Addressing the adolescence through Grassroots Comics

This publication is an outcome of a five days grassroots comics workshops organised during 26-30th April 2012. The workshop was jointly organised by NCERT, UNFPA, World Comics India. The participants of the workshop were students and teachers of Central School and Navodaya Vidyalaya of five states including Rajasthan, Orissa, Maharashtra, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

The facilitator of the workshop Sharad Sharma and Nida Shams of World Comics India helped participants to understand the medium of comics and how this can be used to convey a powerful message especially on the issue related to adolescence.

Participants not only made this final produced in the form of wallposter comics but also they discussed the every small point of the issue.

World Comics India has also developed a working manual to help those who would like to produce one such comics on their own stories.
RIA WAS INTERESTED IN PAINTING...

Papa! I want to participate in inter-school drawing competition.

No! Concentrate on your studies.

Mam! I've to take part in drawing competition but my father is not allowing me.

OK! Don't worry. I'll consult your father.

Later, when Ria participated in the competition...

Oh! That does mean that she is going to be a painter as well. Will get first position.

Hello Sir! If your daughter is interested in drawing, that means she finds it as a powerful medium through which she can express her views.

Hey! I am very happy I participated in the competition and made such a nice painting.
Minaxi scored 90% in +2 & wants to go to Chennai for higher studies.

HURRAYYYYYY!!! My application has been accepted!! I want to go to Chennai for further studies...

How will you manage alone there? You’ll not be comfortable with the language, people, food & culture of that place...

Choose any college here only.

Sure my son! I’m proud of you.

Why things are different for him & me? Not fair.

How will he manage alone there? Don’t you think food, culture, people & language of Hyderabad is also different from that of you? It’s 21st century & if he can manage, then why not do me? Just because I’m a girl!!

We are sorry dear! We understand & regret!! After completion of your graduation you can go there for your masters degree or job...

Thank you dad! Thank you mom!
Peer Pressure: After doing well in his exams, a boy is sent to the city for higher education. There, his friends ask him to start drinking alcohol. He joins them despite feeling guilty. After 3 years, he fails in all his exams and regrets falling into peer pressure. He also wishes he had instead spent his time curing his friends of their bad habits. Art and story by Krishna Swami, Hanumangarh
EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Sit in the shop!! You will learn. All you need while working.

Mother father, I want to study.

No one in our family goes to school.

I need Rs 1000 for admission in class X in NIOS.

Later! I am good in art! I can earn the fees by making summer projects for school.

What should I do? I want to help my father. But I also want to study.

Wah! Wah! What a lovely idea.

This is known as earn while you learn.

Asheema Singh
For the progress of the village: Vikas dreams of becoming an engineer and helping his village to develop. But his father tells him to become a doctor and practice abroad. But the village engineer explains the father how no one would be left to help their village to progress if everyone went abroad. The father agrees to let Vikas become an engineer. Art and story by Saurabh Sonarne
Sunshine in the house: Amita and Aman live with their parents. Amita is expected to clean the house while Aman is expected to study well. When Amita tries lift a heavy gas cylinder, her father stops her and asks Aman to do the job. Thus Amita wonders if she is truly weak. When Aman meets with an accident, Amita singlehandedly takes him to the hospital and her parents regret having considered girls to be incompetent.

Art and story by Alka Chaudhari, Nashik
Rosy is a carefree 12 years old girl who loves to be outdoors with her friends. She gets periods for the first time and her parents celebrate...

Rosy! It's our tradition you should follow it. Now, I am closing your window because you have to stay alone in this room, bye!

Ooh! It's a tragedy! How can I stay alone in this dark room.

Rosy was restricted to go outside mainly not to see any gents person for these days and to stay alone...

Ma'm, where is my dad? I miss her...

She's at your uncle's house!

Hh... Hh... It's so difficult to stay alone. Oh! mosquitoes will kill me!

Menstrual cycle is a biological process and not a disease. Rosy can live her normal life on these days also.

Name: Abhipsa Priyadarsini
J.N.V. Dhenkanal (Odisha)
Lee wanted to become a national basketball player...

After few weeks... in the national basketball tournament.

There are so many better players than me!!

Sportsmanship is to play. No matter, if you win it, or lose it...

I will work hard this time...

Next year... again in the national basketball tournament.

Wow! This time we can win, because of Lee.

Avinash Patnaik
Nios, Bhubaneswar
Odisha.
AALL IS WELL

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASHINAY AND HIS PARENTS IS NOT GOOD

WHY ARE YOU LATE TODAY? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TIME OF YOUR CAREER.

ALWAYS ACROSSING ME.

PARENTS ARE FEELING BESIEGED AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

WHAT WILL THIS BOY DO IN FUTURE?

