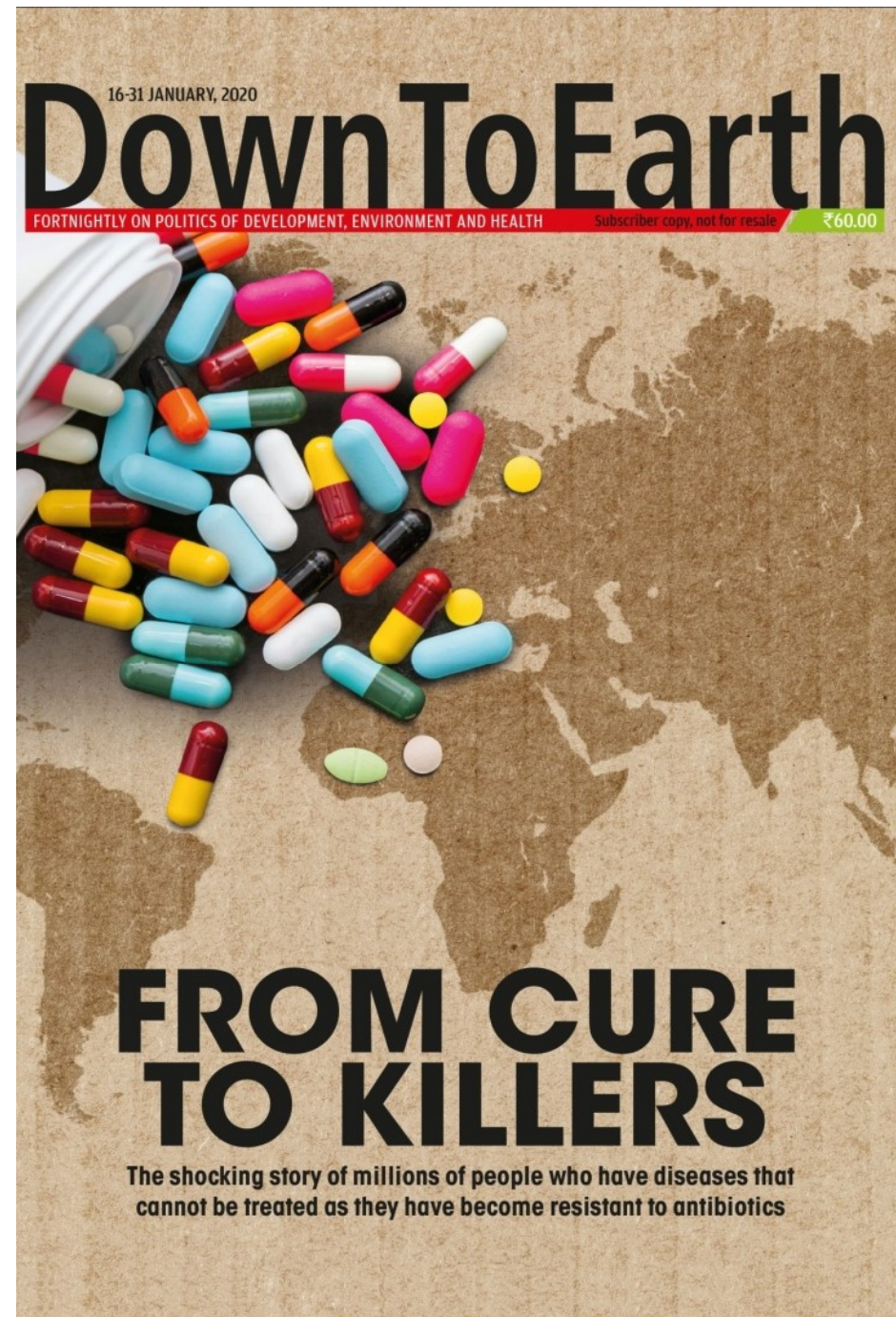


# Reporting on the Magic Bullet's Toll

Vibha Varshney  
Associate Editor  
Down To Earth  
[vibha@cseindia.org](mailto:vibha@cseindia.org)



# Down To Earth: Who are we?

Print, web, multimedia, books

- Fill a critical information gap
- Connect local and global: Reporting from farm, forests and factories
- Bridge the gap between science and policy; between decision makers and practitioners
- Supplement research, analyses and documentation of its sister organization, Centre for Science and Environment

SEPTEMBER 16-30, 2010

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# Down To Earth

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## WHAT'S IN YOUR HONEY?



