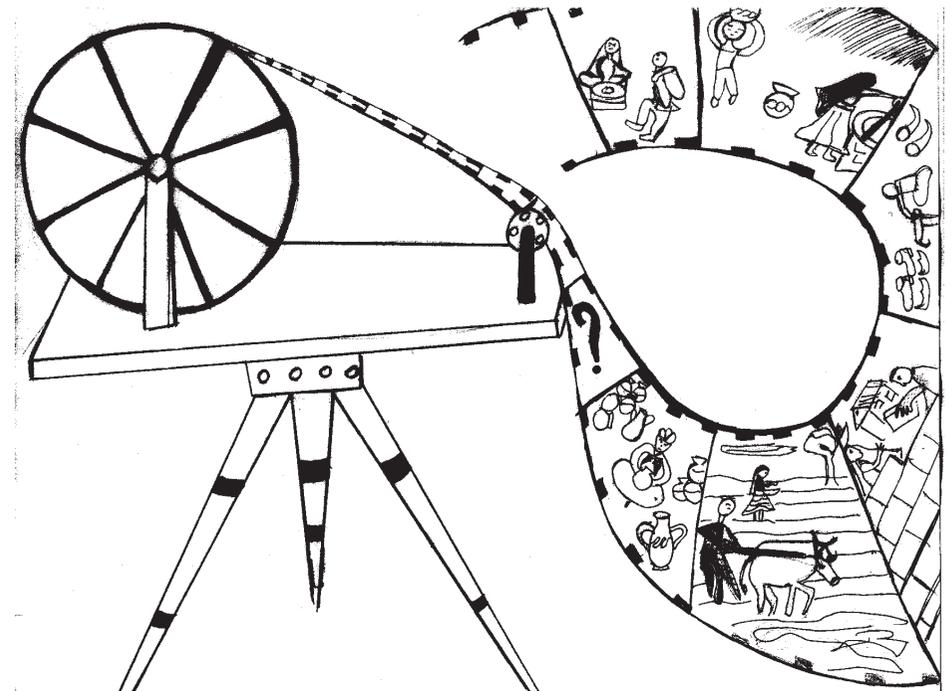


CO-HOSTED BY

FILM FESTIVAL 2006

RE-MEMBERING
NAI TALEEM:



SHIKSHANTAR:

The Peoples' Institute for Rethinking Education and Development

Shikshantar Andolan, a not-for-profit movement, was founded to challenge the culture of schooling and institutions of thought-control. Today, factory-schooling (formal and non-formal) are suppressing many diverse forms of human learning and expression, as well as, organic processes towards just and harmonious community regeneration. We are committed to supporting spaces where individuals and communities can together 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 video resource cooperative and library in Udaipur which organizes regular film screenings as well as filmmaking workshops. For more information, contact:

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real learning
for the 21st century

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
SIDDHARAJ DHADDA (1909-2006)

"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 school, vocational training and literacy. In putting together this festival, we want to offer a different interpretation 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 Gandhi's and Vinoba'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 *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. Vinoba mentioned that *nai taleem* would serve as the worm that would eat away at the government's centralized authority. We would add that it 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.

in dedication to...

Siddhraj Dhadda (1909-2006) was an eminent Gandhian and anti-globalization activist. He was the editor of *Satyagraha Mimansa*, a monthly publication whose articles questioned the meaning and direction of Development. Until his final breath, he was active in supporting many social movements, including the recent anti-Coke struggles. He was an inspiration to us and will be greatly missed. In remembering *Nai Taleem*, we remember him and all that he stood for, and practiced daily, in his life.

| | <u>Name</u> | <u>Language</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <i>Mera Atma Shikshak...</i> | Hindi with Eng. subtitle | 68 min |
| | <i>Dream Mountain</i> | Malayam with Eng. subtitles | 40 min |
| | <i>Whale</i> | Music only | 2 min |
| | <i>Rabbit-Proof Fence</i> | English | 94 min |
| 2 | <i>In the Eye of the Fish</i> | Bengali with Eng. subtitles | 30 min |
| | <i>Paradise with Side Effects</i> | English | 40 min |
| | <i>Walkout</i> | Hindi with Eng. subtitles | 22 min |
| | <i>CSA Learning Center</i> | English | 11 min |
| | <i>Cycle Yatra</i> | Music only | 6 min |
| 3 | <i>A, B, She</i> | Oriya with Eng. subtitles | 90 min |
| | <i>A Life of Science: Yashpal</i> | English | 10 min |
| | <i>Regenerating Communities</i> | Spanish with Eng. subtitles | 11 min |
| | <i>Colors of Devotion</i> | Hindi with Eng. subtitles | 18 min |
| | <i>Learning Spaces</i> | Music only | 2 min |
| | <i>Ladies Special</i> | Hindi with Eng. subtitles | 30 min |
| 4 | <i>Abhayam</i> | Hindi | 90 min |
| | <i>Lal Lal Hathi</i> | Hindi with Eng. subtitles | 10 min |
| | <i>Being a Wawa...</i> | Spanish with Eng. subtitles | 38 min |
| | <i>Democratic Schools</i> | English | 35 min |
| | <i>Children Being in the World</i> | Music only | 5 min |
| | <i>Children of Heaven</i> | Persian with Eng. subtitles | 90 min |

Why 'Re-membling' Nai Taleem in this Festival?

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 and families remain trapped in consumeristic 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 by **re-membling** *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 our hands, hearts and Nature -- 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.