

## **START OF SOMETHING NEW**

It was always a dream to visit Germany, and through the study trip to Germany that dream became a reality. I had initially read about Germany and also heard a couple of stereotypes but never did I hear about smoking in Germany. Seeing that large number of smokers shocked me.

Getting to experience the late sunsets and early sunrises during the summer was also thrilling as we could spend more time outside. There were also many cyclists in Germany and they have a designated path for cycling.

A major difference between Kenya and Germany is the fact that supermarkets and almost all shops are closed on Sundays in Germany.

Not only did I have fun, but I also learnt things of academic and professional relevance to me.

We took part in many seminars and got to learn about university education in the cities we visited. What surprised me most is that what we write as term paper is only but an essay to the students in Germany. It is also fascinating that one cannot become a teacher in Germany without having done a Masters and the fact that the students do more practical work compared to us.

During the trip I got to reflect on my life and through that I learnt a lot about myself. We were in a group and most of the time I had problems with expressing my own opinion. With this group I got to know that I am more difficult and complicated than I ever perceived, but unfortunately I still do not know whether I need understanding or I need to change. I also got to discover that I am not content with studying Education and I hope to discover my passion soon. Being independent is always very important, and getting to know that I need other people in order to feel confident is very disappointing because it is like I heavily rely on other people. I have to work towards changing that.

The system of university education and how businesses operate is what touched me most. As a country we need to have more practical work than theory so as to make our education more relevant. Kenya ought to learn from employees in Germany who are mostly friendly and polite because most of the time the employees in Kenya, for instance cashiers, can be very rude.

The unhealthy foods that I ate is what I chose to leave in Germany. I however wish we had spent more time in Germany because through this trip, I am more confident, positive and most importantly I am ready to face my fears and insecurities.

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