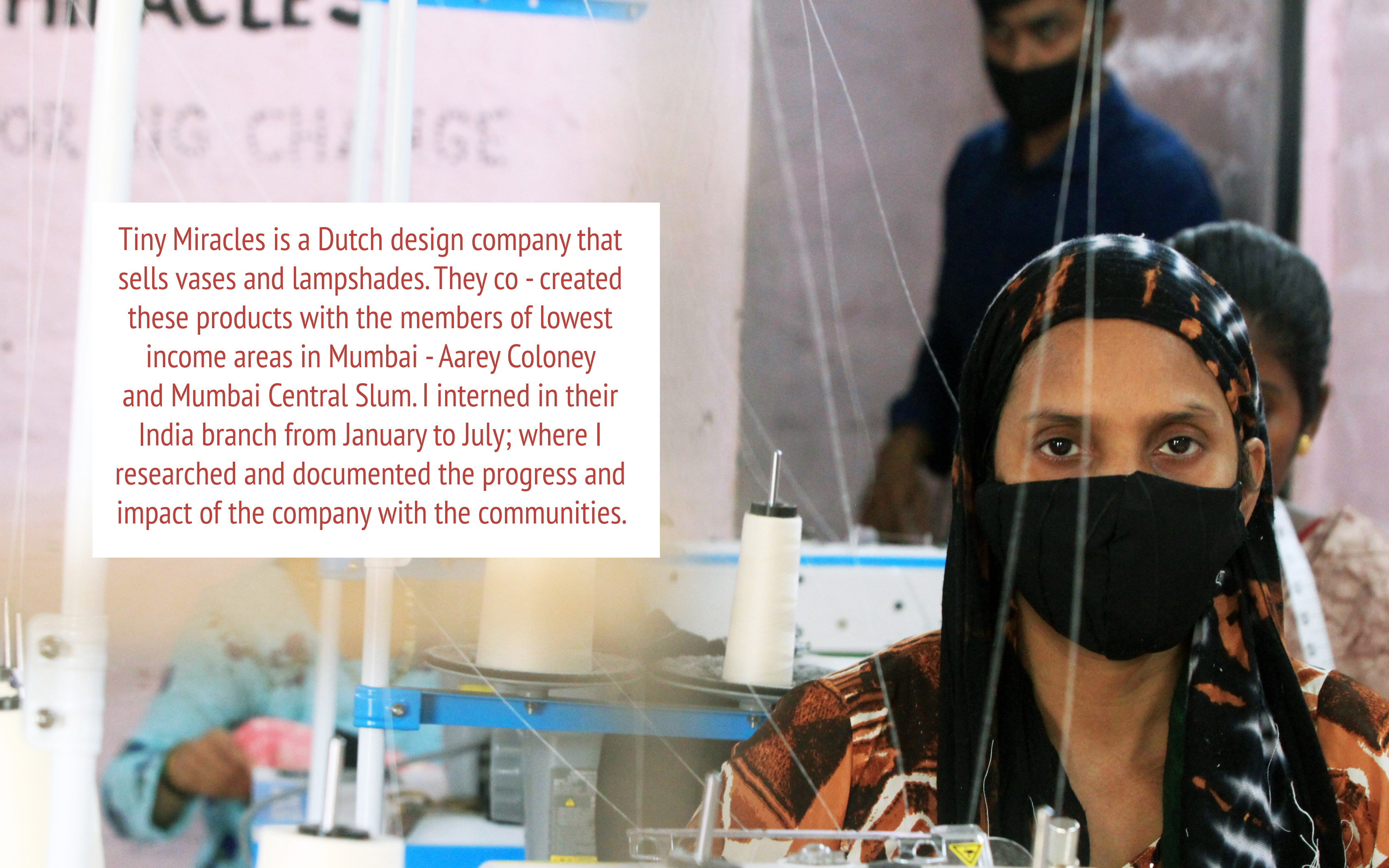
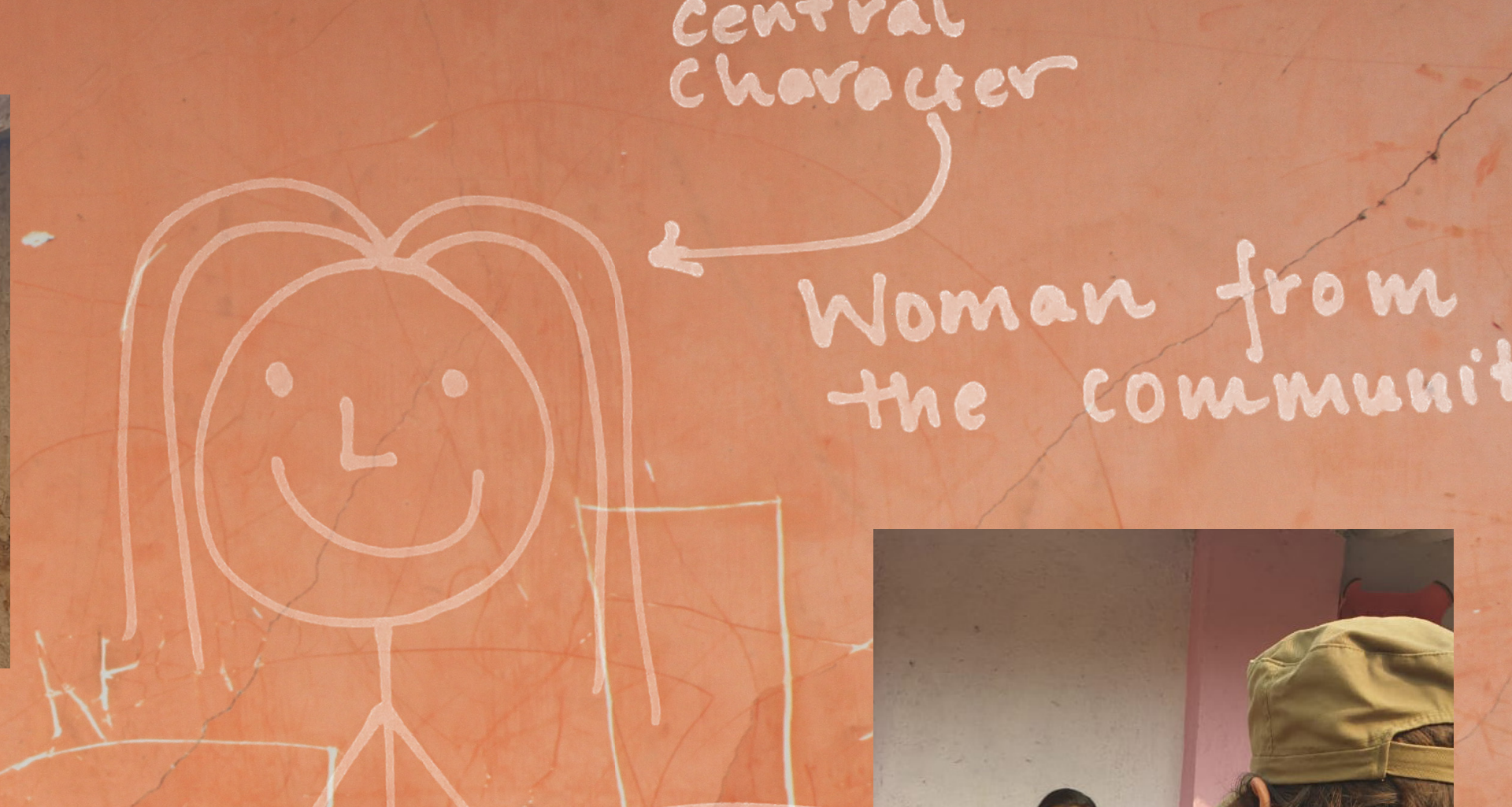


