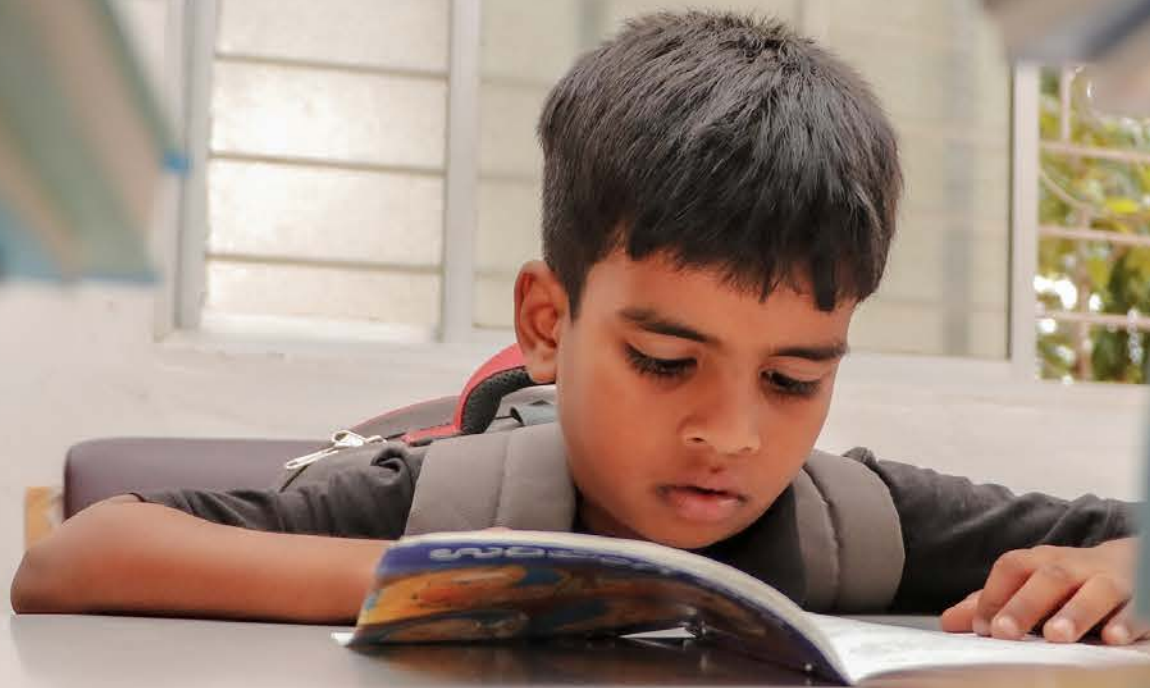




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# Rural public libraries as third spaces

Knowledge and information services play a critical role in enabling every individual to function and flourish as a productive and empowered citizen. Decentralised library services provided by local bodies can play an important role as an intervention to complement the formal school education system for human development in rural communities. This talk will show how rural libraries, revived during the Covid pandemic by elected rural local bodies in Karnataka, have evolved to provide a platform for information, interaction, and inclusion for rural communities.



## Uma Mahadevan

Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner,  
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Uma Mahadevan is an IAS officer currently serving as the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka. She has served in important sectors at the centre and the state. Among them, Women & Child Development, Skill Development and Livelihoods, Planning, Agriculture, Education and Health. She has also served in the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. She was an active member of the working group who prepared the first Human Development Report for Karnataka. She has also been a member of the ECCE Taskforce, Government of India. She writes regularly on development and culture.

**3:30 PM IST, 26 May 2026**  
Emmy Noether Seminar  
Room



Zoom link: <https://shorturl.at/IO15K>

Meeting ID: 945 0506 7040

Passcode: 262627