

Review of: "Encounters with Others: Student Growth through Fieldwork Studies in Rural Areas"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Editor,

The article, "Encounters with Others: Student Growth through Fieldwork Studies in Rural Areas" has merits for publication as it addresses a pertinent theme within the field of Tourism. The study is primarily a contribution to exchange studies. I find the analysis of the case regarding the Japanese reality in rural areas, particularly the situation of declining population in these spaces, to be relevant. This reality is also shared by rural cities in developing countries. Consequently, the universities' strategy involving university students in addressing issues affecting rural cities in Japan provides valuable insights for other countries.

The bibliography used is up-to-date and suitable for the study. The methodology is sufficiently described in the article. Regarding the evidence presented in the article, the interviews provide an important testimony to the learning process through contact with the lived reality in rural communities of Japan. Furthermore, the article highlights how this experience prompts reflections on the negative effects of the current economic system. Indeed, the interaction between students and residents has produced positive effects in both groups, offering new perspectives for those involved. The academic strategy based on Fieldwork Studies (FWS) has opened new horizons for the education of undergraduate students.

There are only two aspects that need to be noted in the text: (1) the frequent use of expressions like 'many regions' and 'many developed countries.' The use of the word 'many' is not very academic due to its imprecise generalization; (2) during the reading of the article, I missed information about the university courses of the interviewed students. Thus, I suggest only that the author avoids the use of 'many' and informs about the courses of the interviewed students.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the authorship on the interesting study and express a favorable decision for the publication of the article.