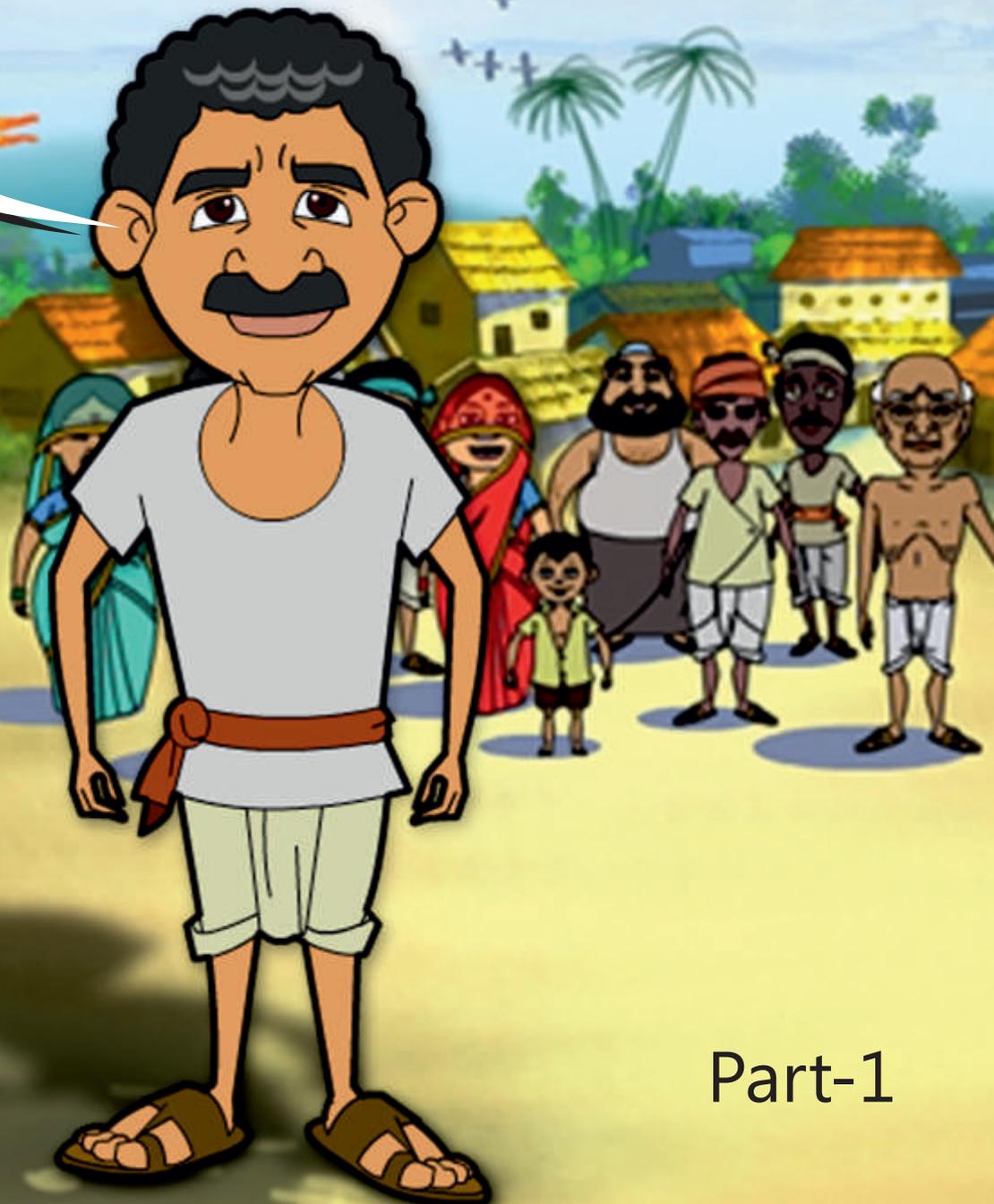
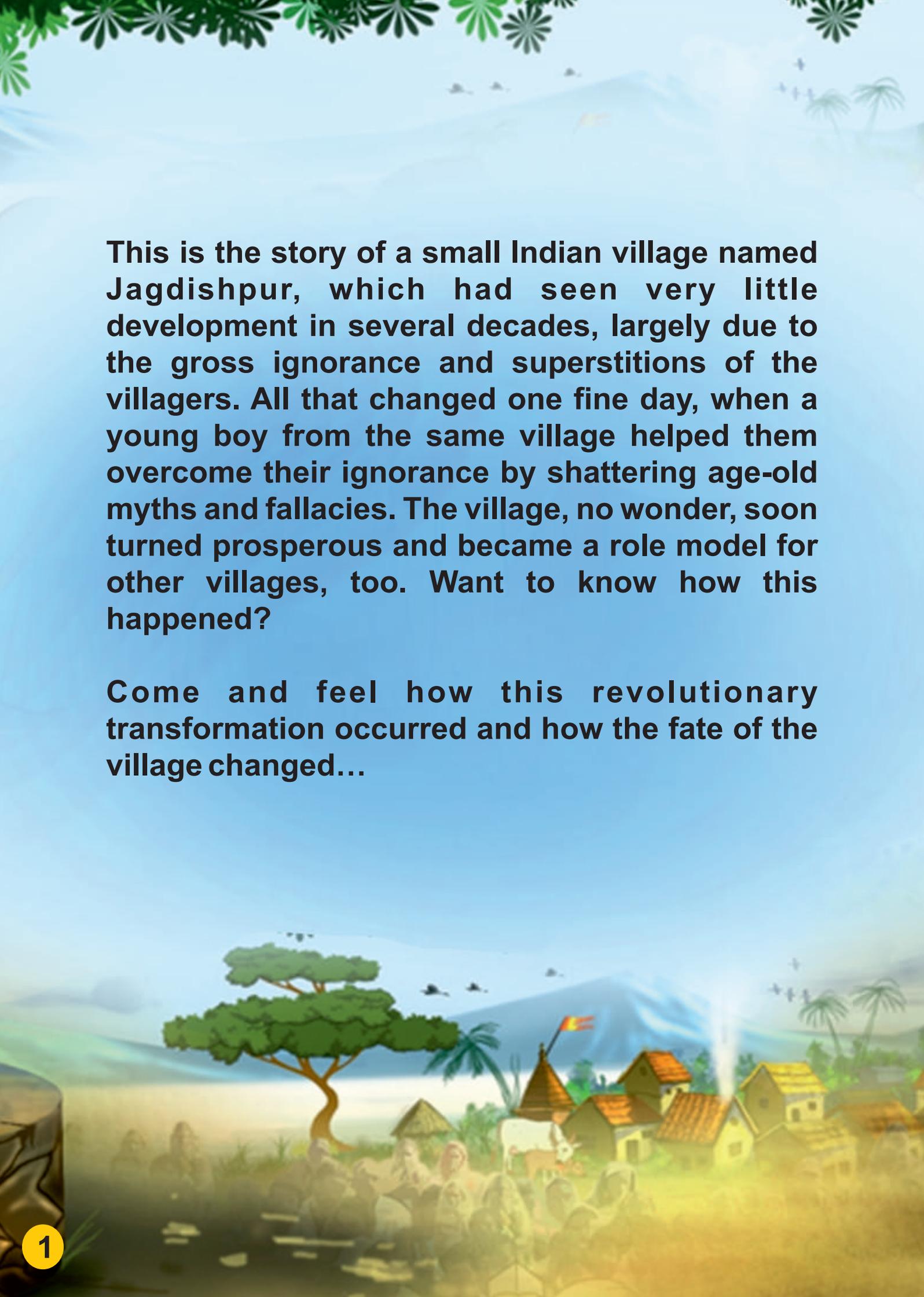


# Mr. Budhiya...

A Story of a Prosperous Village...



