



World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



One journey. Many paths.

Knowledge multiplies
when shared.

From theory to
hands-on care.

Knowledge multiplies
when shared.

Sharing experience
beyond borders.

SEEING WITHOUT SIGHT



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

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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.

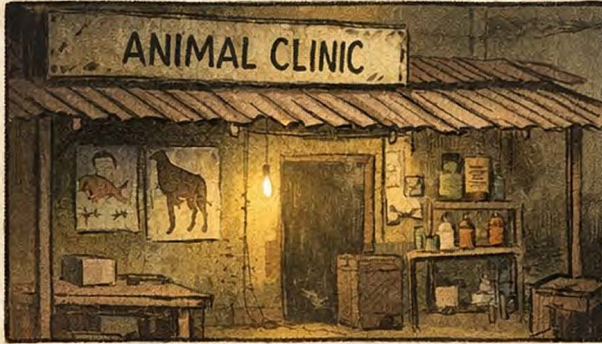


Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
WOAH Regional
Representative for Asia and
the Pacific



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

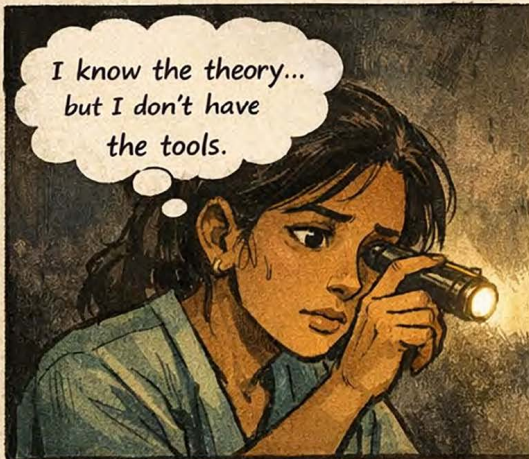
A small clinic. Big dreams.



No slit lamp. No tonometer. Only curiosity.



Knowledge without tools.



This was just the beginning.

Late nights with textbooks.



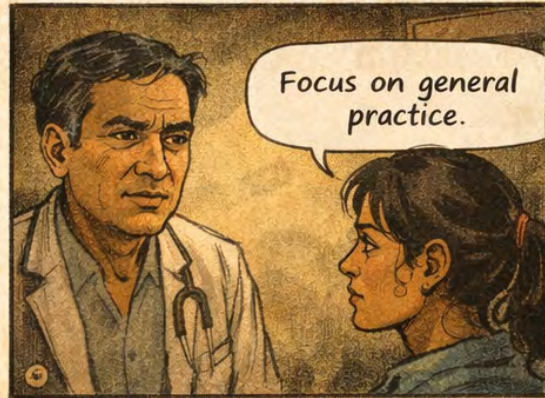
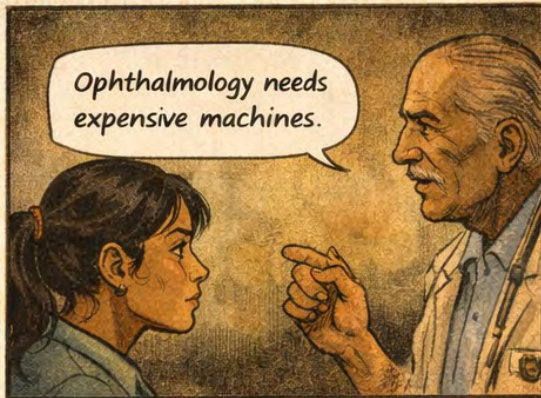
No slit lamp. No tonometer. Only curiosity.

Knowledge without tools.



This was just the beginning.

