Women’s India and Bangladesh

BEYOND CASTE AND POVERTY

March 13 to 24, 2016
We know India and Bangladesh as lands of vibrant color, bustling cities, fabulous monuments and exotic cuisine. But we’re also aware of both countries’ less attractive sides—male-dominated societies that condone a rigid caste system, child labor and arranged marriages, and a lack of education and training for their “weaker” sex. Fortunately, this way of life is slowly changing as women at all levels of society demand more choice in their lives and careers. We hope you will join us on this women’s-only program to meet with Bangladeshi and Indian women from all areas of life and see for yourself the many ways in which their lives are improving with access to more opportunities.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

TALK with a Bangladeshi singer who uses her music and crafts to increase the awareness of and to fight religious intolerance.

VISIT Mother Teresa’s orphanage in Kolkata and see firsthand the Missonaries of Charity’s work with abandoned and disabled children.

LEARN about the “glass ceiling” that currently faces educated Indian women in their search for career fulfillment.
Margo Horn has been teaching history at Stanford since 1985. She received her PhD from Tufts University and was awarded fellowships from NIMH and the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Horn's research and teaching combine interests in U.S. women's history and the history of medicine. She has a long-standing fascination with the history of madness and psychiatry and is the author of Before It's Too Late: The Child Guidance Movement in the United States, 1922–1945. Dr. Horn taught in Stanford’s Structured Liberal Education program (SLE) and currently teaches courses on the history of women and mental illness and the social history of medicine in the U.S.

Having a deep and ongoing interest in the status of girls and women in the developing world, Dr. Horn is excited to be traveling to Bangladesh and India, where women are making major strides in the face of enormous challenges. She looks forward to lecturing on recent women's history and political roles, women and economic development, and girls' and women's education in both fascinating countries.

"We met some amazing women from all walks of life who are determined to make a difference for other women. The experience was inspiring, instructive and challenged me as to what I can do!"

Jan Miller, ’60, South Africa Women’s Seminar, 2011

Sign up online: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?bangladesh2016
Or by phone: (650) 725-1093
**Itinerary**

**SUNDAY & MONDAY, MARCH 13 & 14**

**U.S / DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

Depart the U.S. and arrive in Dhaka the next day, transferring to our hotel upon arrival. Join fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner. **WESTIN DHAKA HOTEL (D)**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15**

**DHAKA**

This morning meet with the acting vice-chancellor of the Asian University for Women to learn about the programs it offers. Drive to the first and only publishing house in Bangladesh and meet with its director, who is also the executive director of UBINIG, a policy and action research organization that works with farming, weaving and rural and urban communities. This afternoon visit the National Assembly. **WESTIN DHAKA HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**

**DHAKA**

Today we focus on learning about local micro-financing. Accompanied by the staff of Grameen Bank, which extends small loans to entrepreneurs who don’t qualify for traditional loans, drive to a nearby village and meet with women to learn how they utilize their loans on day-to-day projects. Return to the bank to discuss its operational procedures with the staff. This afternoon join the lead singer of the band, Bangla, who uses her music and crafts to fight religious intolerance and promote liberal thinking. Enjoy dinner this evening in a private home. **WESTIN DHAKA HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17**

**DHAKA**

Spend this morning in Old Dhaka, a teeming maze of bazaars and narrow streets. Tour the lovely Pink Palace, recently restored and now furnished in the style of the 1870s, when it was built. Visit the nearby office of a model and designer who works with rural weavers and artisans who produce textiles that carry on the weaving traditions of Bangladesh. Meet the co-founder of the Acid Survivors Foundation, which is dedicated to raising awareness of and preventing acid attacks against women. This afternoon attend a session hosted by a group that was established in 2008 to empower women to take up leadership positions in all sectors of Bangladesh society. After dinner enjoy a performance of traditional South Asian dances, sponsored by a trust whose goal is to revitalize classical dance and music. **WESTIN DHAKA HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18**

