

A stylized illustration of a woman with blue hair in pigtails, wearing a green shirt, holding a baby wrapped in a yellow cloth. They are on a bus, with a large blue circular object (possibly a wheel or a light) visible in the upper left. The background is a mix of brown and blue with white streaks suggesting motion or rain.

BUS NUMBER 424

**Writer -
Kshama Sharma**

**Illustration -
Prashasti Chaudhary**

Stories speak....!

Stories are the heartbeat of life, weaving together the bittersweet moments that shape our existence. They ignite our spirit, empower us to face life's challenges, and guide us through the complexities of the world. From the digital age to women's rights, from nature conservation to the pursuit of livelihood, and from embracing life's trials to exercising our right to vote – these stories illuminate the path to a meaningful life. Stories woven around 'Critical Life Skills' not only entertain but also cultivate wisdom, enhance our reasoning, and teach us the art of making informed and thoughtful decisions. Step into the narrative, reflect deeply, and let the stories lead you forward!

Coordinator: Prof. Usha Sharma, Professor & In-charge, Cell for National Centre for Literacy, NCERT, New Delhi

Writer: Kshama Sharma

Illustrations: Prashasti Choudhary

Typography: Gaurav Choudhary, Assistant Professor, Animation & Multimedia Department, BIT Jaipur

Layout: Mohd. Nazim, Designer

Translation: Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore

Reviewer: Dr. Meenakshi Khar, Associate Professor, Department of Social Science and Humanities, RIE Ajmer

Guidance: Prof. Nina Sabnani, Animator and Guest Faculty, Department of Design, IIT Hyderabad

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Dr. Vibhuti Pandya, Head, Animation & Multimedia Department, BIT Jaipur

Gautam Goswami, Assistant Professor, Animation & Multimedia Department, BIT Jaipur

IIT Hyderabad: Dr. Prasad S. Onkar, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Design; Prof. Deepak John Matthew, Professor, Department of Design; Delwyn Jude Remedios, Assistant Professor, Department of Design; Ankita Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Design; Dr. Mohd. Shahid, Assistant Professor, Department of Design; Dr. Saurav Deori, Assistant Professor, Department of Design; Dr. Shuhita Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Arts

Mohd. Shah Alam, Senior Consultant (ICT), Cell for National Centre for Literacy, NCERT

Shyam Singh Sushil, Writer



BUS NUMBER 424

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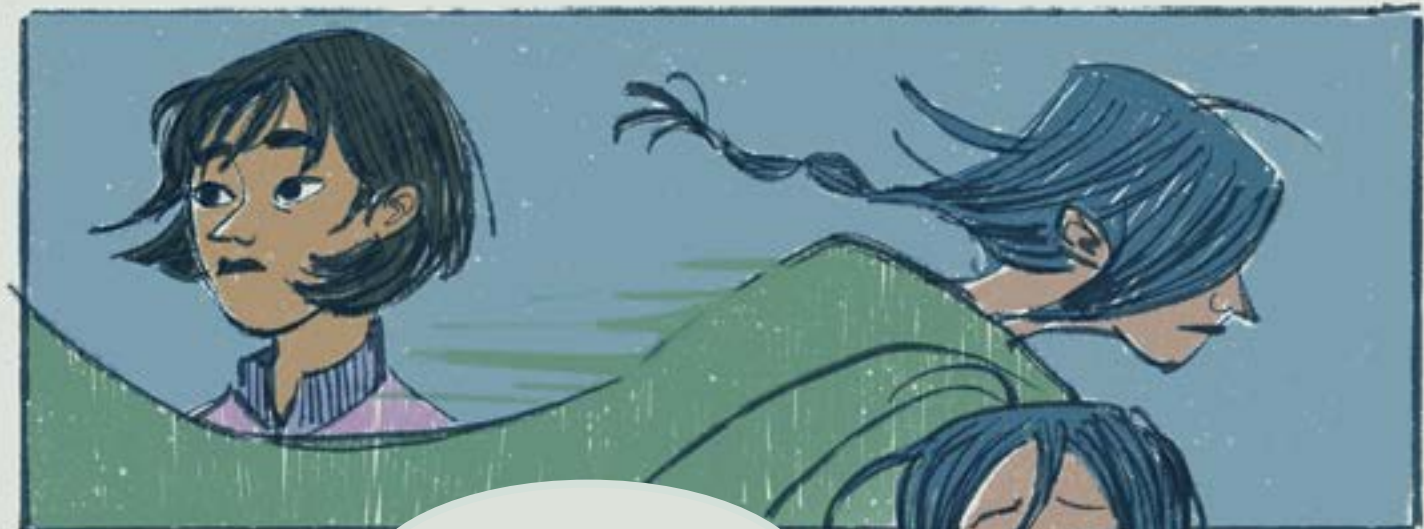
Illustration

Prashasti Chaudhary



राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING





Madam! Please be careful while walking.



