

## A report pertaining my current status at work , society, my motivation and my feelings

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time. I will never forget my first day in Germany.

I was so excited to come here. I have dreamed of volunteering abroad since my childhood and I am pretty sure that many people from different countries have the same feeling.

Learning cultures is my favorite thing to do. I enjoy interacting with new people very much. That's why I am here.

Of course, the first day at a new place is kind of weird, because you don't know anybody, but I quickly got used to other volunteers, meeting new friends . As a group we spent the first 2 days with the previous volunteers asking the why and how question and we then moved to Bielefeld where we spent 3 weeks getting to know each other very well; get to know our surrounding and learning the Germany language .

Before i knew it 1 month had flown by in such a short time. And it meant that it was time for us to start our work in our different host organizations

In my host organization Schulbauernhoff there are so many friendly people of different, they are loving and caring and every week I meet and interact with young people from different schools who come to have first contact with animals and nature . Its been quite exciting to meet new people . I find many interesting things to talk about, and in many cases I end up talking a lot about my own culture and tradition because most of the people I met had no idea about my country. My new friends got interested to know more about our culture and traditions. Now I understand how it is amazing to represent your own country , your organization and explain many things about it to people who have never heard of it.

My first 3 weeks it was lot about cleaning mainly cutting the grass, harvesting potatoes and apples in preparation of their biennial event the HOFFEST. It has been a challenge for me its been most hard labor and

quite a lot of new things to learn like digging potatoes, harvesting apples ,  
making apples juice and feeding animals

*A SYMBOL DESIGNED FOR THE BIENNIAL EVENT THE HOFFEST*



My motivation comes from my flexibility because being a volunteer is about doing what is necessary, being patient I have put all my effort on the process, my openness with the willingness to have the worldview, I have never been afraid of my prejudice and respect and tolerance, not to judge very quickly and willing to see things through the eyes of others and lastly my personal humility in a situation where language is unfamiliar, the rules are new and the culture is different, you often reduced to feel childish.

But life experiences is what I seek to achieve and I ask myself questions.

- 1 What knowledge and skills do the people of my organization possess that I don't have
- 2 what life experiences do they have which are different from mine
- 3** what can I learn from them

Not all is doom and gloom we are beginning to understand the natural world and are gaining a reverence for life. People seem to be too busy with their own things. People on the street are a bit different from my home country. I personally have been subjected to racism in public spaces and pubs with my fellow Africans. I also observed that there is no "smiling" culture. I find it hard to relate to people or even to start a conversation.

In conclusion, I would say it has been mixed feelings as I did not expect some of the activities on the farm and I would like to say that it is wonderful to be part of SCHULBAUERNHOF UMMELN. And I am pretty confident that I will succeed with my 1 year project of doing social service. This opportunity and life experiences will grow me as a person and I will do my best to help other volunteers like me by giving my best advice and suggestions.