

DASTAAN- E-MOHALLA

A MAGAZINE BY THE MEMBERS OF QISSAGADH



In This Issue

1

From The Editor

2

Qissagadh Active Library Programme

3

Activities Corner

13

Exposure Visit

16

Student Testimonial

18

United for Impact



From the Editors' Desk



नमस्ते दोस्तों,

हम, साक्षी और लक्ष्मी, किस्सागढ़ एक्टिव लाइब्रेरी के सदस्य, आपका स्वागत करते हैं दास्तान-ए-मोहल्ला के इस अंक में, जहाँ हम हमारी लाइब्रेरी की कुछ कहानियों, यात्राओं और उपलब्धियों को साझा करते हैं।

किस्सागढ़ लाइब्रेरी हमारे लिए एक नयी चीज़ है क्योंकि यहाँ बच्चे सिर्फ पुस्तकें ही नहीं पढ़ते बल्कि उस पर काम भी करते हैं। हम उन कहानियों से एक नया नाटक बनाते हैं, अगर किसी कहानी में हमें लगता है कि यह बात लोगों तक पहुंचानी चाहिए तो हम उसे अपनी शेयरिंग के जरिये पहुंचाते भी हैं। हम दोनों इस लाइब्रेरी का हिस्सा लगभग तीन सालों से हैं, और इस सफर में हम ने बहुत सी चीज़ें सीखी, जैसे कि अपनी बात समझाना, दूसरों की बातें सुनना और यह कि हमें खुद को कभी किसी से कम या कमज़ोर नहीं समझना चाहिए और न ही अपनी बातों को कभी बेकार समझना चाहिए। इसके अलावा इस लाइब्रेरी में हमने इमेजिनरी कहानियाँ बनाना, अपने सोचने की क्षमता को बढ़ाना, अपने आपको स्वीकार करना भी सीखा है। हमें यहाँ पर अपने आप को जानने का एक खूबसूरत सा मौका मिला है, जिससे हम अपने आपको समझ पाए क्योंकि हम अपने आपको कभी-कभी इग्नोर ही कर देते हैं। और न ही हमें अपनी पसंदीदा चीज़ों के बारे में पता होता है। और न ही हम अपने आप को इतना महत्वपूर्ण मानते हैं, लेकिन यहाँ आकर हमने जाना कि सभी लोगों की एक अलग कहानी होती है, एक देखने का अलग नज़रिया होता है, जिसे हमें स्वीकार करना चाहिए। हमने यहाँ आकर एक अलग ही दुनिया को देखा जहाँ सभी एक जैसे हैं और हम आपको इस अंक के ज़रिये अपनी इस दुनिया में ले जाना चाहते हैं।

धन्यवाद,
कुटुम्ब टीम

Hello Friends,

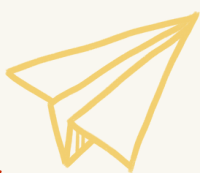
We, Sakshi and Lakshmi, members of the Qissagadh Active Library, welcome you to this issue of Dastaan-e-Mohalla, where we share some stories, journeys, and achievements from our library.

The Qissagadh Library is a new thing for us because here children not only read books but also work on them. We create a new play from those stories, if we feel that this thing should reach people, then we also do it through our sharing. We both have been a part of this library for almost three years, and in this journey, we have learned many things, such as explaining our point, listening to others, and that we should never consider ourselves less or weaker than anyone else and nor should we ever consider our words useless. In this library, we have learned to create imaginary stories, increase our thinking ability, and accept ourselves. We have got a beautiful opportunity to know ourselves here, which has helped us understand ourselves because we sometimes ignore ourselves. Neither do we know about our favorite things nor do we consider ourselves so important, but coming here we have learned that everyone has a different story, a different perspective to look at things, which we should accept. Coming here, we have seen a different world where everyone is the same and we want to take you to our world through this issue.

Thank you,
Kutumb Team



Qissagadh Active Library



Qissagadh, means "the place where stories are created". Our Qissagadh Active Library programme uses arts-led library programming to improve students' foundational literacy skills and serves as a safe space for independent research, reading, collaborative learning, and events such as storytelling sessions. We do this through our drama conventions toolkit. Our head branch is located in Sector 7, Noida, and we have community libraries in Savda-Ghevra J.J. Resettlement Colony and Harijan Camp, Lodhi Colony, in Delhi.

We cater to over 350 disadvantaged youth per year, each of whom has their own challenges. Our aim is to help foster library members' self-efficacy and self-expression, and to foster a life-long love for learning and reading. The curriculum we are developing is divided into four quarterly themes: Building Sustainability, Embracing Diversity, Breaking Stereotypes, and Exploring Power Dynamics. You can see an example of how this process unfolds here ([Letters to Ammi](#)) and here ([Why Why Girl](#)).

