

Chat with Weltwärts Returnee: Ms. Ammu, MSW.



The Best Part of the Volunteer Program:

- Live and learn with a host family.
- Meet different people, understanding a new culture through them.
- Scope to introspect and reflect, including one's own personal values.

Accomplishments:

- winning the confidence of new people and getting encouraged constantly
- Learnt cycling, swimming, baking a cake
- Increasing interest in developmental issues to look at a broader perspective
- Focus on knowledge appetite.

Obstacles & Strategies:

- Acclimatizing to a new culture- (Do not shy to speak and fear making mistakes).
- Communication barrier due to language- (interact, interact and interact).
- Adapting to a cold climate- (difficult at start but have the patience to mitigate)

Impact on life:

I volunteered in an employment unit for people with special abilities, Behindertenhilfe Bergstrasse. The new perspective for me was to not pity one and create an inclusive atmosphere for them. Now I am exploring the career and research options with two broad questions:

- Why not identify one as “differently abled intellectuals”?
- How to program sustainable development with their skillsets and competencies?

Concluding words:

Congrats to the organizers of this program as youth gain numerous opportunities to learn and participate in socio-cultural discussions. I subscribe to what my mentor often says: youth should always focus on “Learn, Unlearn, Relearn” unconditionally. I begin my new journey to learn and re learn through returnee’s activity!

Talk with Ms Shanmathi, present volunteer in BhB, Germany