ESL 118 - Xingbo Jia

Mini-Summary

February 3, 2022

S. Eric Anderson, Ricky Kim, Kelly Larios. (2017). Voluntourism: The Economic Benefit and Societal Costs of Short-Term Mission Trips. International Journal of Health and Economic Development, 3(2), 28-37, July 2017 28.

To explore the economic benefits and social costs of short-term mission trips, S. Eric et al. (2017) studied 60 short-term mission trips of varying duration taken by 720 volunteers in 31 different countries through face-to-face interviews, telephone conversations, and an email survey. The total number of days for all 60 trips was 551, and volunteers served 362 days, or about 66% of the time. Approximately 82% of the total amount raised for charities was used to pay for the trips, with only about 18% going to local charities. The study suggests that the money spent on volunteer trips may not provide an economic benefit to the recipient community, but it appears to provide an economic benefit to the individual. Also, it may be true that cash donations are more valuable to local communities than a single visit, but it is unlikely that cash donations are real. Short-term mission trips often do not meet each other's needs. When individuals imagine themselves in each other's lives, they are better able to understand and meet each other's needs.