

### Why 'Re-membering' Nai Taleem?

Although discussions on 'quality education' are taking place in many corners of the world, these have not been able to inspire a larger vision of dignity, healthy community or deep wisdom. Children remain trapped in consumeristic, competitive and indoctrinating frameworks of factory-schooling. We are told over and over again that there are no alternatives to the game of Development and Globalization.

This film festival hopes to elevate the conversations on human learning and evolution by **re-membering** *nai taleem*. We wish to bring its insights and practical experiments back into our conscious minds and everyday conversations. We also wish to re-connect our own thinking, reflection and dialogue processes back with Soils, Souls and Societies -- in order to begin to reclaim control over our own learning processes.

We believe that this collection of films brings forth various dimensions of *nai taleem* -- different spaces, processes and experiments of deep learning. We hope they will challenge us to re-member *nai taleem* into our everyday life choices -- being the change that we would like to see in this world.

### SHIKSHANTAR:

#### The Peoples' Institute for Rethinking Education and Development

Shikshantar Andolan seeks to challenge the culture of schooling and institutions of thought-control. Today, factory-schooling are suppressing many diverse forms of human learning, relationships and intelligences, as well as, organic processes towards just and harmonious community regeneration. We are committed to supporting spaces where people can engage in dialogues to: (1) generate meaningful critiques to expose and dismantle/transform existing models of Education and Development, (2) reclaim control over their own learning processes and learning ecologies, and (3) elaborate (and continually re-elaborate) their own complex shared visions and practices of *Swaraj*. Shikshantar hosts a community media cooperative in Udaipur which organizes regular film screenings as well as filmmaking workshops. For more information, contact:

Shikshantar Andolan

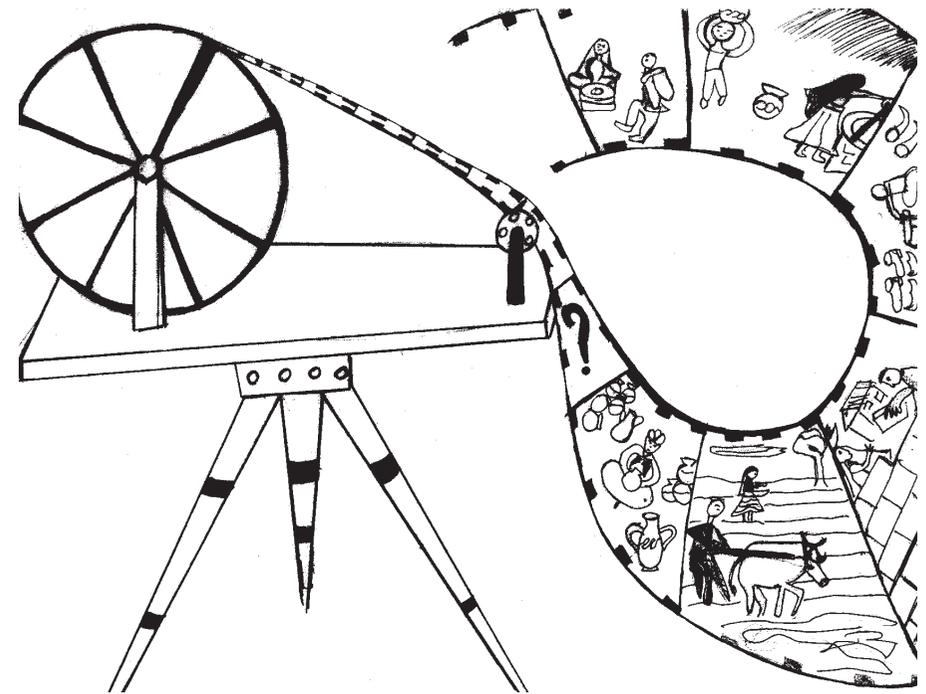
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FILM FESTIVAL 2007-08

## RE-MEMBERING NAI TALEEM:



real learning  
for the 21st century

in loving memory of  
Shri Dharampal (1922-2006)

