



2023-1 「 EXPLORING AND IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL ISSUES 」 Topic 7 Tribal Visit in Wulai

Date : 2023-12-10

Location : Wulai

In the course "Exploring and Implementing Social Issues", Topic 7 is an initial exploration of Indigenous Social Issues, led by Professor Pao, who arranged for students to visit the Wulai tribe.

On the day of the event, the group gathered at Tamkang International Hall at 09:00 and arrived in Wulai District, New Taipei City at 10:30, immediately beginning the "Field Observation of Indigenous Tribes". Before starting the field observation, an introduction was given to the students about the background of the Atayal tribe living in Wulai (Ulay), and the relationship with neighboring Taoyuan Fuxing, Yilan Datong, Hsinchu Jianshi, and Wufeng. The focus of the field observation was: (1) the types of shops and goods sold in the Wulai Old Street/Waterfall Shopping District; (2) whether the image of indigenous people in the Wulai Old Street/Waterfall Shopping District coincides with the shop owners; (3) the purpose of the Wulai tram and its corresponding Han Chinese colonization process; (4) the distribution of indigenous self-run industries outside the Wulai shopping district; (5) visiting the Wulai Atayal Ethnic Museum, etc.

The field observation started at the old street shopping district, then took a log tram to the waterfall shopping district. During this time, students freely observed and recorded their findings, and shared their observations with the teacher in the waterfall shopping district. In the second stage, they took a car to check the distribution of indigenous self-run industries around the Wulai tribe. Besides Zhongzhi, they visited Wulai, Xinxian, Fushan, and other tribes, discovering that the old street/waterfall shopping district is basically a gathering place for tourists and Han Chinese businesses, with a few restaurants and art shops selling coffee owned by indigenous people. Indigenous cultural self-run industries are scattered outside the shopping district residences (weaving, leather carving, etc.), and local agriculture is only in the Xinxian tribe (middle and upper stream) with sturgeon and trout farms, and a mountain produce restaurant (Ganaafu Fish Restaurant). After lunch at Jianafu Fish Restaurant at 13:30, they went to the Wulai Atayal Ethnic Museum at 14:30, where the museum staff (Chinese explanation) and the teaching teacher (English translation) jointly guided the tour, and then ended the day's field observation, returning to Tamkang International Hall at 17:00.

Event effectiveness: The number of participants in this event was 5. The overall satisfaction level was 5.7 points.



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One student shared that this was their first visit to an indigenous area, and they were able to experience Wulai from two different perspectives, one as a tourist and the other as an analyst. Professor Bao shared valuable and interesting stories through his knowledge and experience, helping students better understand the real difficulties faced by indigenous people and the direction he wants to work towards. Another student shared that Professor Pao allowed them to see the current situation of Taiwan's indigenous communities, and believes that there is still much controversy about how to protect indigenous culture. Promoting indigenous culture may be a way to protect culture, but it must be agreed upon between the indigenous community and the government, as well as stakeholders within the indigenous community.

Students said they gained a lot and even hoped to have the opportunity to arrange for an extra day in the future to have more time for discussion.



Professor Pao led students on a trip to the Wulai tribe.



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Field observation in the Wulai Old Street shopping district.



Field observation in the Wulai Old Street shopping district.



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Arrived at the waterfall shopping district after taking the log tram.



Field observation in the Wulai waterfall shopping district.



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Dined at a mountain produce restaurant in the Xinxian tribe (local agriculture).