Low floor high ceiling





Tiny Miracles is a Dutch design company that sells vases and lampshades. They co - created these products with the members of lowest income areas in Mumbai - Aarey Coloney and Mumbai Central Slum. I interned in their India branch from January to July; where I researched and documented the progress and impact of the company with the communities.



Despite the class gap being so wide, what is ? How do I understand their systems and way of life? What is the connection?



Aarey Coloney (tribal area), Mumbai

“Just because you got the monkey off your back, doesn’t mean the circus has left the town” - George Carlin

My ancestors were one of the many immigrants who left Lahore during the Partition of India. They rebuilt their lives and lifted themselves from their circumstances. Despite this, there is unhealed trauma from the struggles within the whole community. My grandfather founded his business in Mumbai and worked his entire life without enjoying his success.

Upon visiting the tribal women from Aarey Colony and bearing witness to the effort they were making for a better life, I felt the similarities. I asked my self:

**How will they handle the transition and social mobility?
I have already seen it happen once, what can I do different?**



What are my motivations?



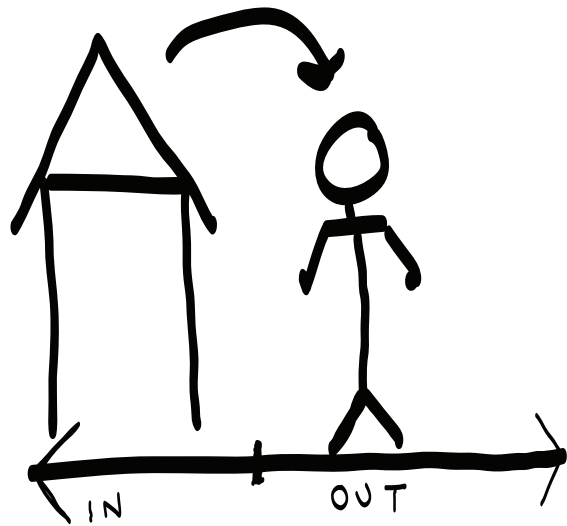
With Tisha in Mumbai Central Slum



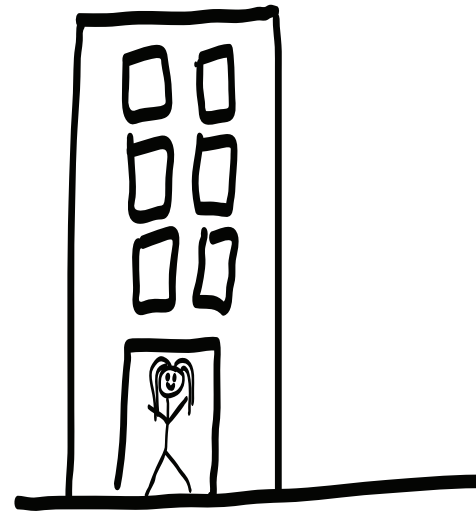
Field Research during internship



Tisha



'It is a misconception that just because we are Indian girls, we can't go out. We can go everywhere'



'We moved from the BIT Chawl to a building because my mother saved up the money from her job'



