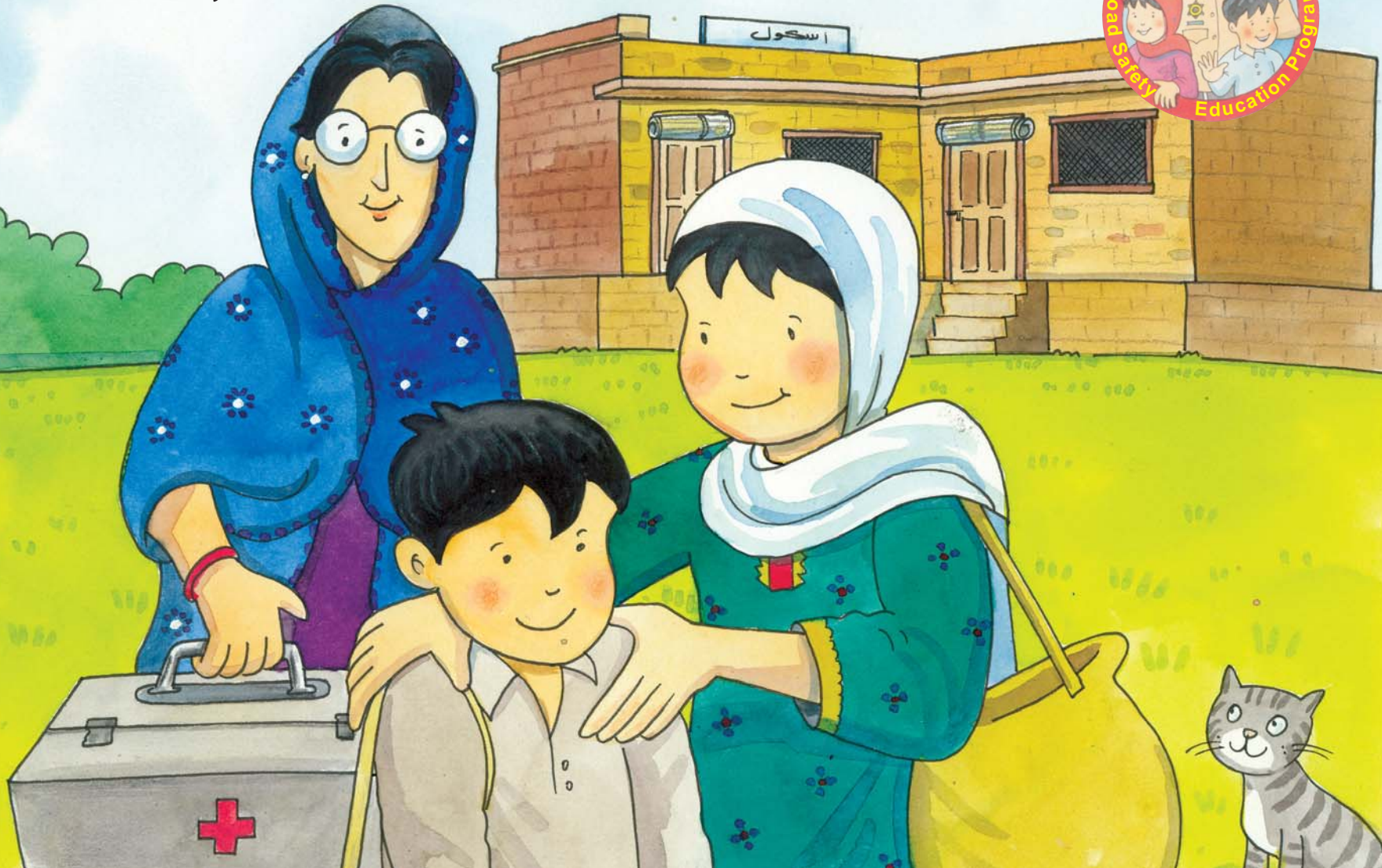


Raju and his injury

Road Safety Stories for Children

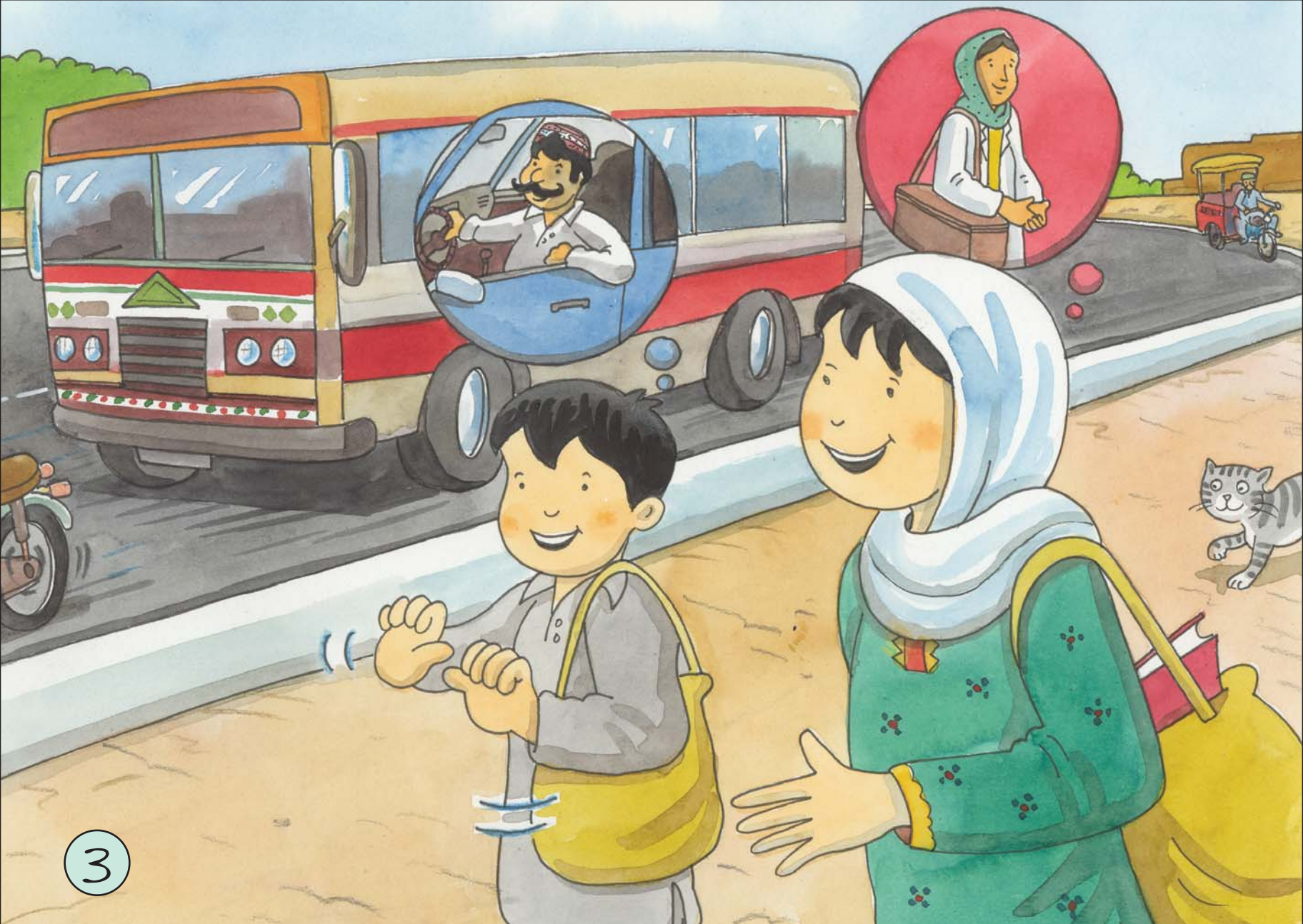


Raju was eight and Kiran was going to soon turn twelve. They were brother and sister. But they were not just that. They were also the best of friends. Everything they did, they did together and nothing could keep them apart. Once when Kiran was ill and could not go to school Raju too acted that he had an upset tummy, so he could stay back home and play with Kiran. They were indeed the best friends ever.

Recently, the children's mother had fallen ill and their father had called for a doctor from the nearby hospital. Raju and Kiran were both worried for their mother. But the doctor was a nice lady. She told the children not to be worried as their mother would be fine in no time after she had a few medicines and had lots of fresh fruits, vegetables and milk.







"I am going to be like her when I grow up", said Kiran telling Raju how much she liked the doctor.

"You mean you will wear a white coat and carry a black bag?" asked Raju, wondering what the big deal was.

