

Abstract

This diploma thesis investigates international volunteering in the context of professional, personal and social development of young volunteers. In the theoretical part, definition, history, forms and subjects involved are presented, together with the impacts and ethical questions related to the field. Next, the professional, personal and social development is defined and international volunteering is put in light as a source of important skills. The empirical part is concerned with one specific form of international volunteering – workcamps. Firstly, organisation INEX-SDA, which sends hundreds of youngsters to workcamps each year, is introduced. Next, methodology and results of an original qualitative research focused on the role of workcamps in workcamp-participants' lives are discussed. The results suggest that workcamps have various impacts on and connectedness with the participants' development, the professional as well as the personal and social. By some, the workcamp's impact on their life and development is perceived as subtle, while others see significant effects, workcamps had on their life and skills. Whole spectrum of skills and values that can be acquired on workcamps is revealed and described in relation to career and personal life.

Key words

international volunteering, international service, IVS, workcamp, young volunteers, professional development, personal and social development, skills, motivation, ethical questions