

Education of non-caste children in Karnataka (South India)



Karnataka is a state of South India with Bangalore as its capital city. The actions presented take place in the district of Udupi in the west of this state.



Untouchables are non-caste populations that represent 15% of the Indian population and suffer total discrimination.



In the state of Karnataka, non-caste populations represent 9% of the population.



The Koraga, Kunbi and Adi Dravida tribes are untouchables, as are migrant workers.



Untouchable children can go to school, but the idea is rejected by both their parents and other children. They are discriminated against and leave school very early.



Maya is part of the Koraga tribe. Like all untouchables, she is considered impure. The other castes do not touch her and do not speak to her.



The Kunbi are estimated at 30,000 and live in groups of 30 to 80 families on the edge of villages and near forests. They own small plots of land and have a common house to gather in. Children attend school, including girls, but performance is poor.



The Adi Dravidas are in smaller numbers. They live in precarious habitats. Landless and with little education, they are a wounded and abandoned population.



Migrant workers live on roadsides, under plastic sheeting, without water, electricity, or toilets.



Deodas Shetty is working to emancipate these tribes. He has years of experience with the non-caste tribes of Gujarat in northern India.



Originally from the state of Karnataka, he lives with his family in the Udupi district of Kaup.



He is a disciple of Gandhi who considered non-caste people as children of God.



He conducts a local development process that values communities and empowers them to take charge of their own development.



Leader of the Gandhi Sevam Ashram association, he travels with his team to the sites of the tribes and speaks the local languages.



In this room located in the village of Hebri, Haribalab, a teacher, provides before-and after-school tutoring for non-caste children.



He sleeps on site and manages the children's equipment: educational posters, textbooks, exercise books, pens, games, clothing, etc.



In spite of precarious working conditions, the children are diligent and take great advantage of this tutoring time, 2 and a half hours a day for 6 days, and 2 hours on Sundays.



They learn how to handle insults and aggression without violence.



To motivate parents and help them understand the benefits of education for their children, discussion groups are organized to form parent committees, such as this one in the village of Kalebogilu.



Gradually, the parents grow proud of their children.



Thanks to the results obtained by the Koraga children, the State of Karnataka now supports these actions as part of a government programme.



This government aid is limited to tutoring, while the Gandhi Seva Ashram association is now building its action for the emancipation of non-caste tribes around a three-year programme.



* Through the creation of 5 education and tutoring centers.



* Through the identification of young people capable of becoming leaders and the training of 25 youngsters, coming from the 3 communities.



* Through the development and promotion of the Kunbi agricultural and vegetable production of the Kunbi.



* Through the optimization of artisanal know-how such as the manufacture of baskets by the Koraga.



* Through the submission of housing benefit applications.



* Through legal support to obtain the rights that should accrue to the tribes, especially for migrant workers.



* Through support for collective work and the creation of cooperative production units.



Our association **Education for Development** supports the entire program by bringing together a network of members.

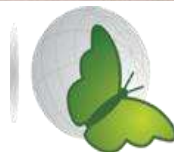


And by contributing 70% of the budget allocated to this program.

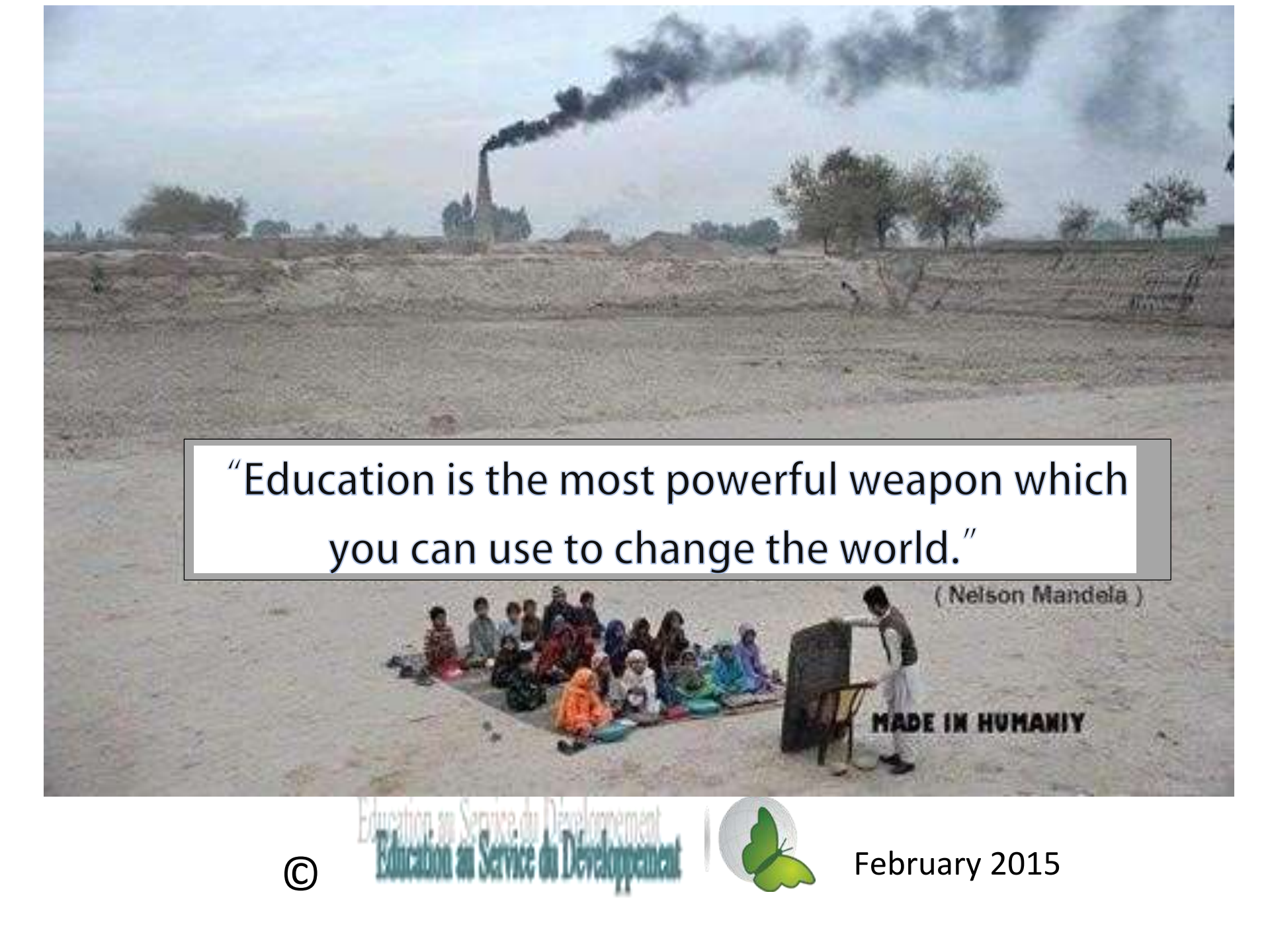


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“Education is the most powerful weapon which
you can use to change the world.”

(Nelson Mandela)

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