



## EMPOWER INDIA—NEWS DIGEST

Volume 3, Number 1, June 10, 2013,

[info@idc-america.org](mailto:info@idc-america.org), [www.idc-america.org](http://www.idc-america.org)

***Inform, Inspire, Impact***

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Dear IDCA Member or Friend,

We are pleased to share the following News summary from some of our members for your information.

Please join them and support their efforts to serve less fortunate people in India.

Upcoming IDCA Events:

June 29, 2013: India Education Forum, Indian Prairie Library, Darien, IL, from 1:30 PM  
Speakers: Dr. Hasmukh Shah, Ekal Foundation, Mr. Arvind Guna Patel, The Young Scientist Foundation, Ahmedabad, Mr. Daniell Bassill, Tutor/Mentor Institute, Chicago, Dr. ratnam Chitturi, North South Foundation, Burr ridge, Illinois  
The 11th International conference on October 12-13 in Chicago  
The 4th West Regional Conference on November 16, 2013 in San Jose, CA  
The 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference in India on January 11-12, 2014.

We invite NPO/NGO leaders to make presentations at these conferences. Please write us ASAP for your interest. Areas of work should include one of the following: Water, Education, Healthcare, Livelihoods, and Climate Change.

You can learn about the upcoming IDCA events at: <http://idc-america.org>

You can support our efforts to serve you all by joining as a member. to learn how you can join us, please click: <http://idc-america.org/membership>

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

IDCA Working Team, 630-303-9592

## News from Shikshantar Andolan, Udaipur, Rajasthan

### New Initiative in Udaipur as a Learning City



#### **Udaan Udaan Learning Park**

For the past 6 months, Ravi and Guddi have been regularly visiting a rag-picker community in Badgaon, on the outskirts of Udaipur. In the spirit of seeing beauty and talent in the lives of slum children, they have formed deep bonds with them and are co-creating a self-designed learning space. Some of the ideas they have worked together on include: playing co-operative games, community cooking, painting a community space, theatre and dance, mobile library as well as making various upcycled products from waste.



#### **Samvaad T-Shirts**

Lata and Vidhi have been painting [community media t-shirts](#) with beautiful hand-painted decorative designs. We wish to promote the dignity of local languages (Mewari and Hindi) and to encourage more spontaneous city-wide conversations around thought provoking quotes/proverbs. A launch party for these for Samvaad t-shirts was held on Fatehsagar lake. Please send us your favorite quotes.



#### **Awa-Kin**

#### **Wednesdays**

To 'Awaken' in the spirit of 'Kinship', every Wednesday at 7 pm, Vipul and Rama host a small gathering of people interested to share a space of silence and to connect with oneself from deep within. A circle of sharing based on an inspiring reading follows an hour of silence. The gathering closes with a simple vegetarian meal. [Awa-Kin communities](#) have spread over 60 locations around the world.



### Shanti-Samriddhi Healing Hands Stall

Rama has been going to the Fateh Sagar lake every evening to offer a healing massage in the gift-culture spirit. The intention is to co-create a public space where local people can share their pain/tension and generate positive energies that can be taken to our homes, neighborhoods and workspaces. Many interesting conversations and new connections are emerging as part of the community massage process.



### Volunteer Udaipur - Free Money

Celebrating the International Free Money Day, volunteers from Shikshantar and Volunteer Udaipur freely distributed away a sum of Rs.2000 to people visiting Fatehsagar that evening. Each person was offered Rs. 20 as a gift—ten to be kept for him/herself and another ten to given as a gift to someone else that they do not know—thus opening up the space for many conversations on the role of money in our lives today and on how to rebuild a culture of generosity and abundance.



### Natural Colors for Holi

Guddi, Vidhi and local children celebrated the festival of Holi by making natural / herbal colors using ingredients such as turmeric, flowers, henna, ash etc. Hand-made paper packets containing these colors were sold at various locations and NGOs across the Udaipur city. The real wild part of Holi celebration at Shikshantar was the use of solid cow-dung (apparently a natural facial for skin care!) for playing Holi.



