

JHARKHAND GRASSROOTS COMICS WORKSHOP December 2 -5, 2003 in Jamshedpur, India



World Comics-Finland World Comics-India Johar, Jharkhand

World Comics, workshop report series, 2004



Report on Jharkhand comics workshop 2 - 5.12.2003

The workshop was organised by **World Comics India** and **JOHAR** (Jharkhand Human Rights Organisation) and it took place in Jamshedpur (Tatanagar) in a Christian Centre called "Vikas Bharti". The participants also lodged at the centre. The workshop was funded with NGO cooperation funds from the Finnish Foreign Ministry and with World Comics Finland's own funding.

Resource persons: Matti Hagelberg and Leif Packalén from **World Comics Finland**, Sharad Sharma and Thomas Sundi from World Comics India. Basheer Ahmed of Tamil Nadu Young Cartoonists attended as an observer. Local arrangements were taken care of by Ramesh Jerai of JOHAR.

Participants: Birendra Kumar Mahto, Ranchi, Sunder Mohan, Singhbum E, Lakhindra Nyak, Seraikella, Purmi Bodra, Singhbum W, Shyam Charai Birua, Singhbum W, Anam Purty, Singhbum W, Sindu Singhpurty, Singhbum W, Mohan Kumar Hazaribag, Jitendra Kumar, Singhbum E, Bikram Kant, Bhagalpur, Mukesh Kumar Singh, Bhagalpur. Kuliya Laguri, Singhbum W, Anjilina Sundi, Singhbum W.

December 2, Comics basics. Drawing exercises. Storyline creations. Discussions on stories.

December 3, Converting stories into visual manuscripts. Feedback on the manuscripts. Visual manuscripts turned into final artwork. Principles and measurements of wallposter production.

December 4, Work on the final artwork. Some participants started work on their second wallposter. At the end of the day 22 wallposters were on the wall. One group spent the morning in Chaibasa, looking at wallposters pasted up in the villages and visiting JOHAR office.

December 5, Critique and feedback session, thorough discussions on all wallposters. JOHAR activists gave their comments. Closing ceremony.

The wallposter comics: All comics were four-panel posters made from two A4photocopies. The issues ranged from alcoholism, drought relief, corruption, schools, traffic, village life, forest mismanagement to family planning. Most participants were associated with some local organisations working with JOHAR.

Leif Packalén, Chairman World Comics-Finland



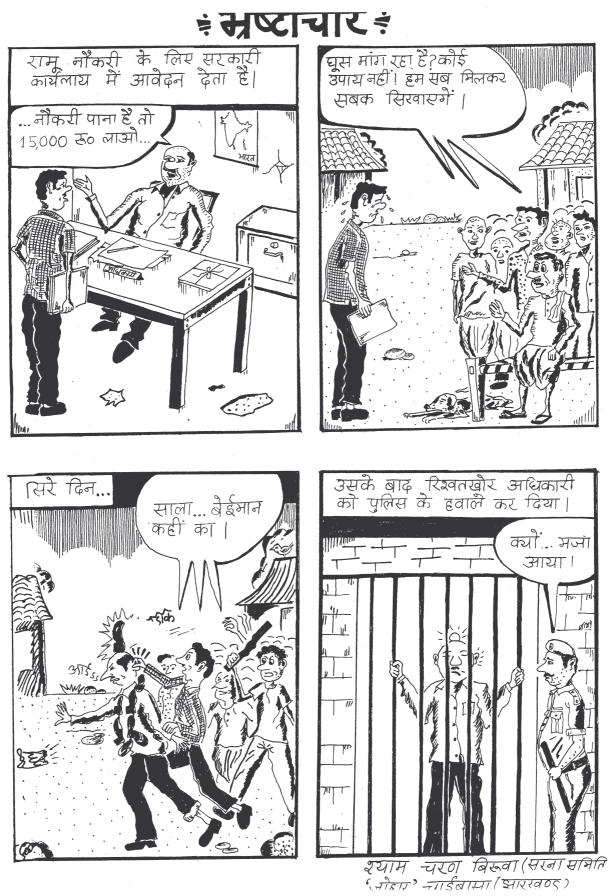
"**The flood victims**", The river is flooded and the villagers take refuge at the railway station. Railway security men chase them away ruthlessly. The villagers organise themselves into a protest march and they get assurance from the government to solve their problem. *Story and art: Bikram Kant, Bhagalpur.*

एकता में बल



MANTUAN YINA SANSTHAN RANCHI. THARKHAN

"You can stop drinking", The husband drinks heavily and neglects his family. An NGO-activist intervenes in the fight and persuades the husband to reform himself. *Story and art: Birendra Kumar Mahto, Ranchi.*



