

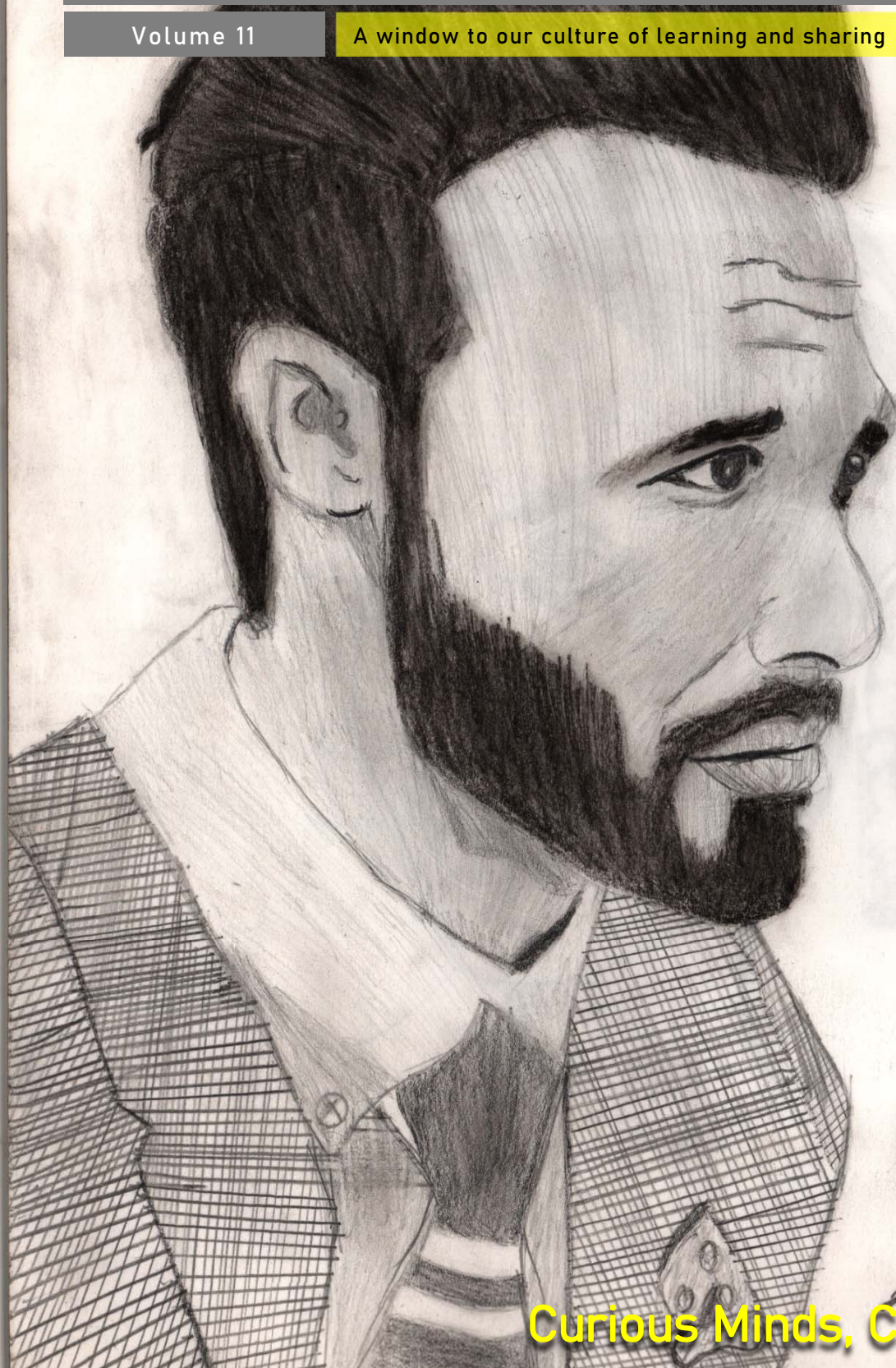
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DARUSHIFA CAMPUS EDITION

Volume 11

A window to our culture of learning and sharing

May 2020



Curious Minds, Caring Hearts!