"No dummy. What I mean is that I want to be a doctor when I grow up" said Kiran. "So I can cure people's illnesses and make them healthy and strong. I feel so good that that such a fine lady came to our house and cured Ammi. Now Ammi is happy, and she is healthy too. I will grow up and make everyone in the village happy and healthy too", said Kiran.

"That's fine. But when I grow up I want to be a race car driver. Look at all the cars, busses and trucks go vroom vroom. I will own a big car when I grow up and go vroom vroom too", replied Raju.

The children were walking on their way to school. There were quite a number of vehicles on the road that day. Kiran and Raju were on the safe side of the road walking as far left as they could.

"Vroom vroom, I will have the fastest car on the road", said Raju and he moved about his hands as if he were driving a car. "Look at me Kiran, I am driving my own car."

"Driving so fast can be dangerous. What if you get hurt?" asked Kiran

"Then you can cure me Dr. Kiran", Raju immediately replied. "Vroom vroom, look at me take a fast turn on the road." Raju walked towards his right where the traffic was fast and heavy.



The children heard a horn and tires screeching and suddenly a rickshaw that was coming from behind hit poor Raju and he was thrown on the road. Kiran screamed as loud as she could. She immediately yelled at the rickshaw to stop. The rickshaw driver worried that he would be taken to the police tried to flee as fast as he could. Kiran immediately noted the rickshaw's number so she could tell her father. She ran to Raju who was crying out in pain as he lay on the side of the road. His knees were bleeding; they had been scraped on the road when he was hit by the rickshaw. His arms seem bruised as well. Kiran kept in mind that she would have to carry Raju to safety very carefully.





Kiran was worried. She tried stopping the cars for help but they sped by. No one stopped. Kiran had some water in her flask. She cleaned Raju's wounds as he lay on the side of the road. That would stop the dirt from going inside his body. She also tied a clean cloth around the bruise on his knees. That would stop the blood. Raju was very scared. He was a little boy and he was crying in pain. But Kiran was a brave sister. She kept talking to Raju, telling him that everything would be fine.

Kiran kept waving her hand trying to bring the cars to a halt. At last one of them stopped. It was a taxi. Kiran told the taxi driver that her brother had been hit by a rickshaw and she needed to take him to a doctor.

"Where do you want me to take him?" asked the taxi driver.

Kiran had to think fast. The closest hospital was a half-hour drive away. But her school was only a few minutes away. And her school had a first-aid kit that could help treat Raju's wounds. "Take me to the village school as fast as you can", said Kiran to the taxi driver as she helped Raju get into the taxi.

