



LIBRARY EDUCATOR'S CERTIFICATE 2026

MAY 2026 - DECEMBER 2026

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COURSE OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE LEC?

The Library Educators Certificate (LEC) course is a Professional Development Certificate course offered by Bookworm Goa since 2017, certified by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The 8-month long course is a blend of practice and theory developed by Bookworm, an organisation which has anchored library education, engagement, and professional development for 20 years. The LEC is guided by a community of library practitioners and friends who echo Bookworm's vision to inspire and develop a love for reading as a way of life, nurturing humane engagement in everyone.

WHO IS THE LEC FOR?

The course is open to anyone working with children and books, and interested in honing their sensibilities and skills in developing library practices. Our alumni include school librarians, teachers, NGO workers, decision makers at schools, literacy educators, librarians working in Public Libraries, individuals running libraries in communities, library entrepreneurs, and mental health professionals. While the LEC requires the participant to have a working knowledge of English to engage with the texts, we strongly encourage applications from participants whose native language may not be English. LEC faculty are able to provide support/ mentorship in Hindi, Marathi, Konkani, and Malayalam.



WHY SHOULD YOU DO THE LEC?

Library education for children has multiple possibilities and dimensions which are nascent and developing in the Indian context. Bookworm is a library based organization with experience of library practice with children across schools and communities for 20 years. The LEC offers a unique opportunity grounded in academic thinking linked with strong practice in a well-designed, highly charged environment with some of the best library practitioners in the field. The LEC will enable you to build and sustain a library practice in a site of your choosing.

The Foundation term opens up a child-centered framework to engage in the library. In addition to equipping you to set up and run a vibrant children's library, it will compel you to think about your vision for your library, bring more rigor and creativity to your library practice and push you to examine different perspectives about children's literature, children's minds & reading and childhoods in India.

As we move towards the Advanced term, you will examine aspects of Critical Librarianship vis-a-vis different areas of the library like the collection, administration and more.

TOTAL ALUMNI NUMBER

212

TOTAL STATES & UTS

33

States and UTs reached through alumni

FIELDS OF WORK

NGO's, Public Libraries, School Libraries, Private Libraries

OBJECTIVES OF LEC

The course offers a rich blend of theory and practice to deepen library work with children in varied contexts. It aims to shape not only ideas and thinking about children's libraries but also the Library Educator, who plays a critical role in this space.

This is achieved through immersive experiences, rigorous reading and field-based practice. Praxis (thinking about and reflecting on field practice) is a critical aspect of the course, ensuring that all participants engage in field-based work throughout the course period.

The course will open up different facets of children's libraries, encompassing;