### Slow Food Stall at Shilp Gram

Rohit from Banyan Roots Organic Store and volunteers from Shikshantar set-up a 3 day healthy food stall at Shilp Gram festival to engage the Udaipur public with the idea of Slow Food. Rana Pratap special 'Haamo Tikkis' (potato-millet patties) were sold along with Body Builder special multi-sprouted, ragi bhelpuri chaat. The stall also featured a poster exhibition raising questions about our food system.



### Zero Waste Workshop for International Students

The Shikshantar team hosted a five-day workshop on zero waste living for six students from School of International Training, USA. A city-walk on traditional sustainable designs, a visit to the local dump-site followed by an up-cycling workshop, making soaps with cow-dung, city-farming, a miming workshop by a friend visiting from Kolkata, were some of the highlights of the workshop. In collaboration with local youth, the group also organized 'An Evening of Giftivism' on Fateh Sagar lake.



### City Roof-Top Farming

In setting up a demonstration model for a truly productive use of urban roof-tops in Udaipur, Shikshantar (inspired by the recent visit of Preeti Patil from [Urban Leaves](#)) has just welcomed four new fruit trees on its roof-top—Lemon, Pomegranate, Moringa and Guava. In addition to our home herbal garden, twenty new veggies have also begun to sprout in recycled water containers. A vertical garden is also in the making with the use of two-liter mineral water bottles.



## **Swapathgami Walkouts-Walkon Network:**

- The latest Hindi edition of [Swapathgami magazine](#) has just been released. Find out what walkouts have been walking on to. This issue has lots of great stories, including: Prem Patra slow letters, Halchal Cafe, learning from watermelon peels, city walks and cooperative game-a-thons.
- A 2-day Swapathgami workshop with school children entitled 'The Call of the Superheros' was co-hosted by Vishal, Manish and Jayesh with Arch Academy, Jaipur. In the spirit of play, students were invited to connect to the superhero within themselves and work together in teams to undertake some special missions to discover their deeper superpowers. This was in preparation for the [Play the Call Global Game](#) planned to take place around the world.
- Manish and Vidhi hosted a week-long Swapathgami seminar on 'Nai Taleem for the 21st Century' with future drama teachers in the National School of Drama Theatre in Education program in Tripura. Core themes revolved around Disenchantment, Decolonizing Ourselves and Re-imagining Learning.
- In February, a 3-day Swapathgami gathering was co-hosted by the [Global Cooperative Forum](#) and Shikshantar in Udaipur. Fifteen dynamic leaders from across India were invited to engage in a meaningful dialogue on how to nurture emerging global shifts in human consciousness and system redesign.
- A [Families Learning Together](#) gathering was held last November at Tapovan Ashram in Udaipur. Ten families who are carrying out creative experiments in their homes, including homeschooling and unschooling, came together to share their experiences and questions. We hope to re-build a new kind of joint family network.

## **New Resources and Publications:**

- Shikshantar was invited to give the keynote address at the 2nd European Congress on Global Education in Lisbon, Portugal in Sept. 2012. An article version of the speech entitled, '[McEducation for All: Whose Agenda Does Global Education](#)

Serve?', was published in the internationally-acclaimed Critical Literacy Journal Vol 7, 2013.

- Shikshantar was invited by ISEC to co-host the Economics of Happiness Conference in Byron Bay, Australia. There was an excellent interactive panel discussion on [Envisioning the Future: What Would a Localized World Look Like?](#) Shikshantar is a partner of the emerging International Alliance for Localization.
- Members of Shikshantar and Swaraj University were invited to present our ideas and experiences with self-designed learning at several TEDx conferences around India (Mumbai, Delhi, Coimbatore). Have a look here at some fantastic talks by [Rahul Hasija](#), [Sakhi Nitin-Anita](#) and [Vidhi Jain](#).

### **Upcoming Events:**

- The next Learning Societies unConference will be held at the UWC Mahindra College, Pune, India from June 14 to 19, 2013. It will attract amazing people from all over the country who are seeking to create new visions of education through diverse and vibrant learning communities, learning spaces, and un/learning processes. Check out the [LSUC website](#) and [facebook group](#) and share your learning experiments with shifting human consciousness.
- In June and July, [Swaraj University](#) will be hosting orientation meets for youth interested in joining its fourth batch in late-July, 2013. This unique self-designed learning program focuses on Self-Sustainability-Social Justice-Social Entrepreneurship. Look out for meets in Ahmedabad, Nashik, Pune and Udaipur.
- We are working to expand the Year On Campaign throughout India, which seeks to encourage and nurture young people in taking a gap year from their school or college. Help us by asking business, media and NGO leaders as well as school principals in your cities to write in support of the gap year idea. Visit our [Year On blog](#) to learn more.