Part-1



**This is the story of a small Indian village named Jagdishpur, which had seen very little development in several decades, largely due to the gross ignorance and superstitions of the villagers. All that changed one fine day, when a young boy from the same village helped them overcome their ignorance by shattering age-old myths and fallacies. The village, no wonder, soon turned prosperous and became a role model for other villages, too. Want to know how this happened?**

**Come and feel how this revolutionary transformation occurred and how the fate of the village changed...**



Some people are conversing with the Village Chief



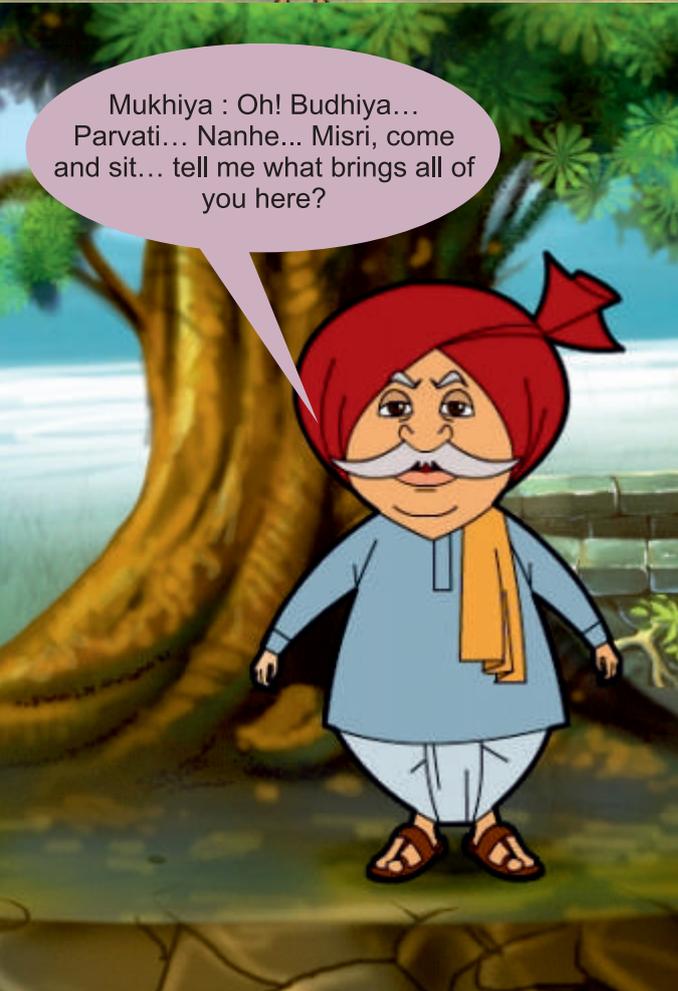
Suddenly, a group of people rushing to the (Village Chief)



Group of people : Good morning, Mukhiya Ji...



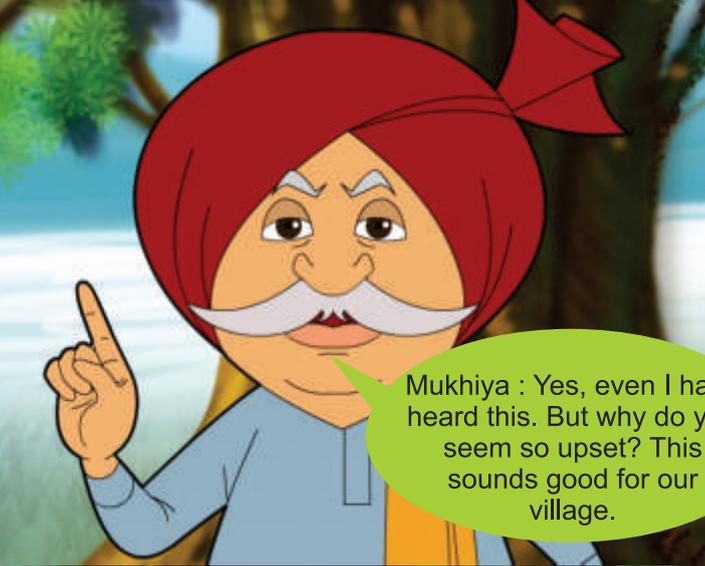
Mukhiya : Good morning, friends!



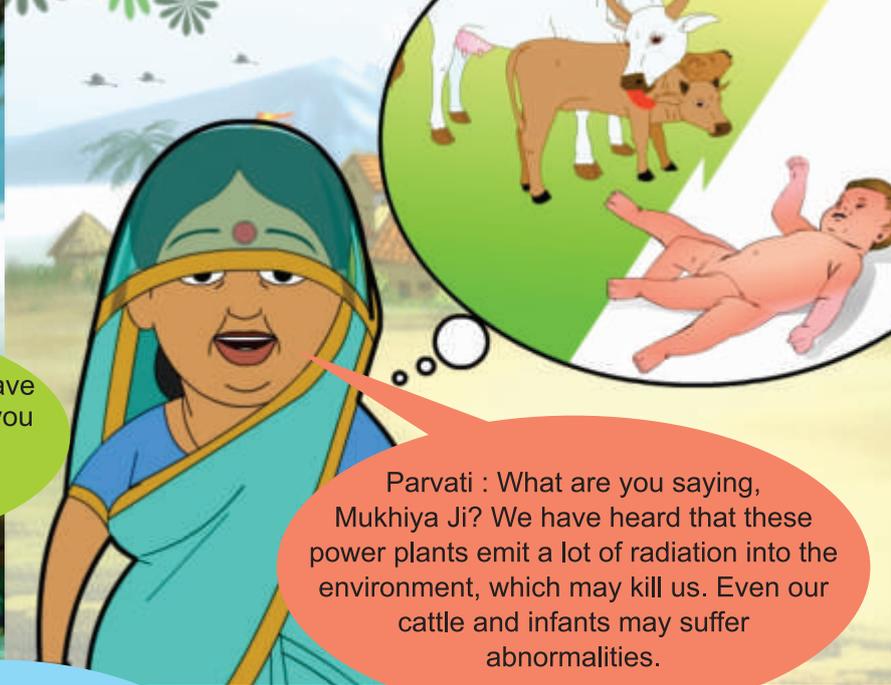
Mukhiya : Oh! Budhiya... Parvati... Nanhe... Misri, come and sit... tell me what brings all of you here?



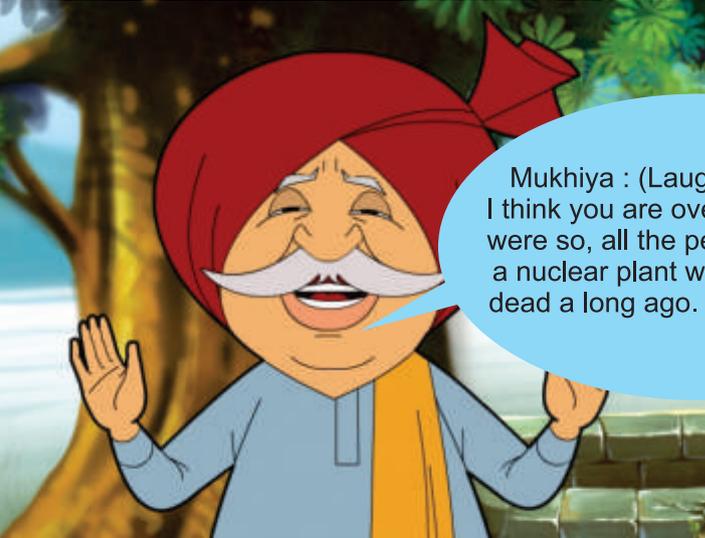
Budhiya : Well, Mukhiya Ji... we have come to know that a nuclear power plant is proposed to be set up near our village. Is it true?



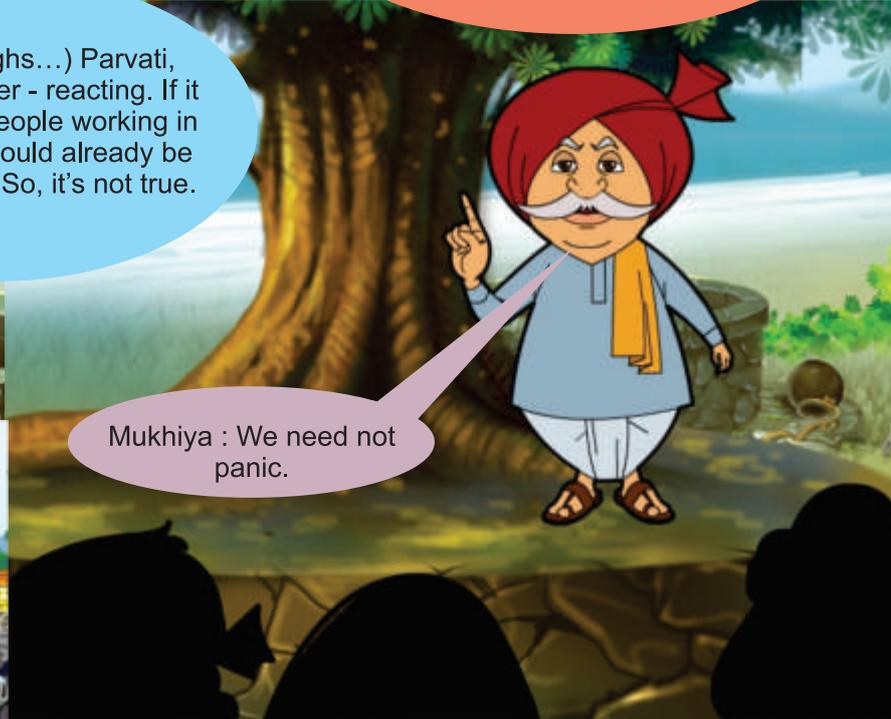
Mukhiya : Yes, even I have heard this. But why do you seem so upset? This sounds good for our village.



Parvati : What are you saying, Mukhiya Ji? We have heard that these power plants emit a lot of radiation into the environment, which may kill us. Even our cattle and infants may suffer abnormalities.



Mukhiya : (Laughs...) Parvati, I think you are over - reacting. If it were so, all the people working in a nuclear plant would already be dead a long ago. So, it's not true.



Mukhiya : We need not panic.



(People stare at each other...)