Senior voices saying:

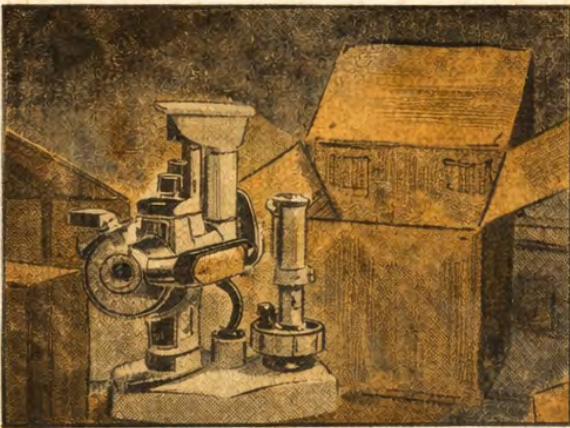
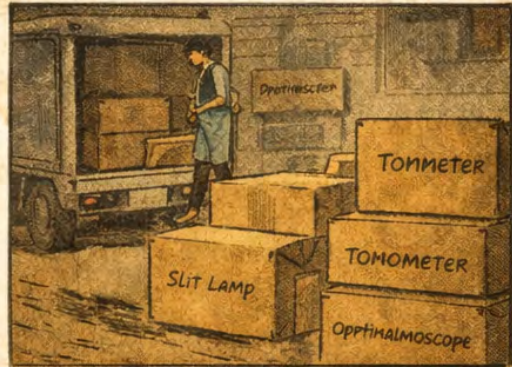


Persistence became her strength.



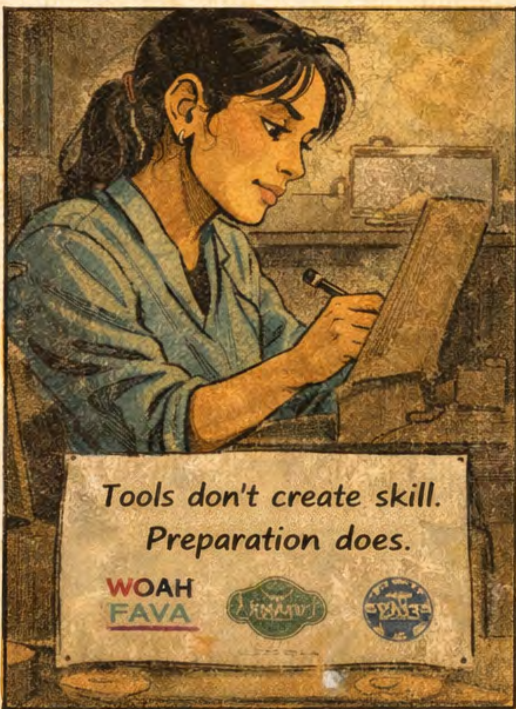
This was just the beginning.

A progressive hospital agrees to invest.



This was just the beginning.

Using the equipment for the first time.



Tools don't create skill. Preparation does.

Every case became evidence of learning.



Every case became evidence of learning. Observation turned into understanding.



Follow-ups completed the story.

Local cases. Global relevance.

