

NORDIC STUDENT STATEMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF OUTWARD MOBILITY

The driver said he would pick us up at 8 am and now it is 8.15. How come that people always come late? He could have phoned us to say he would be late.

Nordic student on exchange in Southern Africa

Nordic student preparing for a practicum in East Africa

I simply will insist on wearing my pride bracelet when I go to Africa. I want to show that I believe that human rights should always be observed.

I have heard India is quite spiritual and that religion is important. Because there's so many different faith systems, it could be easy to unconsciously offend someone or just not know how to be mindful, I guess.

Nordic student preparing for exchange in India

Nordic student in NZ

I stayed with a native family. At dinner one night the daughter gave the family's Labrador a chicken bone. I freaked out and told her she could not feed that to him as it could get stuck in his throat. She told me "Nah, I always do that". This reaction shocked me as I have been told throughout my entire life that you can never ever give a dog a chicken bone.

I think the people in Jordan are conservative in clothes like having everything covered despite the heat. But that is not a problem to me.

Nordic student preparing for exchange in Jordan

Nordic student in India

It feels like there is still a lot of colonialism behaviour. We've been addressed as Sir and Ma'am all the time, but I noticed that the other Indians are never addressed as Sir. Professors were, certainly. But other employees such as the service staff, they were never.

So one day I called them sir and ma'am back. Also because it was quite complicated to remember all the names. When I was addressing some of them, they seemed confused, especially rickshaw drivers or waiters. But it also left a meaning that, well, I'm not like the white educator keen to decolonize them, but at least I did that. And some of them got this small experience of being addressed ma'am and sir. And maybe it helped them reflect that they're worthy of that.

Some Nordic students were, like, this is crazy, we need to help the locals. Others were more like, I want to help them, but we can't. But I was not even thinking about it. It is what it is, sharing knowledge. I felt like I had a very different view of going there.

Nordic student
after an
exchange in
the Global
South

Nordic
student in
India

One thing I did not like was that some of the others wore shorts to the school, which had been impressed on us earlier on that it was not really done and you should try to look professional. If you feel comfortable that way, wear short pants if you just want to run around in India, but it did not feel good for me, because I felt like that this doesn't seem professional. This doesn't seem like you're respecting the culture.

But again, you know, maybe that's just my personal expression. And maybe it's okay if it's a white person, because it's obviously somebody who doesn't know any better.

I think some locals feel inferior, which is a problem. They see us coming from a rich country, so they think we must be rich and have a lot of resources. They think, what do we have to offer? I was kind of embarrassed because of this colonial hangover.

Nordic student
on exchange in
the Global South