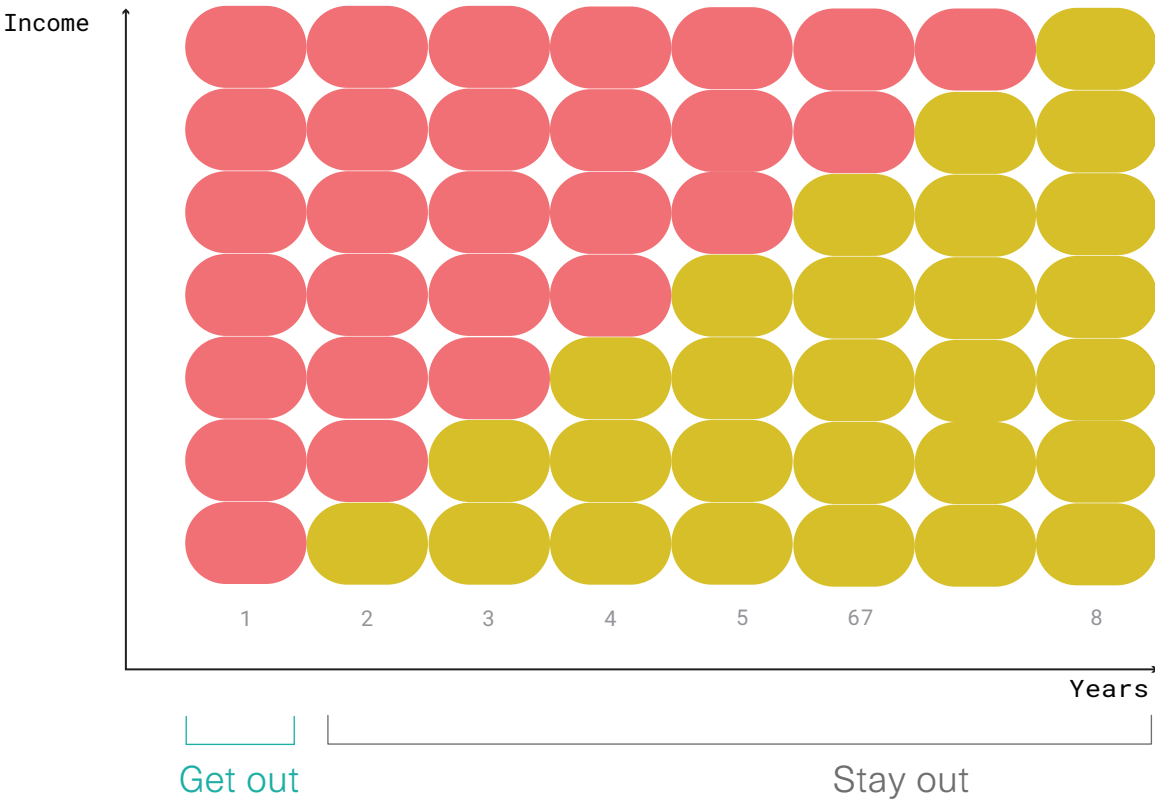
Tiny Miracles has helped by paying for my school fees and Karate classes. They never say no to anything.

Half of my research was working with Tisha, an 18 year old girl from Mumbai Central Slum near the red light area. Tiny Miracles started working with her family and funded her education/ extra curricular since she was 7. Within 10 years, she set the precedent that change is possible. As she told me her ambitious plans for the future, I wondered how would she have felt if we would have attended the same high school? Would she feel comfortable? Would inviting her to my parties make her feel welcome or isolated? **Does opportunity and equality mean the same as equity and balance in power? How is that created?** For example, I was dropping her home and I could see that she felt a bit distant. Her demeanor was warmer when I was in her neighborhood. I heard the comments and saw the side eyes from the other women when she was leaving with me. Which made her feel a bit conscious to spend time together. Before hand, my friends had asked me 'Are you sure you want to meet her? Why are you doing this? You're crazy to go there'. **Could I do something to increase empathy and trust towards each other?**

How Tiny Miracles works towards economic independence



Where Tisha grew up



Marginalized community - 800.

Total foundation expenditure for 'Get out' for 800 people: 750k euros for 8 years. Of which 220k is funded through own salary.

Less than 100 euros pp cost for the foundation spread over 8 years.

Start working the 'right way' in Year 2.



Foundation funded



Salary funded by themselves

Get out

Decreasing funds from foundation

Stay out

Through working for a sustainable salary of which 20% is reserved for responsibilities. Dependence on foundation decreases as time progresses. People start working more independent

What is my role?

In the role of a design researcher and social worker, I am co creating a road map and system that focuses on root cause mapping and community building practices; which help these women cope with the transition and reflect on their paths after they break out of the poverty cycle.

It is to be the facilitator, coach, conversation starter, awareness generator. The solutions to the identified problems must come from those with the lived experiences.



“We tell people to follow their dreams, but you can only dream of what you can imagine, and, depending on where you come from, your imagination can be quite limited.”

- Trevor Noah. It is important to note that external feedback is important as only community based solutions can also be taken as conservative politics. For example:

Before Tiny Miracle's intervention, it was accepted practice for a girl to get married at an early age and stop her education. Now they feel liberated and have a higher benchmark for themselves.

create c
complain
critique
pushback

POWER
TO SA

skill training

healthcare

self
sufficiency

Why should the community participate with me?

