

Comics for Social Change

A compilation of artwork
to raise awareness of local and global inequalities



UCD VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS



Edited by
Jacob Islary
Caroline O'Connor
Dupphidalin Lyngdoh Rngaid

FOREWORD

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce this anthology of comics. Compiling different ideas as a whole not only results in astonishing products but also brings into light the emotions and issues we have in common. Students of Don Bosco University, Assam and University College Dublin, Ireland have drawn comics on the issues of their day-to-day life affecting them most. All the stories are bound by a thread of commonality irrespective of their creators' geographical and cultural background.

World Comics India has conducted many Grassroots Comics Workshops and each comic in every workshop has been unique in its own way. It's the uniqueness embedded in the facets of these comics that make their compilation and publication an interesting journey too.

Grassroots Comics is a simple yet powerful medium to spread awareness on various issues, as well as to let them express their story. These comics can be made on any issue or around any story. This means that anybody who has something to share and willingness to draw can make such comics. This publication voices the same.

The uniqueness in these comics come from the different issues pertinent to each participant; portrayed by them in a simple manner speaking of their own day to day issues which are very relevant to them but the mainstream media has left it unleashed. The comics have been made on different issues ranging from environmental degradation to reflecting loopholes in the government schemes. Many of these comics were also created on women's issues such as eve-teasing, early marriage, domestic violence etc. Apart from these social and political issues the publication comprises of stories on tribal issues, animal rights, child rights, HIV/AIDS etc.

Apart from the regular efforts of students and the university, this publication has bore fruit also due to the never ending efforts undertaken by our very talented and enthusiastic comics trainer Amrith Basumatary. He has conducted various comics workshops spreading the medium everywhere and with persistent zeal he has continued to do this for the past ten years.

Enjoy the book!

Sharad Sharma

Founder|World Comics Network

www.worldcomicindia.com | mail@worldcomicsindia.com

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

The summer of 2014 will be remembered for a long time here at the University - a sizzling hot summer, but a campus agog with a plethora of activities and initiatives blurring the distinction between working days and summer vacation.

A trend had been set two years back to squeeze in a number of summer workshops and intensive short term courses during the summer break. It peaked this year with back-to-back programmes the whole summer through.

The pride of place, however, should go to the first involvement of the University in international volunteerism through a tie-up between Don Bosco University and the University College Dublin that brought together eleven volunteers each from both the Universities for a month long experience of living together, working together and trying their hands at participatory development activity in the villages around the University campus.

Awareness... immersion... activism... three key concepts that describe the progression of involvement of a typical social worker as he/she tests the waters and their theoretical knowledge in real life situations were very much in evidence during the last month. It was a pleasure to see the volunteers deeply committed to their task.

‘Comics for Social Change’ is ‘activism’ at its best – beyond the limitations of language, race, colour, religion, and all the other barriers we erect between people and people.

Congrats for this pioneering effort, in our part of the world, to all the contributors, and to Jacob, Caroline and Dupphidalin – the editors.

4 July 2014

Fr. (Dr.) Stephen Mavelly, SDB
Vice Chancellor
Assam Don Bosco University

INTRODUCTION

Grassroots Comics use humourous cartoon figures to present important messages on social justice. They are drawn by individuals and community groups who are experiencing or aware of certain social injustices, therefore making them different from mainstream comics. Grassroots Comics are unlike other communication tools, as they present the realities experienced in daily life events in a way which is creative and engaging.

The comics primarily highlight local issues and are therefore able to attract the attention of the community members, as they too can relate to the stories from their own experience and make meaning out of it. The audience frequently engages in debate based on the stories they see in the comics.

Each comic uses four windows to tell a complete story. The windows may contain either cartoon images or text. In either case, the cartoons themselves should be able to tell the story such that even an illiterate person can understand the message and make meaning out of it. Comics are drawn in black and white making it affordable for photocopying and circulating to a large audience. Once photocopied, the comics can be displayed in various locations throughout a community such as bus stops, market places, shops, schools, and notice boards.

Grassroots Comics began as a movement by likeminded cartoonists, development journalists and activists in an effort to use the art of comics as a communication tool for generating awareness of social issues in India. However, as other countries have started adopting this as a campaign tool, it has now become a global movement for social change. Grassroots Comics is perhaps most popular among organisations and people working in the development sector.

The Department of Social Work at Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) has been organising workshops on Grassroots Comics since 2012 for its students and faculty and has been using it directly with communities as a tool for opening discussion on various social issues affecting people in the Northeast region.

This book contains a compilation of the comics drawn during a workshop with students from University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO) in Ireland and students from the Masters in Social Work department of ADBU. The students worked together to identify issues which had significance for them personally and for wider communities. The book contains fifty comics produced by the students on different themes – child rights, domestic affairs, education, environment, gender, health, livelihoods, social services, politics, and society. This book intends to create awareness on various global and local issues which directly or indirectly affect us all. It is hoped that the topics highlighted in these comics will engage readers in meaningful discourse and debate for social change.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the production of this book, including Amrith Basumatary from World Comics India, management of ADBU, management of Siloam where the workshop took place and all the students from UCD and ADBU who actively participated in this project.

