“Student Development Tourism”
(Anthropology News, November 2010)

Discussion or Reflection Activity for Program Leaders

Some possible questions for discussion:

- As the leader of a short-term international service learning experience, what are your initial reactions to Hudgin’s article?

- How can/will your approach influence the nature of this experience?

- How does the concept of “Student Development Tourism” resonate with you? Does it capture the purpose and value of the experience you will be leading?

- How would you respond to the criticism “that service learning is at its worst just another form of voyeurism or exploitation.” What is the value of service learning and the value of an international service experience like the one you will be leading? What are the challenges and limitations?

- How will you challenge your program participants to consider their expectations (what they hope to learn, gain, contribute, etc.) and how they are framing and approaching the experience?

- How will you challenge your program participants to consider the assumptions and/or stereotypes they may hold regarding the service experience, the place you will be visiting and the people you will work and live with?

- “Exchange and reflection are the tools that help us to understand and complicate the binaries that dominate our understanding of international relations and development.” How will you intentionally build in opportunities for group and individual reflection throughout your international experience? What methods and activities will you incorporate?