



Credentials Evaluation Service

## South Asia

### **Secondary Education in South Asia: Understanding Diversity and Decoding Complexity**

Presented at the 2007 NAFSA (Association of International Educators) conference in Minneapolis, MN.

*Presenters:*


*Emily Tse, Director of Evaluations*

*I-Hsing Lin, Senior Evaluator*

*Vijaya Khandavilli, representative from the US Educational Foundation in India*

*Arefin Jahan, representative from the US Educational Foundation in Pakistan*

This session focused on the differences and similarities of the secondary educational systems of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Trends in international students from these countries were also highlighted.



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

**2007**

**NAFSA Conference  
Minneapolis, MN**

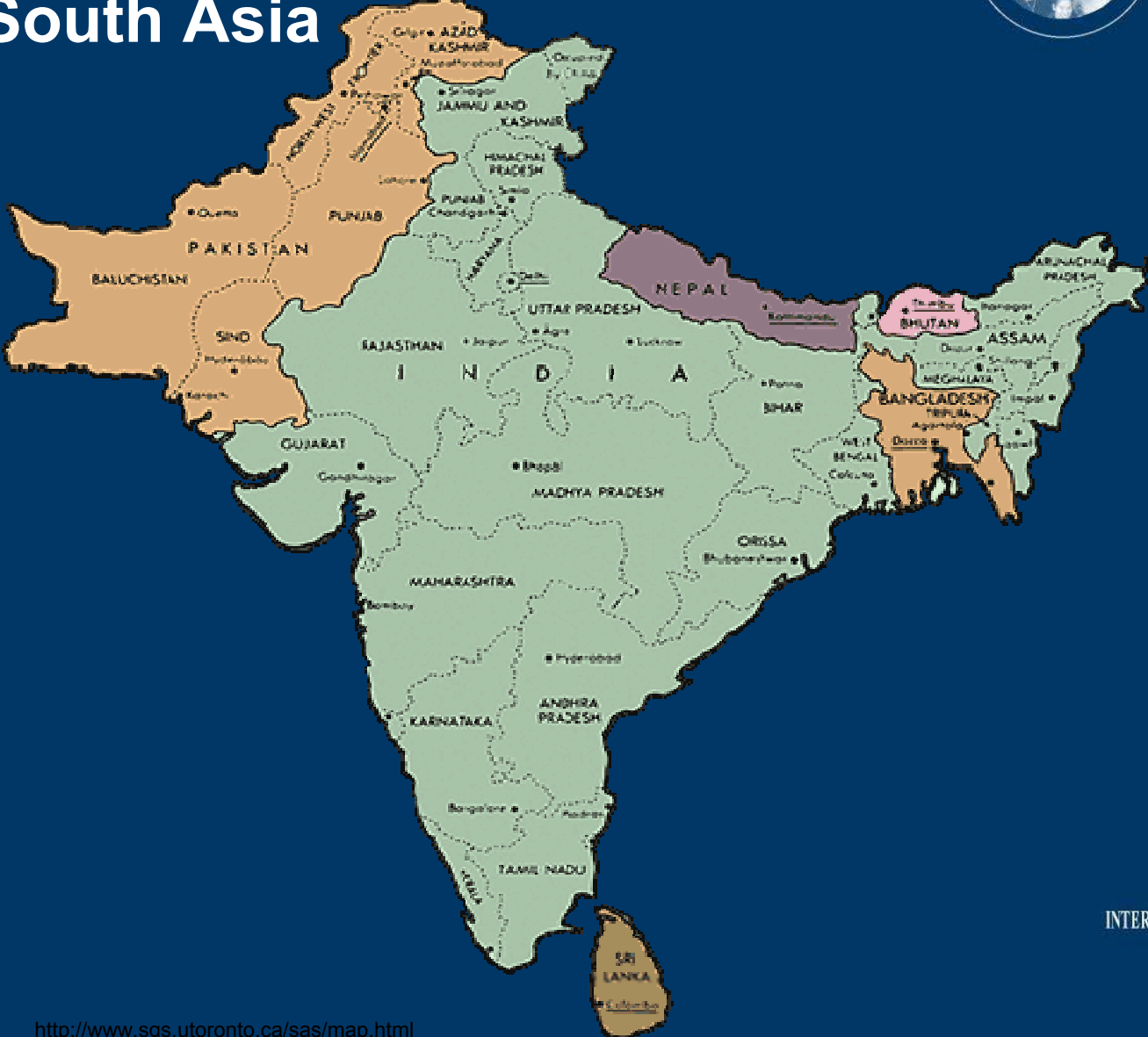


## Today's Presentation

- 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



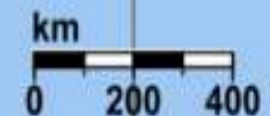
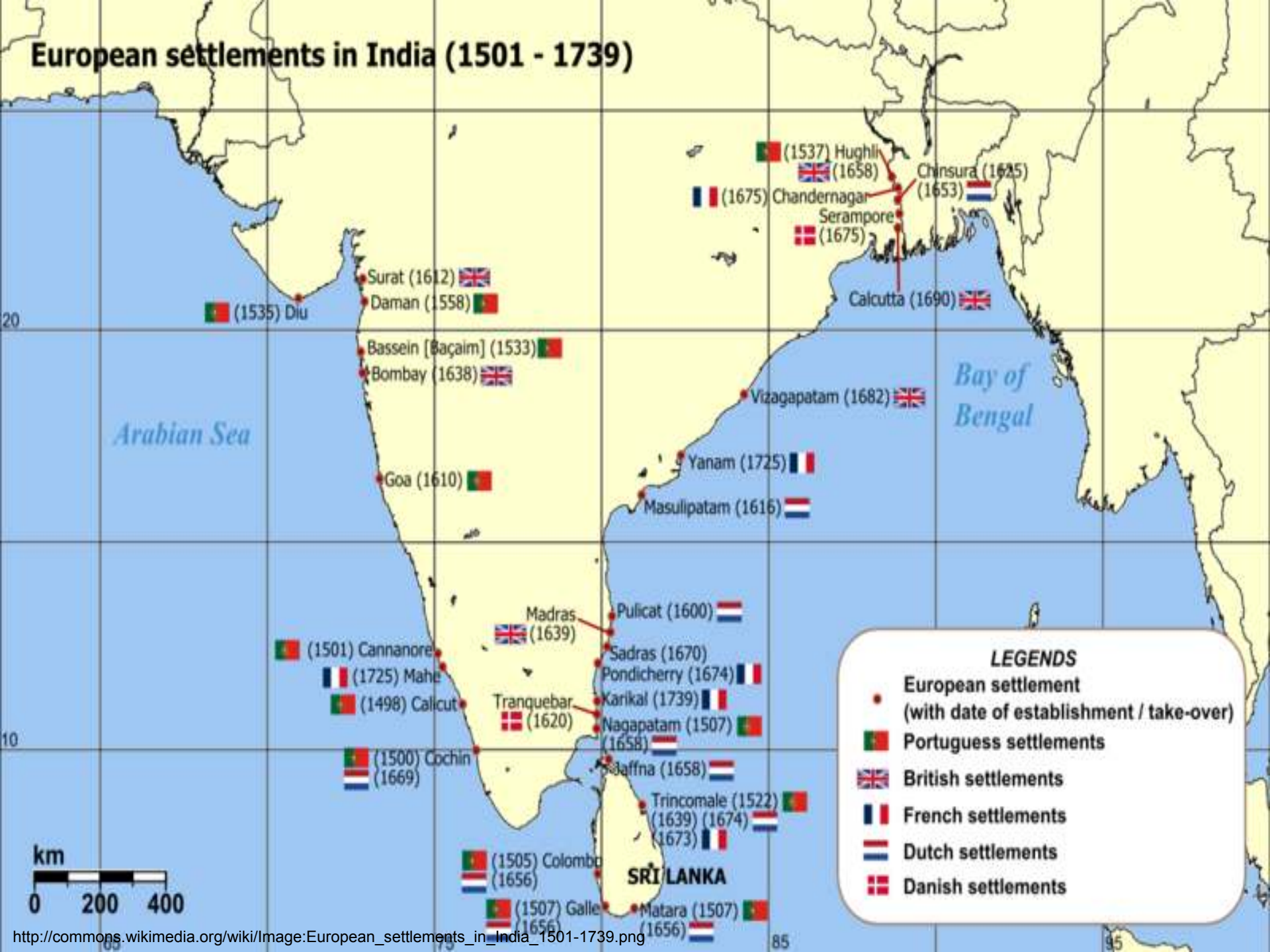
- Bangladesh\*
- Brit Ind Ocean Ter
- Bhutan
- India\*
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan\*
- Sri Lanka