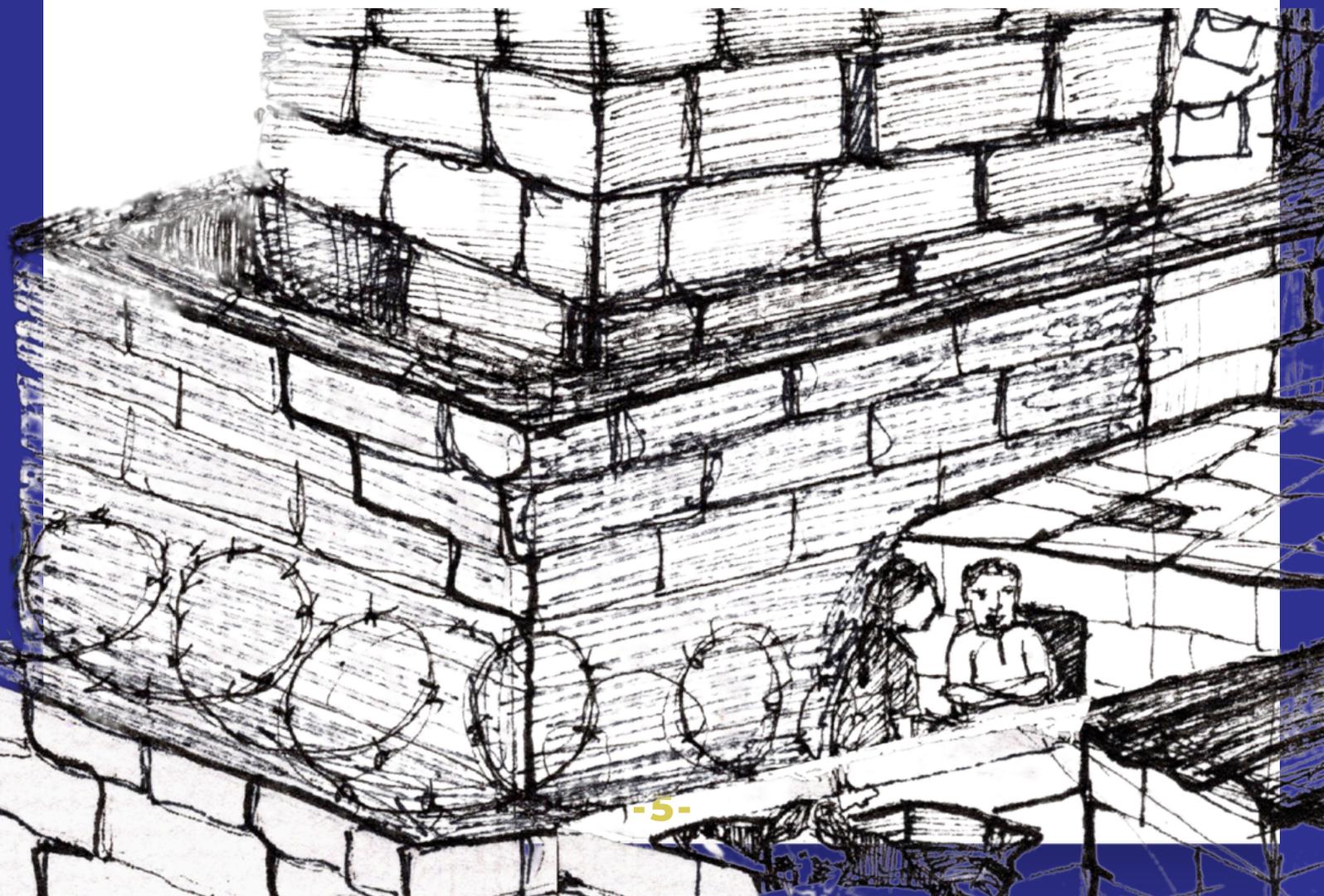
- Philosophical underpinnings of libraries as democratic spaces and why we need libraries today more than ever before
- Critical aspects of a library collection including the role and purpose of literature in children's development, representation of childhoods and diversity in books, curating a thoughtful collection
- Practical aspects of designing, setting up and maintaining a library space that are in sync with our vision for libraries
- The importance of interactions and engagements between adults, children and books in libraries and how to foster this in the library
- Essential administrative components of library practice
- Networking with a community of educators through the LEC course and becoming a part of Bookworm's larger alumni library community.

The LEC aims to professionalise the role of librarians in children's libraries so that library work grows in thoughtful, innovative and sustainable ways across different geographies and varied social contexts.

OUTCOMES FOR PARTICIPANTS

At the end of the course, participants should feel ready to

- Set-up and run a vibrant library for children in a site of their choice (school / community / independent library) in ways that are responsive to the needs of the community
- Plan and run a dynamic library program in the chosen site promoting a love for reading among children
- Select and curate a diverse collection of books for the library
- Engage and interact with children in meaningful ways ensuring they respond to literature with excitement and in expressive ways
- Recognise democratic values and humanistic principles which guide sound library work and gradually begin to shape a distinctive vision for one's library.



COURSE OUTLINE

The LEC is a 8-month long course, with a Foundation term of 4.5 months and an Advanced term of 3.5 months. Each term will begin with a contact session in Goa followed by virtual sessions in the distance mode.

FOUNDATION TERM

The Foundation term contains a set of modules, which are mandatory for all participants. Given the varying experiences of LEC participants, this term enables all participants to arrive at a shared understanding of key elements of library work. This term will prepare participants to set up and run a children's library with a focus on understanding the elements of a library, an immersion into children's literature and help build one's vision for a library. Each module consists of teaching, dialogue, discussion, experience, observation of live library practice with children, experiential units, and reading.

