



CENTRAL LIBRARY

REPORT ON VANCHANRAS – READING AWARENESS PROGRAM

PREPARED BY:

CENTRAL LIBRARY TEAM

Date of Session: 10th November 2025

Time of Session: 11:00 A.M - 12:00 P.M.

Mode: Online (Webex Platform)



Host - Dr Mahesh K Solanki

Designation - Librarian,
Central Library, GTU



Speaker - Dr Atul Bhatt

Designation - HOD, Dept of
Library and Information
Science.
Gujarat University



Speaker - Dr. Yogesh Parekh

Designation - Librarian (I/C)
Gujarat University.

Introduction:

The Central Library, Gujarat Technological University, organized an online webinar titled "Vanchanras – Reading Awareness Program" with the objective of promoting a positive culture of reading among students, faculty, and the wider academic community.

The session was hosted by Dr. Mahesh Solanki, who emphasized that reading is not only a source of knowledge but also a habit that nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and personal growth. He shared how the idea of conducting this webinar emerged from the need to encourage consistent reading practices in an era where digital distractions are increasing. Dr. Solanki highlighted that libraries play an important role in shaping informed citizens, and such dialogues help to reinforce the value of books and reflective learning.

During his welcome address, Dr. Solanki introduced the distinguished guest speakers. The first speaker was Dr. Yogesh Parekh, Librarian (I/C) at Gujarat University, who has been actively engaged in efforts related to library development and reading culture enhancement. The second speaker was Dr. Atul Bhatt, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gujarat University, known for his academic contributions and research in the field of library science. He expressed gratitude to both the speakers for joining the session and contributing their insights to enrich the awareness initiative.

Over 140 + **participants** attended the Webinar of 'Vanchanras' - Reading Awareness Program and shared some insights throughout the Webinar.

Objectives of the Online Webinar “Vanchanras” – Reading Awareness Program

- To promote awareness about the importance of reading as a lifelong practice for personal, academic, and professional growth.
- To motivate students, faculty members, and library users to develop a regular reading habit and engage meaningfully with books and learning resources.
- To highlight the role of libraries as active learning centers that support knowledge building, creative thinking, and informed decision-making.
- To share practical ways to cultivate reading habits in the digital age where attention spans are challenged by technology and social media.
- Insight from the host, Dr. Mahesh Solanki, focused on encouraging individuals to view reading not as a task but as a joyful and enriching process that shapes one’s intellectual and emotional development.
- Insight from guest speaker Dr. Atul Bhatt centered on the principles of information literacy, the intellectual benefits of reading, and how structured reading practices can support academic excellence and research.
- Insight from guest speaker Dr. Yogesh Parekh emphasized the cultural and social significance of reading, and the role of libraries in fostering a community that values knowledge sharing and learning.

Training Session Points – Dr. Atul Bhatt's Speech

Dr. Atul Bhatt, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gujarat University, delivered an insightful session highlighting the importance and impact of reading in personal and professional growth. He emphasized that reading is not merely an academic activity but a lifelong habit that shapes thinking, creativity, and communication.

Key points from his session included:

Importance of Reading: Dr. Bhatt explained how reading broadens one's perspective, enhances knowledge, and nurtures critical thinking and imagination.

Benefits of Reading: He highlighted that regular reading improves concentration, vocabulary, and comprehension, fostering intellectual and emotional development.

Developing the Habit of Reading: He suggested starting with small reading goals, choosing subjects of personal interest, and maintaining consistency to cultivate a regular reading habit.

Reading for Future Growth: Dr. Bhatt emphasized that in today's rapidly changing world, continuous reading keeps individuals updated, adaptable, and confident in professional and social spheres.

Role of Libraries and Librarians: He also mentioned how libraries and librarians play a crucial role in promoting reading culture and guiding readers towards quality resources.

Dr. Bhatt concluded his talk by motivating participants to make reading a daily practice and to inspire others to engage in meaningful reading habits for lifelong learning and success.

Training Session Points – Dr. Yogesh Parekh's Speech

Dr. Yogesh Parekh, Librarian (I/C), Gujarat University, delivered an engaging and thought-provoking session on the significance of reading culture and the vital role of libraries in nurturing it.

Key points from his session included:

Reading as a Lifelong Companion: Dr. Parekh began by explaining how reading shapes one's personality, enhances decision-making skills, and encourages intellectual curiosity throughout life.

Libraries as Catalysts for Reading Culture: He emphasized that libraries are not merely repositories of books but vibrant learning spaces that inspire readers, provide access to diverse materials, and create an environment conducive to developing reading habits.

Maintaining a Good Reading Habit: He suggested maintaining a reading journal, discussing books with peers, and participating in library reading clubs or digital reading initiatives to sustain the habit over time.