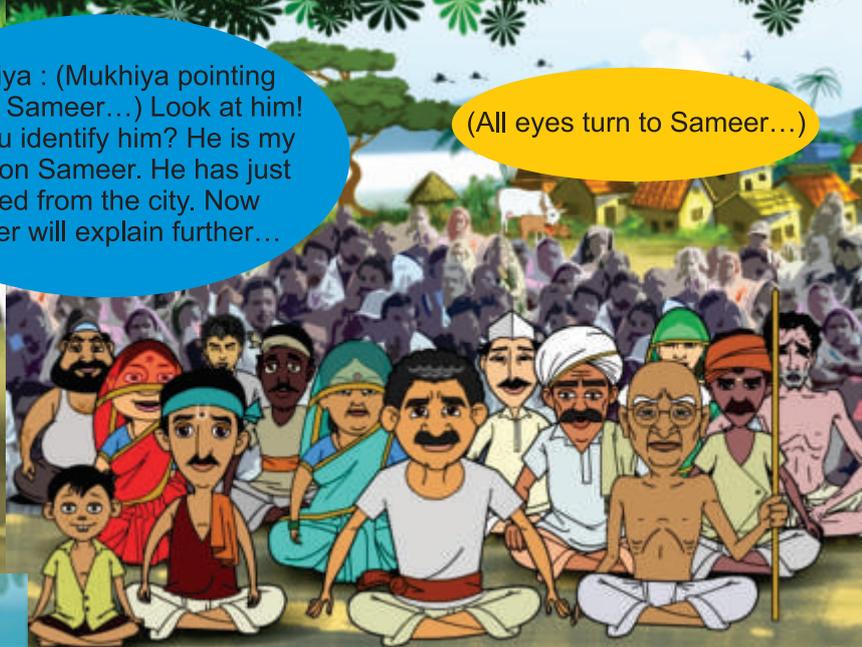
Mukhiya : Ok. Now tell me one thing... do you know that the Sun god, whom we worship, is itself a source of radiation? The houses, in which all of us live, also emit radiation continuously. Microscopic amount of radioactive elements are present even in what you eat and drink. TVs, radios or even your mobile – they all contribute to radiation. (Everyone listens quietly)





Mukhiya : (Mukhiya pointing towards Sameer...) Look at him! Can you identify him? He is my grandson Sameer. He has just arrived from the city. Now Sameer will explain further...

(All eyes turn to Sameer...)



Sameer : My warm regards to everyone!



Sameer : Parvati aunty, did you recognize me?



Parvati : (Smiles while looking at Sameer...) Oh! Sameer, ...My god! From a boy we knew, you are a young man now.

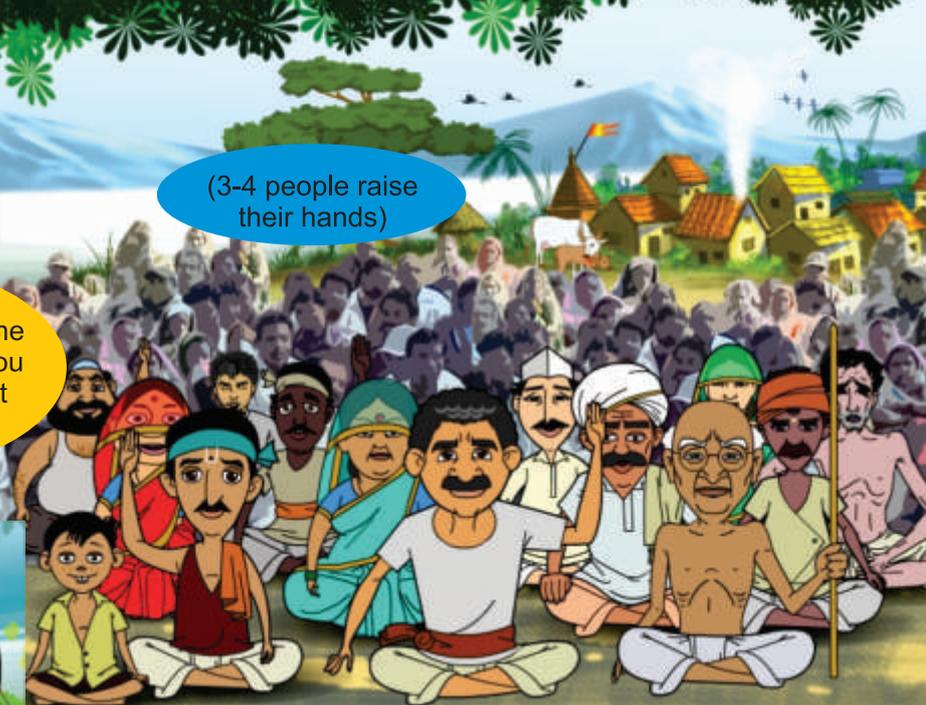


Sameer : Yes, grandpa is correct in his views about radiation. But now let me tell you more about it. Actually, radiation is a kind of energy which exists everywhere. In fact, radiation is a part of life... and when it comes to a nuclear power plant, the radiation emissions are indeed insignificant compared to the background radiation present everywhere around us in nature. These are absolutely negligible. I hope you get the point...



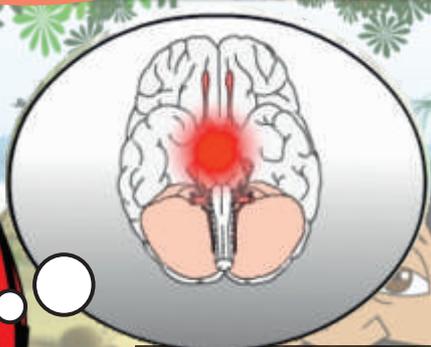
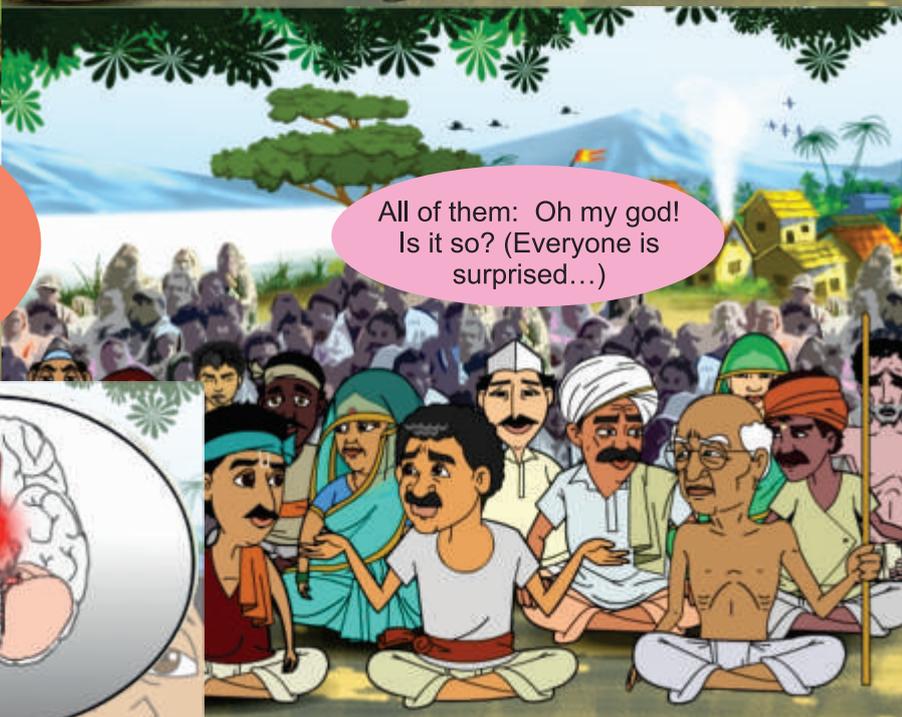
Sameer : Ok, tell me one thing... how many of you have ever had a chest X-ray?

(3-4 people raise their hands)



Sameer : Do you know that an exposure of radiation dose resulting from a single medical X-ray is equivalent to living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant for about 20 years?

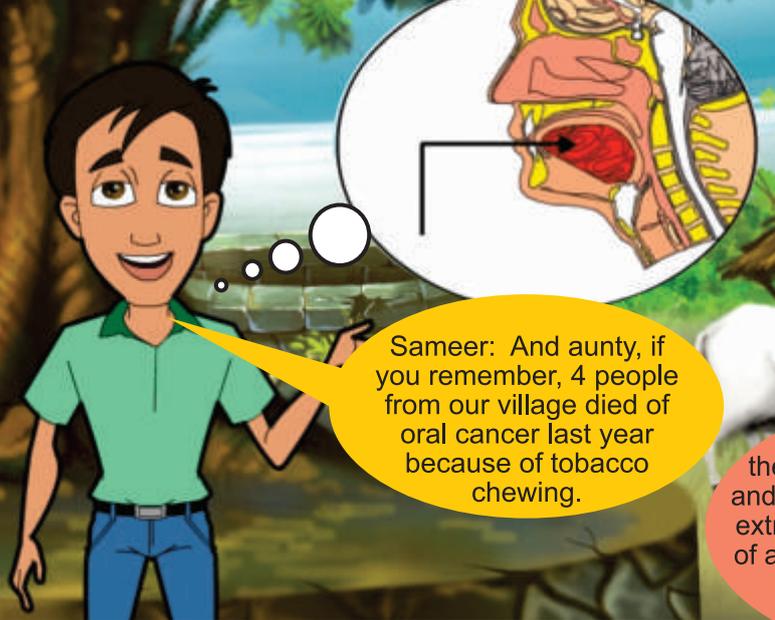
All of them: Oh my god! Is it so? (Everyone is surprised...)



