

for Report

## Bangladeshi students engage globally through learning centres

Nearly 100,000 children in Bangladesh use computers and Internet technology to communicate with one another and their teachers, even though few of their families have computers, says a survey report from Washington, reports UNB.

In other places, students too young to write are using the Internet to make drawings to learn about one another.

Bangladeshi students using blogs, writing essays and posting videos at 27 Internet telecenters throughout the country—participate in international and interregional projects on climate change, folk stories, journalism, fashion, community service, the environment and Ramadan.

They also create Web pages, use computers to draw, paint, and compose and record music, participate in online conferences, and write e-mails to students throughout the world.

The telecenters are operated by the Bangladesh Global Connections and Exchange Project, informally known as Global Connections in Bangladesh, a project of Relief International—Schools Online, a non-governmental organization (NGO) in California.

The project is funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Global Catalyst Foundation.

The centers and computers in classrooms make it possible for children to collaborate globally to

learn about their communities and the world," says a release on the findings issued by the American Center in Dhaka Thursday.

Even very young children can benefit from Internet technology, said Andrea Hernandez, technology coordinator at the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School in Jacksonville, Florida.

Students as young as 5 are participating in the widely popular international Kids [h@nd in h@nd](#) project, in which children in classrooms around the world use the Kids [h@nd in h@nd](#) Web site to draw faces to express feelings they can share with others who speak a different language.

"The program is a really simple way of showing that we might think we are so far apart but we all have the same repertoire of feelings and that we can show what we're feeling on our face," Hernandez told USINFO.

Global Connections in Bangladesh, based in Dhaka, and Kids [h@nd in h@nd](#), developed by a schoolteacher in Belgium, are winners in the Global Junior Challenge 2007, an international competition recognizing best

practices in the use of new technologies in education. The competition, sponsored by the Italian NGO Digital World Foundation, attracted 600 projects from 80 categories. The winners were announced in October.

Additional information about the Bangladesh Global Connections and Exchange Project (<http://www.connect-bangladesh.org/>) and Kids [h@nd in h@nd](#) (<http://www.sip.be/stamand/feelings/kidshandinhand.htm>) can be found on the projects' Web sites.