*“I would develop in the child the head, the hands and the heart. The hands have nearly atrophied; the soul has altogether been ignored.”*

– MK Gandhi

### *What is Nai Taleem?*

Introduced by Gandhiji in the 1920s, *nai taleem* has been translated by many as ‘Basic Education’. So far, however, this term has been limited to schools, vocational training and literacy programs. In putting together this festival, we want to offer different interpretations of *nai taleem* -- to explore what is at the core of Basic Education. Our sense of these underlying principles and practices has emerged not only through Gandhiji’s and Vinobaji’s articulations, but also through several years of deep dialogue on unlearning, uplearning and *swaraj* (radiance of the personal and collective Self).

For to us, *nai taleem* consists of an intergenerational community, where life’s practices are the foundation of learning. These include physical labor, creative expressions, festivals and community celebrations, food, family, Nature, play, etc. Literacy and texts are not regarded as the primary sources of knowledge; they are seen as only one tool among many – and a limited one at that. Self-discipline, intrinsic motivation, self-organization and cooperation are the driving forces. The senses, emotions and intuition are all acknowledged to play a major role in learning and consciousness.

*in dedication to...*

**Shri Dharampal** (1922 – 2006) was a Gandhian philosopher, historian and activist. He authored several books – including **The Beautiful Tree** and **Indian Science and Technology in the 18th Century** – which dispelled colonial myths about India and brought out the diverse strengths, achievements and working of the Indian society. His research was based on painstaking study of thousands of pages of colonial British documents by the East India Company. Dharampalji had no formal training in history, but maybe because of this, he was able to chart a new path in analysis and study of pre-colonial Indian history. He has made a major contribution to our capacity to re-member Nai Taleem.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1	<i>Colors of Paradise</i>	Iran	90 min
	<i>Leap of Faith</i>	India	60 min
	<i>Loving Teacher</i>	Peru	24 min
	<i>Summerhill</i>	United Kingdom	21 min
	<i>Muktangan Vigyan Shodhika</i>	India	13 min
	<i>Scary School Nightmare</i>	USA	6 min
2	<i>Accepted</i>	USA	90 min
	<i>Vigyan Ashram</i>	India	50 min
	<i>A New Dream</i>	USA/Peru	6 min
	<i>Do Flowers Fly?</i>	India	5 min
	<i>Swapathgami Films</i>	India	13 min
	<i>Sarang</i>	India	25 min
3	<i>Whale Rider</i>	New Zealand	100 min
	<i>SIDH</i>	India	41 min
	<i>Production of Meaning</i>	Canada	20 min
	<i>Guni</i>	India	31 min
	<i>NorthStar</i>	USA	18 min
	<i>Nature of Unschooling</i>	Canada	3 min
4	<i>Narayanbhai Desai</i>	India	55 min
	<i>Free to Learn</i>	USA	70 min
	<i>Believe the Hype</i>	India	23 min
	<i>If the Shoe Doesn't Fit?</i>	India	21 min
	<i>How Others See Us</i>	United Kingdom	5 min
	<i>Kathalaya</i>	India	9 min
5	<i>Voices from the New American Schoolhouse</i>	USA	75 min
	<i>Great Indian School Show</i>	India	52 min
	<i>Little Shaolin Monks</i>	China	40 min
	<i>Colors of Janana</i>	Lebanon	30 min
	<i>Gijubhai</i>	India	19 min
	<i>Kabaad Se Jugaad</i>	India	13 min

In *nai taleem*, people of all ages come together, to both question their life and the world, and to co-create their place in it all. It is a practice of resistance against dehumanizing military-industrial institutions and the commodification of the commons. Vinobaji called for *nai taleem* to serve as the worm that would eat away at the government’s centralized authority. We would add that *nai taleem* also invokes practices of local cultural regeneration -- the spider to re-weave our intimate cultural fabric. *Nai taleem* invites us to -- consider anew who we are, how we learn best, what kind of society we seek, what future we hope for.