Misri : But, my son, we have even heard that those who are working in a nuclear power plant and living around it are at great risk and are prone to various types of cancers.



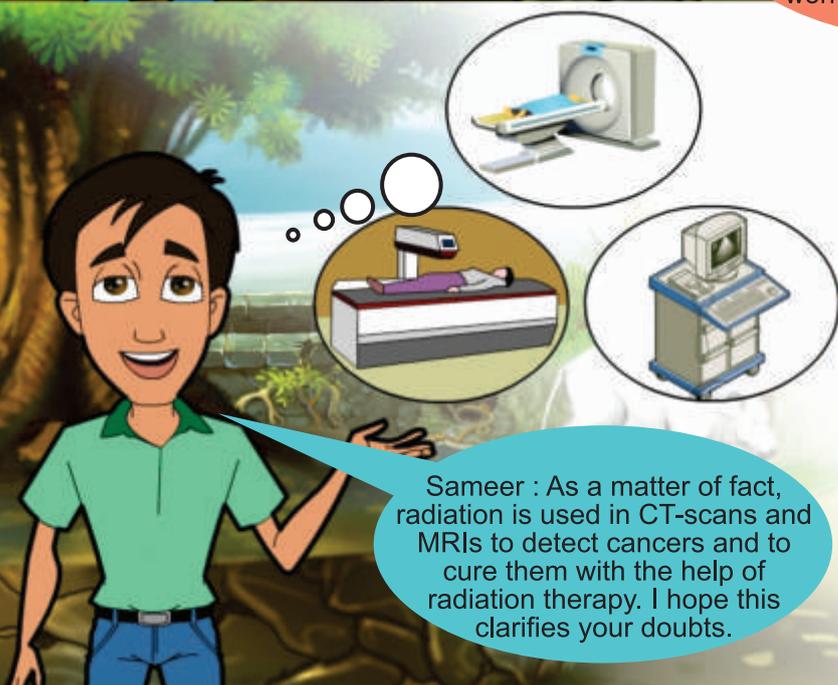
Sameer : Misri aunty, your information is incorrect. Simply working in a nuclear power plant and living in the vicinity of the plant doesn't cause cancer. Well, in that case, no one would ever want to work there.



Sameer: And aunty, if you remember, 4 people from our village died of oral cancer last year because of tobacco chewing.



Sameer : Whereas, with the help of safe equipment, tools and cloths, and primarily because of extremely safe design and working of a nuclear reactor, people are not exposed to radiation despite working there for decades.



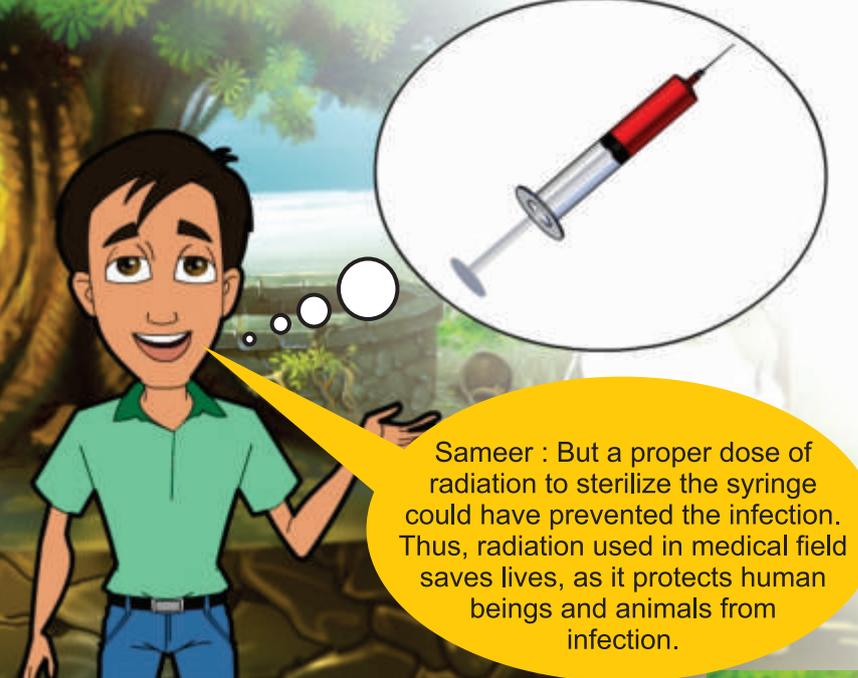
Sameer : As a matter of fact, radiation is used in CT-scans and MRIs to detect cancers and to cure them with the help of radiation therapy. I hope this clarifies your doubts.



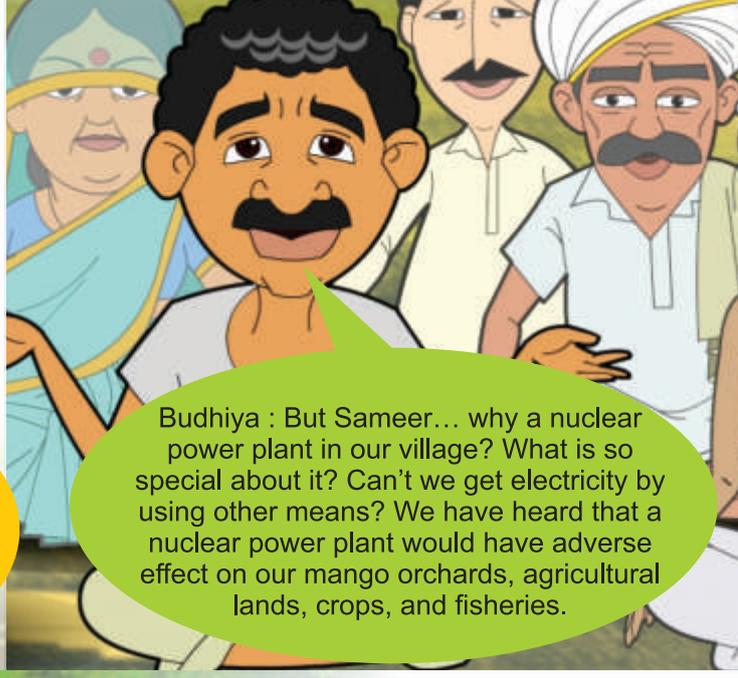
Parvati : But, Sameer, I met Savita yesterday. She said that living around a nuclear power plant makes it impossible to become a mother. It would not be possible to conceive a child. How true is this?



Sameer : (Smiles...) Parvati aunty, Savita aunty has a misconceived notion about radiation. It is totally a rumour and beyond reality and Budhiya uncle, if you remember, last year Saryu, son of our very own Ramnaresh, died from using an infected syringe.



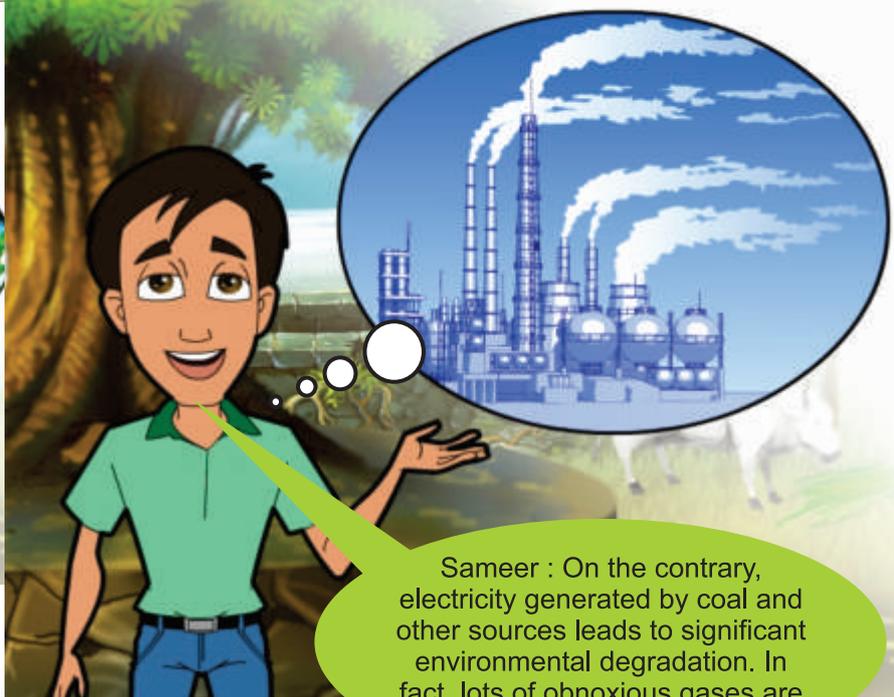
Sameer : But a proper dose of radiation to sterilize the syringe could have prevented the infection. Thus, radiation used in medical field saves lives, as it protects human beings and animals from infection.



