Secondary Education in South Asia: Understanding the Diversity and Decoding the Complexity

2007 NAFSA Conference
Minneapolis, MN
Making sense of international credentials

Today’s Presentation

- Introduction
- India Dr. Vijaya Khandavilli, Country Coordinator Educational Advising Services at USEF India
- Pakistan Zarene Rashid Malik, Sr. Educational Advisor USEF Pakistan
- Bangladesh Emily Tse, Manager of Evaluations, IERF
- Academic I-Hsing Lin, Senior Evaluator, IERF
  Records
South Asia

Bangladesh*
Brit Ind Ocean Ter
Bhutan
India*
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan*
Sri Lanka

http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/sas/map.html
History

- One region: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh
- 1500s settlements and colonization from Portuguese, Dutch, British and French
- British hold when East India Company took over Bengal
- Main colonial period 1757-1947
History

- Independence from UK gained in 1947
- India and Pakistan split
- Pakistan and Bangladesh split in 1971
Partition of India

Independence led to creation of 4 new independent states:

- India
- Pakistan
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
Influences

- Education for the elite → dual systems
- Terminology
- External assessment
Secondary and Senior Secondary Education In India

Dr. (Ms.) Vijaya Khandavilli
Country Coordinator
Educational Advising Services
U.S. Educational Foundation in India (USEFI)
New Delhi, India
www.fulbright-india.org
Education in India: History

• British India – Exclusively for the Elite

• Independent India
  ➢ Non-discriminatory, irrespective of religion, caste, gender, race
  ➢ Citizen’s right to enter any institution across the country
  ➢ Citizen’s right to receive instruction in one’s native language
Education in Modern India

• Structure and Access based on the objectives of National Education Commission (NEC)

• National Education Policy (NEP) in 1968
  - standard structure (10+2) across the country
  - 10 years of non-selective, general education
  - final 2 years of highly selective education
  - branch out into academic or vocational streams
  - create educational opportunities in science and technology
Education in Modern India

Reforms to the 1968 NEP

• Revised National Policy on Education (NPE) in 1986

• NPE revised yet again in 1992; re-stresses:
  - need for access
  - common educational structure of comparable quality across the country
  - universal compulsory primary education
  - universal adult literacy
  - National Curriculum Framework issued by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2005
### School Education in India: Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Duration/Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-primary</td>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
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<td>Primary</td>
<td>Classes 1 to 5</td>
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<td>Middle</td>
<td>Classes 6 to 8</td>
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<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Classes 9 &amp; 10</td>
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<td>Higher Secondary/</td>
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<td>Senior Secondary/</td>
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<td>Intermediate /</td>
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<td>Pre-University</td>
<td>Classes 11 &amp; 12</td>
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</table>
School Education: Facts

• Academic Year – June / July to March / April
• Nine months of 200 teaching days
• Average academic week of 45 periods of 40 mins
• Medium of instruction in Hindi / Regional language / English / Bilingual
• Compulsory Primary Schooling (up to the age of 14)
School Education: Regulation & Administration

National level:
Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)
  - 3 national boards

State Level:
State Ministries of Education (SME)
  - 31 State Boards

Administration shared by MHRD and SME

Academic and Research Support from NCERT
Secondary Education: Curriculum

- 2 or 3 languages (Hindi / English compulsory)
- Math
- Science and Technology
- Social Science

Subjects of Internal Assessment
- Pre-Vocational Education
- Work Education
- Art Education
- Physical and Health Education
- Electives in Art, Commerce, Music, Home Science, IT, Painting
Secondary Education: Awards

National Boards:

• Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) awards “All India Secondary School Certificate (AISSC)”

• Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) awards the “Indian Certificate of Secondary Examination (ICSE)”

• National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) awards “Secondary School Certificate (SSC)”

State Boards:

• State Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Matriculation Certificate

• Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC)
Senior Secondary Education

Dual Track
- Academic
- Vocational

Academic Track
- Science
- Business
- Humanities

Vocational Track
More than 100 fields in Commerce, Technology, Paramedical Services, Home Economics. Includes apprentice training as well. Detailed list of courses at http://psscive.nic.in/act_courses.htm. Regulated by Central Institute of Vocational Education and the Joint Council on Vocational Education in MHRD.
Senior Secondary Education: Awards

