

Examining development approaches in Jinja, Uganda.

Rosie Pope and Sophie Orr



The First theme was interviewing about experiences and opinions of volunteers in order to investigate whether volunteers were reproducing and recreating the legacy of colonialism. Volunteers interviewed were from Project Trust and Restless Development producing very different answers. Results showed that Restless Development volunteers had a more negative opinions of their volunteering experience, thus neocolonial traits were more evident, which they were interested to discuss; whereas Project Trust volunteers were more positive about their experiences.

The research objectives for this expedition was to examine development approaches in Jinja under two main themes: the impacts of volunteering organisations, and the role of trading in the lives of African Craft sellers.



The second theme looked at how African craft traders measured the successes of their small businesses; discovering the variations which make some 'succeed' whilst others fail. Findings were then compared with top-down donor measures of success. The interviews confirmed existing ideas that a large proportion of 'successes' were family based, educating children was a main priority, but also uncovered some surprising results; traders stating businesses to support grassroots development initiatives, to traders who had been marketing their goods abroad.



We also carried out research for a small Newcastle-based development NGO, COCO who in the past has supported CHIP; a grassroots initiative supporting HIV positive women in Buwenda, a village northeast of Jinja. We spent a number of days conducting interviews with the women and meeting their director, Sarah Wakadala as well as her foster children.

