




Sonu Monu & Child Labour





**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

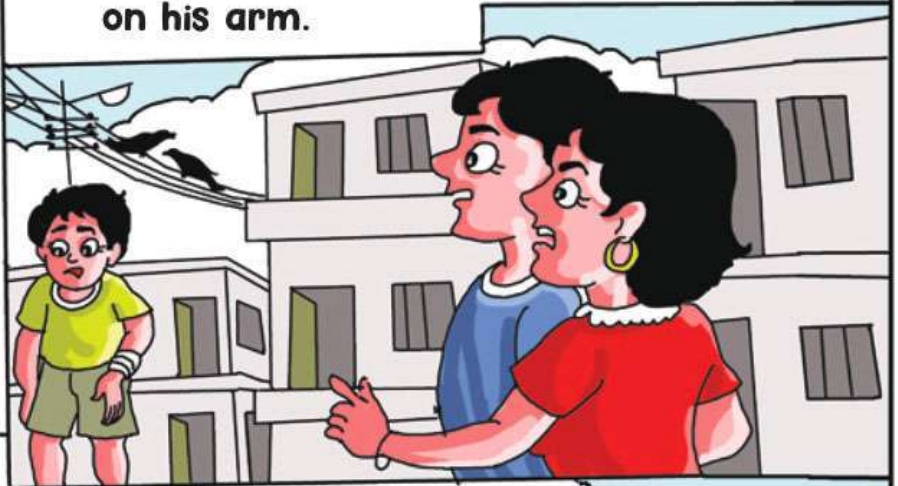


Himmatwale Sonu Monu

Sonu Monu and Child Labour



One day, Sonu Monu were returning home from the park. They saw Deepu, who lived nearby. He had a bandage on his arm.



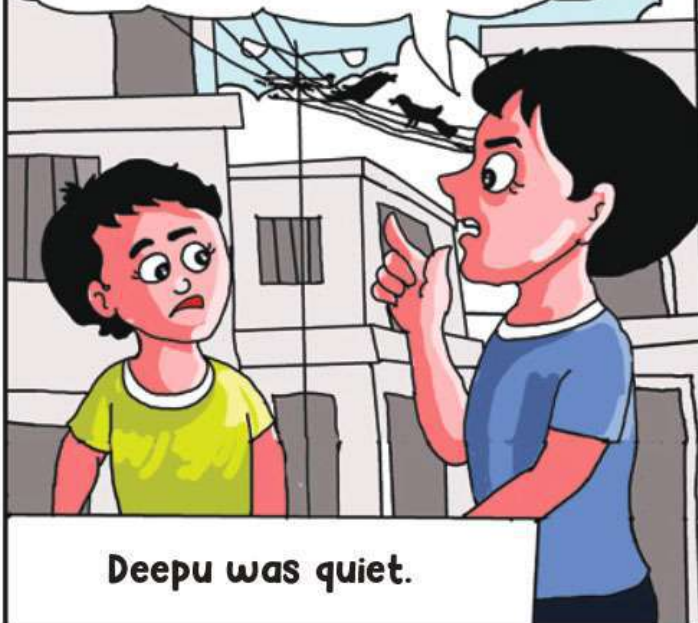
Deepu, what happened to your arm?

Nothing, my arm is burnt.



How did it happen?

On being asked repeatedly, Deepu said



I work at a roadside eatery. My arm was burnt while working on the gas.



Deepu was quiet.

But you are a child. You work at an eatery. Don't you go to school?



No, my father died last year. My mother works as a domestic help. She is sick these days.



Sonu Monu were sad to hear and they quietly left.

Your mom knows SADRAG NGO. Let's talk to her about Deepu.



On reaching home, Sonu spoke to her mother about Deepu.

Mother, Deepu, a little boy, lives in the nearby slums. He plays in the park every day. Today we saw that his arm was bruised. He told us that he works at a roadside eatery.

Mother, Deepu, a little boy...



Sonu's mother was concerned.

Yes, Deepu doesn't go to school because of work. Please help.

Next day, Sonu's mother goes to SADRAG office.

Oh! This isn't right. I will contact SADRAG for help

सदरग संस्था

She told them about Deepu.

Rekha ma'am from SADRAG and Sonu's mother go to Deepu's house.

We have come to know that Deepu works at a roadside eatery. This isn't right.

Child labour is a punishable crime. Since it hampers child's physical and mental growth. Every child has the Right to Education.

Didi, I thought that Deepu keeps playing the whole day. If he works, he can bring some money home.



We should not think like that.... Education is very important in life.



Do you want Deepu to work in an eatery his whole life?



No didi, Never!

I will send him to school and will ensure he is regular.



All three of them visit the eatery and see



many small children working there.



Rekha ma'am talks to the owner.



Ramprasad ji, child labour is a crime under "The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986". You should not let children under 14 years, work at the eatery.



Thank You ma'am for sharing the information...



From now on, no child below 14 years will work at my eatery.



If any such child comes, I will enrol him in a school.



Rekha ma'am and Sonu's mother said together...

And each child will study in school!!!



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.