National Boards:
- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) awards the “All India Senior School Certificate Examination (AISSCE)”
- Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) awards the “Indian School Certificate Examination (ISCE)”
- National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) awards “Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSSC)”

State Boards:
- State Senior / Higher Secondary School Certificate (SSSC or HSSC)
- Intermediate Public Examination
Senior Secondary Education: Curriculum

National Boards:
ISC (CISCE) - www.cisce.org
NIOS - www.nios.ac.in/syllabus.htm
CBSE – www.cbse.nic.in/syllabus08.pdf

State Boards:  www.education.nic.in/circulars/boards.asp

5 to 6 subjects – 2 / 3 languages and 3 subjects from science, business, humanities tracks.
Secondary Education: Examinations

- Class IX and XI Examinations: Internally by Schools
- Class X and XII Examinations: Externally by the Affiliating Boards
- In some States, state-wide external exams for Class XI or Junior Intermediate
- Examinations in theory and lab where applicable
- 1 exam paper for each subject carrying 100 marks; to be completed in 3 hours
Secondary Education: Grading

- External Assessment in numerical scores
- Internal Assessment in letter grades
- 33% to 40% is the qualifying mark
- In subjects which have lab classes, qualifying marks in theory and lab separately are required
- Some boards award grades in ranking order in addition to marks
- Merit certificates for the top 0.1% students for each subject
- No overall distinction or merit certificate
Secondary Education: Pass Criteria

- Should get qualifying mark in all the external subjects
- Should get a grade higher than ‘E’ in all subjects of internal assessment
- Qualifying mark in additional subjects can serve as replacements
- Candidate failing in one of the 5 subjects gets placed in compartment in that subject
- Candidates can take compartment exams a maximum of 3 times
School Education: Recent Trends

• International Residential Schools

• Introduction of:
  - International Baccalaureate (IB)
  - International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

• Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

• Introduction of Subjects for Internal Assessment
# Study Abroad Flow from India

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<tr>
<th>Student Visas to</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<td>U.K.</td>
<td>16,200</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>15,396</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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**Study Abroad Flow from India**

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<td>Canada</td>
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USEFI Advising Centers
Main USEFI offices
USEFI Advising Centers
Satellite offices

Hyderabad
Bangalore
## USEFI Students (2005-06): Academic Levels

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<th>USEFI Region</th>
<th>G %</th>
<th>UG %</th>
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<td>Chennai</td>
<td>89.47</td>
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<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>77.71</td>
<td>22.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>86.96</td>
<td>13.04</td>
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<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>81.68</td>
<td>18.32</td>
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# USEFI UG Students: Field of Study Choices

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<thead>
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<th>Fields of Study</th>
<th>Business (%)</th>
<th>Biological Sciences (%)</th>
<th>Engineering (%)</th>
<th>Computer and Information Sciences (%)</th>
<th>Health Professions (%)</th>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>25.71</td>
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<td>12.5</td>
<td>20.83</td>
<td>16.66</td>
<td>20.83</td>
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- **First Choice**: Black
- **Second Choice**: Orange
- **Third Choice**: Blue

**Regions**: New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai
# USEFI Graduate Students: Field of Study Choices

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Business (%)</th>
<th>Biological Sciences (%)</th>
<th>Engineering (%)</th>
<th>Computer and Information Sciences (%)</th>
<th>Health Professions (%)</th>
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<td>Chennai</td>
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<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>14.95</td>
<td>14.01</td>
<td>15.88</td>
<td>14.95</td>
<td>5.60</td>
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</table>

- **Dark Yellow**: First Choice
- **Orange**: Second Choice
- **Light Blue**: Third Choice
College Admissions in India: Criteria

- 12th class pass from any of the national or state boards including open school system
- 12th class pass from any foreign school considered equivalent to the Indian system
- Professional Colleges: national or state level entrance examinations
- Three-year Undergraduate Colleges:
  - College-level Entrance Examinations
  - Aggregate % of the best 4 of the 5 main subjects, including at least one language
  - Aggregate % in three subjects related to future specialization
  - Gap years generally discouraged or questioned
College Admissions in India: Normalization Process

