

TAKE ACTION GUIDE:

## FIRE IN OUR HEARTS



### ABOUT THE FILM

Jayshree Janu Kharpade of India was taken out of school at 7 years old so that she could raise her four younger brothers and contribute to her parents' labor at a brick kiln site. Exceptionally bright and motivated, she pleaded for years with her parents to let her return to her studies. They finally agreed, and she soon rose to the top of her school.

Now 16, she illuminates the immense social and economic potential of girls' education in the developing world, and how the widespread availability of a good education can contribute to economic development, civil rights and socioeconomic upward mobility of a country as a whole.

## LEARN MORE

When thinking about the human right to universal access to education, consider Article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 26:

(1) *Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.*

(2) *Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.*

(3) *Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.*

## REFLECT AND SHARE

1. Research the availability of education in the United States, India and Kenya. In each country, compare what kind of education is available to the lower classes versus the middle and upper classes. How does the widespread availability of a good education contribute to economic development, civil rights and socioeconomic upward mobility? In what ways is access to a good education a class issue? How is it a human rights issue? Explain.
2. After watching FIRE IN OUR HEARTS, consider how your view of your own right to an education has perhaps changed. How might this new understanding affect your studies as you continue your education? Why is "the right to an education" a basic, universal human right? How does your attitude toward your own education differ from the attitudes of the girls featured in FIRE IN OUR HEARTS? To what do you attribute this difference?

## TAKE ACTION

1. Host a community or private screening of FIRE IN OUR HEARTS to raise awareness of the challenges facing tribal girls in India and how storytelling through film can deepen our understanding of global issues. Email [info@bykids.org](mailto:info@bykids.org) for more information.
2. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper. Explain in the letter what you learned from FIRE IN OUR HEARTS regarding the importance of equal access to an education and why everyone should care about this issue.
3. Write a speech or essay arguing for and explaining why the right to an education is universal, and an international and domestic human rights issue. What do you think are the results when children (and/or adults) are not allowed to have an education? Why?
4. Examine the access to education in your state. Are there areas of inequity and differences? Create a poster or bulletin board to explain, and perhaps start a petition for change.

## ABOUT BYKIDS

BYkids produces real-world films for kids, by kids. Talented young storytellers from around the world are paired with seasoned filmmakers to create powerful documentaries about their lives. In partnership with public television and education innovators, we share the films and their educational resources to help make global issues feel personal, relevant and actionable for millions of students. Our work serves as a catalyst for change, igniting important conversations and inspiring a new generation of social activists. To support our work, visit [bykids.org/donate](http://bykids.org/donate).

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