Project Background
The GHI team spent 7 weeks at BLDE University in Bijapur, Karnataka, India assisting with a follow-up survey on globalization and emerging adolescent obesity. India, like many other developing countries, has been experiencing a rise in overweight and obesity prevalence even while undernutrition still persists.

In addition to the follow-up survey, the team implemented their own projects to support conclusions drawn from the larger survey data.

Objectives
1. Conduct follow-up (Wave 2) survey to the Wave 1 survey conducted in Spring 2012
2. Implement new data collection modules
3. Community outreach
4. Local research capacity building

Data Collection: New Modules
Alex Tran used GIS to map food outlets and adolescents’ homes to see if there is a relationship between adolescent weight status and food accessibility.

Sue Gloor assessed nutrition knowledge among adolescents and created an educational toolkit on nutrition and physical activity for use in Bijapur’s schools. She also pilot-tested two data collection instruments for use with grandmothers.

Amanda Maxfield used anthropological methods to explore the sociocultural values that adolescents attribute to foods eaten at home versus foods eaten away from home.

Sara Thorpe used “photovoice” to explore food values by distributing one-time-use cameras to students and asking them to take pictures of foods and activities common around their homes.

Jamie Ports surveyed physicians to understand how their practice is being affected by changes in adolescents’ weight, and to gain their perspectives on why such changes may be occurring.

Preliminary Findings
1. There is a need for nutrition education in schools, especially for distinguishing between myths and facts.
2. According to grandmothers, eating habits are changing: adolescents still eat most meals at home, but are eating snacks outside the home more often than in the past.
3. Adolescents spend a significant amount of time in school and doing school work outside of school. Future studies should explore the implications of this on eating and activity.
4. Adolescents clearly distinguish between the types of food eaten at home versus away from home; they value these foods very differently.

Post-Field Progress
Circulated first issue of Emory - BLDE partnership newsletter
Research papers in progress:
- Physician attitudes on adolescent weight
- The influence of sociocontextual factors on gender differences in physical activity behavior
- Valuing foods differently by consumption at/away from home

Project Partners
Emory University Global Health Institute
BLDE Medical University
BLDE Engineering University
The Global Diabetes Research Center

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