RIGHT TO CHILDHOOD



DUPPHIDALIN LYNDOH RINGAIL
ADBU

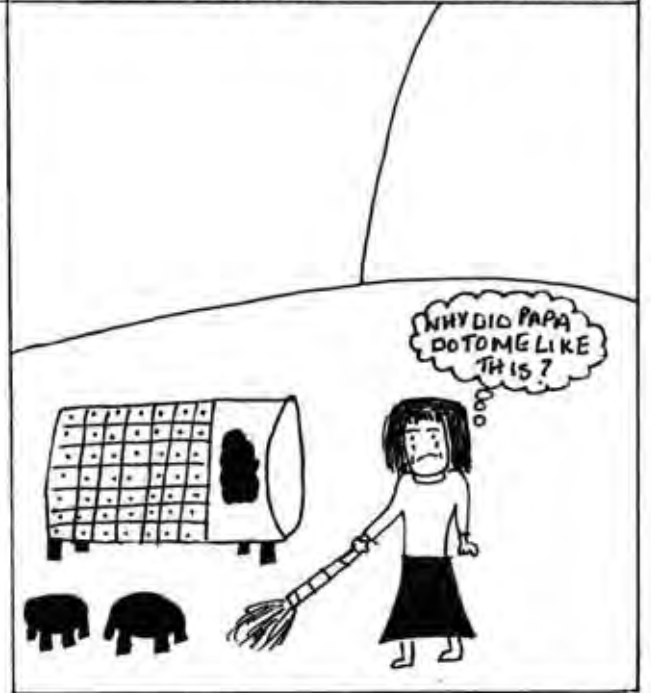
CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS TOO !!!



A CHILD LOST HER MOTHER AT THE AGE OF 14 YRS AND HAD TO LIVE ONLY WITH HER STEP FATHER...



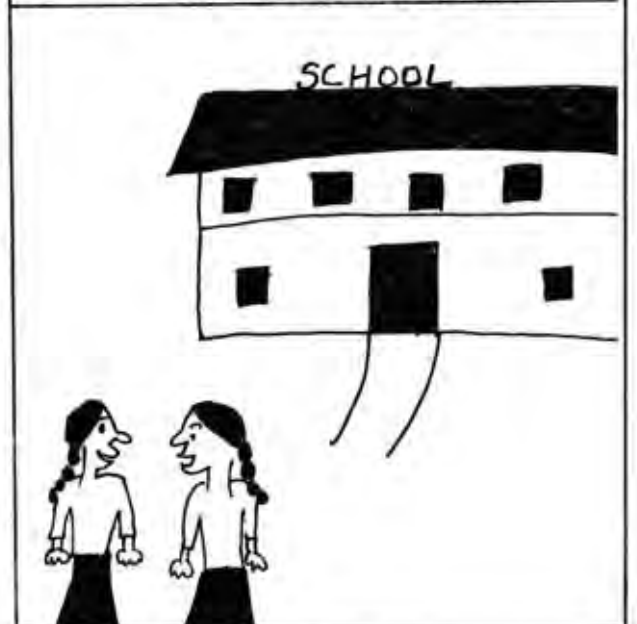
HER STEP FATHER PHYSICALLY AND SEXUALLY ABUSED HER AND DO NOT ALLOW HER TO GO TO SCHOOL



THE NEIGHBOUR CAME TO KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND IMMEDIATELY INFORMED CHILDLINE-



THEN THE CHILD WAS TAKEN BY THE CHILDLINE AND GOT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND LIVE A HAPPY LIFE



DAFFILIN KHARSATI
ADBU

LOST CHILDHOOD THROUGH MARRIAGE



SITA WAS A BRILLIANT GIRL WHO WANTS TO STUDY A LOT BUT HER PARENTS PLANS TO MARRY HER OFF.



DISCUSSION ABOUT SITA'S MARRIAGE



SITA IS MARRIED OFF.



UNABLE TO BEAR THE TREAT OF HER HUSBAND SHE IS DEPRESSED AND CONFUSED WHAT TO DO FURTHER.



HEBOL BORGOMARY
ADBU

BEWARE OF TRAFFICKING



A GIRL WORKING WITH HER MOTHER AT HOME



ONE DAY A MAN CAME FROM CITY TO GIVE JOB OPPORTUNITY. GIRL AGREED AND WENT WITH HIM



IN THE CITY...



SOCIAL WORKER SAVED THE GIRL ...



Ivy DIHINGIA
ADBU

AVOID CHILD LABOUR



RUPALI KIJUR
ADBU

STOP CHILD MARRIAGE



SHABANA JAMJAM ZAMAN
ADBU

STOP CHILD LABOUR



TANBEER AJMI
ADBU

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!!



IN A VILLAGE, THERE WAS A FAMILY WHERE THE HUSBAND WAS A DRUNKARD.



WHEN HE RETURNS HOME, HE USED TO QUARREL AND BEAT HIS WIFE.



THE WIFE SHARED HER PROBLEM WITH OTHER WOMEN IN THE VILLAGE.



