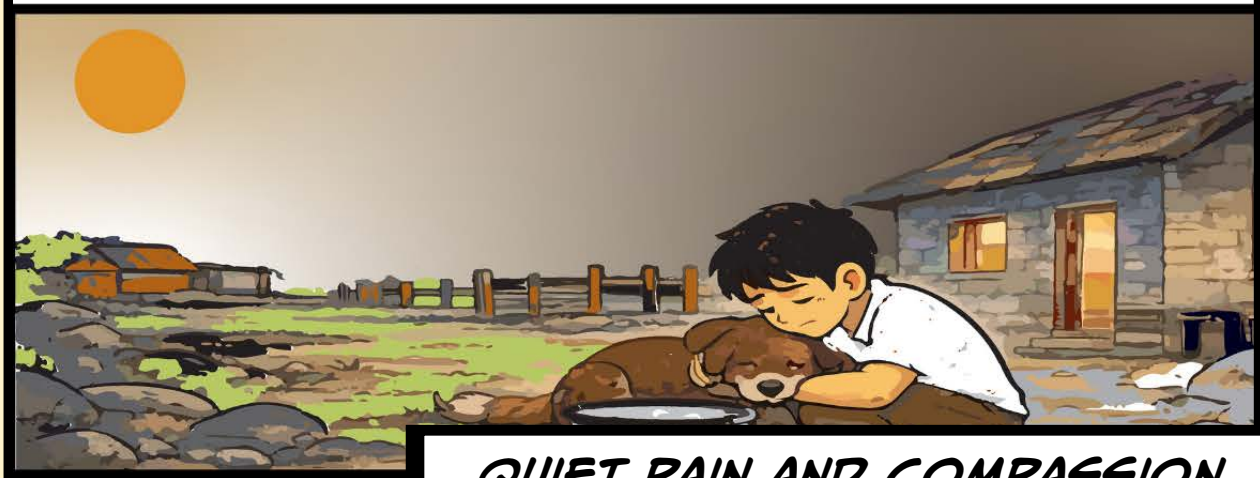




World Organisation  
for Animal Health

# 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.

© WOA, 2026

Some rights reserved. This work is made available under a CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO licence.



This publication was possible thanks to the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Note: Designations, statements and opinions in the material do not imply any official position of WOA or partner organisations, and responsibility for interpretation lies solely with the reader.

## 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.

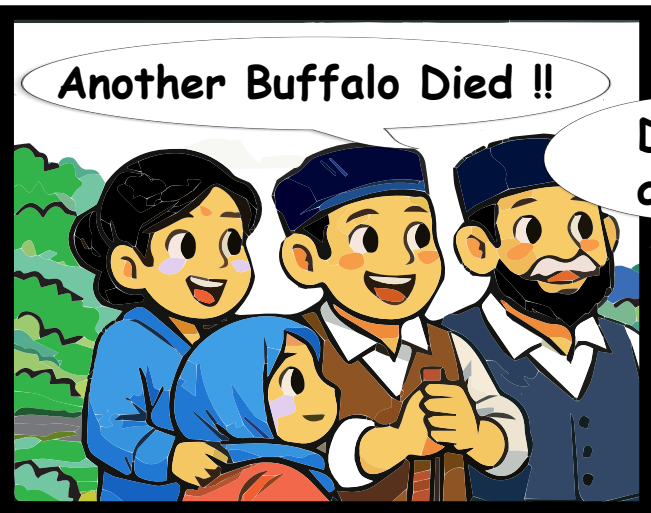
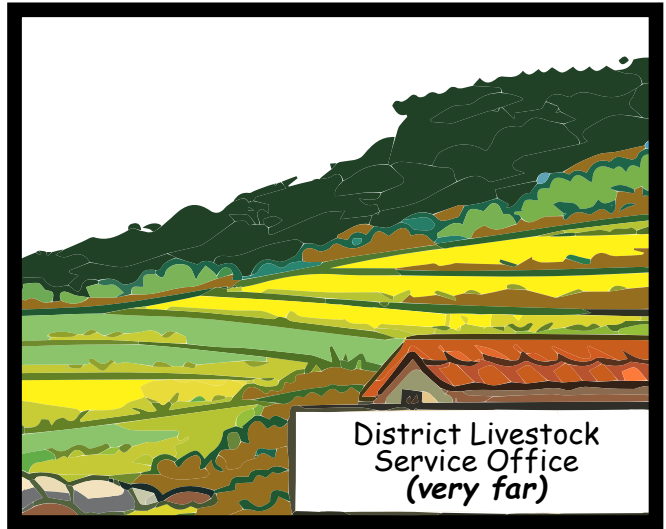
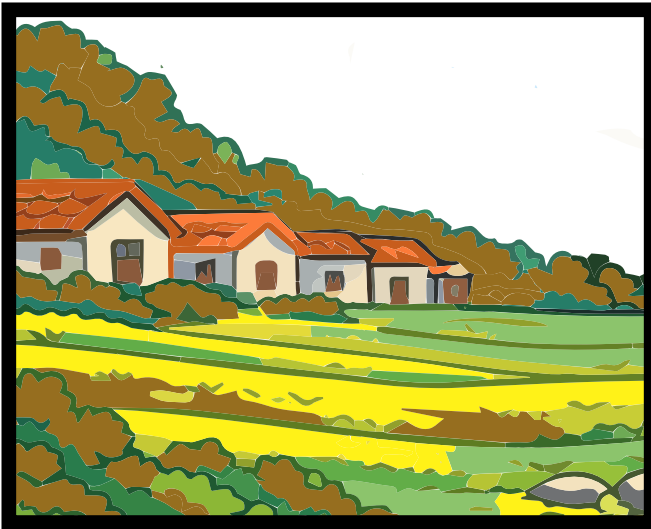


