

A LIBRARY (FOR KELLIE MARTIN) A LIBRARY IS:  
by Nikki Giovanni

A PLACE TO BE FREE  
TO BE IN SPACE TO BE IN A CAVE

# LIBRARY EDUCATOR'S CERTIFICATE

## Course Prospectus 2024-25

TO BE A COOK  
TO BE A CROOK  
TO BE IN LOVE

TO BE UNHAPPY

TO BE QUICK AND SMART

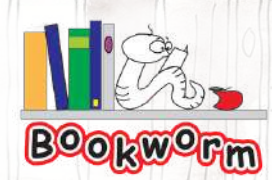
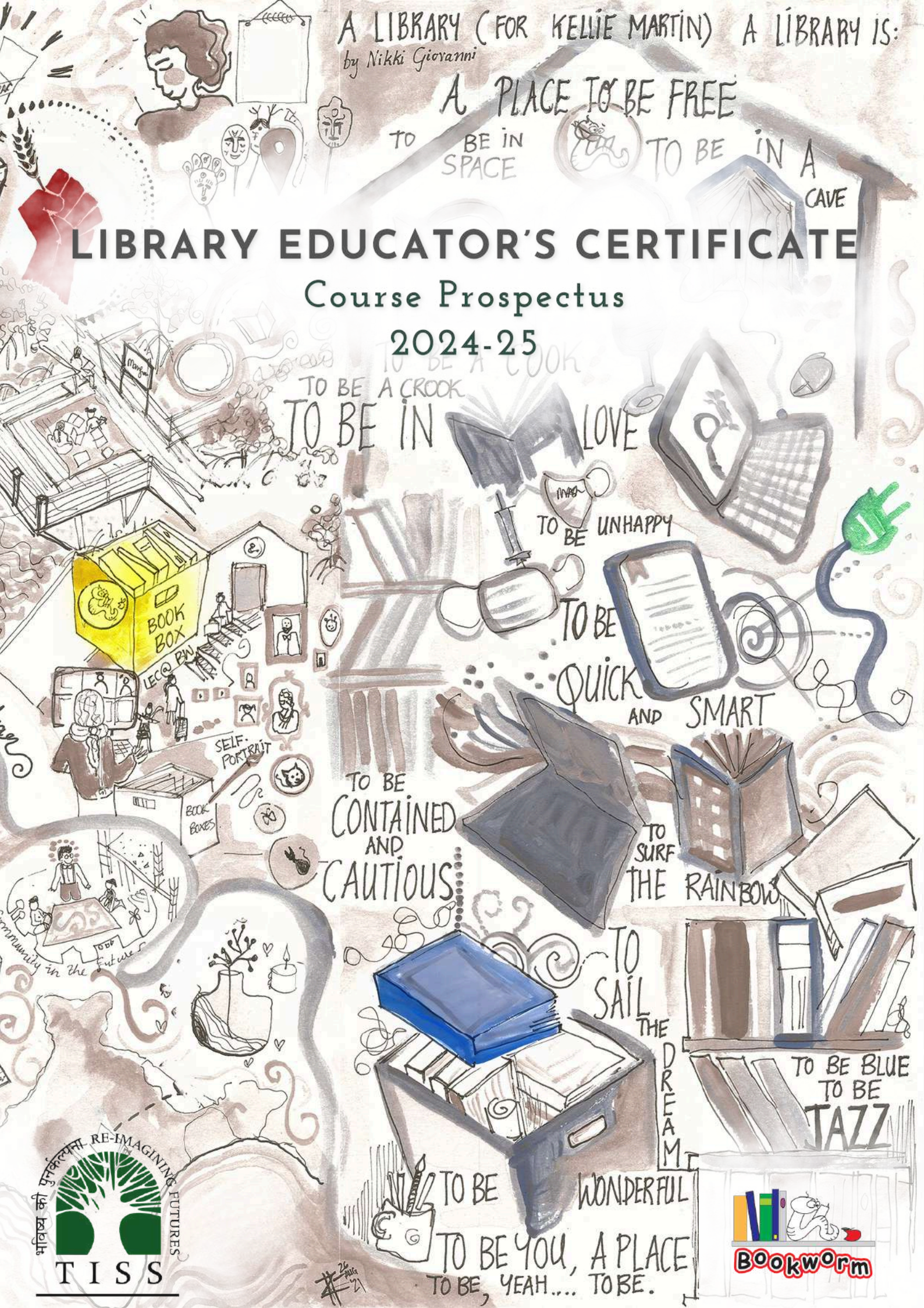
TO BE CONTAINED AND CAUTIOUS

