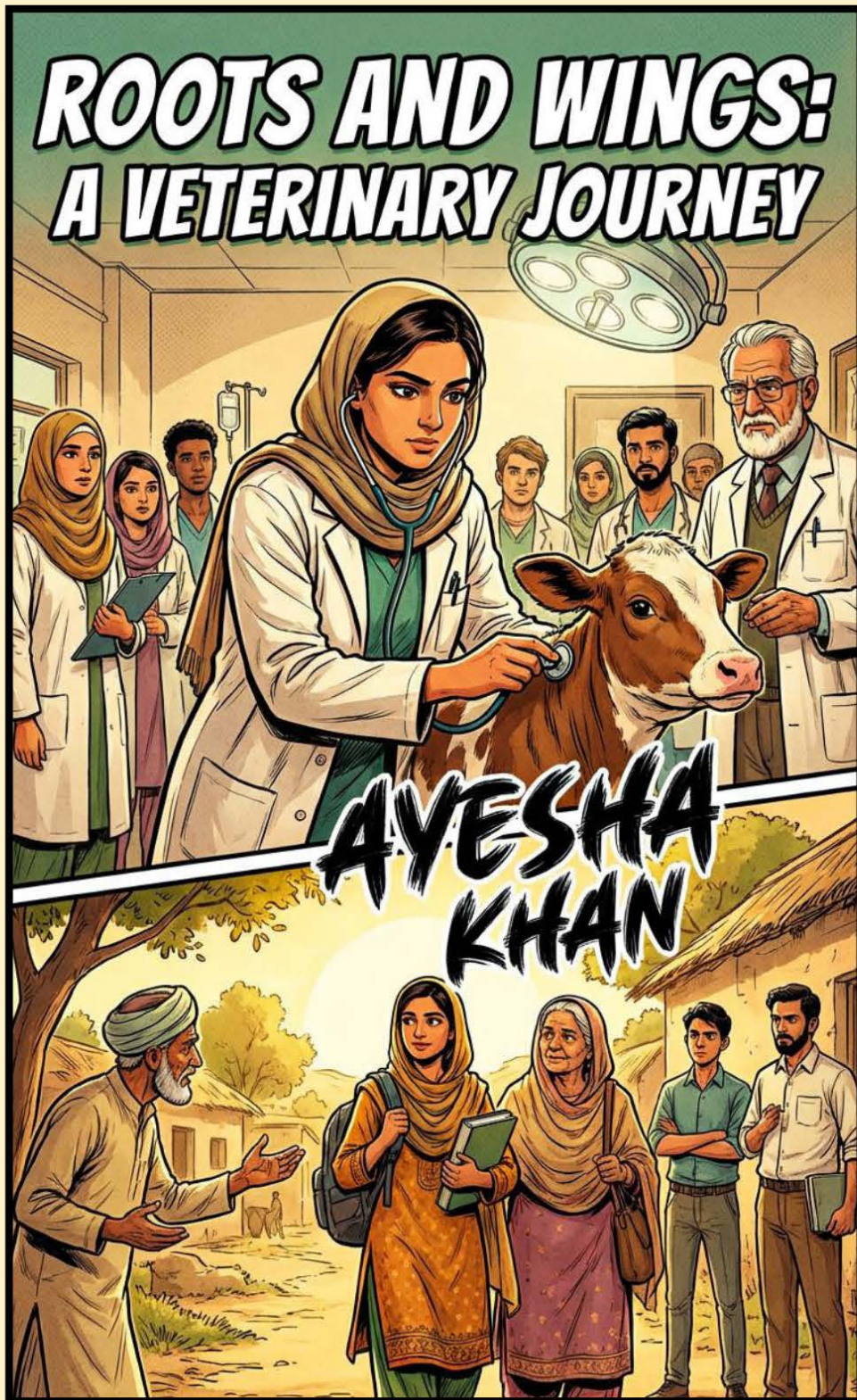




World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC





Scan the QR code to access the comic stories in this publication in digital format, and to read several others.

