

My reflections

IP - champion 2012



By

Henriette Søgaard Johansen

Denmark

The personal development:

My first thought about this place, was that this was going to be two long weeks, and it took a while to get used to it, but this place is not about the disgusting showers and the dirty toilets, but it is about connecting people. This place is now felt with friendship and love. It couldn't have happened in the same way if it was a fascinating hotel with WiFi connection. If we had been in a place with WiFi connection, people would have been on the internet all the time instead of concentrating on the interesting people around them with different cultures they could learn from. Each day people get closer, and learn new things from each other. Chantal did find the most perfect spot.

The program has been the very intense but for me it could not have been more perfect. If we had more free time, some of the students may have went to the bigger city to party, or get the WiFi connection



This IP has been an important experience, it has enveloped me both physically and psychologically. I have done things that I have never thought I would be possible to do, like climbing trees and be the person in the centre of attention. It will help me so much in my

forward studies. I always had a big problem, speaking in big groups of people, but now it feels like my problems have gone away. It is very important for me to be able to have a great contact with the children's parents, they are the base to the children. I do not know what had made this change about me, but I think it could be.

When this IP started I didn't know anyone and it was a big challenge, because I can be very insecure sometimes. But now I know that everywhere I go, it will be all right. It is like the nature, the nature will always win, and so will I. I am the strongest, and if I find a challenge I will defy it. The nature has to be strong to keep on living, because mankind will find new things each day that will destroy some piece of it. And I will meet new challenges every day that I have to defy and I will do so.



A thing I think a lot about is the sleeping arrangement, girls and boys are separated, so the two boys are sleeping together and the rest of the girls are sleeping in a 20 bedrooms arrangement. If this would have been in Denmark, the boys would have slept together with the girls, so it would have been equally. The sleeping arrangement is so intensive because it is almost impossible to be on your own, so I

needed a walk every morning to clear my head, and be the individual person I am. I need to enjoy the nature on my own. The intensity made me go out to explore the nature and the area.

The intercultural development:

I joined the program for two reasons and one of them was, to get a knowledge of the different countries pedagogical values. And there have been a lot of surprises on the way. People came with their idea of an institution, but saw different perspectives.



I think the best activity of the week was the yes, not sure and no activity, because it showed how different we are, some people thought it was okay to punish children, and in Denmark we are thought about the appreciative pedagogy, and to talk to the children about right and wrong instead of the punishment. But some countries might have different pedagogical values, and it reflected on the students acting towards the children. I feel that some of the students are very strict about the children, and when they want the children to be quiet they put their fingers to their mouth and say “shhhh” and I would never have done that in Denmark, instead I would have used

the children with their variation and make it a game they WANT to be in instead of something they HAVE to be in.

In some ways I think that the other countries is few years behind the pedagogical work with children, and I really hope that this experience will give them ideas to work forward.

The professional development:

The second reason for joining this program was to develop my pedagogical values through activities and reflections. This IP program made me realize how important it is to respect each other. Respect is the base for communication. For me it is the most important thing for the pedagogical work, because it is also the base for living together.



The activities have been so teaching, of course it was fun, but not only that, it was a tool, I can use in my previous work. But it is not just the activity which was teaching me, it has also been the teachers and the students around it, the teachers are so engaged with what

they are doing and it is really inspiring. I have never met so inspiring people in my life. This IP program is so important for all the pedagogical educations because everyone will take something with them back to their countries.