

Rich reading culture in middle part of 20th century, its decline and way forward

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SRI LANKA

- **Understanding how our society developed art and literature in the modern period and our history in brief.**
 - **Reading Public**
 - **Publications**
 - **Developing Reading Culture**
 - **Activities in promoting reading**
 - **Book Fairs**
 - **Book Awards**
 - **Conferences and Seminars**
 - **Training Programs**

Sri Lankans, or Ceylonese reading public began to emerge after the establishment of missionary presses by colonial occupants.

There were three categories of readers;

- English readers**
- Sinhala readers**
- Tamil readers**

In the late 19th century public schools and printing presses, and publications combined in order to start reading public, and this included females for the first time in the country's history.

Literacy Rate (1881)

Sinhala

- Male: 28.4%
- Female: 2.7%

Tamil

- Male: 28.4%
- Female: 2.7%

Source: Report on the census of Ceylon, 1901 –History of Printing: Tilak Karunaratne

Literacy Rate (2016)

- Average: 93.1%
- Male: 94.1%
- Female: 92.2%

Source: NLDSB websit

Computer Literacy (2017)

- Sri Lanka: 28.6%
- Male: 31.1%
- Female: 26.4%

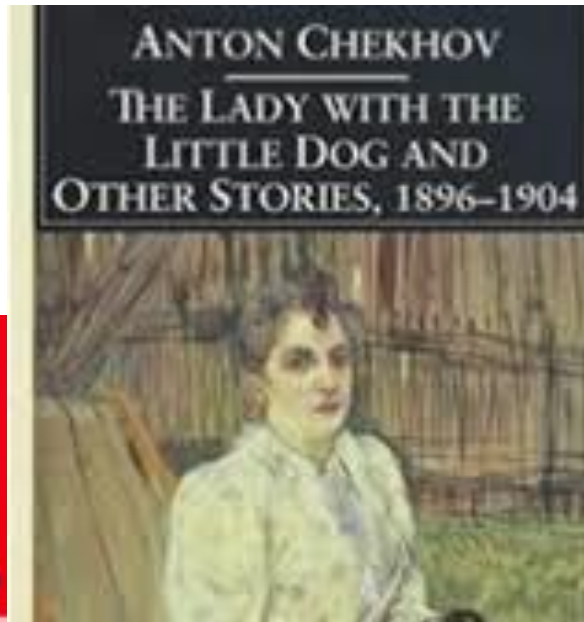
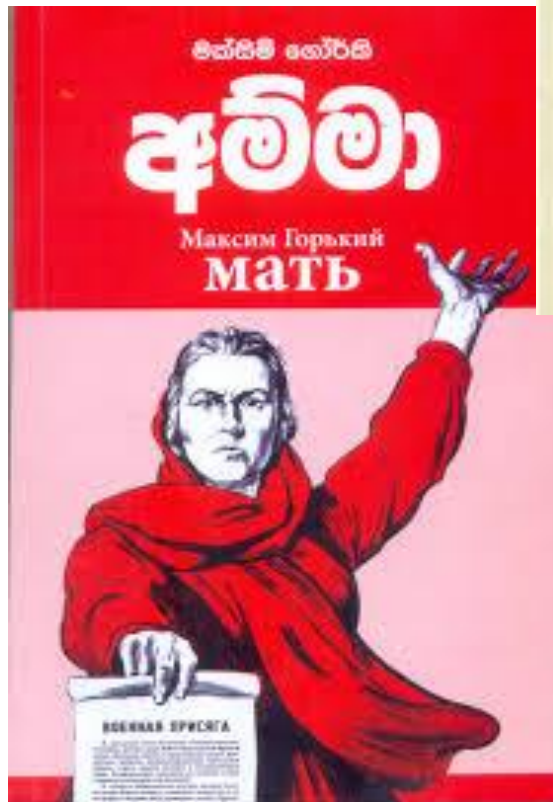
PUBLICATIONS

Publishing of books, newspapers and magazines expanded, new fonts were created, and modern paper began to be used

Schools and libraries were built, creating a modern literature and modern reading public .

Modern literature was introduced and modern creative writing began and developed.