Role of Technology and Digital Libraries: Dr. Parekh also highlighted the growing importance of e-books and online resources, urging readers to blend traditional and digital reading for a balanced learning experience.

Community and Institutional Efforts: He encouraged libraries and educational institutions to organize reading challenges, book exhibitions, and storytelling sessions to cultivate collective enthusiasm for reading among students and professionals.

Dr. Parekh concluded his session by inspiring participants to treat reading as an integral part of their daily life and to use libraries as gateways to lifelong learning and personal growth.

Outcome and Impact:

The “Vanchanras – Reading Awareness Program” organized by the Central Library, Gujarat Technological University (GTU) brought together distinguished experts and library professionals to discuss the importance of reading and its role in fostering a culture of knowledge. The session was led and hosted by Dr. Mahesh Solanki, Librarian, GTU, who shared his deep motivation behind initiating this program and emphasized the need to rekindle the joy of reading among students and academicians.

In his address, Dr. Solanki highlighted how reading is a powerful tool for intellectual development and personal transformation. He reflected on his experiences as a librarian, noting the gradual decline in reading habits due to digital distractions, and stressed that libraries must evolve as interactive learning spaces that encourage curiosity and lifelong learning. His vision for Vanchanras was to inspire every individual to reconnect with books, knowledge, and self-growth.

Dr. Atul Bhatt, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, Gujarat University, elaborated on the personal and intellectual benefits of reading. He discussed how reading improves focus, critical thinking, and creativity, urging participants to develop reading as a consistent daily habit. He shared practical ways to cultivate this habit—beginning with small goals, reading topics of interest, and gradually expanding one’s scope of knowledge.