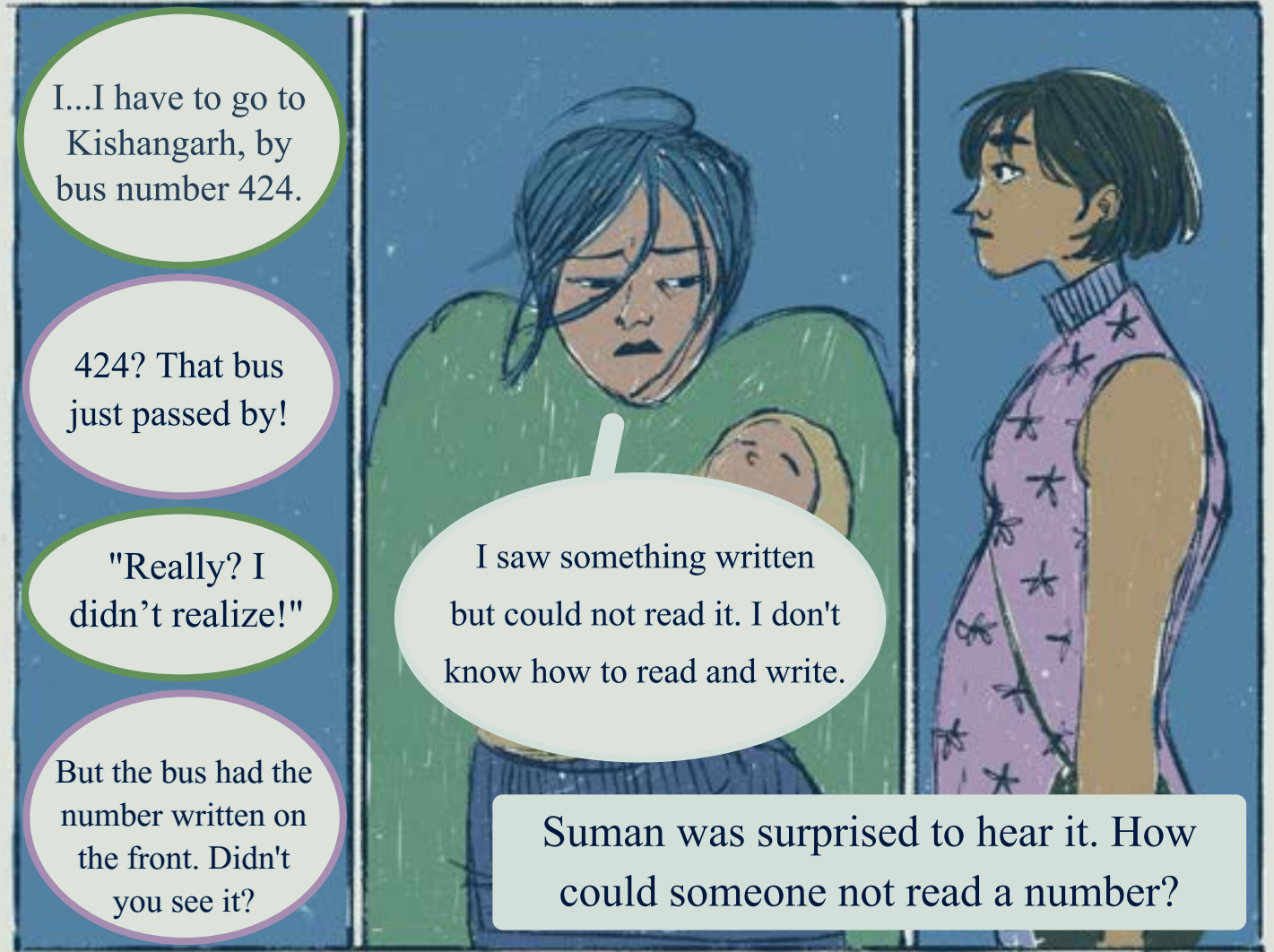




Suman had been watching the woman chasing the buses for quite a while. Unable to hold back, she approached the woman and asked.



