



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Finding the Past in India's Present **Name:** Kerri Murphy
Other Team Members:
Program: NYC - Asia Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** India
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: India is timeless. Around every corner there are scenes that transport a visitor to a different era and then back again. Walking down the chaotic streets of Delhi where cars, rickshaws, bicycles, pedestrians, horse pulled carts, and sacred cows fight for space one is struck by the juxtaposition of the old and the new. On one street corner there is a man pressing a stack of shirts with an antique iron heated by bricks and on the next corner there is a computer repair center. This summer I traveled to India in search of connections between its past and the present in an effort to strengthen my curriculum development as a teacher of global history. During the first part of my journey I traveled around the northern plains visiting significant sites of world history. My eyes were blown wide open by a stop in the holy city of Varanasi on the banks of the Ganges River. I was able to witness the sacred Hindu rituals that have been performed where I stood for thousands of years and see that those same rituals continue to order life for millions of people. Touring the north I was also struck with awe while visiting the iconic architectural treasures of India's golden past. Standing in the courtyards of the Red Fort in Delhi, at the foot of the Taj Mahal in Agra, or climbing through the ruins of the citadel in Orchha I was transported to another world and began to contemplate what drives these monumental achievements of architecture. On the next leg of my journey I traveled down south to Tamil Nadu where I worked with rural schools. Upon arriving in the south I felt as though I had landed in another country it was at this moment the true diversity of the subcontinent hit me. As I worked alongside Indian teachers and lived with a local family I gained greater insight into everyday life in rural India. The family I stayed with was very eager to share their experience and wanted to know all about me as well. Interacting candidly with locals brought about an understanding of how essential it is to be able to recognize the experience of others in our world in order to better comprehend the way the world works.

The last leg of my journey I spent in the Himalayan region of Ladakh where I toured the Marhka Valley and visited Buddhist monasteries that dot the hillsides. The political boundaries here have seemingly no influence on the national identities that form and as I hiked the hillsides I questioned how important national identities have become and why.

Career Impact: *Provided a deeper understanding of how the past has shaped our world
*Practiced finding connections between the NYS global history curriculum and contemporary society
*Gained a deeper sense of the experience of people worlds away from my everyday reality
*Developed and delivered a teacher workshop based on my classroom observations
*Fostered curiosity and wonderment of our diverse world

Classroom/Community Impact:* Deeper understanding of how the past has shaped our world has lead to the development of new curriculum based on understanding of how historical forces have shaped our world
*Practice identifying connections between the global history curriculum and contemporary society has lead to more frequent opportunities to discuss and analyze current events
* Greater sense of the experience of others in our world has inspired me to try and place students in another world as we study various cultures across time
* Development of a teacher workshop has helped me in leading teams of teachers in development of engaging and rigorous curriculum
* Curiosity and interest in the world has renewed the energy in the classroom and inspired development of a student research curriculum

Open Response: *Creation of a bulletin board at school detailing student and faculty trips around the world
*Currently teaching a student research and review unit, "Discovering Our World."
*Establishing a connection between the rural schools in Tamil Nadu and my students in New York City
*Incorporating the first hand experiences in India into previously taught curriculum on this region

Quote: Interacting candidly with locals brought about an understanding of how essential it is to be able to recognize the experience of others in our world in order to better comprehend the way the world works.

Photos:



Students at school



A dip in the Ganges



Presenting student of the week at school



View from a temple over looking the southern plains



In a hillside monastery in Ladakh



In front of an architectural wonder



Humayun's Tomb in Delhi



In the Himalayas