The catalogue of 3,500 English and Hindi books is divided into four literacy competency levels (Foundation, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced). Students develop language skills through structured arts-led lessons featuring our library books as part of the Qissebaaz Book Club. This is in line with the government's NEP 2020 goals for addressing foundational literacy skills, as outlined in NIPUN Bharat.



Activities Corner

Arts–Led Programming: Lodhi Colony



Engaged with parents, children and youth as a part of outreach efforts at Harijan Camp, Lodhi Colony.



Our Goal of Life coaches held a session on the importance of fitness and helped enrol students in our Sports for Development programme.



Literacy programming is an essential part of our programming.



Arts–Led Programming: Ghevra



Image interpretations followed by research based exploration.



Used Freeze Frame drama convention to unpack potential problems of technology.



Our young readers shared their love of books through read-alouds and Qissebaaz book reviews.



Arts–Led Programming: Sector 7, Noida



Our young friends love doing group work and group reading with their friends.



Each member of the library takes responsibility to help maintain the library.



Dance sessions led by Kutumb alumni and drama based explorations help students unleash the power of their imaginations.



Basic Computers Classes



At Qissagadh Active Library, students learn the basics of computers through the arts-led learning process. Independent and group research helps students become informed digital explorers, as well as write book reviews, essays, and create presentations. For example, students learn how to effectively use email by creating accounts to mail the Library Facilitator, as well as write emails to characters from the books they are reading.



Art Based Culmination



Library members explore Qissagadh themes through drama conventions such as Teacher-in-Role, Freeze Frames, and Image Theatre. The use of these conventions help students engage in problem-posing education, where they co-create solutions with their teachers and peers. At the end of each thematic exploration, students present an arts-led culmination, where they showcase their learnings and the learning process through a sharing of their work, roleplays, songs, and digital stories. The culmination serves as a celebration of their achievements and reflection of their growth.



Film Reviews



मैंने *Save Mister Green* मूवी से सीखा की हमें पेड़ नहीं काटने चाहिए क्योंकि पेड़ से हमें ऑक्सीजन मिलती है - Manvi

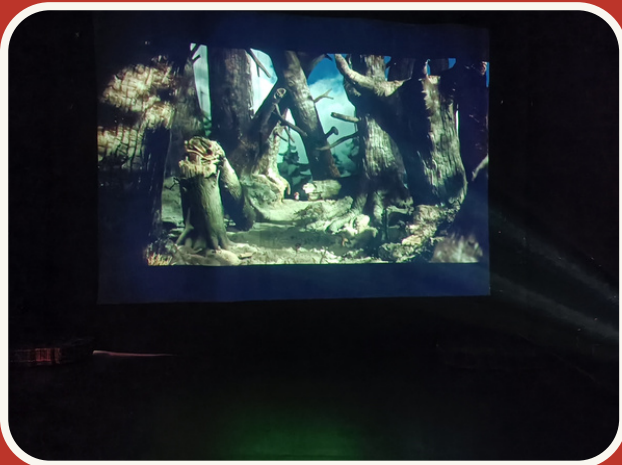
I learned from the movie 'Save Mister Green' that we should not cut trees because we get oxygen from trees.

“

हम मित्र बनाते हैं फिल्म मुझे काफ़ी अच्छी लगी क्योंकि इसमें जो लोगों की भाषा थी वो बहुत funny थी और इसमें गाँव वालों ने बली के लिए मुर्गे को फंसा दिया क्योंकि वो अपने लिए बोल नहीं सकता था और फिर मुर्गा अपनी जान बचने के लिए बहुत कुछ करता रहा - Dolly

Dolly said, "I really liked the movie 'We Make Friends' because the language used by the characters was very funny, and in it, the villagers trapped a rooster for sacrifice because it couldn't speak for itself, and then the rooster did a lot to save its life."

