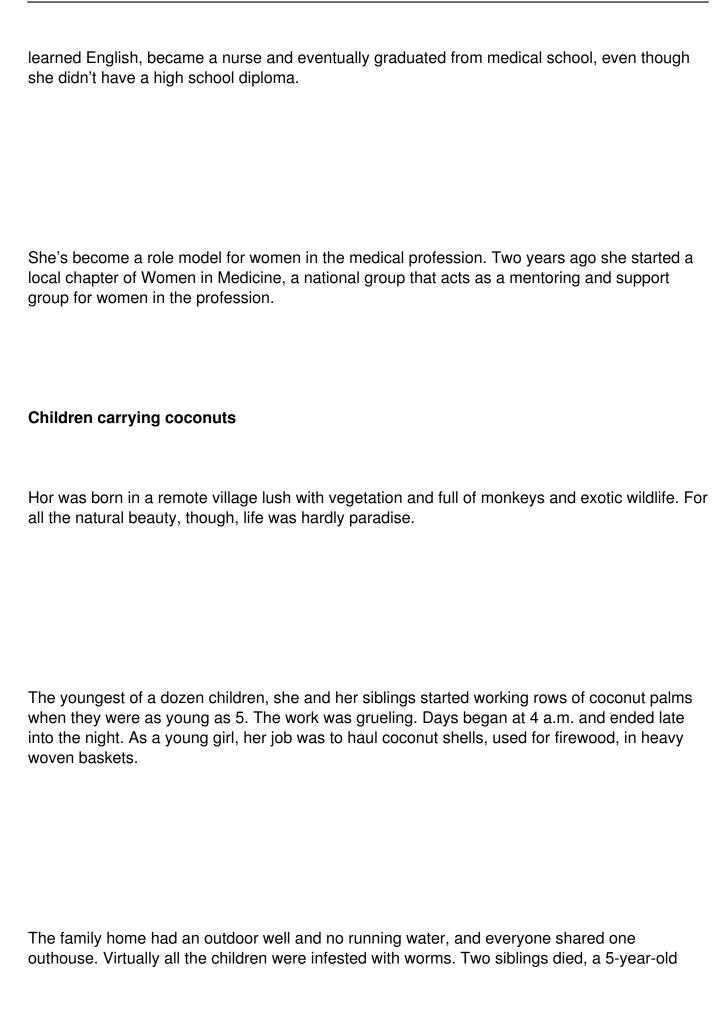


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Dr. Michelle Hor's office in Colorado Springs looks like the typical physician's office. Inches-thick textbooks with polysyllabic titles fill her bookshelf, a testament to the intellectual rigor required for the job. Some half-dozen degrees hang behind her desk as proof that all those books are more than show.

But as typical as her office might seem, her journey to get there was anything but ordinary.

Hor, a 55-year-old Colorado Springs gastroenterologist, was born in Malaysia, where she faced dire poverty and grew up in a culture that discriminated against women. Despite the odds, she



sister and 1-year-old brother, of what Hor believes would have been preventable conditions with modern medical care.
Such a life, especially for a girl, was hard to escape in the traditional Malaysian-Chinese culture of the time, Hor said. Women filled their plates after the men, and girls were discouraged from finishing high school. None of her older siblings went to college.
Even so, she decided there must be more out there. "I said, 'That's enough. I have to get out of this place."
For full story and pictures, click here.