

8 September 2018: International Literacy Day

Literacy and skills development

September 8 was proclaimed as International Literacy Day by the UNESCO's General Conference in 1966. Since then, literacy celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights and to work towards a more literate and sustainable society.



September is Literacy month for Rotary

Literacy 'skills' broadly includes knowledge and competencies required for employment, careers and livelihoods, particularly technical and vocational skills, along with transferable skills and digital skills. Focusing on youth and adults within the lifelong learning framework, the effective links between literacy and skills can be explored.

We are all aware that globalisation and fast-advancing digital technology are transforming ways in which people work, live and learn, and are generating new skill demands and lifelong learning needs. They are also influencing ways in which education and learning are organized and managed, involving multiple leading agencies, including government organisations, communities and the private sector.

In addition to considering actions to support literacy, as Rotarians we should use the opportunity for public awareness of Rotary's efforts and impact in literacy and education.

How will your club support International Literacy Day?

International Literacy Day 2018 provides renewed impetus for Rotary Clubs to make meaningful connections between literacy and technical and vocational education and training through literacy projects and programmes.

Is there a literacy project that you could initiate, repeat, support or maintain? Past Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LitRAG) newsletters offer information about 'What is a Literacy Project?' (April 2018, p.2) and many ideas for literacy projects (Feb 2018, p.3).

2018 Key Literacy Questions for Rotarians

Key questions to consider are:

- What knowledge and experiences can our club and literacy partners share regarding successes and failures in promoting integrated approaches about literacy? What specific strategies are the most effective? What are the success factors?
- What is the evidence of impact of integrated approaches on individuals and their communities? What is their potential to motivate learners to participate in learning?
- What more can we do?



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