

Écriture de soi

Abhay Patel, India

This image quiets me. It humbles me. The dim light, the cluttered room, the way the girls sit with their heads bent over their books—everything speaks of struggle, focus, and quiet strength. It's a space that clearly wasn't meant for learning, yet that's exactly what they're doing. Despite the darkness, their attention doesn't waver.

What stands out most to me is the contrast between light and shadow, not just in the photo, but as a symbol. Light becomes knowledge. Darkness, everything that holds them back. And still, these girls shine. With just their notebooks, their headscarves, and sheer determination, they turn this humble space into a place of purpose. It reminds me that education, in many parts of the world, is not just a right—it's an act of resistance. Every time I look at this frame, I find myself asking: How many untold stories live in corners like this? How many young minds are burning bright, even when the world isn't watching?

Green-Wood Public School, Talaq Mahal, Kanpur established in 1978 to provide education to poor kids who can not afford education anywhere else. I shot this documentary on March 12, 2020, right before schools were suspended in India due to covid19. The reason why I shot this documentary was that Education is the last priority in my locality. From the very beginning, profit was never the motive behind this profession. It isn't even today. The real driving force is the passion to educate children in any way possible. This School operates in 2 shifts due to space constraints- 8:30 to 11:30 & 12:15 - 4:15. The fees of this School is 175/- Rupees per month for the last two years.

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