

West Champaran District Library Resource Centre Inaugurated

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

The newly set up library resource centre is equipped with computer facilities and Internet access. Users can now use resource centre facilities including free Internet access along with availing services like printing, scanning, photocopy, download and upload of online applications and other facilities. The resource centre also has scope for training users about basic IT , literacy, vocational education training, career counselling and other activities. The



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

In his remarks, Mr. Pradhan extended his gratitude to Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for bringing the project to West Champaran. He highlighted the role and importance of the resource center in this remote district of Bihar. He spoke about the necessities of such trainings and information facilities in today's fast moving life and announced full cooperation for the project by district administration. He suggested, 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 the fruitfulness of the resource center for the development of the whole library. He also ensured cooperation by the department and motivated students and general masses 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 empower district library staff (Librarian/s and assistant/s) and 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.



Students, parents, media, and library officials including representatives of district administration attended the inauguration programme. Participants welcomed the project and wished for its successful implementation in West Champaran . This is an initiative of Digital Empowerment Foundation supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.