AS TIME PASSED BY...THE WOMEN RAISED THEIR VOICES DEMANDING TO STOP VIOLENCE AT HOME.



BADARISHA
KHARLYNGDOM,
ANBU

ALCOHOLISM AFFECTS ALL



HARRY IS AN ALCOHOLIC AND HE HAS TWO CHILDREN, JOHN AND MAYA. HARRY HAS NO JOB AND SPENDS ALL HIS DAYS AND MONEY ON ALCOHOL.



BECAUSE HARRY HAS NO MONEY HE CANNOT AFFORD TO SEND BOTH MAYA AND JOHN TO SCHOOL. A DECISION IS MADE...



(USA)
Grace MacLellan

ADOPTION COMES FROM THE HEART



IVY DIHINGIA
ADBU

ALCOHOL + DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



MARY HAS SPENT THE ENTIRE MORNING PREPARING THE CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL AND CLEANING THE HOUSE. SHE HAS NOT EVEN EATEN YET.



MARY'S HUSBAND MICHAEL HAS BEEN DRINKING AT WORK ALL MORNING. HE COMES HOME FOR LUNCH BUT WHEN IT IS NOT READY, HE ATTACKS HIS WIFE.



MARY DECIDED TO FILE A POLICE REPORT AGAINST HER HUSBAND. SHORTLY AFTER, THEY ARRIVE AT HER DOOR TO REMOVE MICHAEL.



MARY AND HER CHILDREN ARE MUCH SAFER NOW THAT MICHAEL HAS BEEN ARRESTED. SHE JOINS A WOMEN'S GROUP AND IS ABLE TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY.



Peter Morris
IRELAND

DRINKING IS EVIL



ONCE THERE WAS A FAMILY, WITH TWO CHILDREN, THE FATHER WAS A DRUNKARD.....



THE DRUNKARD FATHER NOT ONLY DISTURB THE FAMILY BUT ALSO THE NEIGHBOURS.....

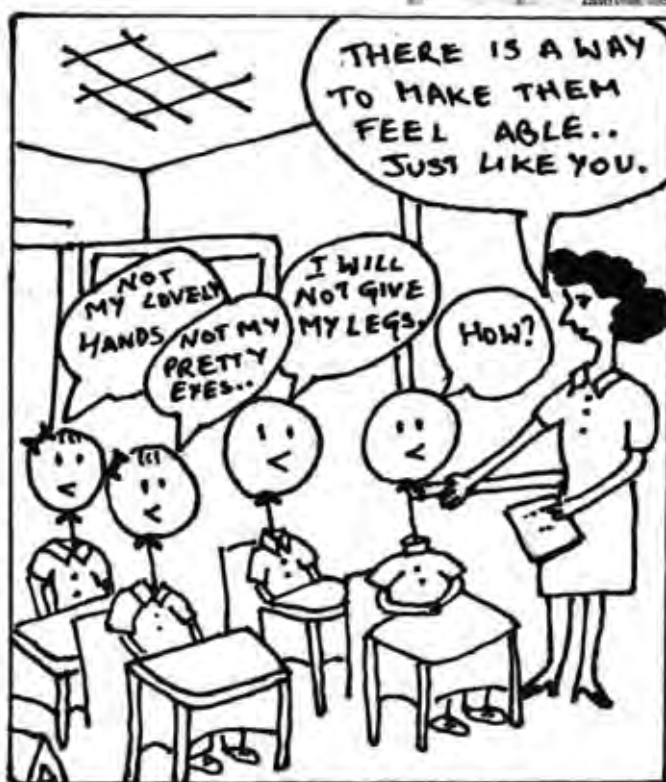


THE WIFE AND THE CHILDREN LEFT THE DRUNKARD FATHER ALONE



PRITI DEBBARMA
ADBU

THE 5 MISSIONS



MENOKHONO

ADBU

EDUCATION FOR ALL!



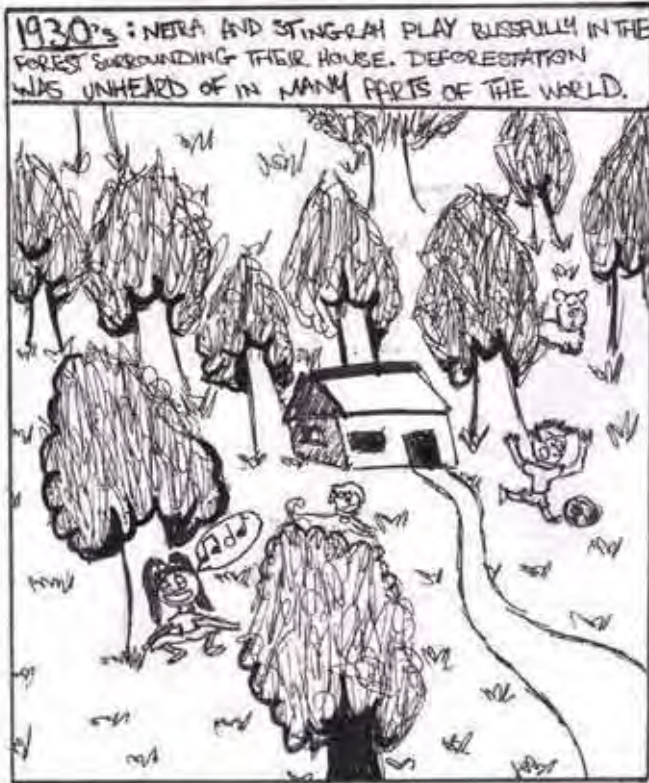
SARAH BURKE
FROM IRELAND

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Xela Steenberge
USA.

