

SOMETIMES NOT AS APPRECIATED IN ORPHANAGES AS YOU DESERVE

Sometimes you won't always be appreciated by the orphanage staff as you deserve and occasionally even get treated rudely, critically and disrespectfully. There have been times when orphanage workers have blamed things on the volunteers (because they couldn't defend themselves or speak up) in order to not get in trouble themselves (e.g. if a child falls off a changing table because the worker left them there alone when they shouldn't have). You'll be there a short time, but the workers may have worked there for years. You may feel you're making a huge sacrifice to help them, and you are, but the workers are used to there always being volunteers there and it's easy to just take you for granted. They may also resent that they aren't making enough to adequately feed their family and you're talking about going out to eat at a restaurant and spending a week's salary (to them).

In reality, we're guests at all of the orphanages, and sometimes a little resentment can be felt from the workers toward the volunteers, whether it's because they think the volunteers spoil the kids or just because it's frustrating to them because they can't communicate well. They're human. They have feelings and bad days, too. The best way to combat this is to convert them into being your friends. Smile at them, learn their name, play around with them and tease them (clearly within respectful limits), talk with them, just make an effort. When volunteers have done this in the past, things have done a complete 180. When volunteers don't make any effort, the relationships worsen and pettiness starts happening.

We ask you to please be aware of these things, not to justify them as acceptable, but to prepare you for something that has unfortunately continued to be a constant issue over the years. If treatment crosses the line, then we step in and meet with the orphanage directors, but we try to do as much as we can to prevent it from ever getting to that point.