I AM WORRIED ABOUT HIS CAREER.

ASHINAY IS WATCHING TELEVISION

MY PARENTS WOULD ALSO HAVE TAKEN CARE OF ME LIKE THIS.

PARENTS AS WELL AS ASHINAY THINKING

WE SHOULD NOT BE SO STRIDENT AND UNDERSTAND ASHINAY’S FEELING.

I SHOULD RESPECT MY PARENTS AND OBEY THEM.

Ritu Khare
AFTER GETTING 80% MARKS AND GOT ADMISSION IN SCIENCE COLLEGE, AMIT DOES NOT ATTEND COLLEGE.

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO COLLEGE?

I DON'T LIKE GOING THERE. I WANT TO ATTEND ART SCHOOL.

BOY STARTS ATTENDING ART SCHOOL. HE STUDIES WELL, BUT AFTER THIS INCIDENT HIS FATHER NEVER CARED FOR HIM NOR DID HE HELP HIS SON.

WHAT'S YOUR SON DOING NOW A DAYS?

HE DOES NOTHING BUT ALWAYS INDULGED HIMSELF IN DRAWING.

IF HE STUDIES SCIENCE, HE CAN BECOME A GOOD ENGINEER. HE CAN BECOME AN ARTIST TOO, IF HE STUDIES ART.

IT'S OK.
RAJU, WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET TODAY?

I FIGHT FOR MY RIGHTS.

All my classmates teasing me that dumbly loses job because of HIV/AIDS.

FEW DAYS LATER

Macdon, we won the case, now your husband continue his work in the company.

HAVE A NICE DAY.

Rajnikanth 2022
Addiction and Contradiction

Hey, once my mom told me that my aunt at her eleven snatched and broke a glass of alcohol from her father's hand.

Oh Wow!!!
Her brave action will inspire and motivate millions of teenagers.

Suddenly
Hello! This is from police station.
Is this Rini's place?
I am sorry to inform that your aunt has lost her life.

How???

Mother India

Actually miss she was into drug addiction.

I am tired let me use one of them.

Hey, my aunt....
You remember she expired she had got drug addict.

Ooh... I thought she inspired teenagers but it resulted in otherwise.

Saroni Sarkar
Facing the truth: A teacher returns to his house, drunk. His wife asks him to stop drinking alcohol and he starts beating her. His son cannot bear to see his mother suffer and defends his mother, saying she has said nothing wrong. The teacher feels depressed at being scolded by his son and decides to commit suicide. His friend stops him and asks him to instead think over his son's words. *Art and story by Rajeev Kumar*
Bad Company: Aman is a rich, spoilt brat and falls into bad company. All their money is spent on alcohol as they become addicted to it. They start stealing money. They fall ill due to the alcohol. The principal counsels them and they vow never to drink or smoke again. Art and story by Neelam Rani, Pallu
Sharada and Shyamu get married in a simple ceremony as Shyamu wants to save money to buy a bigger watch company.

A WEEK LATER... on Sharada's request Shyamu agrees to send her back to school to complete her education.

I want to study further Shyamu.

Sure, Sharada, we have saved enough money by not having a grand wedding and can spend it on your education.

Sir, I have registered in school again.

I am so happy to see you in school again.

SHARADA AND SHYAMU'S WATCH COMPANY
INAUGURATION ON: 28 APRIL 2012

Sharada has such a supportive husband. She not only completed her studies but has joined Shyamu's watch company.

Geeta Narayan.
MASTI UNLIMITED...

Rohit is a good student who scored 90% in board exam. After 10th he joined college.

Dr. Rohit

Hey we are college guys now
Movies, Funs, Biking, Alcohol, Smoking, Drugs, Bars...
Hey guys, That's right but we shouldn't forget our academics.

Ha... Ha... Ha...
SON OF INDIA

9+9 the result of my craziness.
Now onwards I will work hard on my studies and try my best to be a doctor.

Bye!! I am going to college to have fun.

Forget your past my son, concentrate on your present and future. I am sure you will be a doctor.

Ranjita Mishra
Wow! Dhruv, when did you buy this sleek Samsung Champ mobile phone?

Oh! My mom gifted it on my birthday. She loved me and this is a reward for my hard work.

Lucky, I wish I can also have one. Well, I have a plan. Will work part-time after school. Please don't tell my parents.

Look Prateek, you should not hide it from your parents and I feel you should focus on your studies.

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After 3 months

Prateek, result of Pre Board is out. I got B+. How did you score?

Dhruv I never imagined that I will be using my new cell phone. I'm very happy that I got E-grade.

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Vandana Misra.
Once a Baba appeared in the village and giving his blessings to the villagers.

Baba started loving the school children of the village.

Baba: Please bless my son.

Child: God bless you.

Ramu: Please burn the anger.

Baba: Yes Baba let me taste it too.

Baba: Ha - Ha - Ha - Nasha.

Oh! Baba ruined my son.

Baba: Cheat me, beat him - Expel from village.

Shrinibas Chirara
Dhenkanal
Odisha
Importance of studies: Mohan does not like to study and fails his exams. He runs away from his house. He does not find a job anywhere since his studies are incomplete. He regrets having left his studies. He decides to study at night while working in the day as a waiter. Years later he becomes an IAS officer and advises everyone to study hard. *Art and story by A.M. Pundi, Nashik*
OH HH!! THERE ARE SOOO MANY PIMPLES ON MY FACE... WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW???? MY ALL FRIENDS WILL LAUGH AT ME...... GOD PLZ HELP ME......

LOOK AT HER.... SHE LOOKS SO WEIRD.... !!! I DON'T THINK SHE IS GOOD AT ANYTHING......

YAA.... WE WILL NOT MAKE HER OUR FRIEND....

DEAR, THIS IS A PHASE WHICH EVERY GIRL PASSES THROUGH.... AND DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS PIMPLES BECAUSE THIS WILL NOT LIVE PERMANENTLY... SO SMILE!!

I LOVE YOU MAMMA.... YOU ARE BEST!!

NO ONE LIKES ME..... I DON'T LOOK LIKE OTHER GIRLS.... EVERYONE HATES ME......
Prakash belongs to a rich family. He studies in a local school...

His parents return home from job at 9:30 pm. They hardly get time for Prakash...

He! Raja, I have two tickets for movie. Want to join me?

Prakash gives money to his friends for school attendance and then went to watch movie.

Sorry, but we don't have time for this.

It was as usual Dad.

After lots of effort by Police, Prakash was rescued from the kidnappers...

As a parent you didn't look after your son, and as a principal you didn't fulfill your responsibility... It's clear from this incident.

Please Pay Attention

By: Debendra Paul
Raju The Poet: Raju joins a new school where he is mocked for not being good either at studies or play. He decides to stand first in class and prove them wrong. However his efforts do not seem to help him and he winds up with poor marks. Depressed, he pens down his worries and tosses the papers away. His sister finds the discarded papers and discovers that Raju writes beautiful poetry. The poems get published in the newspaper and Raju's family praises him. Art and story by Aishwarya Ghosle
Request Denied

I friend request

Oh!! I don't know this person.

What should I do??

70% of the users of social media websites are teenagers.

But many of them are using their fake identities to trap girls. In one such case a 17 year old girl Jasmine was sexually abused & the girl committed suicide.

Hmm... Now I know what to do??

Friend request deleted.
SAME SUMIT?

IN SCHOOL .......

ANNUAL DAY OF IDEAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
WARASEONI

Sumit you are selected for best student award.

We are proud of you my son.

IN COLLEGE HOSTEL ........

He makes new friends

Dude is it modern lifestyle?

Should I take it or not?

It makes us stress free.

Just chill dude enjoy it.

Sumit's parents took him to rehabilitation centre...

I promise I won't repeat the same.

Sumit now you are fine as before.

Rehabilitation centre.

After a few months Sumit joins the college...

Sumit is doing a good job.

He is trying to pull his friends from darkness.

SAY NO TO DRUGS.

Seema Singh.
RITA & GITA ARE TWO SISTERS. THEY ARE VERY POOR TO AFFORD SCHOOLING, SO THEY COME TO A VILLAGE LADY TO STUDY —

WOW!! GIRLS, YOU BOTH ARE DOING VERY WELL....

THANK YOU DIDI, WITH YOUR SUPPORT SURELY WE WILL GET SUCCESS ONE DAY —

TWO DAYS LATER —

OH! DIDI, WE ARE VERY UPSET, SAPU WANTS TO GET BOTH OF US MARRIED VERY SOON.

BUT, HOW COME? YOU STILL HAVE NOT REACHED THE AGE. DON'T WORRY, I WILL SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER

NEXT DAY EVENING —

DON'T LET YOUR DAUGHTERS GET MARRIED AT TENDER AGE... THEY WILL SUFFER A LOT IN FUTURE....

STOP GIVING ADVICE! THIS IS OUR CUSTOM. YOU GO BACK AND DON'T ARGUE ANY MORE....

THE LADY COULDN'T CONVINC... SHE RETURNED BACK —

BACHAN TO GAYA, JAWAREN BHI GHAYE, IS PAL KO HUMEIN BHI TEENE DO... JEENE DO...
Til 4 Tattoo...

