

# RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

## **M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports**

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program  
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Country: India  
Author: Elizabeth Pacheco

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)

**भारत**



**Elizabeth Pacheco**

**TESL 539C**

**Fall 2012**

# India

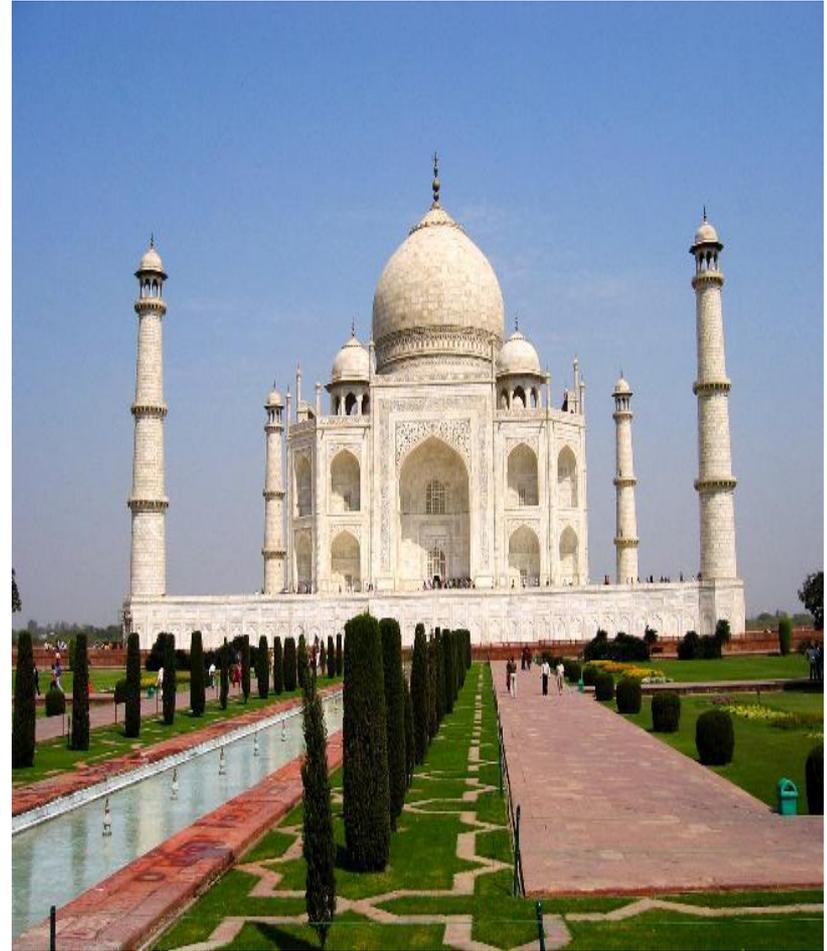
- Location: Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- Size: Seventh largest country in the world (3,287,263 sq km).
- Population: 1,205,073,612 (July 2012 est.). Second largest in the world.
- Climate: tropical monsoon in the south to temperate in the north with deserts in the west.
- Language: more than 14 official languages (Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9%)
- Religion: Hindu 80.5%, Muslim 13.4%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.1%



(Flaitz, 2006; CIA, 2012)

# India

- Ethnicity: Indo-Aryan 72%; Dravidian 25%; Mongoloid and other 3% (2000).
- Population Distribution: 28% urban, 72% rural (2003)
- Population below Poverty Line: 29.8% (2010 est.)
- Life Expectancy: Total Population 64.7; men 63.9; women 65.6 (2006).
- Literacy Rate: Total Population 59.5%; men 70.2%; women 48.3%.
- School Life Expectancy: Total 10 years, male 11 years, female 10 years (2007).

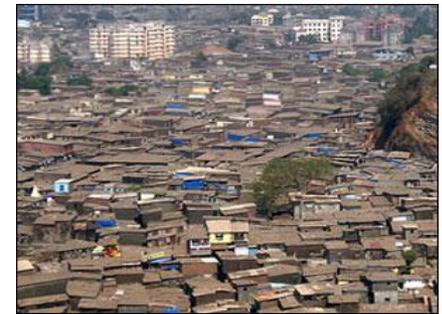




# India



- India's form of government is federal republic.
- India's Muslim and Hindu populations have historically been in conflict with one another.
  - Eventually two separate countries received independence: Pakistan (1940) and Bangladesh (1971).
- Fundamental concerns in India, despite impressive gains in economic investment and output:
  - Massive overpopulation.
  - Environmental degradation.
  - Extensive poverty.
  - Ethnic and religious strife.
  - Ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir.

