Speakers

"What's New in Bloom" SIL International

Chris Hirt is the Team Associate Director for Technology Development with SIL in Mainland SE Asia. SIL Technology Development produces software tools and services to facilitate SIL's work in literacy, translation, and language development. SIL Bloom software makes it easy to create local language books and distribute them digitally.

"Promoting Early Grade Reading in an MLE Project" Afghan Children Read Team

Wahidullah Raziqi works with SIL LEAD/Afghan Children Read (ACR) as Multi-lingual Education (MLE) Specialist. ACR focuses on improving reading and writing skills of students at grades 1-3 in both formal as well as CBE (community-based education) schools.

Abdul Rahman Sabir works with Afghan Children Read (ACR) as Sr. Capacity Development Specialist. He leads the capacity development efforts of the project with Ministry of Education (MoE) Afghanistan. ACR focuses on improving reading and writing skills of students at grades 1-3 in both formal as well as CBE (community-based education) schools.

Agatha van Ginkel (PhD) works for Afghan Children Read as a senior education advisor. Her area of expertise is in languages, scripts and reading and how they interact with education.

"Pratham Open School: Digital innovations and experiences during school closure" Pratham Education Foundation

Nishant Baghel leads digital initiatives at Pratham as Director, Technology Innovations, leveraging advanced technologies for rural EdTech and creating learning opportunities for all. He oversees programmes that reach more than 5,00,000 children and have been recognised by the World Economic Forum as the only 'School of Future' from India.

Annapoorni Chandrashekar is a senior manager at Pratham. She works with digital content, technology, and implementation teams to transition pilots to scale and take open learning initiatives to diverse learners. Prior to Pratham, Annapoorni bootstrapped an EdTech start up incubated at IIM Bangalore, that helps young learners pursue their passion through mentorship.

"Let's read: Experiences in Providing Digital Learning to Marginalized Children in Southeast Asia" The Asia Foundation

Melody Zavala is senior director of Books for Asia, a program of The Asia Foundation that empowers underserved populations with print and digital books through direct programs and collaborative partnerships. Under Melody's leadership, Books for Asia launched the Let's Read initiative, an ecosystem approach that creates and adapts children's books and nurtures reading habits that enable children, families, and communities to thrive.

"Supporting Digital Learning: A Global Perspective" Global Digital Library

Christer Gundersen works at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation as the Chief Technology Officer for The Global Digital Library(GDL). The goal of the GDL is to provide access to free, high-quality, early grade reading resources in languages that children use and understand.