TO SURF THE RAINBOW

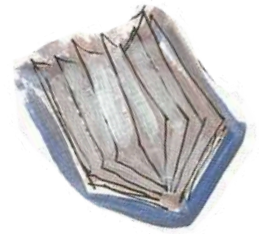
TO SAIL THE DREAM

TO BE BLUE TO BE TAZZ

TO BE WONDERFUL  
TO BE YOU, A PLACE  
TO BE, YEAH.... TO BE.



# Overview



## What is 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 scholarship-based 7-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 19 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 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.

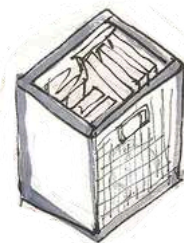
*LEC faculty are able to provide support/ mentorship in Hindi, Marathi, Konkani, Malayalam and Tamil.*

## Why should you do 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 19 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 - school library, community library, independent libraries/ library entrepreneurship.

The Foundation term opens up a child-centered framework to engage in the 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 Specialisation term, you will examine aspects of Social Justice, Library Landscape and Networking, Assessment & Inclusion in the library, Technology & Children's Libraries, and more.





# Objectives

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 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.

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 library alumni community.

# Outcomes

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.





# Outline

The LEC is a 7-month long course, with a Foundation term of 4 months and a Specialisation term of 3 months. Each term will begin with a contact session in Goa followed by virtual sessions in the distant mode.

The course is a rich mix of theory and practice, and uses varied 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 and written report)
- ❖ 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.

## FOUNDATION

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. It 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, field experience, observation of live library practice with children, experiential units, and reading.

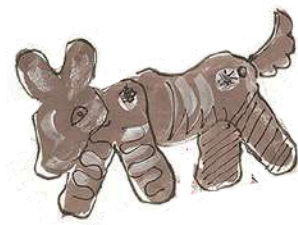
## SPECIALISATION

Specialisation in the LEC is a new offering in the structure of the course. It is an opportunity for the Library Educator to 'specialise' in one of three areas of children's libraries: Independent (Entrepreneurship), School, Community.

Each specialisation will offer the participant an opportunity to dive deeper into the theory and practice of a library type, opening up nuances of each element of the library as it applies to the specialisation.

This segment also includes overarching subjects that inform library praxis, equity, diversity and inclusion, and digital media.





Here is a glimpse of how activities will be spread over the two terms.

Foundation Term	Specialisation Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ One contact period of 5.5 days</li><li>→ 10 Virtual sessions</li><li>→ 8 Field activity sessions</li><li>→ 6 Reading circles</li><li>→ 2 Literature circles</li><li>→ 1 Assignment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ One contact period of 3.5 days</li><li>→ 5 Virtual sessions</li><li>→ 4 Reading circles</li><li>→ 2 Literature circles</li><li>→ 2 Assignments</li></ul>

## Course Holding Team

Bookworm is a 19-year-old organisation 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 and course mentors include

- Anandita Rao
- Jennifer Thomas
- Melcom Braganza
- Rekha Raghunathan
- Sujata Noronha
- Usha Mukunda

The course holding team also have language proficiency in Marathi, Konkani, Hindi, Tamil, and Malayalam.



# 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.

Bookworm may also offer its own programs in Goa as a site of practice between October and December 2024 for those who are keen on such an apprenticeship experience. More details will be provided at a later date.

## Please note:

- ❖ Attendance for all contact periods, virtual sessions and book discussions is compulsory.
- ❖ On-time submission of assignments is expected and monitored.
- ❖ 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, and 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.



