

Global Encounter-India Gender, Poverty and Social Inequalities- Making A Difference

Individual Written Responses to Questions Related to the Topic

Procedure used to generate this document:

This document represents the summary of responses individuals wrote to questions related to their self-selected area of interest/expertise within these topic areas (Education; Environment; Food Systems and Agribusiness; Gender, Poverty and Social Inequalities; Health; and Technology and Economic Development). All responses received are included and are typed verbatim with some explanation of acronyms. There is no significance in the ordering of the topics or comments as presented in this report.

A. What are your current or future focused areas of teaching, research and/or outreach related to India?

1.
 - My work focuses on gender politics, women's mobilization and gendered conflict. I am in the process of setting up a study abroad program in South Asia using Chennai, India as our base.

2.
 - Women in developing countries
 - sharp focus on India
 - Main themes in India:
 - state
 - religion
 - gender
 - Women and politics in India
 - India's gender reservation policy on women's emerging political leadership at grassroots in India
 - Feminisms

3.
 - Working toward taking teachers, K-12, to India to experience teaching in a challenging cultural arena
 - Through the MSU Museum trying to get an exhibit on Weddings (Monsoon and otherwise)

4. ●Working with displaced women and children, particularly girls around the age of 12 that cannot be at home or with their community and that often will not be accepted at orphanages
5. ●No real current areas. Interested in getting more information to share with students on opportunities in India.
 - Also possible development of service learning opportunities in India
 - Possible study abroad (EAD 315) on leadership in India
6. ●I continue to study gender issues.
7. ●Poverty reduction
 - Intermediary organizations
 - Grass roots organizations
 - Community development
8. ●Multidisciplinary studies- integrative study of social issues and environmental/natural resources
 - Women's studies
 - NGO Management
9. ●Socio-legal issues in India
 - Social inequalities
 - Globalization
 - Ethnic and minority relations
 - The sociology of religion in India
10. ●My interest is as a volunteer who helps international students arrive, get settled and wade through problems while at MSU.
 - Awareness
 - Support
11. ●Interests are to support faculty research in the areas of international development focused on:
 - globalization and engagement in the global economy
 - economic and social rights
 - environmental challenges for increased industrialization or use of natural resources
 - increased economic growth but without increase in human development indicators or increased income and how to mitigate these

B. What resources (existing at MSU or working in collaboration with MSU) should be considered as the University moves forward on any and all work related to India?

1. ●I don't understand this question unless you mean what human resources are important/relevant at MSU.
2. ●Establish sister relations with important institutions involved in women's studies in New Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, and Madras.
●Contact ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations – Government of India, through Indian Embassy) to secure funds for students studying in India for 2-3 months.
3. ●Looking at interests of cities and governmental units in Michigan to collaborate with
4. ●Continue study abroad and internship opportunities for MSU students.
●Encouraging American-born Indian students to study, work and volunteer in India; ex., speak at a Coalition of Indian Undergraduate Students (CIUS) meeting. Make them aware of the opportunities MSU provides.
●Continue working with the MSU alumni in India
5. ●Service Learning Center
●Habitat for Humanity (with Building Construction Management)
6. ●I would like more association and affiliation with women's resource centers in India.
●More visibility of materials (related to Indian women) in the library and Women's Studies programs
7. ●India Council
●India Club
●Families of international students from India as key contacts in India
8. ●People
●Must cut across disciplines and involve multiple partners (at MSU, get Administration approval, too).
●Must focus on intended long term change in India and here.
●Must stretch boundaries of knowledge/science.
9. ●People with academic expertise on different aspects of India, many of them in the community

10.
 - OISS
 - ISP
 - Communication-technical resources- internet/computing
 - Hospitality, response to and welcome of cultural differences and needs
11.
 - For any agricultural or technology efforts, to ensure this transfer includes the input of the community, small farmers, etc. so social scientists should be involved
 - sociologists and anthropologists, economists, etc.

C. What are the top three to five things that MSU should be doing in regards to this theme/area of concern in India over the next five to ten years? How would we know that we had been successful?