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World Organisation
for Animal Health



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ABOUT THIS VOLUME

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is committed to strengthening gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within the veterinary sector. Our recent work in Asia and the Pacific has shown that, while there is a growing number of qualified women and diverse professionals in the sector, many still face barriers shaped by longstanding norms, insufficient adjustments and unequal opportunities.

As noted in regional studies conducted by WOAH in Asia-Pacific, gender stereotypes influence perceptions within the veterinary sector, and the absence of reasonable accommodations reinforces the exclusion of persons with disabilities. These findings highlight the need for continued awareness and action across institutions, training systems, and professional communities.

To foster this change, WOAH has expanded its GEDSI initiatives, including awareness raising events and partnerships with veterinary associations and networks in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The Comics Competition Promoting GEDSI in the Veterinary Sector, organised between December 2025 and January 2026, invited veterinary students and professionals to reflect creatively on what an inclusive profession looks like.

The competition aimed to celebrate storytelling, artistic talent, veterinary commitment and GEDSI values, and to inspire dialogue through accessible and engaging narratives. Among the winning submissions, the comic presented here captures the imagination, concerns, and aspirations of veterinarians in different parts of the Asia and the Pacific region. The story reminds us that inclusion is not only a policy goal—it is a shared cultural commitment that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. While we could not award all participants with prizes, we appreciated all entries and will be sharing additional comic stories of note on our website (see QR code on the cover inner page).

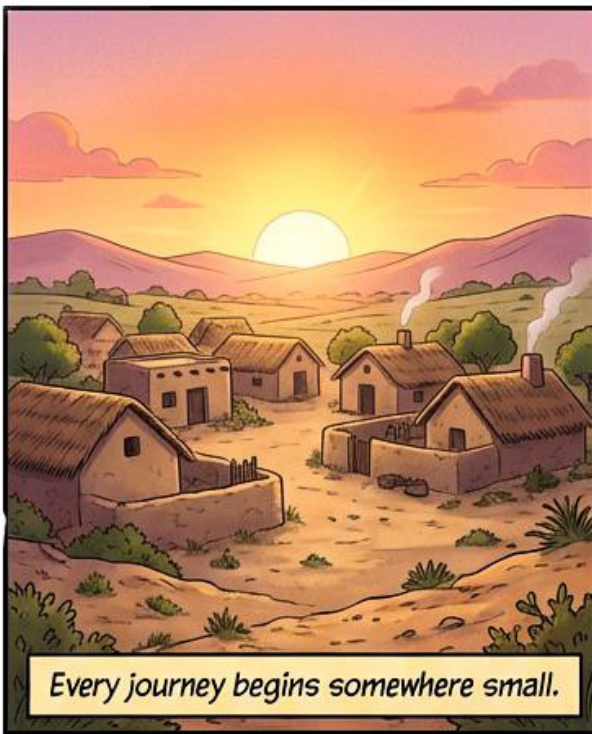
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOAH's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health and welfare globally and ensure a better future for all.



Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
WOAH Regional
Representative for Asia and
the Pacific



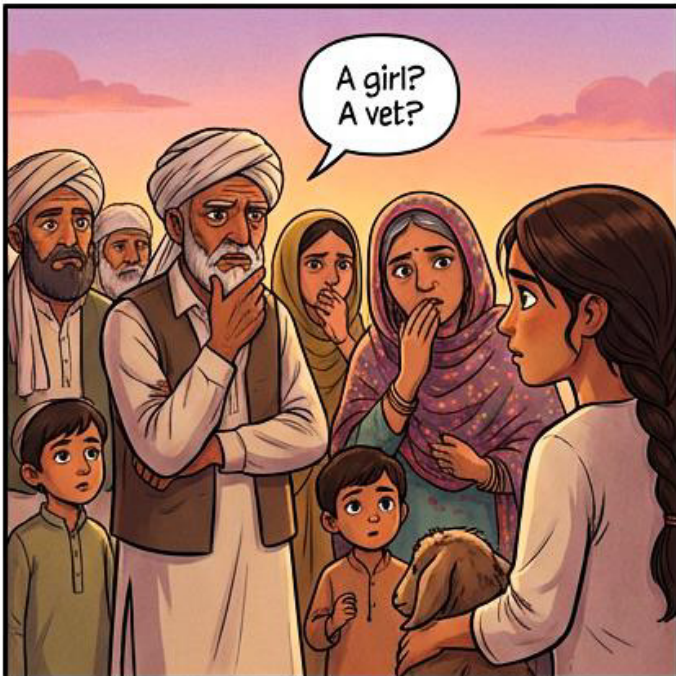
Dr Naree Ketusing
WOAH Sub-Regional
Representative for South-East Asia



Every journey begins somewhere small.