## 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

# European settlements in India (1501 - 1739)





## 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

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# 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



Pre-primary	2 to 3 years
Primary	Classes 1 to 5
Middle	Classes 6 to 8
Secondary	Classes 9 & 10
Higher Secondary/ Senior Secondary/ Intermediate / Pre-University	Classes 11 & 12



# 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](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](http://www.cisce.org)

NIOS - [www.nios.ac.in/syllabus.htm](http://www.nios.ac.in/syllabus.htm)

CBSE - [www.cbse.nic.in/syllabu08.pdf](http://www.cbse.nic.in/syllabu08.pdf)

**State Boards:** [www.education.nic.in/circulars/boards.asp](http://www.education.nic.in/circulars/boards.asp)

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



**educationUSA**

your guide to U.S. higher education

# 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



Student Visas to	2005	2006
U.S.A	18,653	24,622
U.K.	16,200	19,221
Australia	10,068	15,396
Canada	2,000	2,525



# Study Abroad Flow from India

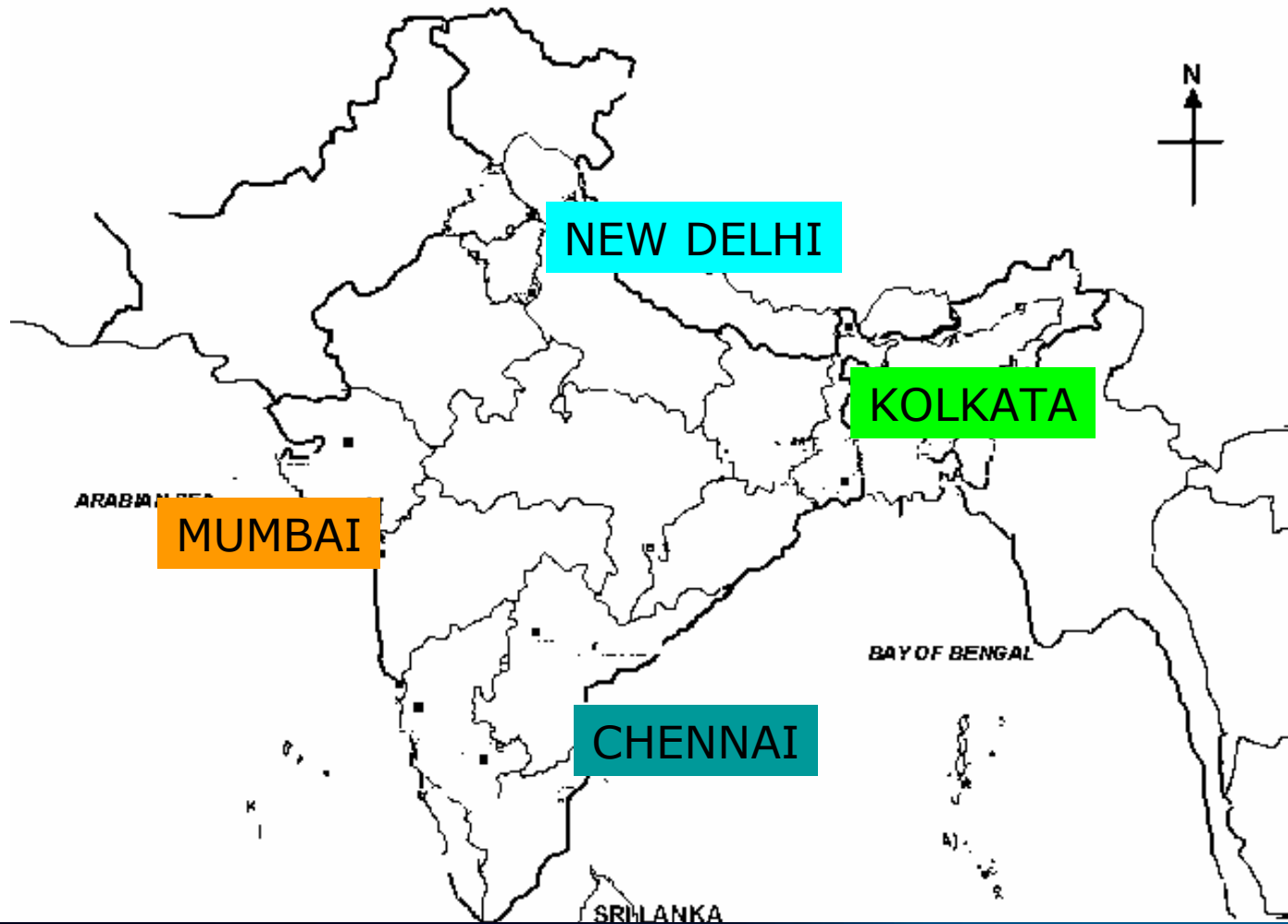


Total Enrollments	2005	2006
U.S.A.	80,466	76,503
U.K.	18,000	23,000
Australia	25,000	38,700
Canada	8,000	6,500

