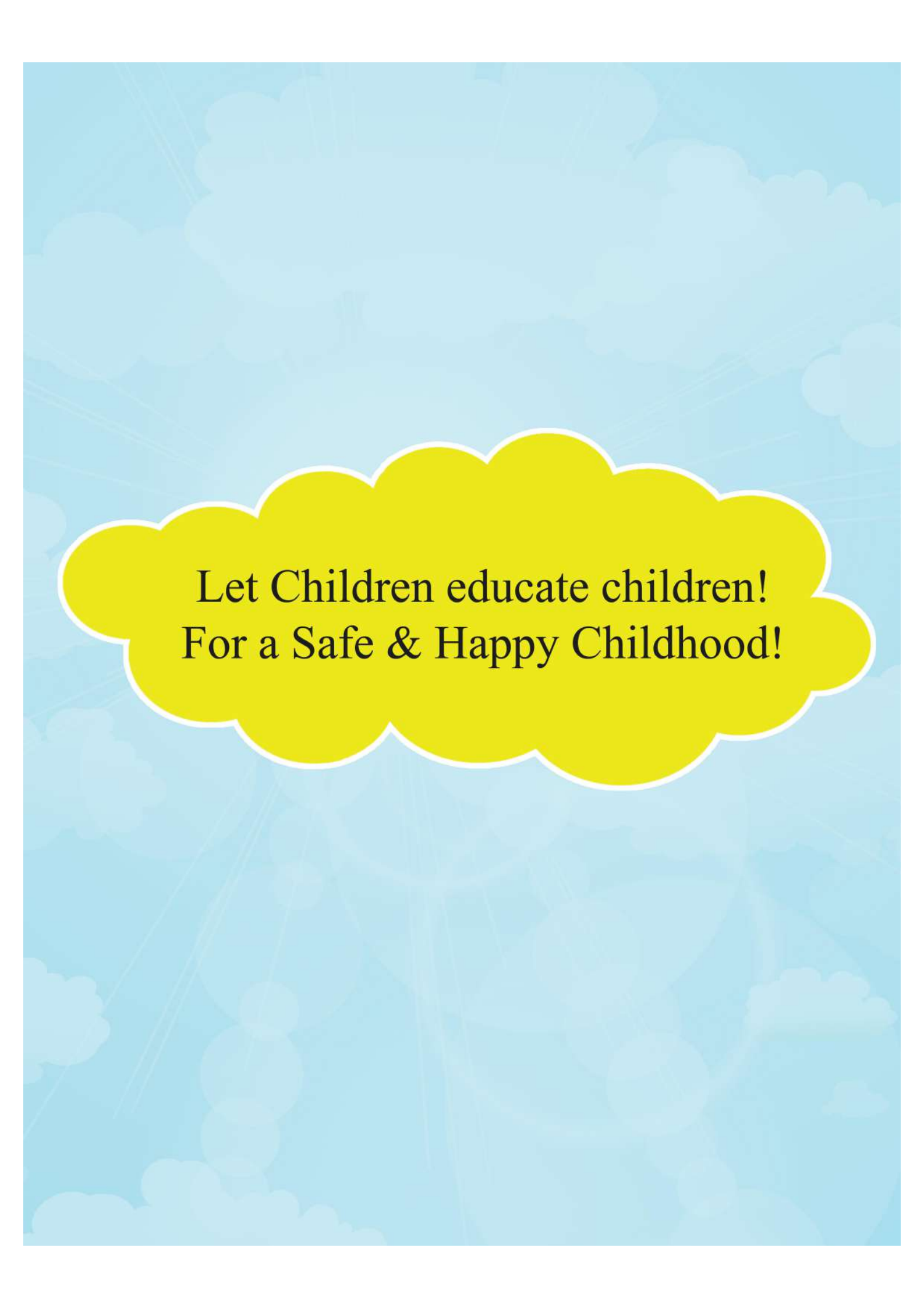




Sonu Monu & Child Marriage





**Let Children educate children!
For a Safe & Happy Childhood!**



Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

We are thrilled to introduce you to a groundbreaking initiative that addresses a pressing need in our society: Sonu Monu Comics. This innovative series is designed to educate children about their rights and protection through engaging storytelling.

Sonu Monu Comics follows the adventures of two 12-year-olds, Sonu and Monu, as they navigate critical issues such as child marriage, sexual abuse, child labor, the right to education, and trafficking. Created with the aim of making complex child protection issues accessible and understandable for young readers, this series empowers children with the knowledge and confidence they need to protect themselves and advocate for their rights.

