### SUPERHEROES AGAINST SUPERBUGS

**Grassroots Comics on Antibiotic Resistance** 



### SUPERHEROES AGAINST SUPERBUGS

#### Grassroots Comics created by the students of schools and medical colleges in Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad on the issue of Antibiotic Resistance





Superheroes against Superbugs (SaS) initiative aims to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and promote community dialogue and action by engaging with young children in India. The SaS pilot program was supported by the public charity the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance. The pilot project was implemented in collaboration with World Comics India, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and The George Institute of Global Health India.

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SaS: www.superheroesagainstsuperbugs.com India Alliance: www.indiaalliance.org World Comics India: www.worldcomicsindia.com

2019-2020

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#### Introduction

Superheroes Against Superbugs (SaS) is a public engagement initiative launched in 2018 with the aim to build a community dedicated to tackle the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant infections in India. SaS programmes aim to engage with the general public to raise public awareness and improve public understanding of this global threat to build a society of smart antibiotic users.

India is at the forefront of the global epidemic of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Studies estimate that 58,000 newborns in India die each year due to infections caused by resistant superbugs. There are currently 700,000 deaths worldwide due to antibiotic resistance (a subset of AMR) and are expected to increase to 10 million by 2050, more deaths than cancer! Antibiotic resistance is a natural phenomenon exhibited by microbes wherein they can resist the toxic effects of antibiotics. Overuse and misuse of antibiotics by us has accelerated the development of antibiotic resistance. The SaS programme emphasises the need for the general public to become superheroes as much as we need our scientists and medical professionals to fight this century's biggest health threat, by improving scientific understanding of antibiotic resistance so that appropriate measures can be taken at an individual and community level.

The SaS pilot programme supported by the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, partnered with school children in India in this fight against antibiotic resistance by empowering them with knowledge of the issue and equipping them with the tools needed to narrate their own stories around this serious problem in the form of grassroots comics. This unique and novel program, which was recognized at the Call to Action on AMR 2018 as a pioneering initiative and highlighted by the World Health Organisation during the World Antibiotic Awareness week 2018, has been built around the premise that young minds, our superheroes, are capable of influencing behaviours around them and bringing about transformative change when equipped with the right information and tools. The pilot programme has been possible due to successful partnerships with World Comics India, Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and The George Institute for Global Health India, New Delhi.

At SaS workshops, we engage with young children on antibiotic resistance through fun and creative hands-on activities, empowering them in the process with knowledge around the issue. These children are then encouraged to weave their own stories around the issue and express their thoughts through the powerful medium of grassroots comics. The children are not only equipped with all the information they need of the problem but are also empowered to narrate their own stories through their own creative work giving them a sense of ownership and excitement, which acts as stimulus for further engagement.

Some of the issues covered in these workshops were; dangers associated with stopping antibiotics mid-course, using antibiotics for viral infections, popping antibiotics without doctor's consultation, environmental pollution with industrial dumping of antibiotics, use of antibiotics in poultry and dairy, and the importance of sanitation and hygiene. In the pilot programme, sixty school children from Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions (TSWREIS), Gowlidoddi and Global Edge School, Hyderabad, participated in the SaS workshops and worked with Sharad Sharma, founder of World Comics India, to weave stories around concepts of antibiotic resistance that were artistically conveyed using the medium of grassroots comics.

Public health researcher, Dr. Rashmi Rodrigues in collaboration with World Comics India conducted grassroots comics workshops for school and medical students in Bangalore. In Delhi, SaS workshops were organized on the side lines of an exhibition titled "Superbugs: The end of Antibiotics?" showcased at the National Science Centre.

The book in your hand is a compilation of selected comics from these workshops. These comics are being used by our young superheroes who are on a mission to spread awareness and initiate a conversation on the issue of antibiotic resistance in their schools, colleges and local communities.

Together We can Stop the Rise of Superbugs!

Team SaS

Sharad Sharma, World Comics India (Creator of this comic book, Grassroots comics Workshop facilitator)

Sarah Iqbal, DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance (Lead, SaS)

**Ponnari Gottipati, Consultant Grants Manager, LVPEI, Hyderabad** (Lead, SaS)

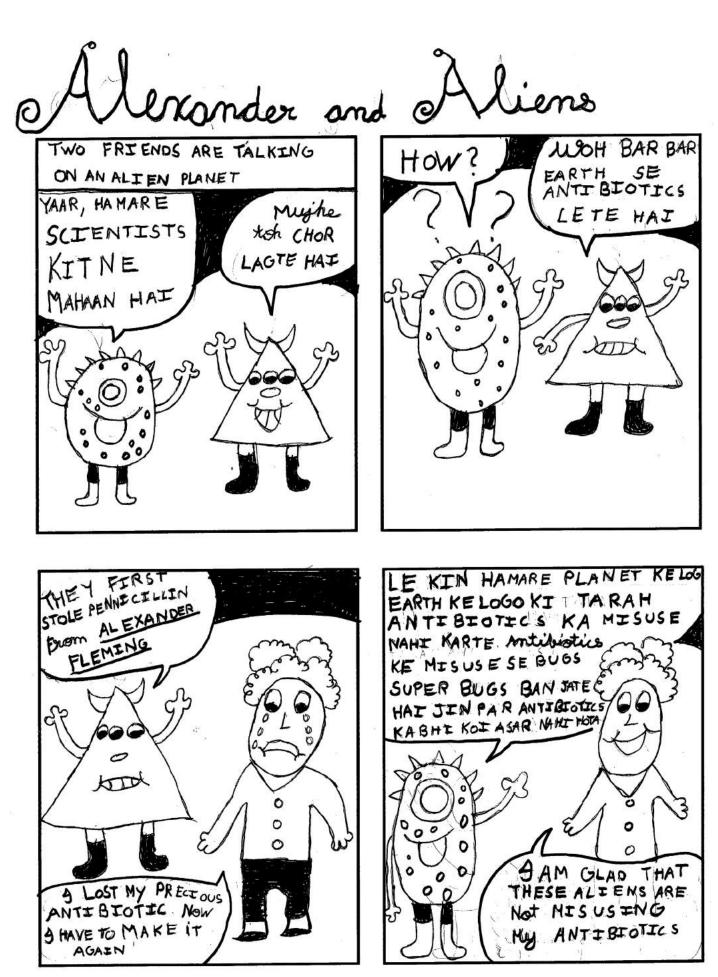
Somdatta Karak, CCMB, Hyderabad (Workshop facilitator)

Madhuri Dutta, The George Institute for Global Health India, New Delhi (Evaluation)

www.superheroesagainstsuperbugs.com Twitter: @SaSuperbugs Facebook: @superheroesagainstsuperbugs



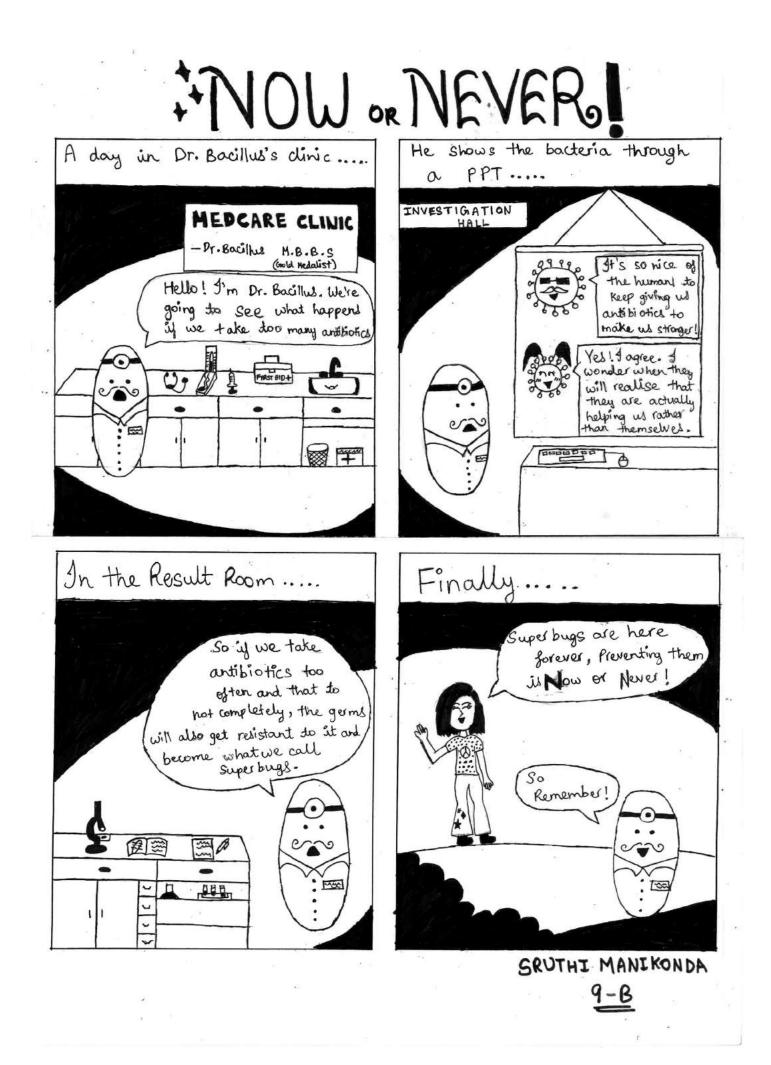
What doesn't kill you makes you stronger : Since they were discovered by Alexander Fleming in the 1940s, antibiotics have saved hundreds of millions of lives from life-threatening bacterial infections that were once untreatable. However, in recent times there is an increase in deaths caused by infections once again, as bacteria are developing resistance to these drugs and evolving into 'superbugs' that are becoming difficult to kill with existing antibiotics. The irresponsible use of antibiotics by us is speeding up this process.

