

Book Publishing Program

Started in 2005, our Book Publishing Program ensures culturally and developmentally appropriate books in local languages for young readers. These young readers are exposed to various writing styles and genres to match their distinct levels of reading skills. These books have been published in many regional languages, including Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, Kannada, and Urdu.



Annual Flagship Campaign

#IndiaGetsReading

To foster a culture of reading and improve literacy outcomes among children, our annual flagship India Gets Reading campaign plays a crucial role in promoting essential reading habits and foundational skills across communities. In 2024, our reading campaign reached out to more than 44 Lakh participants from across the 10 intervention states. The theme, "Make Room for Early Learning," emphasized how child development from an early age is crucial for community and economic growth, as capable children contribute to a prosperous society.

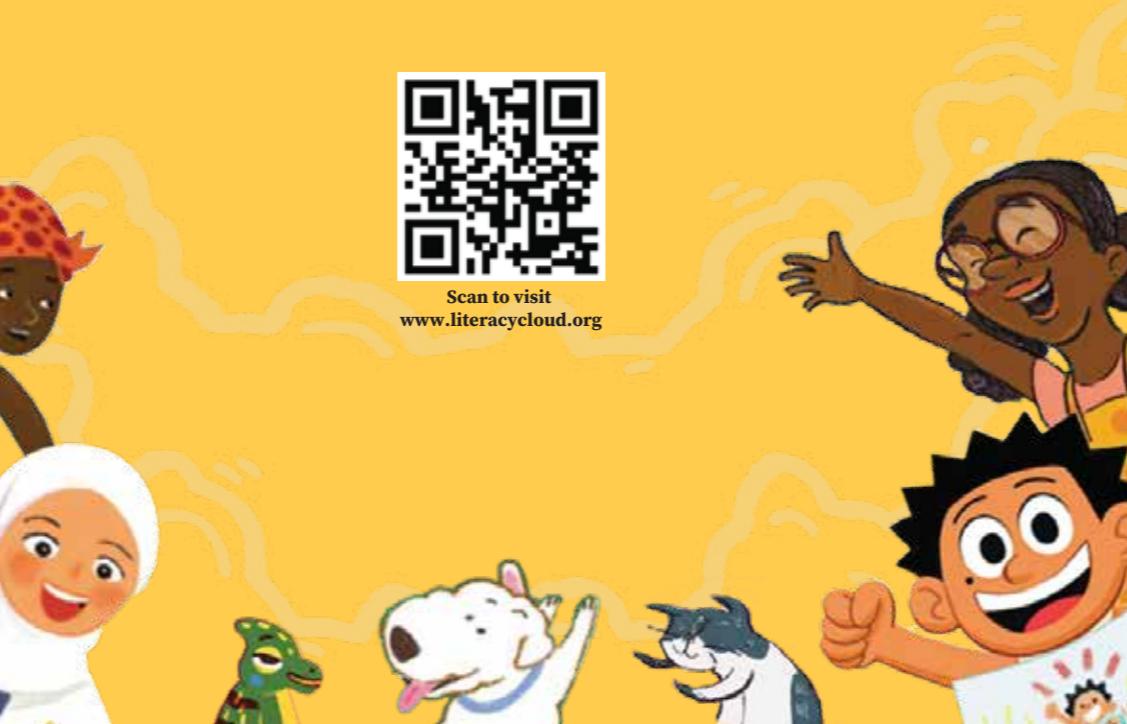


Read our Campaign Newsletter



Literacy Cloud

Room to Read has taken one step forward and made fun and engaging books available digitally through the Literacy Cloud platform. We offer 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 platform offers online books, developed by specialized children's authors and illustrators worldwide. The titles are published in 40+ languages, including 6 Indian languages.



Global Recognition

Room to Read India's literacy intervention in India - Scaling up Early Reading Intervention (SERI) was recognized as one of only eight programs globally that are "effective at scale" by the Center for Global Development's "Learning @ Scale" research initiative, conducted by RTI International and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This brief report presents findings on what worked to improve learning outcomes at scale from the multi-state, multi-year SERI experience. The brief outlines how in SERI, Room to Read approached implementation to maximize program success and what are some essential components for improving instructional practices, instructional support and system support.



