



## Creating reading resources for children in the indigenous languages of the Global South

**Amna Singh, Pratham Books**



# The Book Crisis

- Globally, 617 M children are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading, despite attending school
- Poor availability of local language reading materials in low-middle income countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America

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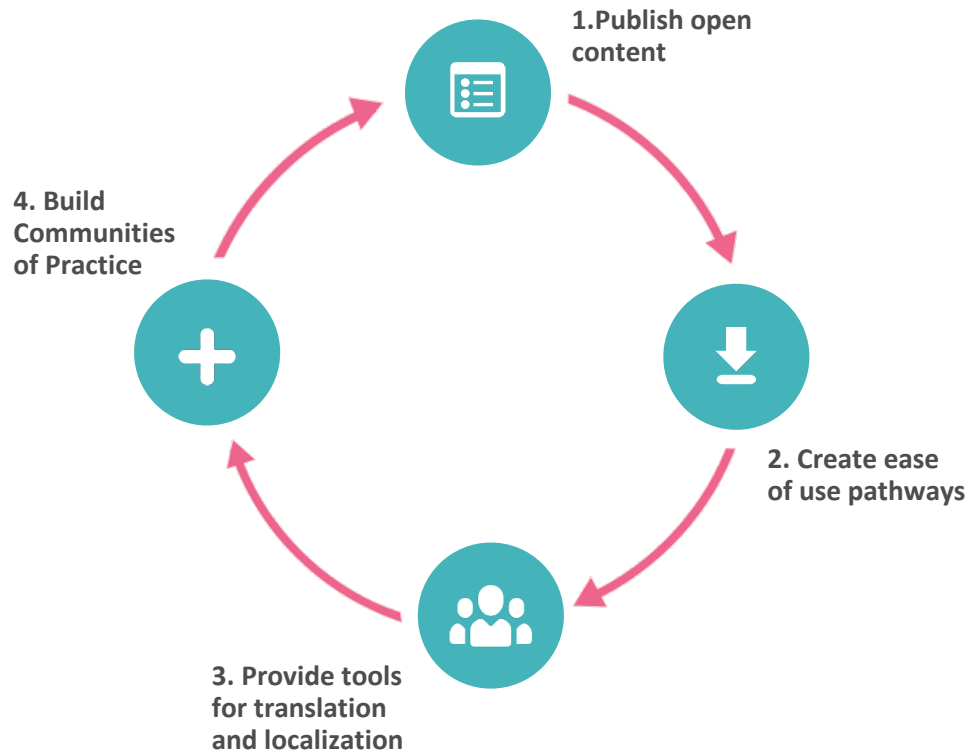
*Urgent response needed if we are to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for universal literacy*



## Catalyzing the creation of quality reading materials



# The StoryWeaver Model





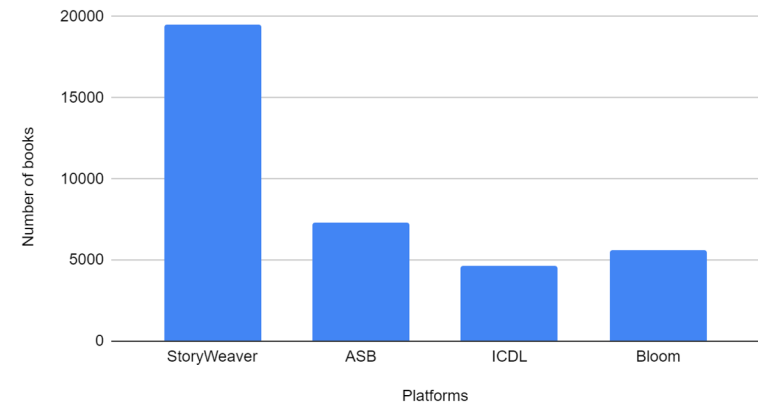
# #1 The Core: Quality, open licensed content

- Over 5000 original publisher titles
  - All books are licensed under CC BY 4.0
- Pioneered the open content movement among children's publishers

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*StoryWeaver is the fastest growing platform for quality open licensed children's books*

Number of books vs Platforms



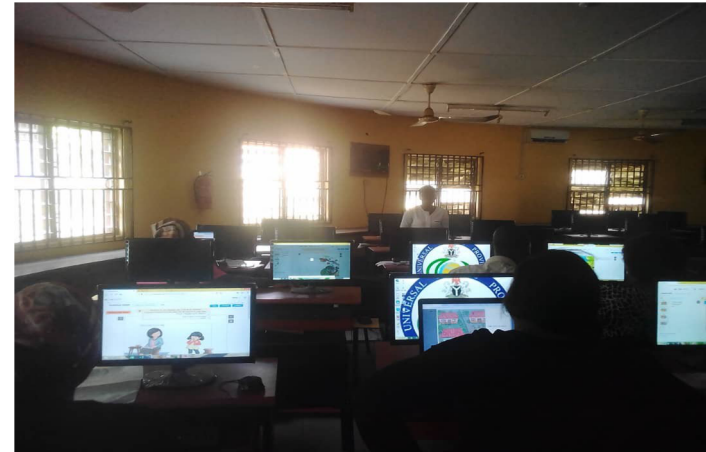
## #2 Build Communities of Practice



Suchana's team of Santali and Kora translators and reviewers trained to build indigenous language libraries, including bilinguals.

