Doorbeen

Stories bring children closer to a whole new world of possibilities much like the telescope that unveils the mysteries of the sky. Doorbeen, the Hindi word for telescope, is an initiative by the H T Parekh Foundation for supporting the establishment of vibrant libraries and enriching the space of children's literature. We believe that through stories, we can take children on enjoyable journeys that ignite their curiosity, build knowledge, develop reading skills and shape their thinking, imagination and creativity.

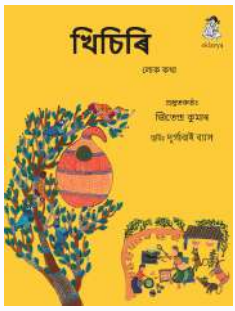
Launched in 2022, Doorbeen strives to create lively library spaces in schools and communities, offering children access to a thoughtfully curated selection of age-appropriate and contextually relevant titles. Recognising the need for quality children's literature for diverse groups, it also aims to translate and create titles in regional languages. An equally important component of thriving libraries is a committed and trained library facilitator; thus, the project also seeks to build capacities of librarians. In doing so, the ultimate vision of Doorbeen is to foster a reading culture that brings joy, nurtures critical thinking and contributes to language and socio-emotional development in children.

So far, we have partnered with 6 organisations across different geographies that would cumulatively reach over 25,000 children through library set-up and training programmes in communities and low-income schools.

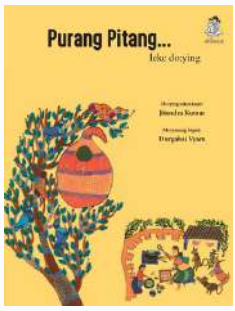


Our other efforts include:

- We learnt how there is a dearth of quality children's literature in local dialects in Assam. This led us to foster a partnership between Eklavya Foundation and Ayang Trust to create 1 original title and translate 12 existing Eklavya books into Assamese and Mising languages.



Assamese



Mising



- We also enabled solar electrification of 18 libraries in Majuli, Assam so that children and community members could comfortably spend more time reading there.

- In July 2023, we convened a focus group meeting in Mumbai of experts and enthusiasts in the space of children's literature and library to collaboratively discuss and gain insights on critical topics such as opportunities and challenges in children's literature, the role of technology in bridging access gap between books and children, the scope for funding and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. We had over 20 participants from different organizations such as Pratham Books, Tata Trusts, Eklavya Foundation, Bookworm, Pragat Shikshan Sanstha, Adhyayan Foundation, Ayang Trust, 17000ft Foundation, Ek Tara, Bhabook, Aaghaz Theatre Trust and Snehjori attend this event.