## How can you co-create this movement with us?

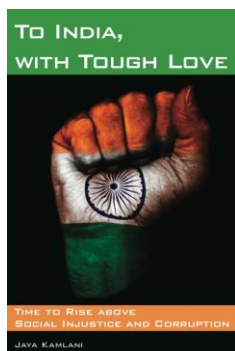
Over the last 15 years in Udaipur, we have seen Shikshantar organically evolve into a leadership (un)learning community, an incubator for radical educational experiments, a center for unschoolers, a gift culture café, a dariya dil dukkan freecycle store, a community media center, a zero waste center, a self-healing center...and a jeevan anand-dolan engaging with diverse people, from all around India and the world. This has been made possible by the contributions of friends, who have given their time, talents, energy, resources and caring spirit. We are grateful for all that we have received, and in turn, for all that we have been able to share with our wide web of friends, families, organizations and movements.

We invite you to continue to help co-create this life movement this year. Please consider starting up an innovative self-designed learning experiment with your family and friends, writing some reflections on your own unlearning journey, sharing ideas for new connections and collaborations, walking out of something that you do/consume that doesn't support your deepest values, or making a financial donation to Shikshantar to support fellowships for local emerging young leaders. We invite you to write to us at [shikshantar@yahoo.com](mailto:shikshantar@yahoo.com)

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From : **Jay Sehgal**, IRRAD, Gurgaon--Livelihoods  
Bill Gates at ICRISAT

[http://issuu.com/icrisat/docs/happenings\\_1574/1](http://issuu.com/icrisat/docs/happenings_1574/1)  
Book By Jaya Kamlani—To India With Tough Love



## Trees for Life, Wichita, Kansas---Education

This is a fantastic display of how we can help improve things. This has a fantastic message on several levels for all of us.

Article and Video [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/20/india-pakistan-coke-ad-small-world-machines\\_n\\_3306795.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/20/india-pakistan-coke-ad-small-world-machines_n_3306795.html)

This year, you can say, "Thanks Dad" with a gift that helps fathers and their families worldwide.

Provide books so children can discover the joy of reading.  
Help families learn about the nutritious leaves of the Moringa tree.

Help a family build a fuel-efficient cook stove in Guatemala, saving lives and trees.

Visit our catalog of "Gifts from the Heart -

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TreesforLife/da8ae209a5/0f17b07755/aa92a5f9e2>

Books Open Doors for Children -

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TreesforLife/da8ae209a5/0f17b07755/47d2ac807d>

Moringa: The Miracle Tree -

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TreesforLife/da8ae209a5/0f17b07755/6fae73238f>

Cookstoves Save Lives and Trees

-<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TreesforLife/da8ae209a5/0f17b07755/9c205abe9a>

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<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TreesforLife/da8ae209a5/0f17b07755/c8ac9c2027/fref=ts>

Contact us:

Trees for Life

3006 W. St. Louis, Wichita, KS 67203-5129 | (316) 945-6929 | -

[info@treesforlife.org](mailto:info@treesforlife.org)



## From Ram Krishna--Minneapolis, MN----WATER

I was asked by one of the local (Minneapolis) Rotary Clubs to speak on "Water"

My last Rotary club was in Chennai. I knew the Madras Rotary club President Benjamin Cherian at that time. Those who know Mount Road (now Anna Salai), there is a old and famous hotel called Connemara. Back in 2002, when I was quite active in Chennai with Rain water harvesting, I used the occasion to 'appeal to the Madras Rotarians' to 'harvest water.

This YouTube video of 12 minutes duration - describes our successful community effort to do RWH in Chennai and Tamil Nadu at that time. Includes a 2 minute video inside, with a NDTV news program describing how this effort succeeded.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQkkAfyC8w>

Last year 2012, there was a 13-part weekly Sunday TV program called "Satyameva Jayathe", produced by the movie actor Amir Khan.