Zainab Taiyebi
HS Coordinator
For being Caring and best in
service to others



Mir Shujath Ali
Teacher of Urdu
For being a Thinker who
uses best teaching practices



Syed Murtuza Hussain
Teacher of Mathematics
For being a Thinker who
uses best teaching practices



Somana Fatima
Teacher of Social Studies
For being Caring and best in
service to others



From Leaders' Desk

Star Teachers

By Minhaj Arastu, Principal

Each year, we recognise staff members who exemplify qualities of the IB Learner Profile. Almost 80 staff members received prizes for being Inquirers, Reflective, and Principled, among other traits. We are grateful for the efforts of all our teaching and non-teaching staff who have persevered in this extraordinary year.

For two traits, we asked parents, students, and colleagues to choose staff members that have impacted them the most. Congratulations to the following staff members for being Caring and Thinkers.

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Mitigating the Learning Loss

Our plan to counter the silent pandemic that hit our children

by Mustafa Zaidi, VP & MYPC, Focus High School

Schools were shut down. Public exams were cancelled. Students were promoted to the next academic level without understanding how many academic milestones they actually missed. Remote learning exposed the digital divide. A child was confined to a screen within the four walls without meaningful social and physical activity. And all this happened on a global scale. So, the loss of learning was a *parallel silent* pandemic that hit our children. 320 million learners in India alone have been affected by the COVID-induced learning loss.¹ And we couldn't do much about it.

What are the damages involved? How can we mitigate the loss? Can we solve this together as stakeholders?

The implications of learning loss

"Learning loss refers to any specific or general loss of knowledge and skills or to reversals in academic progress, most commonly due to extended gaps or discontinuities in a student's education".² The Counselling Department at our school confirmed huge gaps in literacy and numeracy in students who did not participate in remote learning for more than 6 months.

A World Bank study indicates that South Asian children of 2020 batch will be poorer by an average \$5,813 ≈ Rs 4,23,828 by the time they are through their work life (*pessimistic scenario considered for 7 months of school closure*)³.

Loss of learning will translate into loss of earning potential in the near future of our children. Following are the key findings from a study undertaken in January 2021 by Azim Premji University, based on 16067 children in 1137 public schools in 44 districts across 5 states:⁴

Learning loss in language

- 92% of children on an average have lost at least one specific language ability from the previous year across all classes.
- Illustratively, these specific abilities include describing a picture or their experiences orally; reading familiar words; reading with comprehension; writing simple sentences based on a picture.
- 92% of children in class 2, 89% in class 3, 90% in class 4, 95% in class 5, and 93% in class 6 have lost at least one specific ability from the previous year.

Learning loss in Mathematics

- 82% of children on an average have lost at least one specific mathematical ability from the previous year across all classes.
- Illustratively, these specific abilities include identifying single- and two-digit numbers; performing arithmetic operations; using basic arithmetic operations for solving problems; describing 2D/3D shapes; reading and drawing inferences from data.
- 67% of children in class 2, 76% in class 3, 85% in class 4, 89% in class 5, and 89% in class 6 have lost at least one specific ability from the previous year.

Can we allow our children to be the victims of a popular myth that *it's no big deal if my child didn't attend school for a year or a couple of months*? As parents we can be easily misled into believing that because we lack the tools and the measure to calculate the loss of learning and the devastating impact it will have on the lives of our children. Our choices today will shape their future.

How can we mitigate the learning loss?

At Focus High School, we are prepared for another year of remote learning. The *four* important questions are also our greatest opportunities to innovate in the *new normal*:

- How can we enable *consistent participation* of the students in remote learning?
- How can we reduce the screen time?
- How can we support *individual needs* of students in a remote learning environment?
- How can we support the *emotional, mental and physical well-being* of the students and the staff?

