

My Experience

This is a life adventure story, it's not easy to tell in a few words the whole experience; I can only say that I try to volunteer every time life gives me the chance

When I first arrived in this stunning country, I thought to myself that this would be amazing experience. I was in an Orphanage Project in Semarang City, Indonesia. I chose this specific project because I saw it as a way to understand a lot of that country's social problems.

I had previously volunteered in my home country of Colombia, and that gave me the opportunity to understand similar situations where vulnerable kids were trying to have a normal life. Their daily problems, and their psychological situation was a huge influence on me deciding my professional career (psychology). It gave me another perspective about the importance of having special bonds with people around you; it is after all the foundation of cooperation in a society.

In the beginning I was surprised about everything: the culture, their beliefs, their major religion (Islam), but I just followed the flow on everything and opened my mind to the new experiences. I wanted to learn and live as much as possible and work on getting the best experience.

I had ten kids in my classroom (I will never forget their names): Adi, Cahaya, Eka, Iskandar, Kusuma, Raja, Eko, Iman, Guntur and Dwi. Each of them was so special with me. They tried every single day to make me smile, even in the hardest of times.

My daily experience was to assist the caretakers in supervising the children: we prayed, sang, danced, and played. For example, I taught them a Colombian game call "secret friend." The game consisted of us making a toy all by ourselves and then giving it to our classmate as a "secret friend." The kids really loved the game. The hardest part was waking up; they always wanted to sleep more, so I started to play a song on my cellphone to wake them up easier. Those kids were so curious; they wanted to learn my language, my culture, everything about me and it made me feel welcomed. With my volunteering, I wanted to inspire them to have hope in their lives, and confidence to get what they want.

I think that volunteering is an opportunity that everybody should have at least once in their life. Although this was my second time, each experience was so different and enriching for the soul, I was really thankful I had the opportunity. It helped me grow and focus more on my dreams. It changed my perception on life, and about the responsibility that each person has to the change the world for the better. It opened my mind, I learned about other cultures, I grew professionally, but most important I grew as a person.