

## **PROJECT BRIEF**

<b>Project Title</b>	Critical Research on Library Practices
<b>Function</b>	Education
<b>Criticality of Project to the Trusts</b>	<p>Currently, the Trusts, through Parag, supports some of the most thoughtful and innovative work in the library space through its grant making and wider sector engagement. An important need within this work is to better document and understand the impact of libraries, and the lack of them, on schools, teachers, children, and children’s learning, including literacy, academics, life skills, and worldview. Such work requires ongoing research and knowledge support to help identify gaps, understand emerging questions, and inform strong programme design. In this context, the proposed internship would help build a structured and usable knowledge base on libraries for internal use. A key part of the internship would be to collate research, policy documents, and other important resources on library practices, library models, and library policy, and organise them in a way that is easy to access and refer to. The internship would also support the curation of key resources, preparation of thematic research notes, identification of strong library and reading initiatives, and research on best practices in library assessment. Together, these outputs would strengthen internal understanding of the library ecosystem, surface gaps in research and practice, and support future programme thinking, partnerships, and grant making.</p>
<b>No. of interns required for the above project</b>	1
<b>Internship tenure (in months)</b>	4-6 months
<b>Internship period</b>	Preferably between May 2026 to October 2026
<b>Specific requirements of the intern/ institute preference</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Registered in a recognised academic institution and able to access academic databases, journals, and research repositories</li> <li>2. Background in education, literature, library sciences, or related disciplines</li> <li>3. Strong reading, writing, and synthesis skills</li> <li>4. Demonstrable interest in children’s literature, libraries and reading practices</li> <li>5. Ability to work independently with regular guidance and produce well-organised research outputs</li> <li>6. Ability to identify relevant information through conversations with practitioners and institutions</li> <li>7. Preference for candidates with some familiarity with libraries, social sector contexts, and prior academic research experience</li> <li>8. Applications from candidates belonging to historically underrepresented communities are especially encouraged</li> </ol>
<b>Reporting Location: (Complete Address)</b>	<p>Pune B200, Lohia Jain Square, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bavdhan Hybrid arrangement may be considered for the right candidate</p>
<b>Background of the Project</b>	<p>There pertinent for a repository of research on children’s libraries, especially in the Indian context, across areas such as library practices, library models, library policy, reading cultures and habits and library assessment among others. While there is considerable practical work happening through publishers, educators, NGOs, libraries, and reading</p>

	<p>programmes, relevant research remains dispersed across journals, policy documents, reports, institutional publications, and grey literature. There is also limited consolidation of knowledge across these streams, making it difficult to access, synthesise, and use this material for programme and strategic purposes.</p> <p>This internship seeks to support a structured effort to identify, review, and synthesise existing research and resources related to children’s libraries in India and internationally. The work will include building an organised repository of key documents, preparing short annotations and summaries, curating important journals, databases, organisations, and scholars in the field, and developing thematic notes on selected areas of relevance. It will also include research on best practices in library assessment, including frameworks, indicators, and methods used to understand library access, quality, usage, programming, and community engagement.</p> <p>The project is expected to contribute to internal knowledge-building and future strategy, while also helping organise reference material in a way that is useful for programme design, grant conversations, and sector engagement. It can also help map major debates, identify research gaps, surface strong library and reading initiatives worth examining more closely, and generate practical insights relevant to organisations working in children’s reading and library ecosystems.</p>
<p><b>Key Project Deliverables</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collate research studies, policy documents, reports, and significant articles on library practices, library models, and library policy in India and internationally (particularly Global South). These need to be organised thematically in a digital folder with short annotations or summaries including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what the piece is about</li> <li>• its main argument or findings</li> <li>• context or geography</li> <li>• relevance to your work</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Curate a list of key journals, newsletters, databases, repositories, organisations, institutions, and scholars relevant to children’s library research and practice. In addition, the list should also include relevant research and advocacy initiatives across the world, particularly in the Global South.</li> <li>3. Prepare a detailed thematic note reflecting on any of the following selected areas such as school libraries, community libraries, public libraries, reading habits and cultures, rural library models, library access in multilingual contexts</li> <li>4. Research and compile best practices (both in India and internationally) in library assessment, including frameworks, indicators, and methods used to evaluate library access, quality, usage, programming, and community engagement. Consequently, develop a short note on library assessment approaches that may be relevant for our own context</li> <li>5. Identify important gaps in current research and practice in the library ecosystem. Where relevant, compare Indian library realities with international research trends and create thematic maps.</li> <li>6. Identify 8–10 strong examples of library or reading initiatives worth studying more closely, especially models that connect</li> </ol>

- books, community, language, and children's agency
7. Prepare a final synthesis note and presentation summarising key insights, major resources, and possible areas for further exploration

Summarily, the following research outputs will be expected by the end of the internship period:

1. Digital Folder with annotations on research in library practices, models and policy
2. List of key resources- journals, scholars etc
3. Detailed thematic note on an area of choice based on research conducted
4. Note on best practices in library assessment
5. Final synthesis note and presentation which should include examples of strong library initiatives and thematic map showing gaps in current research and suggestions for potential explorations