What is the matter?
Where do you want to go? Which bus are you looking for?



I...I have to go to Kishangarh, by bus number 424.

424? That bus just passed by!

"Really? I didn't realize!"

But the bus had the number written on the front. Didn't you see it?

I saw something written but could not read it. I don't know how to read and write.

Suman was surprised to hear it. How could someone not read a number?



Just then, Suman's bus arrived, and her friend called out to her.



Suman, hurry up! We will miss the bus.



You go ahead, I'll take the next bus.

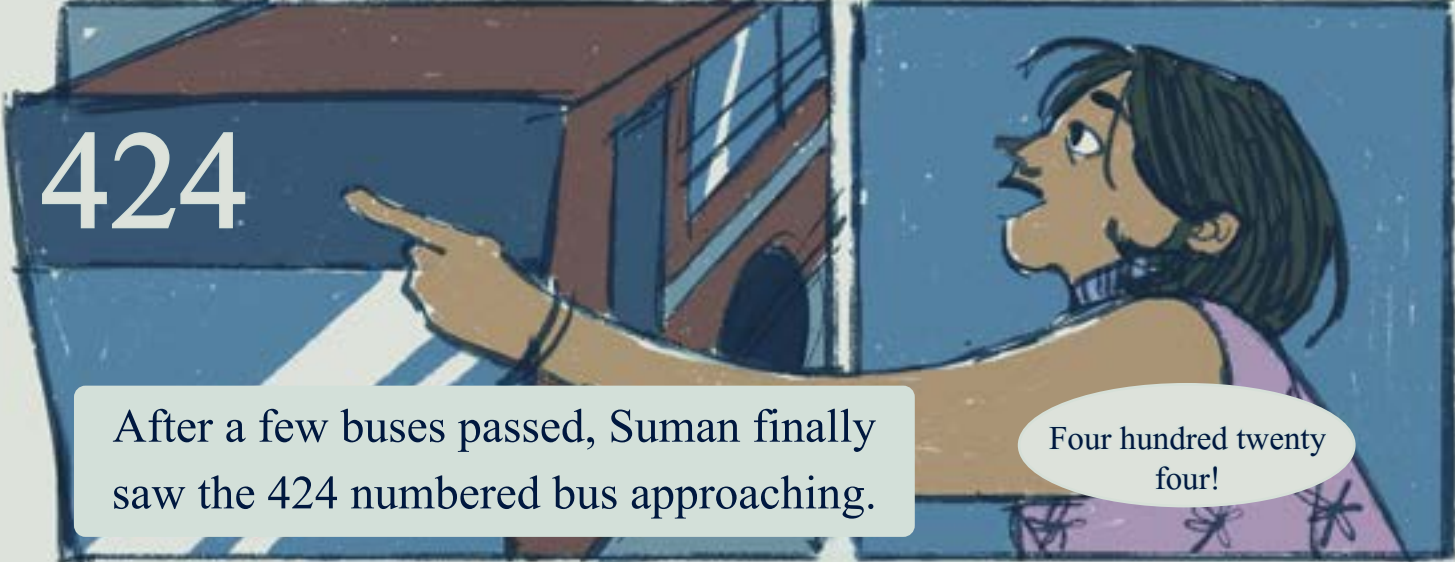


Okay!

Take care of yourself.



