



50 Years of
The Barefoot College
Tilonia

Volume 1

तिलोनिया

DIARIES





A People's Journey

50 years ago, in 1972, a young man from Delhi University, bothered by his privilege, dreamt of starting a barefoot place of learning-by-doing for the rural poor. With a rural friend he journeyed to Tilonia, a village in Ajmer District, Rajasthan. The Barefoot College was unique: a place where learning and unlearning defined who the teacher was, and who the learner. From the early 70s, this journey of discovery began to show how vital and relevant indigenous knowledge, skills and



wisdom were. This fascinating exchange led to an understanding that rural and urban knowledge need to join hands to solve the basic problems of livelihood and skills. With dawning realisation that there was no urban solution, the Barefoot College continued with a collective journey to share and demonstrate it on the ground on a wide scale, first in India and gradually, in many parts of the world.





The Barefoot College has followed the life and work style of Mahatma Gandhi for 50 years. Gandhian values of simplicity, austerity, equality, collective decision making, transparency and accountability are put into practice.

The Barefoot College has placed practical common sense at the centre of its search for solutions, and has discovered far-reaching low-cost innovations in conserving energy, schooling, technology, communication, the empowerment of women, water conservation, livelihood and health, amongst many others. Tradition has met modernity with equality.



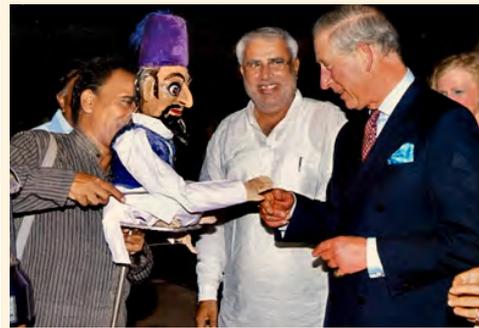
On his visit to the Barefoot College in 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said something profound. He said:

“Now that you have shown the Barefoot College working in practice, let us see if the experts can make it work in theory.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKsZ3tyth6E>



Luminaries came to Tilonia, to see how grassroot knowledge worked in making the impossible, possible. Amongst them were Robert McNamara (World Bank President), MacGeorge Bundy (National Security Adviser to President Kennedy), the Prince and Princess of Wales, John Kennedy Jr, APJ Abdul Kalam, scientist and former President of India, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the President of Zanzibar.





The 50-year journey has seen many accomplishments, which are still growing:

Solar: The campus is the only fully solar-electrified campus in rural India since 2000, with 250KW providing power to meet all needs for the next 25 years. The Barefoot College has trained illiterate rural women – most of them grandmothers – to be barefoot women solar engineers in 6 months. The Prime Minister of India called them Solar Mamas. Over 3,000 solar mamas from 96 countries have been trained with support from the Ministry of External Affairs under ITEC. Today more than a million people have clean solar light replacing kerosene lamps, offsetting carbon emissions from thousands of households across the globe.





Water: More than 70 billion litres of water have been harvested through the creation of rainwater harvesting tanks, ponds, small dams, etc. reviving multiple traditional water sources.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jIQcKlKr_w&t=1s



Schooling & Education: Nearly 100,000 students from last-mile villages have been educated since 1975 in Barefoot night schools and initiatives like Shiksha Niketan (day school), Residential Bridge School & Solar Digital Bridge Schools. The Night Schools elected a Children's Parliament and the Prime Ministers of these have become responsible democratic citizens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDYQqymdC2Y>



The First Plastic and Waste Free Village in Rajasthan

<https://youtu.be/Xw5iVjdpZ1c>



Invest in the Barefoot College Vision:

INDIVIDUAL/SMALL DONORS

Those of you with privilege have a chance to choose and support the project of your interest, or to contribute non-specifically:

**1. Support the Education of One Child with One Solar Lamp
for 1 year:** Rs 70,000

2. Distribution of Nutritional Packets to 5000 malnourished children from Covid:
Rs 2.5 lakhs

**3. Production and distribution of sanitary napkins to 1000 girls going to school
for the first time:** Rs 500,000

Bank Details for Donations using Indian Bank Account (Domestic Donations)

Name: Social Work and Research Centre

Account Number: 363802010005210

IFSC Code: UBIN0536385

Branch Name: Union Bank of India, Tilonia Branch

Bank Details for Donations from Abroad (Foreign Donations)

Name: Social Work and Research Centre

Account Number: 40168594652

IFSC Code: SBIN0000691

SWIFT Code: SBININBB104

Branch Name: State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch

For donations through our website, please visit
<https://barefootcollegetilonia.org/donate>



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