



# Is Voluntourism in orphanages doing more harm than good?

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION EMILY - UPPER SIXTH

Volunteering has been a life venture that I have always felt like I would like to participate in, but I felt that I did not know the ins and outs of volunteering and the goings-on behind the scenes. This topic had ties with my other studies, including Geography and how globalisation has affected this movement making it a more popular activity. It also had clear links to Business Studies where the theory of supply and demand could be applied to orphans and volunteers.

I was expecting a much more positive light into the world of volunteering, however this was not altogether surprising with social media playing a big role in glorifying volunteering abroad. The behind the scenes of the orphanages was the most shocking part to my research, the most staggering figure was that 80% of 'orphans' are not actually orphans - they are often recruited from the poorer rural areas in the hope of a better life filled with education and adequate healthcare.

The fact I chose a topic that I was really engaged in definitely helped with keeping up with the research. It also gave me a good insight into the real world of volunteering. It has given me the motivation to inform others of the reality, to help choose an adequate volunteering opportunity, especially as it is so popular in the 21st century.

Completing an EPQ gave me an opportunity to get a head start in understanding key concepts needed for university life such as planning and preparation, methods to evaluate sources and to have a good work life balance.