**Dr Tomoko Ishibashi**  
**WOAH Regional**  
**Representative for Asia and**  
**the Pacific**



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

# A Village in hills of Sindhupalchok District, Nepal



## A Farmer Unties his last Cow and Sells it...



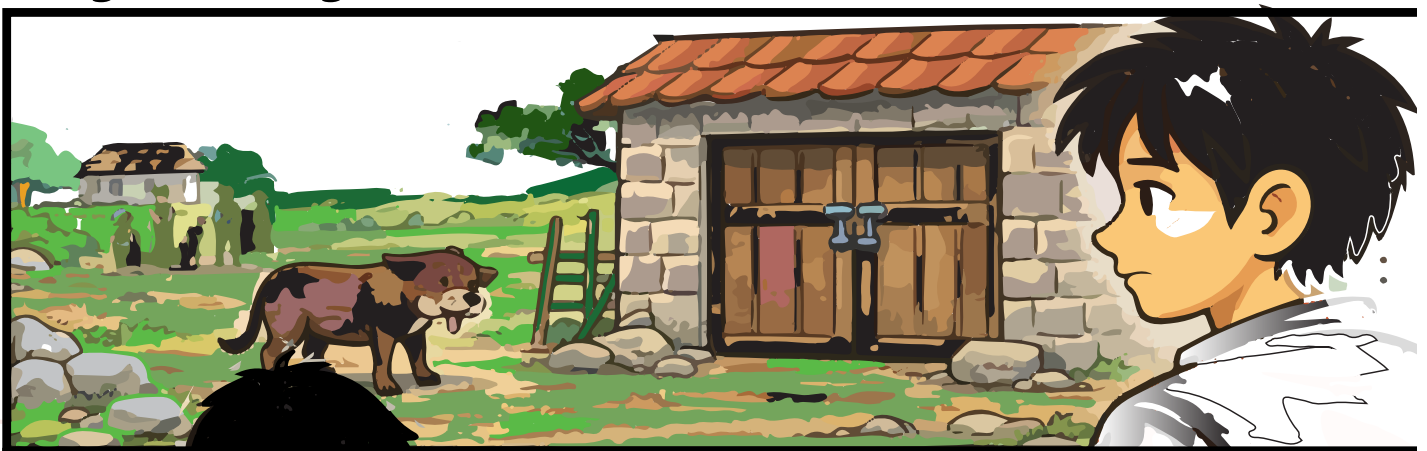
# Village burdened with ignorance



**Dog biting livestock, barking loud and showing aggressive behaviour !