Department of Women’s Studies: Huma Ahmed-Ghosh

Prof. Madhavan and I took 18 students to India on a Travel Study Abroad Program (Dec. 27, 2012-Jan. 16, 2013) My part of it was the Women’s Studies Program and 12 of the 18 students enrolled under WMNST 499, 597 and 799. The purpose of the trip was to further strengthen the exchange programs that exist with PSG Colleges in Coimbatore and Kanodia College in Jaipur and also expose students from San Diego State University to an international learning environment. This trip was designed to increase the participation of SDSU students in international activities by experiencing another culture and understanding issues pertaining to Indian women. Given India’s global location with its rapidly growing economy, development of call-centers and modernization, it has become a country that is an interesting case to study the emerging roles of women. Since English is the national language, SDSU students were able to understand the issues and complexities of this culture.

On their return from their trip to India, students have talked about their experiences which have led to requests for next year. Prof. Huma Ahmed-Ghosh has taken five trips to India and students have benefitted immensely from them. This trip was aimed at Women’s Studies majors, minors and graduate students but was open to all students on campus. This trip to India included students from Public Health, Education, ISCOR, Psychology, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology.

The trip to India focused mainly on issues affecting women in contemporary India. The students were exposed to wide range of NGOs and their programs ranging from micro-credit programs for women, to government subsidized programs and skill development programs for women in India. Students attended lectures on women’s issues and women and politics from feminist professors and engaged with Women Studies students on the Krishnamall College and Kanodia College campuses. Students will also attend some women NGOs and a feminist publishing house in Delhi.

Prior to the trip the WMNST students met for four meetings on Fridays for three hours each. Besides an orientation program about India etc. they engaged in academic
readings and writing. Students read 10 articles and did assignments on them. Students also read a book on India and answered requisite lead questions. The students saw documentaries on different issues in India in each meeting. In India, the WMNST students will keep a daily journal relating what they learned with what they observed. On their return to SDSU, the students wrote another paper relating another text on NGOs with their experiences. Graduate students wrote a more in-depth paper with numerous references on the same topic.

**India Study Abroad Program Schedule 2013**

December 29, 2012:  
Arrive Kochi around 3.00AM  
Afternoon: Visit Synagogue and Backwater cruise

December 30, 2012:  
Forenoon: Visit the first European Church, Dutch Palace  
Afternoon: Other attractions

December 31, 2012:  
Leave Kochi for Coimbatore: en route visit Mosque built in 639 and Palayoor Church (if possible) and Dippu Fort in Palakad  
Arrive Coimbatore around dinner time

January 1, 2013:  
Forenoon: Visit Isha Foundation  
Afternoon Free

January 2, 2013:  
9.30 – 10.45 AM; Introduction to Coimbatore by Govindarajulu;  
11.00 – 12.30: Indus valley – Saraswati Civilization by Prof. Madhavan  
Afternoon: Free

January 3, 2013:  
Indian Science and Technology in Ancient India:  
9.30 – 10.45: Science and Mathematics: Dr. Baldev Raj  
11.00 – 12.30: Ayurvedic Medicine and other Indian approaches: Dr. Ram Manohar  
4.30 – 6.00: Visit Ayurvedic Hospital

January 4, 2013:  
10.00 - 12.00 Noon: Visit Krishnammall Girls College: Lectures on Women and Health and Yoga; Women in Indian Literature  
Afternoon: 3.00 – 4.30: Lecture on Temple architecture: Mr. Gurumoorthy followed by a visit to Perur Temple (5.30 – 6.30)
January 5, 2013:
9.30 – 10.45: Visit to the City Rural Development and Women’s Empowerment Program
11.00 – 12.30: Women in Indian Society and Development: Dr. Yasodha Devi
2.00 – 5.00: Meet a Human Rights Lawyer—Discussion on the Indian Caste System

Afternoon: January 6, 2013:
10.00 – 11.15; Visit FICCI Women’s Group projects outside Coimbatore
11.30 – 5.00: Visit Tribal Displacement Program in the outskirts of Coimbatore and see their micro-credit programs

January 7, 2013:
9.30 – 5.00: Visit Shanti Ashram, a Gandhian NGO working towards empowering rural communities; Lectures by the founders and a visit to a children’s school

January 8, 2013:
Leave for Delhi

January 9, 2013
9.00 a.m.—3.00 p.m. Spend the day at Naz Foundation, Care home for HIV infected Children: Lectures on Sexuality in India; LGBT Issues; and Government and non-government intervention in the AIDS/HIV epidemic in India

January 10, 2013:
9.30 – 2.00: Visit Jagori, the first feminist documentation Center in India started in 1974.
Afternoon visit Dilli Haat, open air craft market
January 11, 2013:
9.30 – 1.00: Visit and lecture, Kali Press for Women-first Indian feminist publishing house
Evening: Classical Dance concert: Lecture Demonstration

January 12, 2013:
Visit Kutub Minar, Red Fort, Raj Ghat, Delhi Gate
Evening Free: Bahai Temple

January 13, 2013:
Leave Delhi by Bus for Agra. See the Taj Mahal; Leave for Jaipur

January 14, 2013
Tour organized by Knaodia College

January 15, 2013:
Visit Amber Fort and City Palace:
Evening: Visit Kanodia College---interactions with college students

January 16, 2013: Leave Jaipur for Delhi Airport. Leave Delhi for Los Angeles