

Giving a Piece of Me: The Characteristics of Youth Volunteers

ELENA TESORO
DYNAH D. SORIANO
LYNDSAY JOIE M. ISIP
AIRA T. MORALES
JOLINA L. CATANDUANES
AUBREY M. ESPINOSA
MORIEL N. MANALILI

Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University
Bacolor, Pampanga, Philippines

Abstract:

This study used a qualitative grounded theory which explored the characteristics of youth volunteers. The participants for this study are 16-21 years old youth volunteers from church, school and community to see different cases. Gathered data were transcribed and analyzed. It was found that what makes these young people be volunteers were their traits of being passionate, willing, sensitive and observant, and God-centered. Some of what drives them to volunteer is the service they will give and the joy they get in return. This study recommends that students should involve themselves in volunteering because there is so much to learn from it especially in their chosen profession. It is a big opportunity to practice their skills and abilities. Youth volunteers have the potential to be future leaders which may bring change to the nation.

Key words: Youth Volunteers, Characteristics, Volunteerism, Grounded Theory

INTRODUCTION

Volunteerism is an art of helping without asking or expecting anything in return. Generally speaking, it is a self-less activity. It is also a good way to encounter different people.

This research paper aims to know the thoughts and insights of youth volunteers about volunteerism that will be shared not only to the researchers, but to the readers as well.

This study is also about finding out what do these young volunteers have in themselves why they do such acts.

Youth has been one of the most reachable people in the society. But due to massive changes—that according to one article, such change has never been seen before- that happens and the new trend present in this world nowadays, it is quite a disappointment that some of these young people of this generation are now hard to reach out.

Because of these changes introduced to the youth, their attention and interests are being diverted, and they are greatly influenced by them. It is quite a challenge to get them be focused on something other than the latest trends.

But despite of these all, there are still young people whose heart is on the welfare and goodness of others. They are willing to give service to the people who are in need, and to their society.

The impact of the changes is not only on the young people, but also it has something to do in the society. The researchers would want to give importance to the youth of today and acknowledge them. They want to emphasize the change they can bring in the society, through simple acts of volunteering. Giving a little sense of making them involve in volunteerism can go a long way toward making them well-rounded and responsible.

Everyone believes that the youth is the hope of the nation and they are very much known to be the world's future. Everyone looks up to them, expects a lot from them, and believes in their potential.

As Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "We cannot build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

These are the related studies/articles that the researchers found about youth and volunteering.

VOLUNTEERISM AND THE VOLUNTEER

According to the article of Dr. Romulo A. Virola, volunteerism has had a long, rich, diverse, cultural tradition in the country. Notions of Filipino volunteerism employ various indigenous meanings such as *bayanihan*, *damayan*, *kawanggawa*, *pahinungod*, and *bahaginan* which can translate into various types of volunteering such as academe-based volunteering, corporate volunteering, government-supported volunteering, non-governmental organization volunteering and foreign-supported volunteering. Whether understood as *tulong* (help), *pakikipagkapwa-tao* (a shared sense of one's humanity), *pagbabahagi* (sharing) or *paghahandog* (offering), volunteerism can bring significant benefits to individuals and communities in the Philippines and can help nurture and sustain a rich social texture and a strong sense of mutual trust and cohesion, essential to the stability of Philippine society.

From the study "VolunTeens: A study on how leaders of youth volunteer organizations communicate volunteerism and how it is perceived by the members" of Erika D. Balinguit and Julianne Joyce V. Dadivas, there were definitions given to volunteers. Here is what in their study:

From the New Dictionary of Social Work (Timms and Timms, 1982:96) defines a volunteer as a person who offers his or her service or who is recruited to render a service at a welfare agency, usually without remuneration.

On the other hand, the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997:98) defines a volunteer as a professional or non-professional person who provides a service to a welfare or development organization, usually without reimbursement. It further describes volunteers as a significant human resource, which is being utilized by welfare organizations and development programmes. A volunteer undertakes unpaid work, but may be said to earn moral credit (Timms & Timms, 1982:209).

This study summarized the commonalities amongst the various authors' definitions of a volunteer. They said that a volunteer is a professional or non-professional person who (Claassens, 2004):

- Is willing to offer his/her time;
- Is strongly motivated to donate energy and skills for the accomplishment of tasks in whose purpose he/she believes;
- Provides a service or performs a specific task through some kind of formal structure
- Receives no remuneration and does it out of his/her own free will; and
- In the course of the process of service, earns moral credit.”

It has been said that participation in groups and organizations provides opportunities to learn about others, builds trusting relationships and decreases prejudices against others. People get to know more people and the willingness to engage and to support each other broadens the social information network. Overall, the act of volunteering demonstrates a balance

between an individual's self-interest and the public interest. Against such a backdrop and with an appreciation of the cultural context of Philippine society, one might expect a fairly developed level of volunteering in the Philippines.

Another part of their study is the motivations of volunteers.

