



Pratham Books to massively scale the creation of multilingual early reading material with funding and technical support from Google.org

[Google.org](https://www.google.org/) has announced a \$8.4M commitment over two years to help scale four nonprofits in India working to make quality education a reality for everyone. “Access to learning and information is a part of our core values at Google”, said Brigitte Hoyer Gosselink, Education Lead, Google.org. Pratham Books is one of the four nonprofit innovators in India to receive funding. The organizations have been chosen for applying radical, data-driven innovations to solving the world's biggest challenges.

Pratham Books received the grant for StoryWeaver, its open source, digital repository of stories for children. Users can read, translate, create and repurpose stories with easy to use tools embedded on the platform. In the 18 months since its launch, StoryWeaver has grown from a digital repository of 800 stories in 24 languages to one with over 3100 stories in 67 languages of the world. The stories have been read about 1 million times and downloaded over 100,000 times.

The grant from Google.org will enable Pratham Books to massively scale the number of quality stories available on StoryWeaver and expand distribution and access to the platform by building technology driven features like an offline version of accessing StoryWeaver in offline mode. There will also be a focus on improving the translation experience on the platform and Pratham Books will have access to Google’s expertise in this domain.

The focus on introducing offline access and localization is based on user insights and uptake.

More than 60% of the languages on the platform have been added on user requests empowering educators to create early reading material in minority languages (Tibetan), tribal languages (Kora and Santali) and endangered languages (Kurdish). Literacy organizations and schools have been downloading and projecting stories on classroom walls, while some organizations print the stories for after school resource centres. The content from the platform has been downloaded and gamified for affordable literacy apps and also used to create audio and Braille books for visually disabled children. Internationally, content from StoryWeaver has been adopted by other literacy-focussed platforms like the African Storybook Project, Bloom Library, World Reader, Asia Foundation and iArabicReader, indicating that there is scarcity of early reading materials in many languages globally.

“Pratham Books is using technology as a force multiplier to massively scale the availability of reading resources for children in mother tongue languages. With StoryWeaver, we have demonstrated a new social publishing model that combines the power of openly licensed content and networked communities to open up new pathways to nurture a generation of readers and learners.” Suzanne Singh, Chairperson, Pratham Books.

Our vision for StoryWeaver is to create a global repository of early reading resources in mother tongue languages so that all children can learn and practice reading, which is an essential pathway to literacy.

<http://www.storyweaver.org.in/>

