India Studies  
Sponsors  
Children’s  
Photo Exhibit

The traveling exhibit, “Through Children’s Eyes: A Photography Exhibit of India” has completed two successful showings, with several more planned for the spring and summer semesters.

Conceived and implemented by co-curators Deeksha Nagar (IUB Folklore doctoral student), and Kathleen Connors (IUB Arts Education student and Special Projects manager for the Indiana Network), the exhibit features over 100 photos taken by Indian children between the ages of eight and 18.

Nagar supervised their work with disposable cameras during a summer of fieldwork in India. She then encouraged the children to write text explaining their photos and choice of subject matter, which she translated during the spring semester of 1998.

Most of the participants had never held a camera, and many had never had a creative assignment of a personal nature that offered complete freedom of subject and commentary.

The result is 106 photographs and remarks from 50 children of various socio-economic backgrounds on a wide range of topics. Connors commented, “The photos are exceptionally good in composition and in quality, and the accompanying text reveals uncommon wisdom and eloquence for children so young.”

“Although I have extensive background in youth and international programming, I have found this exhibit to be among the more stunning tools for multicultural understanding I’ve encountered,” she continued.

The first showing of the photos was at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum as a collaborative event with the “King of the World” exhibit. Please see Exhibit, next page.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

The photos shown here are featured in the traveling exhibit, “Through Children’s Eyes: A Photography Exhibit.” The captions that accompany the photographs were written by the children who took the pictures.

What is it that a laborer does not do for us? He constructs homes, roads, hospitals, and schools for us. Furthermore, in order to satiate his hunger, he toils in the burning heat of summer, labors in the cold to bring all of these things in the worst time of winter. If laborers were not there then human beings wouldn’t have a place to live and shelter to sleep. But it is worth thinking about that these laborers who build houses for us don’t have a place to live, decent clothes to wear and food to eat. Isn’t it our duty to do something about this?

– Rehana, age 11

This picture illustrates friendship amongst Indian children. In spite of the difference between their religion and class, they share immense love amongst themselves. Friendship is a priceless treasure that cannot be compared with anything else in the world. A friend’s love is pure and self-less. A friend is like a mirror in whom we can see the reflection of our good and bad qualities. A person without a best friend is like a boat without a shore. I took this picture during the lunch break in my classroom. I like this picture because it presents the idea of friendship in a most lively and natural way.

– Shabana, age 15
IUSB Opening Global Education Center

Establishing a worldview for education is the drive behind Indiana University South Bend’s Center for Global Education, which is scheduled to open this semester. Assistant Professor of Education John McEneaney will serve as director. He has participated in global education at both IUSB and Ryazan State Pedagogical University in Ryazan, Russia.

“One of the prime objectives of the Center is to make IUSB a national and international center to develop information and curriculum,” said McEneaney. “There are a lot of reasons why IUSB is an ideal place for this. Most of the world is more like South Bend—not global. To get past the hump it’s going to take an institution to lead the charge.”

The center will begin by establishing electronic connections to allow IUSB students to communicate with students at Ryazan State. It will be offered as part of a graduate level global education seminar. In the future McEneaney hopes the program expands to offer more avenues of global education.

“We hope to have faculty and student exchanges, international conferences, and new courses that will lead to new degrees and programs,” he said.

McEneaney will enlist the services of Fulbright Scholar Alexander Kruger to help open the center. Kruger will be visiting associate professor at IUSB beginning in late February. He is currently an associate professor of information technology at the International Institute of Labor and Social Relations at the University of Minsk, Belarus. Kruger has a background in economics and mathematics modeling as well as computer programming and software design.

“Dr. Kruger might not identify himself as a global educator, but I view global education as connected to everything we do here at the university, as well as in K-12,” McEneaney said. “I see it as something similar to international programs.”

Kruger was educated at Belarusian State University in Minsk, Belarus. His research topics include nonlinear analysis and optimization, and he has published several articles on mathematics and related topics. He will teach and conduct research at IUSB until June. Kruger will be examining the use of technology in teaching, which McEneaney considers a cornerstone of global education.

“The U.S. is the place where the envelope gets pushed,” McEneaney said. “(Kruger) sees this as an opportunity to see what’s implemented and get a sense for where it’s headed.

“In Russia—and the newly independent states—they are always much more aware of their need to be a part of the global community,” he added. “America doesn’t think too much about it because we’re used to it.”

– John McEneaney
Assistant Professor of Education, IUSB

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“Through Children’s Eyes” will continue its travel during the spring as it visits Indiana State University, the University of Indianapolis, Depauw University, and Purdue University, finally returning to IUB in the summer for a display during the International Summer Study Institute for students and teachers from a variety of countries and U.S. locales.

– Elizabeth Jasper
India Studies