It was stated in their study that it might be assumed that people choose to voluntarily care for others because they are naturally people-oriented. This was not the case when Phillips and Little (2002) explored personality differences of volunteers and paid staff, working for the social services sector. In fact, they found that those engaged in volunteer care related activities were not more people-oriented or socially-oriented than those formally employed to work in a care environment. As personality traits do not substantially predict why people undertake this type of care volunteering, one may ask, "What does?" A range of motivations around the desire to help others and, in the process, to help themselves, drives volunteers.

These are the effects of Volunteering that is still based from the study "VolunTeens: A study on how leaders of youth volunteer organizations communicate volunteerism and how it is perceived by the members":

Helping others is beneficial as well to the volunteers themselves (Snyder et al., 2004; Sherrod et al., 2006). Previously conducted studies show that volunteering helps the youth develop good personal values, social experiences, civic engagement, and leadership skills. Teenagers who participate in volunteer service have shown lower incidence of involvement in "deviant behaviors such as skipping class, using drugs, getting suspended from school and becoming involved in the criminal justice system." (Synder et al., 2004, p. 460)."

Here are the “Motivations for Youth Involvement” from the study “Youth Involvement in Community Development: Implications and Possibilities for Extension”:

A variety of motivators for volunteering or becoming active in their communities have been identified by youth and adults. These have included practical assessments of their activities, such as meeting school requirements, hoping to get higher grades in a particular class, improving their chances of getting into college, or as an entry to a desired job (Andolina, Jenkins, Keeter, & Zukin, 2002). Motivations can also be the result of more practical conditions, such as a need to develop job contacts and enhance existing skills. In geographic areas where employment opportunities are limited, voluntary activities can offer a valuable alternative to paid employment (Clary, Snyder, & Ridge, 1992; Independent Sector, 2001).

Youth also report becoming active for self-actualization (recognition, raise self-esteem) and social responsibility (setting an example, public duty) (Clary, Snyder, & Ridge, 1992; Independent Sector, 2001). Feelings of efficacy (Clary, Snyder, & Ridge, 1992; Sherrod, Flanagan, & Youniss, 2002), having responsibility/leadership (Kubisch, 2005), and the need to be taken seriously (Flanagan & Van Horn, 2001) have all emerged as important reasons why youth pursue community involvement.

Finally, activeness in the community is facilitated by youth participation in community-based groups. Interaction between social groups promotes awareness of needs and helps identify volunteer opportunities (Wilkinson, 1991; Luloff & Swanson, 1995). Overall, a variety of motivations are present that shape civic behavior.

Included are traditional factors (motivations and sociodemographics), but also the extent to which people interact with each other.”

From the study “Youth Involvement in Community Development: Implications and Possibilities for Extension” of M. A. Brennan (Assistant Professor, Community Development), Rosemary V. Barnett (Assistant Professor, Youth Development), and Eboni Baugh (Assistant Professor, Family Life) under the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences in The University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida), factors that influence the youth in community involvement were shown. Notice this part of their study:

“Youth typically spend a substantial amount of time in activities extracurricular to school, including involvement in community-based organizations, school and local sports teams, and school-based clubs. All of these, and the interaction with individuals within them, directly influence youth involvement in their communities.

Previous research supports the premise that participation in community activities is associated with behavioral well-being among adolescents. Influences on youth becoming involved, such as increasing academic performance during high school, increasing the likelihood of college attendance (Eccles & Barber, 1999), greater school engagement (Lamborn, Brown, Mounts, & Steinberg, 1992), and reinforcing positive social values or setting an example (Youniss & Yates, 1997), have been found to affect involvement.

Other factors have been reported by youth as influencing their need for and willingness to be a part of a greater good through involvement. These include: feelings of efficacy (Sherrod, Flanagan, & Youniss, 2002), the need to be valued and taken seriously by others in the community (Flanagan & Van Horn, 2001), increasing their own self-esteem, and having a responsibility toward society by performing a public duty (Independent Sector, 2001). Recognition by the community at large is part of feeling valued (Scales & Leffert, 1999).

Finally, other factors, such as parental involvement, can facilitate influences on youth involvement. Youth whose parents are actively involved in the community are more likely to become active themselves (Chan & Elder, 1999). Youth whose parents do not participate in civic activities may still become active in their communities; however, a supportive and reinforcing parental relationship may have a greater contribution to civic engagement than parental modeling (Fletcher & Van Horn, 2000). Perhaps as a result of an increased awareness of the advantages for adolescents, parents play an important role in linking their children to the world around them (Parke & Ladd, 1992).”

Theories of motivations can also be look through for these youth to know why they really volunteer.

Herzberg's theory of motivators and hygiene factors

Herzberg (1959) constructed a two-dimensional paradigm of factors affecting people's attitudes about work. He concluded that such factors as company policy, supervision, interpersonal relations, working conditions, and salary are hygiene factors rather than motivators. According to the theory, the absence of hygiene factors can create job dissatisfaction, but their presence does not motivate or create satisfaction.

