

# What is the Barefoot College?

**The Barefoot College is a place of learning and unlearning. It's a place where the teacher is the learner and the learner is the teacher. It's a place where NO degrees and certificates are given because in development there are no experts-only resource persons. It's a place where people are encouraged to make mistakes so that they can learn humility, curiosity, the courage to take risks, to innovate, to improvise and to constantly experiment. It's a place where all are treated as equals and there is no hierarchy.**

So long as the process leads to the good and welfare of all; so long as problems of discrimination, injustice, exploitation and inequalities are addressed directly or indirectly; so long as the poor, the deprived and the dispossessed feel its a place they can talk, be heard with dignity and respect, be trained and be given the tools and the skills to improve their own lives the immediate relevance of the Barefoot College to the global poor will always be there.

## **How do you develop a Barefoot College?**

**First**, by having faith in the capacity and competence of any poor rural community anywhere in the world that the community has members who have the knowledge, the skills, the wisdom and the faith to identify and solve their own problems.

**Second**, by creating an environment and a situation where these skills and knowledge can be applied for the community's own development.

**Third**, by informal, non-structured, on-the-job practical training until such time as the person has acquired the confidence, the competence and the capacity to provide the service without any help from outside.

**Fourth**, by choosing an area which is remote, inaccessible and very difficult physically to reach so that there is peace, mental space and non-interference from so-called experts who are dying to make sure that you fail.

*For more information about the Barefoot College, please write to us at the following address:*

### **The Director**

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