ADVANCED TERM

In this term the focus will be on praxis via the framework of Critical Librarianship. This term will include overarching topics that inform library praxis as listed below:

- Critical Librarianship & Social Justice in the Library
- Critical Librarianship & the Collection
- Critical Librarianship & Reading
- Critical Librarianship & Administration
- Critical Issues around Childhoods

The course is a rich mix of theory and practice, and uses mixed methods for teaching & learning. These include:

- Teaching sessions (face to face and virtual)
- Literature circles (based on discussion of selected books)
- Masterclasses
- Written assignments
- Reading circles (academic support group)
- Field-based practice (culminating in an oral presentation)
- Cross-sharing and collaborative learning among peers

Additionally, the contact sessions in Goa will include exposure visits to Bookworm's field sites where participants will observe Bookworm's library educators and facilitators, and reflect on the what, the why and the how of library practice.



HERE IS A GLIMPSE OF HOW ACTIVITIES WILL BE SPREAD OVER THE TWO TERMS:

FOUNDATION TERM	ADVANCED TERM
<p align="center">21 weeks May '26 to End September '26</p>	<p align="center">14 weeks October to Mid Dec '26</p>
<p>Dates for Contact (5.5 days) May 17th to May 22nd, 2026 Check in : May 16th Check out: May 11th (after 2:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>Dates for Contact (4.5 days) September 29th to October 3rd, 2026 Check in: September 28th Check out: October 3rd (after 2:30 p.m)</p>
<p align="center">10 Academic Sessions in the Online Mode</p>	<p align="center">6 Academic Sessions in the Online Mode</p>
<p align="center">Moodle Discussions</p>	<p align="center">Moodle Discussions</p>
<p>Field Project Components: Observation Report Research Proposal 4 Sessions</p>	<p>Field Project Components: 4 Sessions Presentation</p>
<p align="center">1 Written Assignment</p>	<p align="center">2 Written Assignments</p>
<p align="center">Library Practicum</p>	<p align="center">Library Practicum</p>
<p align="center">2 Literature Circles</p>	<p align="center">2 Literature Circles</p>
<p align="center">6 Reading Circles- <i>Voluntary</i></p>	<p align="center">4 Reading Circles- <i>Voluntary</i></p>
<p align="center">Monthly Library Chats - <i>Voluntary</i></p>	<p align="center">Monthly Library Chats - <i>Voluntary</i></p>

COURSE HOLDING TEAM

Bookworm is a 20 year-old organization with a vision to inspire and develop a love for reading as a way of life, nurturing humane engagement in everyone. Through running active library spaces in communities and schools, the Bookworm team demonstrates the possibilities that library spaces hold for imagination, reading & inclusion. The team continues to advocate for the importance of sound library practices by conducting immersive training programmes for educators and institutions across India.

This course will be held by a dynamic group of practitioners from the Bookworm Team with experience of working with children across school and community sites.

Guest faculty and Alumni, who have made significant contributions in thinking and practice to the field of library education, will also be invited to hold sessions and run Masterclasses.

The LEC Faculty include

- **Sujata Noronha** | Founder- Director, Bookworm, MPhil, Co-creator LEC (2013)
- **Jennifer Thomas** | Educator, Sharon School & Academic Mentor, Bookworm
- **Anandita Rao** | Program Coordinator, Professional Development Program, Bookworm
- **Megha Dharnidharka** | Consultant, Professional Development Program, Bookworm

The Course Secretariat includes

- **Samantha Kokkat** | Assistant Program Coordinator, Bookworm
- **Harparmjot Kaur Hans (Remy)** | Consultant, Professional Development Program, Bookworm



COURSE EXPECTATIONS



LEC promises an immersive educational experience for all participants. Participants should plan to allocate 12 hours per week for reading, discussion, reflection and planning time. Built into this time will also be field engagement activities with children in one's chosen site of practice. Participants will be expected to find a site of practice close to them so that they can design and plan library interventions on a fortnightly / monthly basis during the course period. Access to a library field site with a group of children and books is critical and best thought of in advance to facilitate practical work during the course. The Bookworm team will be able to help participants connect with alumni in our network who may be interested in hosting you in their library.

- Attendance to all contact periods, virtual sessions and literature circles is compulsory.
- On-time submission of assignments is expected and evaluated
- A commitment to academic honesty and intellectual integrity from participants is vital.
- Access to and understanding of using the internet with basic computer skills and usage of MS Word are necessary and a precondition to enrolling in the course.
- Written and spoken communication in English with an ability to engage with academic readings and write reflectively are desirable.

The contact period is a residential program and will be hosted at a common venue for all participants to enable meaningful learning. The contact days typically extend from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with time built in for small group work, reading circles, exposure visits in addition to the teaching time. All participants are expected to stay at this venue for the entire duration of the contact periods.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Participants will be evaluated on the following components, all of which are compulsory.

