

4 December 2022

Dear all,

I am writing back after more than a year now and I really hope everyone is keeping fine. I am doing well.

I am still working at the community library and in a month it is going to be two years working with them. The library is now called Reading Room Resource Center, it has made a lot of progress and I am so proud of where we are at now. I am the incharge here and their coordinator as well. I have upgraded to call myself as a reading teacher now ☺ I am being trained by our trainer Ms. Thapa who is our consultant and an educator and a children's author from Sikkim.

Simultaneously I am still working with Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. They have extended my contract till March 2023. I was supporting their message on goodwill with nature among young children but recently I have begun aiding their science programme called Generation Next STEP (Science, Technology and Entrepreneurial Practice) that aims to develop curiosity and scientific temper in young people.

Our website [www.sikkimproject.org](http://www.sikkimproject.org) has reached a year now and one of the most recent posts is about our work at the Reading Room Resource Center. Please do read it; it's called 'Our Story So Far'.

Having updated you about my work life I also want to mention that I have started applying to universities in the UK. There are few other universities in Europe and the US as well but I am trying to take one thing at a time. It gets overwhelming at time but it keeps me going. I have applied to Cambridge and will apply to Glasgow and Goldsmiths university of London this month. I am pursuing MA programmes in children's literature and Literacies education. These three universities have what I am looking for. I have also applied for Chevening scholarship and will also apply for Erasmus Mundus. I hope I can apply to all the universities this month.

Thus, my future goals besides getting an acceptance letter from a University and a scholarship (fingers crossed) is to continue working in Sikkim with added expertise and knowledge acquired through my education at universities abroad. I would like to take the reading project that we started at the Reading Room Resource Center to all the government schools in Sikkim, with the aim to promote reading as a joyful act of learning and as a pedagogical tool.

I am also looking forward to collaborating with the academic component of the Human Resource Development Department of Sikkim, the State Council for Educational Research and Training. SCERT has been responsible for programs and activities of school education and also works on enhancing the capacity building of teachers in the state. I aim to expand and reach out to many more schools and informal learning centers through them to create a pool of support systems to promote literacy among children. This will help me come up with a solution to combat growing illiteracy in Sikkim.

And as I move ahead in life, my long term goal is to start a publishing house to create appropriate and contextual children's literature in various languages across Sikkim. There is an

absence of literature for children written in diverse local languages found in Sikkim. I want a child to be able to hold a book written in their own language and take pride in it. I would like to collaborate with local storytellers, writers, and educators in our communities.

Sounds very serious and I am also quite scared myself but this is my life path that I would like to work towards. Hope I get to fulfill my goals and be able to see some good outcomes. I am also open to working anywhere on the planet ☺ if I get a chance. This would really help me strengthen my knowledge and my skills to work in Sikkim.

My family is getting by; we've gone through too many losses. We lost one of our aunts last July and my maternal grandmother this September. I was not home when they passed away and could not spend time with the family. They are now busy preparing for our annual community festival 'Namsung' to celebrate New Year.

I am still in South Sikkim at my work place. Hope to get back home but I have too many things to do at the moment.

Please do take care of yourselves and regards to all ☺

And much love to Miss Jannie, Mieke, Robert and Monique.