DEFORESTATION AND URBAN SPRAWL



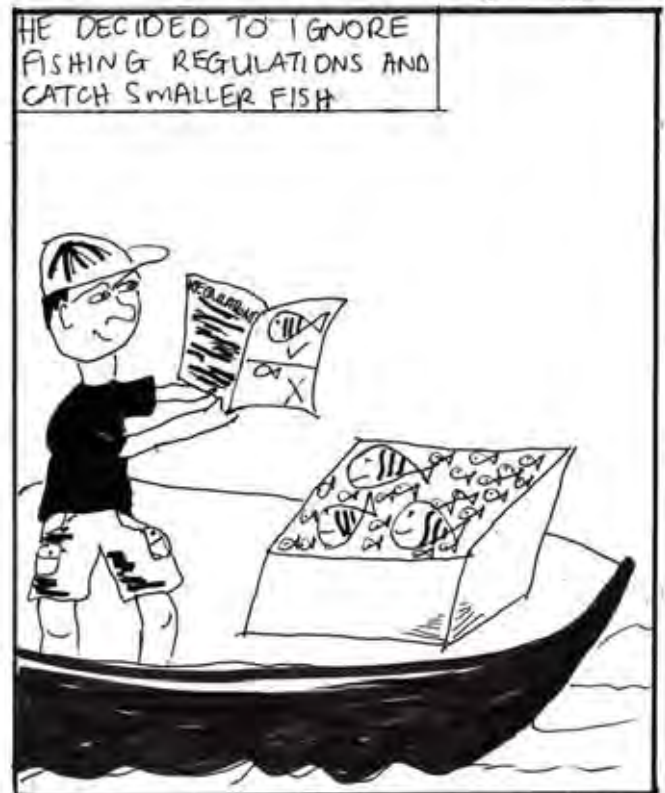
Adam "Josh Bae" Burford

MNC'S & INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION



Alex Kelly
IRELAND

THE GREEDY FISHERMAN



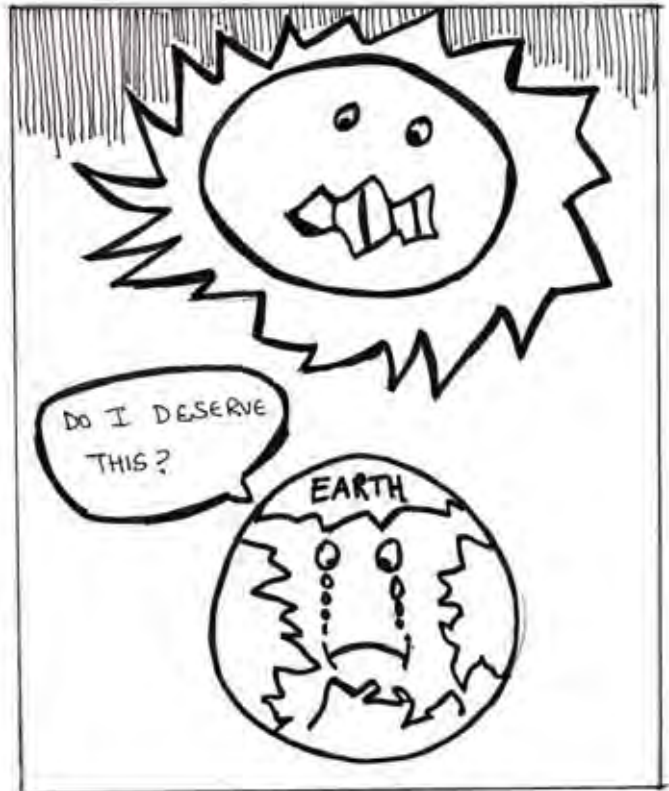
Eamie McLaughlin
Ireland

SAVE TREES FOR BETTER LIFE



Hadwshi Basumatary
ADBU

EARTH DESERVES BETTER RESPECT



Hazel Wahlang
Assam Don Bosco University

SAVE RHINOS



IN THE FOREST, A RHINOCEROS WAS SHOT DEAD BY A HUNTER.



LATER, THE HUNTER CUT OFF THE HORN OUT FROM THE RHINO AND SOLD IT ILLEGALLY IN HIGH RATE.



THE HUNTER WAS CAUGHT BY THE POLICE AND PUT INTO JAIL.



PLEASE STOP HUNTING RHINO BEFORE ITS EXTINCTION.