The video below is a 4 minute clip from that hour long program. In December of 2011, one of the field producers from Amir Khan Productions in Mumbai, contacted me. I spent a whole day, taking that film crew to many places in Chennai, to show RWH. But all that film clips were edited out. But the resulting production was just fantastic.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBa1Tgd9ill>

A side benefit. The Chief Minister Hooda of Haryana (Jay Sehgal to note) announced that he will follow exactly what Tamil nadu. Our Best to Hooda. Need to ask Shiela Dikshit ji to do the same.

welcome your comments,

Ram Krishnan, | (651)-631-8622 (office)  
Minnesota USA | (612)-615-5465 (Mobile)

## Gram Seva Trust, Gujarat, Gram Seva Foundation, USA

<http://gallery.mailchimp.com/e5b0ab0d99dd62bc0c28c1625/files/English.pdf>

Click above for Annual report-----**Healthcare**



### ***GRAM SEVA NEWS***

#### Felicitation by the Government of Gujarat



The founder trustees of the organization,  
Dr. Ashwin Shah and Dr. Harsha Shah, were felicitated by the Government of Gujarat, on the occasion of Gujarat Gaurav Din on 1st May 2013 at Navsari ,  
for their contribution and services in health in the tribal area of Gujarat.

[www.gramseva.org](http://www.gramseva.org)

## Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan   Education

### A Wonderful Achievement for our Education Program

*By Deepti Ameta - Program Incharge – RMU*



*Children at our Education Center*

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you today to share some news about a wonderful accomplishment for the Seva Mandir Education Program. After being on the verge of having to close down our successful NFE primary schools, we are happy to announce that the Government of Rajasthan has officially legalized them as education centers. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, implemented by the Indian Government in 2009, has demonstrated progress in the rights based approach to ensuring education for all. However, under this act, one-size-fits-all criteria were set out for what constitutes a “school” such as, number of classrooms, toilet facilities, and level of teacher qualification. Our primary schools, which do not meet this criterion but deliver a top quality education to over

5,000 of the region's most impoverished children every year, faced closure.

It took the Seva Mandir family over 2 years of hard work to save the program and ensure the continued education of the children in our work area. We carried out a study that found that 49% of children are still out of school in the remote areas where Seva Mandir schools operate. We lobbied intensely, arguing that despite the Government's promise of education for all, Seva Mandir is vital and necessary until the State can deliver on that promise. Finally, just days ago, the Government provided us a chance to prove our work. 4 teams of Government officials conducted random surprise checkups on 11 of our NFE centers. 10 out of 11 were open, and after full day observations the officials concluded that the learning levels in our schools were significantly above those found in Government schools. Furthermore, the officials praised our schools' efficiency, and recognized the fact that we are doing more than Government with fewer inputs. As a result of their experience on the ground, and after vetting our curriculum and teaching material, the State of Rajasthan has legalized our NFEs by according them the status of Special Training Centers (STCs). In concluding meetings, officials resolved that if society was so accepting of the program then it was important for the government to follow suit. As our NFE schools are now legitimized we can continue to provide the neediest and most marginalized children with a quality education. This is a tremendous achievement for Seva Mandir and all of our wonderful supporters. Thank you for contributing to this success and for your continued support!

If you wish to continue your support for the education of children in southern Rajasthan, on **June 12<sup>th</sup>** Global Giving's Bonus Rewards Day will allow you to make an even bigger difference. By matching your donation by 50%, your contribution will go that much further to ensuring the education that all children deserve.

Warm regards,

Deepti

[Send a Child in India to School for a Year,](#)

**Links:**

- [Our official website](#)



## Rashtriya Guni Mission, Udaipur, Rajasthan---Healthcare

Rashtriya Guni Mission (RGM) has been working from last 14 years for the preservation and promotion of Traditional Health System in the 9 states of India.

In the same process RGM has quoted to get authoritative recognition to Gram Vaidhya (gunis/ traditional healers) under the Ayush Act 2002 of India government. Till now there have been no programs in which gunis have been appointed as village health worker in the community because of this negligence treatment method of gunis residing in interior villages could not rise and this treasure of traditional knowledge began to extinct from our community.