# Assessment



The certificate requirements from TISS mandates participants to complete all that is listed below:

## 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 term, 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 choosing a topic from a menu of topics, sharing a plan, implementing the plan, cross-sharing, and a final report and 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 upcoming 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 & Scholarships

Tuition fee for the LEC 2024-25 certified by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, is INR 1.25 Lakhs for the entire programme of 150 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
- Costs of boarding and lodging during the contact periods.

It does not include travel to, from, and within Goa outside of the contact sessions.

We are committed to curating an inclusive and diverse cohort across communities as part of the LEC, and therefore offer a limited number of scholarships based on demonstration of need.

While scholarships are not guaranteed, a candidate's selection and admission into the programme will not be affected by their ability to pay. Scholarship decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

Payment to be made via bank transfer to Bookworm. Details will be made available to the selected candidates. First installment (75%) of fees to be paid in July 2024, and second installment (25%) in October 2024.

**Course fees once paid will not be refunded.**





# Schedule



## Applications open:

30th May 2024

## Applications Close:

18th June 2024

## Selections Finalised:

15th July 2024

## First Installment of Fees (75%) Due:

July 2024

## Course Opens:

15th August 2024

**APPLICATION FORM**  
[Click here](#) to fill the form

## Contact Period One:

26th - 31st August 2024

## Second Installment of Fees (25%) Due:

October 2024

**SCHOLARSHIP FORM**  
[Click here](#) to fill the form

## Virtual Sessions:

15 sessions between September - March 2024

## Contact Period Two:

22nd - 25th January 2025

## Course Closes:

31st March 2025

## Grades and Certificates:

Within 6 months post course completion



# FAQs



## Course dates, fees & scholarships

### 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. Details of the same will be shared by TISS, closer to the completion date.

### 2. What are the dates of the LEC?

The LEC will run from 26th August 2024 to 31 March 2025. The course is offered in a blended mode over 7 months, with **two contact periods** - (26th - 31st August 2024 and 22nd - 25th January 2025) 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 One - **Bambolim Beach Resort**

Goa University Road towards the Bambolim Beach, Goa 403206.

**Contact Two** - St Joseph Vaz Spiritual Retreat centre, Old Goa

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

Tuition fee for the LEC 2024-25 is INR 1.25 Lakhs for the entire programme of 150 teaching-learning hours, payable in two installments - 75% in July 2024 and 25% in October 2024.

### 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. Am I eligible for a scholarship?

We are committed to curating an inclusive and diverse cohort across communities as part of the LEC, and therefore offer a limited number of scholarships based on demonstration of need. While scholarships are not guaranteed, a candidate's selection and admission into the programme will not be affected by their ability to pay. Scholarship decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Please fill out the Scholarship Form if you require financial support.

### 8. 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 & 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 course enrolment.

## 2. I am not a reader myself. Is this still a 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 children's library space. 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 in the distant mode. Can I still apply?

Participation in 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.

## 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?

Please fill out the [Application Form](#).

If applying for a scholarship, please fill out the [Scholarship Form](#) - The form will have to be fully filled in and submitted along with the application form.

## 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.

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

Selections will be finalised by 15th July 2024

## 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 [prod@bookwormgoa.in](mailto:prod@bookwormgoa.in). You could also call BOOKWORM at 9823222665 from 10 am to 6pm Monday through Saturday.

## Previous LEC Batches:

Read about [LEC experiences](#) from our alumni. [Throwback highlights](#) of LEC contact periods.

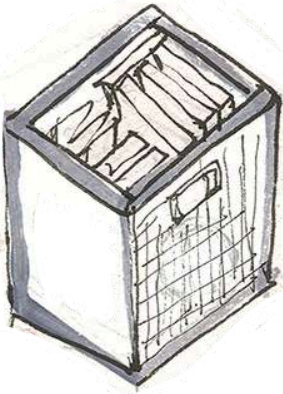


# LEC Alumni Express



*"LEC is something which can totally change your whole perspective of library work, library environment, library space and much more. This course helps one grow professionally and practically in the field of library work. Each minute thing related to the library is touched upon and taught practically. I would like to recommend the LEC course to each and every individual who is associated with library, library studies and to those who are also associated with children. This course is totally different from the regular CLIS/BLIS/MLIS course, LEC is more focused in practicality."*

