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Overcoming negative impacts of Volunteer Study Tour Program: A Case Study of Food for the Hungry Philippines

Poster Session

In order to immerse to a different culture and to experience volunteer work overseas, international student volunteer work-camp program (volunteer program) by universities to utilize study tour programs operated by NGOs or tour agencies is getting popular in Japan as a new education method. Here, "study tour" means a program planned and operated by an NGO or a travel agency, and a university makes the students participate in the program.

Although there are lots of benefits of study tour, some negative impacts are observed. I am going to discuss these problems on study tour program by introducing a case of an international NGO, Food for the Hungry Philippines (FHP), and discuss how the NGO overcomes these issues.

The issues are:

1. A neglect to contribute to local's desire.
2. A hindering of work progress and completion of unsatisfactory work
3. Disruption of local economies.
4. A reinforcement of conceptualizations of the 'other' and rationalizations of poverty.
5. Instigation of cultural changes.
6. Risk sharing between NGO and university.
7. Misunderstanding the purpose of the volunteer program in the light of the purpose of the university.

In conclusion, carefully designed community development program and study tour to educate both community members and volunteers contribute to the success of the study tour.