

Report of one's experiences about Gugma sa Kabataan by Lars Hoefken

Where shall I start I ask myself. I am here now for one month at Gugma sa Kabataan and I had settled here really well. One reason for this is that all, Minda and Maybel and especially the children heartily welcome me with their open arms.

It took me some time to find my way, but therefore my experience from Nepal helped me to get fast into the work of Gugma sa Kabataan.

The days here are normal like in Germany, where I also work in some youth clubs. The children are coming after school or during their break to the project, to get some food and spend some time. In their free time they make their assignments, they play games or they stay here and enjoy their time.

I try to teach and help the children in the subjects Math and English. Sometimes I also try me in the subject of Science and here I see that I also can learn something. This is therefore to learn and make an exchange about education.

It is good to see how interested the children are at the process of learning and I also enjoy my time at GsK with them and make valuable experiences to catch. Sometimes there are problems by understanding the language but than I get help from others and so we can solve the work and in the end everybody understands.

During the week all children only spend some time here in the project, but on Saturday they are here the whole day and they really like it. An art workshop is set up and also games will be played. You can see how they enjoy the painting and the have a lot of fun. Some of them are very talented in drawing and so beautiful paintings are made by them. Partly you can see that they really express their feelings in the paintings or in the work with clay. These works are telling some of the life story and explain it and for me it is amazing to see and realize.

The Children from GsK also take their time to play games during Saturday. One of the most favourite games is Scrabble, which is played in English. Other games are Dame, playing with Balls or "The crazy in the middle". Besides that they are also very interested in Basketball, Badminton or Volleyball. So we always enjoy our time at the centre.

Of course, we find the time also to make some assignments for the school or we talk.

In my part I always participate in all kind of activities and get in insight. It is a very big experience for me to be here and I do not want to miss it.

For me it seems that the children and the members of the staff are one big family, and now I also belong to that family. My stay here is only for a short time, but hopefully I will stay in their memories, because for my part GsK will be a part of my life.

During the time here at GsK, where you see the children, how they act like normal children you cannot forget their past. The past was a really bad experience for them, which they have been through and had to handle with. Also you can see in what bad conditions their family's live. These experiences makes me feel very sad and affected me. For me it is unbelievable to go through this life. At the moment I do not realize what I have seen, but the stories and experiences I will never forget.

The work of Gugma sa Kabataan and that is what I feel helped and help the children to go through and handle this. GsK want to creat a better future for them and they are trying to change everything with their past experiences.

The children of GsK find a way to organize and fulfil their future life through the work of Gugma sa Kabataan. They also get the opportunity to show their talents and that they are important human beings and when they work hard they can achieve something they wanted to be. The past of them was really not good, but now they are accepted and they can realize their selves. They feel security, attention, respect, affection and love.

Now they have the choice to have a childhood and built up a future and this all through the support and work of Gugma sa Kabataan.

My wishes for the project and the children are that they make always such successful work and get the support which they deserve and go on with the work in the future.

I am glad to be a part of Gugma sa Kabataan and I will always take my memories in my heart.