A 12-Day Life-Lesson in Cambodia

Introduction
The aim of the service-learning trip is to cultivate students’ sense of responsibility, empathy and morality through participation in a wide variety of learning activities and serving the needy in Cambodia. The trip consists of three highlights: construction, home visit and primary school visit.

Construction
Missions:
• Pre-trip training
• Renewal of a kindergarten
• Wall-building

Reflection:
Team-work
“Every problem gets a solution.”

Home Visit
Missions:
• Installation of a solar panel
• Distribution of daily necessities
• Interview

Reflection:
Altruism
Effectively nurturing students’ countries morality & empathy?

Primary School Visit
Mission:
• Workshops
• Installation of electricity generators

Reflection:
Corrosive disadvantage
Donation VS Transaction
One-day visit can generate a long-lasting effect!

A Story
We had dinner with the interpreters one day. When they were asked if there were any decent dining places, their answer was “we don’t know.” It was shocking that even the locals have no idea of good restaurants in their hometown. After discussing with my teacher, yet, I was guilty for blaming the interpreters because the truth is that they seldom dine outside to save money. This is also a mirror of poverty. Eating outside can already be a precious experience to Cambodians, even for university students there.

Conclusion
We are living under the same sky and narrowing the wealth gap is everybody’s issue. Thereupon, never stop doing the great work for others and every party can make an effort to bring people out of the shadow of poverty collectively.

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