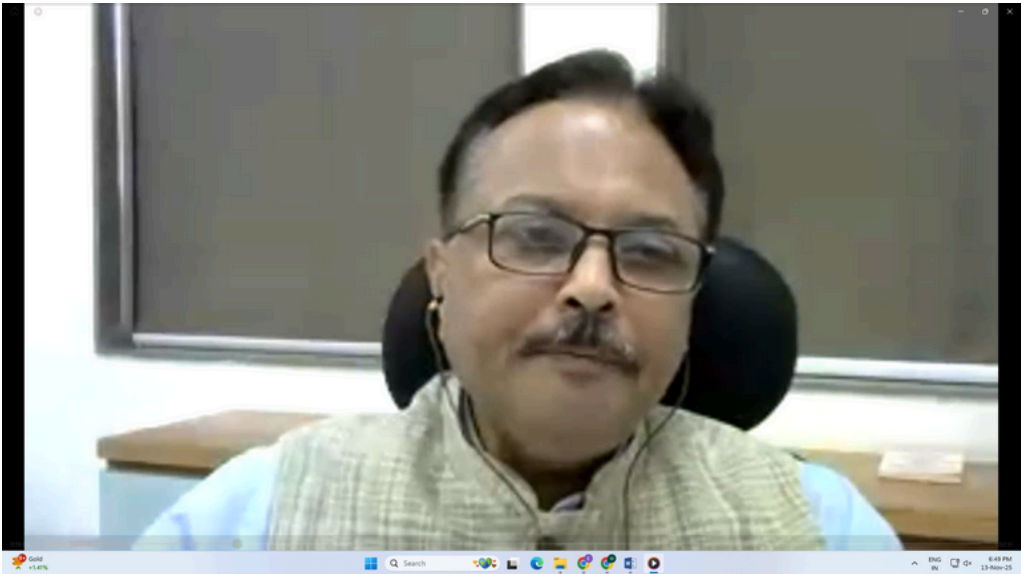
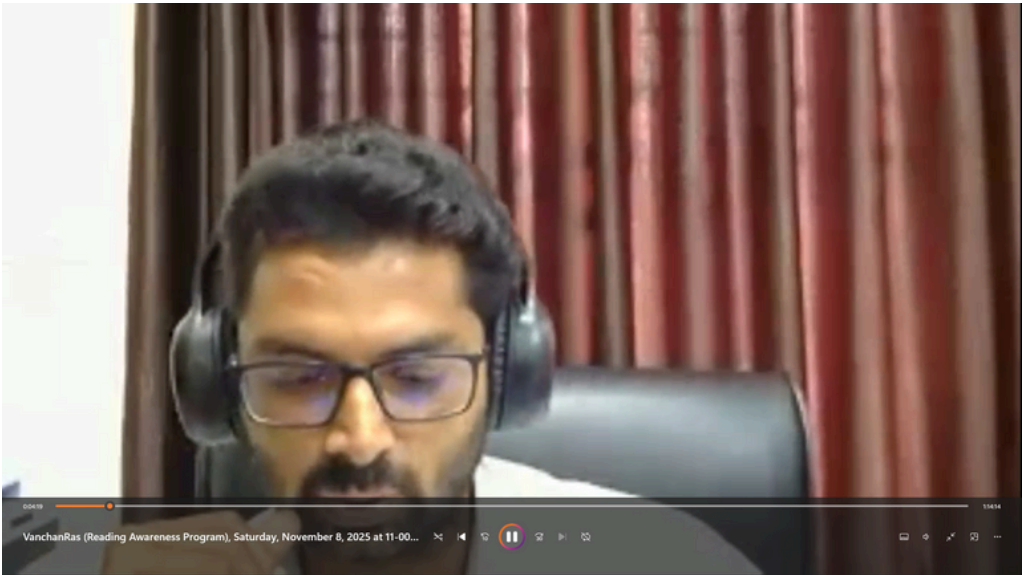
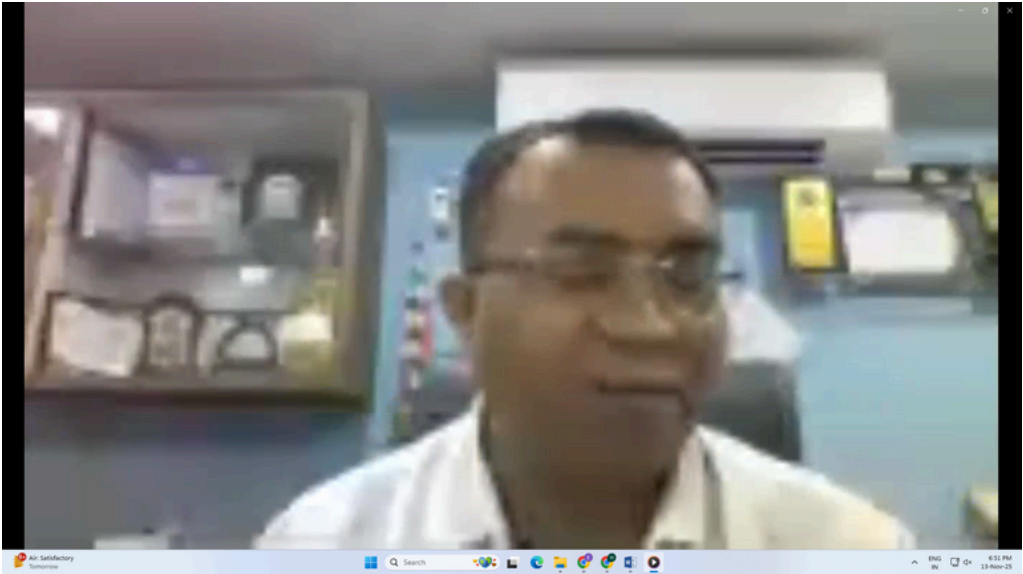
Dr. Yogesh Parekh, Librarian (I/C), Gujarat University, emphasized the role of libraries and librarians in promoting a reading culture. He explained that libraries today are not just repositories of books but vibrant community centers that nurture curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Dr. Parekh also discussed how digital resources and e-libraries can complement traditional reading to make learning more accessible and engaging.

Together, the speakers and host created an enriching dialogue on the transformative power of reading and the collective role of educators, librarians, and institutions in fostering a reading-oriented society.

The Vanchanras webinar created a meaningful impact among participants by:

- Encouraging the revival of reading habits among students, faculty, and professionals.
- Enhancing awareness about the personal, academic, and social benefits of regular reading.
- Highlighting the importance of libraries as active promoters of reading culture and lifelong learning.
- Motivating participants to utilize both physical and digital resources for balanced and effective reading practices.
- Strengthening collaboration among library professionals to organize similar initiatives in their institutions.

Glimpse of the Vanchanras - The Reading Awareness Program



Conclusion and Acknowledgment :

The “Vanchanras – Reading Awareness Program” proved to be an inspiring and impactful initiative by the Central Library, Gujarat Technological University. The webinar successfully created awareness about the importance of reading, the role of libraries in fostering reading habits, and the collective responsibility of educators and learners in promoting a culture of lifelong learning.

The Central Library, GTU, extends heartfelt gratitude to the distinguished speakers — Dr. Atul Bhatt and Dr. Yogesh Parekh — for sharing their valuable insights and experiences. Special appreciation is due to Dr. Mahesh Solanki, Librarian, GTU, for conceptualizing and hosting this meaningful program, and for his continuous efforts toward enriching the university’s learning environment.

The event concluded with a strong message — that reading is not just a habit, but a lifelong journey towards knowledge, growth, and self-enlightenment.