"Don't worry... I'm here."



A girl?
A vet?



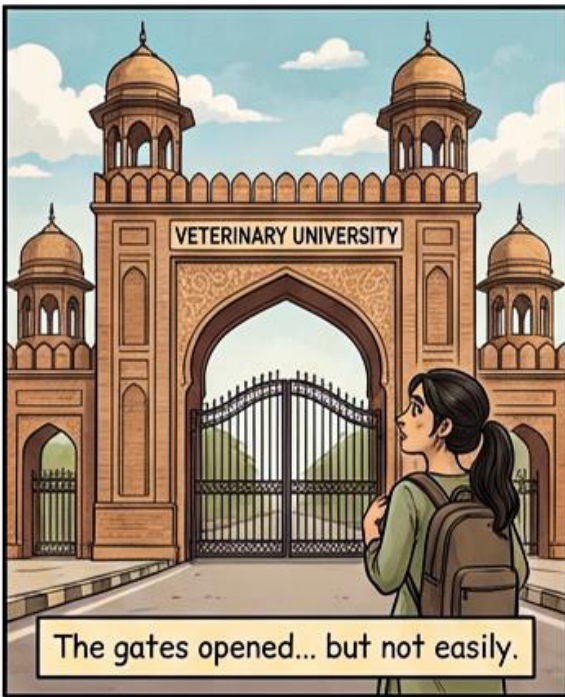
Kindness doesn't need permission.



Follow your heart.



And dreams don't ask for approval.



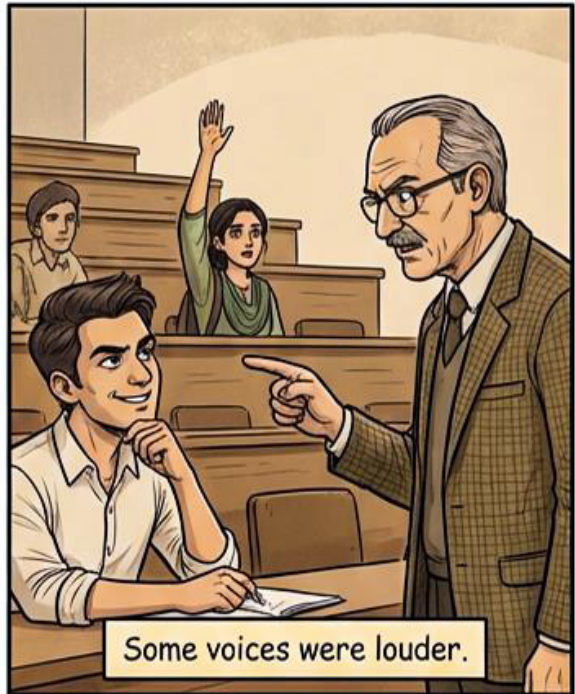
The gates opened... but not easily.



I felt unseen.



Sir?



Some voices were louder.



The slope here was much steeper than
flattened on down as horizontal with nation
and character of their nature with a low
peak. with respect to the main road. The road
his character. your character. The road
This habit of always entering through will
city an even more.
I belong here taking notes.
میں یہاں کی ہوں



So I spoke through effort.

Strength isn't always physical.