As we pursued these challenges, the *parent-educator partnership* emerged as a catalyst and a key factor that can guarantee the desired outcomes. As equal stakeholders, both parents and educators must work together to guide and support the child moving through an ever-changing maze of self-learning, changing schedules and technology access.

Following are our measures to mitigate the learning loss:

A) Single app for remote learning: Educators, parents and students will now have access to MYP version of **Toddle** that integrates unit related study materials, formative tasks, summative assessments and service projects to generate performance data in asynchronous mode.

B) Google Meet will be used for live remote classes. Attendance in the live sessions will be recorded in Toddle and published on the same day.

C) Educator prepared video lessons will allow students to have access to unit related instruction if they miss it. Families often face a dilemma about which sibling must use the device during a timetable clash. Pre-recorded video lessons can save a student's day.

D) Student Book will be issued to the students by the school for each unit of learning. It will contain:

- Unit related reference material for all the IB subjects
- Practice worksheets
- Written tasks that must be completed in a notebook
- Checklist for completing the unit requirements
- Self-check and practice for academic gaps
- Reading practice for better comprehension
- Vocabulary builder
- Personal organizers
- Handwriting writing prompts in all the languages

E) Consistent Feedback: Teachers will assign online tasks like quizzes, presentations, audio-video responses in Toddle while *written tasks* will have to be completed in the notebooks. With

the purpose of reducing screen time, written tasks will also help the students get back to writing which has been:

- Feedback on assignments posted in Toddle will be provided within 3 days of submission.
- Feedback on written tasks will be provided in the notebooks. Parents will be requested to drop and collect the notebooks at Feedback Counter once in 4 weeks. Timely submissions will be incentivized.

F) Virtual Library: One way of thinking about the Virtual Library is to think of it as a library that you can go to without leaving your home, and anytime you want. The content in MYP Virtual Library, which is aligned with the current unit, offers web resources, videos, interactives and games. It gives students access to a wide range of digital resources.

The product of 20th century education was mostly an explorer and a hasty consumer of science & technology. The product of 21st century education will be an innovator and an aesthetic, sustainable producer of science and technology. Our children will be required to create new landscapes with a diverse set of people working collaboratively in both physical and virtual environments. They will compete with machines and

algorithms designed to learn and think smartly. Under the shadow of this apocalyptic pandemic, a new generation of learners will evolve with a new set of skills - innovation, collaboration and re-organization. All the stakeholders will have to be on the same page to ensure that our children don't give up their curiosity and thirst for knowledge just because the classroom has changed forever. Our courage, not our fears and excuses, will prepare them for the future.

Sources:

1. <https://en.unesco.org/news/promoting-digital-education-equity>
2. <https://www.edglossary.org/learning-loss/>
3. Pedro Azevedo, et al; *Simulating the Potential Impacts of COVID-19 School Closures on Schooling and Learning outcomes*, Education Global Practice June 2020, World Bank Report
4. *Loss of Learning during the Pandemic*, Field Studies in Education, Research Group, Azim Premji Foundation, February 2021
5. Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie, *Improvements ahead: How humans and AI might evolve together in the next decade*, Artificial Intelligence and The Future of Humans, December 10, 2018

Students in Action

The following poems were submitted to a poetry competition conducted by Young Indians organisation. All the three participants wrote on the topic 'Mother'.



By Fathima Jaffer, 10B

Mother is the key to Paradise,
so, you could be away from the chastise.
The easiest way to destroy yourself,
is to show her a bad sign of sigh!
She's the one who owes respect,
for she makes you feel you're perfect,
as she lets you meet with the eternal, infinite light.
When you flow an ocean of tears,
for her to pass away,
Will you not see her with kindness,
before she sways away?
The charm, cheer, bliss, joy and peace are from her,
A house is all abandoned, without her sense of presence.
The cause of a sincere child is the mother,
The cause of an organised, peaceful home is mother.
Feel the warmth of her hug,
let her feed you supper from your mug.
One mother can rear ten sons,
but ten sons can't rear one mother.
She spreads her motto through her offspring,
Through them she proves herself a true being.
Together a mother, daughter, husband, sister and friend,
Makes her all women,
Who is superior to men.



