

# Research and Development of Onpery's Graphic Novels: *PeriodRoom* and *SafeRoom*



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## Introduction

Graphic novels have emerged as powerful tools for awareness and education, particularly in areas often considered taboo. *PeriodRoom* and *SafeRoom* graphic novels, co-developed by Pramod Priya Ranjan, at his co-founded venture Care Form Labs Pvt Ltd with trademark Onpery, serve as innovative visual narratives aimed at educating people about menstruation, menstrual health, and safety. These graphic novels, available in multiple languages with free audio-video narrations, break social barriers and encourage informed discussions.

The project started in 2023, and the final draft is expected to conclude in 2025.



Images of *PeriodRoom* & *SafeRoom* Graphic Novels

## Background and Need for Innovation:

In India, menstrual health and hygiene are often shrouded in stigma and misinformation. Many individuals, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, lack access to accurate knowledge about menstruation. The silence around these topics contributes to period poverty, school dropouts, and poor menstrual hygiene management. Similarly, safety and awareness regarding personal hygiene and well-being are equally important.

By introducing *PeriodRoom* and *SafeRoom*, Onpery aims to provide an engaging and accessible way to educate young menstruators, caregivers, and communities about menstrual health and safety. These graphic novels are designed to be interactive, relatable, and culturally sensitive, ensuring that essential knowledge reaches a wider audience.

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## Garphic Novels

*PeriodRoom* is a graphic novel on menstruation, discharges and reproduction. The novel is for children aged 11 to 16 (or children in classes 5 to 10).

### All the chapters of *PeriodRoom*:

- Chapter 1: Introduction to puberty
- Chapter 2: Understanding body changes
- Chapter 3: Menstruation
- Chapter 4: Menstrual products
- Chapter 5: Managing pre-menstrual days
- Chapter 6: Myths and taboos
- Chapter 7: Bodily discharges
- Chapter 8: Health and nutrition
- Chapter 9: Hygiene



*SafeRoom* is a graphic novel on managing physical safety, emotional safety and gender sensitivity. The novel is for children aged 7 to 16 (or children in classes 1 to 10), and their guardians.

### All the chapters of *SafeRoom*:

- Chapter 1: Safety from bad touch and bad see
- Chapter 2: Handling bullies
- Chapter 3: Romantic attractions
- Chapter 4: Gender-based empathy sensitivity (Note for guardian)





## Design and Development:

The creation of PeriodRoom and SafeRoom involved a human-centred design approach. The process included:

**Research and User Insights:** Interviews with menstruators, caregivers, educators, and healthcare professionals.

**Content Development:** A storyline based on real-life experiences, ensuring cultural and social relevance.

**Illustration and Visualisation:** Using simple, expressive visuals to convey complex topics effectively.

**Multi-Language Adaptation:** Ensuring inclusivity by making content available in regional languages.

**Integration of Audio-Video Narrations:** Enhancing accessibility for users with varying literacy levels.



## Impact and Findings:

**Increased Awareness:** Readers reported a better understanding of menstrual health and hygiene practices.

**Reduction in Stigma:** Open discussions were initiated in communities where menstruation was previously a taboo topic.

**Enhanced Engagement:** The visual format encouraged participation among young learners.

**Sustainability in Learning:** Teachers and caregivers found the novels to be valuable resources for ongoing education.

## Conclusion:

The research highlights the effectiveness of PeriodRoom and SafeRoom in menstrual and personal hygiene education. By leveraging storytelling and design, Onpery has created an impactful medium that fosters awareness, reduces stigma, and promotes safe menstrual practices. These graphic novels are not just educational tools but catalysts for societal change in menstrual health conversations.

## Design Team:

**Authors:** Niti Desai, Pramod Priya Ranjan and Shreya Yengul

**Illustrators:** Lehar Bhatt, Mansi Swarup and Shaswat Kakkar

**Reviewer (for PeriodRoom graphic novel):** Dr. Prateek

Makwana, Consultant Embryologist

**Reviewers (for SafeRoom graphic novel):** Dipika Daga, Clinical Counsellor and Saloni Bhutra, Counselling Psychologist

**Mr Pramod Priya Ranjan**

PhD Scholar

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