Report on 15 days study trip to Germany


Muhammad Irfan

Date of submission Dec 17th 2011.

*Study trip to Germany*

I am going to write about my recent study trip to Germany as I got a chance to visit different cities of Germany through German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Germany is the member of European Union; it has the largest national economy in Europe, the fourth largest by nominal GDP in the world, with 80.2 million inhabitants. Germany has gone through two world wars in less than 50 years.

Basically my study trip was focused on exploring education system, culture, history, and Germans perceptions about family and religion. I got chance to visit five cities of Germany during the fifteen days of my stay (Oct 15th – 31st, 2011). Our group started to explore different aspects of German history, culture and society from Munchen’s famous Deutsches Museum and ended it at German Bundestag and Memorial of Berlin Wall in the capital, after crossing the beautiful cities like Heidelberg, Bonn and Cologne. The people of Germany were too pleasant and welcoming. By visiting the places like Heidelberg Castle, Schwetzingen Palace, Sans Souci, German Topography of Terror, German house of History, Museum Ludwig, chocolate museum, German Bundestag, Berlin Wall and many other sites, I found it a country carrying a culture with very rich history, art and architecture. Especially the erected statue on every next building gives a very unique look.

The well managed transport system and the sound infrastructure of the country gives a message of a true Democratic and welfare state. We also got opportunity to spend our two whole days with the students of Ludwig Maximilllan University and Heidelberg University, the activities of students were not different than ours but their perception about family and religion were much diverse as compared to Pakistani students. The students were much motivated towards their studies and were too helpful and informative. The institution of family is not that much well-built like the Eastern societies but they carry much love and affection towards their family members. I observed through my questionnaires that the belief towards religion is very weak in German’s new generation either it is Christianity or Islam. I also come through such students whose parents were the followers of Devine Religions but they are atheist as one of them argues that religion is something created by human beings in search of self security. Being a secular state the government is not interested in any religion so it is very comfortable for any religion to practice over there. I found that Muslims can practice their daily obligations without any restriction as it is for other religions.

Germany being an ideal welfare state considers that to provide education for her citizens is the responsibility of state so students does not requires to pay any tuition fee. German Universities
provide a very good environment of study and research that’s why it attracts a lot number of foreign students and is increasing day by day. Government provides maximum facilities to the education institutes which results an excellent research out comes and over 99% of Germans age 15 and above are estimated to be able to read and write. German education organizations also facilitate foreign students through different scholarship programs; one of its best examples is DAAD.

The main reason of economic leading position of Germany in the Europe is due to her research and inventions in the field of Science and technology. The companies like BMW and Mercedes Benz gives a huge income to the country. The policies of German government is also very echo friendly because Germany ranks first on the planet Earth with renewable energy resources but still it buys electricity from France which they aims to quit in 2020 because the electricity in France is produced by nuclear proliferation.

**Some snap shots during the trip**

1. Islamic art inside the mosque of Shwetzingen Palace  
2. Painting at the Museum  
3. Renewable energy resources  
4. Meeting with students of Heidelberg University  
5. WW-II memorial  
6. Remains of Berlin Wall  
7. Bundestag (insight)