1.
 - I'm not entirely sure. That's why I'm here today. But I would think that we should be promoting research and teaching exchanges/cooperation with universities and think tanks in South Asia with India as our central 'node'. I would also hope that we could expand opportunities for students, especially undergraduates, to gain exposure to India through on-campus coursework, visiting scholars, study abroad opportunities and internships.
2.
 - Evaluate:
 - Number of program and research projects in the USA and MSU relating to India.
 - The effects of programs and research projects that are produced by faculty and students at MSU.
 - The number of collaborative research projects developed by MSU and Indian institutions.
 - Number of students and faculty involved going to India, evaluate the quality of their work
 - Identify private and governmental resources for the program
3.
 - Our extension services should collaborate with NGOs abroad.
 - Set up a base (office) in India.
 - Collaborate with alumni in India.
 - Use technology for virtual classes in India.
 - Assist community here with technical support for ventures abroad.
 - Show case project- connecting educational institutions, NGOs.
4.
 - Build strong connections/relationships with MSU alumni in India- before they leave MSU, then continue once they return.
 - Encourage departments to encourage staff/faculty students to pursue their interest in working in India or on related issues.

- Keep faculty/staff/students informed of opportunities to work on these issues (i.e. such as this conference.)
5.
 - More opportunities for cultural exchange and learning
 - Service learning opportunities in India
 - Environmental issues
 - A gender studies study abroad class
 - Increase the number of MSU students/staff/faculty going to India
 6.
 - Educate our students about UN programs, NGOs and such.
 - I would suggest a larger international component in freshman courses, e.g. Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures (WRAC) so they start with understanding of geography, culture, religion on a comparative basis. This works to teach writing. In other words, expand the international perspective of American undergraduates – work from the ground up.
 - Schedule more cultural interactions between students from other lands and the locals.
 - The foreign students learn about one another’s cultures through international festivals and such. How do we get Americans to participate and be involved?
 7.
 - More cross cultural course work on poverty reduction strategies
 - Outreach to intermediary organizations involved in community development, poverty reduction and self-help community projects and small-scale entrepreneurial start-up projects
 8.
 - Keep network among people working in specific topics across India and US
 - list serves
 - linkages: Websites, etc.
 - Focus on 2-3 subtopics (i.e. gender, environment, microfinance, sustainable economic development, affirmative action.
 - serve as scholarly gathering point
 - identify research opportunities, internships, and course components
 - Success:
 - access to and ability to synthesize strategies/success of initiatives in the field
 - scholarly expansion/quality
 - best practices identified – shared – verified
 - cultural undercurrents examined
 9.
 - Collaborate with legal scholars and the Justice system in India to conduct studies for strengthening India’s judiciary.
 - Organize programs for training judicial officers, lawyers, NGO activists, and human rights workers so that they can work more efficiently.
 - Arrange the exchange of students (Indian and American) in the various fields in the social sciences.

10.
 - MSU must be a great example in all the ways it functions- must walk the talk both on our East Lansing campus and in its dealings in-country.
 - MSU must avoid self-righteous paternalism in communications with people of India-this would just shut off communications.
 - Studies of these social/economic issues (gender, poverty, and social inequalities) need to include awareness of full cultural/economic context.
 - Include some type of international/cultural study as a requirement in all majors.
11.
 - Not sure - coming from the social science perspective there could be research on:
 - globalization, engagement in the global economy of India
 - the state of economic and social rights with Foreign Direct Investment, etc.
 - effect of economic growth on Human Development Index (HDIs)/small holders, etc.

D. Additional Comments

1.
 - Didn't we answer these questions at Global Encounter in the spring? It might be useful to re-circulate the outcomes relevant to India to this group.
2. ****NO RESPONSE****
3. ****NO RESPONSE****
4. ****NO RESPONSE****
5. ****NO RESPONSE****
6.
 - For the education of MSU students here, consider an international component of lower level university courses.
7.
 - I teach a special topics course (SSE 490) Strategies for Global Poverty Reduction (but with a small enrollment.)
8.
 - We have common interests with many groups in India but no way to get more than bilateral dialog- this is a challenge.
 - Let's start with a key collaborative effort then let it grow.
9. ****NO RESPONSE****
10. ****NO RESPONSE****
11. ****NO RESPONSE****

This material was generated from Global Encounter-India, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/india>>, held at Michigan State University on September 22, 2006. This interactive and participatory event was designed to obtain input and to elaborate in a country-specific forum on relevant themes, opportunities, issues, and opportunities affecting MSU's current and future engagement in India and to a lesser degree southeast Asia.