Your daily dose of honey in the morning, is not as pure as you think it is. A lab study finds shocking amounts of antibiotics in almost all major brands of honey sold in India

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1-15 AUGUST, 2014

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## Drugged

CSE study finds antibiotics in chicken. Is this why germs are becoming resistant to drugs?



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# Why is AMR dangerous?

- 10 million deaths each year and USD100 trillion economic loss in 2050 due to resistant microbes
- Consumption of antibiotics increasing: by 2030, consumption is estimated to go up by 200 per cent (in terms of defined daily doses)
- No new major antibiotic being developed, weak pipeline for antibiotic agents, declining private investment
- UN set up the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2016. The group formulated a blueprint to fight against antimicrobial resistance in which it recommended a 'One Health' response
- The World Health Organization has identified AMR as one of the 12 global health challenges in 2020
- AMR will derail 10 of the 17 sustainable development goals

# SPREAD OF RESISTANCE

Asia and Africa will account for 88.8 per cent of AMR deaths



Source: Natural and bioinspired nanostructured bactericidal surfaces, July 2017, *Advances in Colloid and Interface Science*

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

# THE MAGIC BULLET'S TOLL

BY 2030

**126 BILLION**

defined daily dosages  
of antibiotics\*

**200%**  
more than in  
2015\*

BY 2050

**10 MILLION**  
deaths/year\*\*

More than those  
killed in the  
Rwandan  
genocide

BY 2050

**\$100 TRILLION**  
economic loss\*\*

Which is over  
15 times of  
Africa's GDP

What if a saviour turns into a killer? After 80 years of use, overuse and abuse of antibiotics—termed magic bullets—microbes have become resistant to them. Antibiotic resistant diseases are undoing the great strides in modern treatment. **VIBHA VARSHNEY** exposes a growing public health crisis

With reportage by  
**AGATHA NGOTHO** | KENYA  
**ENGELA DUVENAGE** | SOUTH AFRICA  
**PROSPER K KUORSOH** | GHANA  
**VINCENT YUSUF** | NIGERIA  
**VIOLET NAKAMBA** | ZAMBIA  
**JENIPHER ASIIMWE** | UGANDA  
**ALOK GUPTA** | CHINA



# Reporting from 6 countries in Africa

The questions...

- What is the status of antibiotic resistance in your country?
- What is the government doing to tackle the problem?
- What problems did you face while reporting on antibiotics?

# What did we find?

- Reporters came back with stories of rampant misuse in the health sector
  - Antibiotics could be purchased in local markets alongside vegetables
  - Peddlers brought them home in baskets
  - Prescriptions were not required
  - People were not aware of the adverse effects and mixed them even in alcoholic beverages, energy drinks and honey
  - Capsules were opened up and used topically
  - Patients left treatment midway
- They were used indiscriminately by the food animal industry too
  - Used instead of good practices
  - Antibiotics were added to milk to increase shelf life



# What did we find?

- Infectious diseases are still the major cause of hospitalisation in the continent
- Resistance is making treatment difficult and expensive. Hospital acquired infections are common too
- Data on resistance is poor as is the data on use of antibiotics
- There is lack of regulation on sale and use
- Lack of coordination between human health, animal health and environmental health experts
- Governments have developed National Action Plans for Antimicrobial Resistance but have shortage of funds to implement changes

# Learning

- It is a global problem and Africa is no different
- Every country is doing something that is working and also something that is not working
- This information has to come in public domain so that everyone can learn from each others mistake
- Journalists play an important role in this. They also play a role in creating awareness about AMR
- For maximum impact, reporting has to be based on data, stories, comparisons, interviews, photos...



