

## Partnering with State Governments

Room to Read India supports State Governments in their endeavor to promote literacy among multilingual children by conducting 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.

The Chhattisgarh government collaborated with Room to Read India to help them develop 10 new titles in six local languages.

In Jharkhand, books were adapted into five different tribal languages- Ho, Mundari, Kudukh, Santhali, and Khadiya.

We have extended our support to license the Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand state governments to print, publish and distribute our books as part of their Early Childhood Care Education kit.

## Literacy Cloud

Room to Read offers Literacy Cloud as 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 specially by children's authors and illustrators worldwide.

**The titles are published in 24 different languages, including 6 Indian regional languages.**

Access them at [www.literacycloud.org](http://www.literacycloud.org)

The 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 nearly 1600 book titles in 24 languages worldwide, Literacy Cloud aims to serve as an online knowledge hub to promote effective foundational literacy skills among early-grade learners.



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# QUALITY READING MATERIAL

*An opportunity to create early readers*



## Understanding Need for Books

**In the initial years, 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 active and mindful interaction with language in different social and cultural contexts.

Stories and storytelling come naturally to us, but reading is an acquired skill that must be learned. It requires engagement with purposeful, meaningful, and early print activities. Unfortunately, there is a huge scarcity of quality children's books. High-quality, culturally relevant children's literature is often limited or non-existent in low-income countries. Books for beginners or early readers are the most neglected. This scarcity deepens when we look at quality children's literature in regional languages.



**The lack of good reading material/books in the countries where we work impelled Room to Read to start publishing local-language books in 2005.**

## Book Publishing Program

We at Room to Read India believe that 'reading well' is not just the effective mastering of text decoding and comprehension skills. There is a need for a stronger focus on effective reading processes – motivation, enjoyment of books, and engagement with language and stories if we are to make a substantive long-term change to children's reading and make them **lifelong readers**. We also believe that if children can easily and independently find a wide variety of engaging books appropriate to their reading level and language, they are more likely to become lifelong readers. **Our Book Publishing Program** ensures age-appropriate and culturally relevant books in local languages that readers can enjoy at various development levels of their reading skills.

## Ideal Book Collection

The library is one of the significant components of Room to Read India's Comprehensive Literacy Program. 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 Collection Development' policy.

To accomplish this, we organize an 'Ideal Book Collection' (IBC) Event where reputed publishers offer their book 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 to source an ideal collection from the available resources in the market and also allows us to analyze where the most significant gaps are in the collection and identify insufficient resources available for a particular level or theme.

Room to Read India also conducts 'Publisher's Meet' to discuss the major gaps and the need 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.

## Authors' and Illustrators' Workshop

Room to Read India's Book Publishing Program initiative's primary focus is reducing the gap for non-available material in the market. Analyzing the findings from the 'Ideal Book Collection' event helps us identify the need we cannot meet through procured books from local publishers.

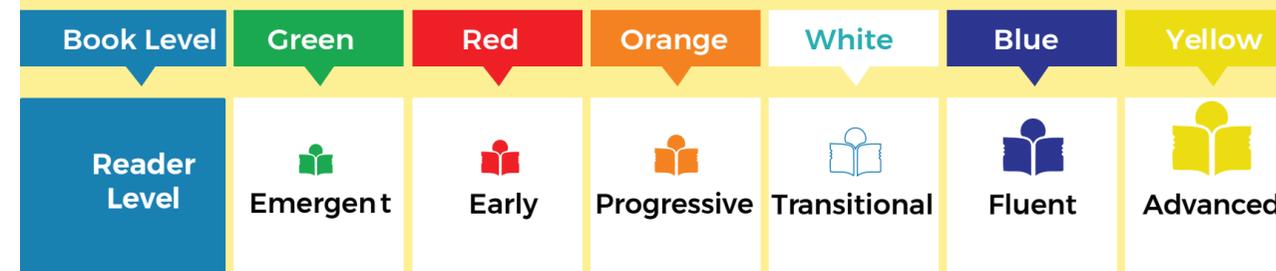
Under the Book Publishing Program, we organize Authors' and Illustrators' workshops to create new storybooks. Local authors and illustrators are invited to the workshop to promote local talent. Certain themes remain unexplored in Indian children's literature, and we also ask the authors to work on these themes to address the gaps in the market. Facilitators hold very focused sessions for participants to build their understanding of target readers, story ideas, editing techniques, storyboarding, and relatable characters.

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



## GROWBY Model

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



## Achieving Dreams

Over the years, Room to Read India has received honors for best illustrations, best children's books, and book excellence. We have also been awarded the 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. In India, we have received the Federation of Indian Publishers Award for three years in a row.

**Room to Read India, alone, is credited with publishing 220 Original Titles.**

These titles have been published in many Indian languages

**Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, and Kannada.**

Books have also been published in a few other languages

**English, Urdu, Chhattisgarhi, Bundeli, Garhwali, and Rajasthani.**

We have also published in tribal languages such as

**Ho, Mundari, Kudukh, Santhali, Khadiya, Surgujiya, and Halbi.**

**11,476,414** books were printed and distributed in over 15,000 schools under the Room to Read India's Book Publishing Program till December 31, 2021.

We have also uploaded books on the **DIKSHA** and many government platforms to enable digital access to some of our titles.

The trends from 2018 to 2022 show a steady rise in the number of books being checked out by children across our libraries in India.

