

FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Eliška Juříčková

YEAR OF STUDY: 2nd year of master degree programme

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Factors influencing school attendance in primary schools in Buikwe district in Uganda

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 15 000 CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Uganda

PERIOD: 22/07/2018 - 3/10/2018

Brief description of the internship:

I spent in Buikwe district in Uganda ten weeks. Aim of the internship was collecting data for the research which is part of my diploma thesis.

Aim of the research is to find out relations between given factors and school attendance in primary schools in Buikwe district in Uganda and to find out to what extent given factors affect it. Partial aim is to find out relations between given factors and school performance of primary school pupils in Buikwe district in Uganda.

During the internship I visited three primary schools to get data about school attendance and performance of its pupils and to distribute and collect questionnaires. Research sample were presented pupils of primary five, six and seven.

Description of the activities:

The internship included many activities:

- I visited headteachers of three chosen primary schools and gave them information about research (topic, aim, purpose, data collection, documents I need, programme, time line). I asked for their cooperation.
- Pre-research to test questionnaire – few pupils from each class of research sample from one of the schools went through the questionnaire with me, filled it and told me if they do not understand question. We discussed about it and changed form of question together. I prepared final version of questionnaire and printed it.
- Data collection: questionnaires
 - I distributed questionnaires to pupils from class five, six and seven in three primary schools. I explained topic, aim, purpose, analysis and how the results will be published.
 - Pupils answered questions, I was in the class to explain questions they did not understand.
 - I also took measurement of their arm (MUAC tape)
 - I collected 413 questionnaires

- Data collection: documents and other materials
 - I got information about school attendance (documents: school registers 2017 and 2018) and performance (documents: assessments sheets per term of 2017 and 2018) in each school.
 - I took photos of time tables, school enrolments 2017 and 2018, lists of sponsored children in each school.
 - I interviewed headteachers, deputies of headteacher and teachers to get information about food, funding (contribution from government and parents), school fees (what they include and how much per each item), punishments
- Transcription of answers from questionnaires to Excel for analysis
- Basic analysis – I recognised that respondents did not understand few parts of the questionnaire. I prepared additional questionnaire where I explained what I mean specifically. During data collection I asked teachers to help me, they went through questions with pupils and explained meaning of them in English and local language.
- Observation, field notes
- I took photos of school environment and classes

Benefit of the internship for student and partner organization:

Student:

For me doing research and staying in developing country was big personal and professional experience.

I lived with local family so I experienced life conditions of local people. I visited some families of pupils from chosen schools, they live in worse condition. It was helpful to be closer to people and to imagine some aspects of their life for me. It was big opportunity to find out local culture, mentality and to understand local communities and schools more. To see background of factors I study was helpful for the research.

I was the only researcher (individual) and I did not work for any organization. I was boss for myself and I relied on myself. I had to manage my programme and time independently, respond to problems (for example holidays started one week earlier so it cut my time short; not enough materials in schools; misunderstanding of some questions despite of explanation and confirmation of understanding; uncomfortable work conditions; language barrier; different time management) and cope with them. I learnt many things – I recognized my mistakes in research and learnt what and how to correct, what I can do better, what to change, what to do in different way next time.

I acquainted with the reality of research in the developing country. It was my first research in developing country and it was difficult. In my opinion researches in developing countries are not easy in general because of different culture, mentality, way of solving of problems, time management and so on.

I worked with children. It was not new for me (I work with pupils during my internship in Uganda in 2015) but it was different for research in combination with another style of

teaching them, learning, culture, mentality and language. It developed my creativity – to prepare questionnaire which will be understandable and interesting for them, to engage their attention.

I developed my language skills. I tried to express myself effectively, explain questions, communicate about research and materials I need and why.

Last but not least this internship was important for finishing my studies because I have collected data for my diploma thesis.

I was in these school during internship in 2015. I could see changes and compare school conditions now and three years ago. It helped me develop skill of critical view and knowledge about school system in the country.

I believe these experiences can help me in my studies and in my professional career of future development worker. It was new experience which was difficult but I enjoyed.

Schools:

All headteachers told me that it was new experience for their school.

- It was new for children – they could see little part of university studies. They tried new different form of individual work.
- Some teacher who told me they want to study university also saw part of university studies. They also saw what is needed to have complex information about some topic. They saw different form how to get information from children.
- For all it was different form how to work with children – not group repeating but more individual and independent work.

Now I am transcribing questionnaires, then I will analyse them and compare with school attendance and assessment sheets of pupils. Based on it I will prepare document summarizing results and my suggestions of measures which can be taken to improve school environment, make school attendance simpler. Headteachers and other staff will know which and to what extent given factors influence pupils in the area. They will know what motivates children to come and to study, they will see limits or barriers prevent regular school attendance. They can use this document to think about these factors and they can realize some steps to strengthen or change them. We consulted some factors and ideas how to cope with them already during the internship.

Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:

I want to present this internship to students of our department. I would like to present also results of the research, it means that the presentation should be during May or July 2019 or during next academic year.

I am planning second presentation for students of grammar school I studied. I am communicating with headteacher about it. We do not have exact date yet – we communicate about it. It will be especially for students of two last classes of the school. During spring I would like to show photos also to younger pupils of the school. I will also show photos to pupils of primary school in village I live.

After analysis when I will have results and know what affects school attendance and performance of pupils in chosen primary schools in Buikwe district I want to write educative articles to local newspaper – Litovelské noviny, Olomoucké listy, UP Journal (if it will be possible).

FINAL BUDGET:

Budget	Total	My own expenditures	Contribution from Vavroušek Scholarship
3 months visa	1 150 CZK (50 USD)	1 150 CZK	
International transport	15 812 CZK	812 CZK	15 000 CZK
Local transport	1 000 CZK	1 000 CZK	
Accommodation	2 500 CZK	2 500 CZK	
Food	7 000 CZK	7 000 CZK	
Papers, print	1 000 CZK	1 000 CZK	
Vaccination (typhoid fever)	810 CZK*	0 CZK	
Insurance	0 CZK**	0 CZK	
Internet and telephone	1 000 CZK	1 000 CZK	
Total	30 272 CZK	14 462 CZK	15 000 CZK

* paid by insurance company

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