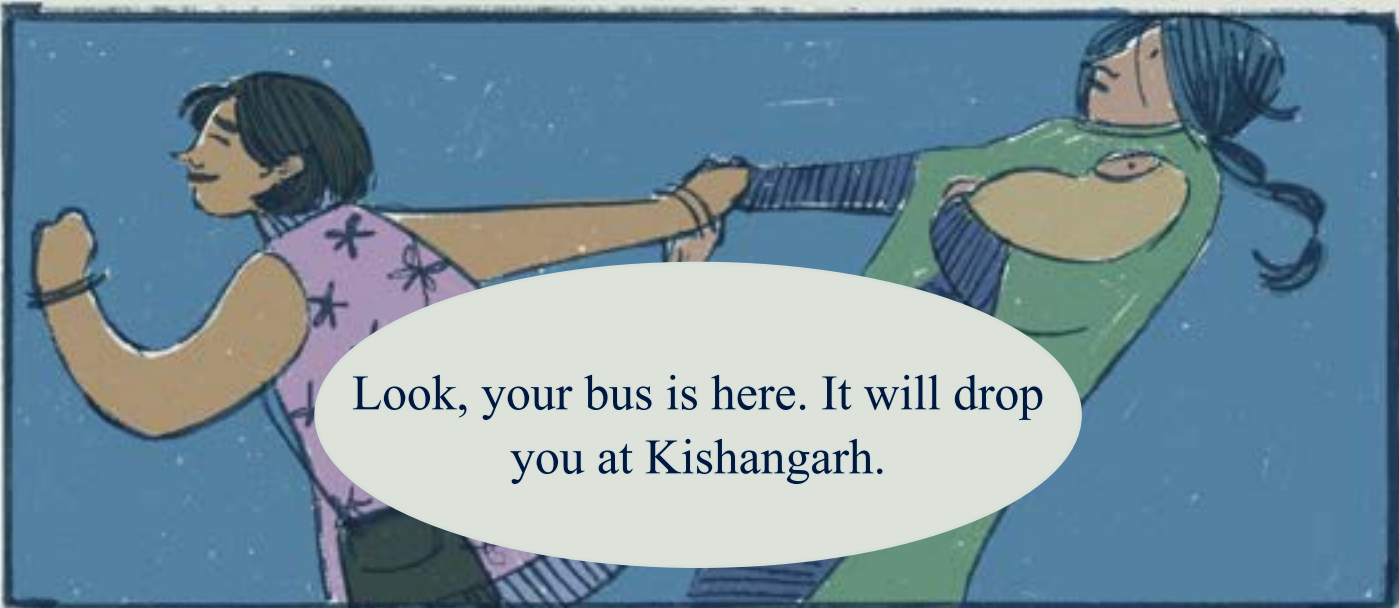
Come, let me help you get on the right bus.

A comic panel showing a woman with dark hair, wearing a purple sleeveless top with a floral pattern, pointing her right index finger towards a building in the background. The building has a red roof and a blue wall. The number '424' is written in large white digits in the top left corner.

424

After a few buses passed, Suman finally saw the 424 numbered bus approaching.

Four hundred twenty four!

A comic panel showing the same woman from the first panel, now talking to another woman. The second woman is wearing a green sleeveless top and a blue striped shawl. They are both looking at each other. A large white speech bubble is in the center of the panel.

Look, your bus is here. It will drop you at Kishangarh.

A comic panel showing the woman in the purple top saying goodbye to the woman in the green top. The woman in the purple top is waving her hands. A large white speech bubble is in the center of the panel.

Take care of yourself.



As soon as she sat in the bus, the woman looked out of the window at Suman and smiled, as if thanking her. Then, waving her hand, she said goodbye and left.



As Suman waited for her bus, she felt a sense of satisfaction from helping someone, but also had many questions in her mind.

Why is it that someone couldn't even read the bus number written right in front?



