



This experience has put primary learning tools into the hands of students and engaged them in learning about the world beyond the borders thereby creating first contact between two different communities engaging in knowledge sharing and international exposure. Moreover this has surely made the children more globally and culturally aware as the children now know a great deal about Bengali and American Culture. This Exchange has not only enhanced the knowledge of the student about diverse cultures and society but also enabled them to view how they are different and yet same from their peers abroad.

Mr. Joseph Dunn, a 7th grade Social Studies teacher in Wichita Kansas was coordinating this project with the Bangladeshi schools.

As the world continues to shrink, the need for collaborative, cultural education is becoming imperative to enhance knowledge sharing. There remains a significant level of uncertainty concerning globalization and its impact due to the lack of diversity and international experiences in Bangladesh. Global Connections and Exchange program (www.connect-bangladesh.org) aims to bridge this gap by connecting the rural and urban school children of Bangladesh to the rest of the world using modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The initiative has got a new momentum with the rapid expansion of Internet connectivity even to the remotest areas in Bangladesh. The ECA supported program runs high quality training and capacity building in technology, in the educational context, the utilization of ICT for civic education, strong community involvement and a focus on girls in secondary schools and madrasas in Bangladesh. The project is now operating in 51 Internet enabled computer centers in rural and urban schools in 21 districts across Bangladesh. Each center is equipped with 5-10 computers, wireless Internet connectivity, digital and web camera, printer, scanner and different other accessories.

The Students Box Exchange project aims to expand in the coming months with the launch of RI-SOL's new initiative 'Alliance for 21st Century Skills" which will facilitate societal transformation and economic development by equipping the growing Bangladeshi youth and adult workforce with 21st century skills so that it is ready to compete in the global economy.