CONTACT PERIOD AND VIRTUAL SESSION PARTICIPATION (20 %)

Presence and participation during contact periods, and online sessions

ASSIGNMENTS (20 %)

During the course, participants are required to submit three assignments. For each assignment, a menu of topics will be provided covering the course content.

FIELD PROJECT (30 %)

During the foundation and advanced terms, participants will be required to conduct 6-8 sessions with children in the library, taking into practice ideas seeded during the course. This will include submitting a field site observation report, a proposal, implementing the project and a final presentation.

LITERATURE CIRCLE PARTICIPATION (15 %)

Participation in 4 virtual (synchronous) literature circles based on reading and discussing books.

LIBRARY READING (15 %)

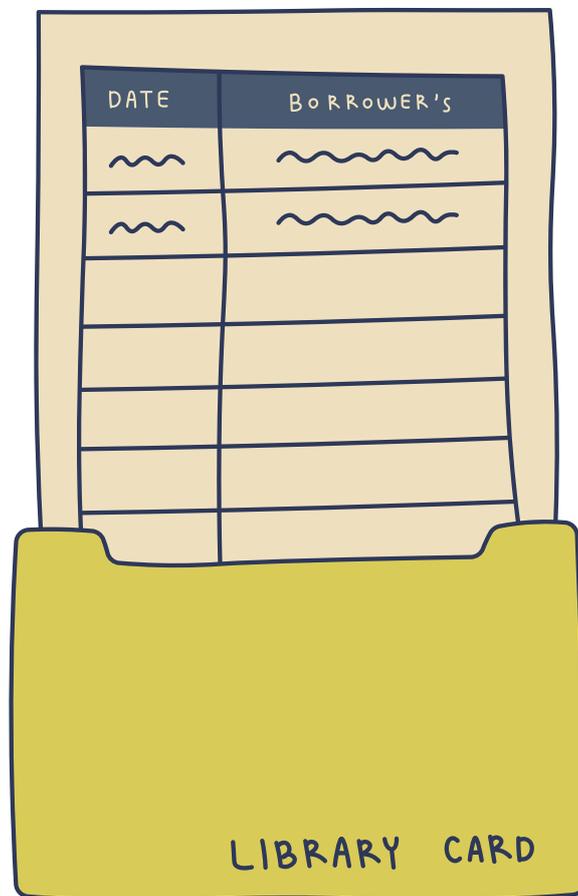
Each participant is expected to read at least 50 children's books from a curated list that will be made available.

Additionally, course feedback forms will be administered at timely intervals. On assignments and field project components, feedback will be provided to strengthen further assignments and thinking in general. Assessment intends to be supportive, strengthening and individualized, and the general rule of thumb is to begin where each one presently is and scaffold learning for the duration of the course.

FEES

Tuition fee for the LEC 2026-27 certified by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai is INR 1.35 Lakhs for the entire programme of 170 teaching-learning hours, payable in two installments. This is a total fee that includes immersion in course content built over several years, professional facilitation, training and mentoring by experienced resource persons, access to a curated collection of children's literature, as well as costs of boarding and lodging during the contact periods. It does not include travel to, from, and within Goa outside of the contact sessions.

Payment to be made via bank transfer to Bookworm. Details will be made available to the selected candidates. Add details of when the first installment needs to be made to block their spot. Course fees once paid will not be refunded.



COURSE SCHEDULE

Applications Open: 5th January 2026

Applications Close: 31st January 2026

Selections Finalised: 5th March 2026

First Installment of Fees Due: 25th March 2026

Course Opens: 4th May 2026

Contact Period One: 17th - 22nd May, 2026

Second Installment of Fees Due: 2nd September, 2026

Virtual Sessions: 10 sessions between May - September 2026

Contact Period Two: 29th September to 3rd October, 2026

Virtual Sessions: 6 between October to December 2026

Course Closes: 12th December 2026

Grades and Certificates: within 6 months post course completion



APPLICATION FORM

[APPLY HERE](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is the LEC course certified?

Yes, the course is certified by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Participants who complete the course requirements are eligible to receive a certificate from TISS (on payment of certificate fee of Rs.2700 to TISS).

2. What are the dates of the LEC?

The LEC will run from 4th May 2026 to 12th December, 2026. The course is offered in a blended mode over 8 months, with two contact periods - (17th May - 22nd May, 2026 and September 29th to October 3rd, 2026) during which participants' presence in Goa is mandatory.