In order to continue the process and preserve traditional knowledge a national level pilot Scheme for Accreditation and Certification of Prior Learning (ACPL) of Grama Vaidyas was launched by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in 8 selected states of India namely: Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. In Rajasthan, this scheme was implemented in Udaipur Districts.

The ACPL scheme was financially supported by the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It was initially implemented in selected streams of folk healing like jaundice, bone setting, poisonous bite, piles, management of primary healthcare conditions with herbal remedies, etc in collaboration with Quality Council of India, New Delhi, Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (IAIM) Bangalore and reputed Nodal AYUSH Institutions and NGOs in the selected states and districts.

In this scheme RGM worked for the certification of the 51 gunis from Gogunda, mavli, Jhadol, Girva, salumber, sarada and khervada blocks of Udaipur district from the stream piles, bone setting and poisonous bites. We have received their certificates also.

The program for distribution of certificates is will be organized on **13<sup>th</sup> June 2013** at Guni Ashram Sanghat, Haldi Ghati road, Udaipur. The distribution of certificates would be done **by** Labour & Employment & Sports Minister of Govt. of Rajasthan Honorable Mr. Mangi Lal Garasiya.

We request you to give us your precious time and attend the certificate distribution program and make it successful.

Regards

Bhanwar Dhabai

**Rashtriya Guni Mission (RGM)** [www.gunimission.org](http://www.gunimission.org)  
**6, Shantivan, Near Alok School, Fatehpura, Udaipur-313001, Rajasthan-India, Tel: 91 294 2450087**



From: Dr. Shelly Batra, president, Operation ASHA, New Delhi

## Eradication of TB in India and around the World.

You will be delighted to hear that Onno Ruhl, the Country Director of the World Bank in India visited Operation ASHA's TB treatment center last month. After the visit Mr Ruhl wrote a blog entitled, "The Last Mile, at Last?" This is part of the series "End Poverty in South Asia" on the website of the World Bank.

To read the full blog, click here: <http://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/last-mile-last>

In his blog Mr Ruhl states that he *"was fascinated: If Operation ASHA's model could be rolled out everywhere where there is TB, we could stop Multi-Drug-Resistant TB and save so many lives!"*

*What Operation ASHA does is literally to deliver the elusive last mile in service delivery, the mile that lies in between well-intended government programs and results on the ground. And they do it with relentless focus and incredible efficiency. What if we could develop Operations ASHA for other problems as well? 90% efficiency and 19 times cheaper? It would be incredible!*

*For those of you who don't know, ASHA means hope. Hope for millions of TB patients. But to me it can be even more: hope for millions of others who need services, all over the world. Our last miles must become cheaper and more efficient. ASHA's results in applying the science of delivery give rise to real hope that this can happen."*

Soon after, Operation ASHA went on to win the Development Innovation Award from the World Bank. This comes with substantial in-kind support and \$100,000 in grant.

The Rockefeller Foundation also selected Operation ASHA as a finalist for "Next Century Innovators Award", which is featured on their website.  
<http://centennial.rockefellerfoundation.org/innovators/profile/ecompliance-holding-off-drug-resistant-tuberculosis>

Your support has been a critical component in Operation ASHA's meteoric rise. I thank you with all my heart.

Shelly

**Shelly Batra, MD**

President

Mobile: +91 931 039 8004

Operation ASHA, India

## Dr. Ramesh Jalan: UNDP, New Delhi, Climate Change

We are pleased to share the article on “**World Environment Day, 2013**”. The loss of biodiversity and the changing climate are among the most prominent issues on the international agenda. These are not only environmental concerns; the issues are linked to the nature of economic development, poverty reduction, natural disasters, and peace and security. The health of the world’s biodiversity and climate is fundamental to all aspects of human well-being. The article is available at:

<http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/articles/2013/06/05/WED/>

. We are pleased to share an article entitled “**Time to adapt to climate change, say world’s biggest cities** “. The world’s largest cities are feeling the effects of climate change and are leading efforts to adapt to them.

That is according to the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group that includes London, New York, Cairo and Sao Paulo. The article is available at:

<http://www.rtcc.org/time-to-adapt-to-climate-change-say-worlds-biggest-cities/> .

We are pleased to share the **Message of the Secretary General of the United Nations** on World Environment Day, 2013. Food loss and waste is something we can all address. That is why the United Nations Environment Programme, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization and public and private sector partners have launched the “Think. Eat. Save: Reduce Your Foodprint” campaign to raise global awareness and showcase solutions relevant to developed and developing countries alike. On this World Environment Day Let us all pledge to reduce our FOODPRINT. The message is available at:

<http://www.unep.org/wed/messages/SG.asp> .

We are pleased to share with you the highlights of “**What’s the Return on Investment for Sustainability?** “ The bottom line is that ROI for sustainability has been getting better and better: Solar ROI is perhaps the best in the green business world, according to Clean Tech source; Passive heat recovery ROI is also consistently positive, according to Green Building source; Window film provides a positive energy benefit and ROI. The article is available at:

[http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/jeffmcintirestrasbu/151266/what-s-return-investment-roi-sustainability?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Sustainable+Cities+Collective+%28all+posts%29](http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/jeffmcintirestrasbu/151266/what-s-return-investment-roi-sustainability?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Sustainable+Cities+Collective+%28all+posts%29) .

# FEED IN INDIA FREE IN INDIA

save food save people



जहाँ है हरियाली ।  
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥



Khushi Centre  
for Rehabilitation  
& Research



THINK·EAT·SAVE  
WORLD ENVIRONMENT  
DAY 5 JUNE

## World Environment Week 2013 Think·Eat·Save

(From 6th to 11th June 2013)

Venue: NMNH, Tansen Marg, New Delhi.110001

10 am to 11 am: Registration & Exhibition (Ground Floor Reception)

### 6th June, 2013:

(Role of Health Care Providers)

11 am to 3 pm:  
Session 1: Panel Discussion (Conference Hall- 6th Floor)  
Session 2: Film(Auditorium- 3rd Floor)  
Session 3: Discovery & Activity Room- 2nd Floor  
Workshop On - Recycle Waste Products

### 7th June, 2013:

(Role of Indian Sports Fraternity)

11 am to 3 pm:  
Session 1: Panel Discussion (Conference Hall)  
Session 2: Film (Auditorium)  
Session 3: Activity Room  
Workshop (Meaning full engagement)

### 11th June, 2013:

(Food Security & Its Impact)

11 am to 3 pm:  
Session 1: Panel Discussion (Conference Hall)  
Session 2: Film(Auditorium)  
Session 3: (Activity Room)  
Workshop (recycle waste food)

(Jointly Organized by)

National Museum of Natural History &  
Khushi Centre for Rehabilitation & Research



## Dr. Sailesh Rao, Climate Healers, Climate Change

The Meat Moderates and Climate Change Mitigation

<http://climatehealers.ning.com/profiles/blogs/the-meat-moderates>

Nearly two years ago, Keith Akers convincingly showed in [a must-read article](#) that a mass transition to veganism greatly simplifies the task of mitigating climate change. Indeed, [a 2010 UN report](#) found that a mass transition to veganism is [vital to save the world](#) from hunger and fuel poverty, in addition to the worst impacts of climate change. The mathematics of deforestation makes that very clear since we're gobbling up [a Florida-sized area of tropical forests](#) every two years, mainly to satiate our ever-increasing global meat and dairy consumption.

As [Luiz Antonio's video](#) shows, it is not children who are the impediments to this mass transition to veganism. It's the adults. And at the moment, it is not the adults who are avid meat eaters, the Sarah Palin types, who have vowed to give up their steaks over their cold dead bodies. It's actually the adults who care deeply about the environmental legacy that we are leaving our children and have already taken some steps towards veganism, but are stuck at some moderate levels of meat, dairy and other animal food consumption and are finding it difficult to go any further. It is these "Meat Moderates" who are the key to make this mass transition truly happen.

For unless the Meat Moderates abandon their plateaued positions and switch over to veganism, the vegan revolution will not occur and the deforestation of the Amazon and the Congo will continue apace. Just as the civil rights revolution could not occur fifty years ago until the White Moderates showed up at the Washington Mall and supported civil rights whole-heartedly. This is precisely why the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., wrote that impassioned letter from his jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama, 50 years ago:

*"I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection." - Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., excerpt from the [Letter from a Birmingham Jail cell](#).*