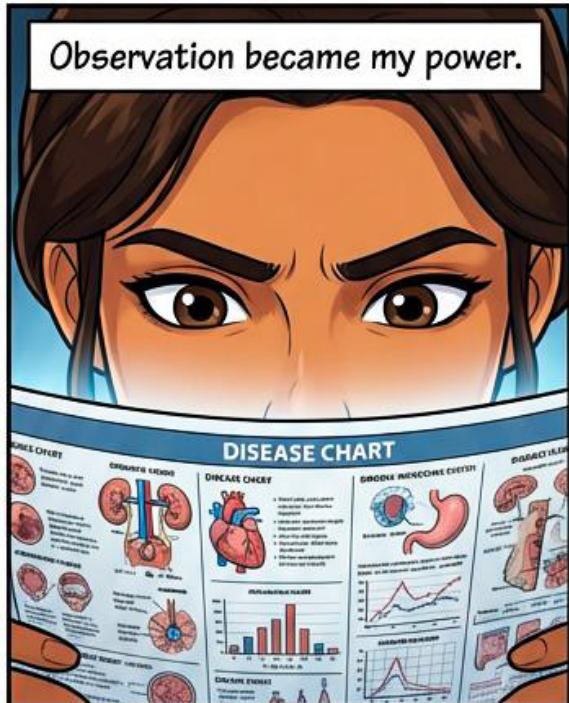
She won't manage.



You do this.



Observation became my power.

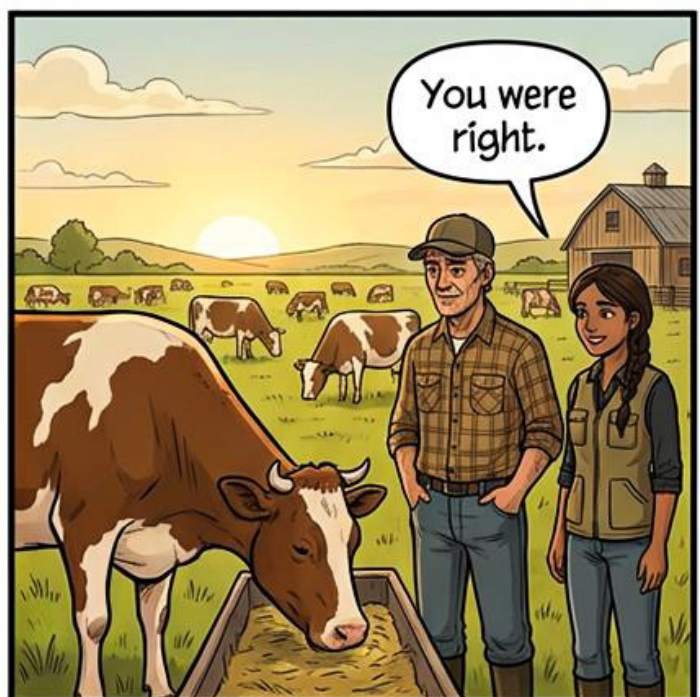
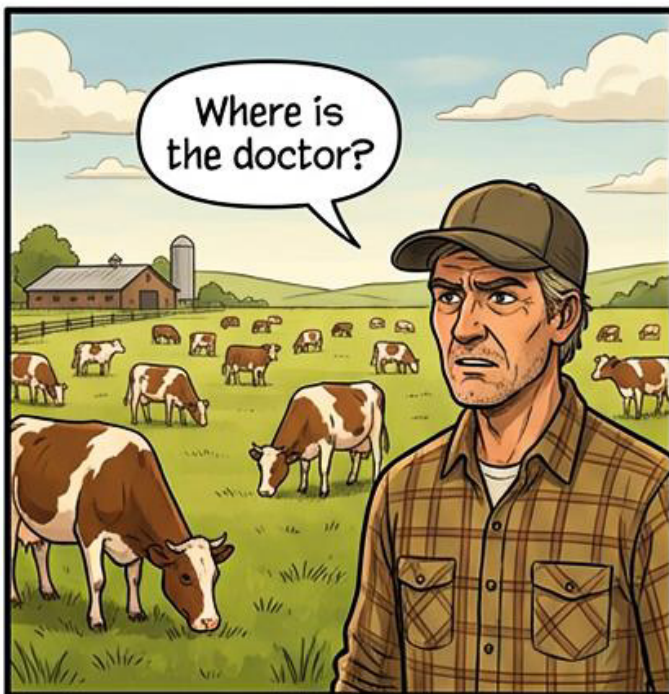


Good eye.