bank

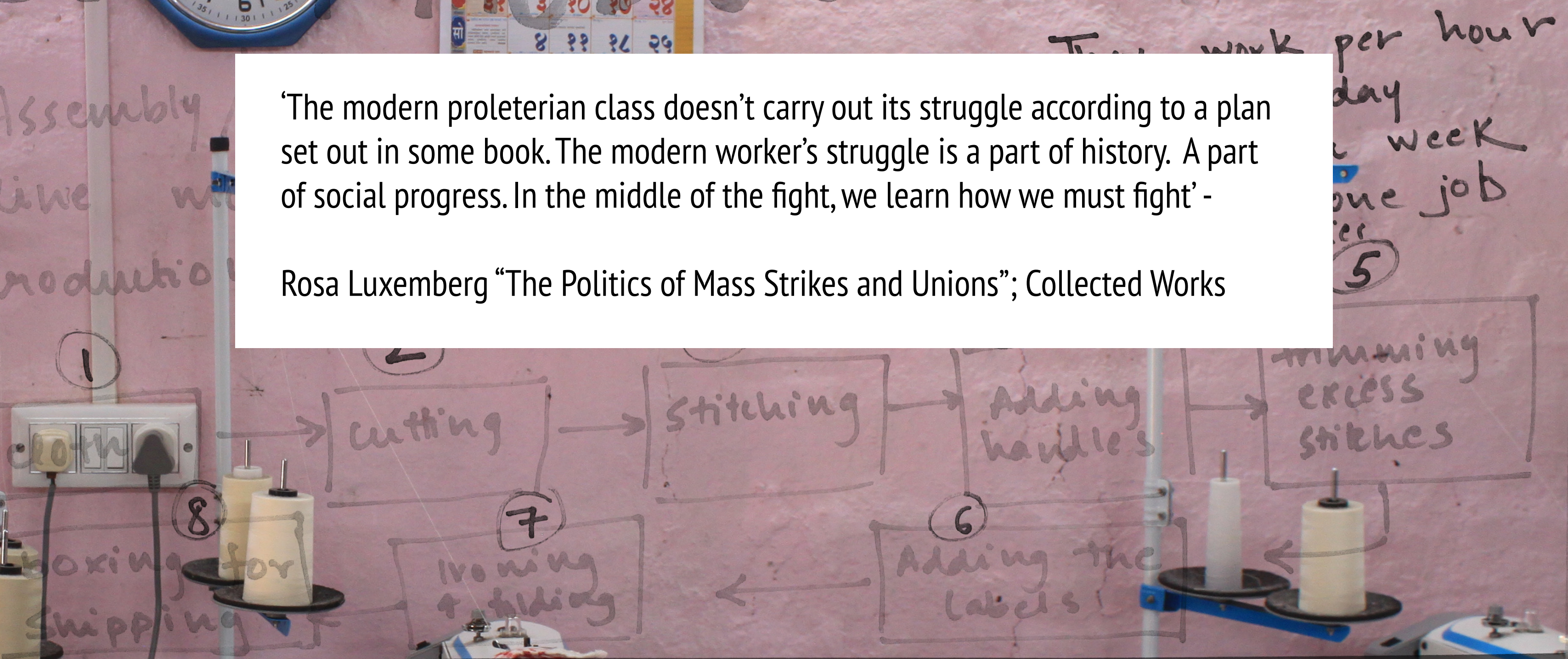
investing / saving

CURRENT STRUCTURE



‘The modern proletarian class doesn’t carry out its struggle according to a plan set out in some book. The modern worker’s struggle is a part of history. A part of social progress. In the middle of the fight, we learn how we must fight’ -

Rosa Luxemburg “The Politics of Mass Strikes and Unions”; Collected Works



Root cause mapping

It is not simple cause and effect that happens in 10 years. When Tiny Miracles placed the children in school, the parents eventually removed them when the money ran out. It is a complex system that happened with assistance. Hence root cause mapping provides context, address assumptions and provides a process to understand the value of the journey.



Consciousness Raising -

Increasing awareness about the healthy behavior.

Dramatic Relief -

Emotional arousal about the health behavior, whether positive or negative arousal.

Self-Reevaluation -

Self reappraisal to realize the healthy behavior is part of who they want to be.

Environmental Reevaluation -

Social reappraisal to realize how their unhealthy behavior affects others.

Social Liberation -

Environmental opportunities that exist to show society is supportive of the healthy behavior.

Self-Liberation -

Commitment to change behavior based on the belief that achievement of the healthy behavior is possible.

Helping Relationships -

Finding supportive relationships that encourage the desired change.

Counter-Conditioning -

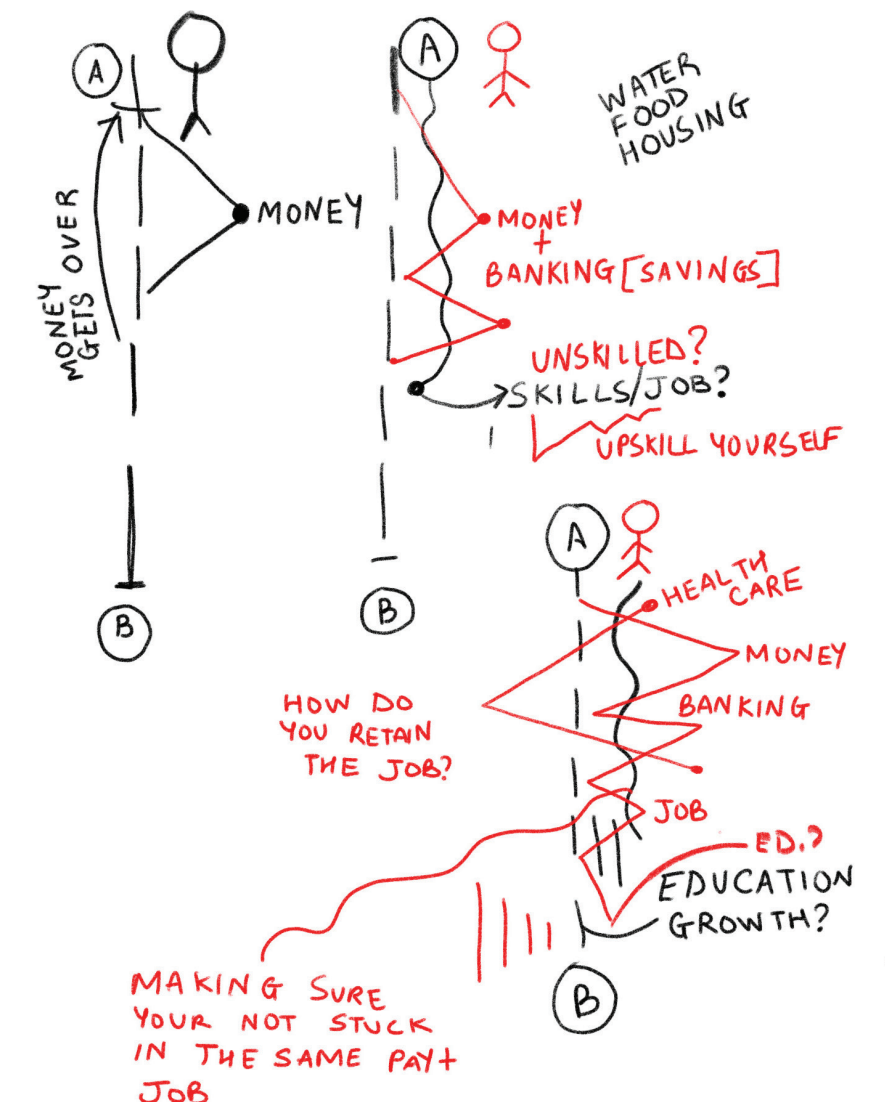
Substituting healthy behaviors and thoughts for unhealthy behaviors and thoughts.

