



1970. Budd Hall, a young researcher, was working at the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, where President Julius Nyerere was promoting adult education as the bedrock for human development.



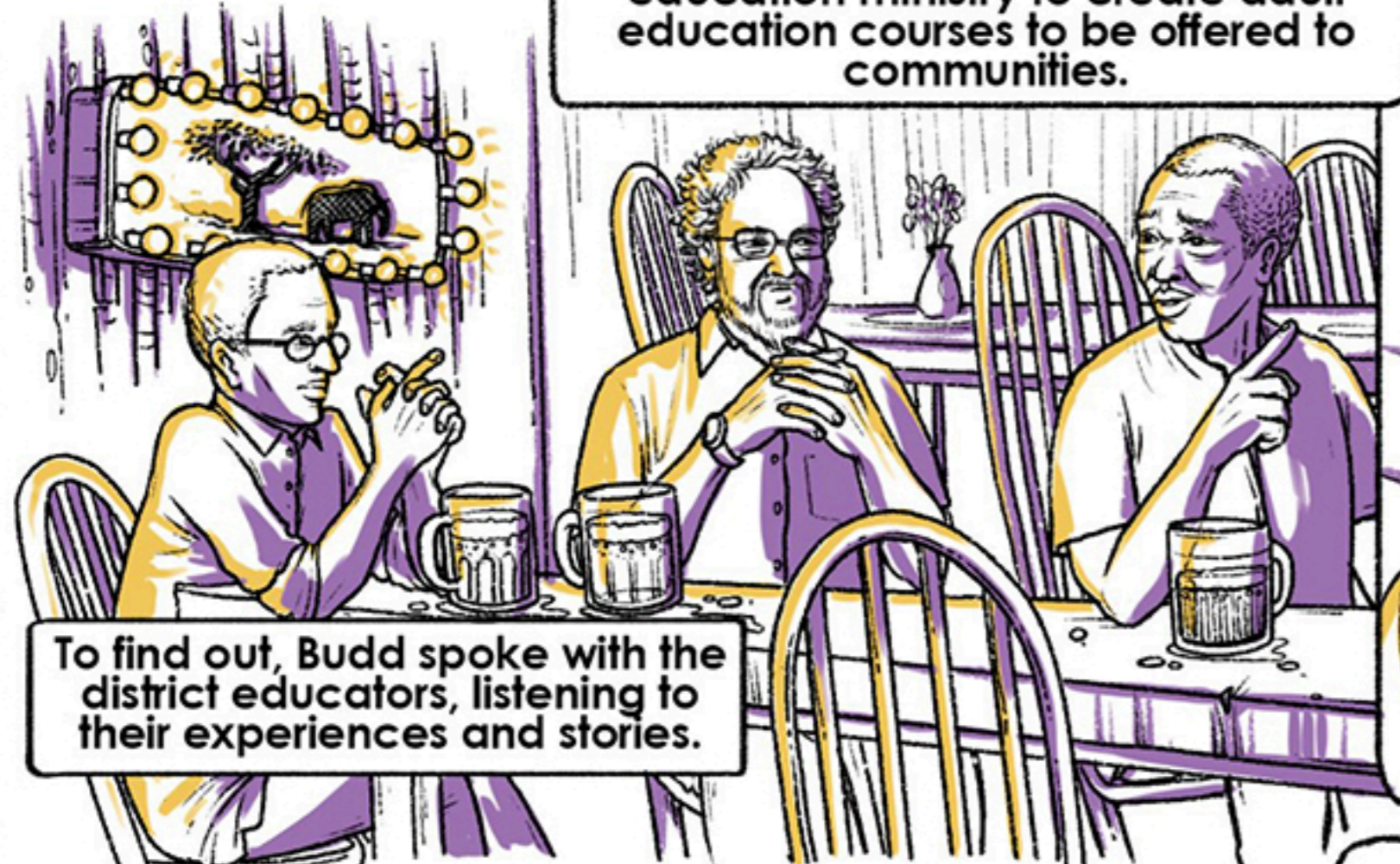
He began a needs assessment on adult education learning needs.

Field data was statistically analysed to generate evidence, used by the education ministry to create adult education courses to be offered to communities.



Some months later, district officials told Budd that attendance in courses was low as the community was not interested in them. Budd felt devastated.

What had gone wrong?