PALLAVI DOLOI

ADBU

GENDER JUSTICE



ASHLEY LHAINSIPHAL
ADBU

DRESS DILEMMA



ON THE WAY TO THE WEDDING PARTY



AT GADHUM MARKET PLACE



WHEN THE GIRLS GOT BACK FROM THE WEDDING PARTY

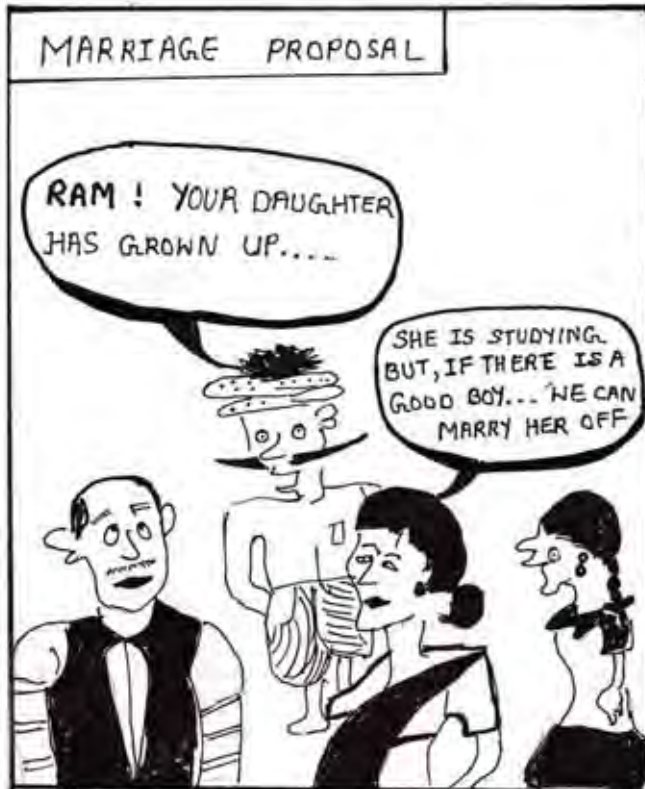


LATER



CAMILIA
ADBU

ISSUES OF EARLY MARRIAGE



Hadwinski Basumatary
ADBU

DRESS WITH NO CONSEQUENCES



NADIA BUDWA
IRELAND

STOP FEMALE FOETICIDE



A HAPPY MARRIED FAMILY



WENT FOR
ULTRASOUND.



NAMITA EKKA
ADBU

HEALTH IS WEALTH



DAIZY BORI
ADBU

HIV/AIDS - STIGMATIZATION



IGNORANCE



Shapalechika Rastin

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT





IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH



ALL WERE BUSY SMOKING.



NEXT DAY:



THEY VISIT THE CLINIC.



ALL DIED BECAUSE OF LUNG
CANCER.



SHIMTI MARY STEN
DONBOSCO UNIVERSITY

HYGIENE



UNHYGIENIC SURROUNDING



MOSQUITO BITES. UNHYGIENIC SURROUNDINGS GIVES RISE TO MOSQUITOS



GETTING SICK DUE TO MOSQUITO BITE



HAVING A PROPER WAY OF DISPOSING GARBAGE CAN HELP REDUCE THE GROWTH OF MOSQUITOS 'N' FIGHT MALARIA



NEINGUSATO · YOH0

ANBU

HEALTH JUSTICE



A WOMAN RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL WITH HER SERIOUSLY SICK CHILD...



AT THAT VERY MOMENT...



ALL THE DOCTORS NEGLECTED HER CHILD, AND ATTENDED THE VIP.



AND SO THE CHILD DIED IN THE ARMS OF THE MOTHER...



PETEKHRIENJO RAME

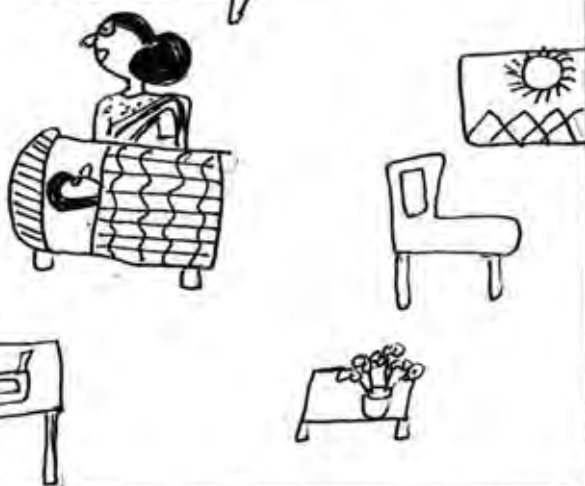
ADBU

STOP STIGMATIZATION



A YOUNG GIRL WAS SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE SICKNESS

Ah... YOU ARE SEVERELY SICK GO FOR CHECK UP



SHE WENT FOR CHECK UP AND FOUND OUT THAT SHE GOT HIV/AIDS



DISCRIMINATE HER... HIV/AIDS PEOPLE, DON'T TALK WITH HER... ISOLATE HER



STOP DISCRIMINATION
HIV/AIDS DOES NOT SPREAD THROUGH HUGGING, SHAKING HAND, EATING TOGETHER, SITTING TOGETHER, SHARING CLOTHES.

