

## Literacy Cloud

Literacy Cloud is a simple, technology-driven, and freely accessible platform for children to read, learn, and grow with high-quality children's literature in their regional language. The open-to-all platform offers easy-to-access online books, developed especially by children's authors and illustrators worldwide.

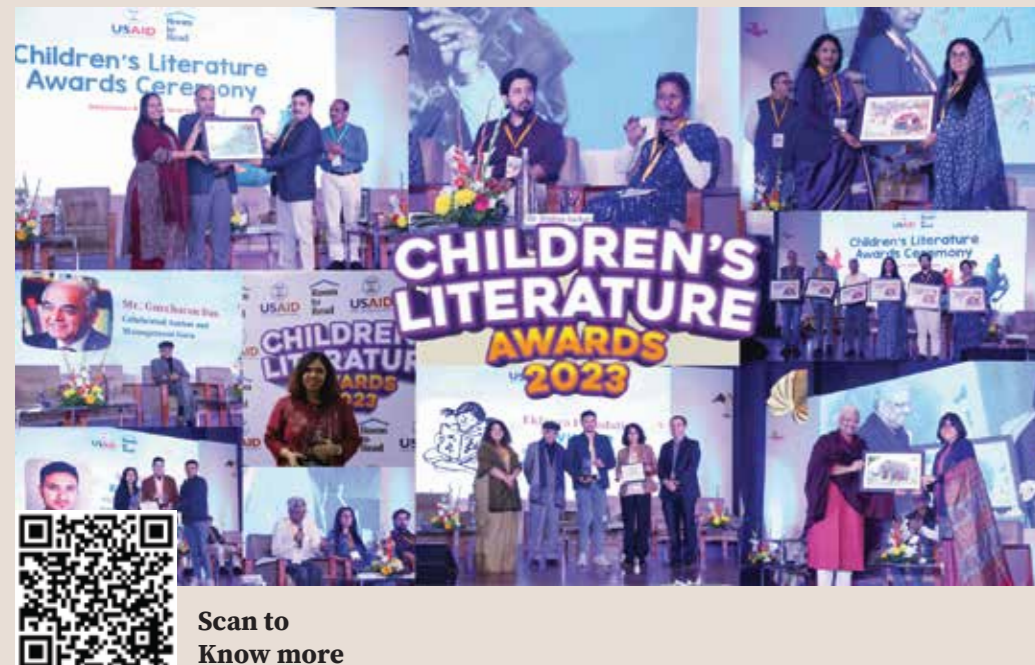
This platform is an ever-expanding ocean of resources, featuring easy-to-read books, read-aloud videos by well-known personalities, including domain experts, education leaders, government officials, etc., and professional development resources for teachers, authors, and illustrators. With 2700+ book titles in 36 languages worldwide, Literacy Cloud aims to serve as an online knowledge hub to promote effective foundational literacy skills among early-grade learners.

The titles are published in 36 different languages, including 6 Indian languages. Access them at [www.literacycloud.org](http://www.literacycloud.org)



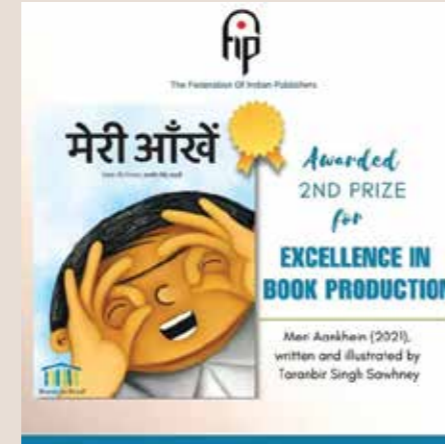
## Room to Read Children's Literature Awards

In the spirit of making room for a linguistically diverse children's literature ecosystem and recognizing literary excellence in the field, the first Room to Read's Children's Literature Awards (CLA) was initiated in 2023, with support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Children's Literature Awards is a flagship global initiative of Room to Read. In 2023, the Awards aimed to recognize the creative brilliance of Authors, Illustrators, and Book Publishers across 16 categories in the Hindi language. The Awards will recognize more Indian languages in the subsequent years, making room for diversity in children's literature.

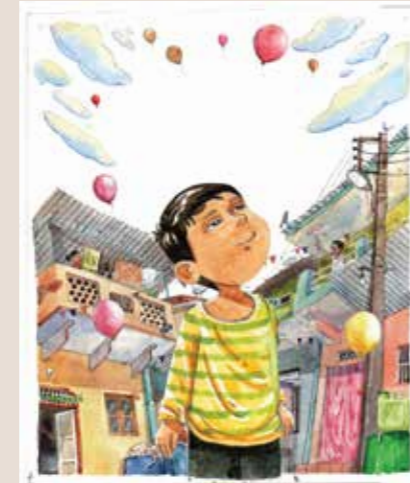


## Awards and Recognition

Awarded United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Confucius Prize for Literacy (2011) for improving literacy by utilizing the local resources across all its countries of operation.