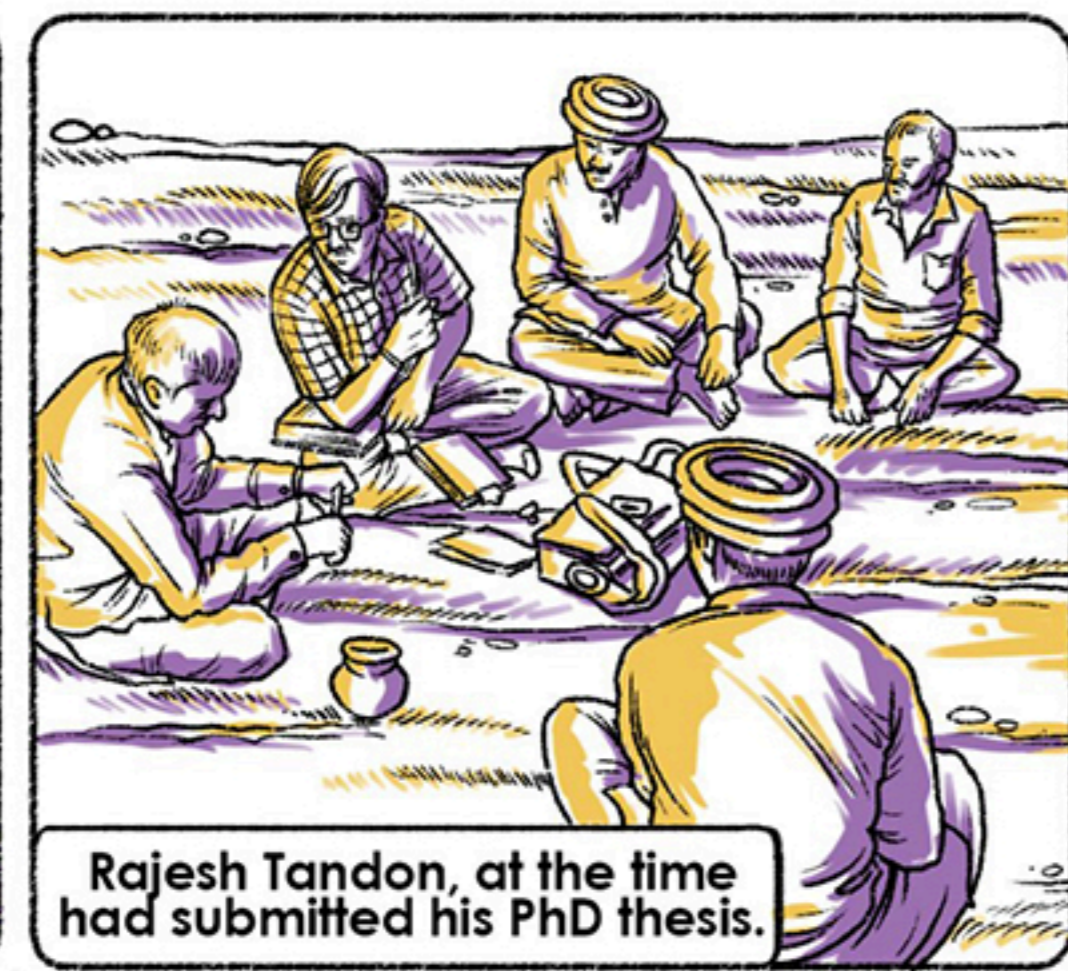


To find out, Budd spoke with the district educators, listening to their experiences and stories.



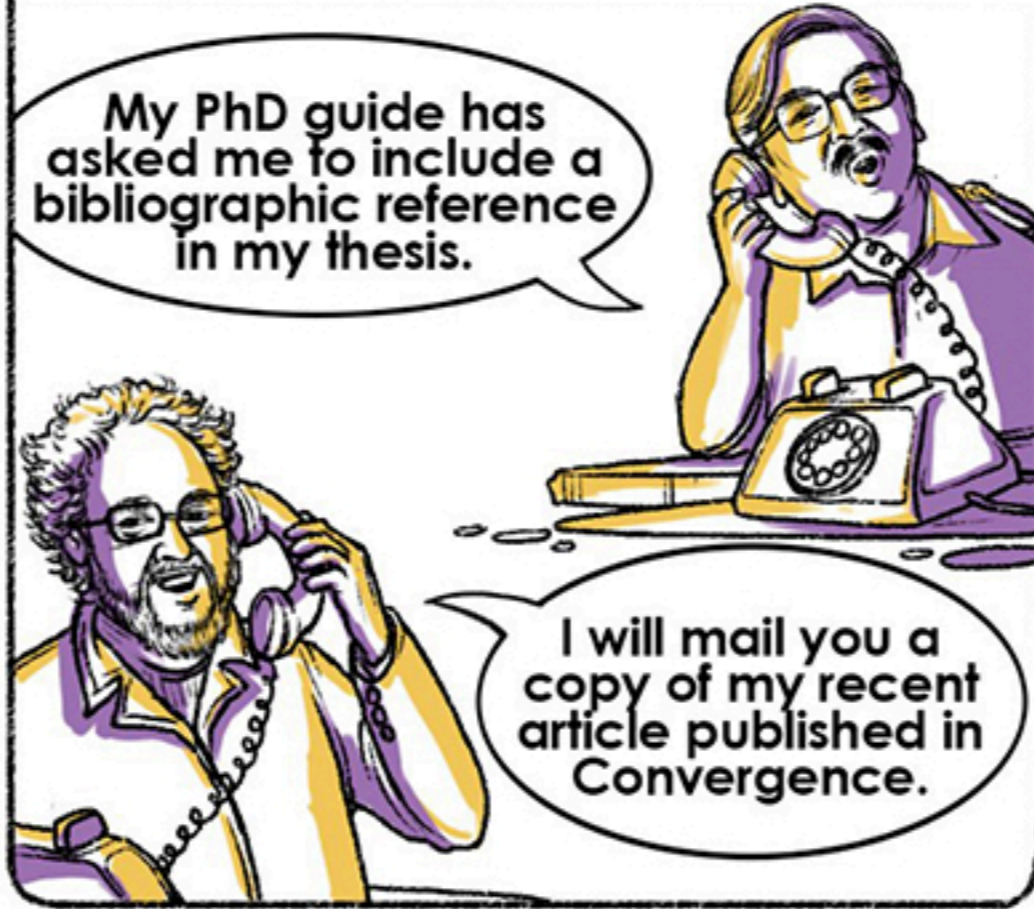
I learned to 'shut up' and 'listen'. By simply listening to community experiences, we acquire knowledge.