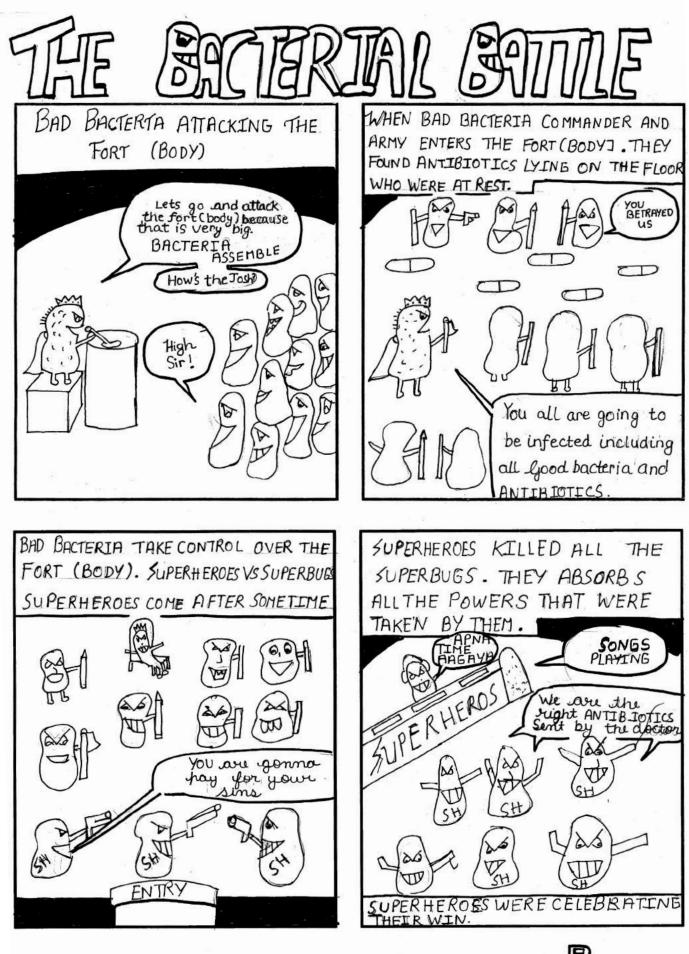


- OJESH DWIYEDI

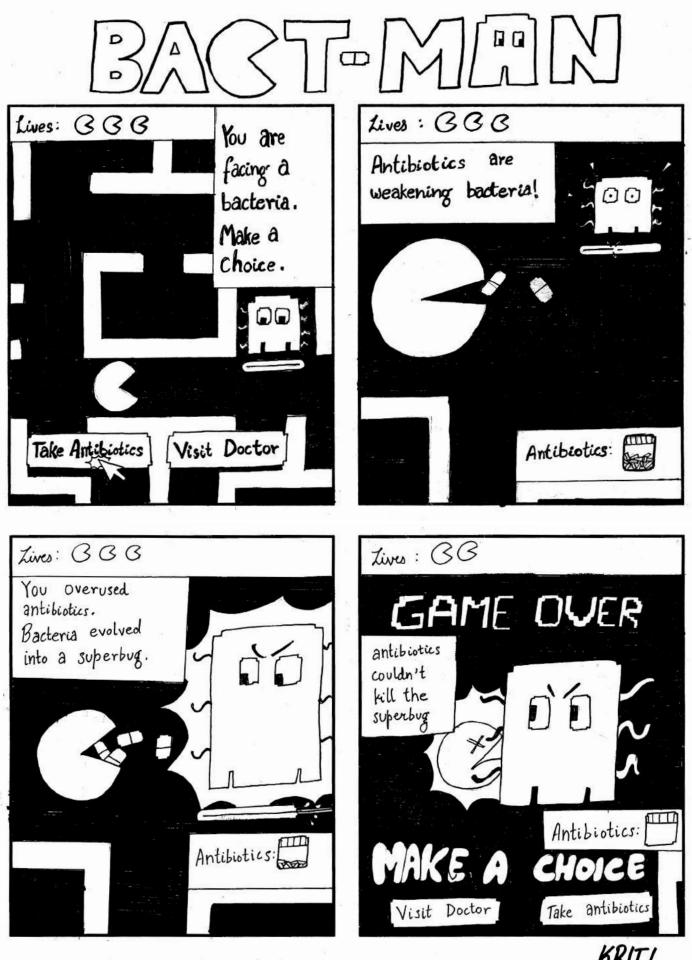


N. ARANKSHA



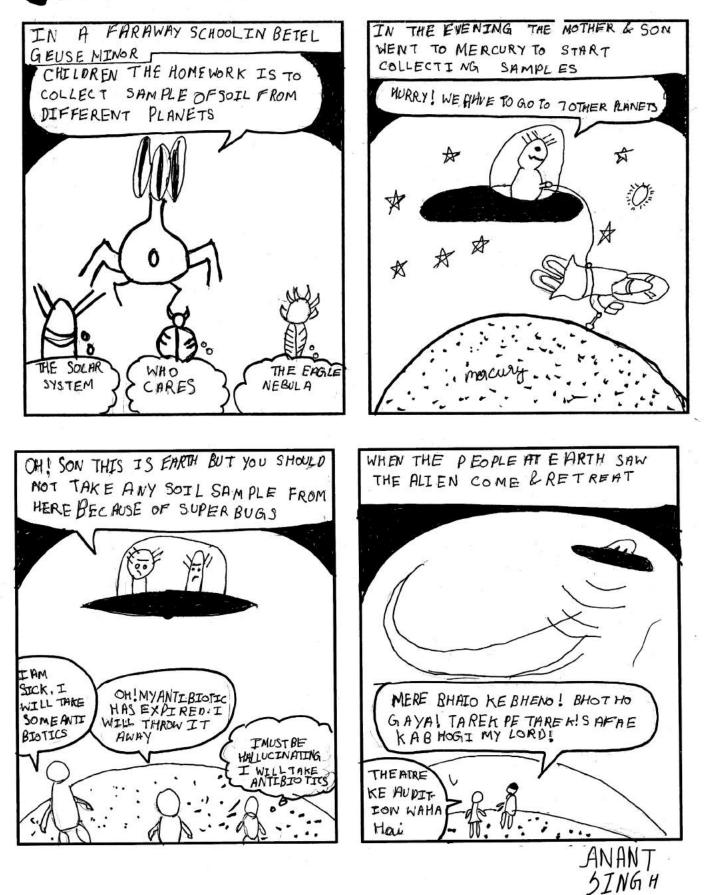


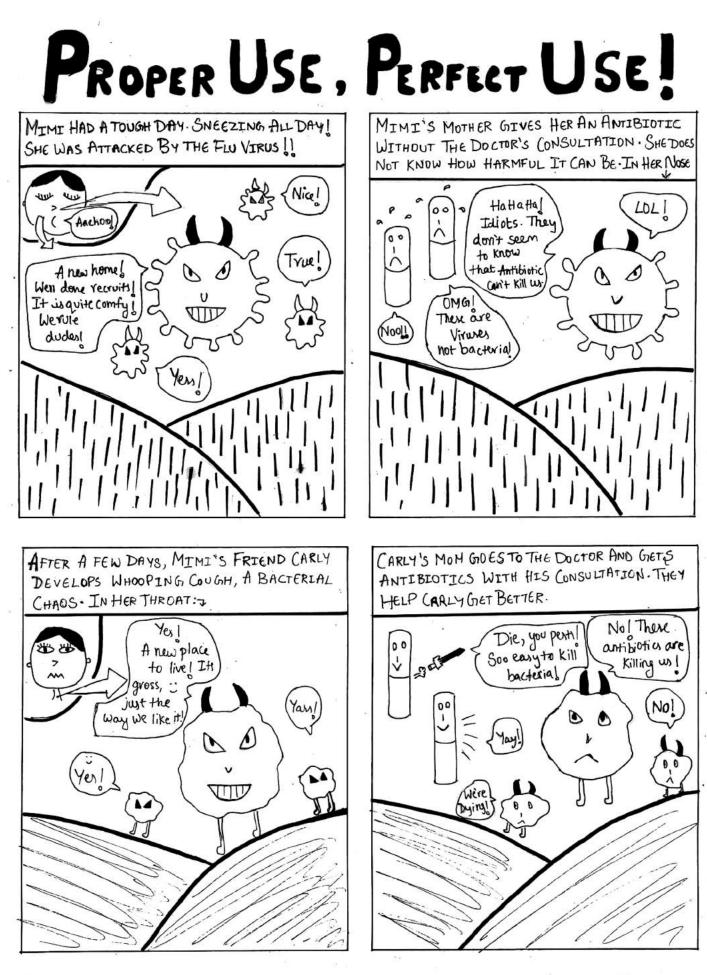
Parm Keurana



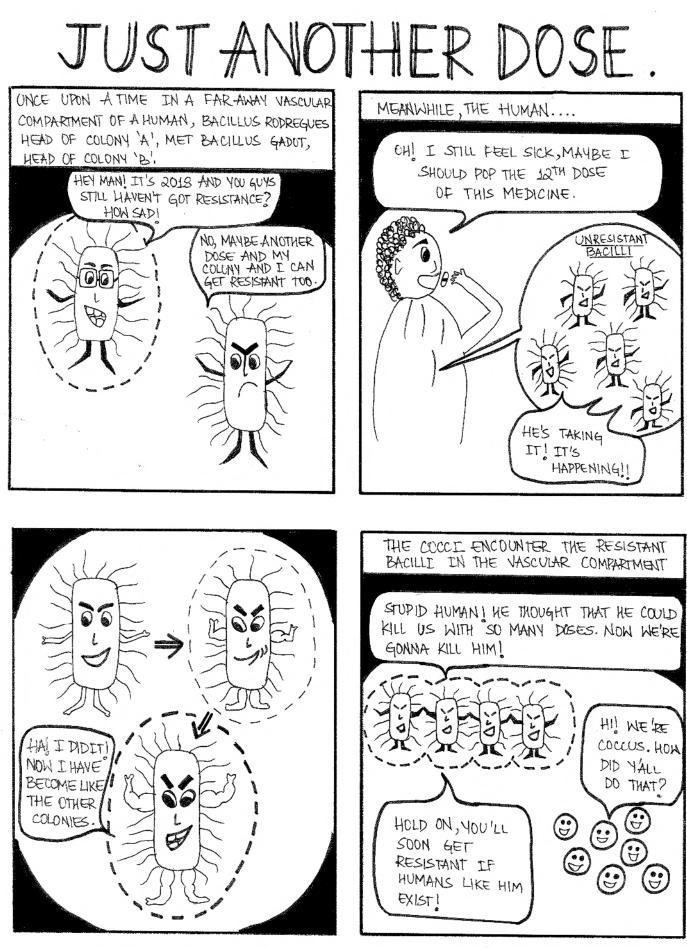
KRITI GUPTA

NOT ON ATTEM PROBLEM

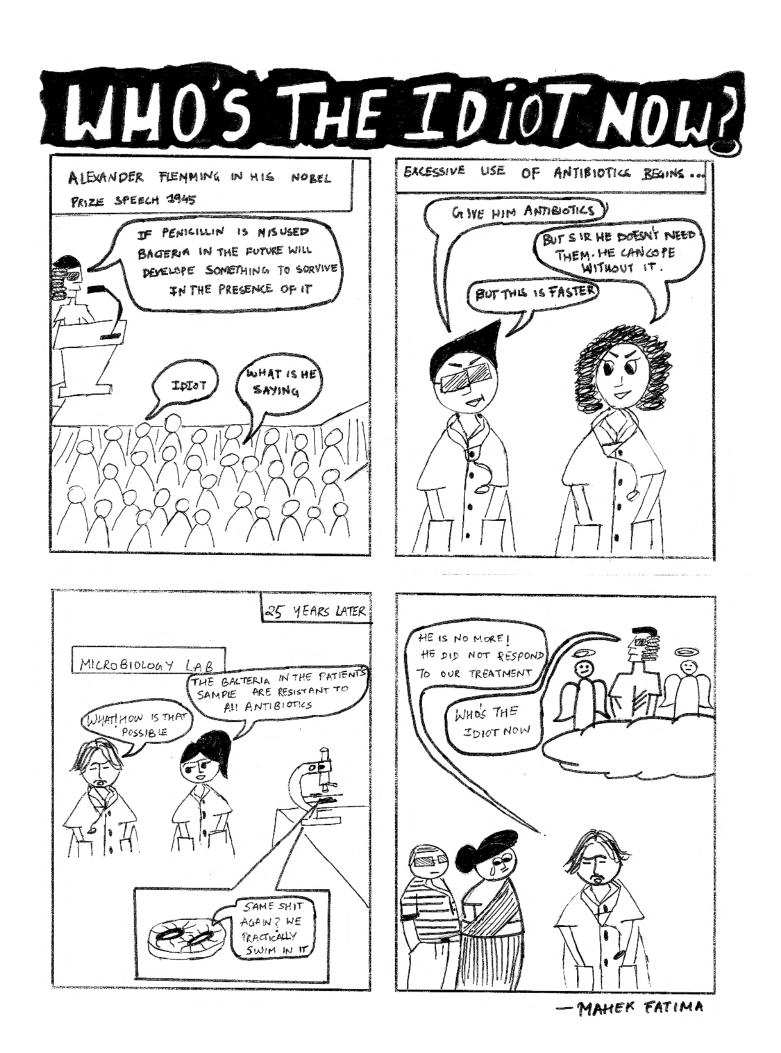


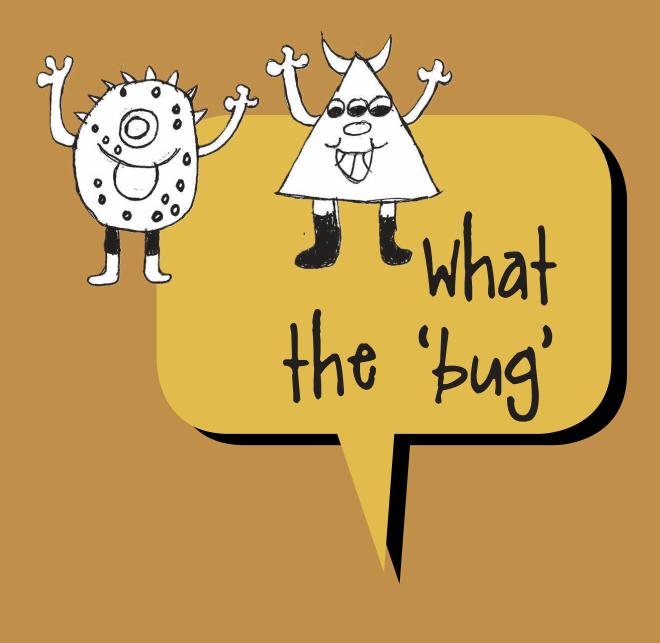


- Ananya Reddy R

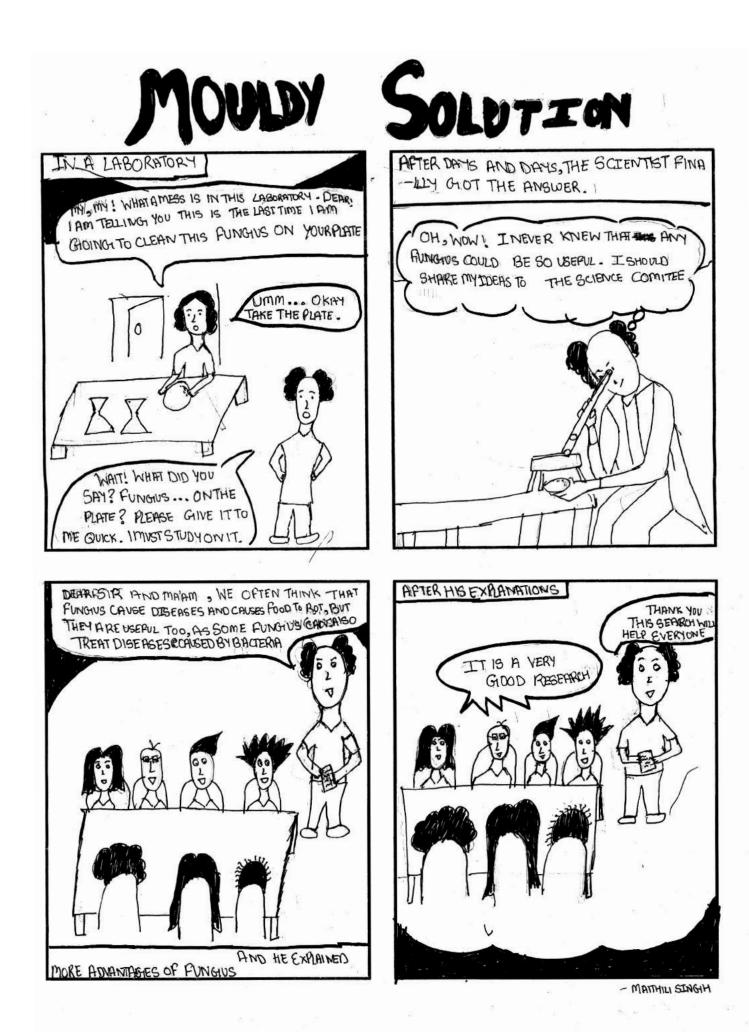


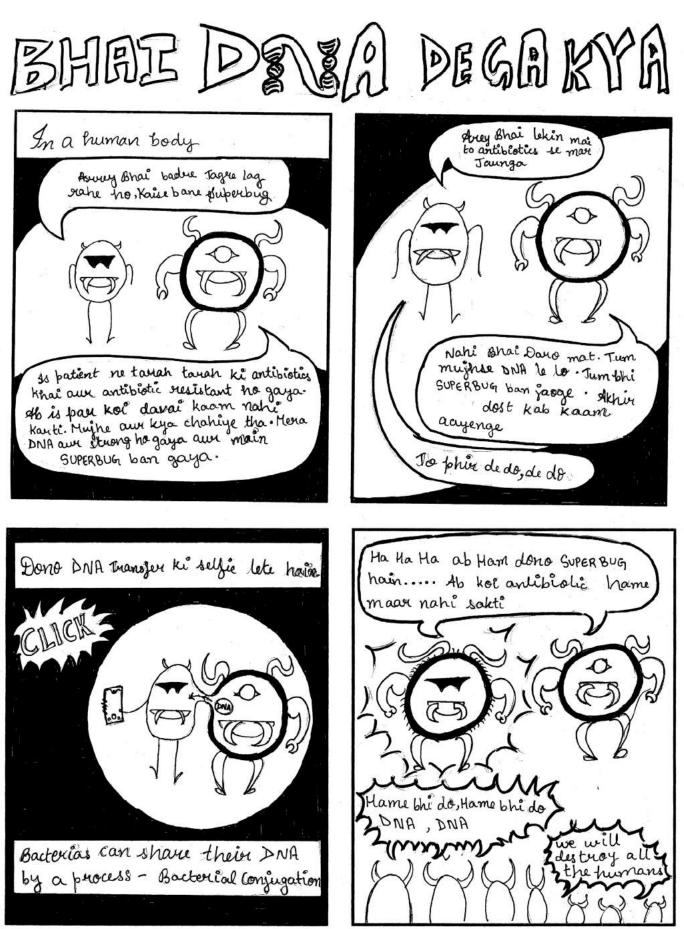
<sup>-</sup> RAKSHA RUDRAMURTHY





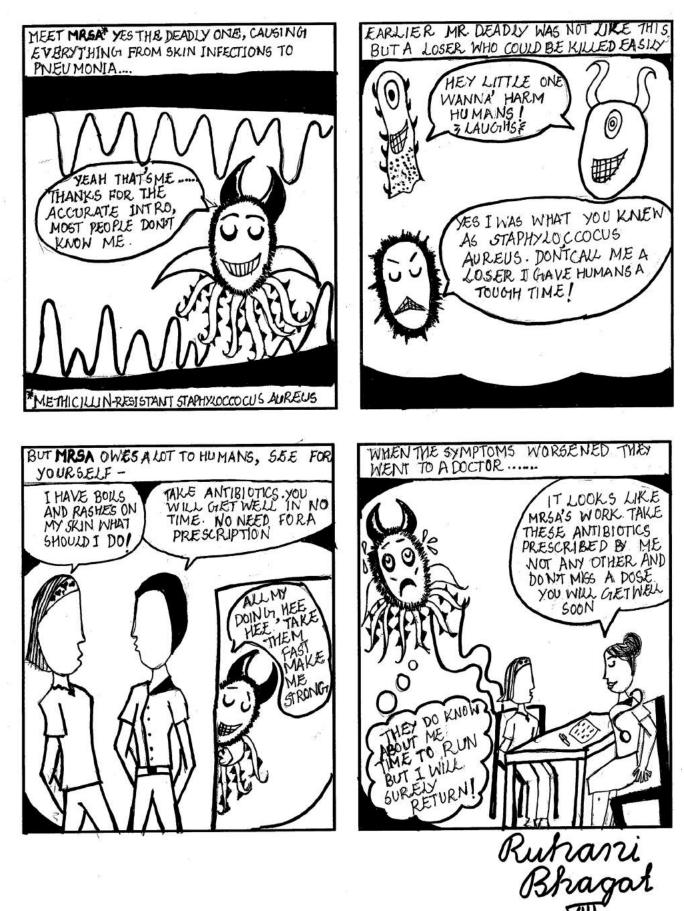
Antibiotics are chemicals made by bacteria and fungi to kill other bacteria. We have been using these naturally occurring medicines to treat bacterial infections from tuberculosis and pneumonia, to boils and sore throats. But not all bacteria cause diseases – many good bacteria reside in our body and are important for our overall health and well-being. In order to develop new antibiotics or to stop the rise of superbugs, we need to understand how and why bacteria is evolving so fast into antibiotic-resistant bugs.