Reinforcement Management -

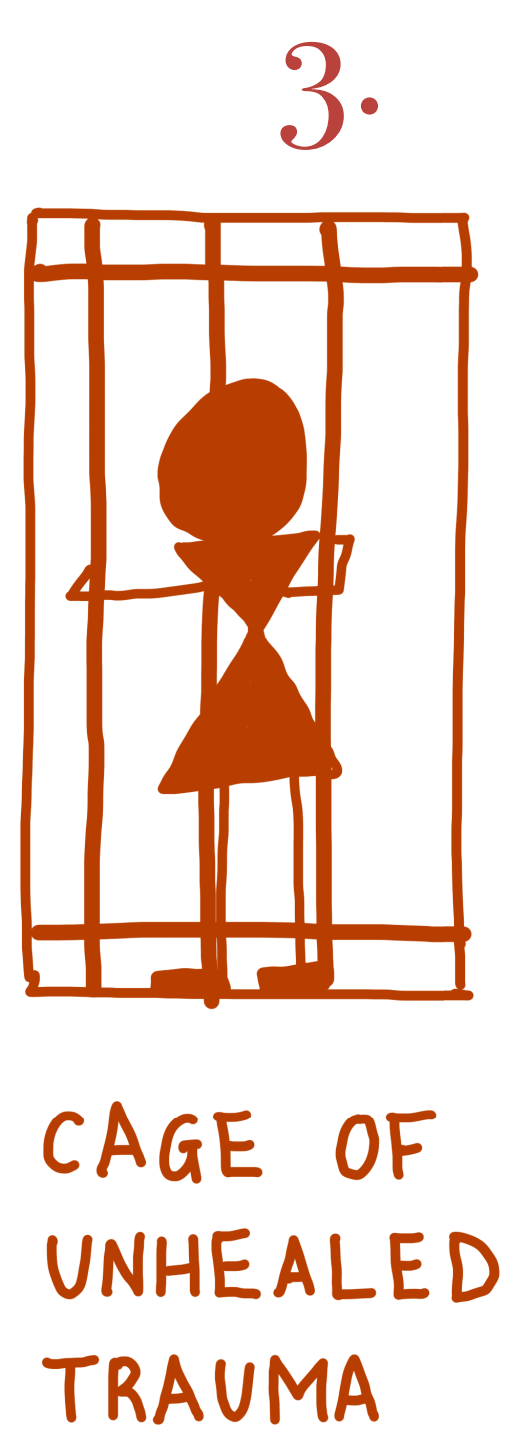
Rewarding the positive behavior and reducing the rewards that come from negative behavior.

Stimulus Control -

Re-engineering the environment to have reminders and cues that support and encourage the healthy behavior and remove those that encourage the unhealthy behavior.

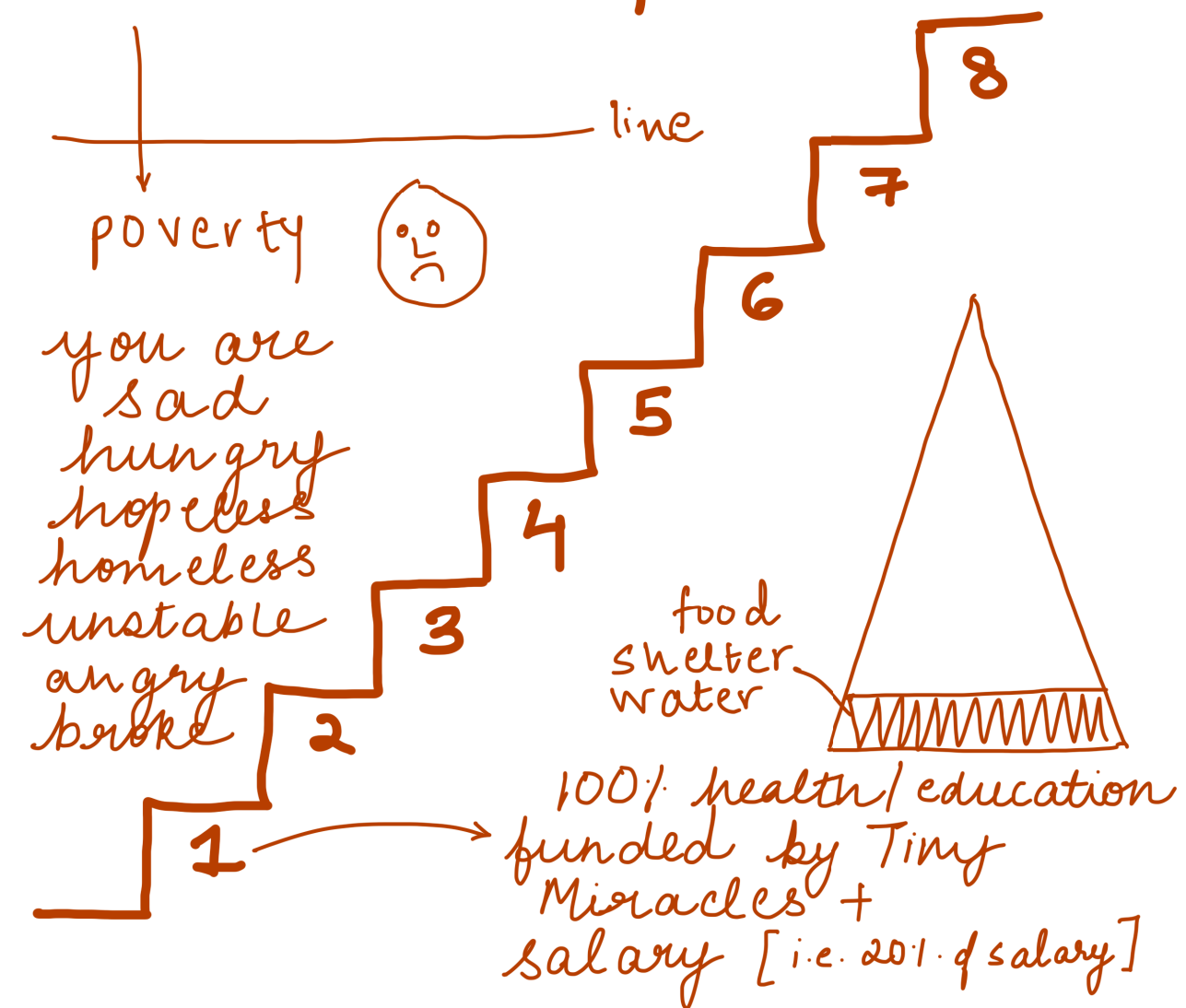


This is your starting point. You are assigned the context



●
STARTING
POINT

PHASE 1/8



A BOARD GAME



What is their current position?