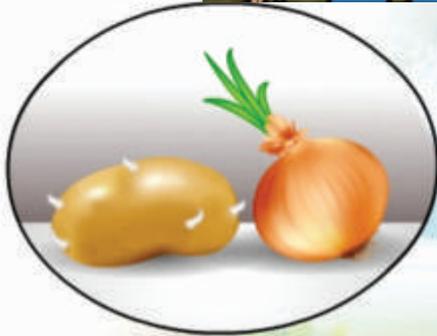
Budhiya : But Sameer... why a nuclear power plant in our village? What is so special about it? Can't we get electricity by using other means? We have heard that a nuclear power plant would have adverse effect on our mango orchards, agricultural lands, crops, and fisheries.



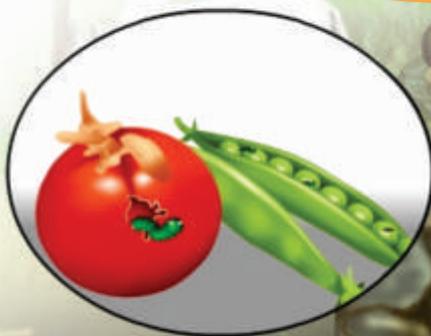
Sameer : Good question, Budhiya uncle! Though there are other means and alternatives to generate electricity, the electricity produced by a nuclear power plant is clean, green and economical. And it actually prevents environmental pollution. Therefore, all your crops, orchards and fishes remain unaffected, non-polluted and safe.



Sameer : On the contrary, electricity generated by coal and other sources leads to significant environmental degradation. In fact, lots of obnoxious gases are produced.

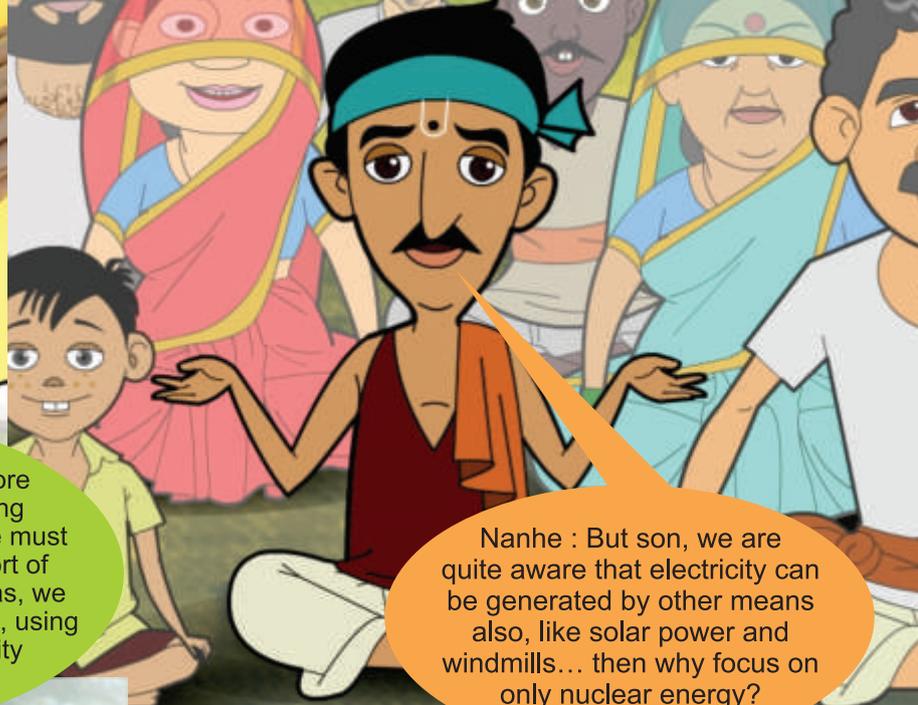


Sameer : Besides this, let me tell some more interesting facts. Do you know that with the help of food irradiation techniques, we can prevent fruits and vegetables from rotting prematurely? We can indeed prevent onions and potatoes from sprouting early. Also, food irradiation prevents pest infestation in legume crops like pulses, peas, rice etc., resulting in increased shelf life of these products. What's more, it boosts the productivity of your seeds also.





Sameer : Uncle, there is one more point... if we talk about producing electricity from various sources, we must first realize that we are rather short of resources like oil, gas, etc. Whereas, we do have ample of nuclear resources, using which we can generate electricity for many years to come.

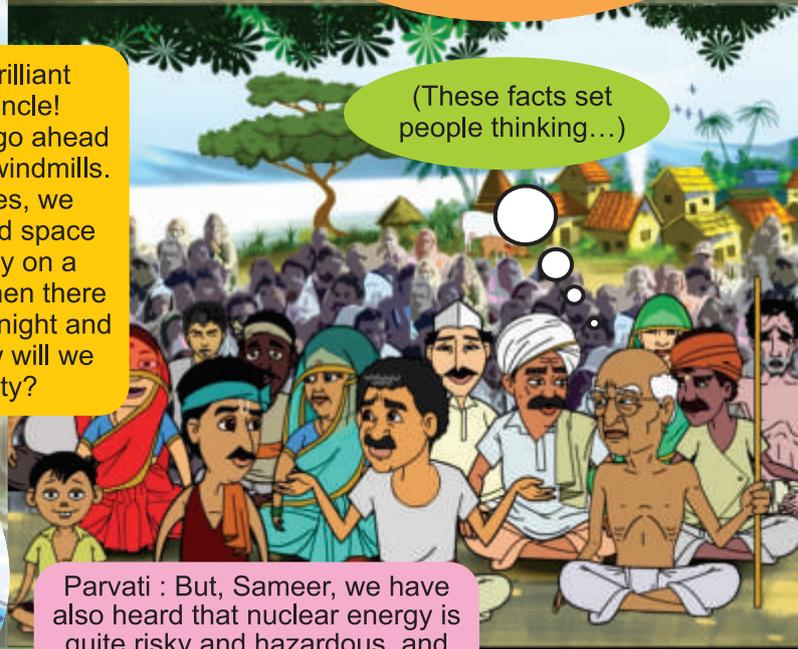


Nanhe : But son, we are quite aware that electricity can be generated by other means also, like solar power and windmills... then why focus on only nuclear energy?



Sameer : What a brilliant question, Nanhe uncle! Undoubtedly, we can go ahead with solar power and windmills. But in both the cases, we require more land and space to produce electricity on a massive level. And when there is no sunlight - during night and on cloudy days - how will we produce electricity?

(These facts set people thinking...)



Sameer : And when it comes to windmills, we need adequate wind velocity practically all the time, whereas, a nuclear power plants generate electricity round-the-clock, requiring far less space and land. Understood? Additionally, the electricity produced in such a way is quite economical.



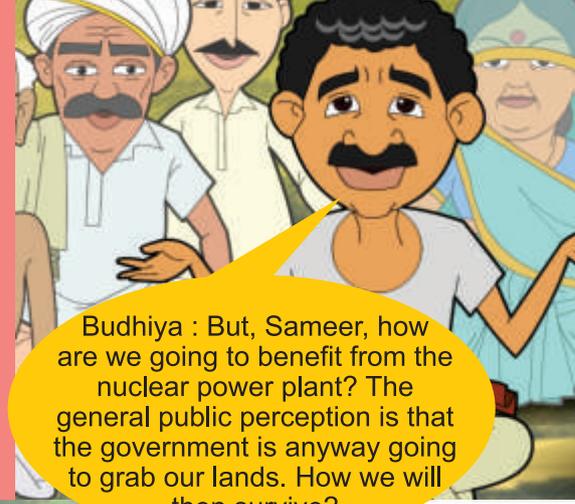
Parvati : But, Sameer, we have also heard that nuclear energy is quite risky and hazardous, and during emergency situations, it can cause massive damage to life and property.



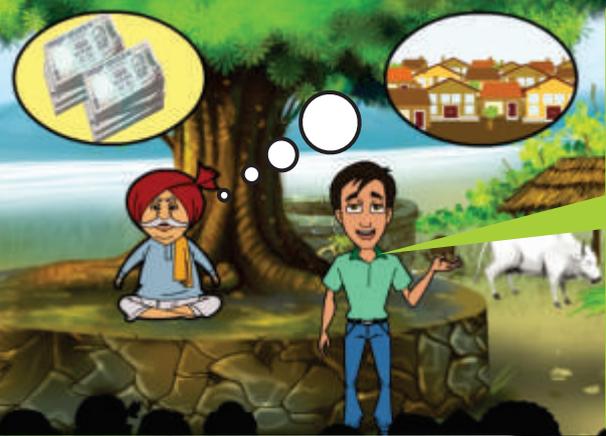
Sameer : Parvati aunty, you must be aware that nothing is as dangerous as fire. Ever since man started using fire, some eight hundred thousand years back, it has been the greatest destroyer of lives and has claimed millions of people and their properties... but aren't you amazed at how fearlessly a small kid roams about with all the ease, carrying a matchbox in his pocket? Do you know why? This is because we have learnt to use it safely. In a similar fashion, if you follow the guidelines and safety norms, accidents can be averted. Another point to be noted is that many people die in train and air accidents. But do we stop travelling by rail or airplane?