- Practiced at the Birla Institute of Science & Technology (BITS), Pilani
- to overcome the disparity among the various boards
- A $\times$ 100 $\div$ B = Normalized aggregate (A is the candidate’s % marks and B is the % of the first rank student of the same board)
- Admissions merit list is created from the normalized % marks
The System of Education in Pakistan

Zarene R. Malik
Senior Educational Advisor
USEF Pakistan
EDUCATION LEVELS

State System

- Primary Classes 1 - 5
- Secondary Classes 6 - 10 (Matriculation)
- Higher Secondary Classes 11 – 12 (Intermediate/FA/FSC.)
EDUCATION LEVELS

Private Education

- Primary   Classes 1 - 5
- Secondary Classes 6 – 11  
  (O Levels)
- Higher Secondary Classes 12 – 13  
  (A Levels)
EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

- Federal Ministry of Education
- Department of Education in each province
EXAMINATION BOARDS

State System

• 1 Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education

• 25 Provincial Boards
EXAMINATION BOARDS

State System

- Officially all Boards provide the same academic standards.

- Boards in big cities may have access to better teaching staff.
PRIVATE/FOREIGN BOARDS

• EDEXCEL

• Cambridge Board

• Aga Khan Board (first private examination board in the country)
STATE SYSTEM
Subject Structure

Compulsory subjects
Matriculation (class 10)
- English, Urdu, Pakistan Studies, Math and Islamiyat
Optional
- 3 more subjects of the students choice
STATE SYSTEM
Subject Structure

Compulsory subjects
Intermediate (class 12)
• English, Urdu, Pakistan Studies and Islamiyat

Optional
• 3 more subjects of the students choice
FOREIGN BOARDS

Subject Structure

• Students appearing for their O levels have to take Urdu, Pakistan Studies and Islamiyat as compulsory subjects if they are Pakistani nationals.

• Students appearing for the A Level examination have no compulsory subjects and generally take at least 3 subjects.
Private Board

The Aga Khan Board is the first and to date the only private examination Board in the country and has patterned its curriculum on the same pattern as the British Boards offering O Level examinations.
Assessment

• Examinations from the state system are more quantitative in approach and facilitate rote learning.

• Changes are being made to encourage more enquiry and critical thinking.
FLOW OF STUDENTS

- The UK is the most popular post 9/11.
- Australia and Canada are close behind.
FLOW OF STUDENTS contd.

Universities from the UK, Canada and Australia . . .

• Participate in educational fairs
• Advertise and promote aggressively (e.g., television and radio shows)
• Offer on spot admissions
• Provide special visa facilitation for students
PERCEPTIONS OF APPLICATION PROCESS FOR US STUDY

• Students can find the application procedure to US universities lengthy, cumbersome and unnecessarily complicated.

• Visa complications can also play a factor.
Students in Pakistan have always preferred the US above any other country pre 9/11.
TO MOVE FORWARD contd.

- Simplify application procedure
- Maintain presence at educational fairs
- Advertise in print and electronic media
- Support higher rate of visa acceptance
Bangladesh

Academic Year*: January to December
July to June (higher secondary)

Medium of Instruction: Bangla / Bengali and English

Compulsory Schooling: 5 years
Systems of Education

- General (Bangla) system (SSC and HSC)
  - 7 boards
  - inexpensive

- English system (O-Levels and A-Levels)
  - expensive
  - Cambridge or Edexcel

- Islamic system (Dakhil and Alim)
  - very inexpensive
  - Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board
Regulation and Administration

- Ministry of Education
- Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
- National Curriculum and Textbook Board
- 7 Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE)
Regulation and Administration

- 7 Boards of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE)
  - Barisal 1999
  - Chittagong 1995
  - Comilla 1962
  - Dhaka 1961
  - Jessore 1963
  - Rajshahi 1961
  - Sylhet 1999
Basic Education

- Primary (Classes I – V)

Secondary Education

- Junior Secondary* (Classes VI – VIII)
- Secondary (Classes IX – X)
- Higher Secondary (Classes XI – XII)

or Intermediate
Streams (2006)

- Arts / Humanities 346,723
- Science 203,030
- Commerce 239,916
- (Madrasah) 162,735
- Total 952,404

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS)
Certificates and Compulsory Subjects

- After grade X:
  - Secondary School Certificate (SSC)
  - Bangla, English, Mathematics and Religion

- After grade XII:
  - Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)
  - Bangla and English
Providers of Secondary Education