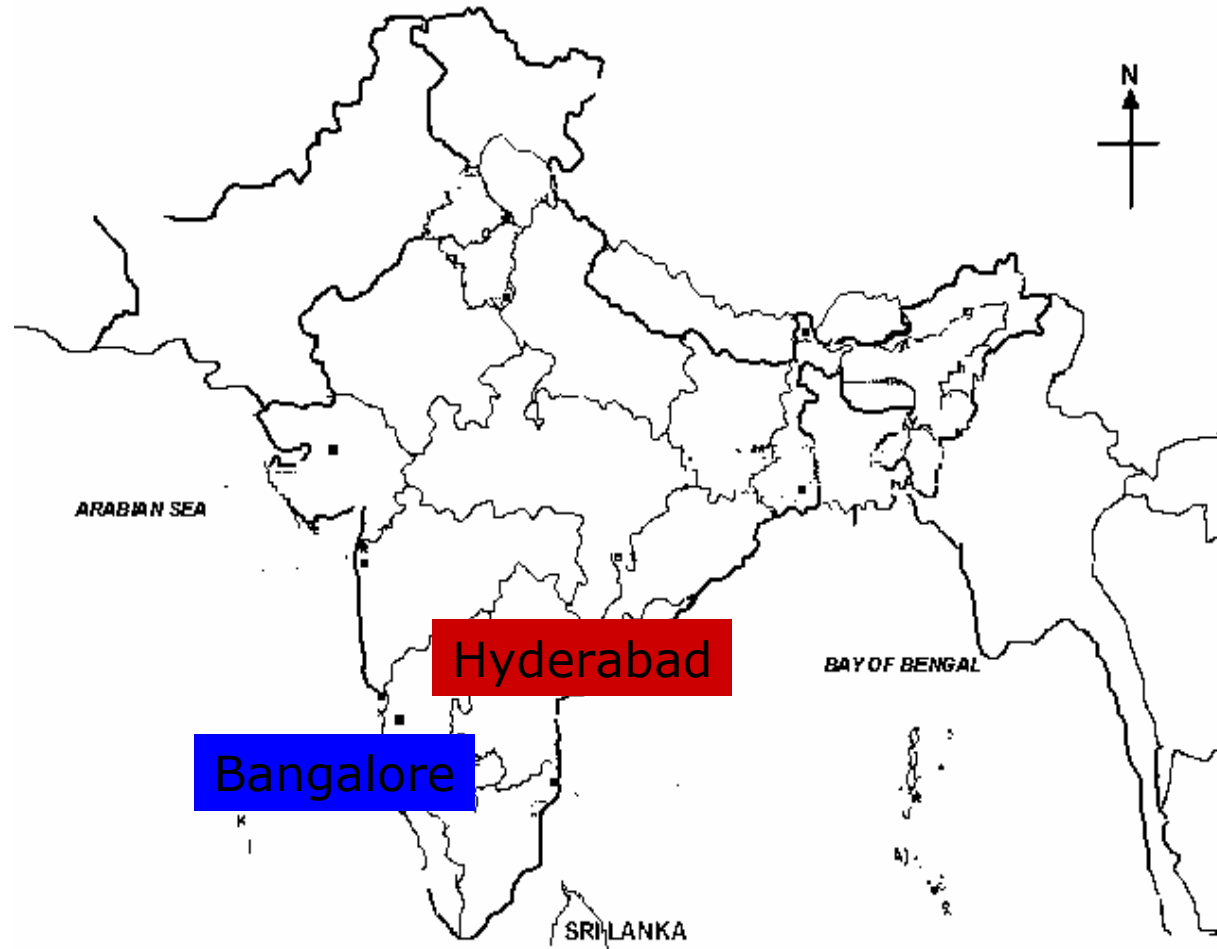


# USEFI Advising Centers

## Main USEFI offices



# USEFI Advising Centers Satellite offices



# USEFI Students (2005-06): Academic Levels



Level	G %	UG %
Chennai	89.47	10.53
Kolkata	77.71	22.29
Mumbai	86.96	13.04
New Delhi	81.68	18.32



# USEFI UG Students: Field of Study Choices

Fields of Study Region	Business (%)	Biological Sciences (%)	Engineering (%)	Computer and Information Sciences (%)	Health Professions (%)
Chennai	50	0	33.33	0	0
Kolkata	5.71	5.71	25.71	8.57	8.57
Mumbai	8.33	0	20.33	25	29.16
New Delhi	12.5	20.83	16.66	20.83	0

- First Choice
- Second Choice
- Third Choice



# USEFI Graduate Students: Field of Study Choices



Fields of Study Region	Business (%)	Biological Sciences (%)	Engineering (%)	Computer and Information Sciences (%)	Health Professions (%)
Chennai	15.68	9.80	25.49	15.68	5.88
Kolkata	17.21	24.59	14.75	13.11	5.73
Mumbai	23.75	6.25	41.25	8.75	5.00
New Delhi	14.95	14.01	15.88	14.95	5.60

- First Choice
- Second Choice
- Third Choice



# College Admissions in India: Criteria



- 12<sup>th</sup> class pass from any of the national or state boards including open school system
- 12<sup>th</sup> 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
- $A \times 100 \div B = \text{Normalized aggregate}$  (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