- **Russian classical literature was introduced first in English and then in translations and literary criticism.**
- **In this process, the impact of Russian literature was great. In the first Russian translations, democratic writers like Chekov , Gogol, Garshin, Tolstoy and others figured.**



Popular Russian translations

Major Sinhalese creative writers were massively influenced by Russian classical literature. Martin Wickremasinghe's comparison of the Buddhist Jataka Stories (stories of the births of the Buddha) with the ethos of the classical Russian novel should be noted.

- **In 1947, the Sri Lankan government introduced free education from Kindergarten to University.**
- **Schooling became compulsory for children from 5 + to 13 years of age.**
- **Student population 2019 - 4.2 m**
- **Total population in the country - 21.7m**

DEVELOPING READING CULTURE

State Institutions

Private Institutions

Social movements

Developing Reading Culture

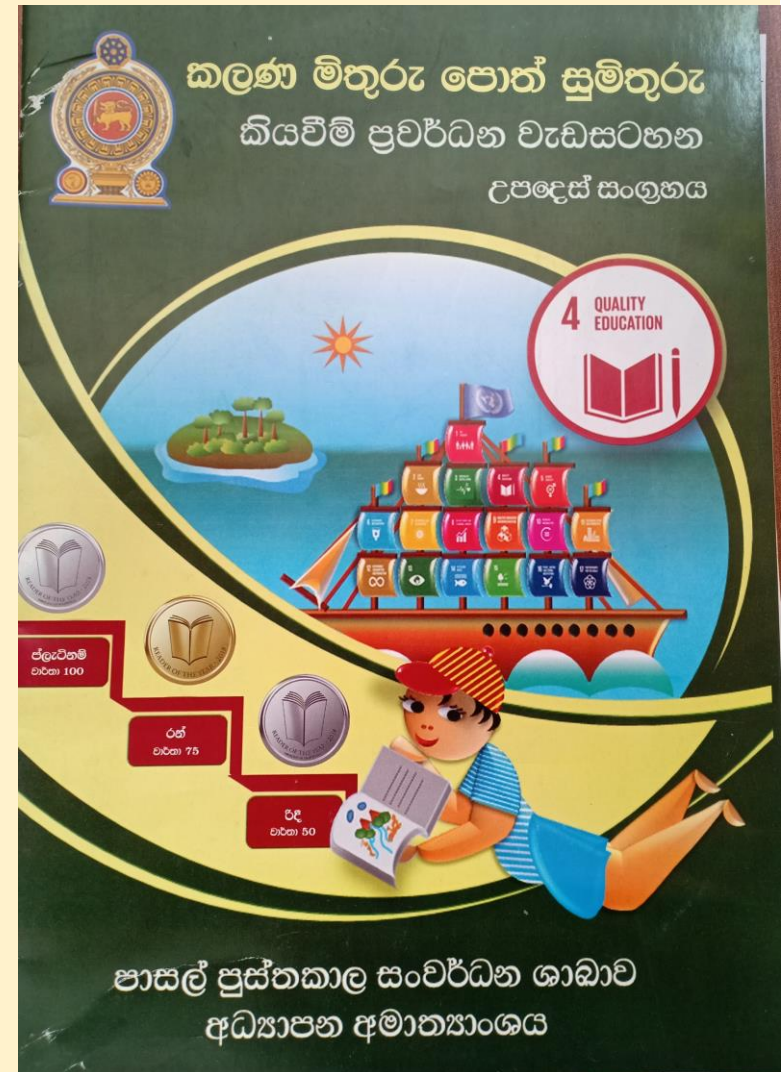
State Institutions

- **Ministry of Education**
- **National Library and Documentation Board**
- **Sri Lanka Library Associations**
- **Library Network**
- **National Institute of Library and Information Sciences**
- **National Book Development Council**

Developing Reading Culture State Institutions

Ministry of Education

National reading promotion
programme- '*kalana mithuru
poth sumithuru*' 2018-2019



Developing Reading Culture

State Institutions

- **National Library and Documentation Board**

Year	ISBN	ISSN	ISMN
2013	8993	281	27
2014	8937	250	35
2015	9155	285	24
2016	10602	321	12
2017	11161	241	37
2018	10051	178	58
2019	11627	201	83

Developing Reading Culture

Library Network

- Schools (No) **11,021** Government Schools
10,162
- Student population **4.2 million**
- Total population **21.7 million**
- School Libraries Formal **3,859**
 Temporary **2,738**
- Public Libraries **1,176**