By Shumalyah Ismail Jaffer, 10B

A mortal so mellifluous who inured our flaws,
capable of turning mirks into galad gardens.
Even in the midst of chaos she will be benevolent.
Her aura is filled with felicity and solitude,
while she demures her trepidations to herself
Never is her love incomplete to her ménage,
never has she left her brood's side.
Ignored everyone's misdemeanour,
ignored everyone's fractious behaviour.
Neither berates nor mortifies anyone
Her smile is sufficient to make us smile,
Her love is sufficient to make us happy and prosper.
But the scintilla in her life is never spoken of
As she doesn't want her ménage to worry.
She is the one who gave us life,
and stood by us during our gloomy days.
Respect her love, you little children,
as she devoted hers in the prosperity of yours.
Those soft hands held you close to a mother's heart,
Those eyes bawled for your health,
and those soft light pink lips kissed you when you were asleep.
She will be there until a certain time.
A virago and irenic lady
Because she is a mother and is her to stay with you
until she dies loving you the same.

You gave me love and watched me grow,
 you taught me things; I'd need to know.
 You comforted me and dried my tears,
 you taught me to care, to be understanding,
 I know there were times, I was demanding,
 your wisdom and strength, guided me through,
 without your love, I don't know what I'd do,
 that constant faith that you have in me,
 has given me wings and set me free.
 Thank you so much, for just being you,
 you are the best, which you know is true.



Aayat Fatima, 9B



Solo Survivors

By Sumbul, 10 B

I say birds who fly solo have killer wings,
 flying up so high filled with the fuel of ambition.
 Indeed, they fly high with the bravest sturdy wings.
 Each time you want to go up,
 they make you feel like a hopeless failure.
 Endeavouring to pull you down,
 perhaps the world is filled with guile or worse?
 But let nobody break you,
 ye are solo survivors,
 stronger than your demons.
 Self-resilience is all you've ever known.

Love Yourself

Most of us attribute success to good looks and stardom and successful people are movie stars, singers, and sports personnel. Don't get me wrong here, they definitely are successful, but are we idolising them for the right reasons?

We are most often than not influenced by people for the way they look and clothes they wear. And most of us try and emulate those attributes only. We all want to look, walk and talk like them. By doing this we are forgetting who we really are.

But that is the question: "Who am I?"
 Take time to discover yourself, find out what you want from life and create pathways to achieve them. Love yourself and not try to be an illusion of someone else. Be comfortable with what you are. And that will be your first step towards becoming successful.



By Khatija Fatima, 9A

Reflection



It is scary to venture into something new and uncertain. This year has been exactly that. With COVID taking over the world, we had not much choice but to stay home and attend online classes. I am here to share my learning experiences during the pandemic. Some of them might just inspire you.

When online classes started, I was apprehensive since I was not good at operating computers. So, I was not sure

how I was going to complete assignments or even attend online classes. I am usually nervous about changes. For me, the biggest fear was would I be able to study well online. There were a lot of questions that I had like: "How am I going to do this?"; "Will I be able to interact with my teacher?" and many more. I am sure many students must have thought the same, but we all learned and changed.

I overcame all the negative thoughts and tried to be more optimistic as the days went by. My interaction with teachers was very satisfactory. I started

giving inputs and sharing thoughts with the teacher during lessons. I was surprised to see that this is who I am.

Though online classes can be harmful and affect our health, we should still strive to make ourselves independent learners. How did I become an independent learner? The thought that helped me was, "*Never be afraid of anything and be confident about yourself*". I became independent of my teachers and parents through their encouragement, and I thank them for that.