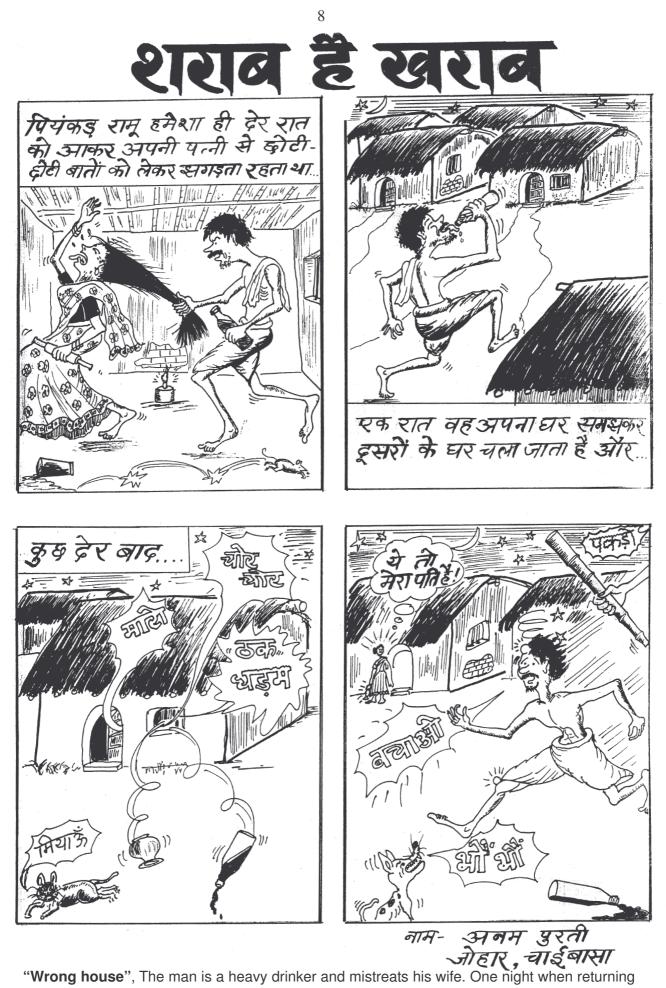
"**Corruption does not pay**", The village activist faces a demand for a bribe by a district official. The villagers decide to take action and they shame the official by garlanding him with shoes. The official is later arrested. *Story and art: Shyam Charan Biruva.*



"Garden thief", The villager works hard with his garden and is sad when produce is stolen from him. In the night he watches over his field, the thief is trapped and faces the wrath of the villagers. *Story and art: Purmi Bodra.*



"Now, take a drink!", The husband drinks too much and constantly demands his wife to serve him wine. Then he is in a severe accident and both his hands are amputated. His wife brings a jar of wine and says, sarcastically: NOW, take same wine... Story and art: Baleshwer Tuku.



"Wrong house", The man is a heavy drinker and mistreats his wife. One night when returning from a drinking spree he enters by mistake his neighbour's house. The neighbours teach him a lesson. *Story and art: Anam Purti.*



"Daughter's duty", The father always favours his son over the daughter. But when they are grown up, the son turns against his father and chases him away. The father is devastated but his daughter takes him into her house and cares for him. Story and art: Mukesh Kumar Singh.



PARLDHI" BHAGALPUR NAYA TOLA BHIKHANPUR

"A common school is ideal", In the town there are several different schools, private, religious etc. Parents demonstrate for the idea of having only one school system, equal to all. *Story and art: Bikram Kant.*

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"Self-help takes you a long way", The villagers decide to build an irrigation channel. They seek support from the development officer, but they are met with indifference. Then they organise themselves, divide the tasks between themselves, and build the irrigation system themselves. An NGO activist congratulates the villagers for the job done. *Story and art: Lakhindra Nayak.*



"The careless teacher", In a village school the teacher always sleeps in class, and the students complain to their parents. The village committee takes this matter seriously and the teacher start to perform better. *Story and art: Ms. Anjilina Sundi, Chaibasa*



"**Motorcycling needs concentration**", The motorcyclist denies a ride to a male friend, but when he sees a young lady, he immediately offers her a ride. He forgets to look at the road and crashes. *Story and art: Jitendra Kodha.*



"The greedy man": A rich, greedy man refuses to give a piece of bread to a beggar. The beggar starts a hunger strike at his door and increases his demand. Finally, the rich man has to fulfill all his demands, which costs him many times the cost of a single bread. *Story and art: Johar.*



"False Promises": The leader promises to keep his word this time if he get elected again. But again people find themselves cheated as the leader never looks back to his promises. *Story and art: Sunder Mohan.*



The wallposter format is multi-purpose: The normal wallposter comics size is A3 (420 x 297 mm), which can easily be read on a wall.

But sometimes it is nice to publish the same comics in a small publication or a newspaper and then the strip is a more convenient format.

A wallposter can be converted into a newspaper-type strip by reducing the size about 50 % and then rearranging the panels in a strip, as below.

Further below you can see the strip in its natural size as it would appear in a newspaper.





A man abducts a girl and the village women console her after the incident. The women decide to take action and overpower the man and shame him with a garland of shoes. Story and artwork: Sindhu Singh.

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