Developing Reading Culture

Private Institutions

- **Room to Read**
- **IBBY Sri Lanka National Section**
- **Read Plus Consortium**

Developing Reading Culture

Social organizations

- **Reading Clubs**
- **Readers Blogs**
- **Home Library movement**

Developing Reading Culture

Activities in promoting reading culture

- **Reading camps**
- **National reading month program**
- **Reading competitions**
- **Essay writing competitions**
- **Book donations**
- **Story telling programs**

Developing Reading Culture

Book Fairs

- **Colombo International Book Fair**
- **Regional Book Fairs**
- **Book Fairs by National Library and Public Library**
- **International Children's Book Fair - New**
- **ReadPlus Online Book Fair and Sale – New**

Developing Reading Culture

Book Awards

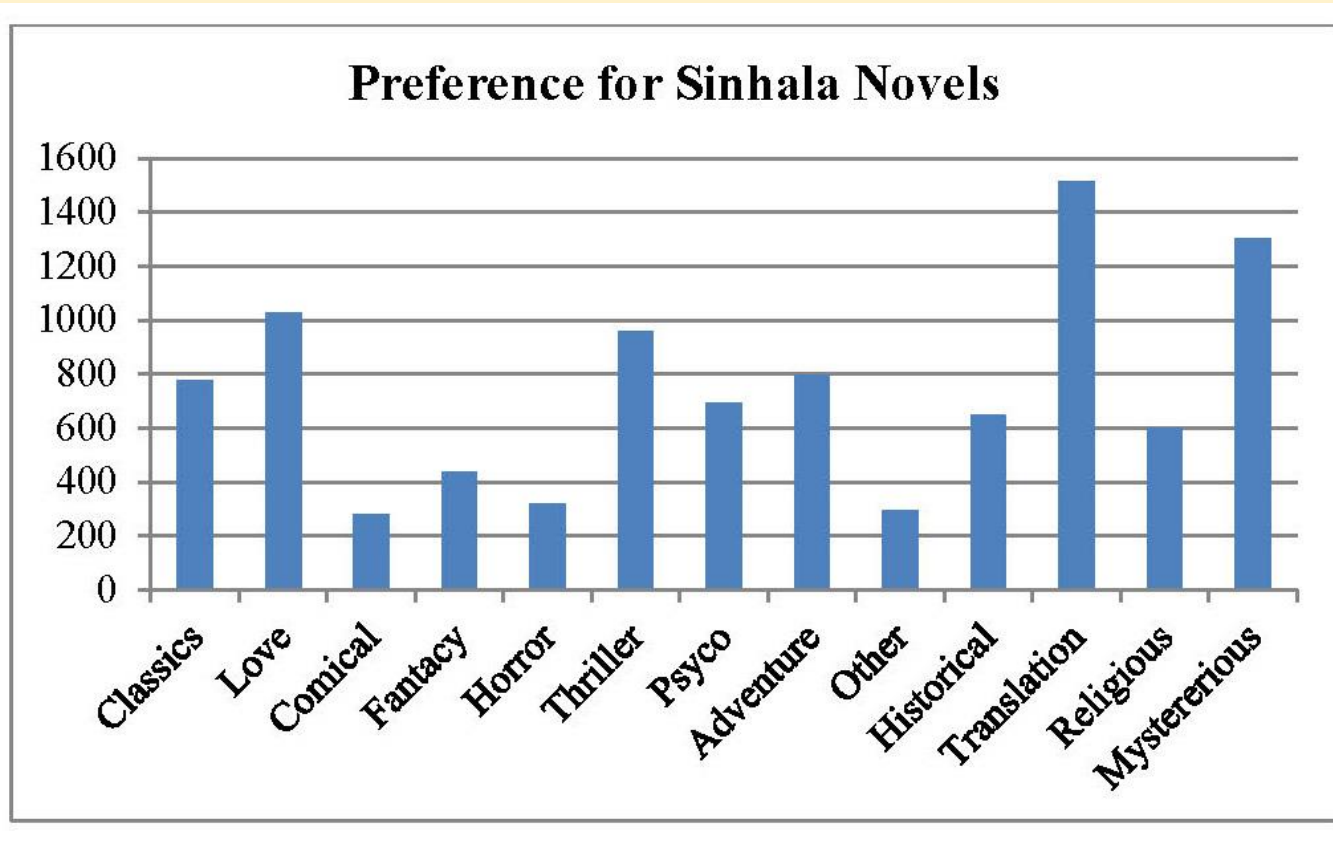
State Literary Awards

Annual awards by Sri Lanka Book Publishers
Association

- **Swarna Pustaka Award for Best Novel**
- **Rajatha Pusthaka Award for Young Adults Novel, Short Story, and Poetry**