### INDIA

200 storybooks in a short span of two years



Educators and librarians across Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda participating in the StoryWeaver Translation Sprint

### AFRICA

250+ storybooks, including STEM storybooks translated for #Read AfricaRead promotion in 9 indigenous languages



## #3 Collaborate with Universities and MOEs



Uganda Christian University (UCU) collaborated with StoryWeaver to support early literacy initiatives by translating storybooks on StoryWeaver and making them freely available to the local communities

### AFRICA

340 books created, translated, reviewed and published by students of Uganda Christian University, Uganda in 15 indigenous Ugandan languages



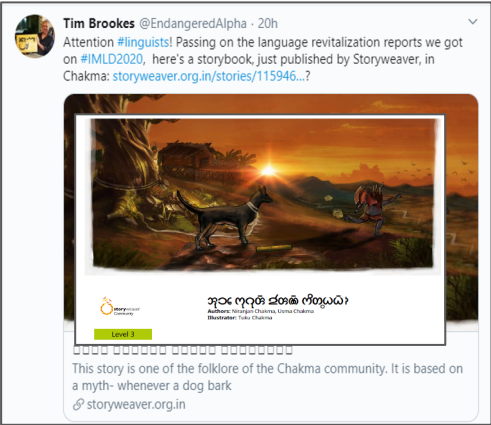
Indian Multilingual Institute supported by the District Institute for Education and Teacher Training (DIET) collaborated with StoryWeaver to create #firstbooks in Kolami

### INDIA

100 bilingual books created in Kolmai, a Definitely Endangered indigenous language in collaboration with MOE



# #4 Language preservation



The first-ever digital storybook in an indigenous language spoken in North-East India and Bangladesh, created & published on StoryWeaver

**CHAKMA**  
#OwnVoices



Archiving an indigenous language from West Bengal, India, to preserve a fading language

**KORA**  
#LostWords



From taking years to develop a book by pasting paper strips to creating books from a violence stricken region in northern Mexico, by using StoryWeaver

**TARAHUMARA**  
#BookCrisis



Storybooks in Chocholteco, an indigenous language from Mexico, were among the first written texts in over a decade