”



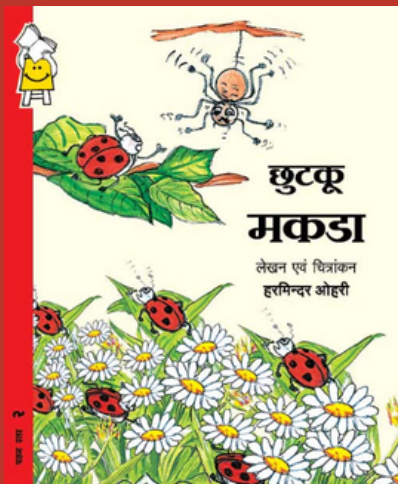
“

शेरा मूवी में मुझे सारे दोस्त और उनकी बाघा को देखने की उत्सुकता interesting लगी। मैं सोचता हूँ की जितनी पक्की दोस्ती दोनों दोस्तों की थी वैसे ही सबकी हो। मुझे बुरा लगा की आखिर में वो दोनों अलग हो जाते हैं। काश बड़े हो कर वो दुबारा मिलें। - Shubh

Shubh said, "I found the movie 'Shera' interesting because of the strong friendship between all the friends and their tiger. I think everyone's friendships should be as strong as theirs. I felt bad that they separate in the end, and I wish they meet again when they grow up."

”

Story Reflections



“

कहानी का पसंदीदा भाग: छुटकू मकड़ा अच्छा काम करके प्रसिद्ध हुआ। उसने अपने जाल बुनने की कला और समझ से मटकू का पैर जोड़ दिया। - Saraswati

Favourite part of the story: 'Chhutku Spider' did a good job and became famous. He showed his skill in weaving webs and understood Matku's leg - Saraswati

”



“

कहानी का पसंदीदा भाग: जंगल में शेर से सब डरते थे तो कोई उसके दाँत के दर्द का इलाज कोई नहीं कर पा रहा था। फिर चूहे ने उसके दांतों की सफाई कर दी और उसको समझाया की दाँत रोज़ साफ़ करने चाहिए। - Satyam

Favorite part of the story: Everyone was afraid of the lion in the jungle and no one was able to cure his toothache. Then the rat cleaned his teeth and explained to him that teeth should be cleaned daily. - Satyam

”



“

पता नहीं ये रिवाज क्यों था कि औरत या लड़की को पढ़ने का हक नहीं। वो हमेशा ये सोचते रहते कि समाज क्या कहेगा। अगर उनके पति या पिता मान भी जाते तो भी समाज का बातें बनाना बंद नहीं होता और एक लड़की को इसकी सज़ा मिलती। - Gayatri

I wonder why this tradition existed, where women or girls were denied the right to education. They always kept thinking about what society would say. Even if their husbands or fathers agreed, society wouldn't stop gossiping, and a girl would be punished for it. - Gayatri

”

Story Reflections



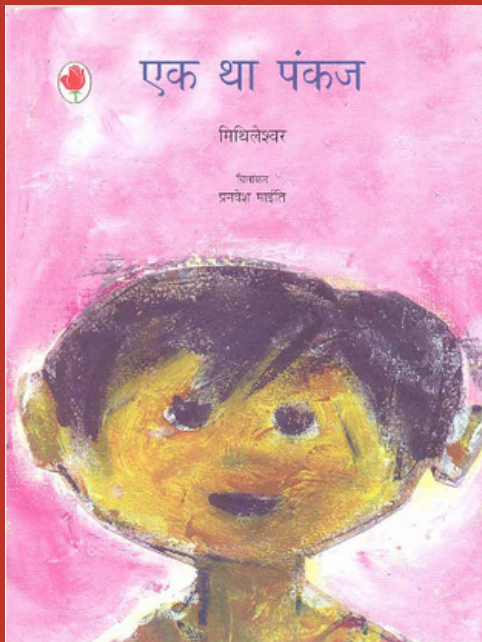
“

हम रूबी के माता पिता जानते होते तो हम उनको समझाते की रूबी की अभी उम्र नहीं हुयी है शादी की तो आप ऐसा नहीं करिये, क्योंकि आपकी बेटी पढ़ेगी नहीं तो अपना ध्यान रखना कैसे सीखेगी और आगे कैसे बढ़ेगी। आपको नहीं पता की उसके ससुराल वाले उसके साथ कैसा व्यवहार करेंगे या उसको आगे पढ़ाएंगे या नहीं।

- Muskaan

If we knew Ruby's parents, we would explain to them that Ruby is still too young for marriage. So, they shouldn't force her into it. If she doesn't receive an education now, how will she learn to take care of herself and progress in life? They might not realize how her in-laws will treat her or whether they will encourage her education. - Muskaan

”



“

पंकज को ट्रेन में एक पति पत्नी मिले . उनको पंकज बहुत पसंद आय। जैसे ही उन्हें पता चला की पंकज के कोई माता-पिता नहीं हैं तो उन्होंने पंकज को अपना लिया। मेरे मन में बस ये ही सवाल है की क्या कोई वाकई में किसी अनजान बच्चे को ऐसे अपना सकता है। - Kishan

In a train, Pankaj encountered a married couple who took a liking to him. As soon as they learned that Pankaj had no parents, they embraced him as their own. This situation raises the question: Can someone truly adopt an unknown child? - Kishan