**

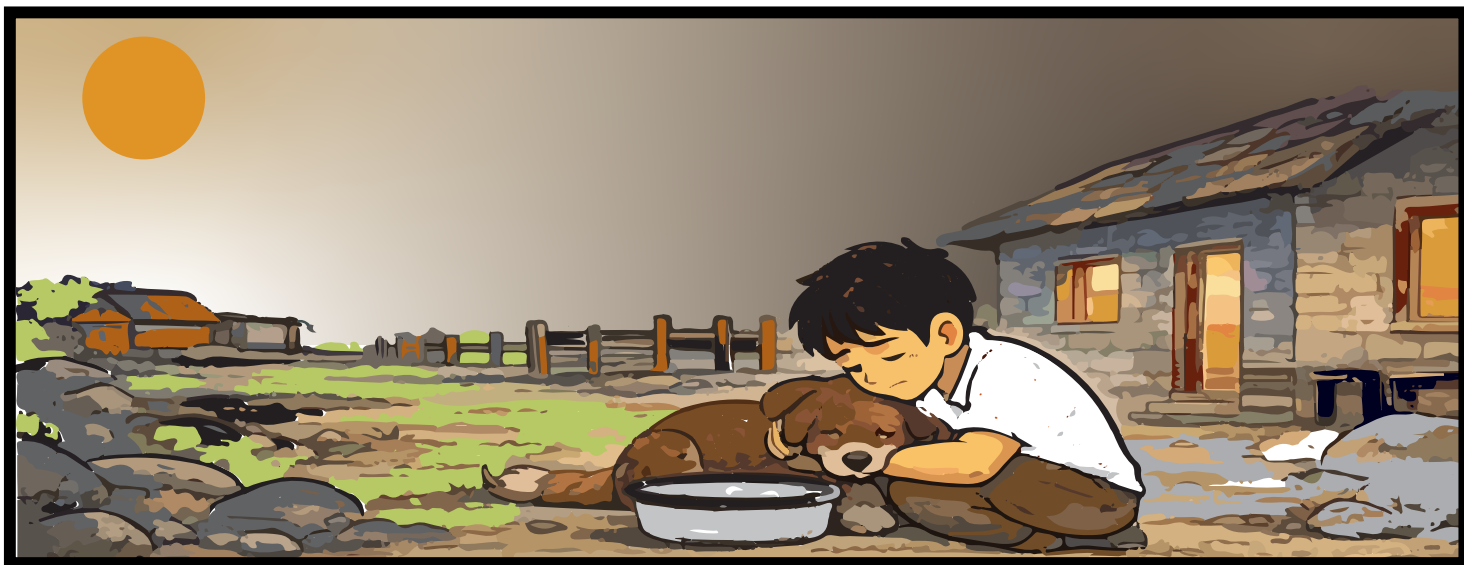


**Dogs are abandoned ! Families stopped keeping dogs fearing demon curse....**

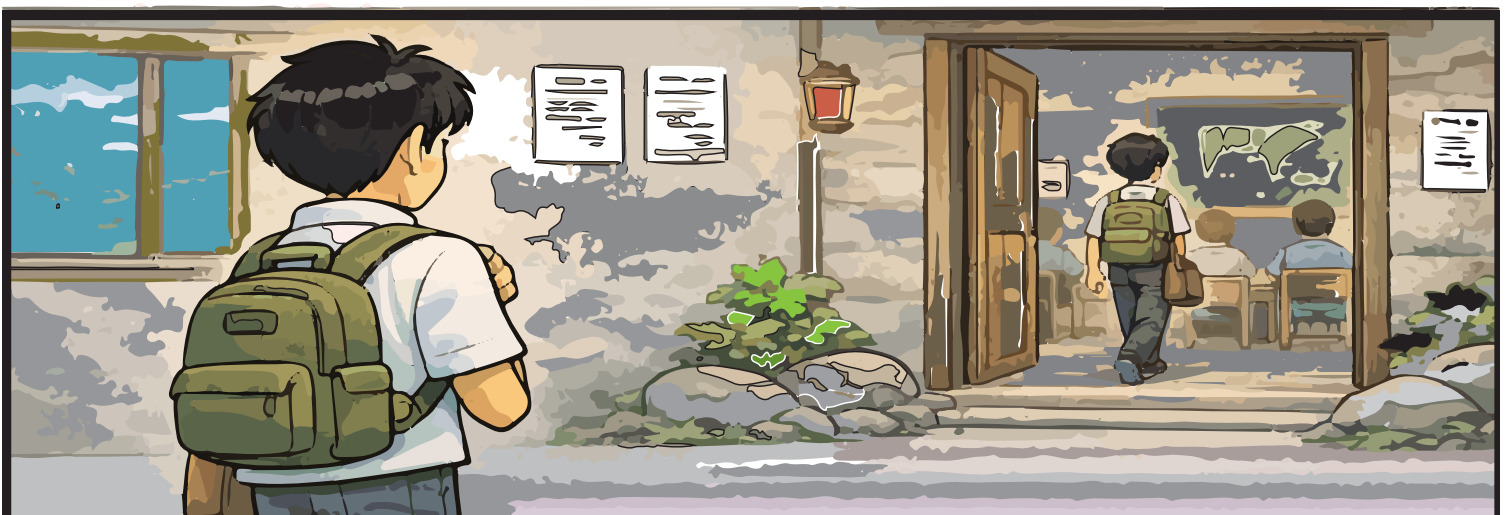
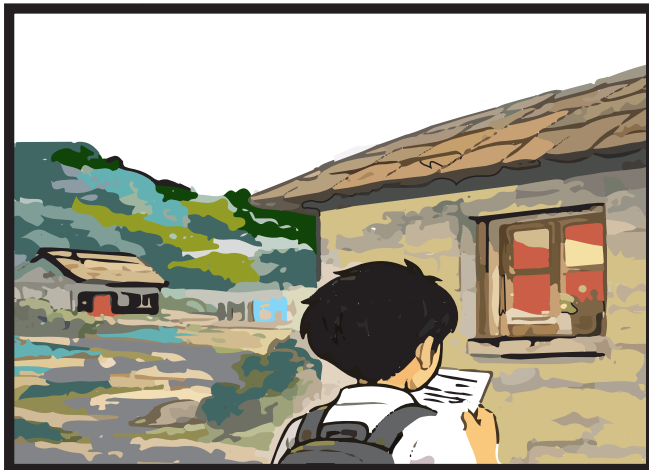
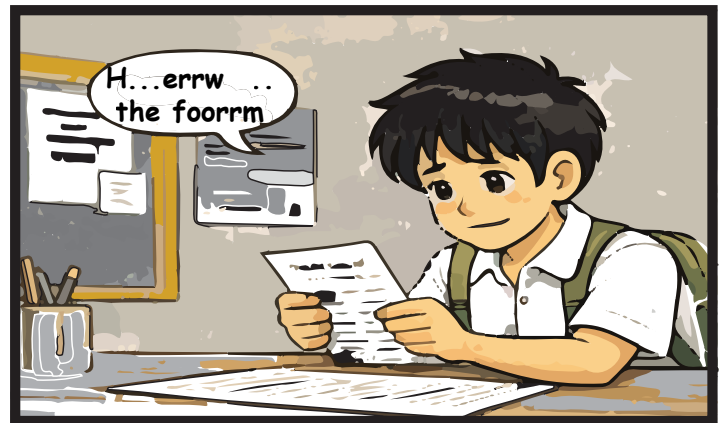
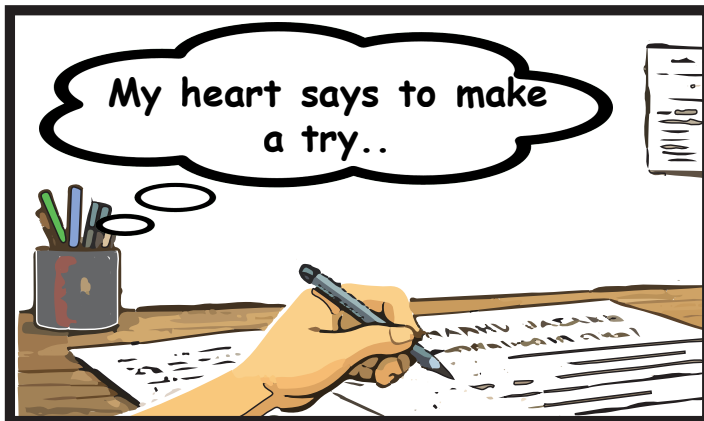
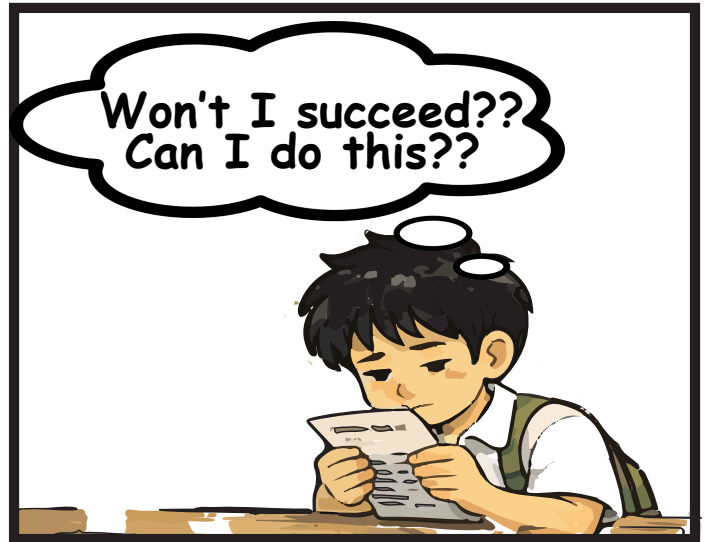