Scan the QR
to learn more

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.



📍 C 21 Qutub Institutional Area, Block C,
New Delhi 110016
✉️ info.india@roomtoread.org
🌐 www.roomtoreadindia.org
📞 +91 11 46664999

LITERACY PROGRAM

Developing Independent
Readers and Lifelong Learners





Only about 44.8% of Grade 5 government school students nationwide can read the text meant for Grade 2 level.

-Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024

National and international reports highlight the crucial role of reading in developing early-grade literacy and achieving universal education goals. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 clearly prioritizes achieving universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy skills at the primary level by 2026-27.

According to the report of National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, the average performance of students in Language at the National level in grade 3 is 323 (with a scaled score of 500). It has declined to 309 in grade 5 and has continued to decrease in grade 8 and grade 10. Even more alarming is the fact that most of the states performed significantly below the overall national score except Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Punjab.

If a child does not have sufficient literacy skills by Grade 3, it is very challenging for them to catch up.

-National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Foundational Literacy Challenges in India

- There is a lack of level quality reading material/libraries for early grades.
- Lack of skill-focused monitoring & supportive supervision at school level.
- Low pre-school/emergent literacy experience for Grade 1 students.
- Difficulties in literacy and language development in multilingual contexts.
- Limited opportunities for pedagogical demonstration in training and assessment of the training's positive effect.

Supporting Early Learners: Literacy program

Room to Read India's Literacy Program supports early-grade children to develop into independent readers and lifelong learners. To achieve this, we combine learning to read with the magic of loving to read. Using two decades of on-ground work experience and scientific research, we have designed a unique and innovative approach- The Comprehensive Literacy Approach, that enables an environment that helps early learners acquire knowledge, unlock their potential, achieve their goals, and actively participate in their community and society at large.

Under our Literacy Program, we train teachers, create quality books & curricular materials, and establish child-friendly libraries filled with diverse quality-enriched children's books in local languages that students can enjoy at school or home. To ensure a sustainable route, we partner with local communities, governments, and the publishing industry to test and implement innovative models that help children attain foundational literacy skills and develop a love for reading.

Our work is in alignment with the Ministry of Education's NIPUN Bharat Mission

Comprehensive Literacy



Library Program
Focuses on improving habit of reading across Grades 1-5

Literacy Instruction Program
Focuses on improving reading skills for Grades 1 and 2

Case Story

In a small village in Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh, lives Rani (name changed), a bright young girl with big dreams. Her parents work as daily wage laborers but have always wished for a better life for their three daughters. Despite their modest two-room home, they ensured Rani was enrolled in the local government school.

When they learned the school was adopting innovative teaching practices, they were hopeful. Initially, Rani struggled – she was irregular in attendance, quiet in class, and reluctant to go to school.

Her transformation began when she discovered the reading corner set up by Room to Read. It was filled with colorful, grade-appropriate books and engaging activities. With her library teacher's encouragement, Rani slowly gained confidence, borrowing books daily and reading aloud to her family.

By Grade 2, her reading skills had surpassed the NIPUN targets. Her new confidence made her an eager participant in group activities and a natural leader among peers. "I will do it first!" she proudly says today.

Her hard work culminated in winning first place in the district-level Language Olympiad, earning recognition from the District Collector – a moment of pride for her family, school, and village.

Rani's journey shows that with the right support, every child can read, lead, and thrive.

Our Positive Influence

2,04,66,633
Children supported till 2024

1,62,824
schools benefited till 2024

12,058
Teachers trained in 2024

*Current data represents near-final estimates; minor adjustments may follow.

Room to Read is working with 12 State Governments towards strengthening, designing and implementation of NIPUN Bharat through:

1. Development of literacy skills among early grade children to grow into independent readers and lifelong learners.
2. Designing of curriculum and associated teaching learning materials.
3. Designing implementing, training and capacity building plans of teachers and government officials.
4. Capacity building of middle management leading to better monitoring.
5. Supporting the development of assessment frameworks and tools.