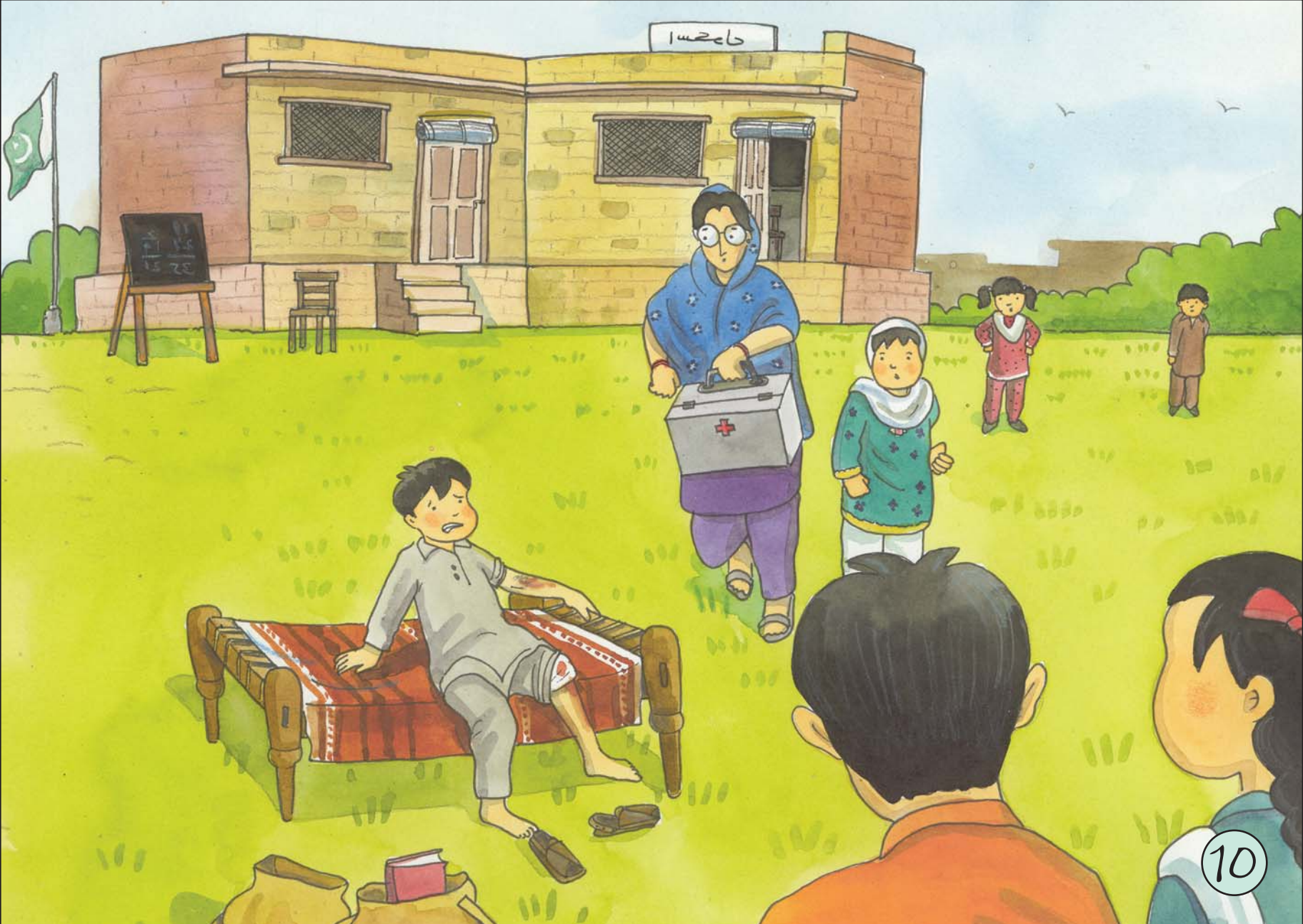
The taxi driver sped to Kiran and Raju's school. When they got there Kiran ran inside to call her teacher. She asked her teacher to immediately get the first-aid kit as Raju had had an accident on the road. Raju's teacher knew how to use the first-aid kit very well. She had been trained to work as a lady health worker in the village and had treated many children at the school. She immediately got her kit and went to look after Raju. Raju was still in pain. But the blood had stopped flowing thanks to the cloth that Kiran had tied around his cloth.



"That was good thinking Kiran to clean the injured area with water", said Kiran's teacher as she cleaned Raju's wounds with an antiseptic. "But this antiseptic will clean his wound from inside and we want to stop the germs from making Raju ill", she said.

"There was a lot of dirt where Raju had fallen on the road. I hope none of the germs go inside Raju's body", said Kiran, concerned about her little brother.

"Then it means we would have to give Raju a tetanus injection", the teacher said.







"No! No! I don't like injections and I don't know what a tetanus injection is!!" cried Raju.

"A tetanus injection is the most important thing when you get an injury as serious as this. It will make sure that the germs on the road that have gone inside your body do not make you ill later. If I don't give you an injection now in a few days your knees will go all green and in a few days you might have to have an operation at the hospital. You wouldn't want that now would you Raju", the teacher replied wiping Raju's tears.

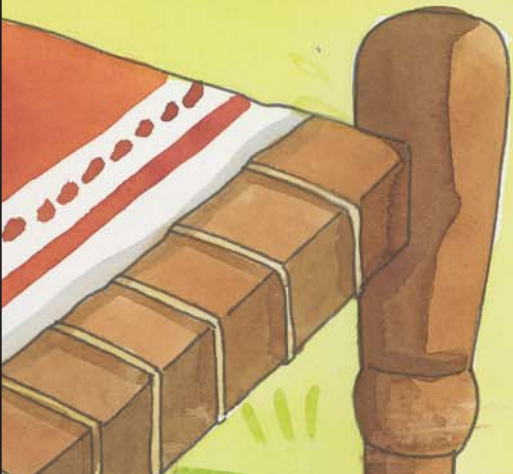
"Yes Raju, if you get this injection now, you will be up and running in a few days", Kiran added.