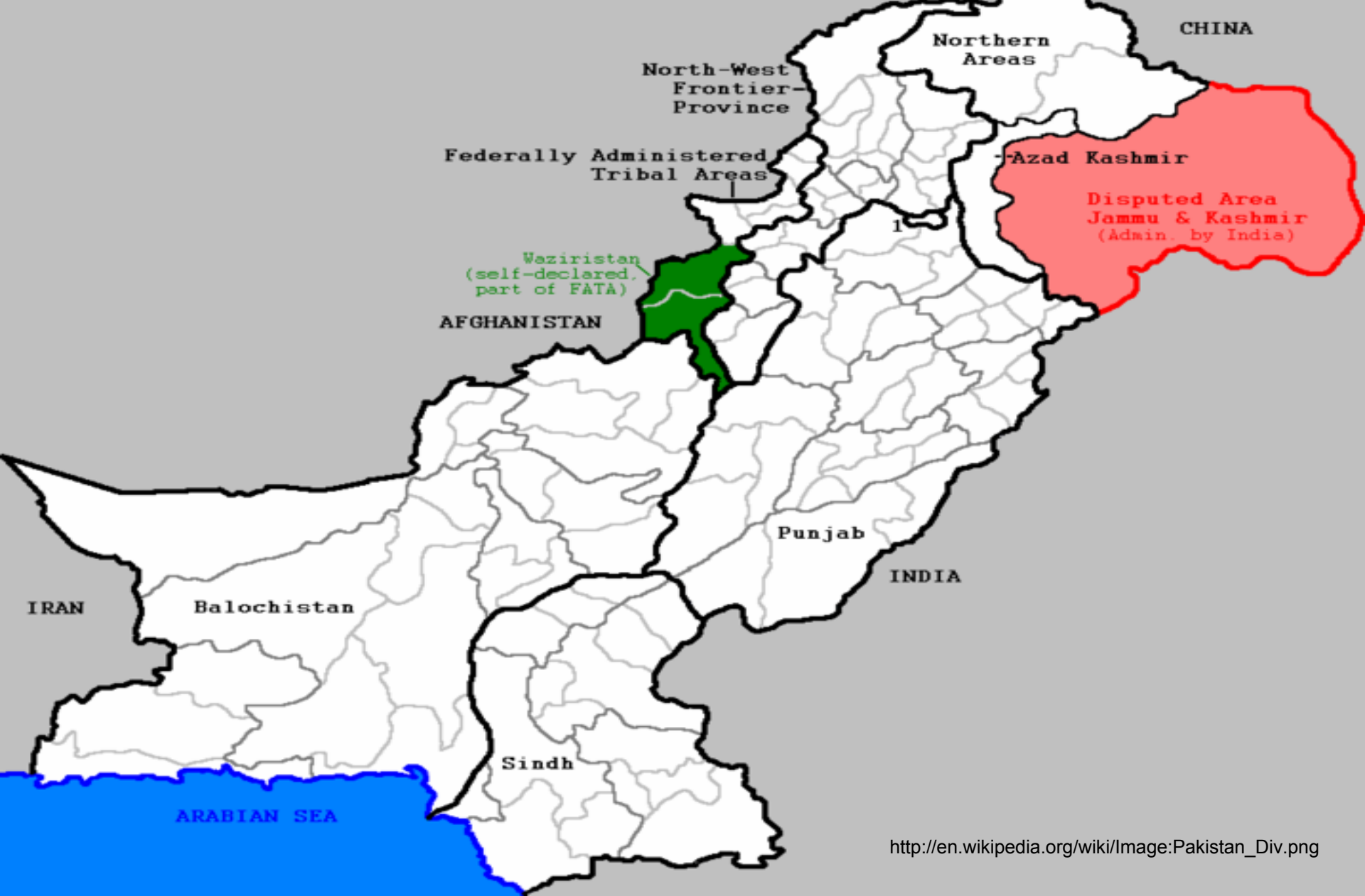
# *The System of Education in Pakistan*

*Zarene R. Malik*

*Senior  
Educational  
Advisor*

*USEF Pakistan*











# **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.



## **TO MOVE FORWARD**

Students in Pakistan have always preferred the US above any other country pre 9/11.