Our publication 'Meri Ankhein'(2021) was awarded Excellence in Book Production by the Federation of Indian Publishers in 2022.



Our publication "Gubbare" (2022) was recognized by the Federation of Indian Publishers as Second Prize Winner for Excellence in Book Production in the Children's Book Category (General interest for 1-10 years in Hindi).

Room to Read is a global nonprofit, working in India since 2003. Through education, Room to Read is transforming the lives of millions of children to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We are working with the government, local communities and partner organizations to build a world where all children have room to read, learn and grow and can use their skills to accelerate positive change. We support children in communities experiencing deep educational, gender and economic inequities.

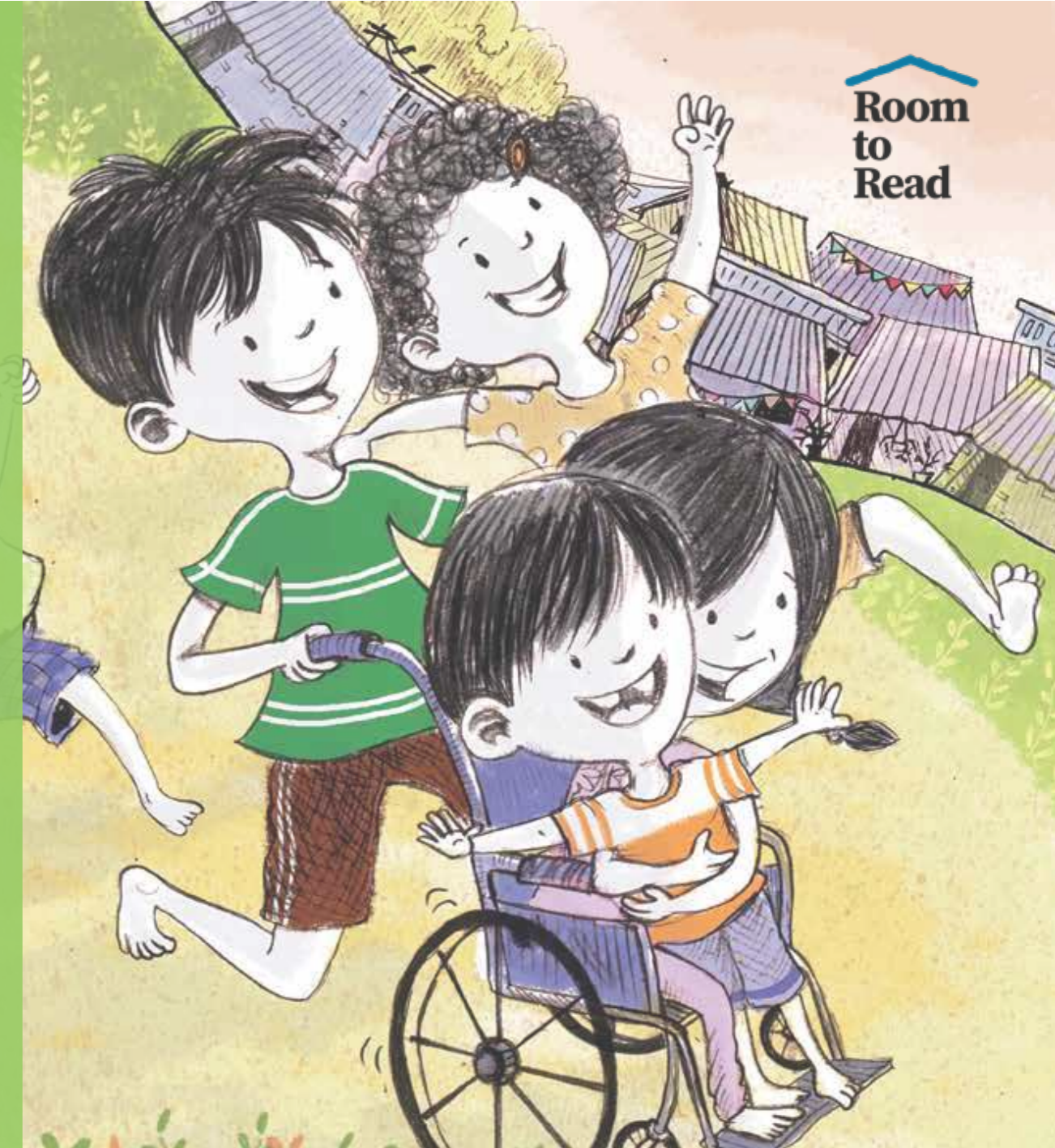
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**QUALITY  
READING  
MATERIAL**

*An opportunity to create  
early readers*



## GROWBY Model

Room to Read India follows color-coded book leveling system for teachers to accurately identify books that children with different reading skill levels will be able to read successfully.

Green	Red	Orange	White	Blue	Yellow
Emergent	Early	Progressive	Transitional	Fluent	Advanced



## Ideal Book Collection

The library is one of the significant components of Room to Read. We transform school libraries into a child-friendly learning environment with diverse and engaging books that inspire children to read. To ensure an expansive collection of books for our libraries, we invite books from local publishers to screen and shortlist under our 'Ideal Book Collection' development policy.

Each year at the 'Ideal Book Collection' (IBC) event, reputed publishers offer their books to be analyzed for our collections. These books undergo a rigorous review process by an expert committee including educationists, school principals, primary teachers, parents/community members, children's literature experts (authors, illustrators, publishers, editors), and people from NGOs working in similar spaces.

The event helps Room to Read India find the best books available and identify significant gaps in the collection, particularly for specific levels or themes. Room to Read India also hosts a 'Publisher's Meet' to discuss major gaps and needs in children's literature.

Room to Read India actively supports state governments in creating their Ideal Book Collections to build grassroots-level capacity in identifying quality children's literature.

## Author and Illustrator Workshop

Room to Read India's Book Publishing Program initiatives' primary focus is reducing the gap for non-available material in the market. The findings from the 'Ideal Book Collection' event helps identify these gaps.

Author and Illustrator workshops are conducted each year to create new storybooks. Local authors and illustrators are invited to the workshop to help create relatable storybooks for children. Certain themes remain unexplored in Indian children's literature, through the workshops these themes are identified and authors are encouraged to work on them to address existing gaps in the market. Facilitators hold focused sessions for participants to build their understanding of readers, story ideas, editing techniques, storyboarding, and relatable characters.

Before publishing, books are 'Field Tested' with children to get feedback on the storyline, subject appropriateness, engagement, and reading difficulty. The testing also helps in leveling these books as per the GROWBY\* color-coded book leveling system.



## Positive Influence

**230**  
new titles published  
till 2023

**839**  
storybook titles adapted  
into local Indian  
languages till 2023

Books have been published in local language like Chhattisgarh, Bundeli, Garhwali and Rajasthani and tribal languages like Ho, Mundari, Kudukh, Santhali, Khadiya, Surgujiya, and Halbi

**44 authors and 45 illustrators** trained in various aspects of book publishing in 2023

**41**  
storybook titles adapted in 2023

**3**  
new titles published in 2023

Titles have been published in various Indian languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, Kannada, English, and Urdu

## Partnering with State Governments

Room to Read India supports State Governments in promoting literacy among multilingual children through various engagements including workshops. We also build capacities of teachers and government officials, to elevate the discourse around reading and various aspects of children's literature, such as identifying good literature, the importance of stories, etc. This contributes to significant systemic and on-the-ground changes.

In collaboration with the governments of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, and Maharashtra, we have created 240 unique reading materials. Some of these have been translated into different regional and tribal languages, bringing the total to **684 reading materials** for children in **21 Indian languages**, including Hindi.



## Understanding the need for Quality Reading Material

In the initial years of a child's development, the ability to read is the foundation for all future learning. Reading opens doors to the independent and dynamic exploration of knowledge. It contributes to engage thoughtfully with language in various social and cultural settings. While storytelling comes naturally, reading is a skill that must be taught through purposeful and meaningful activities involving printed materials. Unfortunately, there is a significant shortage of high-quality culturally relevant children's literature in low-income countries. This scarcity is most pronounced when we look at quality children's literature in regional languages.

This lack of quality reading material in the countries where we operate prompted Room to Read to commence publishing local-language books in 2005.

**750 Million Adults**  
lack basic reading and writing skills

**124 Million Children**  
and adolescents are not in school

**1 in 4 Children**  
in low-income countries cannot read

Source: UNESCO - Global Education Monitoring Report, 2022

## Book Publishing Program

Proficiency in reading goes beyond simply decoding text and comprehension skills. It's essential to focus on socio-emotional learning for children, including motivation, and engagement with language and stories, in order to create lasting change and foster a love of reading. Providing children with easy access to a wide variety of engaging books tailored to their reading level and mother tongue can significantly increase the likelihood of them becoming lifelong readers. Through our Book Publishing Program, we ensure the availability of age-appropriate and culturally relevant books in local languages, allowing readers to enjoy materials suitable for their reading skill development.