

Roslin Orphanage

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Kupang, Indonesia

Indonesia is a culturally and religiously rich country. I spent nearly a month in Indonesia where I visited Jakarta, Kupang, and Bali.

The area I spent most of my time in was Kupang which was where the orphanage was located. Kupang is in the same island of East Timor which had declared independence from the Indonesian government in 1975.

Roslin Orphanage

My original intent in doing my global special studies at Roslin Orphanage was to look at the children's hygiene, but while I was there my research interest shifted to take a deeper look at corporal punishment as a form of discipline. I also am interested in the ways orphanages function holistically.

Background

Roslin has been around for close to 20 years. A family owns and operates the orphanage. It all began when the family saw the desperate need of the people of West Timor after the war with East Timor. The island has one of the harshest climate, making it harder to grow crops, but not impossible. The orphanage works hard to maintain its farm to maintain their sustainability.

Project Information

While I was at Roslin I assisted with showering and dressing the open wounds the children had from a parasite that grows on their skin. This parasite is transferred from stray dogs in the area.

Outcomes

My deliverable will include a literature review of the function of orphanages in southeast Asia, parenting within the culture, and discipline methods.

Lessons Learned

I have learned how to navigate tough situations in different cultural settings. The experience has taught me how to practice more cultural humility.

I learned about Indonesia's different forms of governance in major areas like Jakarta. My studies in urban planning helped me think about the regulations and zoning laws in the US and abroad.

While on the trip I was able to practice my interpersonal skills on children and families.

Social Work Competencies'

Looking at the social work competencies', I feel that I have strengthened the following:

- Responding to organizational context
- Understanding human behavior and social environment
- Intervention in families, groups, communities, and organizations

Classroom Connections

Courses that helped me the most while abroad:
SW 648, Global Social Work Practice
SW 512, Macro Practice Skills Lab
SW 683: Evaluation in Social Work
SW 521: Intro to Interpersonal Practice

Career Connections

I will be using my experience to inform my interactions with families and youth in my areas of interest in the U.S. For example, I am interested in immigration and prison reform policy. I can see myself using the skills I learned on this trip to manage relationships and understand cultures more.

Advice

My advice to future global special studies students is to do a lot of research before going to the country. It is important to make a good first impression, and learning about the people, culture, and religions before going mean a lot.



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