

internship report

SHOOTBACK MYSA 2015

G L O B A L E D U C A T I O N N E T W O R K





Dates: August-October 2015
Place: Nairobi, Kenya
Host organisation: MYSA, Matahare youth sports association



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ABOUT MYSA

The biggest advantage of being a Glen intern at Mysa organisation is the variety of the projects that is Mysa organising.

that we

could be part of during our stay, or simply observe them.

Mysa is one of the biggest NGO in the area with focus on

educating young people

with sport, mainly football. Except that there are programs on

health education (with free STD testing)

open libraries project in slum areas, cultural projects f.e.:

educational theatre, leadership awards

that sponsors education of underprivileged kids and many others. Mysa has a good reputation in Komarock where there is

its headquarters and in Nairobi. most people that we've met

from

outside Mysa they knew about their work and spoke, it has many

international cooperations.

In total, the organization has directly impacted over 200,000

young people with its programmms.


ABOUT SHOOTBACK

The purpose of this educational activity that is run there (Shootback) is not only to prevent risky behaviour amongst youngsters, but it also has other aspect for some of the participants, which is the fact, that it prepares them for their professional career as the profession of photographer/vidographer is quite demanded in Nairobi. Most of the Shootback participants, that we had a chance to cooperate with, had an experience with making photography part of their income and it supported them in living. Some as a wedding and funeral photographers, some making their own TV show and most of them participating in making their own magazine named ZOOM. The official launch of this magazine was unfortunately after our internship, but it was a project that was actively developed during our stay and occupied lot of time of Shootback participants. Shootback is a sucessful project within the MYSA that is running there for several years and it is passed from one Shootback generation to another. There was a Shootback club for younger kids running during our internship, but we unfortunately can not participate on this one due to our lack of Swahili skills.

OUR WORK

The level of knowledge about photography and video of our participants in Shootback was good and therefore we decided to play a role of some sort of facilitators of photography education and not specifically teachers or lecturers. We were trying to provide some consultancy and outer perspective on the art projects that are done there.

We conducted workshops for participants where I talked about theory of photography and also the practical part. At the end of our training those who were interested, developed a photo-reportage on a free topic. My tandem partner Paulina also make promotional videos together with Shootback participants during our stay to help them better promote them as a photographers. Big part of our stay was then learning about the organisation and a role of Mysa in everyday life of the community in Matahare. We were also asked to shoot video/photography materials for Mysa that will be used for promotional materials.

The background image shows a group of children in school uniforms standing in front of large, black, cylindrical water storage tanks. One child on the left is drinking from a plastic bottle. The scene is set outdoors on a paved area with a brick wall in the background.

We tried to shoot a wide spectrum of programs that are done there including educational theaters, libraries in slum areas of Nairobi, education through sports – mainly football. As a part of this shooting we conducted over 20 interviews with people from Mysa- be it participants of special projects or people who worked there.

We even get a chance to travel to to interview FIFA referee Damaris Kimani who gave us the insight into growing up and with help of Mysa overcoming all the obstacles and becoming one of the most successful women in Kenyan football.

PEOPLE OF MYSA



Our mentor during our stay was Peter Ndolo, whom we may have contacted anytime during our internship and he was helpful for us in case of need although as he told us we came in a busy period, where he had to administer other projects and was short of time sometimes.

Generally I think that Mysa provides good support for their interns, we had a lot of freedom to do things our own way, but we had people to turn to in case of need. I appreciate the approach of the MYSA director Henry Majale who welcomed us to the community after our arrival and for the whole Shootback team together with Peter Ndolo, who made us all wonderful farewell party.

There were of course also challenges we were facing during our internship, but the positives and the learning outweighed these. I do recommend Mysa as a hosting organisation for the following year, but as I mentioned earlier I can see that the potential of interns could be developed in other areas that MYSA is working in for example libraries project as they can bring some fresh air into these activities. One of the best decision prior our arrival was that we both with my tandem partner desired to stay at a host family. We were offered a place at one of the MYSA employee.

Staying with a host family gave us very unique insight into the everyday life in Komarock neighbourhood. I would recommend this experience to anyone who is planning an internship or longer stay.

SUMMARY

It was for sure one of the most educational experiences that I went through in my life. It gave me really valuable insight into the work of non-profit organisation in a "global south" as well as many other topics such as global interdependencies, it extended my knowledge about the region that I was interning in, and gave more in-depth knowledge about all the topics that were discussed at the preparatory seminars. It took me some time to proceed some of the things that I've learned and experienced on this journey and I am drawing a lot from this in my everyday life.

It also gave me a feeling that I am part of a bigger group of people that are deeply caring about improving injustice that is happening in this world. For this and much more I am very glad I got to participate on a GLEN internship.

FINAL WORK EXAMPLE

MYSA student Marwin Nderitu





Reportage from a gym



Thank you very much for all your support

