



**MARATHI CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
HISTORY AND ANALYSIS** Design Research Seminar

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APPROVAL SHEET

This Design Research Seminar Project entitled “Marathi Children’s Literature: History and Analysis”, by Piyush Pimpalnerkar 09634004, is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Design Degree in Animation & Film Design.

Guide



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I also thank, the members KELGHAR [Kothrud, Pune] for their cooperation to make me comfortable with their library.

My sincere thanks to Tejas Modak for giving me information about Marathi graphic novels. I am also thankful to Prof. Pallavi Apte and Mahesh Kate to guide me about the books, people and places. I want to thank my friends in Pune who helped me to find the right books required for my study. I also thank Sayali Bhagali.

I really adore my late Grand Father, Mr. Pandit Pimpalnerkar, who always made sure for himself, that I will be busy with story books, Graphic novels in my childhood all the time.

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ABSTRACT

Marathi Literature is rich in tradition as it is related to the evolution of Marathi language. As language gets evolved the literature grows in to the branches in different era, style, context, with subjects and topic of cultural depth. Each subject is put forth in the way, where the reader suppose to think and link himself with the subject. Each writer develops a style which depict the richness and the beautiful language combination.

Children's Literature is not too different. Children has their own world which is full of fantasy and imagination. They are very expressive in their own way. Writers express in different style for them, children also get sense of like, dislike in their writing. Each child relates themselves to the literature in a different ways. Books are also the factors for them to live in imagination.

In Comics, Graphic Novels, Comics Strips, sometime the story is told by writer with expressing illustration, in such a way that child enjoys the beauty of getting involved with the characters. It make the child, to perceive super hero too close and also find the hero somewhere inside him.

AIM

My topic is titled “Marathi Children’s Literature - History and Analysis” is about knowing the children literature in the form of graphic novels and comics in past and present.

Personally more important is, what made this literature rich, and large famous ?? Who contributed to the Marathi literature in the form of Comics/Graphic Novels ?? What exactly is being shown to the children till now ?? What has changed in recent times?? Is it on writing, art work ?? The writers, then and now, presented to children, the world in which they were living. The simple things around them were incorporated beautifully in the Designed Comics. This made the child feel a sense of belonging in the topic. My aim is to study the different comics, graphic novels who made this association with every child, in Marathi literature.



COMICS

Comics is a graphic medium in which images convey narrative in a certain sequence. The term derives from the mostly humorous work. The nature of the pictures in sequence and the effect of pictures over words differentiate comics from picture books. Most comics combine words with images, often indicating speech in the form of word balloons. Words other than dialogue are in the form of captions. Today comics are found in newspapers, magazines, comic books, graphic novels. Historically, the form dealt with humorous subject matter.

Though artist follow traditional way to design a comics to convey narration and speech. Devices such as speech balloons and boxes are used to indicate dialogue and also to establish information. While panels, layout, gutters and zip ribbons can help indicate the flow of the story. In Comics use of text, symbolism, design, iconography, mixed media and stylistic elements of art help to build meaning. Thus comics are non-linear structures and can be hard to read sometimes. However, it depends on the reader's mind to read and understand the comic.

It differentiates with the ways of presenting & the form of comics in to, comics Books & comics strip.

COMICS STRIP

A comic strip is a sequence of drawings arranged in interrelated panels to display humouristic or form a narrative. Often serialized, with text in balloons and captions. Traditionally these were supposed to published in newspapers, with horizontal strips printed in black-and-white in daily newspapers. While Sunday newspapers contains longer sequences in special color in comics sections. Strips are written and drawn by a comics artist or cartoonist. As the name implies, comic strips can be humorous. In Maharashtra where spoken language is Marathi, comics strips are in the daily newspaper. The subject are mostly of children daily life [CHINTOO] or about the education or to pitch a story about mythological character [ANJANEYA].

COMICS BOOKS

A comic book [simply comics] is a magazine made up of comics, narrative artwork in the form of separate panels that represent individual scenes. Mostly completed by dialogue [usually in word are in balloons] as well as including brief. Despite their names comic books do not necessarily in humorous mode. Most modern comic books tell stories in a variety of genres. The superhero genre dominates the market. Indian comics are comic books and graphic novels associated with the culture of India. India has a long tradition of comic readership. Indian comics often have large publication however, the industry still remains immature compared to western countries which are far step forward than India.

MARATHI LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN

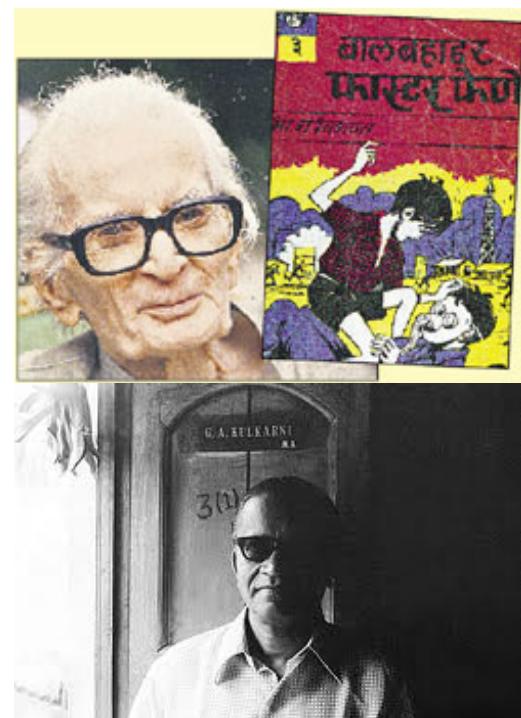
Marathi literature is very huge in its vastness. There is also literature for children. Story books, Graphic novels, which has a short stories. The magical writer as example BHA.RA. BHAGWAT, G.A. KULKANI made interesting stories of child superhero. Such as FASTER FENE, BAKHAR BIMMACHI, MINUCHI GOSHTA. These stories are familiar with most of the children's. The character who is protagonist is a small child as age of readers. Children get connected with the stories very Easily.

There are n numbers of the writer but I want to point out these two because BHA.RA. BHAGWAT written the books in a series in the form of volumes. Sometime the next volumes is related to the previous one.