3. What are the timings of classes during the contact periods?

Classes will begin at 9AM and go on till 7PM, with breaks for snacks, lunch, and rest. Participants are advised not to make any plans during the contact period, as they will have to engage with post-session readings to prepare for the next day.

4. Where in Goa will the contact take place?

Contact 1 will be held at The St. Joseph Vaz Spiritual Renewal Centre, Old Goa. Contact 2 venue will be confirmed.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

5. What is the course fee and how does it have to be paid?

Tuition fee for the LEC 2026-27 is INR 1.35 Lakhs for the entire programme of 150 teaching-learning hours, payable in two installments -
75% - 1,01,250 INR on March 25th, 2026
25% - 33,750 INR on September 2nd, 2026

6. What does the course fee include?

This is a total fee that includes immersion in course content built over several years, professional facilitation, training and mentoring by experienced resource persons, access to a curated collection of children's literature, as well as costs of boarding and lodging during the contact periods. It does not include travel to, from, and within Goa outside of the contact sessions.

7. What topics will be covered in the course? Will I get any material or resources?

All materials will be provided. Please refer to the Course Outline section of the prospectus for details on topics that will be covered.



EXPECTATIONS, ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

1. What skills, experience or prior knowledge should I have to be able to apply?

Written and spoken communication skills in English with an ability to engage with academic readings and write reflectively are necessary. Access to and facility of using the internet with basic computer skills and usage of MS Word & Powerpoint are necessary and a precondition to the course enrolment.

2. I am not a reader myself. Is this course for me?

Yes. You can still apply for the course. However, it will be crucial that you are open to learning and developing an interest to engage with literature and library work during the course.

3. I don't work in a library, and do not have access to a library space or children's settings. Can I still apply?

Yes. You can still apply, provided you have the intention to create or identify such a space, as the field project component which runs throughout the course will require access to such a space.

4. What will be expected from me during the distant course?

Participants should plan for reading, discussion, reflection and responding time requiring around 12 hours per week. (On-time submission of assignments, active engagement in literature circles, implementation of the field project)

5. I work full time at a school/organization. Would it be ok if I do not attend all contact periods?

No. Attendance for all days of both the contact periods is compulsory. Your organization will have to grant you the necessary time to attend the contact periods before you send in the application to us.

6. I can attend contact periods but I will not be able to participate on the online platform. Can I still apply?

Participation in the online platform during the distant period and for the virtual sessions is compulsory. If you cannot make the time for participation, you will not be eligible to apply.

EXPECTATIONS, ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

7. If I am unable to complete the course, will my fees be reimbursed?

Once your participation has been confirmed and the course fees have been paid, fees will not be reimbursed, even if you are unable to complete the course.

8. How do I apply?

The application form can be accessed at www.bookwormgoa.in/lec/.

9. Can I fill up a hard copy and scan it or courier or post the filled in the application?

No. We will not accept applications in hard copy or scanned applications. They must be typed and submitted in the form above. Participant and organization consent forms will have to be emailed to lec@bookwormgoa.in.

10. When will I know if I have been selected?

Selections will be finalized latest by 5th March, 2026

11. If I have questions about the course, whom can I speak/write to?

In case of any further queries regarding the course, write to us at lec@bookwormgoa.in or prode@bookwormgoa.in. You could also call BOOKWORM at 9823222665 from 10 am to 6pm Monday through Saturday.



LEC TESTIMONIALS



The understanding of diverse childhoods is essentially the backbone of any good children's library. Every aspect of the library – the location, the space, the ambience, the accessibility of books, the timings, library practices, the languages used, is connected with it. If reading helps you to become a participant of the world by allowing you to observe, understand different perspectives, see different lives, and travel to different times; it is also obvious that the library collection should represent the same. [...] In our first LEC contact period I was blown away by Bookworm's collection that was made available to us. It was thoughtful and culturally rich; tenaciously built and curated over a number of years. It helped me connect easily with the ongoing discussions around 'diverse childhood' in the classroom – its relevance, and its beauty.