By Marzia Fatima, 6A



خدا کی قدرت

کلثوم فاطمہ، جماعت ہشتم بی

ہر چیز کا کوئی بنانے والا ہے اور ہمیں اور یہ ساری کائنات کا بنانے والا خدا ہے۔ وہ ہر چیز پر قدرت رکھتا ہے۔ وہ بڑا رحمان و رحیم ہے۔ وہ ایک ہے اور وہ ہمیشہ سے ہے اور ہمیشہ رہنے والا ہے۔ وہی ہے جو سب کو رزق عطا کرتا ہے۔ اسی نے ہمیں نعمتوں سے نوازا ہے۔ ہمارے مسائل کا حل صرف خدا کے پاس ہے۔ کتنا عظیم ہے خدا جس نے اتنی خوبصورت دنیا بنائی۔

اس نے ہمیں ہر چیز دی، ماں، باپ جیسی عظیم نعمت دی۔ خدا کی نعمتیں بے شمار ہیں جیسے ہم تارے نہیں گن سکتے ویسے ہی ہم خدا کی نعمتوں کا شمار نہیں کر سکتے۔ اس کی عبادت کرنا ہی اس کا شکر بجالانا ہے۔ اس نے انسان کو اشرف المخلوقات قرار دیا ہے۔ اور وہ اپنے بندوں سے ستر ماں سے زیادہ محبت کرتا ہے۔ اس نے ہر چیز کو مٹی سے بنایا ہے۔ خدا کی شان ہی الگ ہے کہ چڑیا بھی اس کے نغمے گاتی ہے۔ خدا کے تئیں میں جو کچھ بھی کہوں وہ کم ہے۔ ہمیشہ خدا کی حمد کرو اور اس کا شکر بجالاؤ۔



Zahra Taivebi, 8B



تعلیم کی اہمیت

محمد منیب، جماعت نہم اے

اس دور میں سب لوگ الحمد للہ اسکول یا مدرسہ میں تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں اور میں اس شہر کے جانے مانے "فوکس اسکول" میں تعلیم حاصل کرتا ہوں اور یہاں کے اساتذہ بہت قابل اور نہایت ہی محنتی ہیں۔ تعلیم ہمارے زندگی میں بہت اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہے۔ اگر کوئی کسی کو کھانا کھلاتا ہے تو اسے تھوڑی دیر بھوک نہیں لگے گی، اگر کوئی انسان کسی کو پیسہ دیتا ہے تو وہ تھوڑے ہی دن میں خرچ ہو جاتے ہیں، اور اگر کوئی شخص کو اچھی تعلیم دی جائے تو اسکے پاس ہمیشہ محفوظ رہ جاتی ہے۔ تعلیم ایک ایسی چیز ہے جو نہ خرچ ہونے سے کم ہوتی ہے ناکبھی چھینی جاسکتی ہے اور یہ صرف ایک اچھے استاد کی وجہ سے ہوتا ہے۔