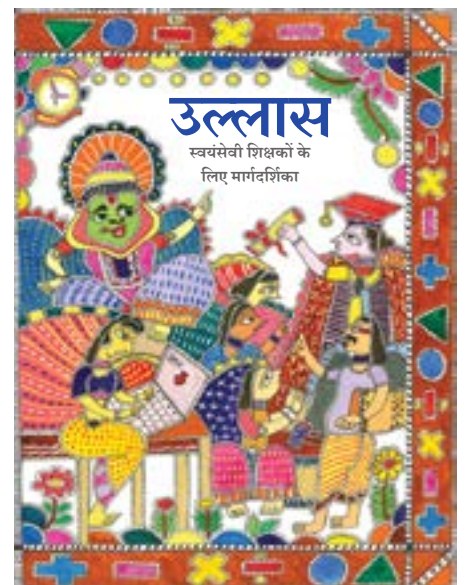
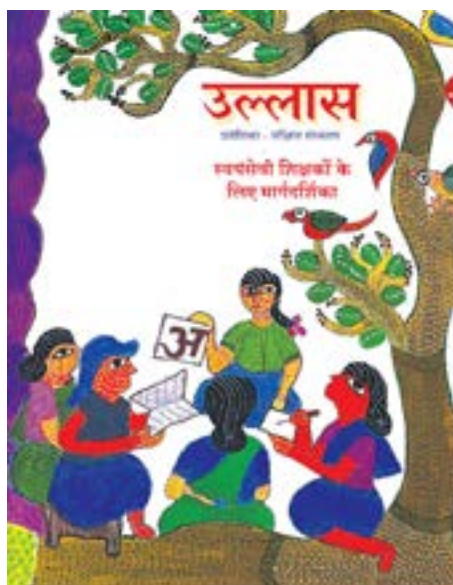
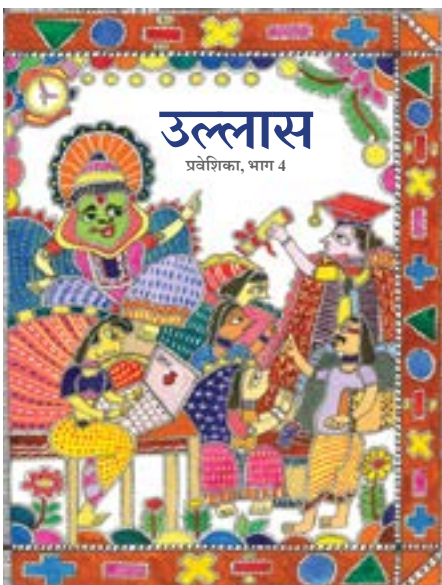
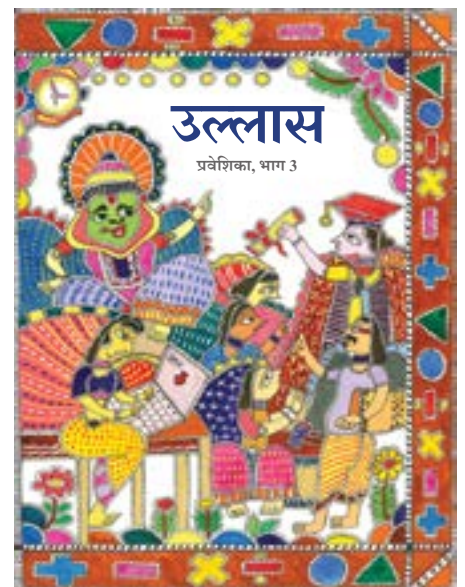
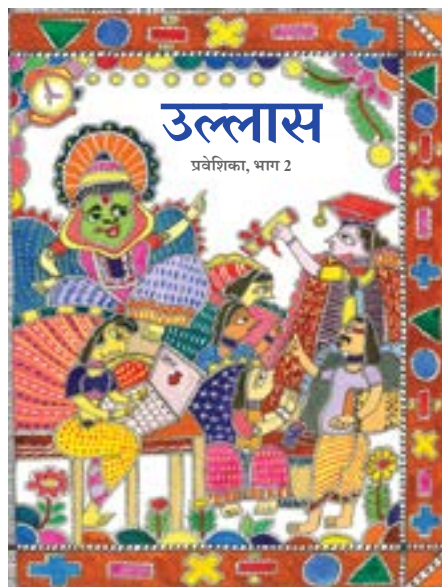
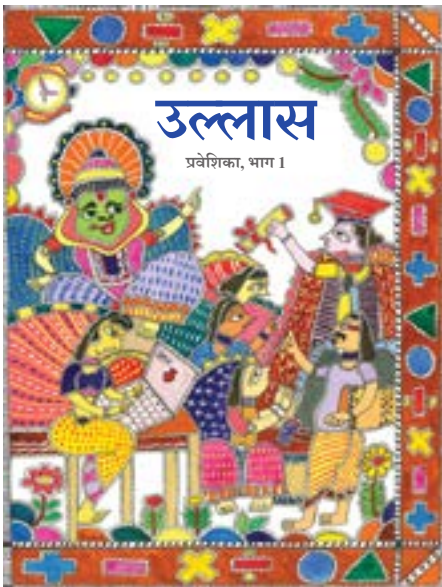
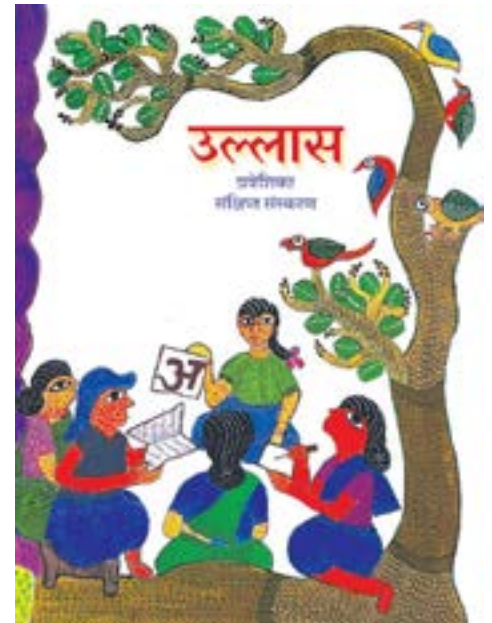
This is something everyone should know.

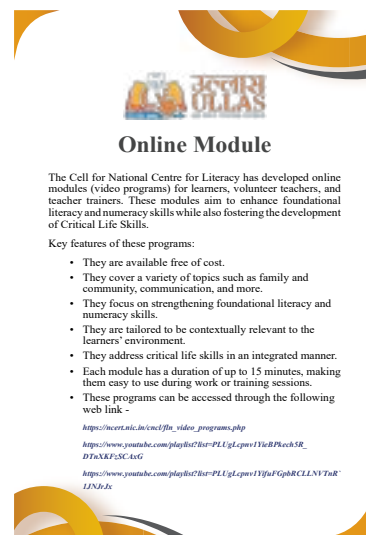
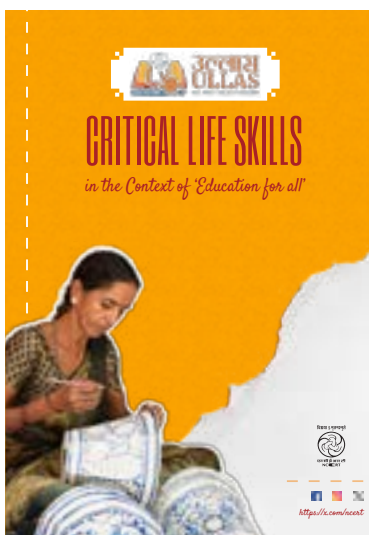


I have made up my mind! From today, if I come across anyone around me who cannot read or write, I will teach them. Basic literacy is our right, and everyone should have access to this right.



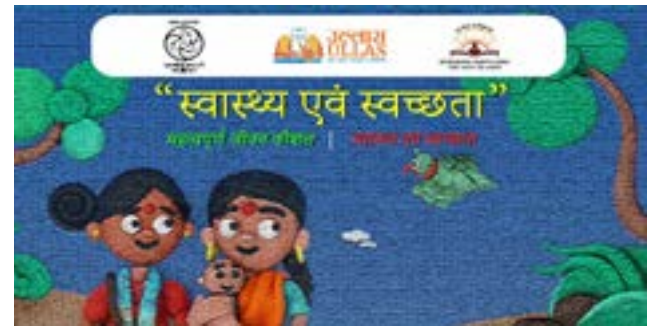
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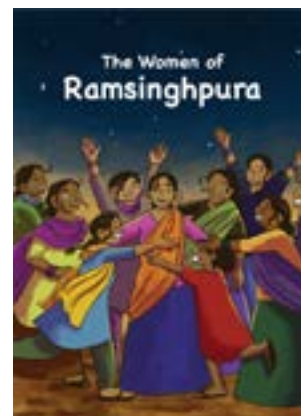
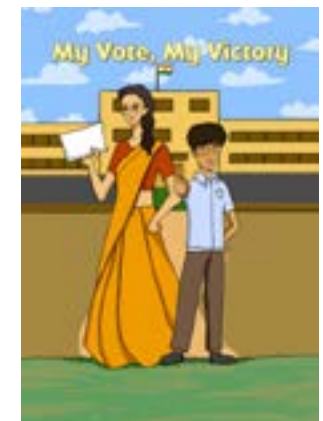
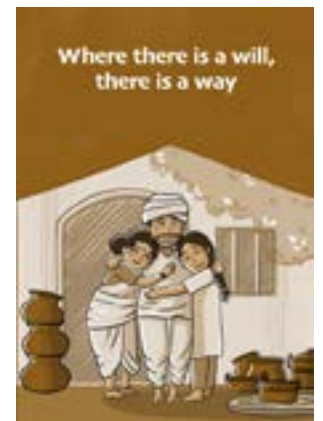
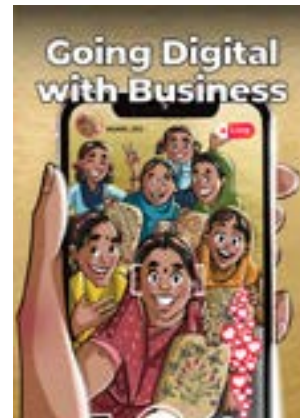
DIKSHA (Education for All Vertical) :
<https://diksha.gov.in/adult-education.html>

CNCL Website :
<https://ncert.nic.in/cncl/>



Story Books

Based on Critical Life Skills



विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



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NCERT

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