

2023 Annual Report Estaal Camel Library



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Introduction

The Estaal Camel Library, funded by **the IBBY Yamada Fund**, has been successfully running since May 2022 in various villages of Gwadar. This unique initiative aims to bring the joy of reading and learning to children living in remote areas with limited access to books and educational resources. The camel library, named Estaal, has become a beloved friend and source of inspiration for the children, fostering a love for reading and promoting education in these underserved communities in Gwadar.



Program Overview



The Estaal Camel Library has been making regular visits to different villages, providing children with access to books, storytelling sessions, and interactive activities. The program's primary objectives include promoting literacy, fostering a sense of empathy and connection with animals, preserving native culture, and encouraging creativity and curiosity among young minds. Additionally, the library utilizes the power of puppetry and props to enhance storytelling and create engaging educational experiences for the children.

Partnerships



Since its inception, the Camel Libraries has expanded its reach and formed partnerships with various organizations dedicated to education and community development. These organizations include Ali Bano Foundation Sindh, Jandaran Welfare Foundation Balochistan, Female Education Trust, Bamsaar, Rotaract Club Gwadar, Sunset Millennium Rotary Club, Saahil Welfare Association, Dream Welfare Organization, and others. The collaborative efforts of these organizations have further strengthened the program's impact and allowed it to reach more children in need.



The Camel Caravaan

The vision behind these camel libraries was to:

1. Establish an eco-friendly model.
2. Promote animal rights and develop a sense of empathy and the importance of animals in the hearts and minds of children.
3. Utilize the best mode of communication in areas with no roads and rugged terrain.
4. Represent the native culture of those areas.
5. Encourage creativity, spark curiosity, and foster reading habits in young children.

We now have nine camels named; Roshan, Raunaq, Aman, Khushi, Chirag, Mashal, Estaal, Umeed and Nayab.

Beneficiaries - Estaal

The Estaal Camel Library has been consistently visiting different villages, expanding its outreach and benefiting numerous children. Here is a summary of the program's impact from May 2022 to May 2023:

Months	Girls	Boys	TOTAL
May 22	33	33	66
June 22	39	35	73
July 22	42	35	77
Aug 22	54	40	94
Sept 22	55	35	90
Oct 22	50	41	91
Nov 22	52	45	97
Dec 22	60	41	101
Jan 23	61	43	104
Feb 23	69	49	118
Mar 23	84	57	141
April 23	70	55	125
May 23	77	58	135
GRAND TOTAL	746	567	1313

Beneficiaries

All Camel Libraries

The Camel Libraries has been consistently visiting different villages, expanding its outreach and benefiting numerous children. Here is a summary of the program's impact from December 2020 to date.

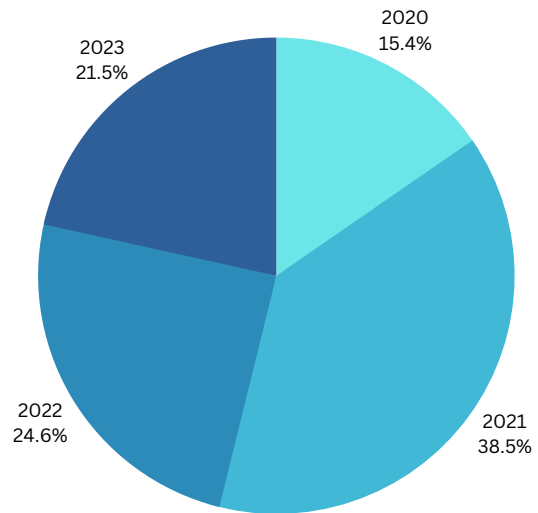
Villages	Girls	Boys	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
52	3640	2860	6500





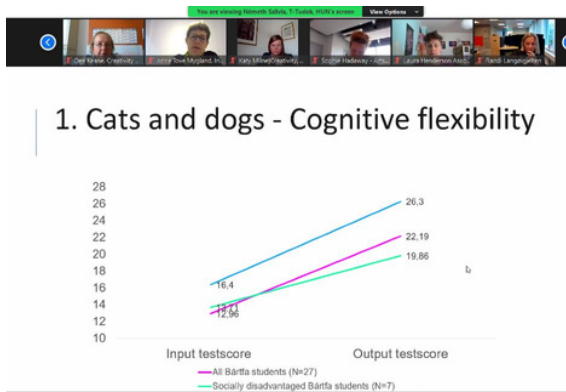
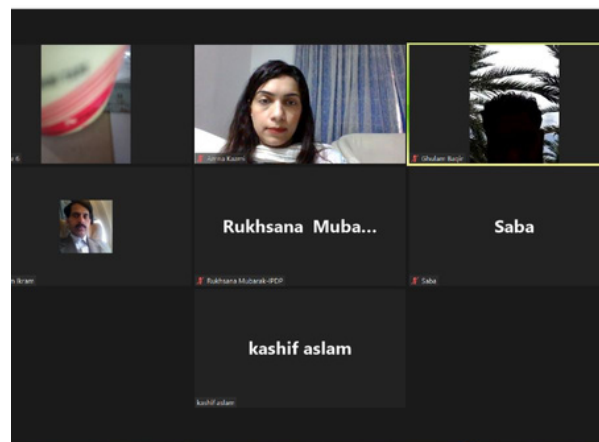
Media Coverage

The Camel Library has garnered national attention and media coverage since its launch. News channels, such as The Guardian, China Post, The Dawn Magazine Aurora, Arab News, and Al Jazeera, have highlighted the program's unique approach and its positive impact on the lives of children in remote areas. The names given to the camels, including Estaal, Khushi, Roshan, Aman, and others, have made the mobile libraries even more special and memorable for the children.



