

ACES PILLAR FILM PROJECT

LIVING ON ONE DOLLAR

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SUMMARY

4 College students (Chris, Zach, Sean and Ryan) spent the summer in rural Guatemala (56 days) living on \$1.00 a day to see what it was like to live below the poverty line. The students had to learn how to adapt to a completely new environment dealing with things such as struggling to get food and money, making their own fires, inadequate shelter, lack of clean water, learning new languages, different food diets and more. Alongside facing new challenges everyday, the students were able to form connections with the villagers in Guatemala, helping them survive and adjust.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze72rpWp_Dg



POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

- The documentary was created to share a humbling experience that the four college students went through in the hopes of putting the life of people living in extreme poverty into perspective for us as viewers.
- When the Students visited the bank to get a loan the requirements to get one were near impossible (needed receipts of electric bills, NIT #s, etc), however they soon found out that there was a place called Grameen which provided saving accounts and loans for the poor.
- The villagers created pooling systems in which each family would put in a certain amount of money and by the end of the month one random family would receive it.

ADVOCACY

- The documentary as a whole is intended to spread awareness about the extreme poverty in Guatemala and other countries of South America.
- At the end, they included a link to a website where viewers can find more information on how to help those struggling with poverty.
- Two of the college students did not speak spanish so they weren't able to comprehend some of the interviews going on . The other two students took upon themselves to educate the other students helping them understand the depths of the issues going on.



COMMUNITY



- The college students were able to form strong bonds with the people living in Guatemala in the 2 short months they were there.
 - One very selfless and generous woman named Rosa made dinner for the boys as well as the whole community even though it was expensive. It was a traditional dish that the village served only twice a year for special occasions.
 - Everyone living in the village worked together, giving each other loans when necessary and helping each other in times of need.
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SERVICE

- Anthony (the only person in the village with a secure job as most villagers were daily workers) loaned Chino's family (the boy shown in the picture below) money so that his mom could get a ride to the hospital and the treatment needed for her to stay alive.
- At the end of the movie the students gave radishes they grew by loaning money from Grameen to all the people they interviewed.
- The college students taught the children in the villages spanish and english, as most of them only spoke a local dialect.



OUTDATED?

- The film itself was not outdated. They did a great job filming their experience in Guatemala.
- However, the cause, “Living on One Dollar,” is still an issue today. Because these students were courageous and kind enough to create a film like this with real experience, it brought a lot of awareness to the issue. Although there has been a website created for the cause and a place for donations, this issue is still unsolved and more people should be made aware.
- <http://livingononedollar.org/>



HOW WE CONNECT TO THE FILM

We connected to the scene where one of the college guys shows Chino (one of the boys in the village) how to speak English. It was inspiring how willing him, and other children, were eager to learn despite the lack of opportunities given to them. It made us appreciate more all the doors that are being open for us by being able to attend a higher education institution like Ohio State.

One of us has lived in another country, Peru, and got to see first-hand the poor educational system in public institutions of third world countries. Most people are resigned to poverty for their entire lives if born into it. Just like Chino in the movie, who at only 12 years old, had already accepted that he would be a farmer his whole life. We, on the other hand, are given the opportunity to pursue our dreams, and be whatever we want to be. It is something we should be thankful for every day, and if our careers allow us to make a bigger impact on people like Chino, stuck in poverty, we should always try to help.

CRITIQUES

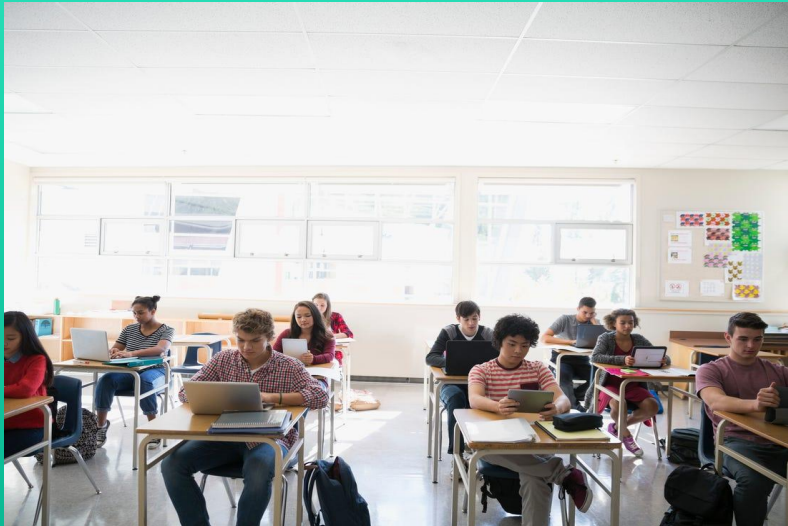
- Overall, this was an amazing film! One critique about the film is that we would have liked to see more of how the students' lives were impacted after their experience. Did it influence them to live their lives differently? Did it change the way they managed their expenses? We just would have liked to know more of how they may have changed their lives after their experience.



WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM WATCHING THIS FILM?

This documentary should be watched by all students in schools, especially in developed countries like the U.S. Living in a country where there are so many opportunities, most people are not educated on how people on poorer, undeveloped countries live. By educating the students in schools and colleges, we are creating a more culturally-aware generation, that can comprehend how people living in deep poverty deal with everyday things and are also willing to help make a change. For people who struggle knowing where the food for each day will come from, any help matters. And we are that help, we are the only ones that can bring change.





COURSE OF ACTION THIS FILM ENCOURAGES

This film encourages people to not only be more willing to help those with less than us, but to appreciate what we have. Even what seems little for us is something someone else would appreciate tremendously.

Any help matters. Creating awareness, raising money, volunteering, or even donating stuff you no longer use might make all the difference for someone living below the poverty line.