Raaga's Tattoo Centre

Sounds good. But I hope we don't land up with any skin infections.

What's this!!! You are not using new needles for tattooing. This could be dangerous.

Security throw this man out!!

Hey Dijo! Let's go and get us tattooed.

Don't dare to enter this place again.

I think it's the right time to call the police.

15 minutes later...

Aaaaah...

They are our real heroes. They saved us from HIV.

Pritibha Rawat
KV No. 2 Bhujol.
Too... Touchy...

Ritu gets home tuition for Maths

Ritu come and sit besides me. You can learn better, dear!

Please Sir, don't touch me. I am uncomfortable, I am confused. Someone save me!

Ritu becomes disappointed and failed in Maths

What is your problem? Despite of a good tutor, how did you fail in Maths?

Mr. Papa, he is a bad man. He touches me everywhere. I am confused. I cannot concentrate.

The parents tried to seek the truth

Don't feel shy. Tell the truth. Better!

Sir, pack your bags. You have been caught red-handed. Police is waiting for you. Dear.

Parents handed him over to the police

Beti due to your courage, we caught that devil. You also saved your friends. We are proud of you. We are always with you.

Thanks, Ma, and Papa, you believed in me.

Ankita Sharma
Meena, Breakfast is Ready! Come Fast...!!

I'm busy right now. I've to pack my bag...

Don't forget to keep water bottle with you!

I'm not a kid! I'll not keep water bottle with me

Mom, It feels bad my when someone misbehaves with us. I'm really very sorry!

OMG! How rude he is? I'm feeling sad for him. I think I should say something...

Ummmm... My plan has really worked...!!

By: Simile Mishra
Proper Guidance: Nitesh fails his exams. He decides to run away but his friend advises him to return to his parents. So he returns and tells his parents everything. His father starts to scold him but his mother interrupts, as she has just read the news of a boy committing suicide after failing in his exams. She quietly explains the father that what Nitesh needs the most right now is proper counseling and help. The father understands and both parents motivate him to not to lose hope. Thus Nitesh gets inspired to work harder.

Art and story by Tejaswini Jagdale
I should get Radha married soon. She is already 13 and with limited income from brick kiln and 4 more children to take care, I think sooner, the better.

I have brought your medicines and I will get the doctor along in the evening.

You have a shop, now get me a bahu.

I am proud of you. You both have taken a very good decision of delaying first pregnancy. I will provide you with all available information on family planning methods. I have some reading material available too.

3 years later......

I am blessed with a baby girl.

Thanks to my husband and Asha did!
A Well Deserved Lesson: A young girl is angry for being married off as a child. After a few days she is known to bear a child and people around warn her in-laws. She dies but the child survives. The in-laws and her husband are both sent to jail under the Child Marriage Act.

Art and story by Trinath Chaudhuri
Ayushi and Sujata are two best friends...

Hi!! Ayushi, what's up and what will we do today?

Hi! Sujii!! Let's go library today..

See Sujata what is written over there...

Babies are born because of transfer of microscopic cells from males to females through just a body contact....

I was a huge fan of the actor known as Serial Kisser. Then he must be father of one hundred, producing five per movie....

Ayushi we must protect ourselves from such dangerous cells... But what should we do??

The girls in the school talked about it.... Then next day.... What an innovative idea to protect from sperms!!

Poonam Choubey
Bhopal M.P.
KV 2
Tanmay age 19, is kidnapped while walking home, only to be released on a note of ransom!

A week later... Tanmay is finally home, but he wasn't the same. No one who had faced sexual abuse could ever be the same.

Forget about what happened, we are here for you!

I want the nightmares to stop please!

2 weeks later...

Tanmay's friend explains to him the importance of fighting the abuse, rather than giving in!

No! Stop! What are you doing?

Stop sexual abuse from happening!

Stop sexual abuse

Weeks later... Now Tanmay and his friends are leading campaigns against sexual abuse!

Saachi Jain Jaiswal
KV IIT, Powai
In the village Karamul, Rita lived. Rita has interest in study, than her brothers. But her parents want to engage in domestic work.

No! First help me in house hold and learn it.

We! I will work. I have many school task to do.

A marriage Proposal came for Rita from near by village. His parents interested to give her marry.

It is a good Proposal. The person belongs to good family.

After marriage, Rita had to do many domestic work. She couldn’t fulfill her ambition.

Here! much work to do. I can’t fulfill my ambition.

After 5 years, she was blessed with two daughters. Both want to study. She is determined to make it happen.

Shilpa. Rani read, mentally you have to self relax to fulfill my ambition.

Yes! we will do it.

(Anonymous Chinara, Odisha)