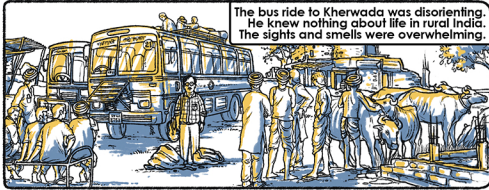


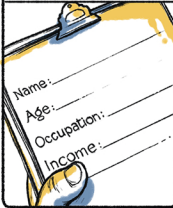
1977

A young IIT-IIM graduate reaches southern Rajasthan to do fieldwork for his PhD in Organisational Development.



The bus ride to Kherwada was disorienting. He knew nothing about life in rural India. The sights and smells were overwhelming.

He started collecting data, using a prepared questionnaire.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Income: \_\_\_\_\_



Why are the farmers not giving answers to my questions?



The young researcher was worried. Time was running out.

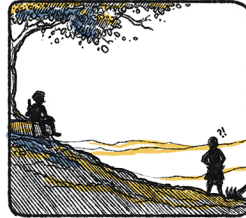
Conversations on "declassing" oneself, to become "one with the people" played in his mind. Is that what he should do?



He decided he had to immerse himself in village life.



The young researcher decided to learn how to become a farmer.



Kya kar rahe ho, babua?



Kisan banana hai, kaka.

He explained that he needed to become a farmer to understand and help other farmers access government services.



Accha? Kyon?

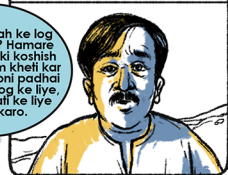
Agar mujhe gaon ke logo ke saath kaam karna hai, mujhe unke tarah ban ke, gaon mei kheli kama hoga.



Tum che mahine se hamare gaon mei reh rahe ho. Kuch nahin dekha? Kuch nahin suna?

Tumhare tarah ke log kitne dekhe? Hamare tarah banne ki koshish mat karo. Hum kheli kar lenge. Tum apni padhai hamare sahyog ke liye, hamari unnat ke liye istemal karo.

The young researcher listened keenly to the farmer's advice to use his education and skills to support others to bring change.



He decided to set up an organisation that would support the poor and marginalised to learn to use their lived knowledge and develop capacities to improve their own lives.



This organisation is PRIA, established in 1982, by Dr Rajesh Tandon.