

# **Influences of Overseas Fieldwork on Students' Motivations and Behaviors after Returning to Japan and Its factors**

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**Abstract:** This paper clarifies how student's experiences during overseas fieldwork affect their school life after returning to Japan. Recently overseas fieldwork for the university students has become more popular in Japan. The purpose of these projects is to increase cross-cultural understanding and improve language skills. Students increase motivations in many ways such as develop a greater understanding of other cultures through the fieldwork when they return to college life. However, in fact, students seem that they do not realize connection between experience in overseas fieldwork and school life. Nevertheless they find their purpose on the school life and living. Then, in this paper, the author also attempts to clarify how participants' motivation and behavior changes after fieldwork and its factors based on the case study of overseas fieldwork in the Philippines.

**Key word:** *overseas fieldwork, motivation, school life, promotional factor*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Today, the necessity of global human resource has been advocated in various media and educational institutions. In this manner, overseas fieldworks, to attract college students, are designed. The purpose of these programs is often to increase raised intercultural understanding, improve language skills improvement, and assist career development. In fact, some surveys of the students who participated in overseas fieldwork show that students better understanding values gap and were more willing to try new experiences.

To conduct overseas fieldwork as part of a university's curriculum, universities must develop environments that encourage and support the pursuit of meaningful experiences. According to Matsuda and Takigawa such fieldwork has been nothing more than motivation for intercultural understanding because it is short term. However, in the future, it is necessary to consider the after-the-fact setting that can assist student in examining their experiences on their own and understand how it can serve them in the future (Matsuda&Takigawa, 1998). However, it is difficult for some students to learn from their experiences after they return to their universities because what they learned in their fieldwork and their experiences during overseas fieldwork has no direct connection to their everyday university life.

## **OBJECTIVE and METHODOLOGY**

The research objective of this paper is to clarify if the students' motivations change, and to clarify the promotional factors so that participating students can deepen their experiences after the fieldwork and identify obstructions that make it difficult. In this study, the author interviews seven students who participated in the overseas fieldwork in the Philippines in 2013 about (1) their change through fieldwork, (2) school life after that and (3) the reason and factors why students chose that way of life. After that, the author transcribes and analyzes the interviews.

## **CASE STUDY: Overseas Fieldwork in Philippines, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies**

This fieldwork was conducted in Kyoto University of Foreign Studies in February 2013 for five days in Davao, Philippines. Eight students and one instructor visited an NGO orphanage, called the House of Joy (HOJ), the purpose of visiting HOJ was to film a documentary and understand a NGO by observing it from various points of view such as operator, children and local staff. The main activity is to go with children or staff and film a documentary. In addition, Japanese university volunteers play or go to school with children, help cooking meals and so forth.

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Table 1

The schedule of fieldwork in Philippines

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Date	Location	Activities
Feb.11.2013	Japan→Manila city	-Departure from Japan and arrival at Manila in Philippines
Feb.12	HOJ, Davao	-Transfer to Davao from Manila -Start fieldwork and film a documentary
Feb.13	HOJ, Davao	-Fieldwork and film a documentary
Feb.14	HOJ, Davao	-Fieldwork and film a documentary
Feb.15	Manila→Japan	-Transfer to Manila from Davao -Departure from Philippines and arrival in Japan

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## **FINDINGS and DISCUSSION**

As a result of the interviews, after they came back to their school life, it seems that students do not noticed connections between overseas fieldwork and school life. Most of students answered they do not think that their experiences in overseas fieldwork have influences to their school life. However, overseas fieldworks provide sparks for students to think their future: what do they want to do, or what they should do in school life. These further details about findings will be discussed on the day presentation.

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