Some of writer who written for the children's

RAJA MANGALVEDHEKAR
VARSHA SAHASTRABUDDHE
JAGDISH JOSHI
RAJIV TAMBE
SANE GURUJI
VYANKATESH MADAGULKAR
GANGADHAR GADGIL
MADHAV CHAVAN
ANIRUDDHA PAGE
NILIMA KULARNI
MILIND BOKIL
PRAKASH NARAYAN SANT
MADHRI PURANDARE
AANAT BHAVE

These writer written stories, books for children. The writing is in beautiful form that children get too much freedom to involve in their imaginary world.



MARATHI COMICS / GRAPHIC NOVELS

Marathi literature is huge like ocean no exception to children like story books but there are very low amount of graphic novels available in Marathi. In 80's and before there occurrence of CHANDOBA only as a comic / graphic novel in Marathi. After this era, some of the comics started translating in regional language. Indrajal is one of them.

Before most of the comics contains a comics page only and till date there are same condition with the Marathi comics.

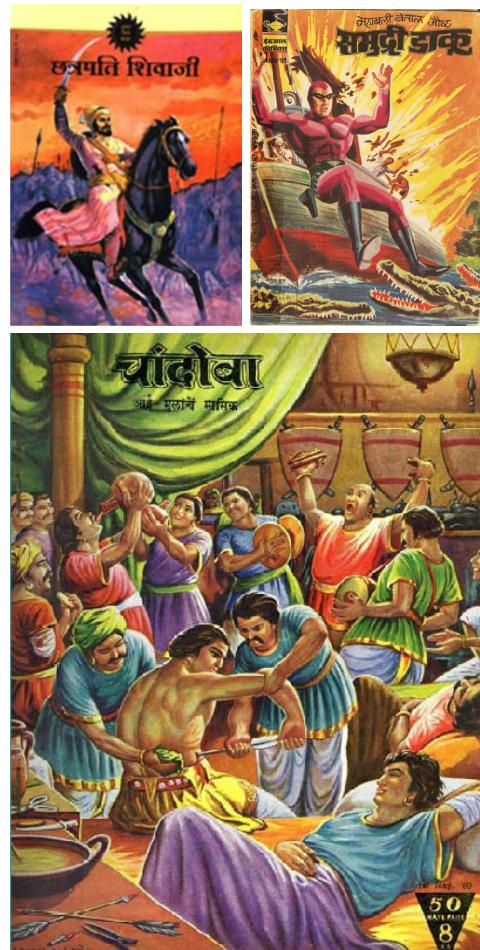
In childhood I am very eager about every month end, because next month I suppose to get a new comics. Every child has gone through this stage but the main context is at present children are getting familiar with the other comics, graphic novels which are easily available in market in large amount.

Marathi literature is rich in case of other story books. There are not so many graphic novels to read as comparison to the other Indian comics, which are based on superheroes.

AMAR CHITRAKATHA The language Marathi is known and spoken majority in maharashtra only. So the Marathi comics and graphic novels are for maharashtra only. Majority there are few comic are there, which are the famous and also depict the daily seen characters. Some of them are of the great peoples who made revolutionary work, some are of historical people for education and also tradition of India. For entertain children there are the comics which are based on animal stories such as CHAMPAK it mostly resemble with PANCHATANTRA and ISAAPNITI. Comic such as CHANDOBA consist of Historical stories and also Moral stories. AMARCHITRA KATHA is no exception.

The translated comics such as Indrajal comics, they have different style of writing. Which is later on translated. The art work of the comic is very westernized but the language is regional.

Structurally graphic novels in regional language is very simple graphical and representative. They got with a certain style which can be goes through the any subject. Also the content in the comics is very interesting and very easy to understand.



Till date there are some Marathi comic books available.

MARATHI COMICS STRIP

CHINTOO
ANJANAYA



TRANSLATED MARATHI COMICS

CHAMPAK
CHANDOBA
INDRAJAL COMICS
AMARCHITRA KATHA



CHINTOO

Chintoo is a famous Marathi comic strip which appears in Sakal newspaper. Chintoo is written by **Charuhas Pandit & Prabhakar Wadekar**.

For a couple of years it appeared in Loksatta. Chintoo has been popular in all age groups since it started. First strip published on 21 NOV 1991.

Thematically Chintoo is the hero of the strip. The whole stories represents a typical boy in middle class Marathi family. The whole scenario is of middle class family located in Pune. Normal incidents in his day to day life are given a humorous face in this cartoon series. He faces all the problems that other boys of his age face like pressure to study from parents, getting bullied, irritation.

He also enjoys doing pranks. He gets fun out of simple things. He enjoys watching cricket, stealing mangoes from Joshi Kaku's trees. He loves to have pets, but his parents always refuse to let him have one. His response to every aspect of life is very innocent.

In Chintoo the stories are very common happening in day to day life. As a reader from my childhood I read daily the strip and I love to make collection out of it. Chintoo always in some problem or get bore in this elders world. He came out from that situation is the secondary but the when he rescue him self from the situation is very innocent and adorable way. Personally wen I was child I brought up with the stories of Chintoo and also other comics but the thing which makes me very near to Chintoo is his innocence and there is no cruel fight in story, there is no use of elders word. The scenes are very familiar because he is also from middle class family and face the problem which every single small child face in his/her life. There is very beautiful rendering of the characters. Personally as a reader I found Chintoo is somewhere in me. Also small children find them in MINI, PAPPU, BAGALYA, RAJU, also. Chintoo is for all age group. These characters are somewhere with us in the form of our friends, brother, sister. His parents also loving and caring which can be found in every family. Characters of Chintoo are all around us and the stories happening are our surrounding, That's why I feel Chintoo is popular.



Characters of CHINTOO

Pappa - Chintoo's father is an engineer by profession.

Aai - Chintoo's Mother housewife, very good mother

Ajji - Chintoo's grandmother is very loving and caring.

Ajoba - Chintoo's grandfather. Chintoo goes to his Grandfather whenever he needs any toy & always get fulfill his demands.

Pappu - Chintoo's best friend. The boy who helps Chintoo when he is in danger. Pappu is animal lover specially puppy.

Mini - A girl in the group. She loves school, exams. She is a poet at heart but nobody in the group likes her poems. Chintoo is opposite of Mini.

Bagalya - A geek in the group. His name derives from his long frame.

Raju - The bodily strong but mentally slow person in the group. He does not understand jokes quickly. Chintoo loves making fun of Raju and get beaten by Raju always.