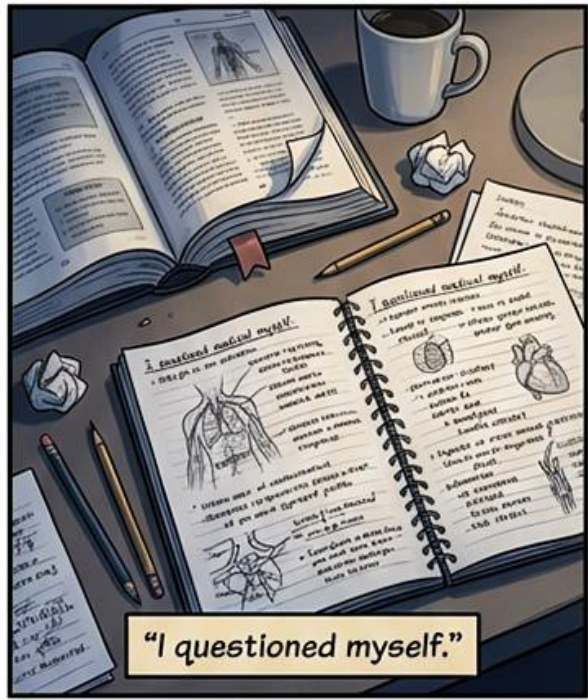
One belief can change everything.







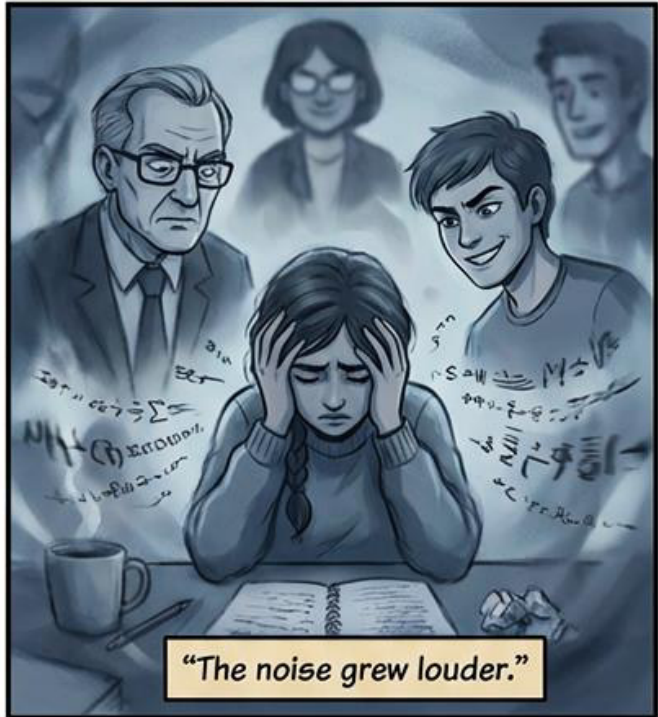
"Not every battle is visible."



"I questioned myself."



"The noise grew louder."