What are the identified problems?

Sample Problem 01 : I applied for a job at the local tailor shop to learn from the master. The job has minimal pay and no upward mobility. What am I supposed to do?

Sample Problem 02: My partner gambled away the monthly savings. Now I have to start from scratch. My future is not looking very bright.

Sample Problem 03: My loved one is severely ill. I spent all my money for healthcare. How can I move ahead from this set back?

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Sample Problem 04: The government is trying to take down/ gentrify our neighborhood. Without any roof over my house, what am I supposed do to?

Sample Problem 05: The local police officer got a hint that I may be doing well for myself. He asking for a weekly cut or he will harass me everyday. My earnings take a severe hit. What is the solution for it?

Sample Problem 06: The rival party of the government is staging communal riots - I am injured and my office is burnt down. How do I rebuild my life?



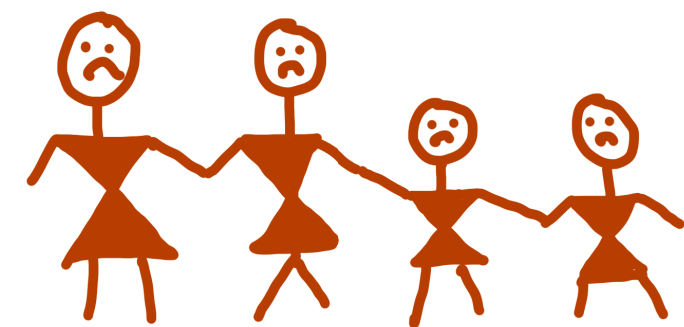
Pick a random number from 1 - 7 and get surprised.

1.



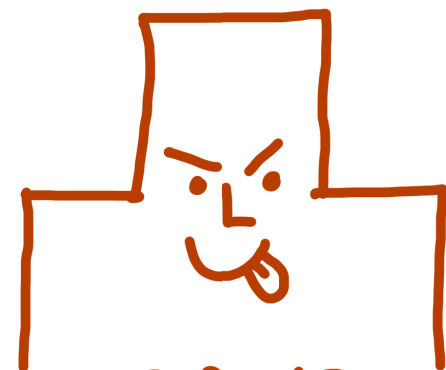
COLOURISM

5.



GENERATIONAL TRAUMA

3.



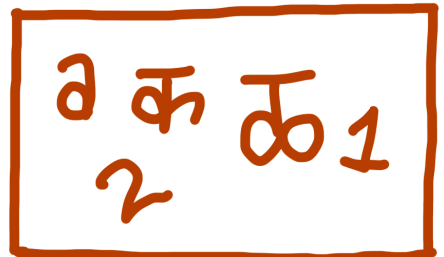
CORRUPT GOVERNMENT

7.



COMMUNAL RIOTS

2.



POOR EDUCATION SYSTEM

4.

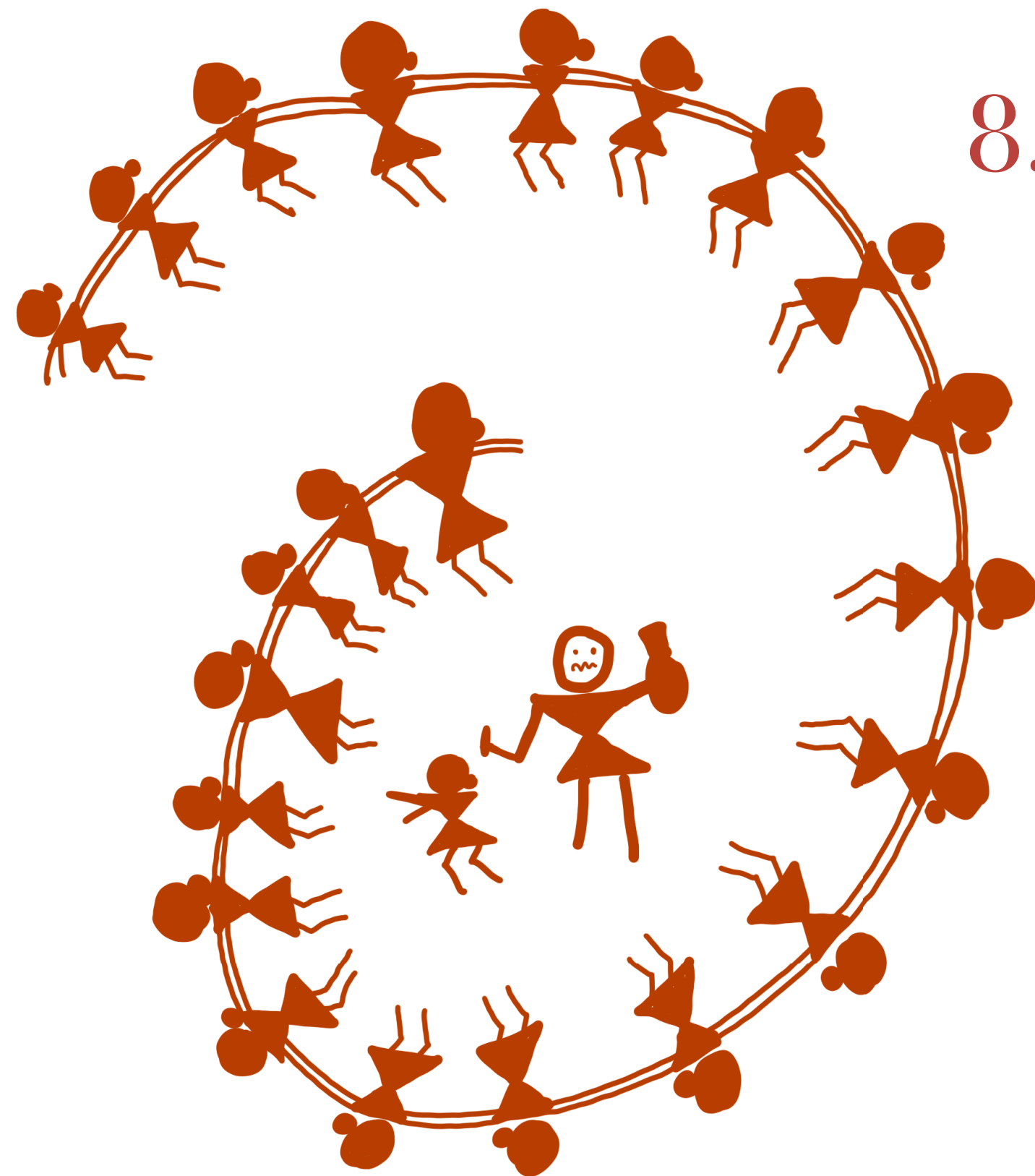


EXPLOITATIVE JOBS

6.



