

Action Card – June 2022

Education for the Future

Material provided by Christians Aware



*If you are thinking a year ahead,
SOW a seed;
ten years, PLANT a tree;
a hundred years,
EDUCATE THE PEOPLE.'*

It is vital for the future of our world that the learning process is a creative and happy experience. This is true for children of all ages and for adults. There is the need in teachers and learners for expressing feelings, tackling conflict, valuing colleagues as people, group development, building trust, sharing responsibility. Above all learners and teachers of all backgrounds and gifts must work on real issues.

The school of Barbiana was founded a very long time ago, in the 1950s, by Don Lorenzo Milani. It was set in a remote region of Italy, about thirty miles from Florence and near to where the artist Giotto was born. It was for boys who had dropped out of school. Attendance was voluntary and the pupils were asked what they needed to learn which would be useful to them in their adult lives. The school was a happy community and when its founder died the pupils took it over. In 1969 the school moved to Calenzano in Florence where it continued its life and work and also then included adult learners. The school has made links with the real world of poor people and its message is still needed in every community and country today and into the future.

The Young Men's Welfare Society in Kolkata has founded many schools for the poor children of all ages in the city. There are pavement schools and also night schools which make it possible for the poorest children to grow up into life and work most suitable for their gifts. Crucially, the parents are involved in every stage of their children's education and opportunities are also offered for them to learn and grow.

Some Possible Actions

Read 'Letter to a teacher from the school of Barbiana,' Penguin Books, 1972

Read 'The Wrong Boy' by Willy Russell. Doubleday, 2000

Make a list of your own educational needs for your life in our 21st Century world. Find a way of meeting a few of your most important needs. Find a way to help other people to do the same.

Learn about a community school in the developing world.

Christians Aware can offer links and resources.

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