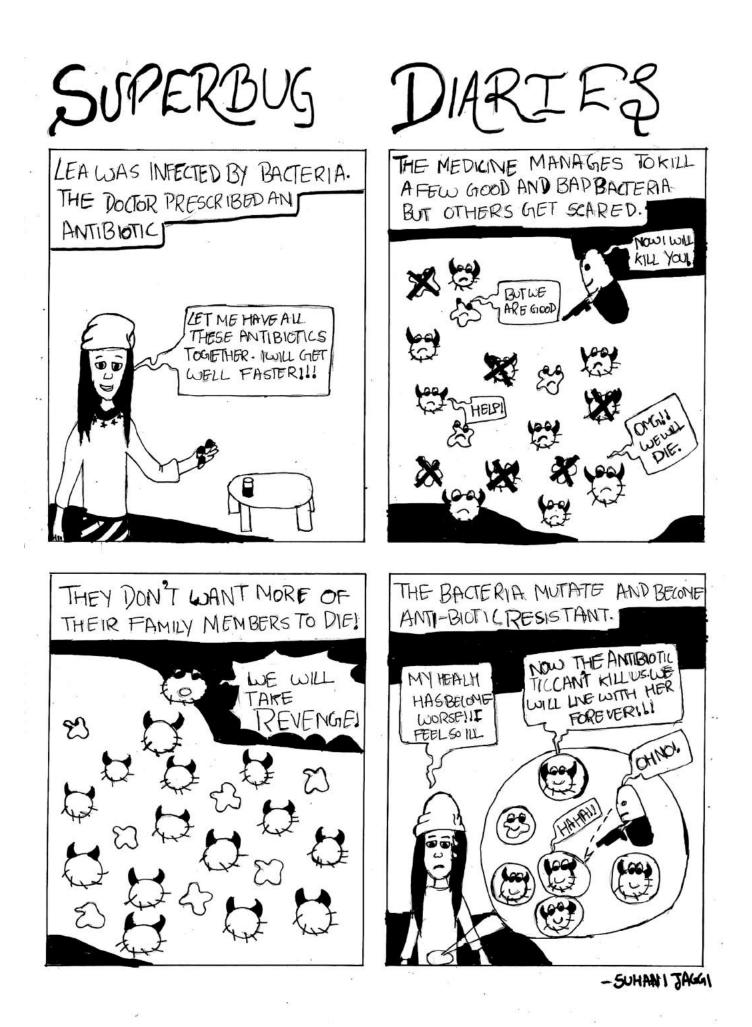


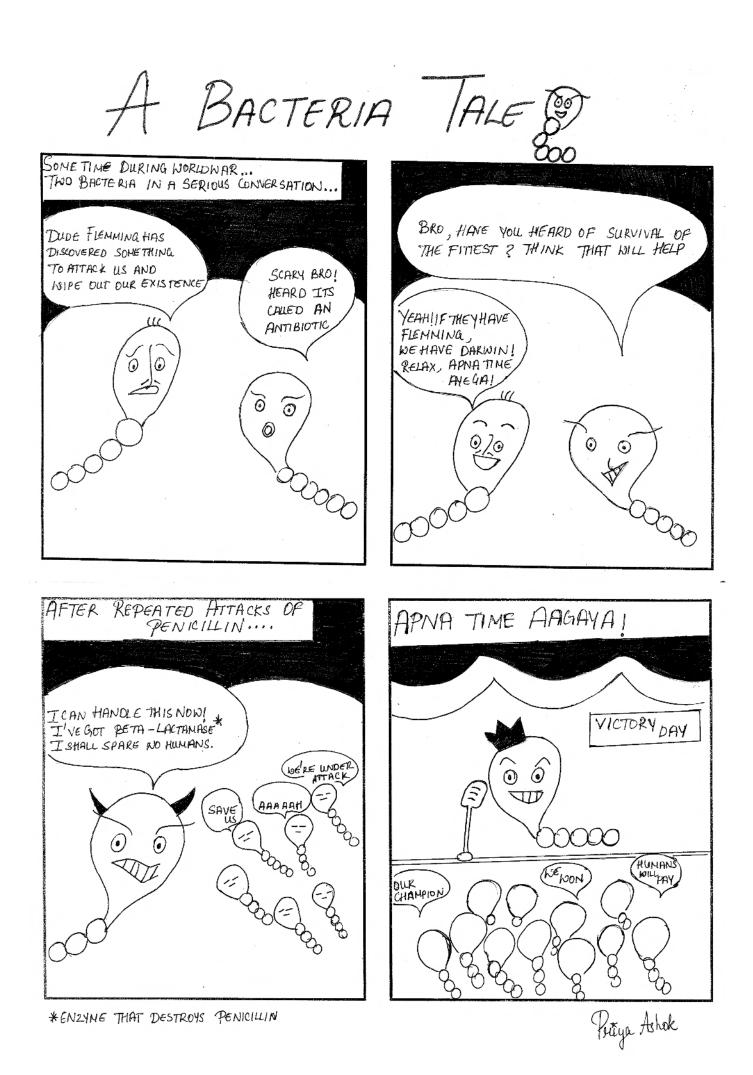


MADHAV RUDRAKSH

A MARROBIAL Jale

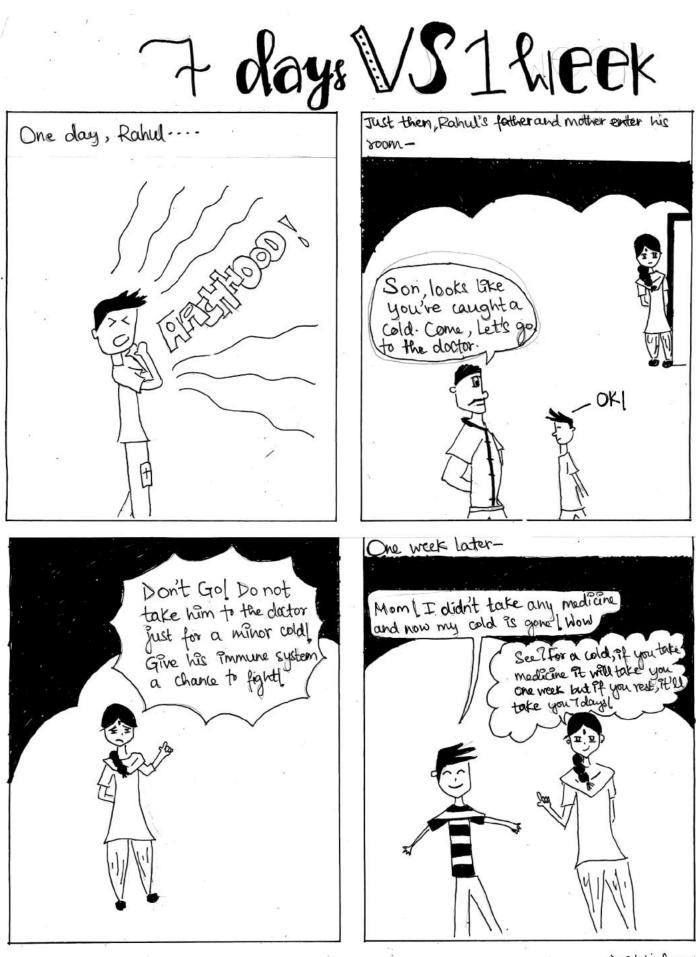




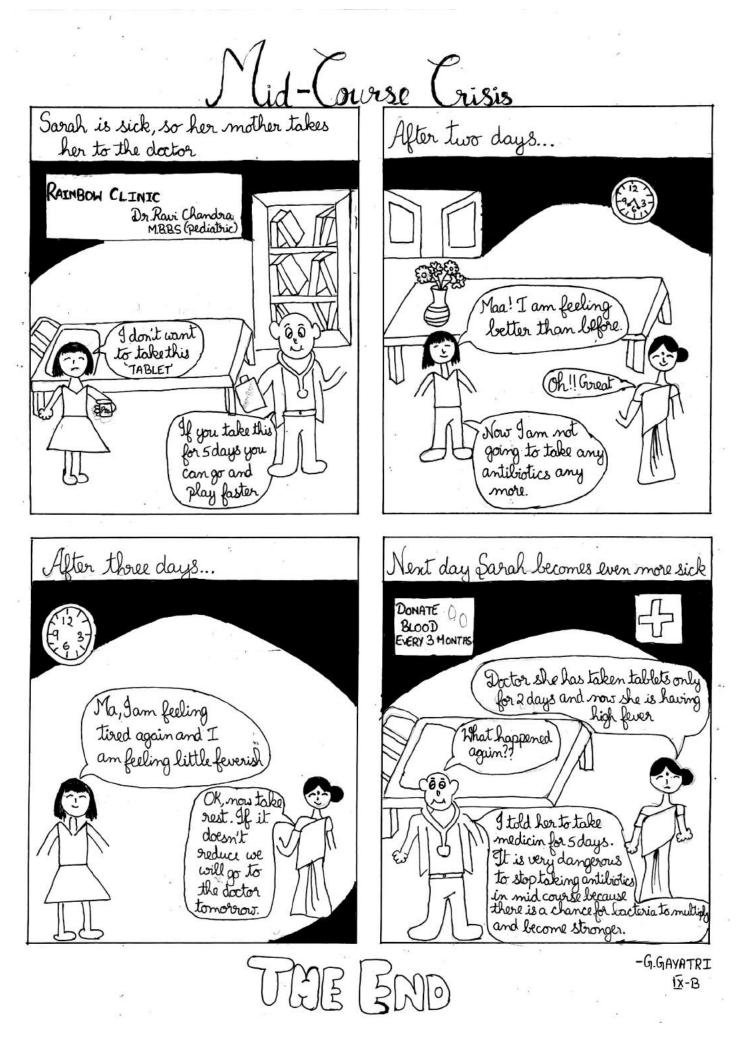




Studies estimate that 58,000 newborns in India die each year due to infections caused by resistant superbugs. There is significantly high incidence of inappropriate use of antibiotics and resistance in India due to their easy availability and misinformed consumption. Many people take antibiotics without a doctor's prescription for simple common cold that is generally caused by "flu" viruses which cannot be killed by antibiotics. Many do not complete the full course of antibiotics prescribed by their doctor or share their leftover antibiotics with others. This irresponsible use of antibiotics is resulting in the rise of "superbugs" that are becoming harder to kill.



