

Reflection on Project Mingde Summer Camp 2017 (11th – 15th June, 2017)

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During my secondary school years, I had joined a service trip to Maoming twice. It was an orphanage and I thought the environment was not too bad. In fact, playing with the children was an easy task. However, when I first got to Daping Village Primary School, I was shocked to see how poor the environment was and the lack of educational support. I feel sorry for the children who have to walk for hours to school everyday.

At first, I did not want to touch the children because of their filthiness., but they were so friendly and eager that I could not resist staying close to them. However, the living environment in the primary school was quite disastrous to me. This is the most uncomfortable but also the most memorable overnight experience for me. Taking shower in the construction area and sleeping on the floor in a room filled with insects.

I do not see this experience as a sacrifice of my time and that I am solely 'helping' others. I think this camp offered me an opportunity to escape from the money-minded city and take a break from the hectic life as well as to try something new, something I could not do in Hong Kong.

I especially appreciate the students from the Departments of Engineering and Medicine. They are the ones who help to build the teacher dormitory and help the children do body checks. I, by comparison, did not offer much. The two members of Project Mingde are very helpful and they are really kind to have planned this camp.

It may be a cliché to say that I realise how blissful I am to live in Hong Kong but this is indeed what I feel. If there are activities like this organised in the future, I would love to participate again.