

# VOLUNTOURISM:

## WHEN GOOD INTENTIONS AREN'T ENOUGH - LEARN THE TRUTH BEHIND THE TREND

Did you ever ask yourself:

- To what extent does Voluntourism perpetuate global inequalities rather than combating them?



### OBJECTIVE

- The aim of this study is to characterise the connection between voluntourism practices and global inequalities.

### METHODOLOGY

- The interdisciplinary research takes on a qualitative research design, informed by Post-Colonial Theory and an in-depth interview.

### WHAT IS VOLUNTOURISM?

- Voluntourism refers to a combination of volunteering and tourism
- Targets youth from the Global North to volunteer in the Global South

### HOW DOES IT AFFECT GLOBAL INEQUALITIES?

- The motivations of participants raise doubts.
- Due to power asymmetries between Western organisations and local communities, voluntourism projects do not have to be helpful but can also have adverse effects
- Voluntourism can then lead to economic and social dependency.

### POST-COLONIALISM

Voluntourism has been recognised as fostering neo-colonial attitudes. Essentially, the depiction is created that communities in the Global South are 'waiting to be saved'. The industry then not only depoliticises global inequalities but also monetises them.

### SO WHAT CAN BE DONE?

More needs to be done to ensure that voluntourism operates in a responsible manner. Changes in demands and expectations may facilitate this. For example, by:

- Implementing minimum ethical standards
- Adhering to legal guidelines and frameworks
- Acknowledging neo-colonial relationships

#### Selected References

- Echtner & Prasad, 200; Grönlund 2011; Guttentag, 2009; Hernandez-Maskivker, et. al., 2018; Magrizos et. al. 2021; Schneider, 2018; Wright, 2013

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