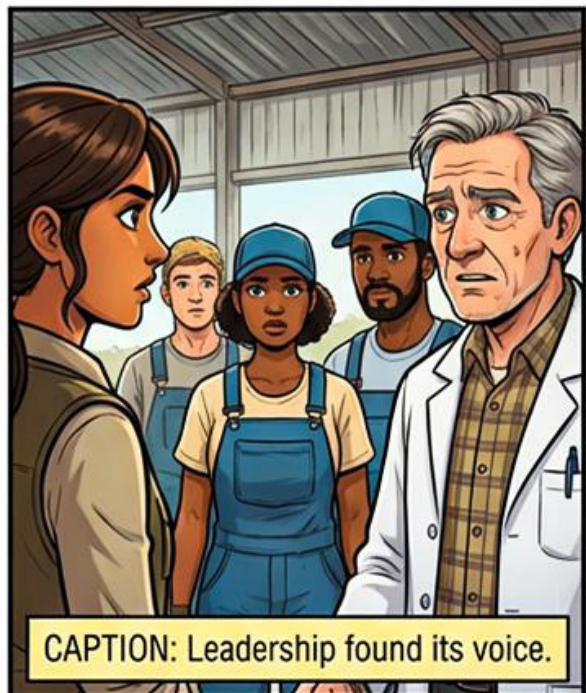
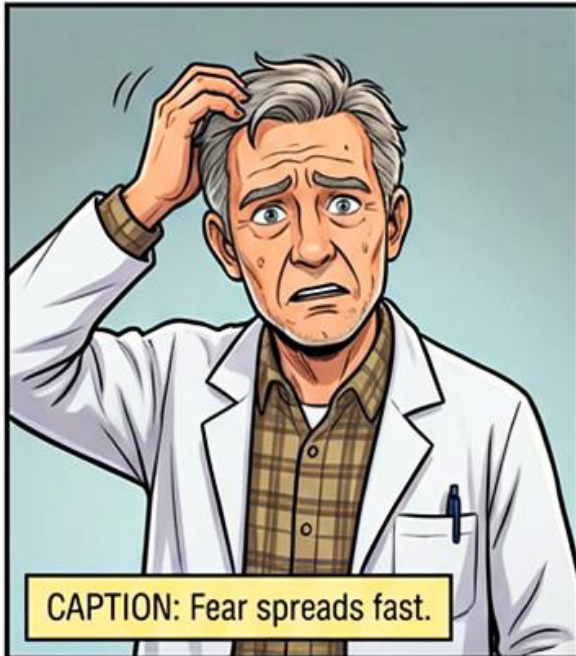
"The noise grew louder."

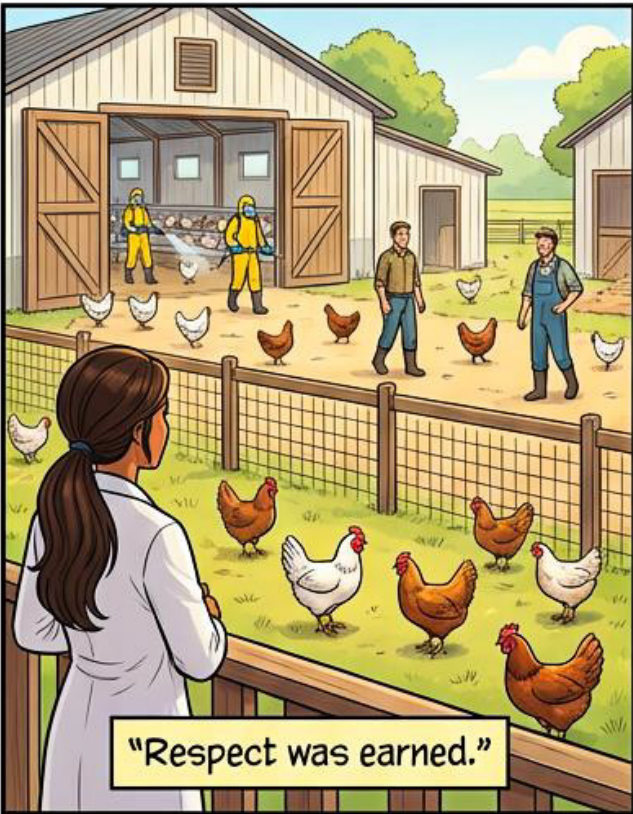
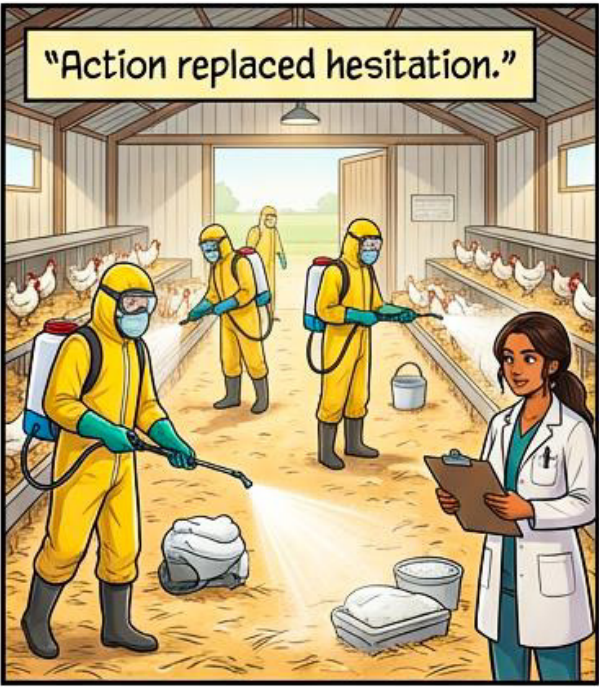


