

## 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)

## The Room to Read Children's Literature Awards

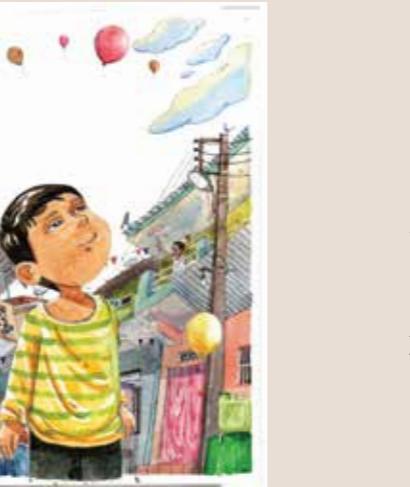
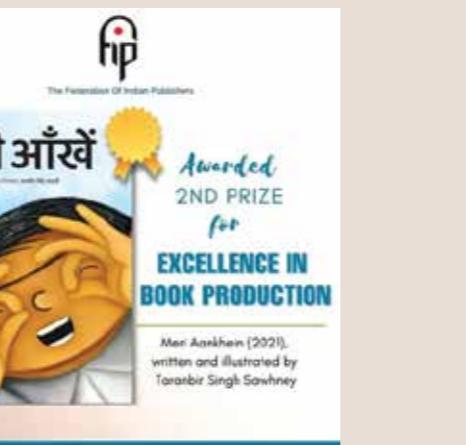
In the spirit of making room for a linguistically diverse children's literature ecosystem and recognizing literary excellence in the field, the first Room to Read's Children's Literature Awards (CLA) was initiated in 2023. Currently in their third edition, the awards also aim to empower teachers and librarians, giving them agency in the recognition of those children's books that they found most supportive of children in their learning journey. Under this initiative, we aim to award more books in Indian languages each year.



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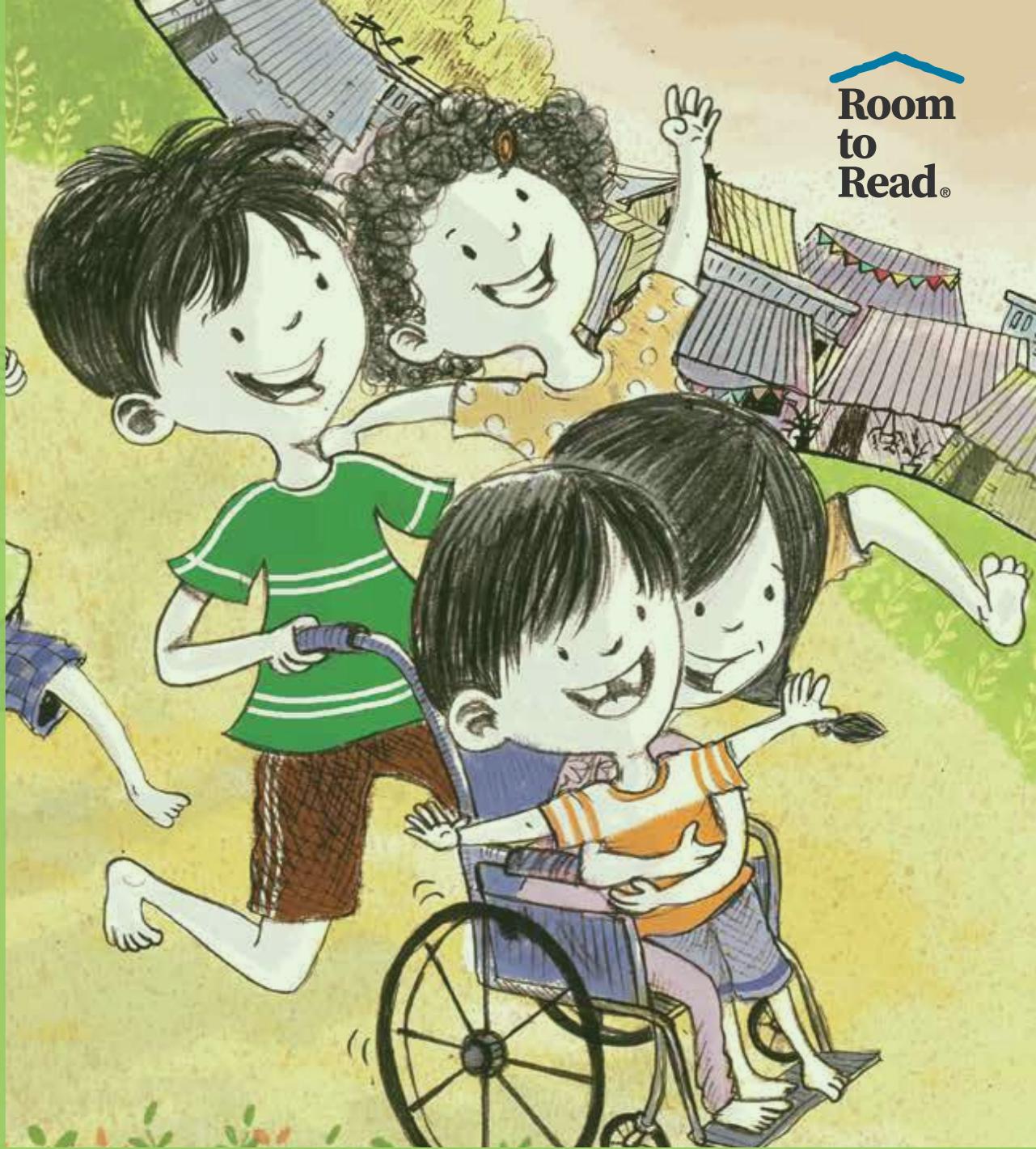
## Awards and Recognition



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



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# QUALITY READING MATERIAL

*An opportunity to create  
early readers*



## 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 allows them 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.

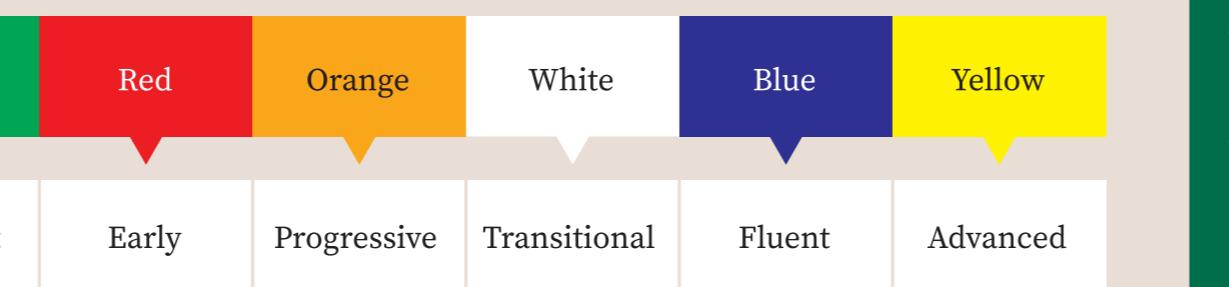
Each year at the 'Ideal Book Collection' (IBC) event, reputed publishers offer their books to be analyzed for our collections. These books undergo a rigorous review process by an expert committee including educationists, school principals, primary teachers, parents/community members, children's literature 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 actively supports state governments in creating their Ideal Book Collections to build grassroots-level capacity in identifying quality children's literature.

## GROWBY Model

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



## Ideal Book Collection

The library is one of the most significant components of Room to Read programs. 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.



## Author and Illustrator Workshops

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 help 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, and 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

**240**  
new titles published till 2024

**Almost 900**  
storybook titles adapted into local Indian languages till 2024

Book have been published in local languages like Chhattisgarhi, Bundeli, Garhwali and Rajasthani and tribal languages like Ho, Mundari, Kudukh, Santhali, Khadiya, Suriya, and Halbi

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

**40**  
storybook titles adapted in 2024

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 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.