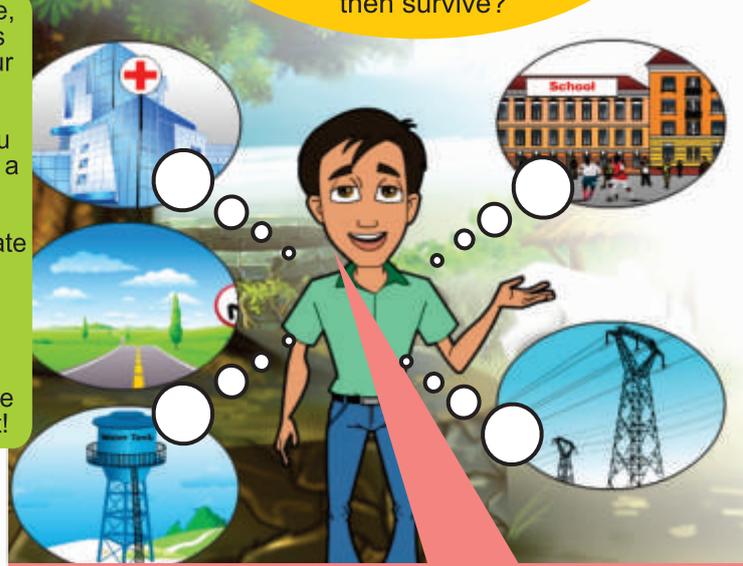
Sameer : Also, every year, thousands of people lose their lives due to floods, earthquakes, landslides, and in daily road mishaps. So, let us clear these negative thoughts from our minds and welcome the good move.



Budhiya : But, Sameer, how are we going to benefit from the nuclear power plant? The general public perception is that the government is anyway going to grab our lands. How we will then survive?



Sameer : Well, uncle, if the government is going to acquire your land, you will get handsome compensation in lieu of that. Basically, it's a government's responsibility to resettle and rehabilitate project-affected people. And just imagine about the prosperity of your village after the commissioning of the nuclear power plant!

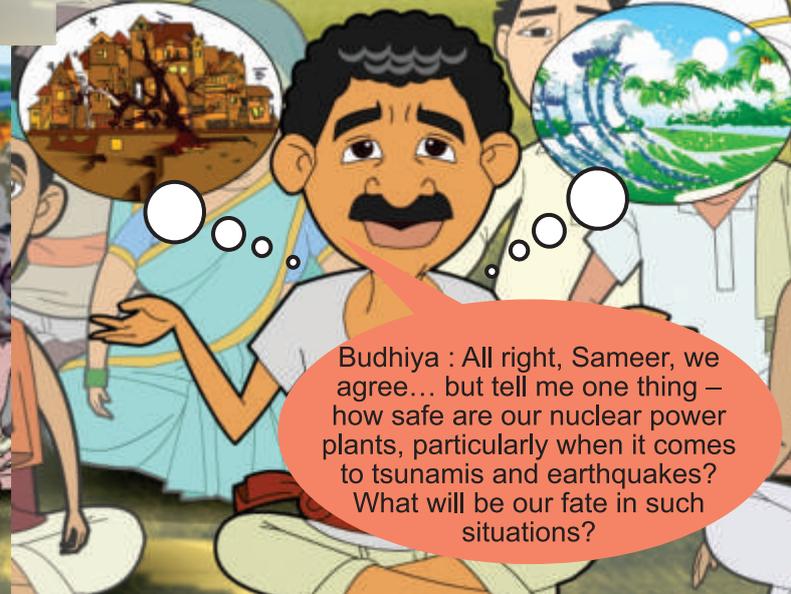


Sameer : Where there is an acute electricity crunch today and you are only getting merely 5-6 hrs of electricity daily, you will receive electricity round-the-clock. There would be free schooling for your kids, hospitals to take care of all your medical needs free-of-cost.

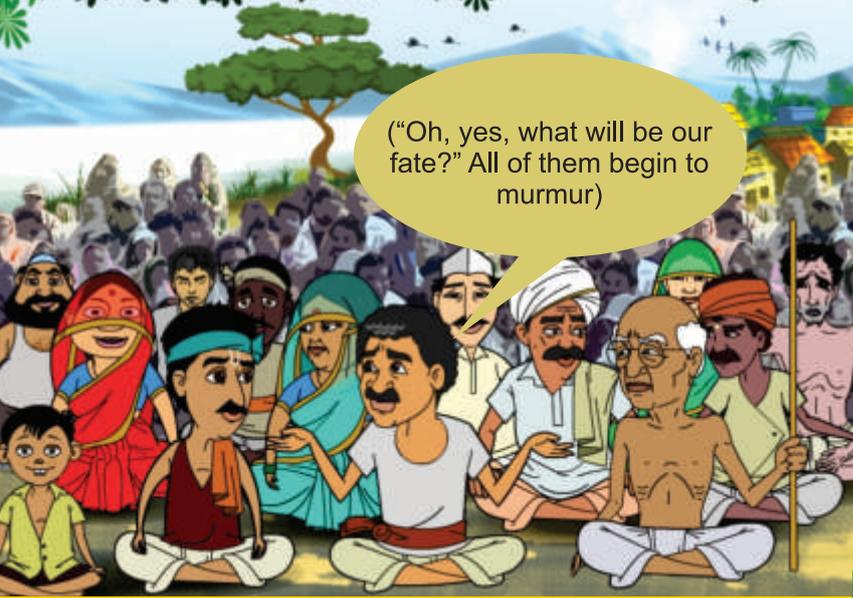
Sameer : Besides this, pitch roads, arrangement of pure drinking water, establishment of community centers and job avenues, as per qualification, would be made available to you.



Sameer : In a nutshell, you all will flourish and your village will be prosperous.



Budhiya : All right, Sameer, we agree... but tell me one thing – how safe are our nuclear power plants, particularly when it comes to tsunamis and earthquakes? What will be our fate in such situations?

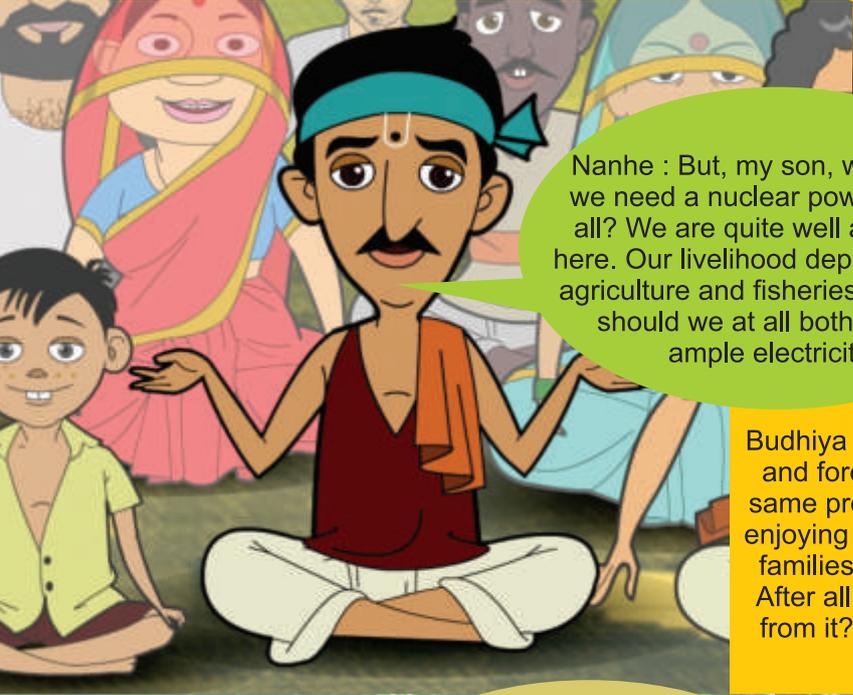


“Oh, yes, what will be our fate?” All of them begin to murmur)



Sameer : Calm down and please be quiet, everyone. In a way, your concerns are valid... but let me inform you one thing with a positive note that all of our nuclear power plants are quite safe and secure. After scrutinizing at various levels, they get the various clearances from the government authorities for implementing a project.

Sameer : For any proposed site for a nuclear power plant, a wide range of geographical surveys are done for many years. If at all there exists a rare theoretical chance of a tsunami or an earthquake occurring, no permission is granted by the governing authorities to build a nuclear power plant there. And I am sure you remember when there was a massive earthquake in Bhuj district of Gujarat and tsunami in Chennai, our nuclear reactors continued to generate electricity safely even in such crucial moments of desolation and they stood unaffected like a rock.



Nanhe : But, my son, why should we need a nuclear power plant at all? We are quite well and happy here. Our livelihood depends on our agriculture and fisheries. Then why should we at all bother about ample electricity?