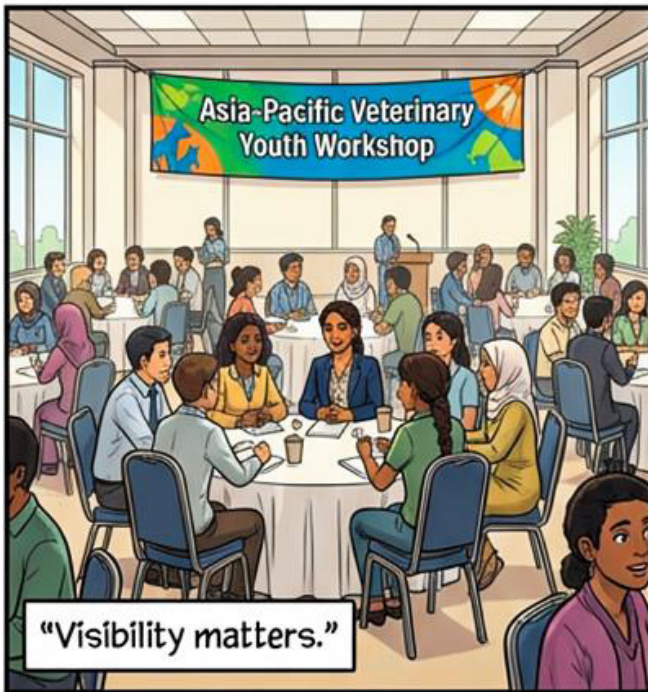
Breathe.



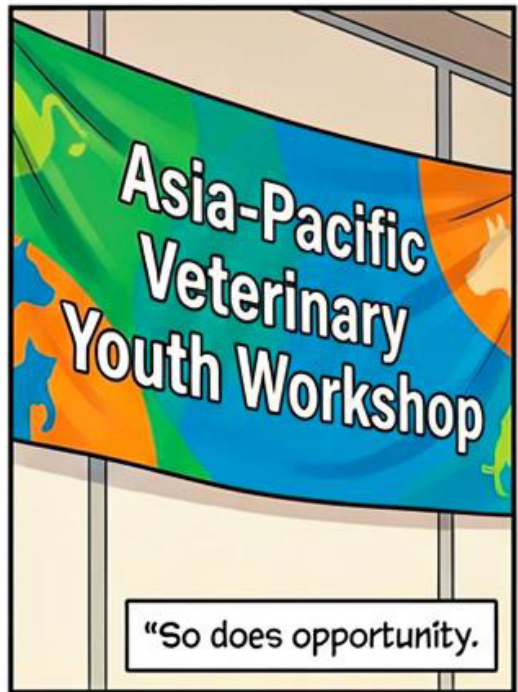
"Then I stood again."







"Visibility matters."



"So does opportunity."



"You belong here too."



"She's like us."



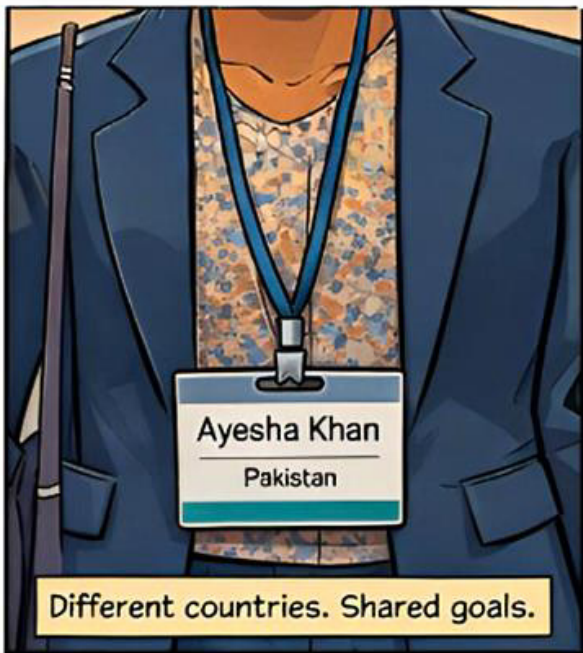
"Stories create bridges."



