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INSTITUTE FOR FIELD RESEARCH EXPEDITIONS  
VOLUNTEER ABROAD PROGRAM

Evaluation Form

Name:  
Date and Country of Volunteer Program:

Please rate the following as 1--poor, 2--good, 3--very good or 4-- excellent:

- USA Staff 4 - very punctual, <sup>w/ responses</sup> & easy to reach
- Airport pick up N/A
- Food 3
- Accommodation 4
- Host Family 3-4
- Volunteer Project 1 - Boring + should be eliminated
- Field staff 4 - Tina + Hannia are great!

Please summarize your about volunteer experience (please attach extra sheet if necessary) with IFRE.

I really enjoyed my opportunity to live in a small town kind of village and be submerged into this culture. However, during my stay here, I realized that the town is pretty well developed and there is not a lot for one to do. I thought, from the description on the website that I would be greatly needed. The public health project was often a joke. There is only so much public awareness one can create and even with coming up with your own ideas, there is no initiative from the employees side to help you. For example, we created a coloring book for children teaching them how to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, however, when we asked our director to edit the book she did not & made 50 copies of the book anyway. After, we were forced to go back & create a whole new book because of all the errors. A two day project became a two weeks. I was also asked by the employees to help clean up or translate things which I didn't mind, but it was like they were making me do their work for them. My last two weeks were better though, Tina involved me with her English classes which I really enjoyed and doing this made me feel like I was contributing in a positive way. My last week, I taught English classes at the Health Clinic, ~~in order to teach~~ certain everyday phrases. I did not make a lot of progress but at least I did not sit idly for only two hours a day. I more continued on backside.

Do you recommend IFRE program for others (please circle) (i) Yes (ii) No

Can we pass your e-mail to interested potential volunteers?? If yes, e-mail:

ATIWARI@UCSD.EDU

- Not my public health project, but the English classes & orphanage seem worthwhile :)

→ continued: I also realize that though the website said \$800.00 for four weeks, I was charged \$1,100.00 in the end. I understand \$62.00 goes to my family weekly, \$100.00 is given as a donation to my project, \$70.00 airport pick up/drop off, but what about the rest of the money I paid? There is no clear break down of the money we are asked to pay. If I am making \$100.00 donation, I would like to know what it is going towards. I know during my weeks ~~here~~<sup>here</sup> it was not used by the health clinic in a positive way. I paid ~~the~~ roughly the same amount for this program as I did for a language school I attended the previous month and that was homestay + meals + 5 hours of class daily. The break down did not make sense to me. The Spanish classes here were also a joke, I did go with IFFB because I thought 200 hours of some Spanish instruction daily would help me improve a bit, but the classes never had a lesson plan or proper teaching material ~~that~~ they did not help at all. This program would be good for someone who is older ~~and~~ has work experience because it requires one to be very proactive. However, for students who only come for 2-4 weeks at a time, there is not a lot to do ~~at~~ and never, is a lot of progress made.