JANUARY - MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is ***reading aloud*** *to children.* -US Dept of Education – Becoming a nation of readers.

One of the greatest gifts adults can give to their offspring and to their society is to ***read to children.*** - Carl Sagan (planetary scientist)

Dear friends of GoRead.pk,

We hope you are all having a blessed and fulfilling Ramzan. The two stories specially selected for children this Ramzan are **'Hilmy the Hippo'** an endearing story of a kind hippopotamus who helps other animals when they are in trouble, despite being bullied by them in the past and **'One Plastic Bag'**, a story that helps raise awareness in children regarding the menace of plastic pollution.

Our mission at GoRead.pk is to reach as many children as possible, offering them joyful story read aloud experiences, with a focus on **Tarbeeya** (Character Education) **Ehsaas** (Compassion) and **Adab** (Appreciation of Literature). Through positive

interactions with books and reading we are working towards developing a love for reading in the children we serve.

‘Aao Saath Parhain’ GoRead.pk’s volunteer program completed its 4th series in March. Over a period of 8 weeks **35** volunteers read stories aloud to **904 children.** Combined with the previous 3 series we are pleased to share that to date a total of **142** volunteers have read stories aloud to **3500** children.

The Power of Community Engagement!

In the words of Noman Rafiq Kahaani Sawaari GoReader from Lyari

“On some occasions, the community people were reluctant to let me conduct story sessions in the public spaces of Lyari. I noticed that once I spoke with them in Balochi, our shared language, they relaxed, and their behaviour changed. They not only welcomed me but also facilitated the sessions by inviting children to attend. I enjoy reading aloud to children as I’ve realised that I learn alongside them. With children one tends to become like a child himself and in today’s stressful life that is amazing.”

While recalling his experience working with GoRead.pk, Noman shares that it was the CEO, Nusser Sayeed's presentation and her way of working within the community that inspired

him to join the GoRead.pk movement. To him the GoRead.pk concept is truly unique and that his experience has been both, wonderful and challenging.

Joyful reading session in Lyari with GoReader, Noman Rafiq!

Help us create joyful memories for children!

We conducted a successful pilot of GoRead.pk's **Student Ambassador Program** in January. GoRead.pk Ambassador, Sameer Sayeed, an A Level's student at Karachi Grammar School shared his insights and experiences about the program. Read Sameer's own account of why he became an ambassador for GoRead.pk and his perspective on the program's success.

"I decided to become an ambassador for GoRead.pk because reading and dramatic storytelling have been a passion of mine for most of my life, and nothing makes me happier than seeing children delighted by a good story! The biggest measure of success for the program, in my opinion, was the enthusiasm on the children's faces. I was particularly struck by their genuine excitement and surprise when they encountered animals in the stories, such as the case of ***Prickly the Porcupine****, who defeated a lion. Witnessing the children's excitement and seeing their smiles of genuine delight was the true success of the program!"*

In February and March, GoRead.pk was invited to **Habib Public School** and **Karachi Grammar School** to read stories aloud to children. Nusser Sayeed, who is also the author of most of GoRead.pk's stories for children read the story aloud and engaged the children in discussions based on the story.

In February, the '**Chunri Readers Book Club'** was launched. GoRead.pk's new initiative focuses on training literate women in communities (Chunri Bajis) with the skills, knowledge and mindset to be effective story readers, working directly with young girls (Chunri Readers) in their neighborhoods as mentors. The pilot was launched in partnership with Dreams of Youth Official, a community based organization in Lyari working towards youth empowerment. **14** community ladies participated in the pilot, reading stories aloud followed by empowering discussions to **168** girls of ages **6-11** years.

In March, GoRead.pk CEO, Nusser Sayeed was invited to **Bologna Children's Book Fair 2023**. Participating in an international book fair has been a valuable learning experience for GoRead.pk.

On March 18, a new story '**One Plastic Bag - A Plogre Story**' in English and **'Aik Plastic Kee Thaylee**' in Urdu was launched by National Foods Ltd at their Gold LEED certified Head Office in Karachi. We are grateful to Venture Dive and National Foods Ltd for co funding the publication of the English story, and to National Foods Ltd for the Urdu story. The event began with CEO of National Foods, Abrar Hasan, welcoming the guests and discussing National Food's active role in being a responsible advocate towards the environment and education, followed by Asma Ahmad, Head of Culture & Sustainability sharing National Foods Limited's philosophy of being responsible corporate citizens and the importance of organizations like GoRead.pk.

In the words of Asma Ahmed,

"Children are the custodians of Pakistan's future; therefore, it is essential to start educating them young about environmental issues so that they can become environmentally conscious citizens and work towards the future of our planet."

GoRead.pk CEO - Nusser Sayeed shared the vision and impact of the GoRead.pk movement and Hina Bayat, a well known TV & Film actress beautifully read aloud the story followed by a children's activity led by the artisans of RLCC to create sustainable plastic mats using disposed plastic.

Grab your copy of One Plastic Bag!

To learn more about GoRead.pk's interventions, view our brochure online or download a copy.

View GoRead.pk Brochure!

Feeling called to support our movement?

Support GoRead.pk inspire the next generation through books.

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