FOOD INSECURITY



8.

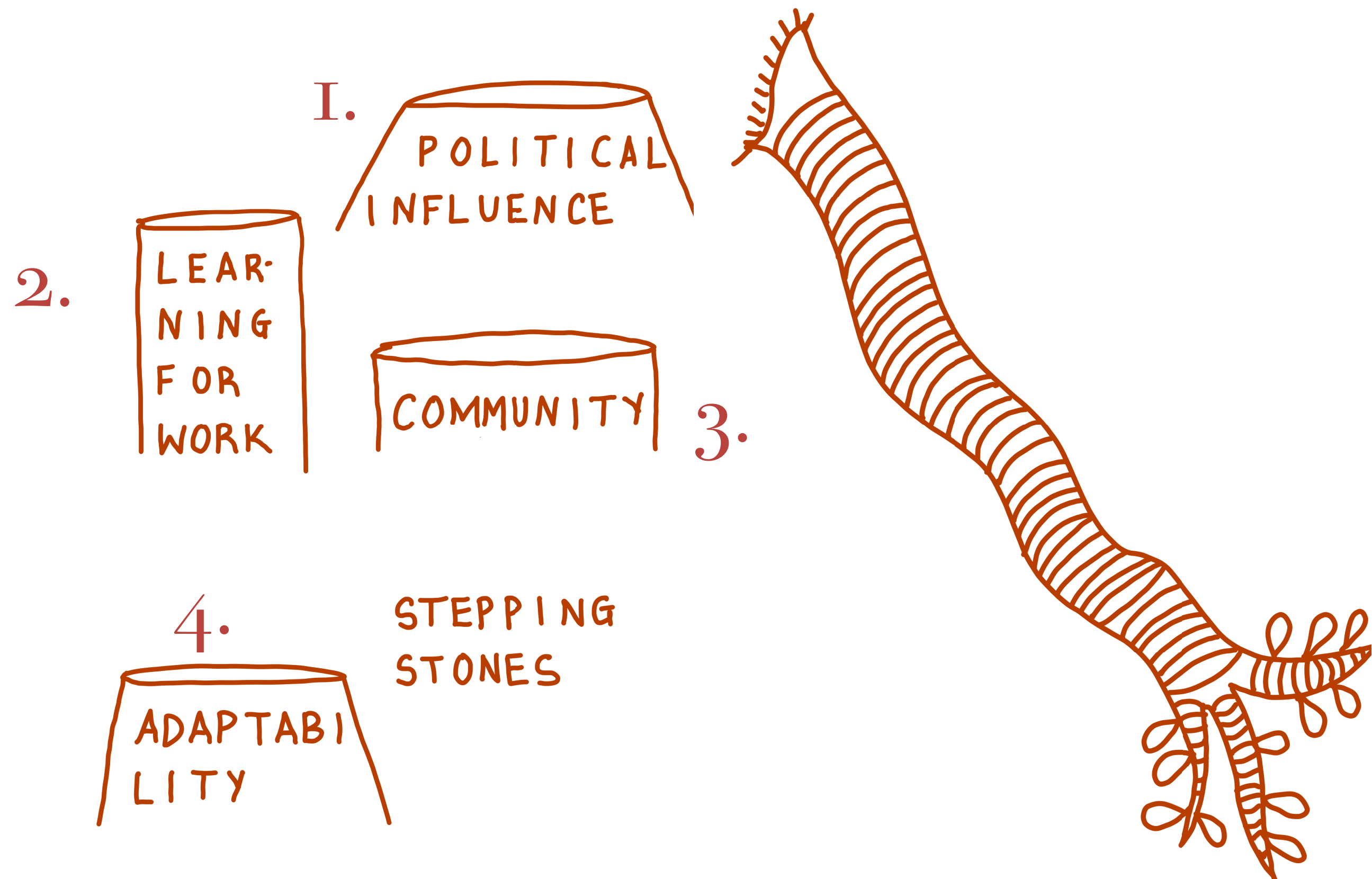
If you take a step back, you need to skip a turn in this house.

SECRETS AND ISOLATION

It is a very closed community. They do not open or trust outsiders very easily or often. In order to move ahead, they would need to be more inclusive and visible with the problems. Hence you miss a turn in the house of secrets and isolation.



Positive markers that take you to next phase. Your choice.



Community Building



Location: Income generator room,
Aarey Forest

Community is both the unit and agent of change. Community in this project is taken as a performative entity and cultural practice. Collective configurations. Patterns that interdependent humans share with each other. **Shared symbols, shared experience, shared narrative.** Identity politics, moral capacities, social cohesiveness, sense of belonging comes from the boundaries of their neighborhood. Community has high currency when it comes to being a secret weapon against neighborhood disadvantage, poverty and unemployment;

Creating social capital in relation to the institution. They do not have to be personal ties. It can be meaningful and pointing to the culture of the community of how the participants are working together within the context of this project.

How do the participants relate to each other and assist each other as knowledge resources within the context that is provided to them?

