenfrey De Mel
Vietnam	2007	Ms. Thuy Mong Pham

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Name: Room to Read
 Functionality: Stand-alone children’s library
 Budget: approx 10,000 USD per library constructed
 Funding: donations/grants



Room to Grow Scholars in front of 2000th Library, Siem Reap, Cambodia (Dustin Frazier)



Teuk Thlar Primary and Junior High School, Banteay Meanchey, Cambodia



In Nepal and Cambodia, Room to Read is the largest non-profit importer of English language books and one of the top publishers of both Nepali and Khmer children’s books.

Media Center Case Study – Room to Read – Library/Reading Room

Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka & Vietnam

Overview The first step toward the lifelong gift of education is a child with a book. However, in many developing countries most communities lack the resources to establish a library. In some cases, not a single book is available to children to encourage independent learning, not to mention the opportunity to develop a lifelong passion for reading. The Reading Room program is designed to address this issue directly. They have already established over 2,000 libraries, and their goal is to establish thousands more. They fill each of these libraries with as many as 500 local language and English books encompassing a wide variety of subjects based on student age level.

Selection Partnering directly with the local community is central to their philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of need, dependability and the availability of staff and space.

Book Screening & Publishing All books are screened for age and cultural appropriateness. Room to Read also self-publishes many new children’s books in the local language to create more relevant and culturally sensitive material.

Multi-lingual Libraries Two types of books are provided. Local language books are generally purchased in country or locally sourced and published by Room to Read. Publishers donate English books.

Monitoring & Evaluation They continue to work with libraries even after they are established to ensure that they are being well used. Ongoing support is a powerful incentive for the libraries to perform well.

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South Africa	2006	-
Sri Lanka	5/2005	Mr. Glenfrey De Mel
Vietnam	11/2001	Ms. Thuy Mong Pham

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Name: Room to Read
 Functionality: Library and Reading Room
 Budget: approx 3,000 USD per library
 Funding: donations/grants



Library, Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia (Jayson Morris)



Laos girls reading at library, Vientiane (Stacey Warner)



Curious children at a library, Rajasthan, India (Jay Duenas)



Young boy reading a book, Siem Reap, Cambodia (Becky Gray)



Vietnamese girl reading at library, Cu Chi, Vietnam (Stacey Warner)

Media Center Case Study – Room to Read – Local Language Publishing

Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka & Vietnam

Overview Establishing literacy is a challenge because of the lack of affordable local language children’s books. Parents are too poor to afford reading material for their children, so a local children’s book publishing industry is nearly non-existent. The Local Language Publishing project was established to provide more exciting and relevant children’s literature in the local languages. They are actively working to significantly increase the quantity and diversity of children’s books published in Khmer, Hindi, Setswana, Isiwati, Isixhosa, Lao, Nepali, Sinhalese, Tamil, and Vietnamese, by publishing more than 700,000 new, colorful books.

Writing & Development Working with teachers, authors, illustrators and local publishing houses to source and develop new stories for the children’s market.

Printing For each title, they will complete a print run of approximately 5,000–10,000 books.

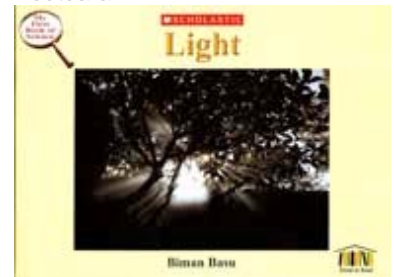
Distribution Titles will be donated directly to their network of schools and libraries as well as sold to their partner NGOs in order to increase the sustainability of the program.

Replication Room to Read will continue to expand the number and variety of titles they publish each year and will replicate the model in other countries where they operate.

Name: Room to Read
 Functionality: Children’s book publishing studio
 Budget: approx 12,000 USD per title
 Funding: donations/grants



Father's Jar of Money is a Laotian story about a boy who learns about the value of working hard and saving money.
 Author: Ms. Thongmy Douansakda
 Illustrator: Mr. Sengngeun Boudara



Prakash (which means "light" in Hindi) explains the basic concept of light as a form of energy
 Author and Illustrator: Mr. Biman Basu

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Media Center Case Study – Room to Read – School Room Construction

Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam

Overview Schools can be sparse in rural areas of these developing countries. It's not uncommon for children to walk several hours just to go to school or for 75–100 children to be crammed into a small classroom. Furthermore, the schools that do exist are often ramshackle collections of crumbling bricks, old wood and dirt floors. Room to Read understands that a child's education begins with an adequate learning environment.

Selection Community commitment is central to their philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of specific criteria including need, dependability, and their willingness to partner with them through their Challenge Grant.

The Challenge Grant model is central to all of their school construction projects. The people involved have the best solutions. The local team selects partners based on the following criteria:

The village must apply for a school construction project and be willing to partner with Room to Read to manage it.

The village must pass their needs assessment. Rather than simply building or paying for a new school, Room to Read involves the local community where the school is to be built. They ask communities to provide some of the funding, land, materials and/or labor required to build the school.

The community must sign the "Challenge Grant" contract. This contract stipulates that the village: 1) assemble a construction committee that meets regularly to ensure progress; 2) use an agreed upon blueprint, which ensures that schools are built safely and cost effectively; and 3) donate funds, materials, land and/or labor to the effort.

This model of community ownership produces a deep sense of commitment and a lasting impact on education in rural areas. Because of the Room to Read approach, their schools are sustainable institutions that are able to provide for the education of children in the long term.

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Sri Lanka	5/2005	Mr. Glenfrey De Mel
Vietnam	11/2001	Ms. Thuy Mong Pham

Asia.pacific@roomtoread.org, europe@roomtoread.org

Name: Room to Read
 Functionality: Children's school
 Budget: approx 15,000-35,000 USD per school
 Funding: donations/grants



Typical inadequate school in rural areas.



Shree Janakalyan Lower Secondary School, Dhadhing, Nepal expansion



Laos woman carries materials as part of challenge grant (Stacey Warner)