This project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of many dedicated individuals. We extend our deepest gratitude to Roopak Chauhan for conceptualising this innovative project and to Dr. Antara Verma for naming Sonu Monu, the gender neutral characters of comics ensuring inclusivity. Special thanks go to Rahi Publishers for their expertise in transforming these concepts into vibrant and engaging comics. Special thanks are for Sushil Bharti, Mamta Soni, Manoj Pandit and Anita Pandit for their unwavering dedication at every step of the project.

We also wish to recognize graphic designer Ridhima Karwal, who designed the creative stories into a comprehensive set of comics and Anuradha Singh for her role in overseeing the book's development and orchestrating its strategic marketing to ensure it reaches and impacts its audience effectively.

Available in both Hindi and English, Sonu Monu comics are designed to captivate young minds with colorful illustrations and straight forward language, making essential lessons on self-protection and child rights accessible to all. They serve as a valuable resource for children and a powerful tool for educators, NGOs, and libraries, facilitating important conversations and self-learning opportunities in an educational and enjoyable manner.

We are excited about the potential of Sonu Monu Comics to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children across India. By providing this resource freely online, we aim to ensure that every child has access to the knowledge needed to safeguard their well-being and future.

We Thank Adobe Community Fund for supporting this vital cause.

Warm regards,

Dr Mala Bhandari
Founder Director
SADRAG
August 2024



Himmatwale Sonu Monu

Sonu Monu and Child Marriage

Sonu and Monu were students of class VI in the same school. They were neighbors.



They were 12 years old and often played together in the neighbourhood park.

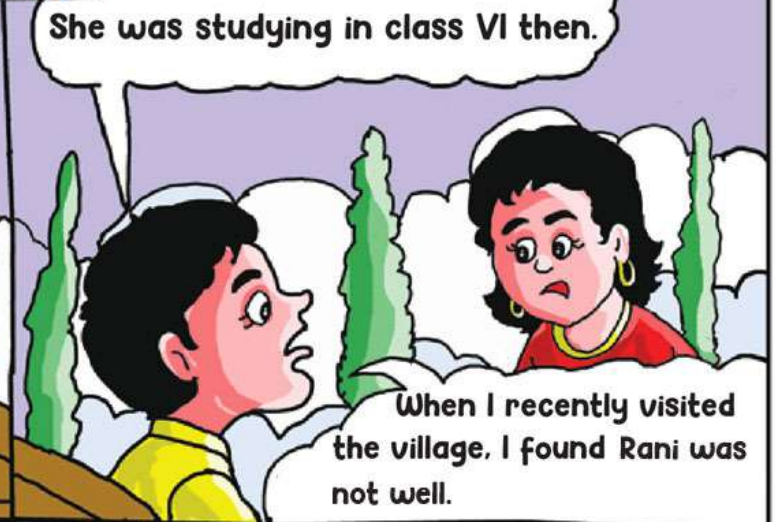
During summer vacations, Monu visited his grandparents in the village.



After Monu returned he and Sonu went to play in the park.

Sonu saw that Monu was very sad on that day.







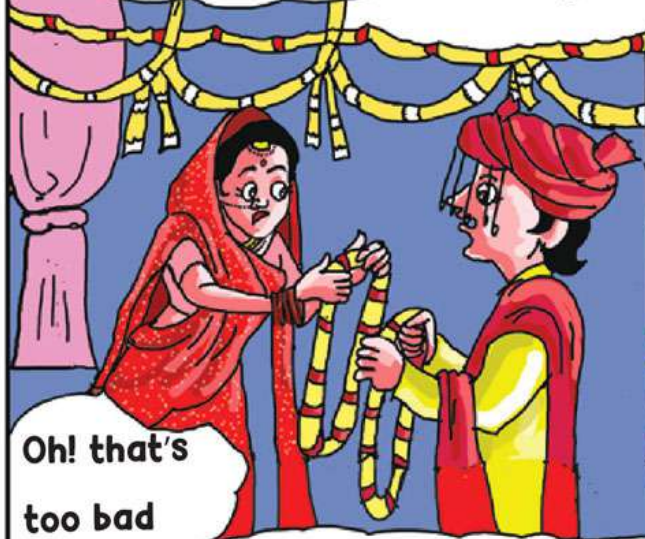
She doesn't talk to anyone and remains very sad. She didn't even talk to me.



That day, the aunty who came from the hospital had told us...

That the girls shouldn't be married off at a younger age. But why so?

Early marriage impacts the girl's health.



