

3.2.10 Case Study: Thailand Photos

Activities



The children regarded the opportunity to participate in various activities as having the opposite effect to violence. Children living under conditions of violence have no opportunity of experiencing such activities. The photo illustrates a garden project. The topic „activities“ was awarded the most points in the final rating and this photo was awarded the most points of all the activity photos taken.

researcher's comment

Family life



The second most significant illustration of the absence of violence for the children was „family life“ and the opportunity to live within a family circle.

researcher's comment

Sisters / Brothers



Brothers and sisters represented the opposite of violence. This photo of a brother and a sister was chosen as the one expressing this effect most clearly. The choice which both girls and boys in this respect is impressive, since the photo is very intense and sensuous – the deeper meaning is not immediately obvious (as opposed to photos of children laughing and playing games together etc.).

researcher's comment

Laughing



The children who took the photos were of the opinion that laughing expresses the opposite of violence. It was also important for the children to take shots of adults laughing, too. One of the gardeners, in particular, was very popular in this respect.

researcher's comment



Dancing



Girls, in particular, stressed the significance of dancing as an expression of the opposite of violence. The topic of „dancing“ was awarded the fifth ranking.

researcher's comment

Games



Both girls and boys regarded the opportunity to play games as an expression of the absence of violence. In Bangpoo, there was a variety of games – not only were objects adapted as ‘toys’ to suit the occasion, disregarding their original function (cf. photo above), but also traditional toys and games were popular (swing, swing seat, bicycle, shuttlecock/badminton, football, various small toys) and other games (i.e. playing in circles etc.). The children who took the photos were of the opinion that children living under conditions of violence had no such opportunities of playing games.



Football was one of the most important games for the boys. One of the girls was also a member of the classical football team.

researcher's comments

Water



The opportunity to relax in water, to play in water, to take a bath or bathe - all produced a feeling of experiencing a situation opposite to violence. The photo above was awarded points by many children.

researcher's comment

Festivals



The opportunity to celebrate festivals caused a certain feeling of absence of violence in both the boys' and girls' opinion – to celebrate with each other, to perform what one has rehearsed and practised. Harvest festival is very popular – small arrangements of flowers and candles are set free in the river.

researcher's comment

Friends



Children love to take photos of each other – and also of themselves. Actually, I did not regard this fact as being of much significance and not really worth mentioning since I was used to such behaviour from previous projects – the children fool around and have fun. Then Gerhild mentioned this fact in one of her e-mails and I re-considered my attitude in this project together with the children. The children mainly took photos of the other children since they wished to take photos of their friends and for them, friends are an expression of the absence of violence. A very admirable trait - that the children were able to articulate, visualize and demonstrate the fact that friends are of such importance – not only friends, but people in general, as opposed to objects of material value. Friendship as an expression of the absence of violence – an impressive realization.

researcher's comment



Music



During moments of musical activity the children who took the photos also had the feeling of an absence of violence. Musical settings, therefore, also express the topic of our project.

researcher's comment

Flowers



Flowers were for both girls and boys a symbol of the absence of violence.

researcher's comment

Freedom



This photo was one of the most impressive and received much acknowledgement from the other children. The small pond with its tranquillizing, cooling effect, the whole peaceable setting and the general mood of peace and tranquillity were a very appropriate expression of a situation depicting the opposite of violence - i.e. the absence of violence. Particularly impressive is the fact that the photo, as such, is not very spectacular, or 'loud', but the children have, nevertheless, sensed the mood and documented it.

researcher's comment

Trees



In the past few years I have become well aware of the fact that children have a special relationship towards trees. It is also interesting to notice that children love to hug and embrace trees – a very tender expression of their relationship towards them. Until now, however, I have come across only one adult who used to embrace trees whenever she was sad and needed comfort. In my opinion, the topic of “Trees as Partners of Interaction” has not yet been closely enough examined and is underrated. The children who took the photos, however, regarded trees as an appropriate symbol for demonstrating the absence of violence.

researcher’s comment

To have opportunities



For the children who took the photos, the opposite of violence also means having an opportunity to act and to have hope for the future. Children living in situations of violence, who are simply left to their own devices etc. seldom have many perspectives for the future and there are few, if any, external bodies which offer them opportunities to develop further. This was a very significant fact for the children.

researcher's comment