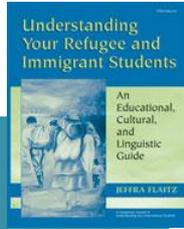




# Education in India

- School year for primary to secondary schools usually go from July to March. University goes from July to April.
  - Grades 1-4 goes from 7:00AM to 1:00PM
  - Grades 5-10 goes from 11:00AM to 5:00PM
- On average, school is compulsory till age 14 though not all areas follow.
- English is compulsory from grades 6-10.
- Pre-service training for teachers is excellent, but the financial compensation is low and depends on the school one teaches.
- Government-controlled syllabus and textbooks stay the same over periods of ten or more years.
  - Teachers may become bored, lose enthusiasm and stop preparing for class.
- India has invested significant attention and resources to build and upgrade schools and curricula.
  - Illiteracy, majority in females, remains a problem in India despite government's efforts.
  - National Policy on Education tries to address these issues.

# Education in India



	Female Participation Percent	Male Participation Percent	Curriculum	Statistics Based on Jeffra Flaitz
Pre-Primary	54%	53%	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•82% of primary school age children are enrolled.</li> <li>•67.9% of pupils reach Grade 5.</li> <li>•The average Indian adult has 5.1 years of schooling.</li> <li>•43.6% of primary school students are female.</li> <li>•39% of primary school-age girls are not enrolled.</li> <li>•39.6% of secondary school students are female.</li> <li>•10.5% of eligible population are enrolled in post-secondary.</li> </ul>
Primary (Grades 1-5)	94%	97%	Languages, Mathematics, social sciences, science, health, physical education, and art	
Middle (Grades 6-8)	N/A	N/A	Same as above and English.	
Secondary (Grades 9-10 or 12)	49%	59%	Chemistry, Biology, physics, algebra, geometry, calculus, history, geography, English, local regional language, and one other language.	
Post-Secondary			Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.	

(Flaitz, 2006)



# Education in India



## Urban Public Schools

- Education is subsidized.
- Bare minimum of facilities.
- Students receive instruction in local languages.
- Students sit 3-5 on a backless bench.

## Semi-Private Schools

- Curriculum and fees are controlled by the government.
- Administration has some autonomy.
- Class size ranges from 40 to 80 students.

## Rural Schools

- Education is subsidized.
- Bare minimum of facilities.
- Students receive instruction in local languages.

Students may not have tables and benches, may sit or squat on the floor.



## Private Schools

- Better equipped.
- Medium of instruction is in English.
- Fees are high.



(Flaitz, 2006)

Click on “India” \*\*\*VIDEO: Public Schools verses Private Schools in [India](#) \*\*\*

# Education in India

- Classroom Set-Up:
  - Teacher's desk and chair sit on a raised platform at the front of the class.
  - Maps and posters do not usually adorn the walls of the classroom.
    - Alphabet and number lines displayed at the primary level.
    - Scientific charts and students' artwork may be placed on the walls at both levels (primary and secondary).
  - Most classrooms have a blackboard and chalk.
  - Instructional technology is generally not available in schools due to electricity being unreliable or nonexistent.
  - Schools are not air-conditioned.
- Teachers are highly respected in India even more than parents.
- Students may hold respect for teachers but may at the same time fear them since they are taught by parents to obey the teacher at all times.

(Flaitz, 2006)

# Education in India

- In primary level teachers may be nurturing to students (treat as their own kids) but this diminishes when students reach higher levels.
  - This causes students not to bring up their problems to their teacher in later years.
- Teachers and parents usually have a good rapport.
- Most classrooms are teacher centered.
  - Main learning strategy is relying on rote memorization.
- Parental pressure is placed on Indian children to succeed in school.
- Indian parents may consider a teacher to be caring if they assign ample homework and are strict in class.
- Students are not allowed to eat in class, even at the university level.
- Students are expected to keep good posture throughout class.