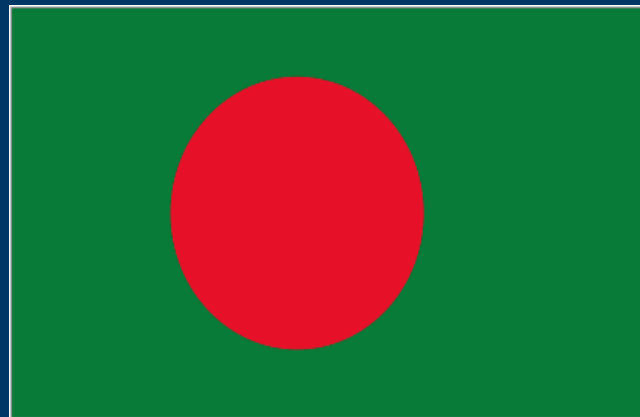


## **TO MOVE FORWARD contd.**

- 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

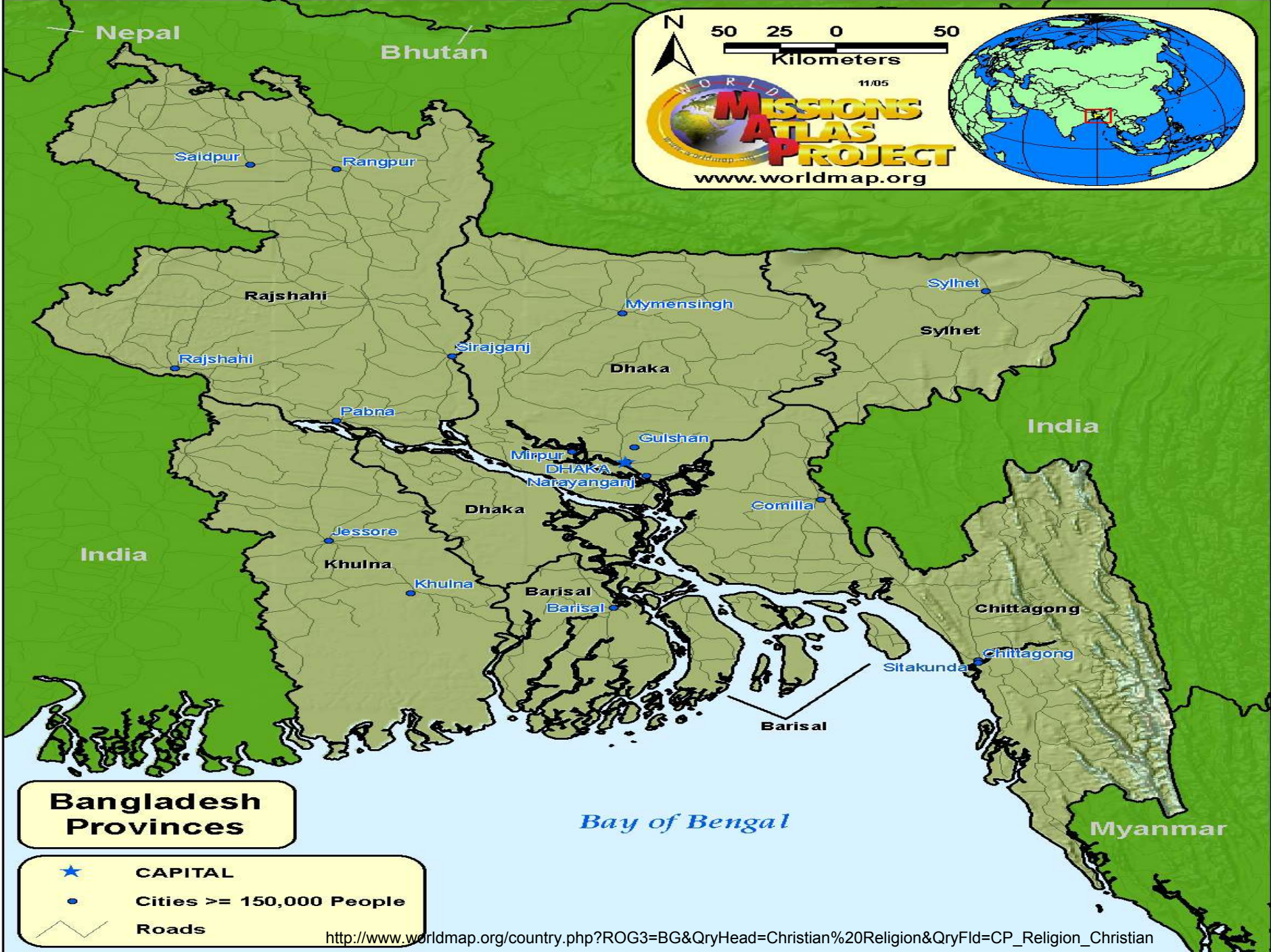
July to June (higher secondary)

Medium of Instruction:

Bangla / Bengali and English

Compulsory Schooling:

5 years



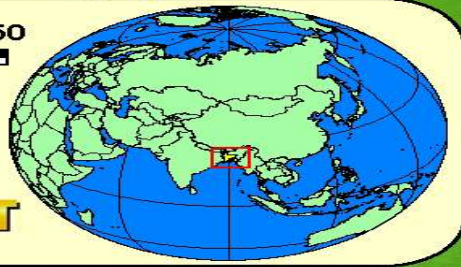
Nepal

Bhutan



50 25 0 50  
Kilometers

11/05  
**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT**  
www.worldmap.org