Joshi Kaku - Chintoo's neighbor. who has a large garden full of fruit trees. mostly ball goes through Joshikaku's glass windows with cracking noise of glass.

Sonu - The small child in the group. He always faces troubles with handkerchief tied to his shirt.

Banti - The doggy. He is Bagalya's small brown-yellow colored pet dog. Chintoo always want to have a dog in his house like Bunty.

Neha - Another girl in the group. Appears very rarely in the scene.

Satish Dada - Chintoo's neighbour. Very filmy guy.



As Chintoo started from so long, there is another reason why he is popular that the experimental work that has done. As in form of jokes, style, composition and also the structure.

WITHOUT DIALOGUE

In the comic strip, in limited area of Chintoo which is throughout same the only illustration are supposed to be drawn in such a way that there is no need of dialogue.

Its a gestures and the composition which gives rise the idea of joke or the story or event that artist wanted to show.



Even the daily activities are expressed so beautifully. While designing a strip it is handled in such a way that reader connects with it very easily and enjoys the reading.



ONLY ONE DIALOGUE

Sometimes need of one dialogue is there to support visuals.
While the normal things can make you laugh while you reading it.



ONE WINDOW

Use of only given space without making any partition to show landscape or to show more character as possible.



PARTITION

Space divided in to two region for making very comfortable to reader, that he can see the incidence from another angle also.



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THINKING

In this kinds of frames there is a dialogue and after that in another window it is a thinking of the character. That what he said or what happened exactly.



NO USE OF ILLUSTRATION

Sometimes there are no illustrations but only dialogue to convey incidence which make you memorise something such thing happened but you cannot memorise. Such strip gives you that humor incidence back. Somewhere you tend to visualize Chintoo, Pappa!! That is the magic and success of Chintoo!



USE OF MULTIPLE WINDOWS

If the joke is large then use of multiple frame happen. Where the partition is done for six to seven windows to enhance the humour.



USE OF ONLY ONE CHARACTER

There is sometime monopoly of the character to show only one character and the other person's dialogue is in indirect form.



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DAILY ROUTINE

Most of the stories from this strips are related to the daily routine. Very common things which happen in surrounding gives us so many happiness, so many mental satisfactions because of humor.

Asking things to Grandfather, father, want something from god is always been the somehow world of the small children. It says very simple thoughts.

Thus because of simple stylization, telling the stories in innovative ways Chintoo become famous and each and every reader made him already adorable.



ANJANEYA

It is name of LORD HANUMAN. A small comic strip, this strip is publish in Sakal Newspapers. Tejas Modak has done content writing & art is done by Sahil Sanade.

Fresh and bright look is given to the illustrations to make it attractive and eye catching for the children because they are to engrossed in the world of computer games and TV shows. Most of the market is occupied by the western comics and story books which are far forward in case of comics art. This new comics strip is highlighting the journey of LORD HANUMAN.

The comics strip consist of journey of birth of lord till wining war against RAVANA. Style of illustrations are mostly Indian and the dialogues are traditionally placed.



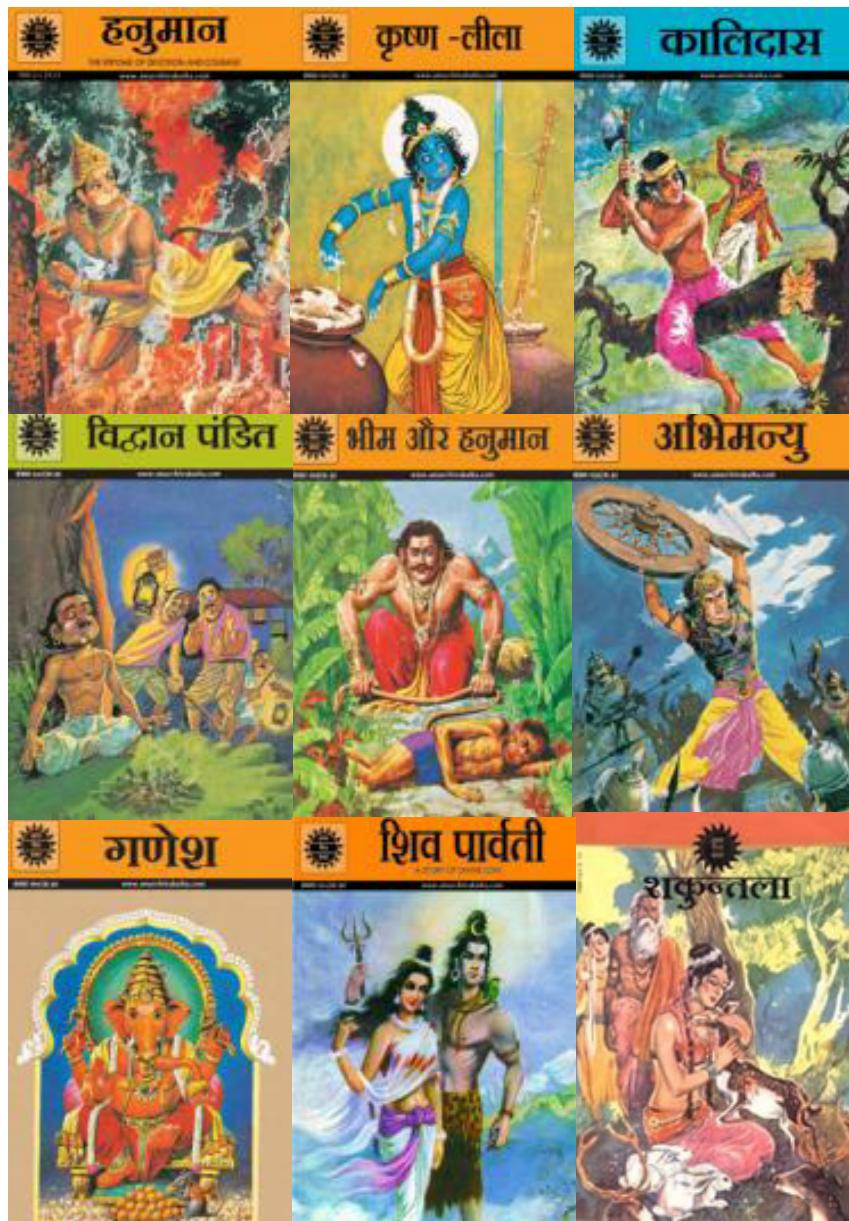
AMARCHIRAKATHA

Amar chitra katha are revolutionary comics which are based on the heroes from Indian history. This one is translated to marathi. The books contain stories of Monkey Stories From The HITOPADESH which are moral stories, Tales of Birbal, The Story of Rama. As the epic stories became more popular, it began to publish stories based on Indian history. Stories are based on Sanskrit also regional classics. As the comics get famous, it translated into Marathi. It mainly categorized by, Fables & Folktales, Mythology, Epics stories, Humour, Biographies of famous leader.

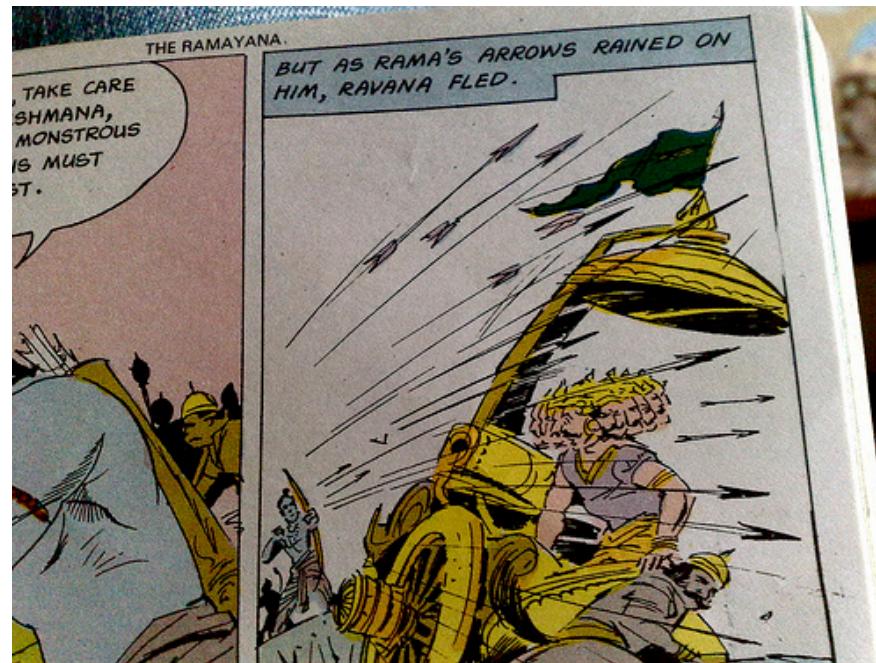
Amar Chitra Katha was launched at a time when India was moving towards another culture. In old family system grandparents tell bed time stories to the children which are folklore and the epics stories. Mostly the stories are in English, these are for such families which are splitting [where children are far from grand parents]. and also for the students, children which are in English medium and somehow far from Indian tradition and stories.

When the comic added historical topics it proved very helpful to students. Indian history came alive in stories. Parents and teachers using them as educational books.

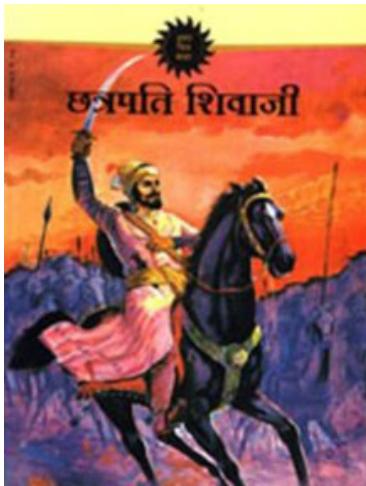
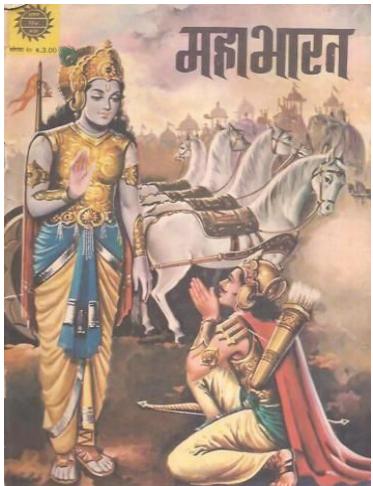
As time has changed the comics appears online.



The stories are often simplistic and sometimes oriented by single script. The illustrations in Amar Chitra Katha created a generation of Indians who could visualize historical and mythological characters. A lot of these were inspired by great artist Raja Ravi Varma's paintings which gives essence of the Indian illustration style.



Dynamic rendering in to the panels of the comics, involve reader visually in to it. Majority of the illustration are in half tone.



The stylized comics is somewhere related to the paintings of old Indian artist like RAVI VERMA. There is experimentation happens in every new comics. These comics are like by children because of the narration of story and also the inventiveness of the subjects. Most of the characters of which story is told are the unknown to children That's why they are always eager to find new comics on every month.

Amarchitra katha, an immortal pictorial stories are the good example of the story told in the form which children loves well. This also very famous in the schools. Some of this gives the education of the historical period. Amarchitra katha is one of the best example of presenting Epic, historical and also the patriotism.

In Maharashtra there is combine family system in most of the parts. Because of the western civilised style families get split. Before this, Grandparent tell stories to the children, . Those stories are of mostly from own culture. There was no any other material like Graphic novels and comics books.

Amarchitra katha full fills the need of current situation where children also use to get with the various resources like internet and other western comics.

CHAMPAK

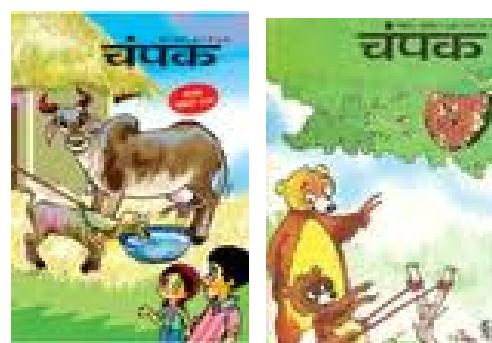
Champak is a popular monthly magazine for children by the Delhi Press Group India. Champak is competitor of Tinkle and Chandoba brands of magazines. Champak is published twice a month and is a colorful magazine which attracts many of the children who love to read the stories.

The first edition of Champak was released in 1968 and got instant famous. At that time, Champak competed with Chandoba. It one of the best selling magazines at that time. Mostly Comics and Stories Champak is split into three sections

Stories - Contains stories for children. The morals story are expressed with the help of animals like lion, fox, bear, monkey, with name such as Chiku, Miku.

Picture Stories - Morals are expressed using comics. Popular characters include Cheeku the rabbit and Meeku the mouse.

Your Section - Contains short stories, jokes, real-life experiences.



Champak is the magazine which consist of the stories for children. It has basically three section by the type of stories. It contain moral stories and funny stories also. The characters of the stories are made to be animals to make very close to children mind. They named them as Chiku, Miku and also given them human names.

Interesting style of placing character and having moral stories mostly champak get popular in to children. A monthly issue make eager to the small kids for next edition.

STYLE

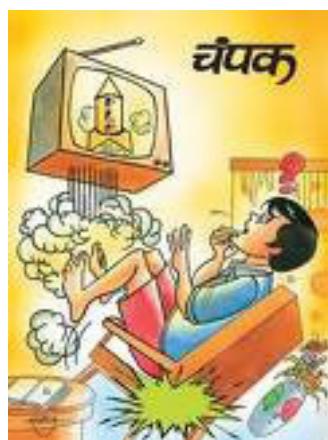
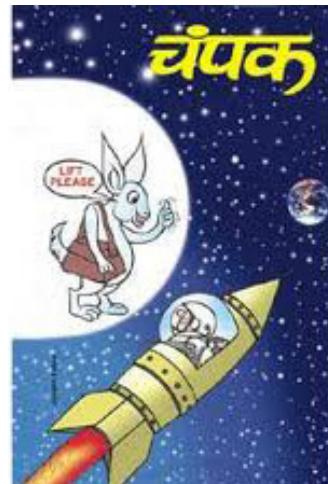
Champak is the story book contains a stories with illustrations. It is mostly in cartoonist style to catch the reader while reading.

An comics pages appear in the chmpak are mainly of CHIKU a rabbit. Who stays in jungle and find the clue at the end of the most stories. He and his friend are always ready to help others. These all characters are like human but are animal. Their behavior are like of human.

Most of the dialogues in comics pages are in balloons and also some are the rectangle at the base as traditionally comics.

Stories of the champak are in very easy language that a small kid can understand it. The style of writing has changed after 2000. It is seen through the Champak magazine. Mostly children from primary school are the audience which read a lot champak. The whole book is very simple but children goes to the comics page first.

Comics are very simply formed and reader can understand what is exactly to be shown and they find hidden meaning from the story.



CHANDOBA



Chandoba is a popular Indian monthly magazine for children known for its illustrations style. Now has gone contemporary in terms of language, presentation, artwork, and content. It continues to carry old favorites like **Vikram-Vetal** and mythological tales. Now there are several new additions of contemporary stories, adventure serials, sports, technology, news pages. Considering the new trends in children's literature and the importance given to academic study and analysis of the same. As it is the oldest brand in the field, Chandoba taken the responsibility of delivering entertaining, sensitive, and educational literature for its young readers. Chandoba is published in 13 languages including English.

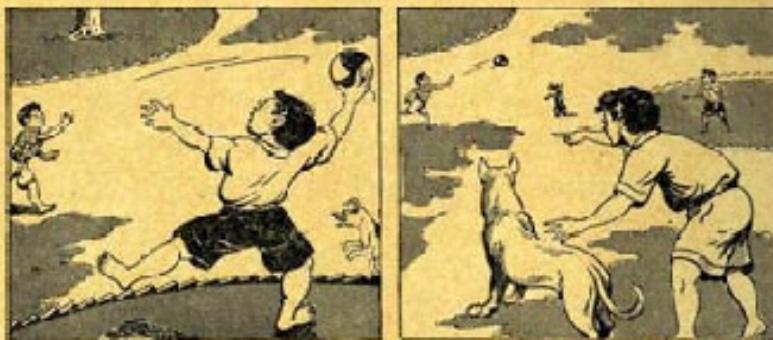
The first edition of Chandoba was released in July, 1947. The stories made in the never-ending story of King **Vikramāditya** and **Vetala** [Vampire]

For many years, its illustrators Chitra, Vapa, Sankar and ShakthiDass defined the looks of Chandamama magazine. They used line drawings with style influenced by Indian, oriental, Middle eastern and European artistic traditions. Chandamama is a Story book with the Chitra-katha column. Which is a comics page.

Chandoba has a Indian feel in to the stories which fix reader with the magazine. As a reader I have Chandobas magazine which I remember I read the same book for several times.

Chitra katha column has story of historic period, about great peoples, patriotism and also other country tradition.

चित्र-कथा



एकदा चेहू व सहू चेहू खेलत होते. चेहू कोणी पकड़ू नकळा नाही न्हणजे वाप्या त्यांना तो आणू देत होता. ते एका स्वत्वाल मुलांने पाहिले. त्यांने आपल्या कुऱ्याला तो चेहू तोडांत पकडून आणप्यासाठी इशार केला. तो धांवतच गेला. परंतु दुर्दैनांने चेहू नेमका ल्याज्या नाकावर वसला. विचारा कुत्रा कोकडत निषूल गेला. त्याच्या पाठोपाठ तो मुलगाहि पडून गेला. वाप्यांने तो चेहू तोडांत घरून आपल्या मालकांना आणू दिला. दोघे वाप्यांचे कौतुक करू लागले.



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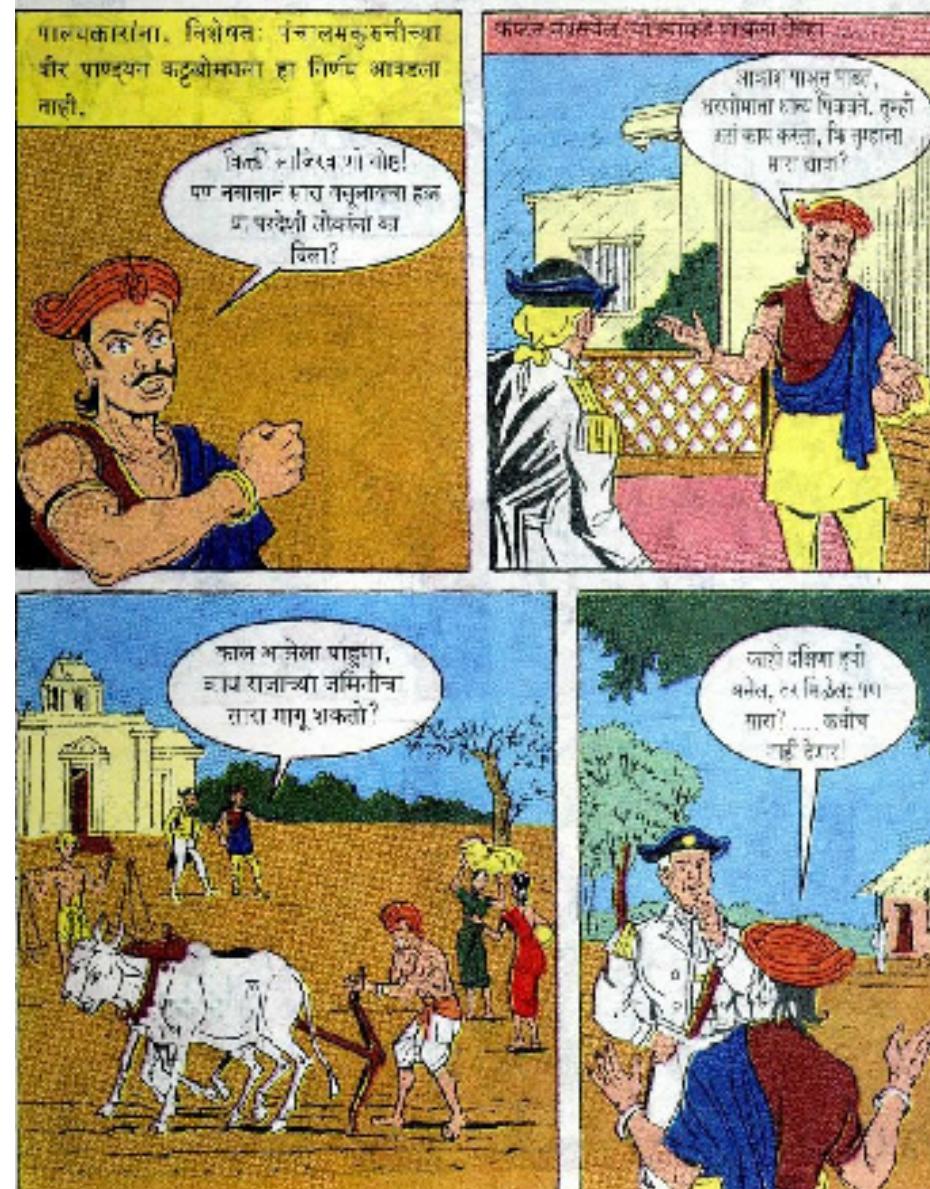
CHITRA - KATHA

The Chitra - Katha means pitching story with images, illustrations.

In chitra katha older edition there are the moral told about animals and the peoples. The story narration is done on the paragraph. First the illustrations get aligned / arranged then considering remaining space text suppose to be placed.

In chitra-katha the main Aim was to make relax reader while reading other stories. Its is like a warm up for relaxation.

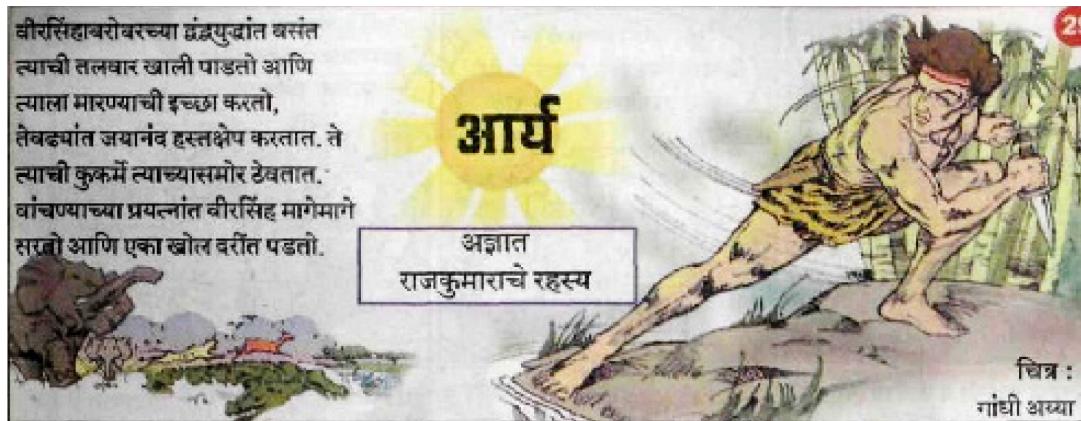
ते शिवायी कलंडे - शुभंते	१
वीर पाण्ड्य कट्टवोम्मन	
चाचा : शेंग शेंग चिपकला : शोला शोला	



Chitrakatha later on developed in four pages by receiving feedback of the reader.

It majority contains story of freedom fighter who are unknown to the world. Majority the intention behind it to make aware of such peoples to the reader.

As Chandoba is for children, the writing style follows traditional way of writing comics, also the illustrations are done in such a way that it reflect Indian style of drawing, illustration.



चांदोवा

59

डिसेंबर २००५

Now a days there is change in subjects of the story. The story majorly consists of superheroes or prince who have a big tragedy. Somewhere the change occur in the story after era has been changed. Stories are more for entertain reader.