(Flaitz, 2006)



# Indian Immigrants



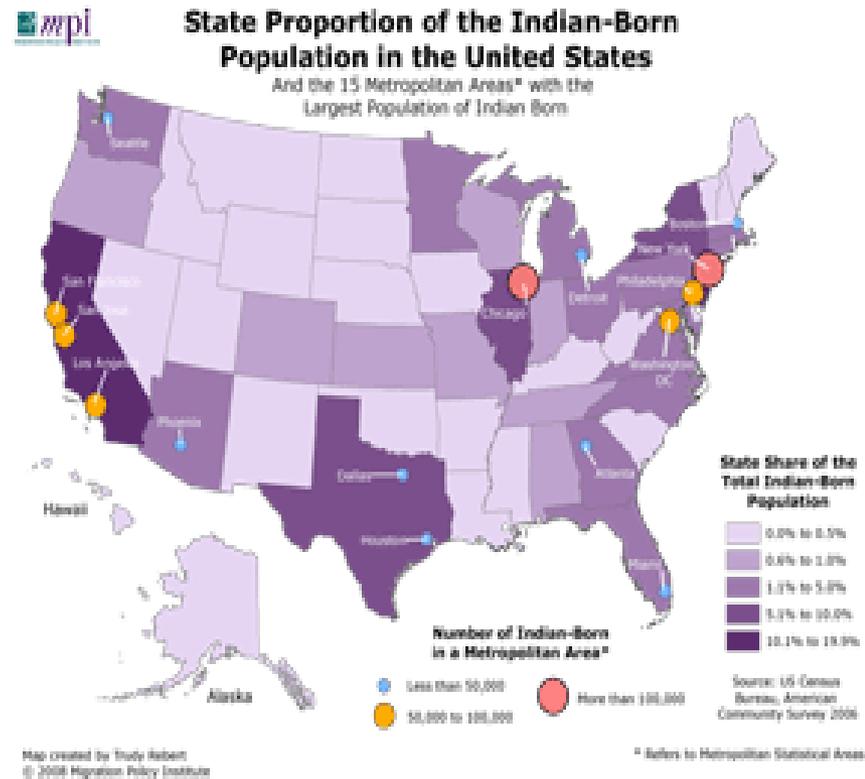
- Indian immigration to the U.S.A. has occurred in three phases.
  - Phase I: Middle- and upper-class students and professionals began to arrive in the 1960s.
    - They became one of the most affluent and well-paid groups of immigrants in the U.S.A.
  - Phase II: Relatives of the first wave of Indian immigrants.
    - Many were less accomplished and not as prepared as their predecessors causing them to find jobs in factories/restaurants, become taxi drivers, and open small businesses.
  - Phase III: In the 1990s as technology industry expanded.
    - Tend to be academically privileged, financially secure, and relatively young.

# Indian Immigrants

- Prior to 1965, vast majority of Indian immigrants settled in California.
- In 2000, there was an estimated 1,018,393 Indians living in the U.S.

Top 7 States:

- California: 197,918
  - (San Jose, Los Angeles)
- New York: 117,889
  - (New York City)
- New Jersey: 117,687
- Illinois: 86,242
  - (Chicago)
- Texas: 78,172
  - (Houston)
- Michigan: 39,470
- Pennsylvania: 38,767



# Indian Immigrant Students

- Students stand to greet the teacher when they enter a room and must wait for the teacher to tell them to be seated.
- Students who give gifts to teachers may have it wrapped in green, yellow, or red paper (good luck). Black or white wrapping paper is considered inappropriate.
- Students do not develop publicly romantic relationships with the opposite sex as this is taboo.
- “Although quick to appreciate the economic and educational benefits they obtain through immigration, they also tend to be highly critical of many aspects of American culture and society which, according to them, is characterized by unstable and uncaring families, lack of close community ties, sexual promiscuity, violence, drug and alcohol abuse and teenage delinquency.”  
(Kurien, 2001)

(Flaitz, 2006)



# Indian Immigrant Students



- The bindi is a small dot placed between the eyebrows of a female which represents the third eye (intellect).
- Male students may wear turbans (pagri or dastar) a symbol of honor and respect.
- Indian gesture to indicate yes is head wagging from side to side.
- It is inappropriate to touch the top of the head since the soul is thought to reside in the head.
- Indians do not greet each other by kissing, shaking heads, or touching in any way.
  - Traditional Indians greet by pressing both palms together just below the chin, bowing slightly and saying “namaste”.
- Impolite to pass or accept food with the left hand or enter a home with shoes on, (students may also take their shoes off in class as a gesture of respect).
- Waving, pointing, whistling, or winking is considered to be rude in India.
- Sikh and Hindus refrain from eating beef while Muslims do not eat pork.

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M.Ed. in TESL Program  
Nancy Cloud, Director  
Educational Studies Department  
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5  
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue  
Providence, RI 02908  
Phone (401) 456-8789  
Fax (401) 456-8284  
ncloud@ric.edu

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