”

Book Reviews



मेरी सहेली

Author: Anupa Lal
Illustrator: Sundha Mishra
Translator: Anupa Lal



पढ़ने की शुरुआत

“

दोस्ती का रिश्ता कितना सुन्दर होता है, उतना ही सुन्दर माँ - बेटी का रिश्ता होता है। जैसे बेटी माँ को सब कुछ बताती है वैसे ही माँ भी बेटी को सब कुछ बताती है। दोस्ती हर किसी के साथ हो सकती है चाहे वह बच्चा हो या बड़।

- Rakhi

The bond of friendship is as beautiful as the relationship between a mother and daughter. Just as a daughter confides everything in her mother, the mother also shares everything with her daughter. Friendship can exist between anyone, whether they are a child or an adult.” - Rakhi

”



जुई मौसी की बेटी

Author: Madhuri Parandare
Illustrator: Madhuri Parandare
Translator: Manisha Notani



पढ़ने की शुरुआत

“

मैं कहानी में गुड़िया को बदल कर अनु का एक भाई लाना चाहूँगी जो उसके लिए हर चीज़ लता और उसे खुश रखता क्योंकि अनु को वो पसंद नहीं थी।

- Dolly

I would like to replace Gudiya in the story and bring in a brother for Anu who would do everything for her and keep her happy because Anu did not like Gudiya. -Dolly

”



कबाड़ी वाला

Author: Shikha Swami
Illustrator: Sundha Mishra
Translator: Manisha Chaudhary



पढ़ने की शुरुआत

“


मुझे ये कहानी इसलिए पसंद है क्योंकि इसमें चीनू अपने पिता जी की बहुत इज्ज़त करता है। मुझे लगता है सबको अपने माता- पिता का सम्मान करना चाहिए क्योंकि वो हमारे लिए बहुत म्हणत करते हैं। - Kajal

I like this story because Chinu respects his father a lot. I think everyone should respect their parents because they work hard for us. - Kajal

”



Exposure Visit



Qissagadh Active Library programme organises exposure visits for children to various places of interest, such as museums, art galleries, historical monuments, and cultural events. These visits aim to broaden the children's horizons, enhance their curiosity, and inspire them to learn more about the world around them. The exposure visits also help the children develop social skills, such as communication, teamwork, and respect for diversity. Through these visits, the Qissagadh Active Library programme hopes to create lifelong learners and active citizens.





NATIONAL CRAFTS MUSEUM

Exploring National Crafts Museum and VR installation by The Infinity Library



SHADOW PUPPET BY KATKATHA

Children learned how shadows can tell stories. They also created their own stick puppets.



KATKATHA PUPPET FRINGE

At Max Mueller Bhawan students watched a presentation organised by Katkatha Puppet Art Trust.



SUNDER NURSURY

Library members explored the Mughal Era using Teacher-in-Role.



Student Testimonials



डॉली ने कहानी आगे बढ़ने का फैसला किया। डॉली की कहानी में पारो उदास थी, वह लिखती है, "कोई मुझे चैन से जीने ही नहीं दे रहा। इसमें मेरी क्या गलती है कि मैं रिक्शा चलाती हूँ। क्या किसी लड़की को अपनी मर्जी से जीने का हक नहीं? सबको ये क्यों लगता है की मैंने अपने खानदान में आग लगा दी। जबकी बात तो कुछ और ही है। मुझे जो काम पसंद नहीं तो मैं वो काम क्यों करूँ, मैं इस बात से बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं। फिर पारो ने अपना खुद का घर बनाया और ऑटोरिक्शा खरीदने का फैसला किया। उसे अपने मां-बाप को अपने नए घर में बुलाना था, लेकिन उसने यह जानकर दुःख हुआ कि उसके माता-पिता का अब देहांत हो चुका है। बाद में पारो अनाथ बच्चों की मदद करने लगी।

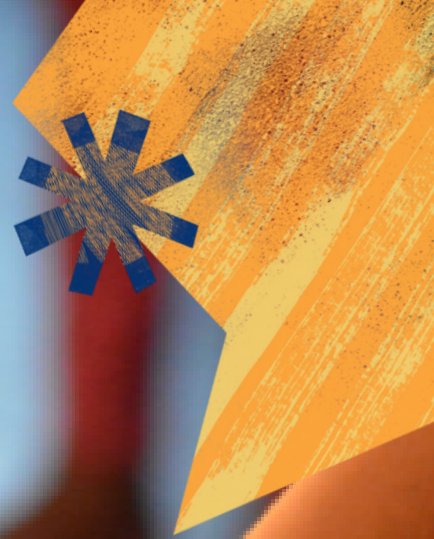
Dolly decided to continue the story. In Dolly's story, Paro was sad. She wrote, "No one is letting me live in peace. What is my fault that I drive a rickshaw? Doesn't a girl have the right to live as she wishes? Everyone thinks that I have destroyed my family. But the point is entirely different. Why should I do the work that I don't like, I completely disagree with this." Then Paro decided to build her own house and buy an auto-rickshaw. She wanted to invite her parents to her new home, but she was saddened to learn that her parents had now passed away. Later, Paro started helping orphaned children.