ITS SPREAD THROUGH

- 1) BLOOD TRANSMISSION
- 2) MOTHER TO CHILD
- 3) SHARING NEEDLES
- 4) UNPROTECTED SEX

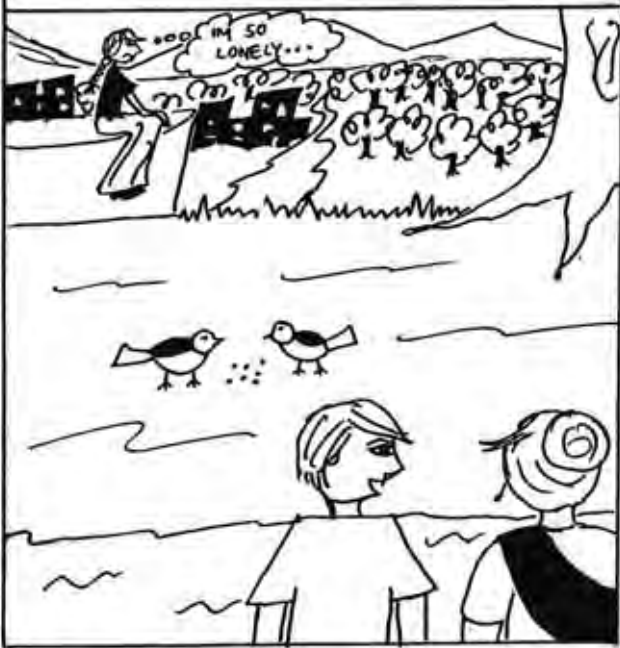
SENGSILCHI .N. SANGMA

ANBU

DO NOT FEAR THE UNKNOWN



... THERE WAS A GIRL LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN THE COMMUNITY...



PEOPLE WERE SCARED OF HER, POINTED AT HER AND SPOKE ABOUT HER SECRETLY...



AN EDUCATED LADY CAME AND EXPLAINED THAT HIV IS SPREAD THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT, SHARING OF NEEDLES, BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND MOTHER TO CHILD -



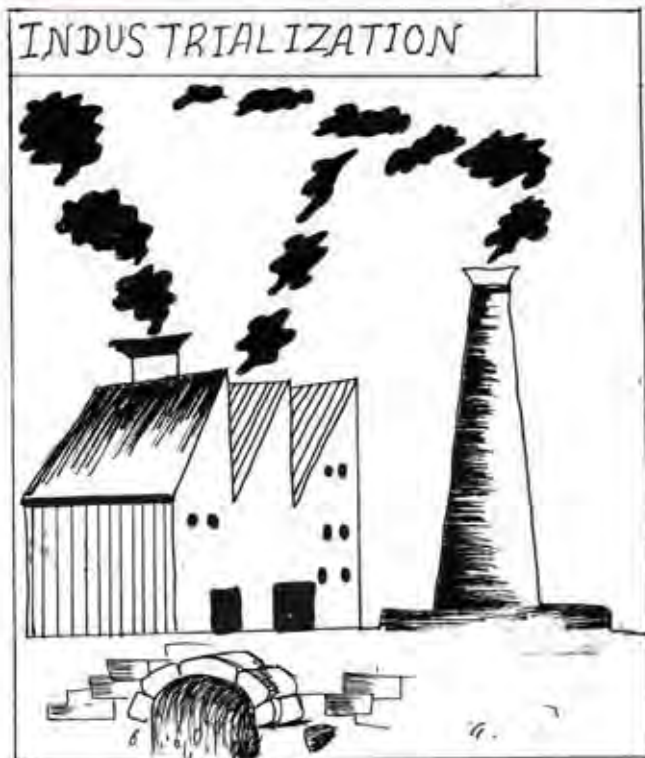
THEY THEN REALISED THAT BY JUST BEING FRIENDS WITH HIV PATIENTS WOULD NOT GET THEM, HIV TOO!



VAREENA . E. RYMMAI

ADBU

EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION



NETRASIKHA DUTTA
ASSAM DON BOSCO
UNIVERSITY

LIVELIHOODS DILEMMA



THE PEOPLE OF NORTHEAST INDIA SURVIVED ON JHUM CULTIVATION. THIS ANCIENT WISDOM THEY'VE PRACTICED SINCE AGES.



THEN ONE FINE MORNING



A NEW SCIENCE STUDY SHOW THAT JHUM CULTIVATION CONTRIBUTES ONLY 0.12% TO GLOBAL WARMING IS CAUSED INDUSTRIES



WHAT IS THIS GLOBAL WARMING ALL ABOUT ?