Art Gallery



Zehra Fatima, 6A



Raza Hussain, 6A



Khadija, 10A



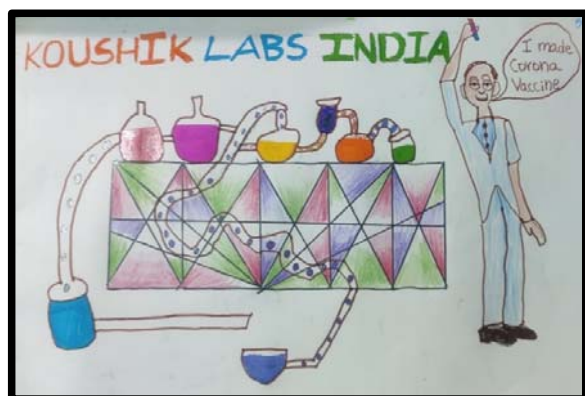
Samiya Fatima, 9A



Kausar Fatima, 8A



Kulsoom Fatima, 8B



Koushik, 7B



Zahra Taiyebi, 8B



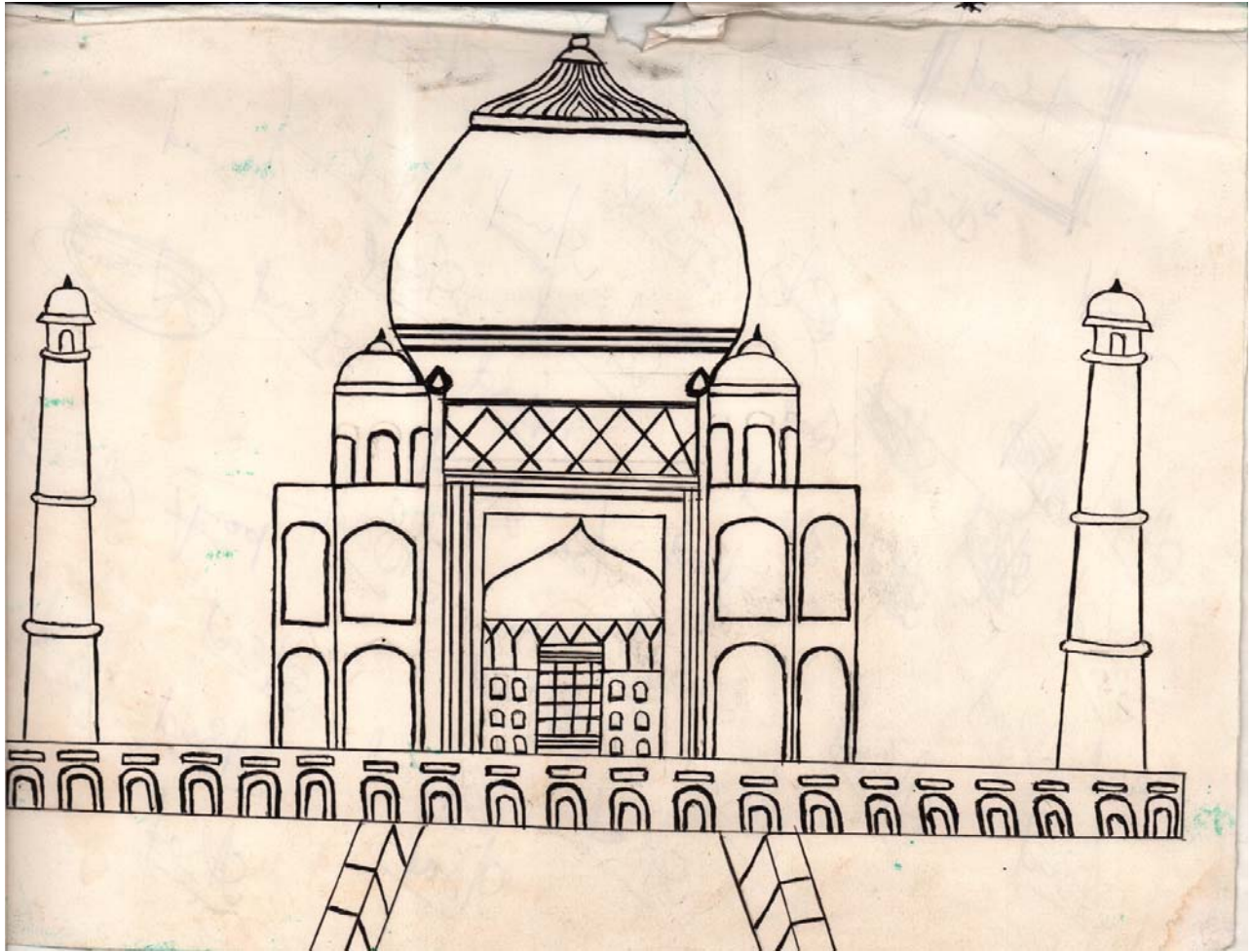
Samiya Fatima, 9A



Shireen Fatima, 7A



Burhanuddin Taiyebi, 7B



Mirza Asad Ali, 8A

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

- Mahatma Gandhi



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