लकीरें कहानी सुनने के बाद सत्यम ने इस कहानी को अपने जीवन से जोड़ना शुरू किया, वह कहता है, "मम्मी - पापा कहते हैं की खेलने नहीं जाओ और पढ़ाई करो। मुझे लगता है कि खेलना भी तो जरूरी है क्योंकि अगर हम खेलेंगे नहीं तो हमारे हाथ पैर कमज़ोर हो जायेंगे, और मेरे दोस्त भी मुझसे दोस्ती तोड़ देंगे। इसलिए मुझे लगता है की पढ़ाई करना जरूरी है लेकिन खेलना भी उतना ही जरूरी है।"

After listening the story of "Lakeerien", Satyam started relating this story to his life. He says, "My parents tell me not to play and to study that is lakeerien for me. I feel that playing is also important because if we don't play, our hands and feet will become weak, and my friends will also break friendship with me. Therefore, I feel that studying is important but playing is equally important.





United for Impact

Volunteer Engagement



Every year, Delhi Storytellers' Tribe, as part of their storytelling series, Kahaani Thela, organises a storytelling performance for the students of Qissagadh Active Library.



“

शिखा गर्ग, एक DST कहानीकार, कुटुंब के साथ अपने अनुभव के बारे में कहती हैं, "मैं कहानीकार हूँ, बच्चों में कहानियों की धरोहर बांटती हूँ। ऐसी ही एक धरोहर के साथ मैं पिछले साल कुटुंब फाउंडेशन पोहोची, उन बच्चों ने जिस उत्साह, जिस जोश, जिस उमंग के साथ मेरी कहानी को सुना और कहानियों के प्रति उनकी जो जागरूकता थी, उस दिन वो मेरे लिए धरोहर बन गई। इन बच्चों की journey का हिस्सा बन के मुझे बोहोत अच्छा लगा।"

Shikha Garg, a DST storyteller, shares her experience with Kutumb, "I am a storyteller, sharing the legacy of stories with children. I visited The Kutumb Foundation with one such story. The children's energy, and excitement in listening to my story, and their alertness towards narratives, turned that day into a legacy for me. Being a part of these children's journey felt very good to me."

”

Volunteer Engagement



Darvi was a part of the Arts Practice for Inclusion course conducted by Snehadhara Foundation. As part of the experiential component of her course, she used visual arts, drama, stories, songs, rhythm, play, and movement to foster self-discovery and empathy with the students of the Qissagadh Active Library at Sector 7, Noida.



Darvi says, “My relationship with the space and children associated with The Kutumb Foundation developed over various arts based sessions. Working with children that already share a meaningful relationship with the team and the space really made me feel welcomed. The ongoing engagement of children at the Qissagadh library gave way to various conversations that are relevant in the context of individuality and well being for the marginalised population. The little moments shared with each one of them will always add value to my personal journey in the sector.”

दर्वी कहती हैं, “कुटुंब फाउंडेशन के साथ मेरा संबंध और बच्चों के साथ जुड़ाव विभिन्न कला-आधारित सेशन के दौरान विकसित हुआ। उन बच्चों के साथ काम करना जो पहले से ही कुटुंब टीम और किस्सागढ़ लाइब्रेरी के साथ एक जुड़ाव रखते हैं, ने मुझे वास्तव में अच्छा महसूस कराया। किस्सागढ़ में बच्चों के लिए विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चाओं का रास्ता खोला, जो व्यक्तित्व और सामाजिक असमानता के संदर्भ में महत्वपूर्ण हैं। हर एक बच्चे के साथ व्यतीत किए गए छोटे-छोटे पल मेरे व्यक्तिगत यात्रा को हमेशा महत्व देंगे।”





Alma, a storyteller conducts storytelling sessions with students of Qissagadh at Lodhi Colony.



For Environment Day, storyteller Rosy Katyal, brought us a story of a magical tree. After the story, students made seed balls, which they took home to plant.



Storyteller Anant, thrilled us with a musical storytelling performance about Majnu Ladku. This story sparked conversations on gender and the environment.