**Avinash Khawas, Kalimpong, West Bengal  
(Batch of 2022-23)**

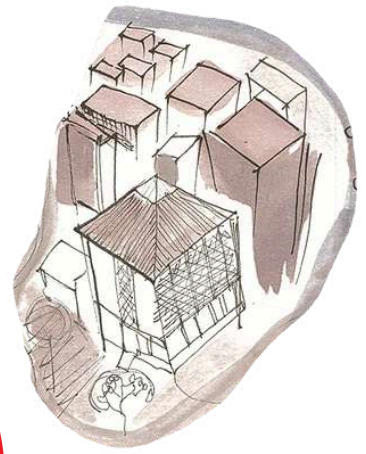


*"The LEC course taught me to build inclusive, engaging library practices, emphasizing on equity, diversity and inclusion to create welcoming spaces for all. In India, there's a lack of courses specifically designed to empower library practitioners to cultivate enjoyable learning and reading experiences within library spaces. LEC fills this gap effectively. Highly recommended to library practitioners and professionals as well as teachers and educators."*

**Preedip Balaji, Bangalore  
(Batch of 2022-23)**



*"LEC has opened up for me a new direction in my career. Having experience working as a librarian for higher-level readers, I never knew about children's libraries; LEC took me closer to the children's library, and children's literature and made me dive deep into the world of children's literature, especially picture books. In my journey as a Librarian, LEC has given me a golden fringe. This is a course that is very carefully designed, not only to cover librarianship but also to go beyond it and learn the educator's part in establishing libraries."*



**Prabha Sudagade (Tendolkar), Bangalore  
(Batch of 2021)**



*"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 in how to work with children on these issues."*

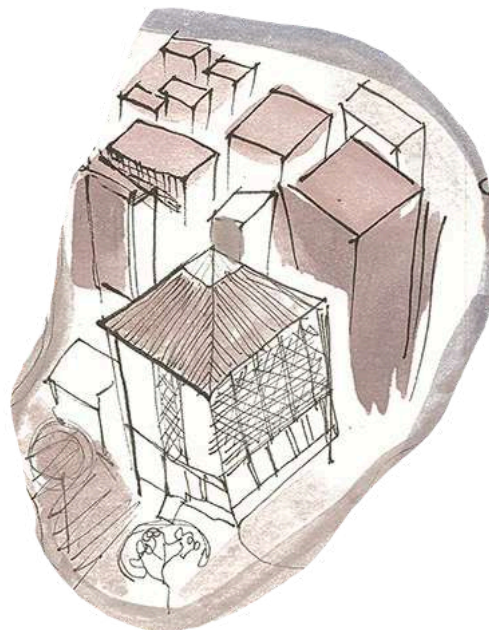
**Anuradha Pachanooru,  
Secunderabad (Batch of 2017-2018)**





*"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,  
Mumbai (Batch of 2020)**



# 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 2022-23, Bookworm has had an impact on 20,000 children, 1300 educators, and 150 schools and 20 communities across 21 states in India.

## We currently run six programmes:

- Library and Resource Centre
- Libraries in Schools
- Professional Development
- Mobile Outreach Programme
- Visual Arts Programme
- 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.

## How to reach us:

**Contact:** +91 9823222665

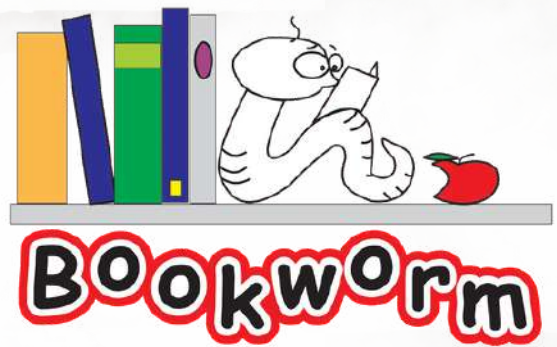
**Email:** [mail@bookwormgoa.in](mailto:mail@bookwormgoa.in)

**Address:** House No.127 (Old Saraswati Vidyalaya), Mala, Fontainhas, Panaji, Goa 403001, India

For more details about our work, log onto: [www.bookwormgoa.in](http://www.bookwormgoa.in)

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