Budhiya : Yes, my son, our fathers and forefathers were also in the same profession and we are also enjoying the same, and raising our families like this for generations. After all, what benefit can we get from it? We are doing quite fine without nuclear.



Misri : Yes, of course... we are living pretty good life already. So, why should we bother at all?

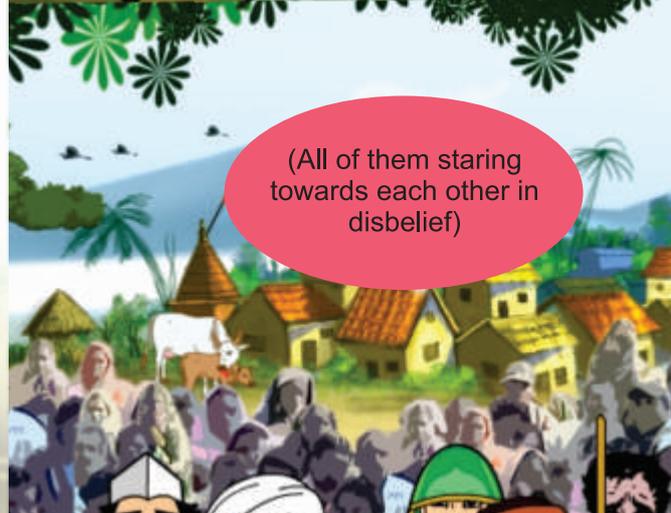


Parvati : Yes. We are meeting our ends well, getting food, cloths, etc. What else do we need?

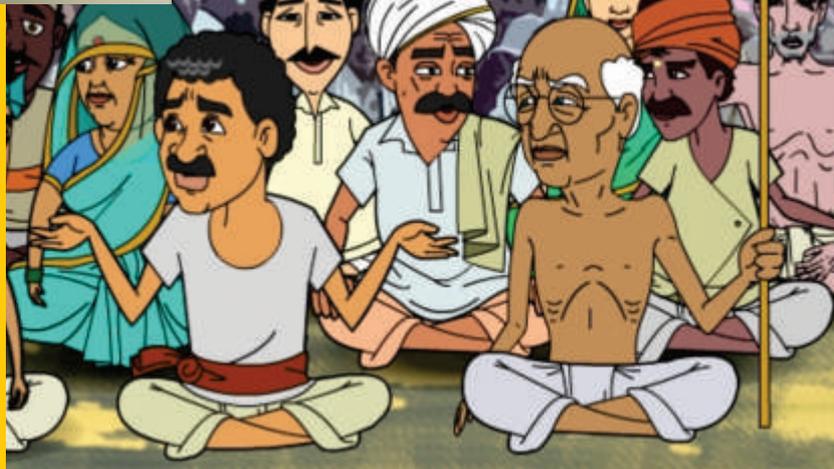


Sameer : Well said... It's nice that you are thinking, but if everyone started thinking the way you people do, our country would remain exactly what it used to be 60 years ago. Today, after more than 60 years of independence, India stands gracefully with a few select countries of the world. Just imagine if all the people would have thought of farming and fisheries and remained in the villages like your forefathers, would it have been possible for our country to produce doctors, engineers, scientists, sportsmen and industrialists?

Sameer : If you fell ill, who will treat you? Who will invent and mass-produce groceries for your daily needs? Who will do research or invent new things? I am surprised that even after 60 years of independence; there is no change in your mindsets. Pardon me, but you are still slaves of ignorance and superstition.

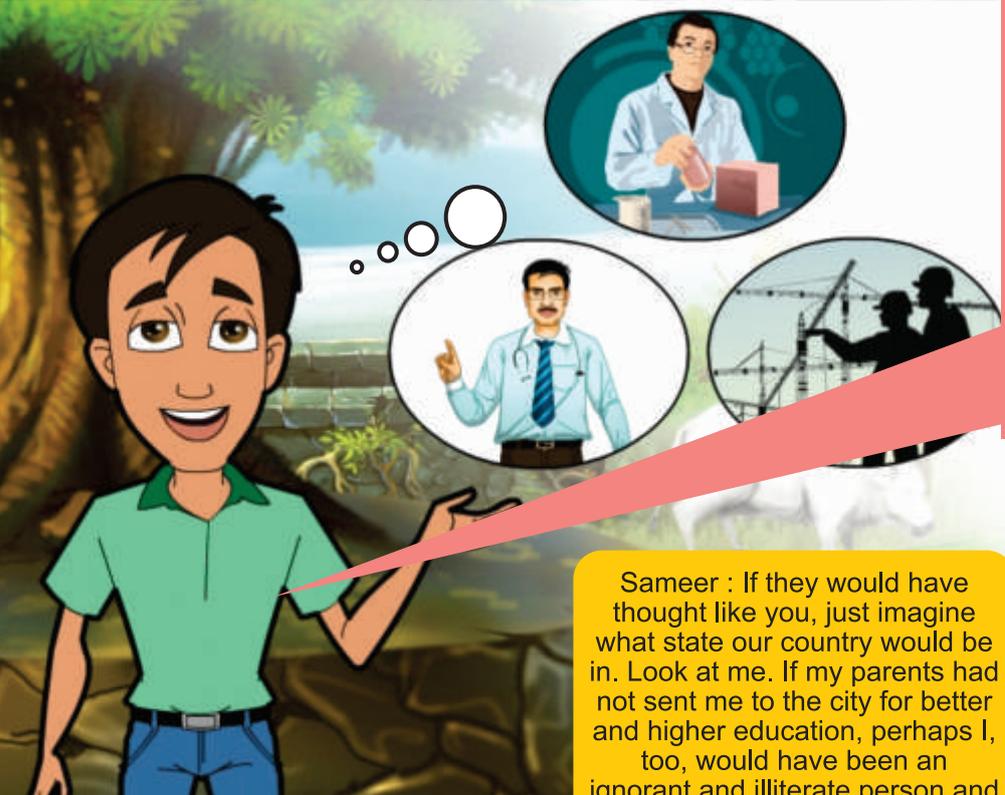


Sameer : Budhiya uncle, economic growth and overall development of our country are essential, for which we need electricity. A country can prosper only when there is adequate electricity for development. So, when electricity comes to your village, your tube wells can irrigate your fields, you can run equipment and have tractors to sow high-quality seeds, your crops can grow with up to 10 - fold yields, which will surely enhance your standards of living.





Sameer : Parvati aunty, merely meeting the ends is not sufficient. Today, your kids don't go to a school, they don't get proper education, they don't get nutritious food, they don't even get proper medical treatment in case of serious illness due to lack of genuinely qualified doctors. How long will you destroy yourself by having a blind faith in quakes and fraudulent saints? When will you open your eyes? Your kids can live a fulfilling life only when your village will prosper. Imagine, your kids can become renowned scientists, engineers and doctors! Just think of the joy you can have and the fame your village could enjoy.



Sameer : And Misri aunty, you can probably continue living happily in your thatched house, but don't expect the same from your kids. You are still entangled in the same 60-year-old conservative thoughts. But just for once see how our country has flourished and progressed. India has produced world-class scientists, doctors, engineers, sports personalities, industrialists – those who have made our country proud at international level... and look at yourself – still entrenched in the relics of the past.

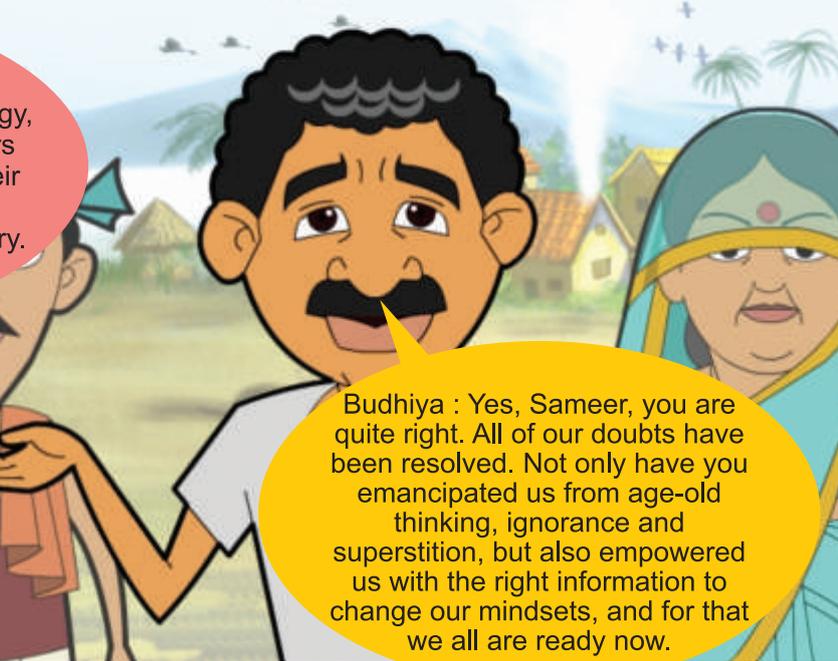
Sameer : If they would have thought like you, just imagine what state our country would be in. Look at me. If my parents had not sent me to the city for better and higher education, perhaps I, too, would have been an ignorant and illiterate person and would be wandering here and there most of the time, instead of leading a purposeful life.