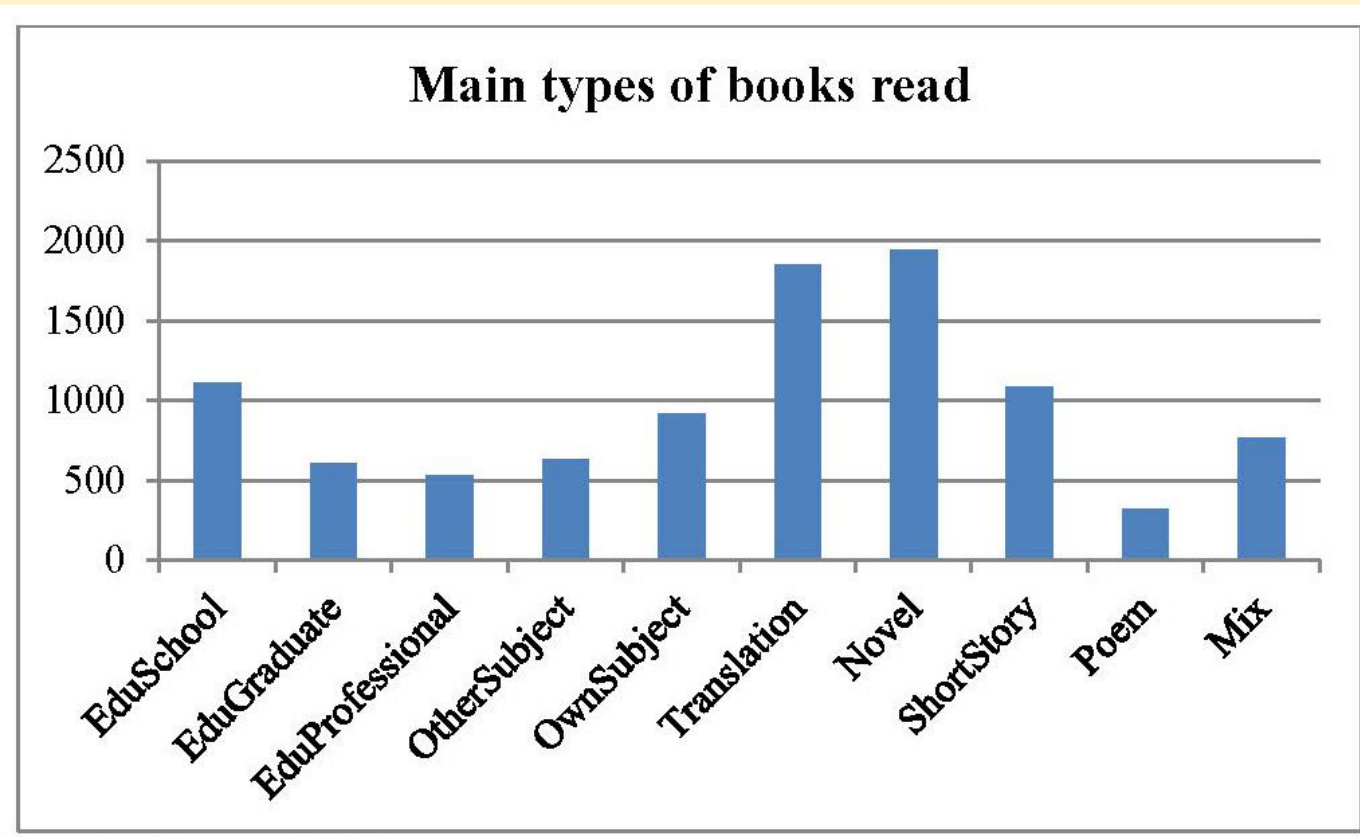
Developing Reading Culture

Survey on reading – SLAP - 2015



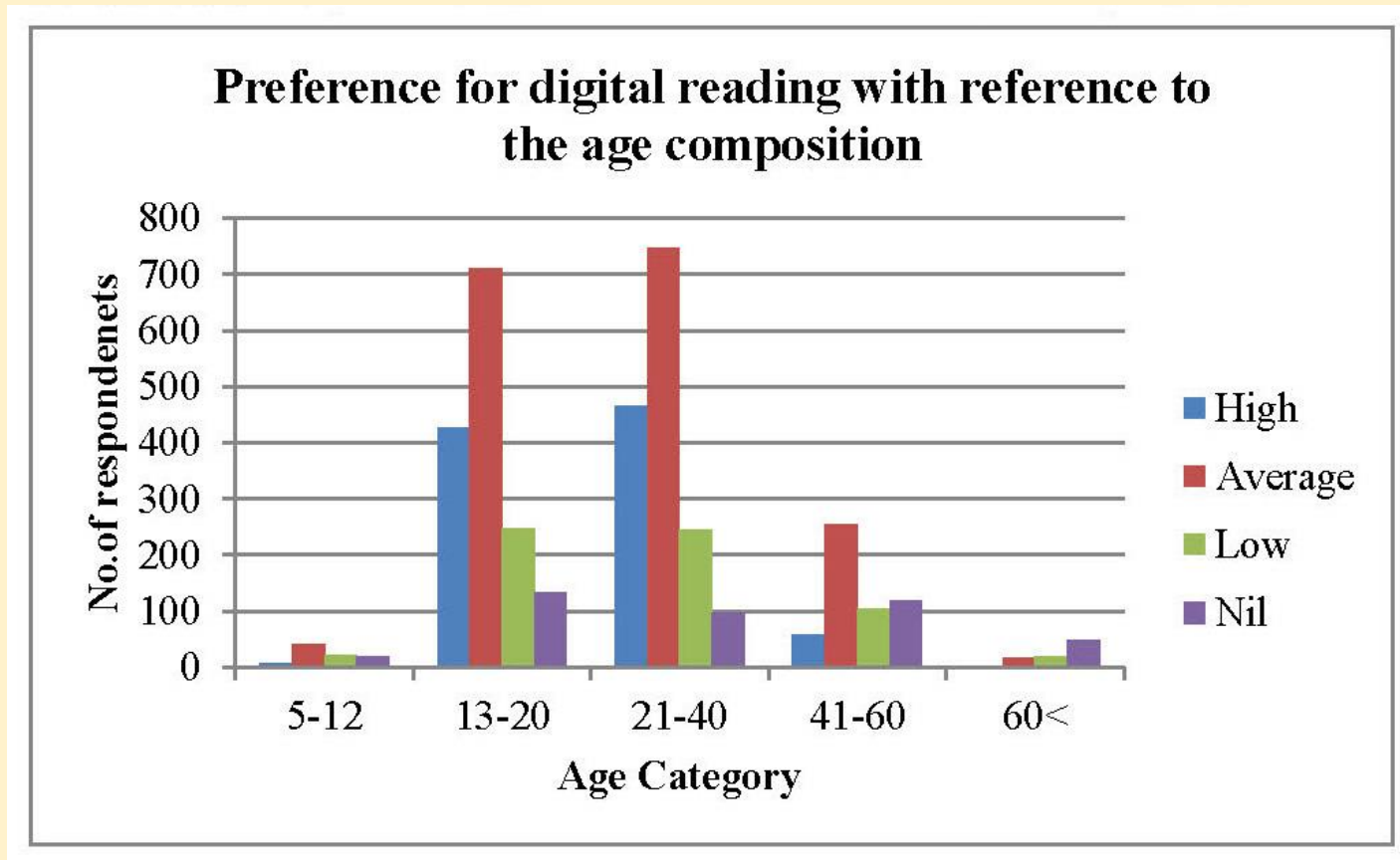
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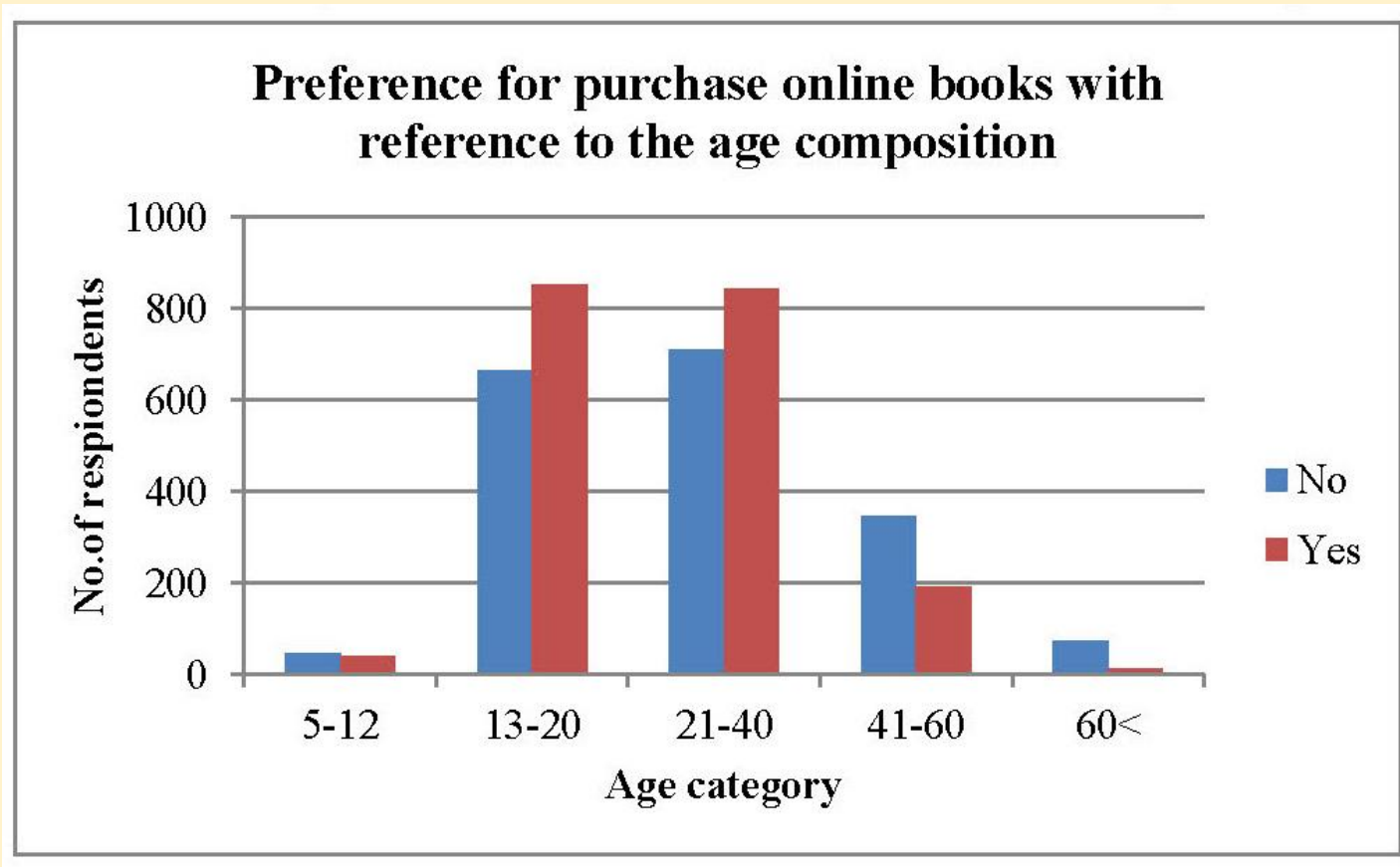
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Developing Reading Culture

Survey on reading – SLAP - 2015



Conferences and Seminars

- Sri Lanka Library Associations – International Conference
- IBBY Sri Lanka – Convention on Literature of Children's and Young Adults

Conferences and Seminars

Training Programs

- National Library and Documentation Board programs
- National Institute of Library and Information Sciences programs
- Programs by National Book Development Council
- IBBY Sri Lanka Section Programs

GOING GLOBAL

- **To reach countries with high standard literary works**
- **To share knowledge and business in publishing sector**
- **Develop mutual business relationships to promote local creations**

THANK YOU !