Training

Alif Laila organized multiple virtual training sessions on Zoom to enhance the skills and abilities of all the camels involved in the camel libraries across Balochistan. The training focused on various activities such as storytelling techniques, role play, and puppet shows, specifically designed to engage and captivate children. One of the sessions delved into the effective utilization of testing tools for reading assessment and comprehension. Through these training sessions, Alif Laila aimed to equip the camel librarians with the necessary tools and techniques to create immersive and interactive experiences for the young readers. By incorporating these innovative approaches, Alif Laila continues to promote literacy and learning in a unique and engaging manner.



Feedback

Efforts have been made to capture the feedback and experiences of the children and their parents through video recordings. The positive response from both the children and the community has been evident, with increased enthusiasm and excitement about the Estaal Camel Library. The videos will be shared with the donors to showcase the program's impact and highlight the transformative effect it has had on the children's lives.

Looking ahead, the Estaal Camel Library plans to continue its regular visits, expand its partnerships, and explore further opportunities to enhance the educational experiences it offers. The program aims to reach more children in remote areas, empowering them through the joy of reading and equipping them with the tools for a brighter future.



Children's Comments

Yusra

"I never had books at home before, but now when Estaal the camel comes with the library, I feel so excited! I love flipping through the pages and discovering new stories. It's like a treasure chest of knowledge and imagination that the camel brings to us. Thank you, Estaal!"



Waseem

"The camel library is the best thing that has happened to our village! I used to hear stories from my grandmother, but now I can read them myself. I feel so happy when Estaal comes with books. It's like a magical journey into different worlds and adventures. I can't wait for the camel library's next visit!"



Children's Comments

Waheeda

"Books were always a luxury I couldn't afford, but now the camel library has changed everything! Estaal brings books filled with colorful pictures and exciting stories. I feel so lucky to have access to these books. They take me to places I've never been and inspire me to dream big."



Junaid

"The camel library is a ray of light in our village. Before, we had no access to books, and now we have this amazing camel bringing us stories. I wait eagerly for its arrival every time. Reading has become my favorite hobby, thanks to Estaal and the books it carries. I'm grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow."



Children's Comments

Zunaira

"The camel library is like a magical oasis in the desert of our village. I love how the books come to us on Estaal's back. It's a special feeling when I hold a book in my hands and immerse myself in its pages. The camel library has ignited a love for reading in me, and I feel so grateful for this incredible gift."



Success Story

Ismail, an incredibly resilient and determined individual, once operated a small shop selling biscuits, chips, and other snacks. Unfortunately, the shop's limited profitability failed to provide the financial stability Ismail desperately sought for his beloved family. Compounding his struggles, Ismail faced the daily challenge of living with a physical disability that prevented him from pursuing physically demanding work. Despite his deep longing for higher education, financial constraints held him back, and he couldn't progress beyond high school. However, Ismail's life took a remarkable turn, thanks to the transformative power of the Alif Laila Book Bus Society and the generous support of the IBBY Yamada Fund.

With unwavering determination, Ismail embraced the extraordinary opportunity presented by the camel libraries. This initiative not only brought about a positive shift in his financial situation but also ignited a passion within him that he had never known before. As he started reading captivating stories to eager children, Ismail discovered an immense joy that radiated from his heart. Being the conduit of knowledge and imagination brought him solace and fulfillment, making every word he read a beacon of hope for the young minds he encountered. This newfound purpose resonated so deeply within him that the thought of leaving this work behind is unfathomable.

Now, as the sole provider for his entire family, Ismail shoulders the immense responsibility of ensuring their well-being. His elderly parents, loving wife, and two precious daughters depend on him for their everyday needs and dreams. Thankfully, Ismail's elder daughter, fueled by the abundant resources of the camel library, has become an eager learner, gaining knowledge and skills that will shape her future. This invaluable advantage enriches their lives and empowers them to reach greater heights, breaking free from the constraints of limited opportunities.

Ismail's journey has been truly transformed by the Alif Laila Book Bus Society and the visionary support of the IBBY Yamada Fund. Through their unwavering commitment and belief in the power of literacy, they recognized Ismail's potential and provided him with a life-altering opportunity. By hiring him as a mobile librarian and social mobilizer, they not only improved his financial circumstances but also elevated his spirit and ignited a passion within him. Ismail's success story stands as a testament to the remarkable impact that can be achieved when organizations and individuals join forces to empower and uplift those who face significant challenges.

Today, Ismail continues his inspiring journey, bringing the magic of books and storytelling to countless children in the villages of Gwadar. Through his dedication and the unwavering support of Alif Laila and the IBBY Yamada Fund, Ismail serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration, illuminating the path of education and imagination for those who need it the most.

Ismail Yaqoob Librarian



Conclusion

The Estaal Camel Library, supported by the IBBY Yamada Fund, has successfully made a difference in the lives of children in remote villages of Gwadar. By bringing books, storytelling, and interactive activities to these underserved communities, the library has sparked curiosity, promoted literacy, and fostered a love for learning. The program's unique approach, combining the use of camels, puppets, and native culture, has created a truly immersive and transformative experience for the children. With the continued support and dedication of the funders and partner organizations, the Estaal Camel Library will continue to empower and inspire generations of young readers in the years to come.



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