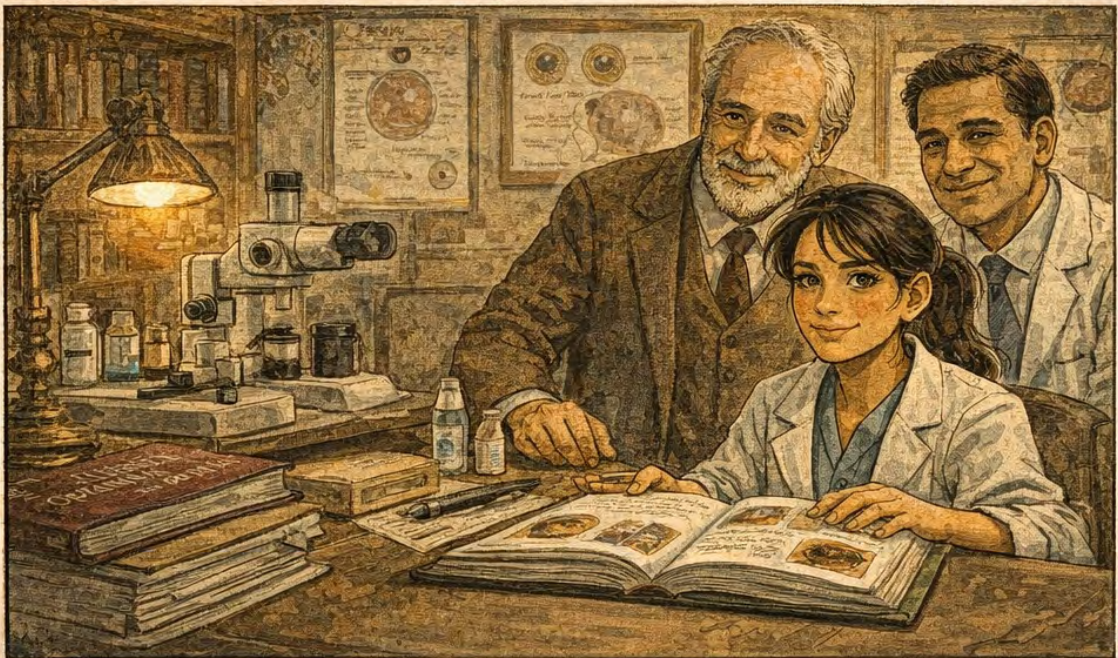
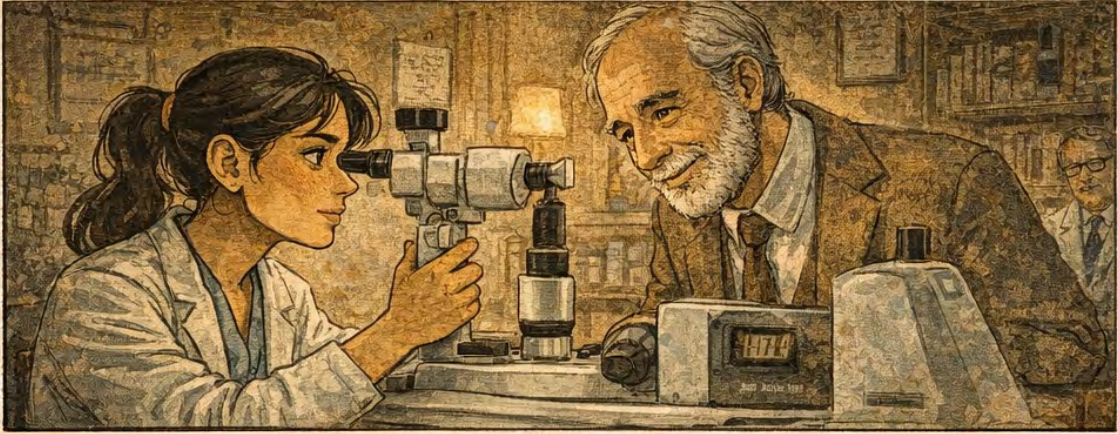


Her work found a voice.

Step by step, credibility was built.



Page 6- Building portfolio was built.

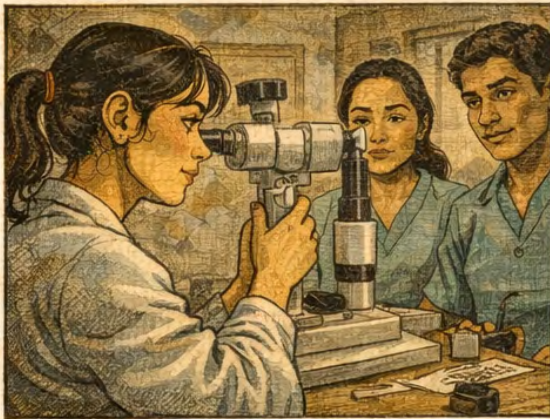


*Her dedication was taking her further
than she ever dreamed.*

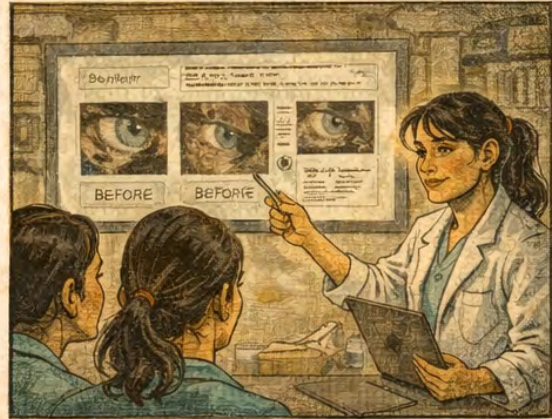
Back in Sri Lanka.



Back in Sri Lanka.



Training others.

