

Education

The Problem we Addressed

In 1960s, the rural community's dire need for access to child education initiated the Barefoot educational intervention. In India, many rural children are not able to attend school during the day due to family responsibilities such as farming, livestock breeding and household chores. Others are unable to attend due to distance, gender-social norms such as not allowing girls to attend school away from home. Families in rural villages, not realizing the potential of Education in self-development, do not equate it to prosperity.

Education in rural areas often excludes the subject of citizenship and civic responsibility which are strong components of participatory rural communities and responsible citizenry.

Mission

At this point, over the next couple of years we are heavily investing in fine-tuning our technology, content, training and monitoring processes and testing them for scalability. We are building a capable team at our headquarters at the remote village of Tilonia, Rajasthan India, who shall be equipped to handle more than 3,500 schools across the planet benefitting lakhs of children.

Vision

We want to nurture our learners to become creative, introspective, confident individuals with pride towards their heritage, equipped to be leaders of the future with academic, vocational and other capabilities to be able to make positive sustainable choices. In short, we want to create future Barefoot leaders empowered to steer and advance development of their own communities.

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Rural Creche

With over 40 balwadis led by balsevikas (rural crèche teachers) who are responsible for the health, hygiene, educational and social needs of the children, this programme benefits more than 1,500 families annually.

Night School

It is for children from such underprivileged communities, Barefoot established the Solar-Bridge School model, popularly referred to as Night Schools – Children who are not enrolled in formal education between the ages of 6 and 14 gather at night to learn by the light of solar lanterns. Barefoot trains motivated individuals from the village to become community teachers who can provide hands on, practical education to children in an informal environment that utilizes innovative learning tools to teach literacy, democratic values, environmental sustainability, and mathematic and scientific skills.

Bridge School

Barefoot also runs Bridge transition schools that allow children who have not been previously enrolled in the formal education system to catch up with their peers, then continue their education in the formal school system. In ten months, Barefoot fills the gaps in these children's knowledge, from Mathematics to Social-Sciences, Geography and English. Since the model's inception, it has educated more than 75,000 children - 65% girls. More than 40% have integrated back into State secondary schools.

Beneficiaries

Over the past 30 years, more than 4,000 children—including 1,250 girls—have chosen to continue their formal education after the Bridge course, often continuing onto college.



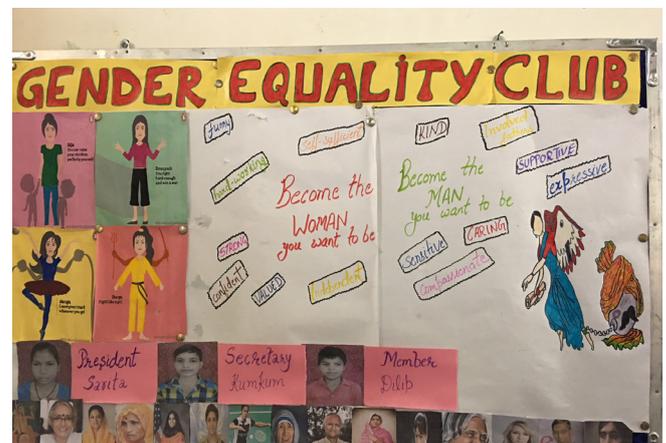
Activities this Year:

Our model is a direct response to the 2015 SDG goal “Quality Education for All” that includes:

- Solar digital learning tools - Edu-box Solar projector, tablets & offline content repository
- A locally customizable curriculum with an pro-girl rural STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics) learning approach
- A teachers training module that demystifies technology and builds teachers from grassroots
- A M&E module which remotely tracks improvements of learning levels of every child

Impact:

For the present 26 digital Night Schools, the first of which was started in 2015, the individual child assessment has been compiled. It shows significant increase in terms of child engagement and improvement of learning levels.



Since the model's inception, it has educated more than **75,000 children** - **65%** girls. More than **40%** have integrated back into State secondary schools.

What's Next

We are finalizing partners who shall embark with us on this remarkable journey of grassroots transformation. We intend to gain momentum in our scale- up from the 3rd year and by the end of 5 years, our schools everywhere shall testify for the impact of our model that can bring quality education to the last child anywhere in the world, irrespective of energy situation, infrastructure, connectivity or formal educational capacity.