

Paradox and Possibility:

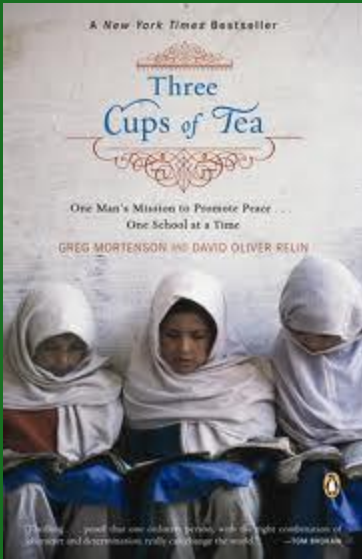
Working with English Teachers in Pakistan

Shawna Shapiro
Middlebury College

Overview

- Why I went
- What we did
- What I expected
- What I discovered
- What lingers with me...

Why I went...







Quality Teachers for Quality Education

Teachers' Training Programme

July 12th to July 19th, 2010

O'Spring, Murree

Presbyterian Education Society, Pakistan



Daily Prayers and Shared Meals



Dr. Dubash talks about critical thinking



A speaking/listening game



Activities for writing and vocabulary



Role Play: Banning hijab in public schools??



Another game: Trashketball



“Inner Beauty” project and tissue paper topography



At the market in Murree



Getting dolled up



The Pakistani Paparazzi greets us



Our dance to the song “Desi Girl”



Discoveries

Expectation

Actuality

Discouragement

Pride, innovation, and patience

Tech-less

Tech-savvy (not all, but many)

**English for empowerment
and social change**

**English for status and for gate-keeping,
which may someday lead to
empowerment and social change**

Religious tension

Religious tolerance

**Changing gender norms
(esp. female leaders)**

**Hybrid of old and new gender norms
(e.g. appearance, marriage, work)**

What lingers with me?

- **My own privilege is inescapable**
(but it needn't paralyze me)
- **The interconnectedness of politics and education**
(Who has the power? Who makes the tests?
Context matters for education reform)
- **"It's complicated"** (race, language, politics, religion,
the figment of the "Middle East")
- **"The danger of a single story"**
– Chimamanda Adichie (TED conference 2009)

“Please remind them
that we’re not all terrorists”





Thank you!

sshapiro@middlebury.edu

<http://shawnashapiro.com/>