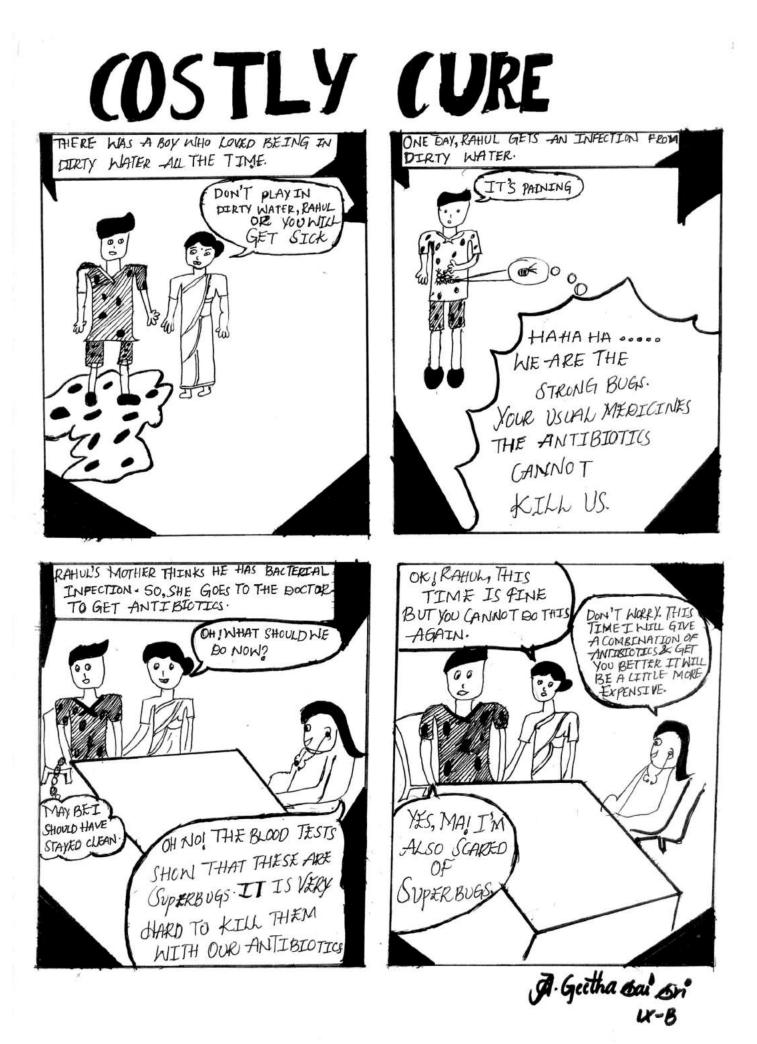
D. Girija Svavani

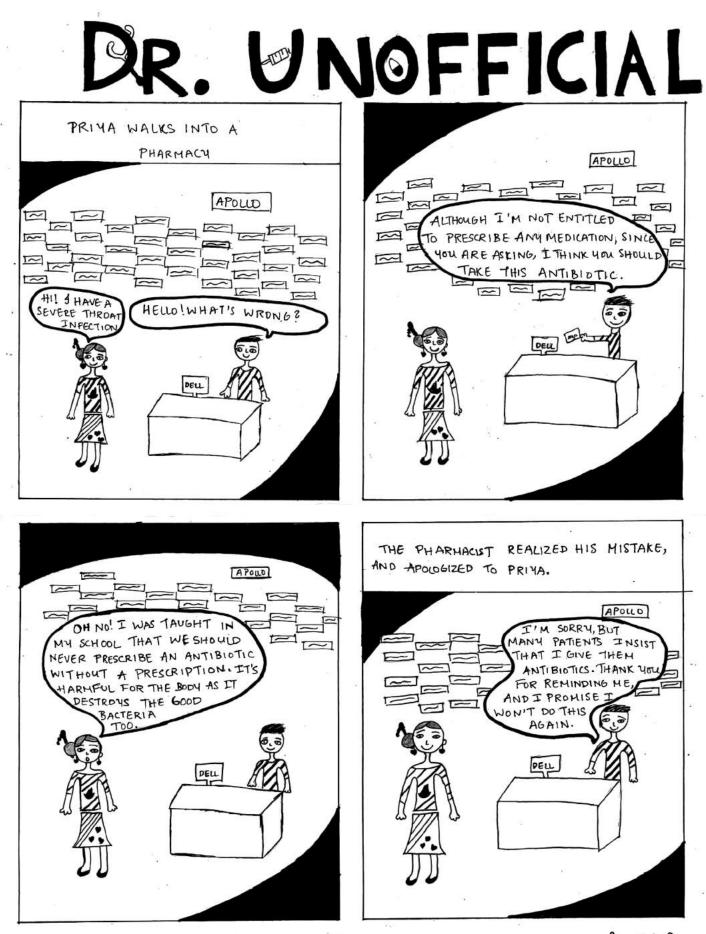




## CARE BUT DON'T SHARE





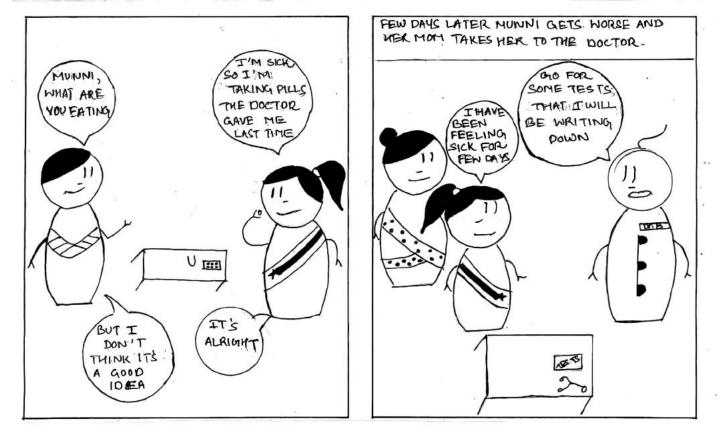


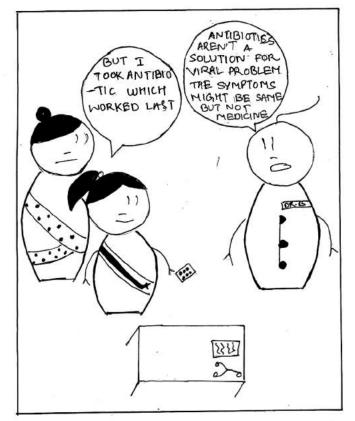




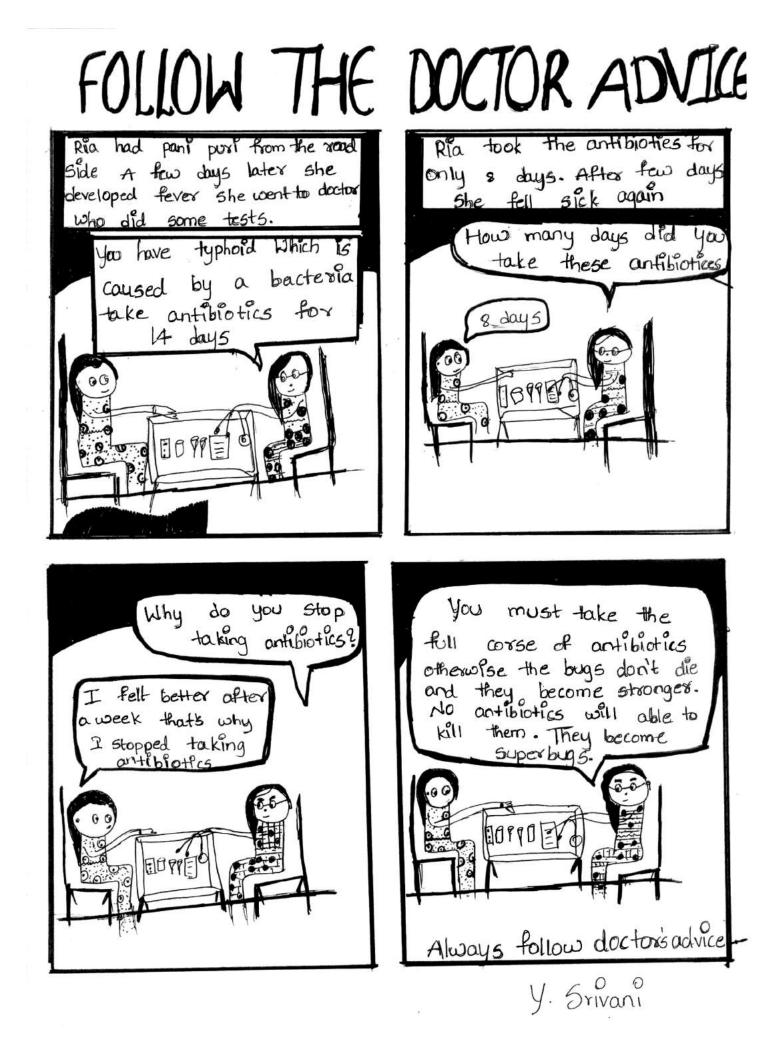
Government of India's National Health Policy 2017 highlights the problem of antibiotic resistance and calls for a rapid standardization of guidelines regarding antibiotic use. It limits over- the-counter of sale of antibiotics, bans or restricts the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in animal farming, and provides guidelines to monitor antibiotic usage in hospitals.