- State schools
- Non-government schools and private schools (largest in #)
- Cadet colleges
- Madrasahs
- Intermediate colleges
- Intermediate sections of degree colleges
International Education

- 2758 students in US per academic year (Open Doors 2005)
- US, Australia, UK, Canada
- Large # apply for undergraduate programs in US
  - Engineering, Economics, Sciences
- Higher # for graduate programs in US, due to aid
  - Engineering, Computer Science and Business
International Education: Perspectives

- Lengthy US application and preparation process
- Minimum of 1 year required for preparation
- Rigorous process also prepares for other countries
- Believed to be worthwhile for more funding opportunities
- Funding opportunities a priority
Academic Records
& Educational Features of
India, Pakistan and Bangladesh
COMPARISONS

1. Secondary Educational Structure (Standard 10 and 12)
2. Academic Records (Certificate & Mark Sheet Issued by Educational Board)
3. Required Subjects for Secondary Education Examinations
4. Grading (Internal v.s. External) (Letters/Divisions)
Secondary Educational Boards

INDIA - 3 national / central boards & 31 state boards

PAKISTAN - 1 federal board & 25 provincial boards

BANGLADESH - 7 boards of intermediate & secondary education
# Academic Records

(Examination Certificate & Statement of Marks)

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<th>Examination Info</th>
<th>Candidate Info</th>
<th>Examination Result</th>
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<td>Name of Student</td>
<td>Date of Examination</td>
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<td>Name of Examination</td>
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<td>Subjects taken for the Examination</td>
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<td>Group: Humanities/Science/Commerce</td>
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<td>Marks Obtained</td>
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<td>Name of Institution</td>
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<td>Certificate/Serial #</td>
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<td>Signature of Examination Authority</td>
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*Academic Records* (Examination Certificate & Statement of Marks)
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<th>FEATURES/COUNTRY</th>
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C = Examination Certificate  
O = Feature exists  
+ = Feature may or may not exist  
M = Mark Sheet  
X = Feature does not exist
# REQUIRED SUBJECTS

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<thead>
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<th>SUBJECT/COUNTRY</th>
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<th>BANGLADESH</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Language (Regional Language): Hindi/Urdu/Bengali</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) with Practice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chemistry</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Science: History, Civics and Geography</strong></td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Civics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Islamic Education (Islamiyat)/Pakistan Studies</strong></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Religion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Internal Assessments:</strong> Pre-Vocational Education; Work Education; Art Education; Physical and Health Education; Art, Commerce, Music, Home Science, IT, Painting…</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C = Compulsory Subjects  + Most Frequently Taken Electives
## Grading Scale (External Assessment)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>India, Pakistan &amp; Bangladesh</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 - 100% First Class</td>
<td>A = 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 - 59% Second Class</td>
<td>B = 3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 - 44% Third Class</td>
<td>C = 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 32% Fail</td>
<td>F = 0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMIC RECORDS
(Examination Certificate & Statement of Marks Issued by Educational Boards)

INDIA - 3 national / central boards and 31 state boards

1. Official Records: Board-Issued Mark Sheet and Certificate
2. Names of boards vary.
3. Examination name varies.
4. Marks obtained are usually typed / printed.
5. Grade Conversion: Internal Assessments (letter grade)/External Assessments (numerical grade)
ACADEMIC RECORDS
(Examination Certificate & Statement of Marks Issued by Educational Boards)

Pakistan - 1 federal board and 25 provincial boards


2. Mostly Typed Certificates and Hand-Written Mark Sheets

3. Examination Name: Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC)/Intermediate Examination

4. Grade Conversion: Internal Assessments (letter grade)/External Assessments (numerical grade)
ACADEMIC RECORDS
(Examination Certificate & Statement of Marks
Issued by Educational Boards)

BANGLADESH - 7 Boards of Intermediate & Secondary Education

2. Information usually hand-written (both certificate and mark sheet)
3. Examination Name: Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)
4. Grade Conversion: Internal Assessments (letter grade)/External Assessments (numerical grade)
Ministry Websites (in or with English)

Bangladesh:

India:
- Department of School Education and Literacy [http://education.nic.in/secedu/secondary.htm](http://education.nic.in/secedu/secondary.htm)

Pakistan: