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Photo Essay The Many Faces of Learning

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The Many Faces of Learning

ne of India's biggest assets is its young people. According to the United Nations, India has the most youth of any country, boasting an estimated 356 million people between the ages of 10 and 24. China is a distant second with 269 million. But one of India's biggest (and most important)

challenges is educating all of those young people. One of the reasons is India's incredible religious, ethnic, class, and social diversity. In the pages that follow are photographs of schools for Muslims, Dalits, Buddhists, refugees, and others, showing just how diverse India's educational institutions are.



• Students wait for their parents at a Kolkata high school run by the Methodist

Church in India.

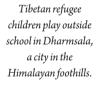


• In Delhi, children of Dalit (India's lowest caste) quarry workers attend school outside by lantern light.

Boys study Islam at an orphanage in the village of Napa, in the western state of Gujarat.





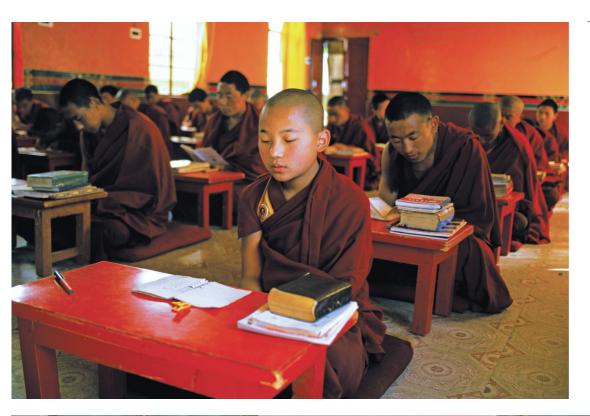


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A young boy from Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan state, studies atop a wooden cart.



Photographs by Lynn Johnson /National Geographic Creative (top), Jonathan Kingston/National Geographic Creative (bottom)



Tibetan Buddhist monks study at Kirti Monastery in Dharmsala, home to the Dalai Lama.

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Young women study at one of the Loreto schools operated by the Roman Catholic Church in Kolkata.



Photographs by Alison Wright/National Geographic Creative (top), Steve Raymer/National Geographic Creative (bottom)