



The Beautiful Tree: A personal journey into how the world's poorest people are educating themselves

By James Tooley

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Upon its release several years ago, *The Beautiful Tree* was instantly embraced and praised by individuals and organizations across the globe. James Tooley's extraordinary ability to braid together personal experience, community action, individual courage, and family devotion, brought readers to the very heart of education. This book follows Tooley in his travels from the largest shanty town in Africa to the mountains of Gansu, China, and of the children, parents, teachers, and entrepreneurs who taught him that the poor are not waiting for educational handouts. They are building their own schools and learning to save themselves. Now in paperback with a new postscript, *The Beautiful Tree* is not another book lamenting what has gone wrong in some of the world's poorest communities. It is a book about what is going right, and powerfully demonstrates how the entrepreneurial spirit and the love of parents for their children can be found in every corner of the globe.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Tooley (*Reclaiming Education*) documents his surprising finding that private schools are providing quality education to millions of poor children in the developing world. Whereas development experts insist that the path out of poverty lies in investment in public schools, the author draws on his fieldwork in India, China and Africa to argue that small entrepreneurs are educating the poor. In one region of India, 80% of urban children and 30% of rural children attend private schools; in China's Gansu province 586 private schools are located in small villages, even though the state prides itself on its public system. Contrary to accepted wisdom, the modest fees of private schools are within reach of most, and parents find them superior to public schools that are often riddled with corruption and incompetence. Tooley argues that development funds be invested to support these institutions, through vouchers to parents and microfinance loans to the schools. The author's engaging style transforms what could have been a dry if startling research report into a moving account of how poor parents struggle against great odds to provide a rich educational experience to their children. (Apr.)

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From the Back Cover

"Tooley's specialty is ultra-low-cost private education in the world's poorest countries. Orthodox opinion on developing-country education for the poor holds that parents are too ignorant to know a good school when they see one, and that a decent education is impossible to provide on the minimal budgets available to private schools serving poor students. In country after country, Tooley found that both claims are false. The book is a memoir of his travels and researches, and a thorough examination of the issues. Everyone interested in development should read it."

--Clive Crook, *The Atlantic*

About the Author

James Tooley is a professor of education policy at Newcastle University. There he is the director of the E. G. West Centre, which is dedicated to choice, competition, and entrepreneurship in education. An award-winning scholar featured in PBS and BBC documentaries, he has written several books, and his work has been covered in *Newsweek*, the *Atlantic*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Financial Times*. He was a professor in leading universities in England, Canada, and South Africa, and also lived in Hyderabad, India, where he worked with the entrepreneurs and teachers who inspired this book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brent Abramson:

Book is definitely written, printed, or created for everything. You can realize everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A publication *The Beautiful Tree: A personal journey into how the world's poorest people are educating themselves* will make you to be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that open or reading the book make you bored. It is far from make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you searching

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Mary Kenney:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love The Beautiful Tree: A personal journey into how the world's poorest people are educating themselves, it is possible to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Salvador Perez:

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