"Inclusion builds futures."



Her voice reached further.



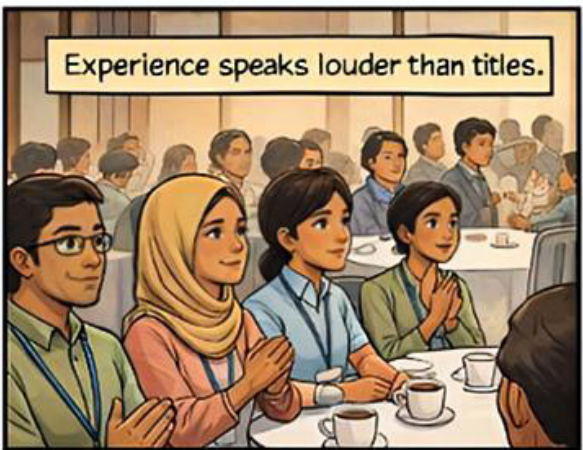
Different countries. Shared goals.



Inclusion strengthens animal health.



Experience speaks louder than titles.



Experience speaks louder than titles.



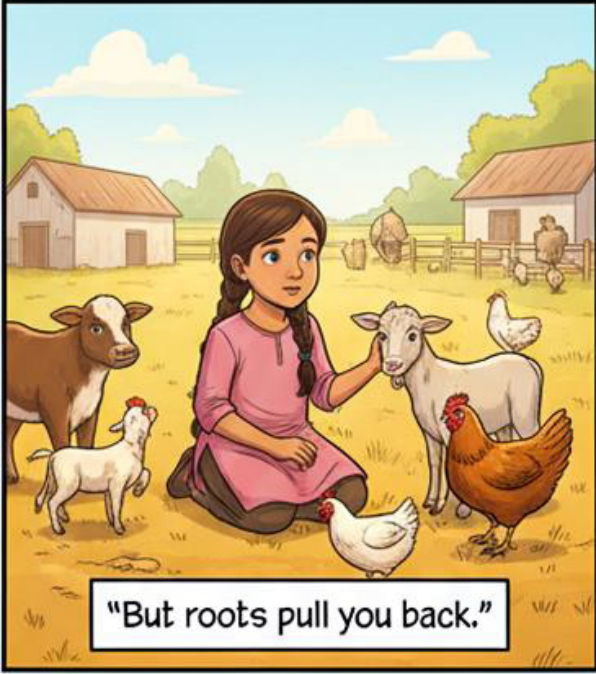
..When everyone is heard...



...systems become stronger.



But the journey wasn't finished.



Every journey returns home.



Doctor has come.



Knowledge becomes service.



Can I do this too?



Yes. You can.

Dreams grow when shared.



Inclusion changes futures.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hasnat Ahmed

I am a veterinary student from Pakistan with a strong interest in animal health and community-based veterinary work. Growing up around livestock inspired my decision to pursue veterinary medicine. During my studies, I have observed how gender expectations can influence confidence and career opportunities within the veterinary profession. I chose storytelling through comics as a simple and engaging way to reflect these experiences.

Comic Description




"Roots and Wings - A Veterinary Journey" tells the story of a young female veterinary student in Pakistan as she moves from her rural background into professional veterinary practice. The comic follows her experiences in education, fieldwork, and community service, highlighting perseverance, learning, and inclusion. The story reflects how equal opportunity and supportive environments strengthen veterinary services and inspire the next generation.

World Organisation for Animal Health

Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific
Food Science Building 5F
The University of Tokyo
1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo 113-0032
Japan

World Organisation for Animal Health

Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia
c/o Department of Livestock Development
69/1 Phaya Thai Road
Ratchathewi 10400 Bangkok
Thailand

 WOAHAAsiaPacific  @WOAH_Asia  WorldAnimalHealth

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