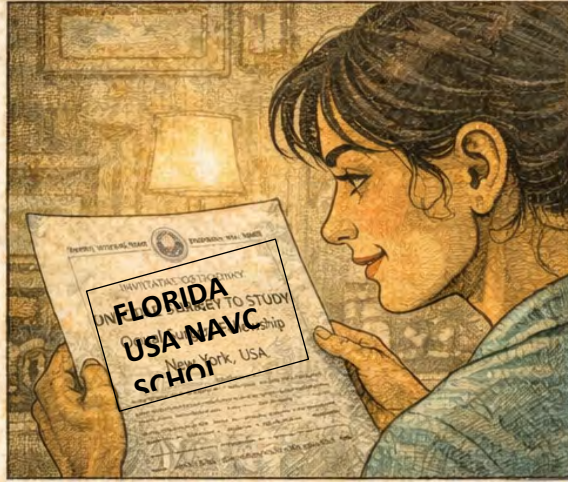


Writing case reports for conferences.



Knowledge multiplies when shared.

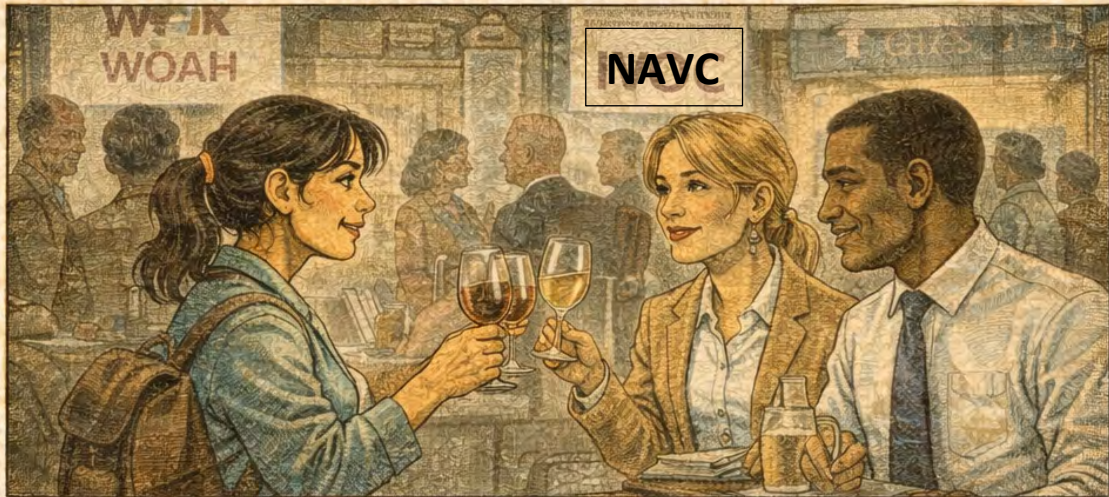
Another opportunity.



An invitation to the USA.



Expanding networks.



New collaborations.



She returned—not just to practice, but to teach.



She returned—not just to practice, but to teach.



Let me show you how we examine what others overlook.



Access to learning should never depend on background.



Representation shapes possibility.



We didn't know this was possible here.



One journey. Many paths.



Knowledge multiplies
when shared.

From theory to
hands-on care.



Knowledge multiplies
when shared.

Sharing experience
beyond borders.



I once learned ophthalmology without equipment.



Today, I teach others how to see.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Naduni Nuwanshika

Dr Naduni Nuwanshika, BVSc is a veterinary surgeon and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. She is passionate about veterinary ophthalmology, clinical education, and improving access to professional knowledge in the Asia-Pacific region.

Comic Description

"**Seeing Without Sight**" tells the story of a young veterinarian overcoming resource limitations to pursue her passion in veterinary ophthalmology. Beginning in a small Sri Lankan clinic without proper equipment, she studies textbooks and online lectures to develop her skills. A supportive hospital provides essential equipment, enabling her to build a portfolio of cases, which earns her an ISVO Travel Scholarship to study in the UK. Returning home, she applies her knowledge, writes case reports, and shares her expertise with junior veterinarians. Opportunities in the USA further expand her skills and professional network. The comic culminates with her becoming a visiting lecturer, teaching diverse students and inspiring the next generation of veterinarians.



The story emphasizes **GEDSI values**: access to professional education, overcoming inequality, mentorship, and women in leadership in the veterinary sector. The narrative and characters are fully original, with subtle references to WOA, FAVA, AAVS, IVSA, NAVC and ISVO.

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