**PREMA BASARGEKAR,
PROFESSOR,
K. J. SOMAIYA INSTITUTE OF
MANAGEMENT, MUMBAI**

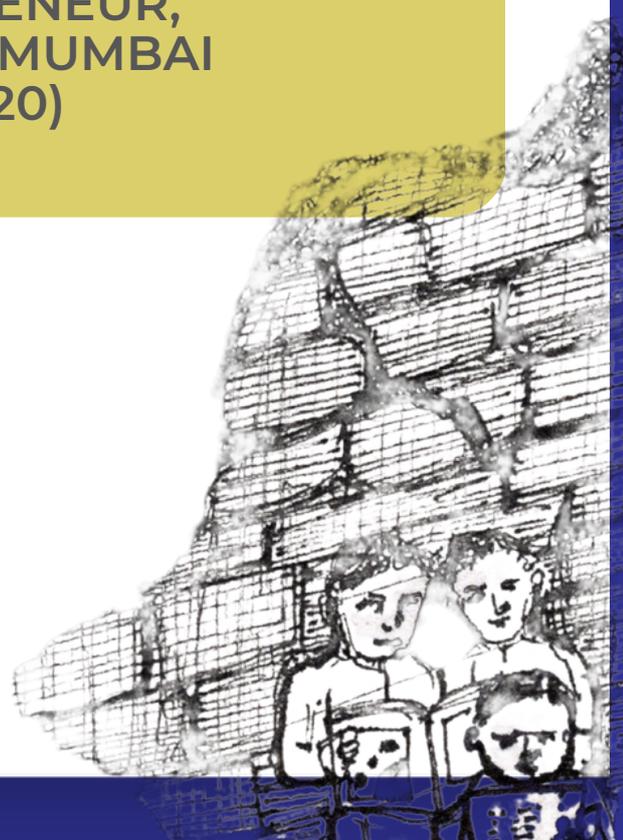
LEC TESTIMONIALS



The LEC Course altered my lens of what a library is. I now view libraries as vibrant, safe places with unlimited potential. My knowledge of engaging with books has expanded significantly, placing the reader at the center. LEC introduced me to a diverse collection of books, which would enrich children & adults alike, and become means of opening critical dialogues. For anyone who is in the space of interacting with children, LEC opens avenues of engaging & facilitating learning.

I would recommend teachers & educators; facilitators in the NGO space who interact with children to do this one-of-a-kind course!

**POOJA AGRAWAL SUBA,
LIBRARY ENTREPRENEUR,
BOOKJOY LIBRARY, MUMBAI
(BATCH OF 2020)**



LEC TESTIMONIALS



The real meaning of the library, activities around books, and overall understanding of library practices in the domain of children's learning in the social context was my biggest takeaway from the LEC course.

One should do the LEC course because it is for their own understanding about library practices, how it can become their own strength to work with books, libraries, or any organisation which works on these in particular. They can learn how to reach out to like-minded people and communities to work as a library educator. It will give strong inputs and a theoretical understanding of some social issues that can be addressed, and also help how to work with children on these issues.

People who want to explore their profession in a unique way, and people who really want to learn how to work meaningfully with children and communities, people who work in management in any organisations or educational institutions and want to make changes should enrol to the LEC.

**ANURADHA PACHANOORU,
LIBRARY MENTOR,
BURGURI LIBRARY,
HASIRUDALA, BANGALORE
(BATCH OF 2017-2018)**

LEC TESTIMONIALS

A VIDEO TESTIMONIAL FROM
OUR ALUMNI TENZIN AND PEMA,
LEC 2022

READ ABOUT LEC EXPERIENCES
FROM ALUMNI HERE

A GLIMPSE OF LEC CONTACT
PERIODS CAN BE ACCESSED HERE

A VIDEO TESTIMONIAL FROM
OUR ALUMNI ANAM, LEC 2024





**APPLY FOR
LEC 2026
HERE**

ABOUT BOOKWORM

Bookworm's vision is to inspire and develop a love for reading as a way of life, nurturing humane engagement in everyone. Since 2005, we have built communities of readers, educators, and artists through curated library experiences for children and the public. In 2024-25, 997+ adults participated in professional development programs at Bookworm, potentially helping us reach 40,000+ children via library services across the country.

We currently run six programmes: Libraries; Libraries in Schools; Professional Development; Mobile Outreach Programme; the Visual Arts Programme, and the Libraries in Homes programme. Each of these programmes enables us to achieve our mission by working with a variety of children including those in government schools; community spaces where children have limited or no access to education; children with special needs; with educators/ teachers; and with education organisations.

Bookworm's work can be followed [here](#).