**CHOCHOLTECO**  
#FirstBook



# #5 Leveraging technology



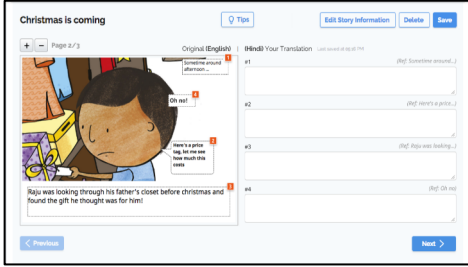
For nuanced translation

Dictionary Assist



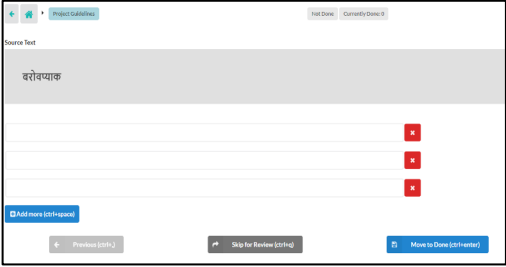
To enhance skill and quality

Crowdsourced Suggestions



For low resource environments

Offline Translate



Digitization of under-represented languages

Open source input tools



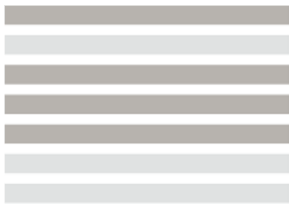




# StoryWeaver Impact

*Sep 2015*

800 Books  
24 Languages



*Mar 2020*

19,400 Books  
233 Languages



21M  
Readership



2.6M  
Users



500,000  
Downloads



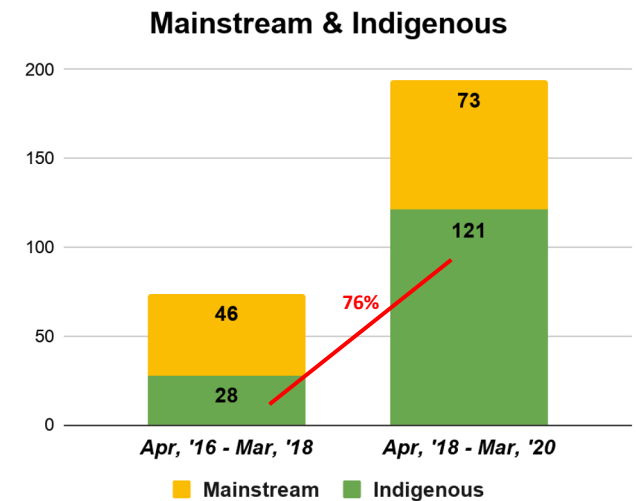
195  
Countries



# Catalyzing book creation in indigenous languages

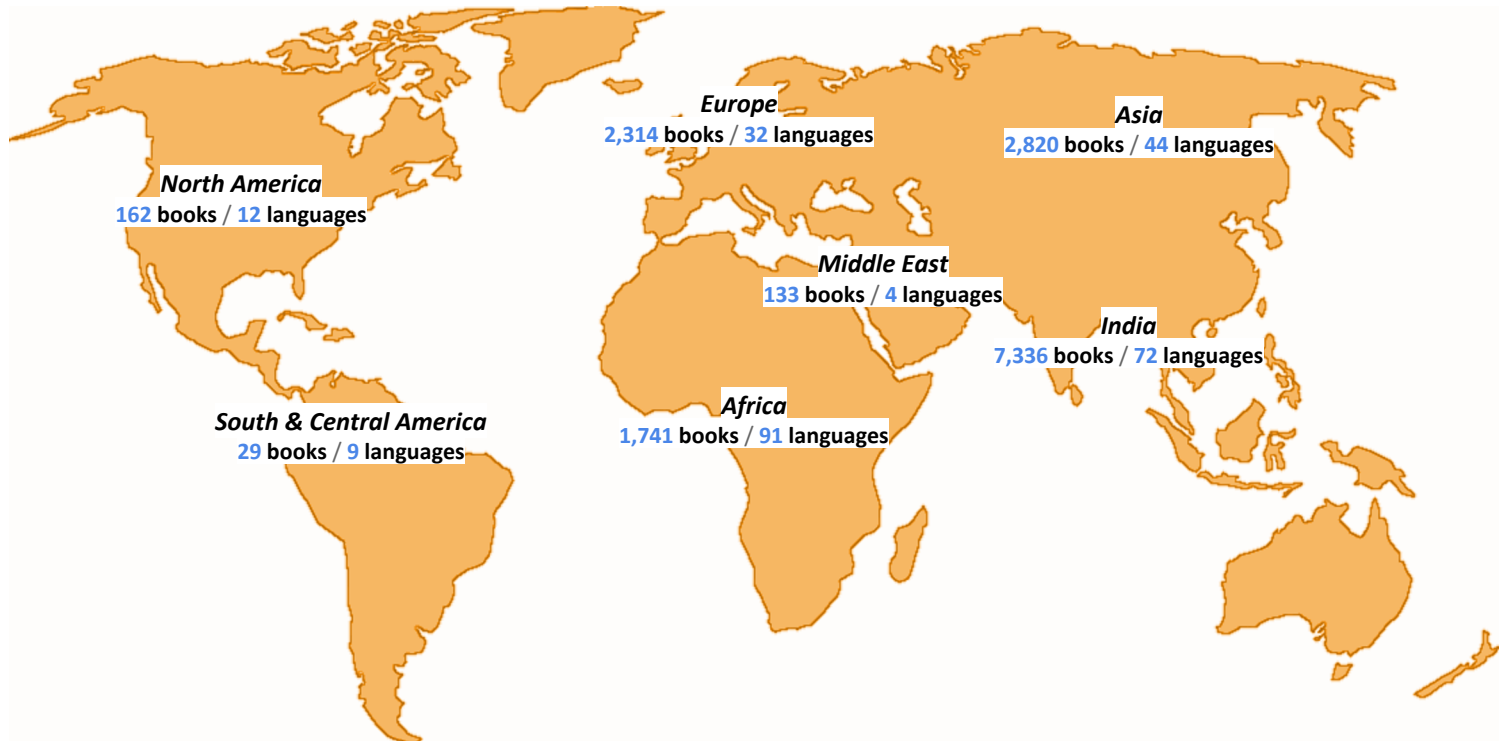
- 2700 storybooks in indigenous languages
- Mainstream language libraries serving as source to create indigenous language content

*~ 60% of all languages on the platform are indigenous*





# Goal: Create a network of local language libraries globally



[www.storyweaver.org.in](http://www.storyweaver.org.in)