Oh! that's too bad



Her growth is hampered and she may get seriously sick

Yes, Aunty said that early marriage can cause serious disease in girls

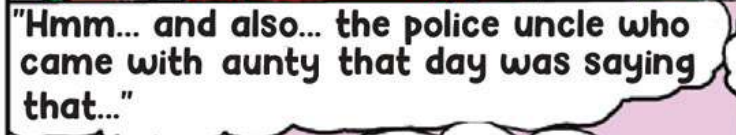
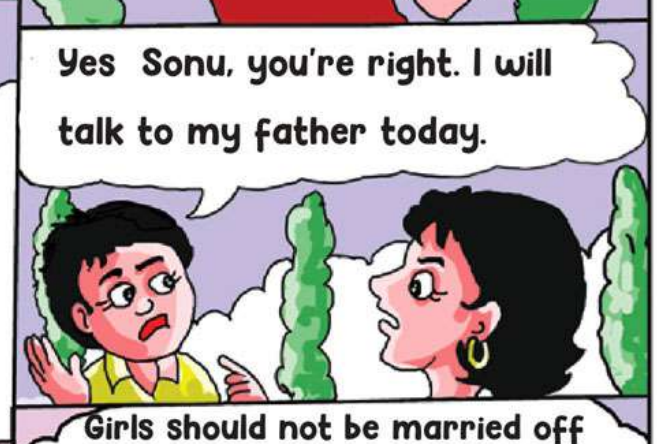
And look, Rani had to leave her school. She is a bright child.



HmmmI think, something similar has happened with Rani.



She should get back to school and play like us.



If you see a child being married off, you must lodge a complaint at the police station.



You may even complain to your village Pradhan or an NGO



Child marriage is a punishable offence.



I feel like lodging a police complaint against my uncle



"Hahahahahaha!!!"



Come, let's go to swings and enjoy!



And they both played in the park.



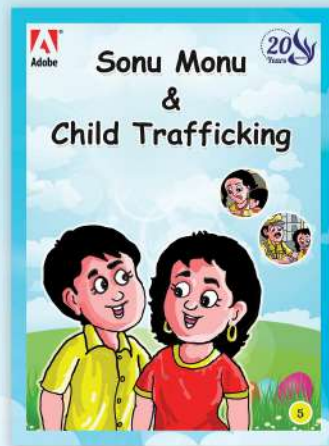
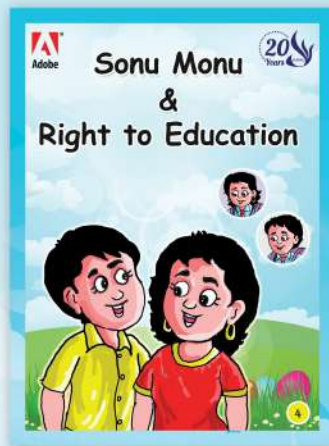
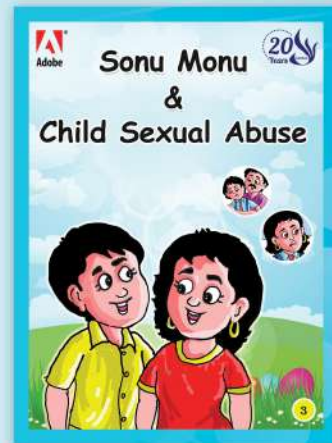
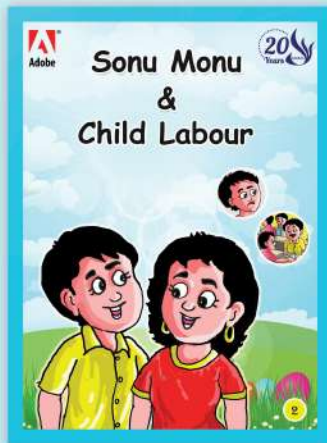
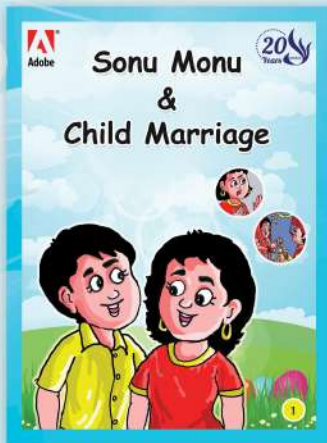
Major Laws on Child Rights in India

1. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act (amended in 2015)
2. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006
3. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012 (POCSO)
4. Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. (amended in 2016)
5. Right to Education Act 2009

What Makes Sonu Monu Comics unique !!

1. Engaging Stories: Short and precise stories narrated through colorful & vibrant pictures & easy to follow language
2. Relatable Characters: Sonu Monu are common and friendly names that the children can easily relate to.
3. Accessible to all: It caters to Hindi as well as English speaking populations and are shared at a pan India level.
4. A versatile resource: A valuable resource for teachers to use in school, NGOs to use in community and libraries to promote self reading. These comics are a perfect resource to trigger discussions and sharing of ideas.
5. Freely Accessible: The comics are available as free online resource that is accessible to all.

Himmatwale Sonu Monu



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