



Headline:

Pratham Books' StoryWeaver receives the prestigious Library of Congress Literacy Award 2017 International Prize

Body Text:

On September 1, Pratham Books' StoryWeaver received the prestigious Library of Congress Literacy Award 2017 International Prize for creating open access to storybooks in mother tongue languages for children. StoryWeaver is a digital platform that provides free access to a large repository of children's storybooks in multiple languages. Users can read all the stories either online, offline or even by downloading and printing the storybooks. But more than that, StoryWeaver is a collaborative platform that has enabled the creation and localisation of content at scale. By providing simple tools that enable users to translate and version or create new content, the platform has grown from 800 stories in 24 languages to 4500 stories in 84 languages. From mainstream languages like English and Hindi to minority languages like Konkani and Kurdish, classical languages like Sanskrit to tribal languages like Kora and Santali, the platform has enabled the creation of reading resources in mother tongue languages to promote reading acquisition among children.

Pratham Books has received a cash prize of \$50,000, which is given to one organization based outside the United States that has made a significant and measurable contribution towards increasing literacy levels. With this award, Pratham Books' StoryWeaver is recognized globally for its contribution towards improving literacy among children.

Suzanne Singh, Chairperson Pratham Books said, "We are honoured to receive this award from the Library of Congress. We believe that every child should have equitable access to good quality reading resources in her own language. With StoryWeaver, we have demonstrated a new model that provides open access to a large repository of storybooks in multiple languages, to nurture the next generation of readers and learners."

An illustrative case is The Azad India Foundation (AIF) which has 73 learning centres with 3500 children in Kishanganj, Bihar. Yuman Hussain, Founder of AIF shared, "The main aim of our work is to ensure that children are ready to merge with mainstream education in state-run schools by grade 4. Literacy initiatives play a big role in ensuring this. The children that we engage with at the learning centres have never seen a story book in their mother tongue, which is a language called Surjapuri. Even my teachers haven't read books in Surjapuri." With StoryWeaver, AIF has been able to translate stories into Surjapuri and also get access to a vast library of reading resources.

Pratham Books (www.prathambooks.org) is a not-for-profit children's book publisher in 2004 with the mission to see 'a book in every child's hand'. Its key objective is to publish good quality, affordable storybooks in multiple languages to support reading acquisition among children.

Since inception, Pratham Books has published over 2400 books in 21 Indian languages. The books cover a range of genres including early readers, fiction, nonfiction, and storybooks on science, history, mathematics and nature. They have had the distinction of working with many of the country's renowned authors and illustrators and their books have won several awards as well.



StoryWeaver (www.storyweaver.org.in) takes the mission of 'a book in every child's hand' further by openly licensing its storybooks for users to read, download or print. By embedding tools for content creation - to enable users to repurpose the content into more languages and versions, a multiplier effect has been created that is catalysing the creation and availability of more content for children.

For media queries please write to amrita@prathambooks.org or purvi@prathambooks.org. You can reach us at 97311 29852. Please note that the organization name is **Pratham Books**.



Ms. Suzanne Singh, Chairperson, and Mr. R Sriram, Trustee of Pratham Books receiving the award at National Book Festival, Library of Congress.