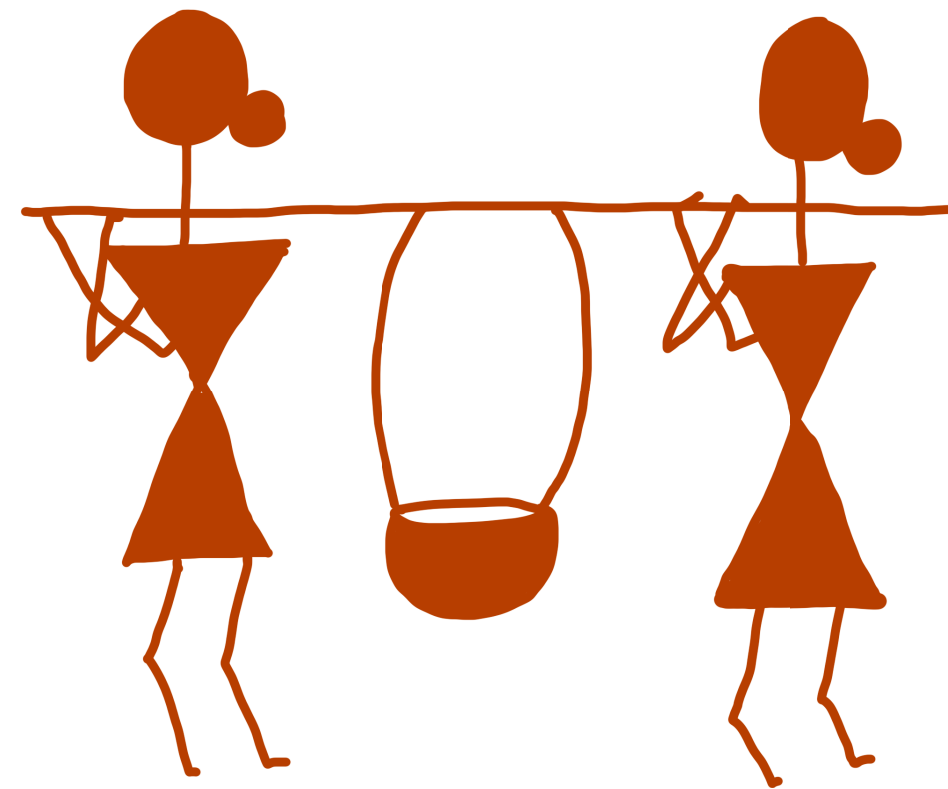
Physical proximity and mental proximity is not always the case.



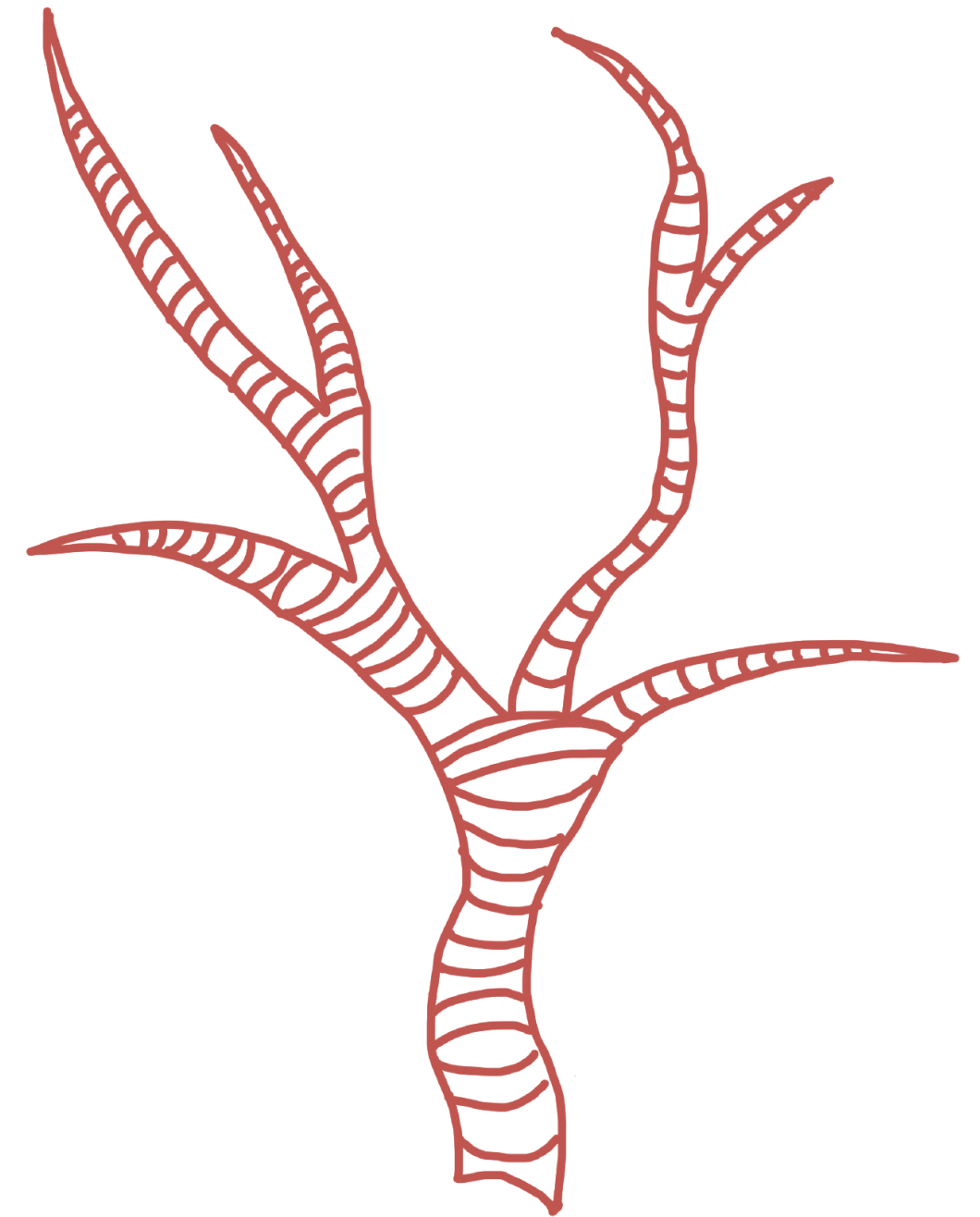
Creating durable engagements

The game is multi - player. You can only move ahead by assisting each other.





Sharing the experience





The goals of the game

Persistence to sustain the momentum from leaving the poverty cycle
Setbacks for preparation and practice
Action and accountability
Consideration to be self motivated to change
Uncertainty to know there is space for growth and change