Saidpur Rangpur

Rajshahi

Rajshahi

Pabna

Sirajganj

Dhaka

Mymensingh

Sylhet

Sylhet

India

India

Jessore

Khulna

Khulna

Dhaka

Barisal

Barisal

Gulshan

Mirpur

DHAKA

Narayanganj

Comilla

Chittagong

Chittagong

Sitakunda

Barisal

Bay of Bengal

Myanmar

**Bangladesh Provinces**

- ★ CAPITAL
- Cities >= 150,000 People
- ⚡ Roads



## 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

*Making sense of international credentials*

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# Academic Records & Educational Features of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Credentials Evaluation Service



## 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)

### Examination Info

Name of the Board  
Logo of the Board  
Name of Examination  
Group:  
    Humanities/Science/  
    Commerce  
Name of Institution  
Certificate/Serial #

### Candidate Info

Registration/Roll/Seat #  
Name of Student  
Identity: Daughter/Son of  
DOB

### Examination Result

Date of Examination  
Passed/Held  
Subjects taken for the  
Examination  
Marks Obtained  
Division  
Grading Scale  
Signature of Examination  
Authority  
Location and Date of Issued

FEATURES/COUNTRY	INDIA				PAKISTAN				BANGLADESH			
	10 <sup>th</sup>		12 <sup>th</sup>		10 <sup>th</sup>		12 <sup>th</sup>		10 <sup>th</sup>		12 <sup>th</sup>	
	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	M	C	M
<b>Examination Information</b>												
Name of the Board	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Logo of the Board	O	+	O	+	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X
Name of the Examination passed	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Group: Humanities/Science	X	X	+	+	X	X	+	+	X	X	+	+
Name of Institution	+	O	+	X	+	O	+	O	+	+	+	+
Certificate/Serial #	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
<b>Candidate Information</b>												
Registration/Roll/Seat #	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Name of Student	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Identity: Daughter/Son of	+	X	+	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
DOB	+	X	+	X	+	X	+	X	+	X	+	X
<b>Examination Result Information</b>												
Date of Examination Passed/Held	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Subjects taken for the Examination	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	X	O	X	O
Marks Info	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	X	O	X	O
Division	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Grading Scale	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	X	O	X	O
Signature of Examination Authority	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Location and Date of Issued	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

C = Examination Certificate  
O = Feature exists

+ = Feature may or may not exist

M = Mark Sheet  
X = Feature does not exist

# REQUIRED SUBJECTS

SUBJECT/COUNTRY	INDIA		PAKISTAN		BANGLADESH	
	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>External Assessments:</b>						
<b>First Language (English)</b>	C	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Second Language (Regional Language): Hindi/Urdu/Bengali</b>	C	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Mathematics</b>	C	+	C	+	C	+
<b>Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) with Practice</b>	C					
Physics			+			
Chemistry			+			
Biology			+			
<b>Social Science: History, Civics and Geography</b>	C					
History						
Civics						
Geography						
<b>Islamic Education (Islamiyat)/Pakistan Studies</b>			C	C		
<b>Religion</b>					C	
<b>Internal Assessments:</b> Pre-Vocational Education; Work Education; Art Education; Physical and Health Education; Art, Commerce, Music, Home Science, IT, Painting...	C	C	C	C		

C = Compulsory Subjects + Most Frequently Taken Electives



## Grading Scale (External Assessment)

### India, Pakistan & Bangladesh

60	-	100%	First Class
45	-	59%	Second Class
33	-	44%	Third Class
0	-	32%	Fail

### United States

A	=	4.00
B	=	3.00
C	=	2.00
F	=	0.00



## **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

1. Official Records: Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education issued Mark Sheet and Certificate
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

1. Official Records: Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education issued Mark Sheet and Certificate
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:

Ministry of Education <http://www.moedu.gov.bd/>

Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education

<http://www.dshe.gov.bd/>

### India:

Ministry of Human Resource Development

<http://www.education.nic.in/>

Department of School Education and Literacy

<http://education.nic.in/secedu/secondary.htm>

### Pakistan:

Ministry of Education [www.pak.gov.pk](http://www.pak.gov.pk)