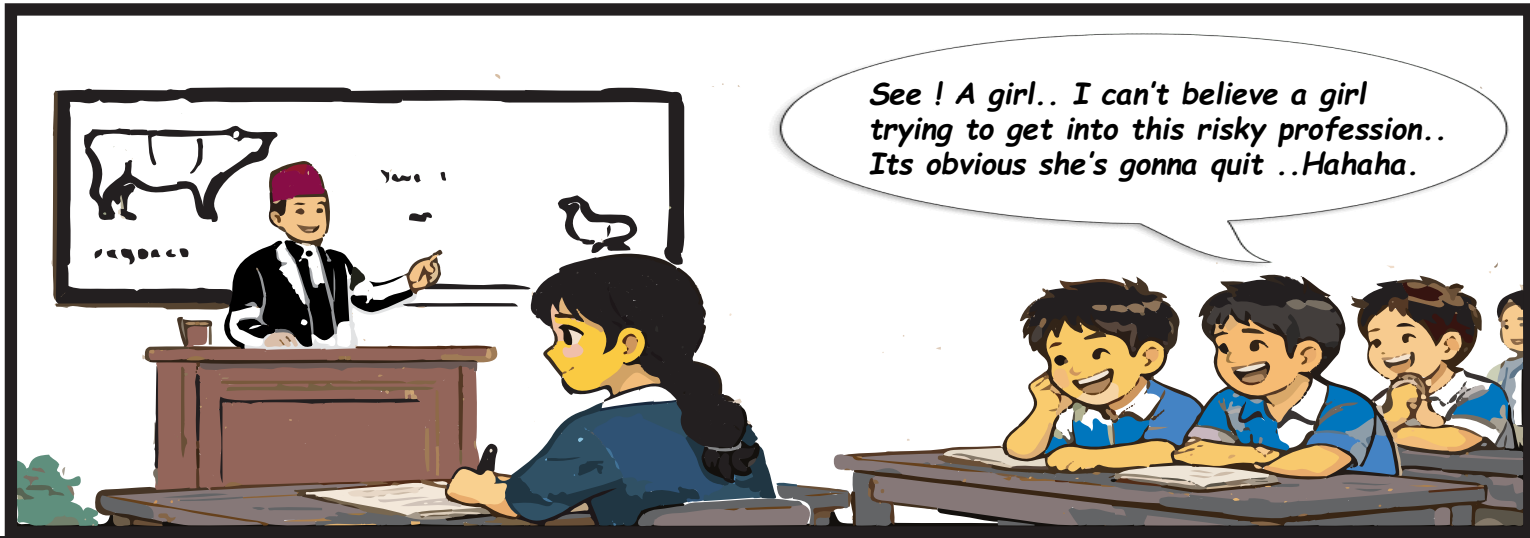
*These all chaos is been silently observed by Vidur , a stammering guy mocked by all for his verbal issues. He's got compassion towards animals as he feels that they are his friends who listen him without any complains....*

# The quiet pain and compassion.



# Small Opportunity gives the direction

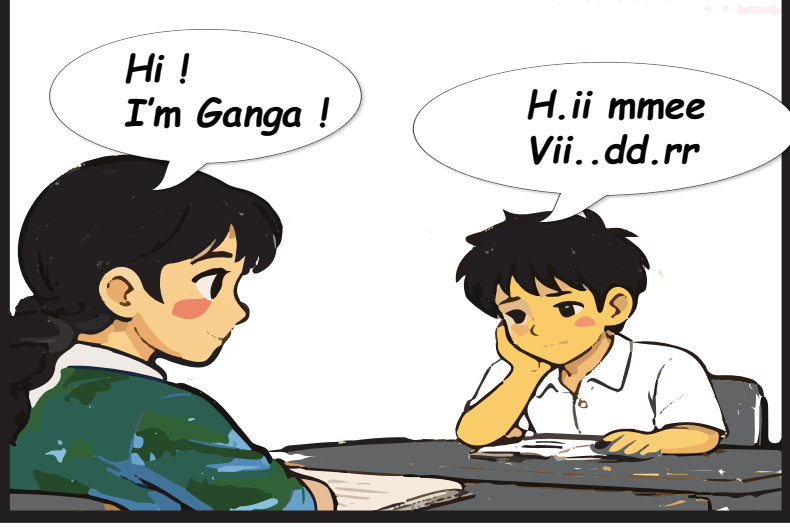




See ! A girl.. I can't believe a girl trying to get into this risky profession.. Its obvious she's gonna quit ..Hahaha.



Look another Creep... They are embarassment to us



Hi ! I'm Ganga !

H.ii mnee Vii..dd.rr

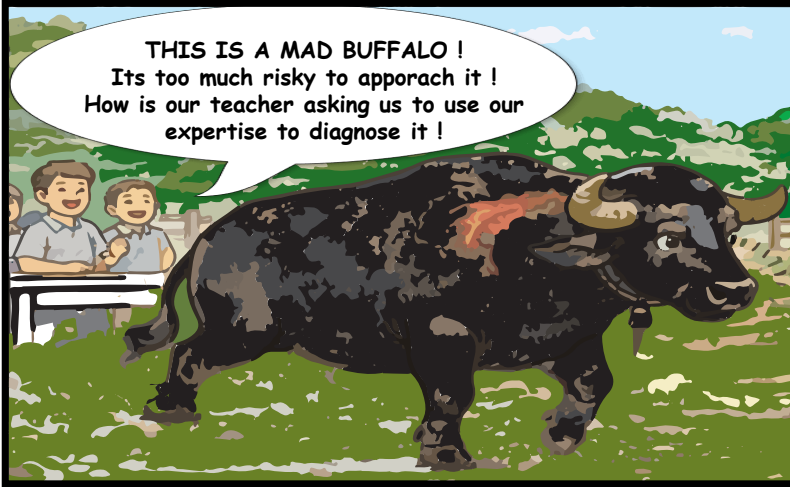


Again Mockers .. Ugghh..

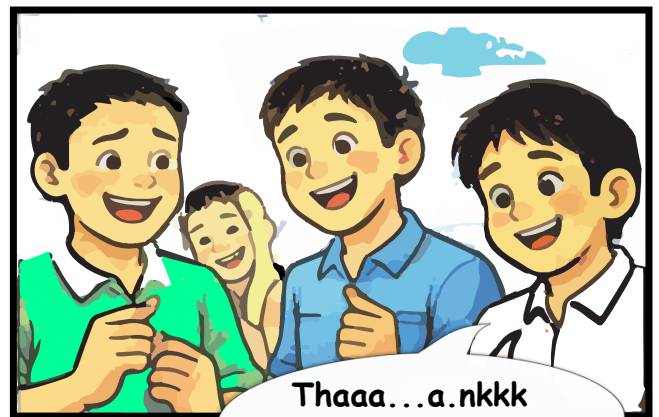
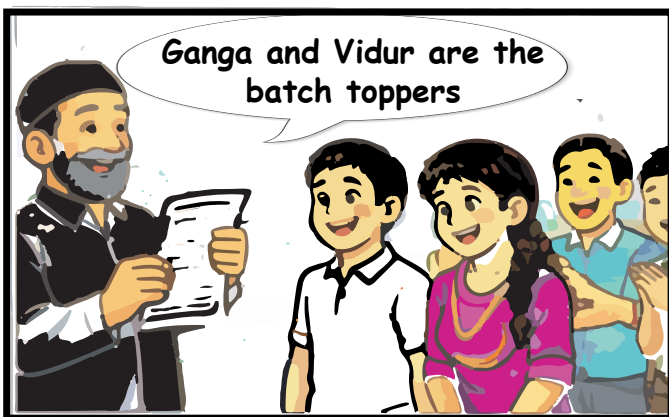


Different barriers to go ahead but same painful eyes meets.....

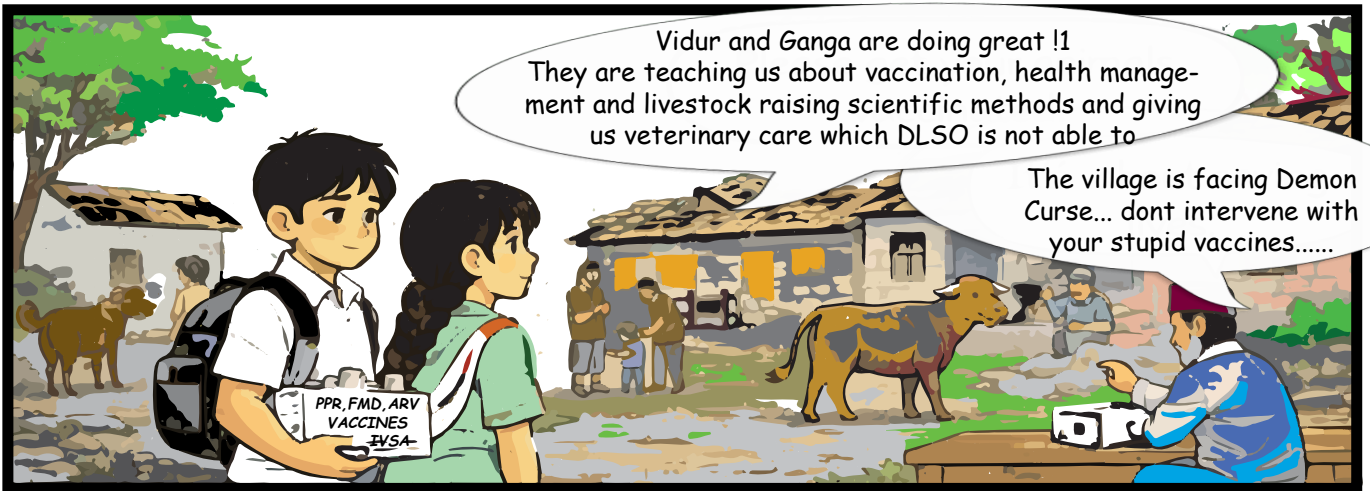
## READY FOR ACTION !!



After few months, exams were conducted and result has been announced.....

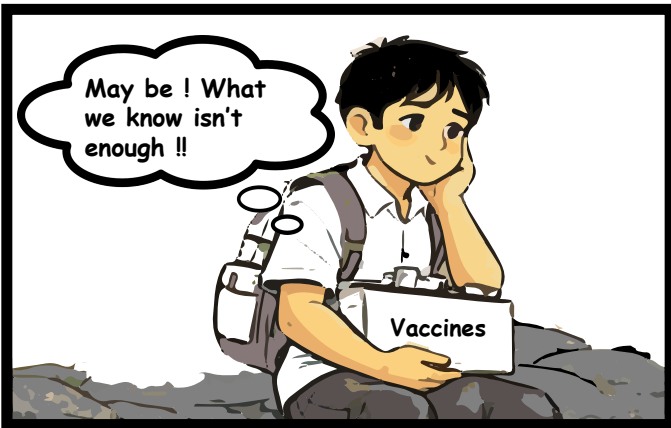


Vidur and Ganga returns their village and finds that fear of disease (god wraths still remains) and they wer loved by farmers for treating their live-stocks and helping farmers to grow better.... Until one day.....



Vidur and Ganga are doing great !1  
They are teaching us about vaccination, health management and livestock raising scientific methods and giving us veterinary care which DLISO is not able to

The village is facing Demon Curse... dont intervene with your stupid vaccines.....

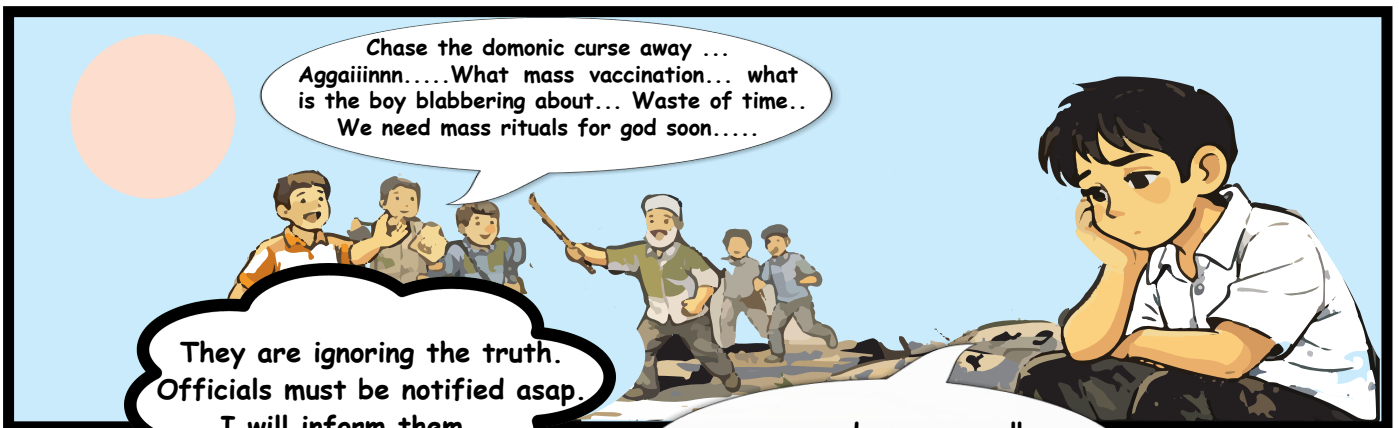


May be ! What we know isn't enough !!



THEY WON'T TRUST US NOW...

After their vaccine our cow got sick and killed ... Now they are giving excuses !! 65 days trainees are now disobeying gods rath .....



Chase the domonic curse away ... Aggaiinnn.....What mass vaccination... what is the boy blabbering about... Waste of time.. We need mass rituals for god soon.....

They are ignoring the truth. Officials must be notified asap. I will inform them.....

nooo deemoonnn !! needd joiinntt e...eeeffoorrtt of.....ff all....lll

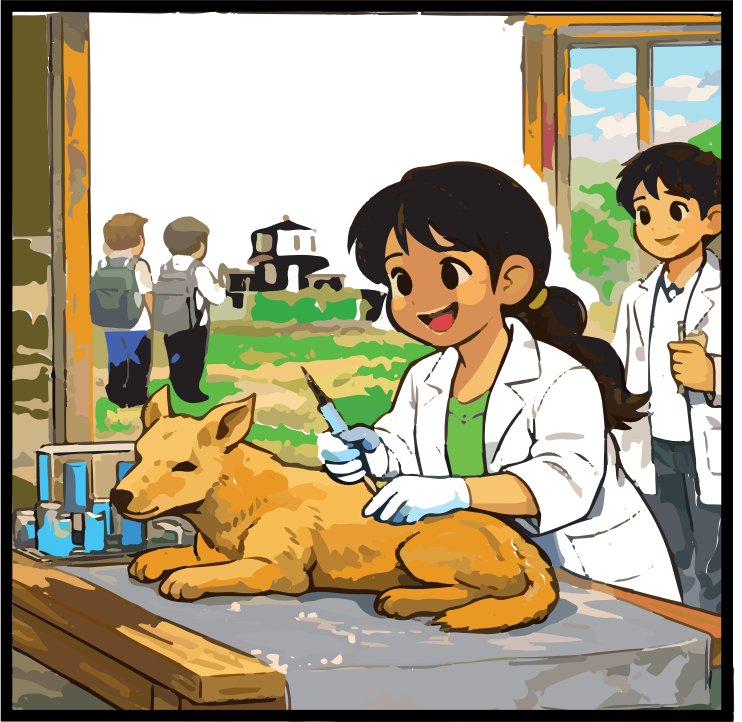
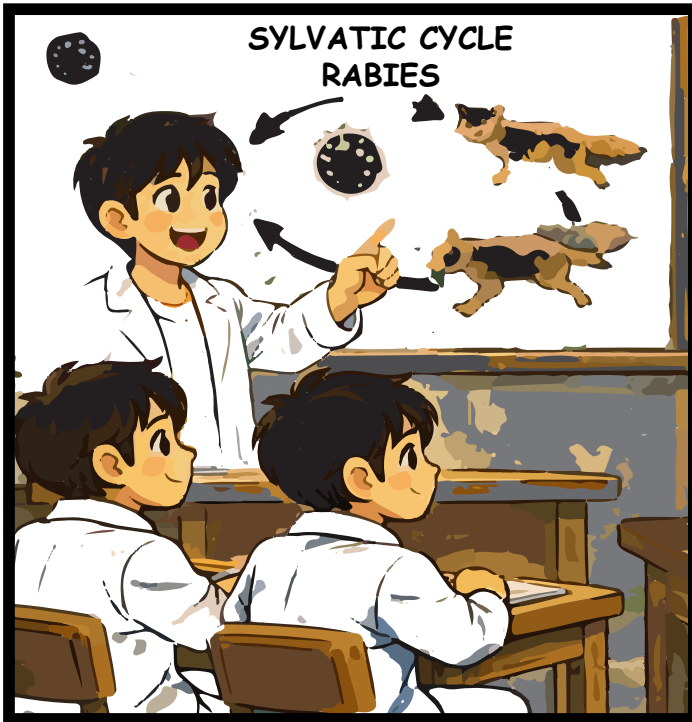
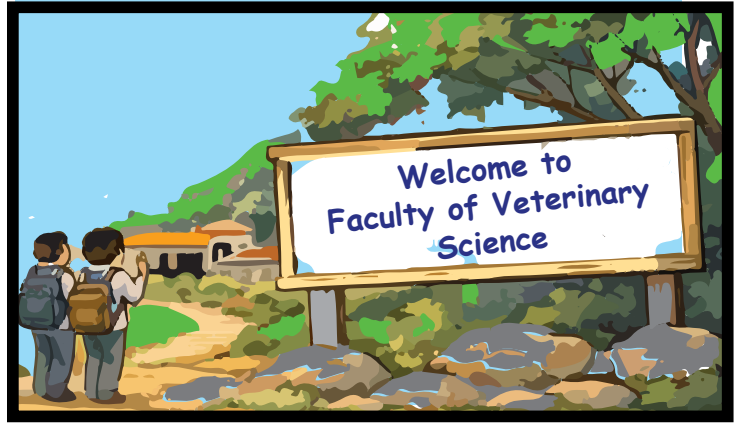


# Reporting and Saving Lives



A BIG DREAM WHICH THEY HAD MEVER IMAGINED AWAITS.....

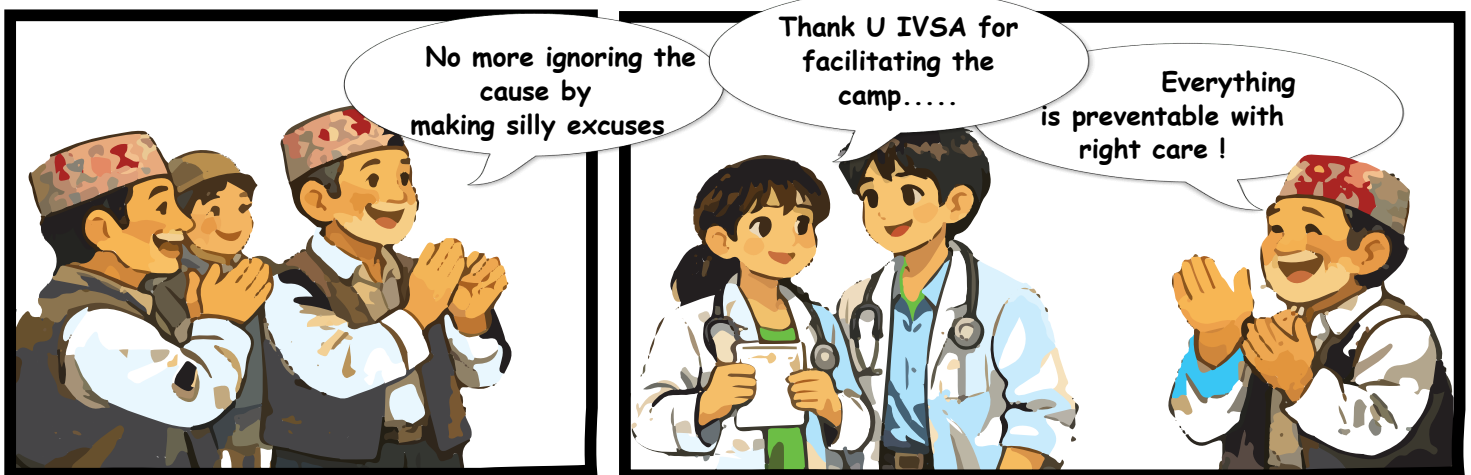




International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)  
Collaboration: District Livestock Service Office



Free Animal Health Camp  
Zoonoses Awareness Campaign



To be Contd.....

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Sandhya Bhandari

I am Sandhya Bhandari, a veterinary student currently pursuing a Bachelor of Veterinary Science & Animal Health at the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal, from Sindhupalchok District, Nepal. I am currently working as an Editor at the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) Rampur and a Research and Data Analyst for the Standing Committee on One Health (Global), with a passion for One Health, addressing zoonotic diseases, and inclusive veterinary practices.

### Comic description

The comic is set in a remote village in the hill of Sindhupalchok district, Nepal, where fear, superstition, and lack of access to veterinary services lead people to abandon livestock and chase dogs, believing diseases are curses rather than preventable conditions.

The story introduces Vidur, a young man with a stammering disability, and Ganga, a determined young woman facing gender bias. Both are underestimated and ignored, yet they choose compassion and science over fear. Through Village Animal Health Worker (VAHW) training, community service, vaccination campaigns, and rabies awareness, they slowly challenge harmful beliefs and promote prevention, reporting, and collective action, later joining Bachelor of Veterinary Science & Animal Health degree programs.


Despite rejection and doubt, their persistence leads to positive change. The villagers begin to understand that zoonotic diseases are preventable, and that knowledge, empathy, and teamwork can save lives. The story highlights gender equality, disability inclusion, and social inclusion (GEDSI) in the veterinary sector.


### **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

Visit us: [woah.org](http://woah.org) | [rr-asia.woah.org](http://rr-asia.woah.org)