# MEDICINE OR MAD-SIN

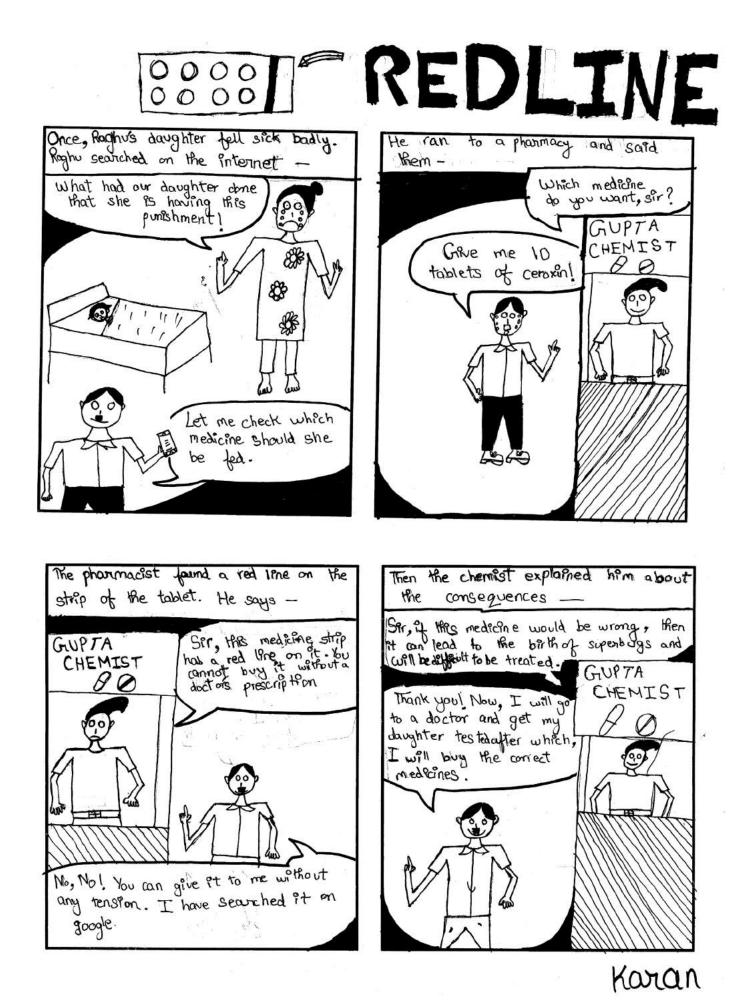


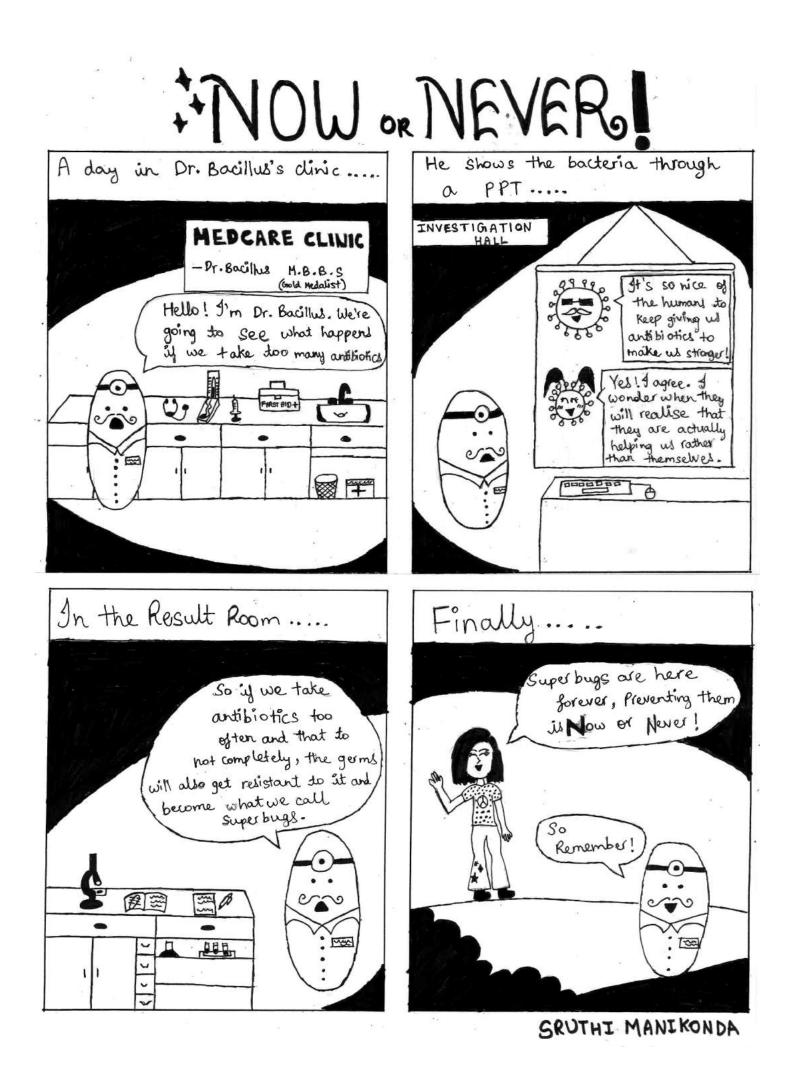






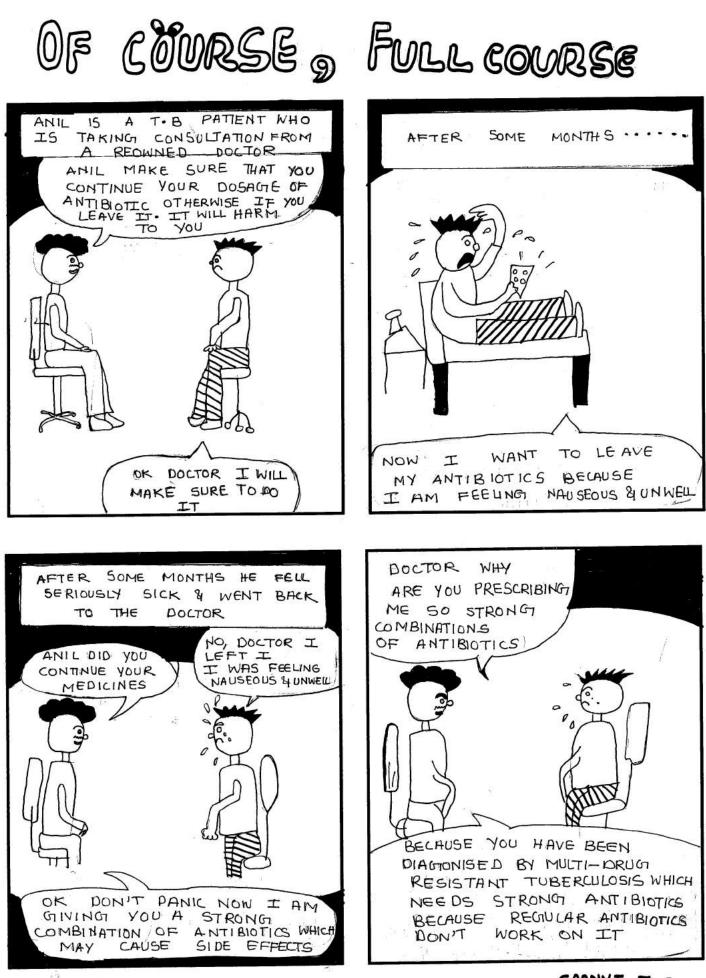








KADAMBARI · N



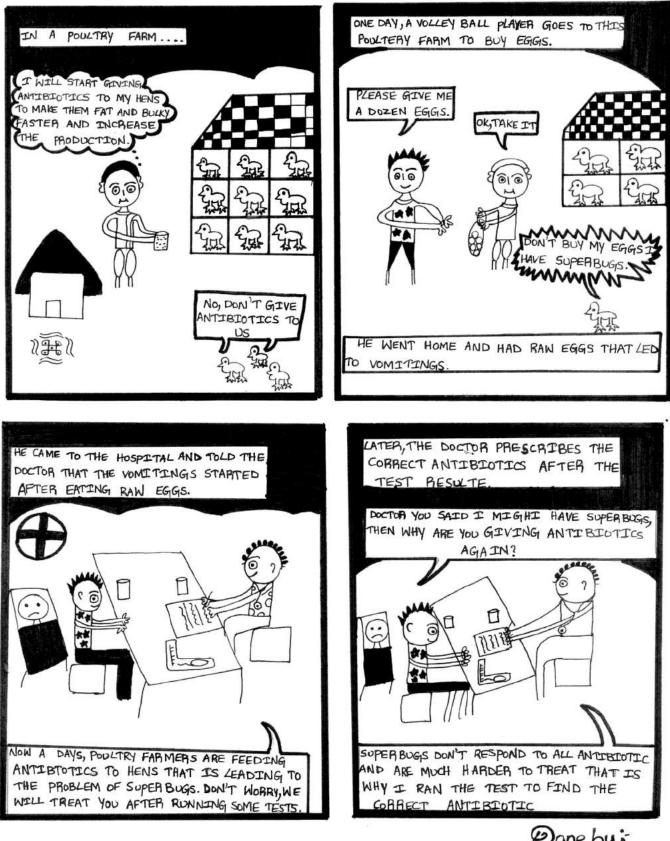
SAANVI JHA

While India is the largest consumer of antibiotics for human health in the previous decade, a recent study indicates that 64% of antibiotics sold in India are unapproved. Further, estimates indicate that 80% of global antibiotics are manufactured in India and China, the effluent from the pharmaceutical industry further adds to the problem. There have also been alarming reports of last-resort antibiotics like Colistin being used in the poultry industry in India. Antibiotics are finding their way into our environment which pose several risks including spread of antibiotic-resistant infections in human as well as in animals.

## Antibiotics in animals and environment

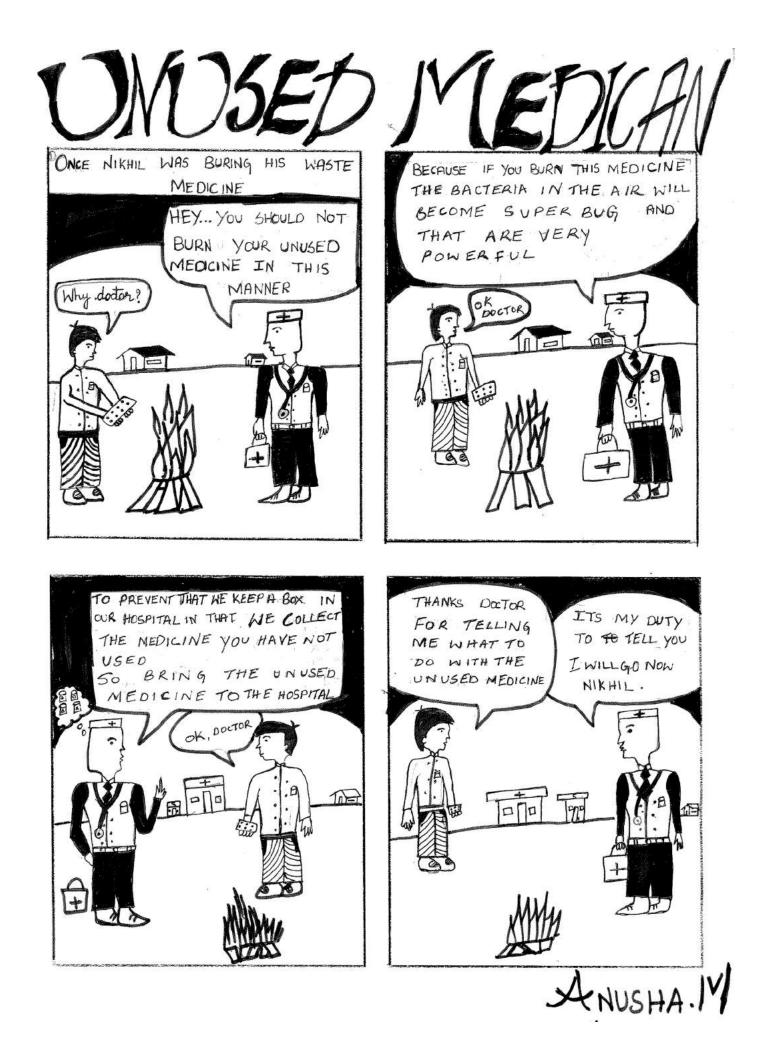


## CHICKEN&EGG PROBLEM

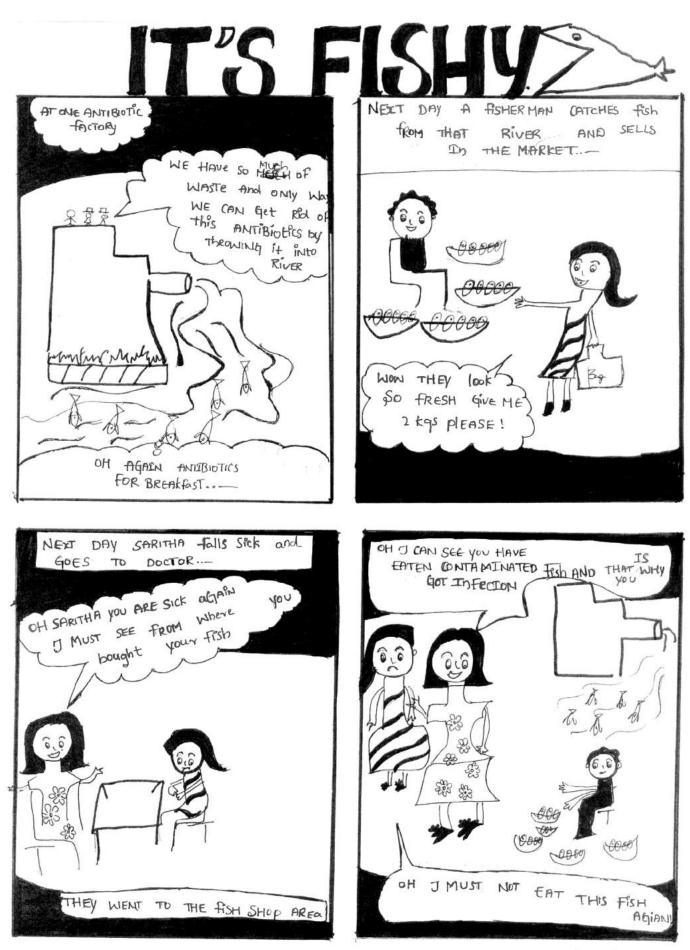


Done by: M. Bhivani

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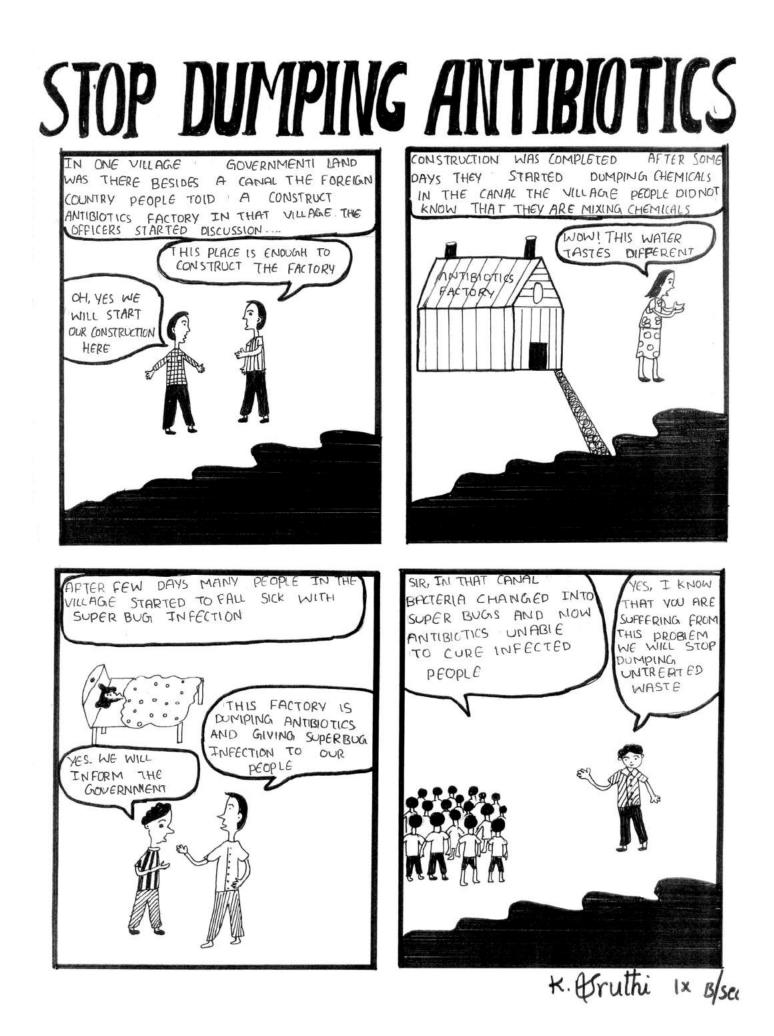