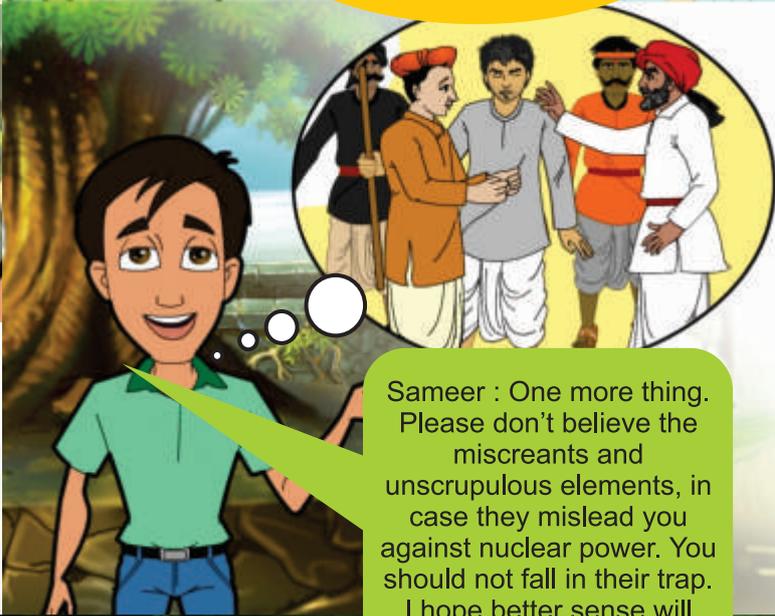
Sameer : Another important thing: if you need development, you require electricity... the more the generation of electricity, the more opportunities there will be for business and industrialization. And then only, prosperity will come to our doors and our country will flourish. Now I leave the decision on you to choose between science and superstition. Think as to what you want to do.



Sameer : And you know, Misri aunty, while we sit here criticizing nuclear energy, radiation, etc., our engineer and officers are living longer, healthier lives with their families and contributing to the development and progress of the country.



Budhiya : Yes, Sameer, you are quite right. All of our doubts have been resolved. Not only have you emancipated us from age-old thinking, ignorance and superstition, but also empowered us with the right information to change our mindsets, and for that we all are ready now.



Sameer : One more thing. Please don't believe the miscreants and unscrupulous elements, in case they mislead you against nuclear power. You should not fall in their trap. I hope better sense will prevail now, right?



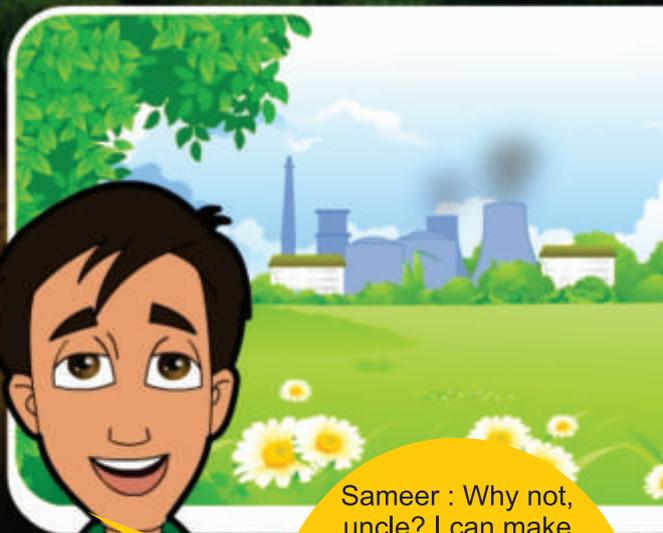
All of them : Now, we all understand the facts. My son, you have opened our eyes and dispelled all our myths, false beliefs and misunderstanding in a commendable way and have made us feel that we should certainly contribute to the progress of our country. All of us are ready to make our village and country prosperous and to be partners in progress.



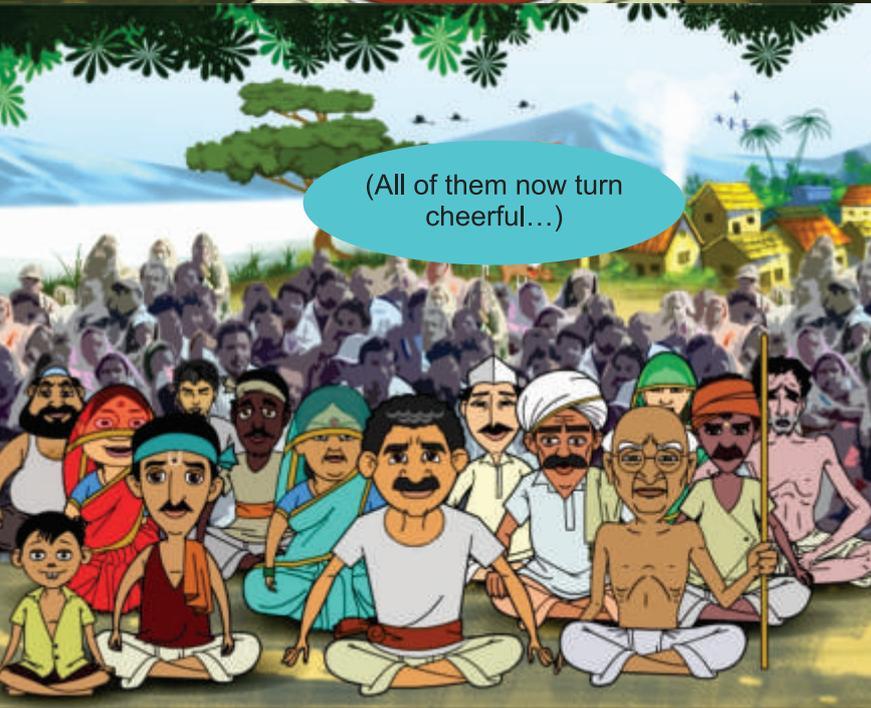
Sameer : And last one more thing... you will be astonished to know that due to clean and green nature of nuclear power plants, these stations have become sweet homes and havens for countless birds and butterflies along with numerous plants and animals.



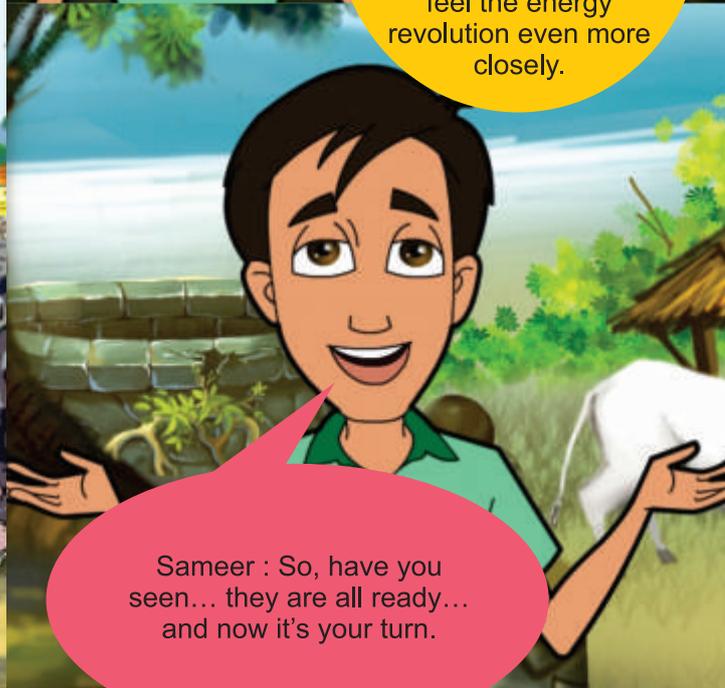
Budhiya : Dear Sameer, after hearing you, we all are very eager to visit a nuclear power plant. Would it be possible for us to have a close look at the workings of a nuclear power plant?



Sameer : Why not, uncle? I can make arrangement for all of you to visit a nuclear power plant, so that you should be able to know some more facts and feel the energy revolution even more closely.



(All of them now turn cheerful...)



Sameer : So, have you seen... they are all ready... and now it's your turn.

Thus, Budhiya and other villagers decided to visit a nuclear power plant.

What happens when Budhiya and his friends take a trip of the nuclear power plant?

How do they enjoy their trip?  
What do they observe there?

To know more, simply grab the forthcoming issue...

“ Nuclear Energy... Nation's Energy  
Clean Energy... Clean India ”

## Budhiya's Trip

The story of the journey to a nuclear power plant

Continued....



Issued in public interest by

## **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited**

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Published by

**Directorate of Corporate Planning and Corporate Communications (CP&CC)**

6-S-14, Vikram Sarabhai Bhavan, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-400094.

E-mail : [cpcc@npcil.co.in](mailto:cpcc@npcil.co.in)

Website: [www.npcil.nic.in](http://www.npcil.nic.in)