

West Champaran District Library Resource Centre Inaugurated

To provide new space and opportunity for user visitors in district public library with Information Communication Technology (ICT) services at Bettiah in West Champaran, the District Library Resource Centre (DLRC) at Maharaja Harendra Kishore District Library was inaugurated on 21 February 2013.

The newly set up library resource centre is equipped with computer facilities with Internet access. Users can now use the resource centre facilities including free Internet access along with availing services like printing, scanning, photocopy, download and upload of online applications and other facilities.

This apart, the resource centre also have scope for training users citizens in basic IT training and literacy, vocational education training, career counselling and other activities.

The resource centre was inaugurated by Mr. Vyas Muni Pradhan, Additional Deputy Magistrate, West Champaran, in the presence of Mr. Lallan Jha, District Education Officer (DEO), West Champaran.



In his remarks, Mr. Pradhan extended his gratitude to Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for the project in West Champaran. He highlighted the role and importance of the resource center for this remote border district of Bihar. He spoke about the necessities of such type of trainings and information facilities in today's fast moving life and announced full cooperation for the project by district administration. He suggested for preparing a micro by-laws for the smooth functioning of the resource center.

In his remarks, the DEO cum President of Maharaja Harendra Kishore District Central Library, Mr. Jha pointed out about the fruitfulness of the resource center for the development of the whole library. He also ensured the cooperation by the department and motivated students and general mass to gain benefits from the Library Project in West Champaran.



The resource centre facility is being introduced as part of the Global Libraries Programme of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and implemented by New Delhi based Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) with support of local nodal partners like ALOK.

The project aims to develop capacities of district library staff (Librarian/s and assistant/s) and district officials to reinvent the utility and importance of the district library as community knowledge and resource centre to provide valuable services like access to information and content resources for empowerment. One major approach towards this is to deploy ICTs like hardware, software and Internet to add value to library resources and facilities.



The inauguration programme was witnessed by students, parents, media, and library official including representatives of district administration. Participants welcomed the project and wished for its successful implementation along with the long run benefits to the citizens of West Champaran through this initiative of Digital Empowerment Foundation and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in this collaborative effort.

[News item prepared by Mr. Aazad Sohail, Project Manager, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Bettiah, West Champaran]