He wrote about his learnings, articulating the principles of "Participatory Research" for the first time.



Rajesh Tandon, at the time had submitted his PhD thesis.

Luckily, he got connected with Budd Hall, who was in Toronto.



My PhD guide has asked me to include a bibliographic reference in my thesis.

I will mail you a copy of my recent article published in Convergence.

That phone call was the beginning of an intellectual partnership of articulating the theory and practice of the use of knowledge for social change.



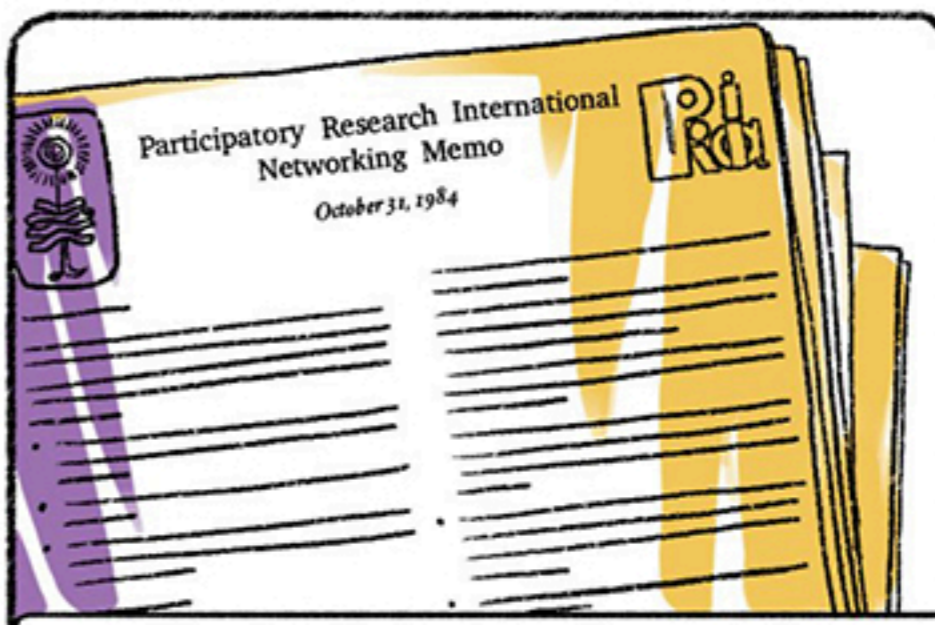
In Canada, Edward Jackson, Dian Marino, Deborah Brandt, Budd Hall and others formed an international network for Participatory Research, supported by the International Council for Adult Education



They learnt about the work of Orlando Fals-Borda, involved in radical action-research with peasants in rural Colombia, and Marja Liisa Swantz, highlighting lived knowledge of indigenous Tanzanian communities



Rajesh Tandon was invited to attend the 1978 conference in Caracas, organised by International Council for Adult Education



The Participatory Research international network was developed with regional nodes. Rajesh Tandon was the coordinator for the Asian region.



In 1980, the first international meeting on Participatory Research was held in Ljubljana (former Yugoslavia).



I want to use my education to support the rights of the marginalised

In my experience, a political party is not the answer if one wants to bring about change

Rajesh Tandon met Fals-Borda at Ljubljana

A visit to the Highlander Centre crystallised the idea of setting up an organisation to promote the use of people's knowledge for change.



Supported by Anita Dighe, Om Shrivastava, Walter Fernandes, Ganesh Pandey, Prem Chadha and other colleagues, PRIA was set up in 1982.