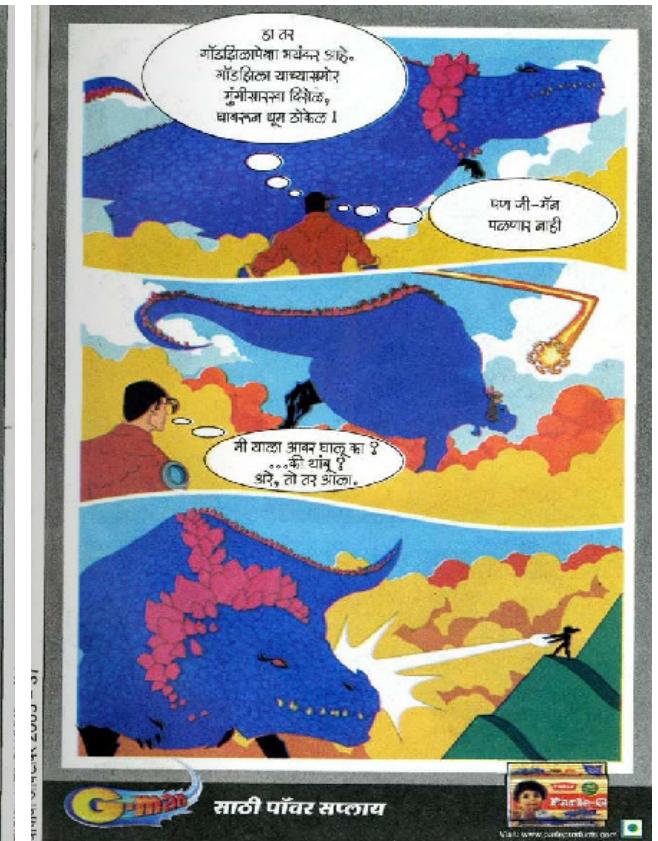
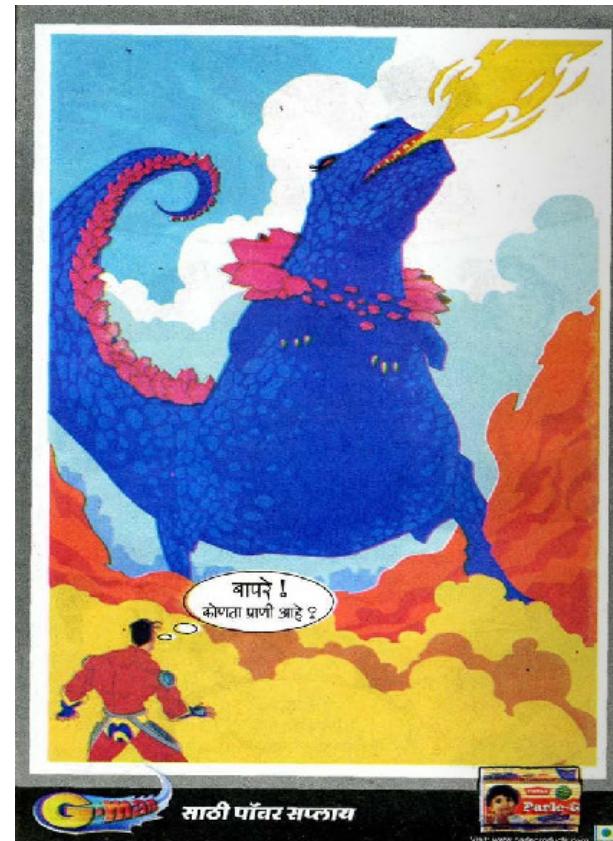
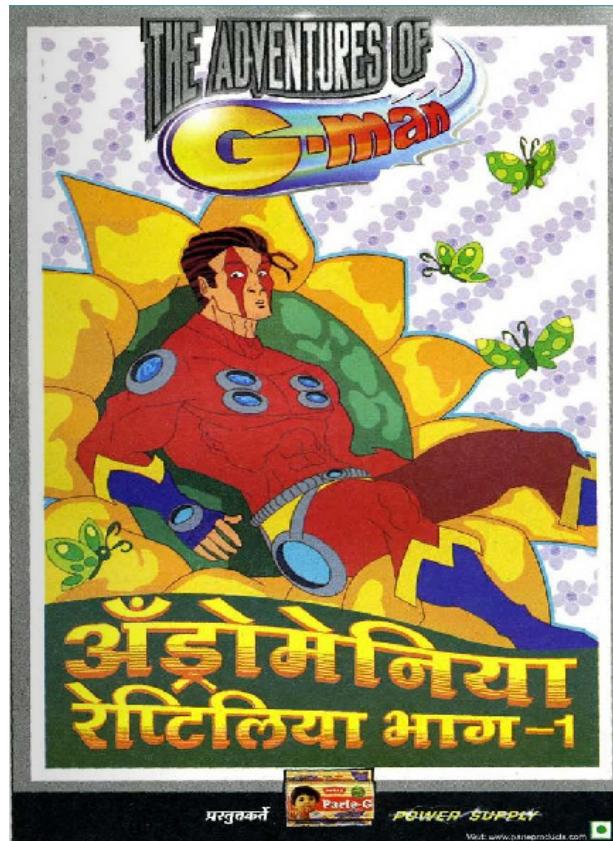


In Chandoba there is sometime one page about child bravery. Main aim is to make aware child about the heath. One page is for Advertisement where comics page appear in the name of heath related products.

This is majority done for to make aware child [reader] about health of body parts.

Another example of G-MAN who is G-man because of PARLE Biscuit. It is done more for product advertisement and also to make known about product qualities.

There is innovation of style of rendering, composition, and also storytelling. This done to attract child about the product as they are target audience.





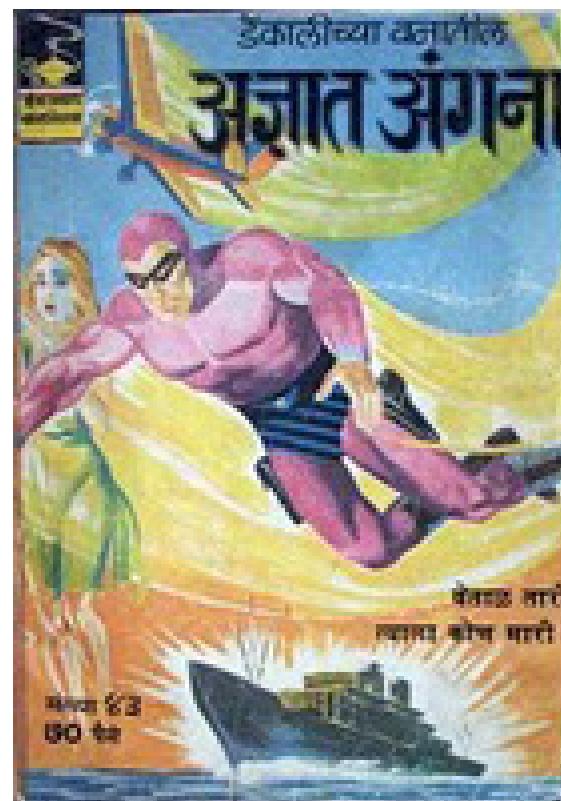
INDRAJAL COMICS

In 1964 the publisher of The Times of India launched a new series called Indrajal Comics [citation needed]. The first 32 issues contained “The Phantom” stories. After the title alternated between various King Features characters, including Mandrake, Flash Gordon, Mike Nomad and Buz Sawyer. In 1978 the distinctly Indian character, Bahadur published. Stories involving “The Phantom,” Flash Gordon and Mandrake emphasized their roles as heroes, with special powers, talents or sci-fi tools. The remaining characters in the Indrajal universe played out more conventional detective and crime stories. In comics Twelve pages were devoted to general knowledge

The cover artwork for the first was done by B.Govind. On back cover featuring a pin-up poster. The Indrajal Comics were a full-colour production from starting.