D. NIKITHA

# VEG BACTERIA



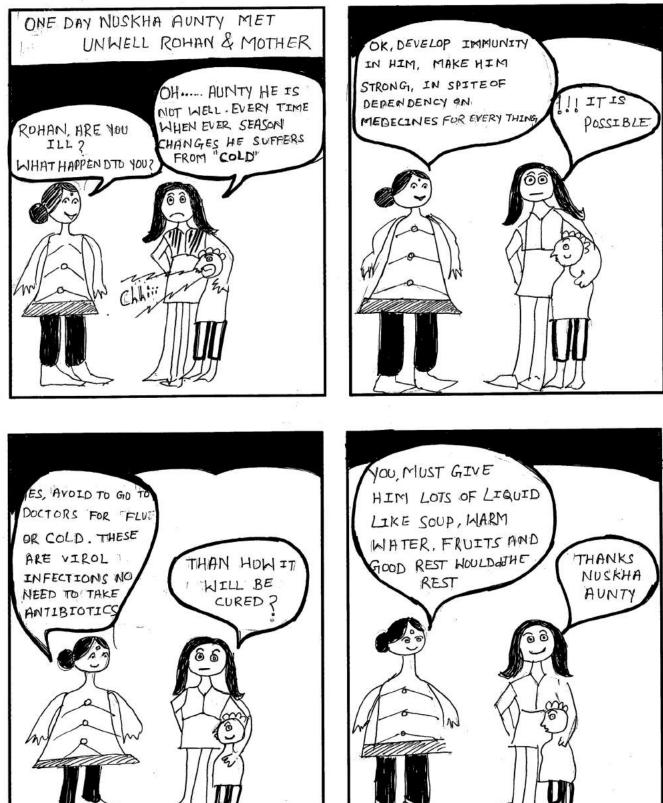
HEALTHY Norfa barmer in a village close to A poultry One day preethis came to the was raising chickens for a Hyderabad poultry farm .... living Uncle, yest I want to buy of course Preeth 5 chicks My chickens will poultry grow faster to play with them. and become fatter \$ F if i give them anti biotics daily she took the chickens home but a few days later all of them diec the incident was reported to she went to one Laboratory to when husbandry departament of Animal check the cause of their death the state Govt .... These chickens died I committed ه ره a mistake because they had superbug inflection no Antobiaatic would have saved them ! These supabugs could have spread to preeth: and her family tool phew ! They are Don't give antibiotics to chickens dally as this may give rise to super bugs that safe. cannot be killed by antibiotics .... Done by K. Shuusha



Preventing infection can reduce the use of antibiotics and limit the spread of antibiotic resistance. Eating nutritious food to build immunity, taking flu shots at the outset of a flu season and good hygiene practices are some of the most easy and effective ways to reduce the risk of infection.

As they say, prevention is better than cure E.

