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COMMON CONCERNS: A COMPARISON OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN CALCUTTA,
INDIA, AND FORT WAYNE, INDIANA, ON THE TOPIC OF LENGTH OF SCHOOL DAY

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The state of Indiana is currently considering offering full-day kindergarten on a voluntary basis in the public school systems. Likewise, the administrators and teachers of a Gujarati elementary school in Calcutta, India, are also considering lengthening the time their students spend at school.

This presentation will highlight the considerations common to both settings in determining the appropriate length of school day, particularly for kindergarten-age students. Research data was obtained by on-site investigation and personal interviews in Calcutta, India, and in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The child's family structure, perceptions about how much (or little) stimulation the child receives at home, and teacher availability--concerns expressed by both Calcutta and Fort Wayne teachers and administrators--will be discussed.