Raju agreed to get the tetanus injection. The teacher wore her gloves and checked if the tetanus shot had not expired. Reza was surprised that the shot did not hurt him at all. It felt like a slight pinch but it was not as bad as he thought it would be. What's more his teacher even put a bandage on his knee so he would not get his wound dirty. Kiran also helped by cleaning the bruises on Raju's arm with a cotton bud dipped in antiseptic.

"You will make the best doctor in the world Kiran", Raju said with a cheeky smile.

"Just remember not to drive fast again Raju", said Kiran, happy that Raju was fine.



BEING PART OF THE ROAD SAFETY BRIGADE

If you are involved with someone in an accident, it is very important to stay calm and try to protect the injured. You can start by slowing down the ongoing traffic or calling for immediate help.

Although it is hard for a non-professional to assess the situation and provide immediate help, you can start by talking to the injured (if s/he is conscious) to calm her/ him down.

Also, remember to note the number plate of the car that caused the accident.



If s/he seems to have had a bone injury/ fracture then it is advised not to move or drag them. Just wait for experts or help to arrive

Try to protect yourself as well. Make sure you are not near the road or facing heavy traffic while calling out for help.

Try to assess the situation as much as you can. Try to count the number of injured.

Also check for dangers like approaching traffic, leaking petrol, broken glass etc.



If the injured person is in a dangerous position try to carry her/ him to the safe side of the road.



If the injured person has gone into a state of shock or unconsciousness, loosen any tight clothing they may be wearing and keep them warm.

Try to lie them down with legs raised from their knees.





Apply pressure to any areas that bleeding excessively. This will stop the artery from losing more blood. Use any clean cloth like your shirt or dupatta.

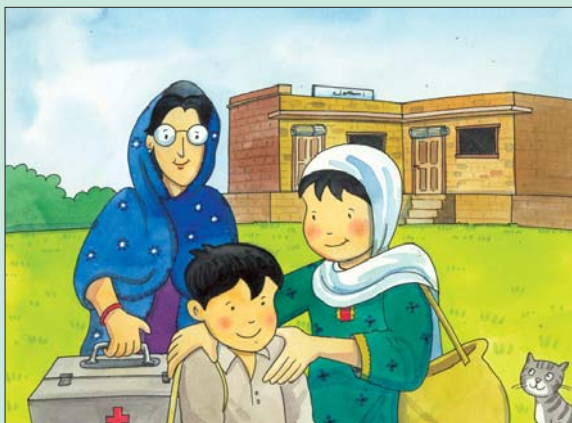
There are three things to watch out for when dealing with a road accident victim: Breathing, Bleeding and Bones. Give first priority to helping the injured to breathe properly. Then make sure you try to stop any heavy bleeding. Lastly, make sure that no pressure is put on areas that are suspected of broken bones and/or fractures



Wash your hands thoroughly after you are done helping the injured.

It is good if you remember a few emergency numbers that you can call in case of an accident or emergency.





Raju and his injury

The most crucial stage of saving someone's life after an accident is the aid the victim receives in the first hour. Road accidents on highways usually result in a lack of immediate first aid owing to inaccessibility of nearby hospitals and a lack of knowledge on first aid. Raju too was a victim of road accident that leaves his sister Kiran crying out for help. Learn more about how she dealt with it effectively to save her brother.

The Road Safety Education Program is a joint program that is being implemented in 100 schools of high-traffic districts of Sindh by the Road Sector Development Directorate, Government of Sindh and the Sindh Education Foundation.

This story is part of a wonderful series of books that can help children learn more about keeping themselves safe on the streets. Read the whole series and be a road safe child.



Playing on the Road can be Fun but...



Raju Learns Something New



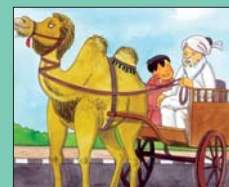
Raju Learns Something New



Bablu and his Cleverness



Raju's New Cycle!



Raju and his Wonderful Dream



Sindh Education Foundation
Government of Sindh



Road Sector Development Directorate
Works and Services Department
Government of Sindh

Author: Youshey Zakiuddin | Illustrator: Adeel uz Zafar | Translator: Gul Baig GurGej | Composer: Khadim Hussain

SINDH EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Plot 9, Block 7, Kehkashan, Clifton 5, Karachi - 75600
Ph: (92-21) 111-424-111 (Ext: 216), Fax: (92-21) 9251652
Email: rsep@sef.org.pk