

FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Andrea Pevná

YEAR OF STUDY: 2st year of magister degree programme

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Dialogic booksharing

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 13 000 CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Tanzania

PERIOD: 27.6.-27.8.2023

Brief description of the internship:

In poor areas of developing countries, children often suffer from malnutrition and families are trapped in a cycle of poverty. Children do not receive stimuli for healthy development, which leads to insufficient education and the inability to break out of the cycle of poverty. The "Dialogic Booksharing" project focuses on parents of poor children. The project motivates them and helps them create an environment for their children that will allow them to develop in a healthy way. The goal is for the child to develop well and for the mutual relationship between the child and his parents to deepen. Dialogic Booksharing is an intervention supporting early cognitive and socio-emotional development. It is a special kind of interaction between a mother and her child using a wordless picture book. Instead of passive listening, the child is actively involved in communication. It should be a pleasant way for the child to improve his language and cognitive development. Our project in Tanzania is focused on children of a specific age that are living in chosen villages. First, it was necessary to register mothers with their children into the project and then to provide experiments together with data collection to collect data about the child and also the household. Mothers were divided into groups, only one group were provided with books and lessons how to read those books with the child. The other groups are active and passive control group. Later, the evaluation of project will be conducted to see the impact and result of booksharing.

Description of the activities:

My work was relatively various and changing during the internship according to the needs of the project. After my arrival to Tanzania, my main task was to create questionnaires in the Kobo application, which were later used throughout the data collection. I also went to families with a Tanzanian translator to pilot interviews or registration questionnaires. I was also involved into the preparation of activities for the babysitter. After the start of registrations, the translator and I went to families in several nearby villages and we registered mothers with children for our "Mama na mtoto" project. We also organized several pilotings of questionnaires for data collection. Later, after the arrival of our South African colleague Karen, I helped with the preparation of her lessons for the facilitators and supervised the whole process of her lessons. At the time of data collection, I again helped the facilitators with technical matters and with the overall process. I sorted the collected data in computer.

Benefit of the internship for student and partner organization:

For me, the biggest benefit was that I had the opportunity to visit an African country. I am very happy that I was able to visit Tanzania, because in the future I would like to work in one of the African countries. Thanks to this internship, I had the opportunity to get to know Tanzania more and to learn something new about the local culture, way of living and way of thinking of the local people. I enjoy getting to know new countries and different cultures of the world, so I really enjoyed visiting Tanzania. Also, staying with the Tanzanian translators in one house was very interesting, because I spent every day with them and we enjoyed a lot of funny moments together. Therefore, I learned a lot about Tanzanian culture and way of thinking thanks to them. Another benefit for me was the opportunity to be involved in the research and to see how it works from the field. I believe that my new skills can be useful in the future. Later, I will participate on evaluation project of the organization. We will examine the impact of the project on the child, the family, and the community. We will carry out an evaluation research. Thanks to my internship, I will be well prepared for the evaluation project, as I was introduced to the project and the place. Another benefit was the strengthening of English language skills. Beside this, the stay in Tanzania improved my self-reliance, responsibility and it changed my personal values.

The organization needed volunteers, because there was a lot of work to do. I helped them with the daily agenda and with everything that they needed to help with. I was participating in their activities and I am sure that my work was helpful for the organization as I showed my willingness to meet the mission of the organization and maybe I also brought some new ideas and thoughts, which could be useful for the organization. For the next year, I will help the organization with evaluation of the project and with data processing. I wish to come to Tanzania also the next year and to help from the field. Beside this, I will write my theses about this topic, so the organization can use my observations and findings and the results of my theses.

Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:

I really enjoyed my internship in Tanzania and I am very glad that I had the opportunity to visit this interesting country. It was an unforgettable experience for me. Thanks to the opportunity to interact with the local people, I learned a lot about their way of life. I tried several things. I enjoyed spending time with locals, supervising translators as well as facilitators, working on Kobo and also other activities that I was doing. Overall, the internship was beneficial for me as well as for the organization.

In the near future, after returning to the Czech Republic, I am going to present my internship at church of my city. I suppose I will write an article for one Christian magazine and I would also like to write an article for a magazine of my previous university which I was studying as part of my bachelor's degree.

FINAL BUDGET:

Budget	Unit	Price per unit	Number of unites	Total	Contribution from Vavroušek Scholarship
Personal costs	SIM card	10kč	2	232kč	-
	equipment for the house	222kč			
Transportation costs	plane	23 975kč	3	29 358kč	13 000kč
	internal traveling in Tanzania	2 762kč			
	train to airport	2 621kč			
Accommodation	electricity and gas	1 265kč	1	1 265kč	-
Food	including the food for translators	6 629kč	1	6 629kč	-
Consumables, equipment	personal staff	1 506kč	1	1 506kč	-
Others	vaccination and vitamins	3 593kč	2	4 703kč	-
	visa	1 110kč			
Total	-	43 693kč	-	-	13 000kč