Because of The Phantom’s close connection to India, the editors made several “politically correct” changes to places and names Bengali became Denkali. The Singh Brotherhood were known as “Singa” pirates. Rama became Ramalu.

The comics strips also appeared in News paper also. The comics later on translated in regional language by seeing the response of the reader.

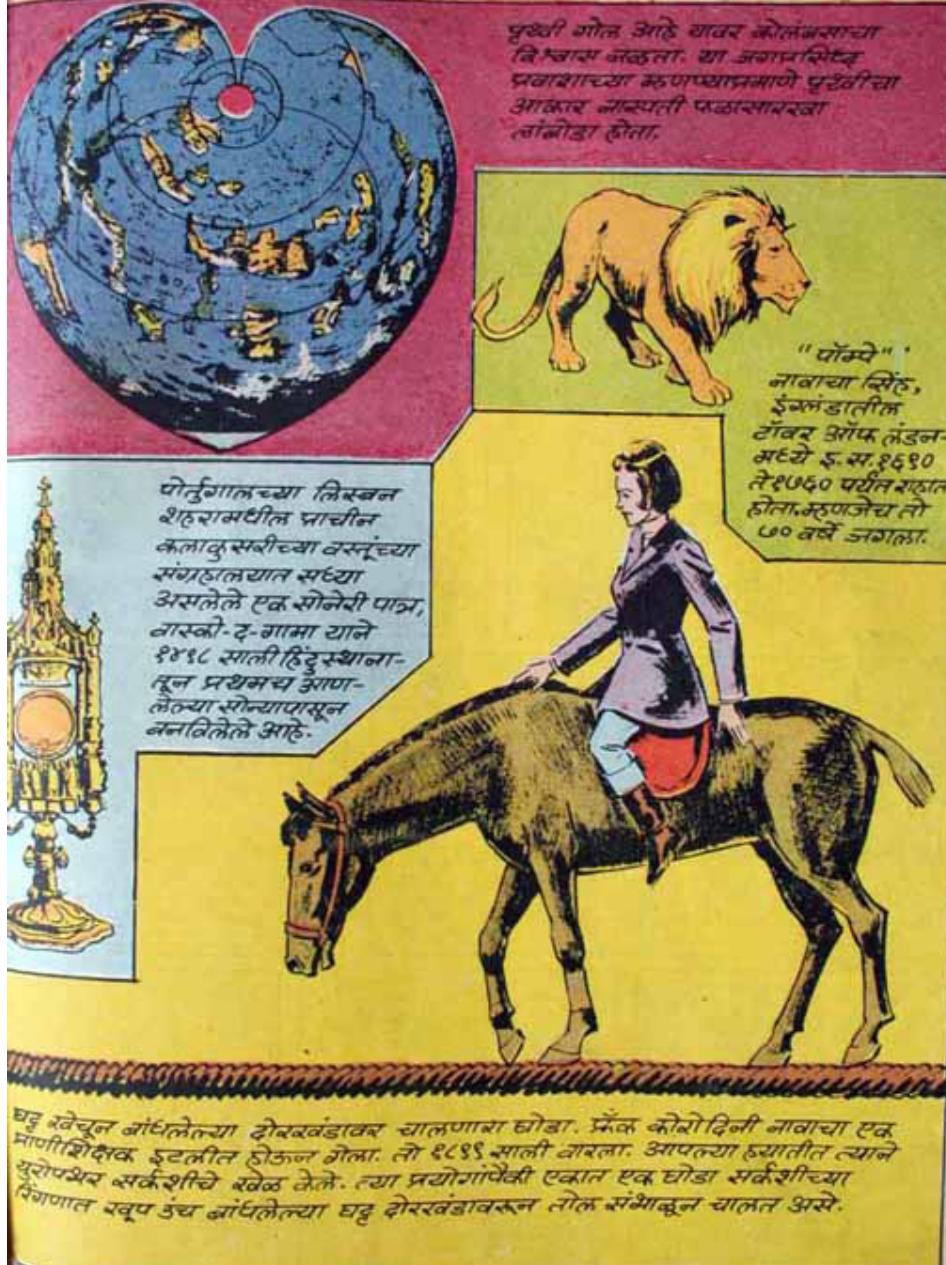


The majority of the Indrajal comics were translated in to Marathi, at least first all Phantom Issues. Style of the comics is western. This comics mainly capture teenagers. The fight sequence, style, appeal and also the story are the key points of this comics.

This comics are entertainer comics , mostly goes like cinema or story-board. Every teenager are eager to see new issue because of its inventiveness, because this style of comics never been published in those ages. Every key is branding of this comics wish mentioned above. These comics are sold in Maharashtra on great scale because of its newness. Main production was held in India but later on it changed, as they jus put another text in the western comics.



ऐकावे ते नवलच. रिलू



At the period of this comics get issued, published there are not so many other ways to get in touch with the entire world. So as a general knowledge there are information of fascinating, and wondering thing from around the globe to rise general knowledge for the readers.

CONCLUSION

After going through the material available and also after talking with people, I think I understand various styles occurred and what made a difference in the Marathi literature in graphic novels area.

The association of children have many factors which are related to Marathi literature. The changing lifestyle resources available from westernization and work and trend are responsible.

Each child, each adult, has lived a life themselves, their connection with the literature remains on their own interest and also the available resources which were then offered. While introducing literature to the children writer is always happy but the interest of the children getting decreased by knowing, fascination about Video Games, Internet, and also comics story books from another language.

Also there is no evolution of new style in the Marathi comics than older one. Henceforth these trend of the Marathi comics grow older. In golden age of comics readers are very tend positive towards the Graphic novels now it is a secondary or tertiary medium of entertainment.

When I was a child there is no other way to communicate with the movies. The relevance I find with the comics character as my imagination get lightened while reading Comics.

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“ARTIST ONLY BEGAN WITH ART OF COMICS, A READER FINISHES IT”