**DHAKA / KOLKATA, INDIA**

After our morning flight to Kolkata, visit the Shishu Bhavan Orphanage, run by Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity for abandoned and disabled children. Then drive to the town of Burwan to enjoy lunch with the Maharani of Burdwan, and tour the town’s Sarbamangala Temple. Later, make a stop at St. John’s Anglican Church, stroll through a food market and participate in a hands-on cooking class of Indian cuisine. **OBEROI GRAND HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

**KOLKATA / MUMBAI**

Fly this morning to Mumbai, then drive to Muskaan Kindergarten, established by Reality Cares as a low-cost model school that hires the community’s women as teachers. Walk through the town of Dharavi for a firsthand look at daily village life. This afternoon drive to the Red Light District of Mumbai to attend a presentation on human trafficking and the sex-trade industry. Later meet an art historian who is involved in the architectural preservation...
of museums in Mumbai and is also the managing director of the Mumbai City Museum. TAJ MAHAL PALACE AND TOWER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

MUMBAI

This morning take a motor launch to the tranquil forested island of Elephanta, famed for its caves. In the afternoon, visit the Mumbai City Museum. Later meet the director of Akanksha, which runs schools for underserved children in Mumbai. This evening, talk with an independent journalist and author who writes about urban issues from a feminine perspective. TAJ MAHAL PALACE AND TOWER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 21

MUMBAI

Today meet the successful head of investment banking for India with JPMorgan Chase, who shares with us her thoughts on the “glass ceiling” currently facing Indian women. At Mumbai’s Churchgate Railway Station, observe the “Dabba Wallas,” who collect fresh lunchbox meals and deliver them to office workers throughout the city. Take a short train ride to the Dhobi Ghat, the world’s largest outdoor laundry, to see it in full operation. After lunch, attend a presentation on women’s issues in India by the honorary director of the Institute of Research on Gandhian Thought and Rural Development at the Gandhi Museum and Research Institute. TAJ MAHAL PALACE AND TOWER (B,L)

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

MUMBAI / DELHI

After our morning flight from Mumbai to Delhi, enjoy lunch in Old Delhi, then explore the Red Fort and take a rickshaw ride through the winding alleys of Chandni Chowk. Meet with a prominent attorney and advocate for the Indian Supreme Court, who is known for her work on women’s rights and child prostitution. IMPERIAL HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

DELHI / U.S.

Depart Delhi on our return flights to the U.S. (B)

Optional Post-trip Extension to Agra

MARCH 24 TO 27

Spend two nights in Agra and see the Taj Mahal, one of India’s most enduring symbols and one of the world’s great architectural triumphs. Visit the mausoleum at sunset and also explore the tomb of Mughal Emperor Akbar in Sikandra, the Old City of Agra. Additional details will be sent to confirmed participants.
Trip Information

**DATES**
March 13 to 24, 2016 (12 days)

**SIZE**
30 female participants

**COST**
$9,995 per person, double occupancy
$11,695 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

**INCLUDED**
- 10 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 9 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters for all group activities
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Flight between Bangladesh and India and internal flights within India
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services
- Excess-baggage charges
- Independent and private transfers

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Turkish Airlines from San Francisco via Istanbul to Dhaka, Bangladesh, and return from Delhi, India, via Istanbul, is approximately $950 as of May 2015 and is subject to change without notice.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy, with a few early-morning departures and long travel days. We will have a full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events. (Please note that the speakers and visits listed in the itinerary are subject to change.) We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose interest in the places we visit and people we meet far outweighs the need for creature comforts. In many ways, the challenges of this program are part of the learning experience. Participants should be able to walk unassisted on extended excursions (typically lasting two to three hours) over uneven, unpaved surfaces and up and down narrow staircases in conditions of high heat and humidity. In many instances, such as at temples and archaeological ruins, there are steps without handrails and shoes must be removed before entering. Although all of the hotels we stay at and the buses that we travel aboard on our program are air-conditioned, most of the museums, temples and sites we visit are not air-conditioned. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome female travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. An additional $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?bangladesh2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window: 14 to 21 days of the date listed on your welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in May 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
"I met some extraordinary women. The access to artists’ homes and private enterprises was just great. I loved the diversity of experiences."

TRACY M. FIELD, ’83, CUBA FOR WOMEN, 2014