JENIFA JERIN ABEDIN
ANBU

EFFECTS OF BANDH



NAMITA EKKA
ADBU

'HELP' A PHONE CALL AWAY



HAZEL WAHLANG
ADBU

VOLUNTEERISM / VOLUNTOURISM



CAROLINE O'CONNOR
UCA VOLUNTEERS OVERSEAS, IRELAND

ACT ON TIME SAVES LIFE



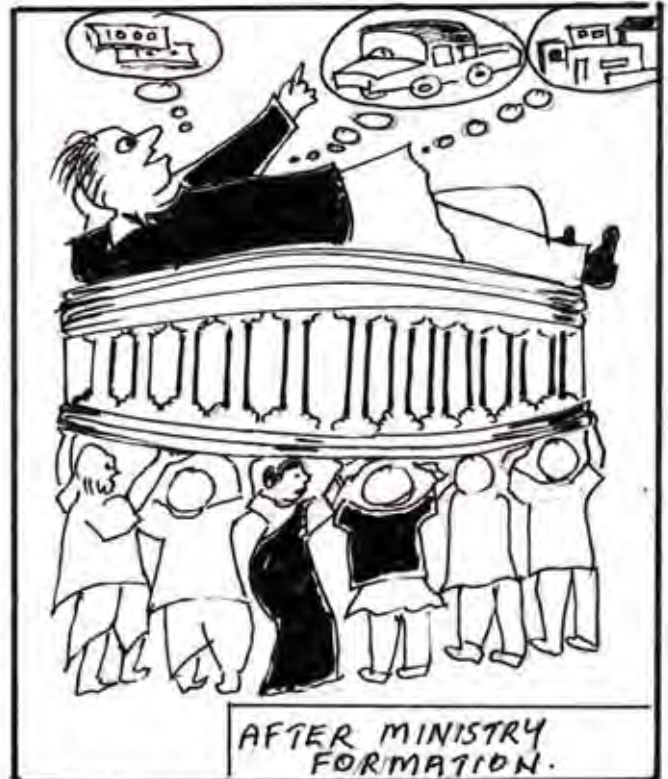
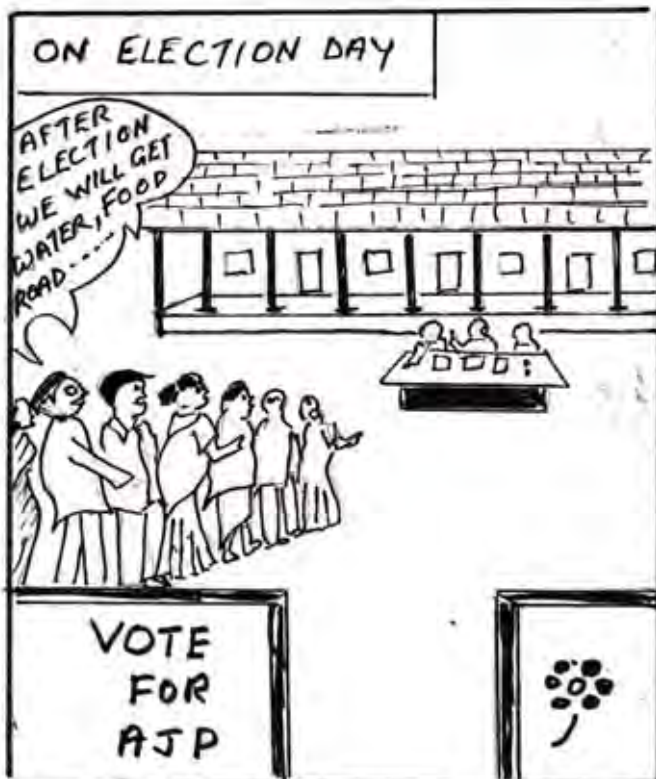
CERINA BELHO
ASSAM DON BOSCO
UNIVERSITY

REAP WHAT YOU SOW



Zafina Ahmed.
ADBU

DEMOCRACY BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND 'ON' THE PEOPLE