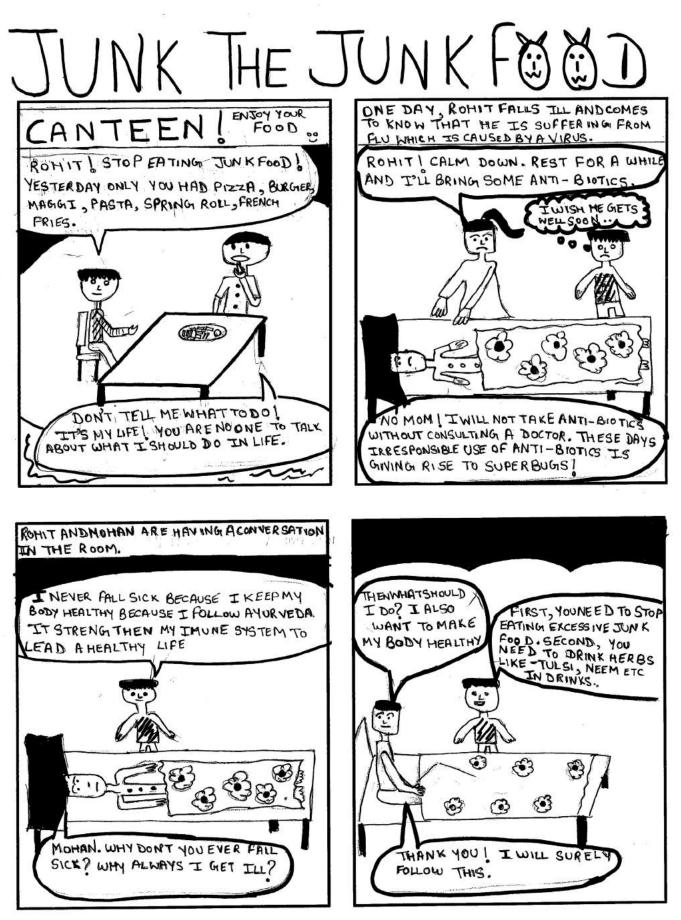
NEATNUSKHA



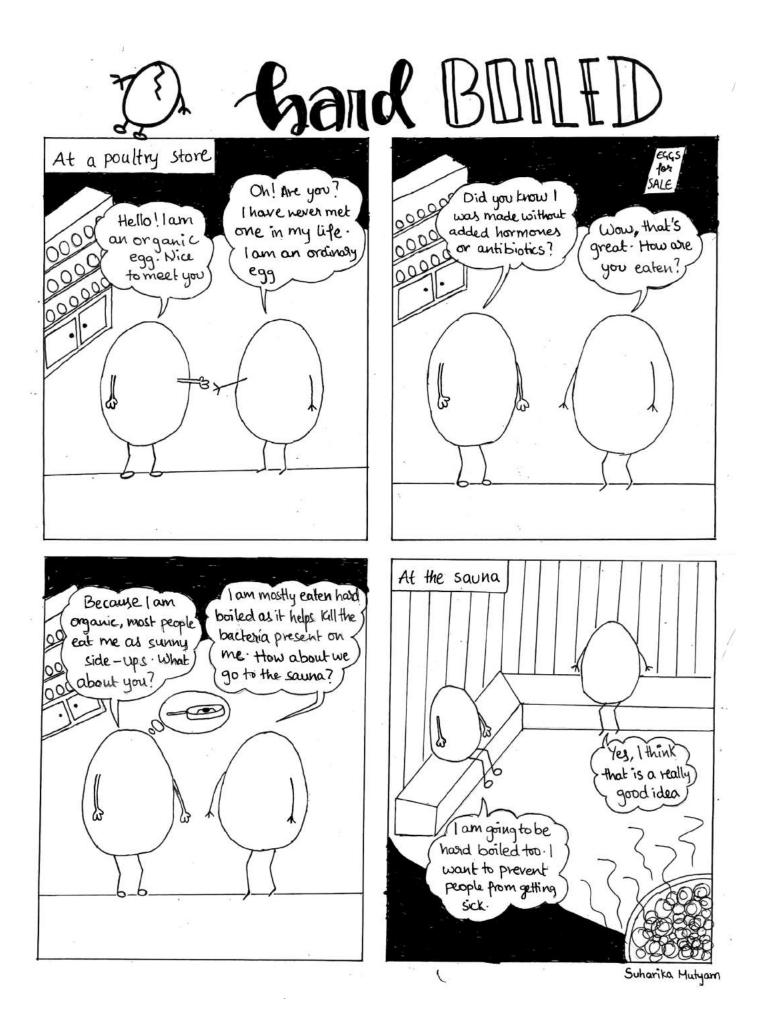
RUCHI JAIN

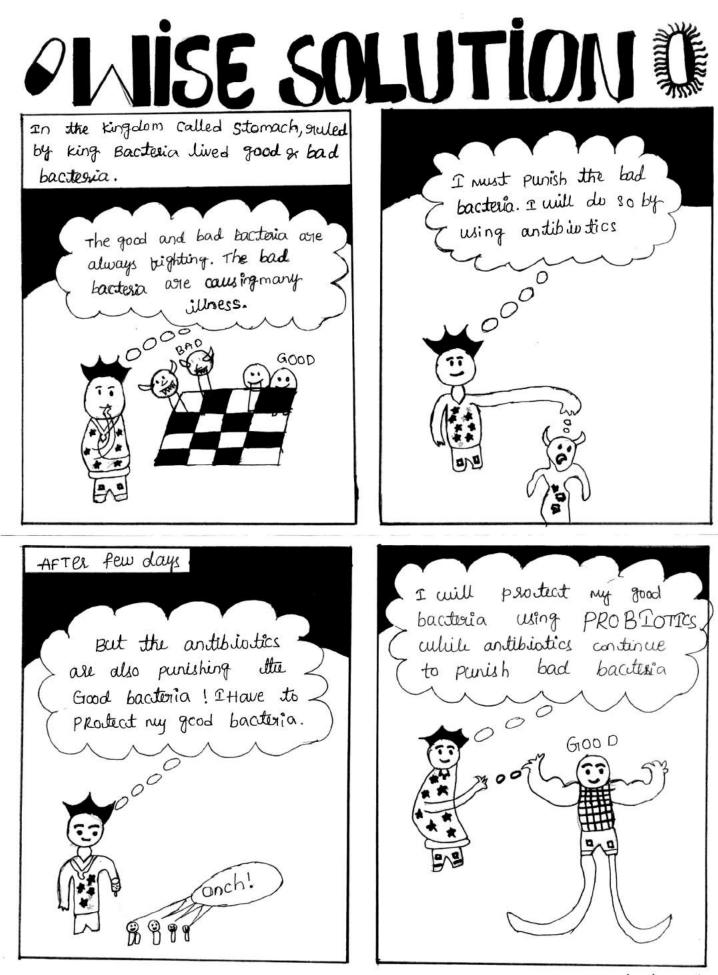




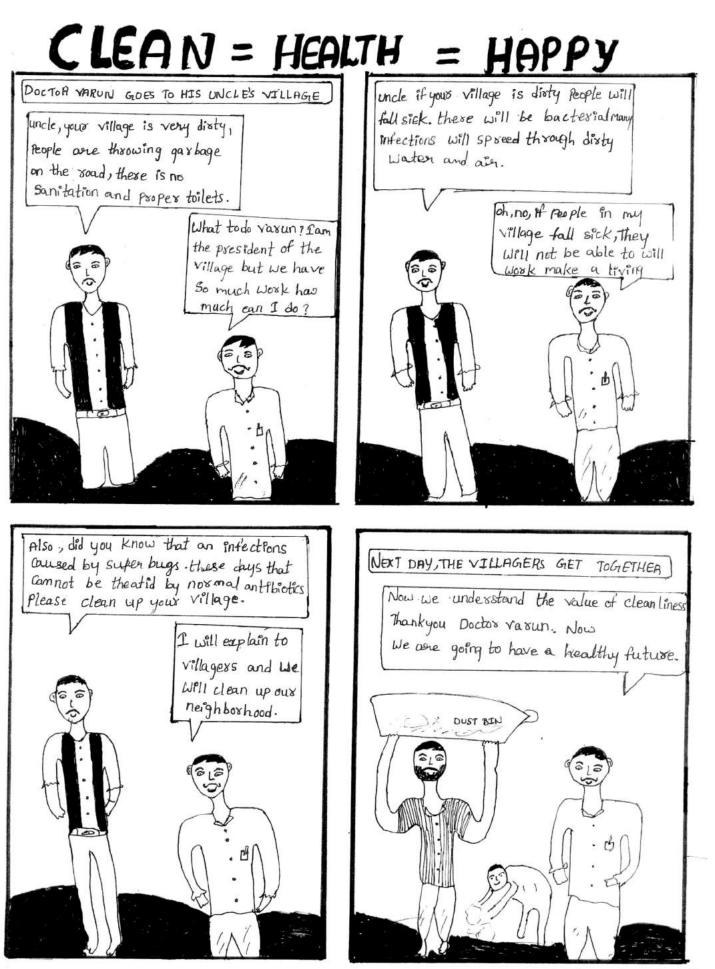


NAINA KAPOOR





#### N. Maheshwari



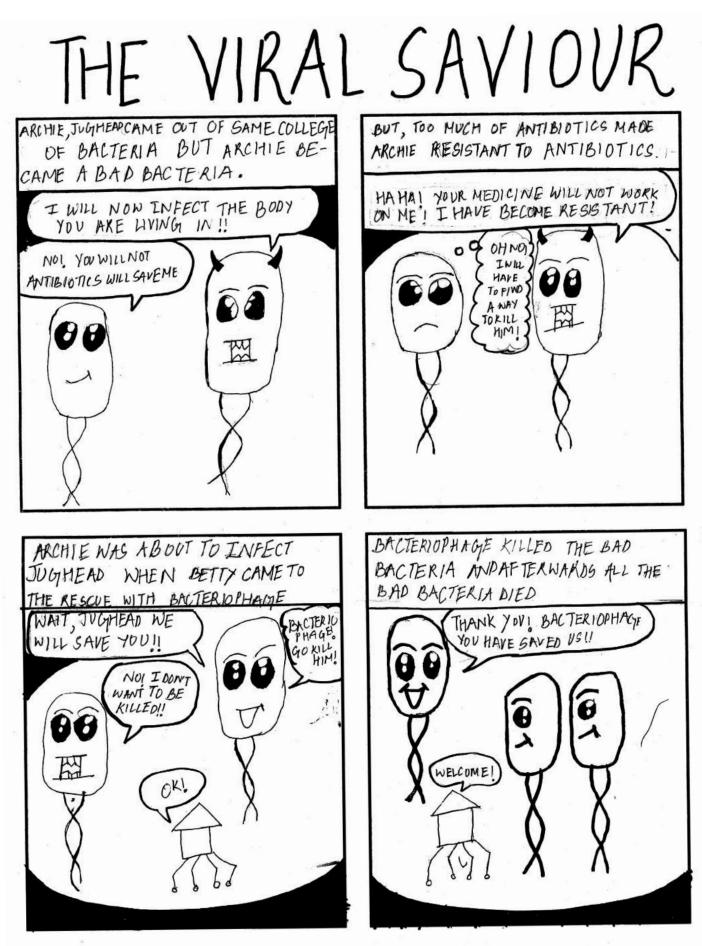
Name : A. Hindhumathi.

#### Superheroes against Superbugs are here!

Faced with a crisis on a global scale, people are responding with innovative solutions, giving us hope that we can overcome one of the greatest medical and public health challenge of our times. By looking again at how bacteria behave in the microscopic world, researchers are making remarkable discoveries that could lead to radical new treatments. Common people are raising awareness on this issue and are advocating for responsible use of antibiotics. There is an urgent need for each of us to become 'superheroes' in this crusade against superbugs for a healthier future.

. It's not all

gloom and doom



SARTHAK DEVLAL

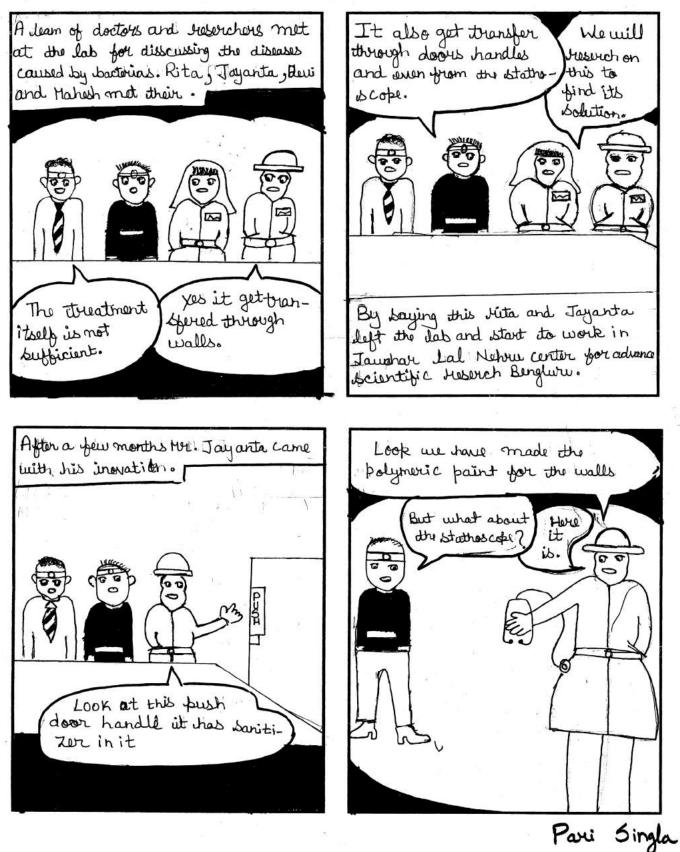


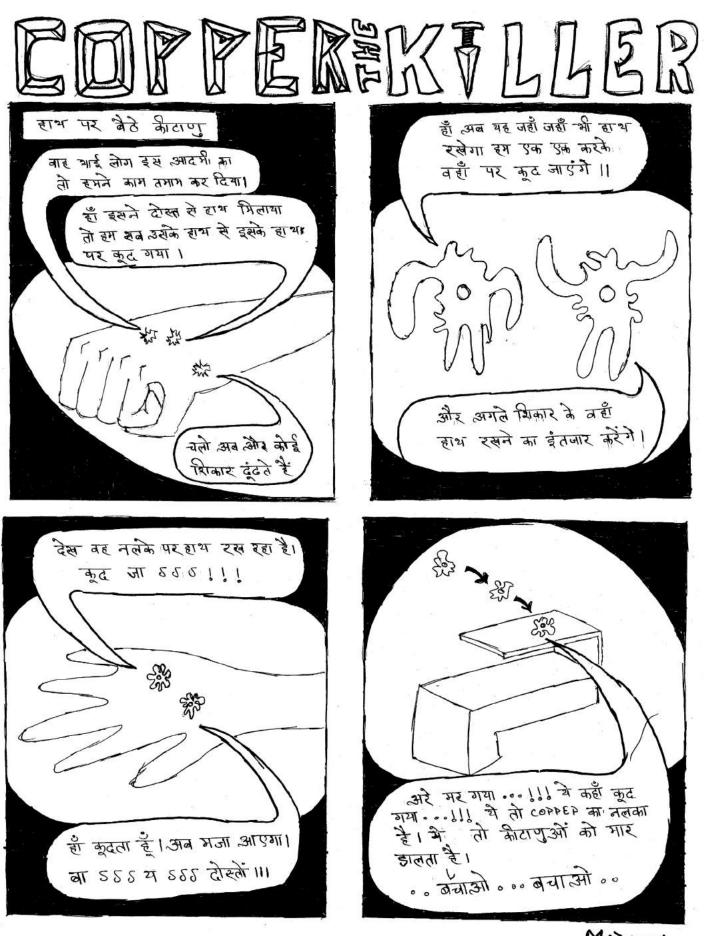
L- Shravya INB



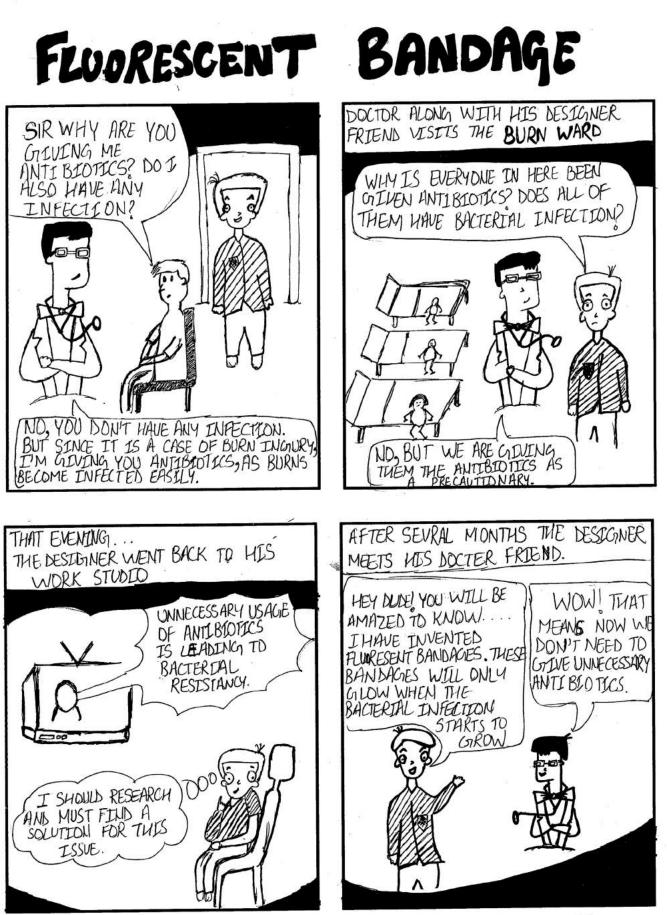
-PARTH MALIK



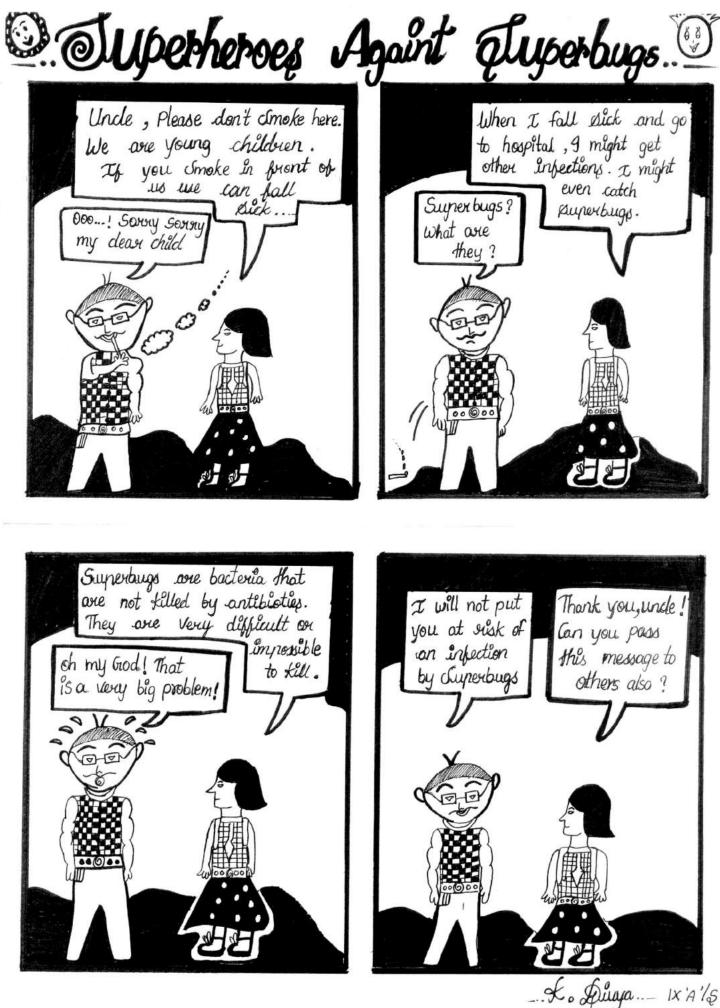




MADHAV Rudraksh



VEDI JAIN



### Superheroes







World Comics India