TOMMY JOSEPH
ADBU

CORRUPTION LEADS TO INJUSTICE

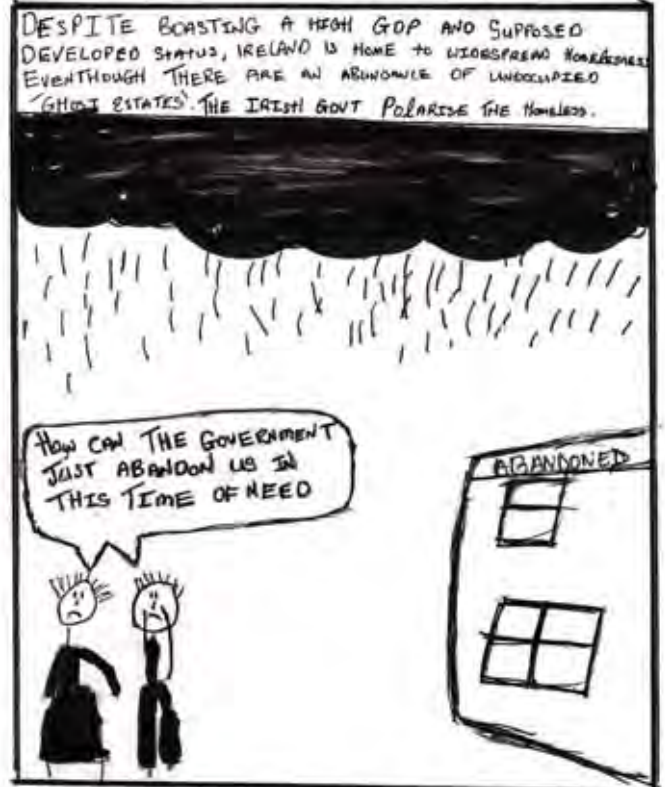
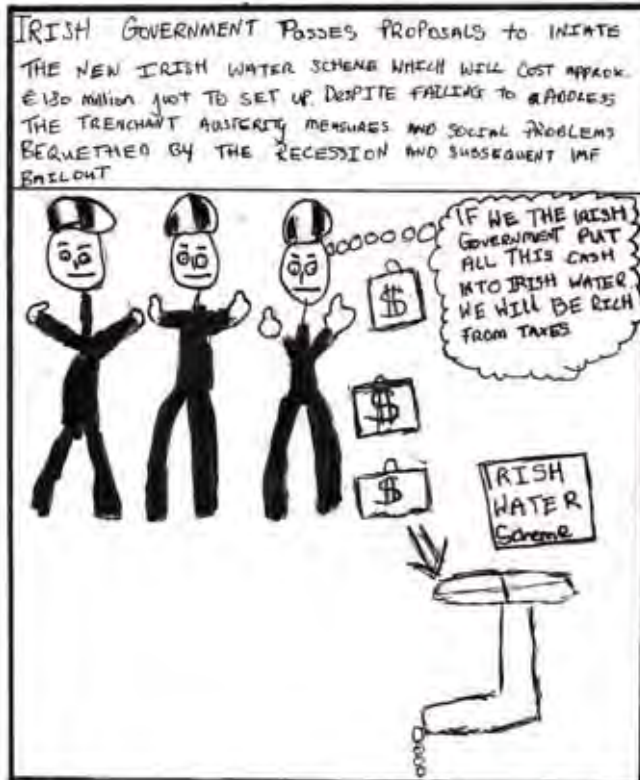


CAMILIA LYNGDOH.

ADBU

POLARISATION OF POVERTY

GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION



John McGinnis's
IRELAND.

WHO PROTECTS THEM?



Victoire Perrin ☺

UCDUO
FRANCE

REALITY OF A "TRIBE"



WHAT PEOPLE THINK TRIBES OF NORTH EAST INDIA LOOK LIKE

BARBARIAN

CHINKY

IGNORANT



HOW PEOPLE THINK TRIBES LIVE & THEIR WAY OF LIFE IS

WILD PEOPLE

UNCIVILISED

JUNGLY PEOPLE

HEAD HUNTERS

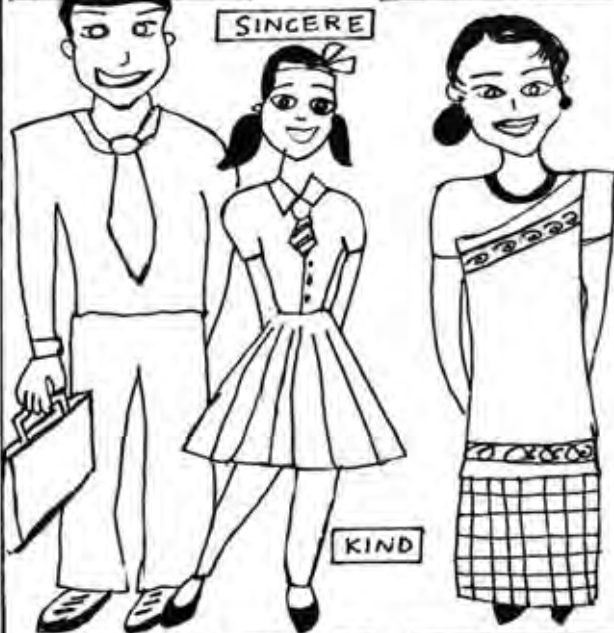


WHAT TRIBES OF NORTH EAST INDIA ACTUALLY ARE !!!

HARD WORKING

RICH IN CULTURE

SINCERE



KIND

GENEROUS

HONEST

HOSPITABLE

HOWEVER TRIBES OF NORTHEAST INDIA ARE NEGLECTED & FORGOTTEN !!

WHY ARE THEY NEGLECTED?

WHY ARE THEY EXPLOITED?

WHY SO MUCH DISCRIMINATION?



ESALANMIDAKA LYNDOH

ADBU

DRINKING DILEMMA



JOHN POJI
ADBU



VIRTUAL WORLD & REAL WORLD



Lijo George
ANBU

SAFE HAVEN FOR CHILDREN



ZOYA K. DUNAI
ADBU



Students from UCD and ADBU participating in the Grassroots Comics Workshop, Siloam, India, June 2014

Published by:

Don Bosco University, Airport Road Azara, Guwahati - 781017, Assam, India
Ph: +91-3612139292, www.dbuiniversity.ac.in

UCD Volunteers Overseas, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
Ph: +35317168570, www.ucdvo.org