In contrast, he determined from the data that the motivators were elements that enriched a person's job; he found five factors in particular that were strong determiners of job satisfaction: achievement, recognition, the work itself, responsibility, and advancement. These motivators (satisfiers) were associated with long-term positive effects in job performance while the hygiene factors (dissatisfiers) consistently produced only short-term changes in job attitudes and performance, which quickly fell back to its previous level.

In summary, satisfiers describe a person's relationship with what she or he does, many related to the tasks being performed. Dissatisfiers, on the other hand, have to do with a person's relationship to the context or environment in which she or he performs the job. The satisfiers relate to what a person does while the dissatisfiers relate to the situation in which the person does what he or she does.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs

In 1954, Maslow first published *Motivation and Personality*, which introduced his theory about how people satisfy various personal needs in the context of their work. He postulated, based on his observations as a humanistic psychologist, that there is a general pattern of needs recognition and satisfaction that people follow in generally the same sequence. He also theorized that a person could not recognize or pursue the next higher need in the hierarchy until her or his currently recognized need was substantially or completely satisfied, a concept called prepotency.

Positive Psychology Theory

Positive psychology is one of the newest branches of psychology to emerge. This particular area of psychology focuses on how to help human beings prosper and lead healthy, happy lives. While many other branches of psychology tend to focus on dysfunction and abnormal behavior, positive psychology is centered on helping people become happier.

Martin Seligman and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi describe positive psychology in the following way: "We believe that a psychology of positive human functioning will arise that achieves a scientific understanding and effective interventions to build thriving in individuals, families, and communities."

There have been some recent studies on volunteerism in general and among youth which focused on volunteers'

motivations for volunteering and skills development. One study discussed about the functions of volunteering that motivates people to engage in volunteerism. Another study talked about the factors that influence the youth in community involvement. On an article found on the internet, it talked about if volunteerism is still alive or dead in this country.

Through these studies and articles, the researchers can find support for their study. And although there may have been a lot of studies about volunteerism, their focus is not about the youth, the talk about in general terms. This study would like explore more about youth volunteers.

This study aimed to explore how these young people see volunteerism in their own perception, the characteristics of these youth volunteers and what pushed them to volunteer. In this study, the researchers would further like to know:

1. How may the participants describe volunteerism?
2. What characteristics do these youth volunteers have?
3. What factors motivate the participants to volunteer?

This study will open the eyes of the readers about the capability of young people in doing good deeds without expecting something in return.

This study is important because it will reunite the heart of the youth and the members of the community, and help make a change in the society. It would be nice to see if everyone will have one direction and desire on volunteerism.

It can help teach and widen the understanding and mindset of the youth about volunteerism. Most of the youth doesn't give attention in helping others because of the modern world we live in today. If they will involve their selves in volunteerism they will also benefit like having the skills, experience and connection with other people. It will help them be motivated enough and know the value and importance of this study.

This study can encourage the readers, not only the youth to be involved also in volunteering. This is to show that volunteering will still be in the heart of everyone for them to be responsible for the betterment of the society.

The scope and limitation of this study is only on the youth who have experienced any act of volunteerism, whose age ranges from 16-21 from three municipalities of Pampanga.

Finding their characteristics and their own understanding in volunteering is the main focus of this study. All information gathered through interview will only be obtained from the qualified participants.

METHOD

This study used a qualitative research that attempted to acquire existing information about these youth and what makes them want to volunteer.

The study utilized Qualitative Grounded Theory. It is to develop theory about phenomena of interest. This theory needs to be rooted in observation. It is a research method that enables you to develop a theory which offers an explanation about the main concern of the population of your substantive area and how that concern is resolved or processed.

The participants for this study are youth volunteers from 16-21 years old. As much as possible, the researchers interviewed a volunteer from church, school and community to see different cases. The researchers liked to have at least five youth volunteers to be interviewed.

The researchers asked different people if there are qualified participants for their study. Face-to-face interview was conducted and recorded in a quiet, neutral location where the participants are not in danger and there is no intimidation or coercion.

Participants were chosen by the researchers thru some people who have known them as a volunteer.

They have to complete an interview that should take approximately 15-20 minutes.

Demographics of the participants such as education and race are not variables of this study. Familiarity with the interview participant is of limited concern. There were no interview questions that ask into specifics about the participant that makes the interviewee unwilling or uncomfortable about participation. This should make an atmosphere that allows them to speak freely. The researcher interviewed five (5) participants.

The information for the study was gathered through interview. For an effective data collection, interview method was used. And in order to efficiently use this method, open ended questions were constructed. Questions given were designed to be helpful in attaining a clear outcome.

Interviewing is a face to face meeting between two or more persons where questions are asked by the interviewer to get some facts or statements from the interviewee. So it is a useful tool to get detailed information from the participants about their personal feelings, perceptions & opinions. You discover how they think & feel about the topic. But before interviewing, there are some things to be considered: questions must be easily understood and must not be biased; questions must be applicable to all the participants; participants must be willing to provide information; the interviewee must know the purpose of the interview; the interviewee must be informed beforehand about the interview; the interviewer must inform the interviewee about the interview; the interviewer must explain to the interviewee the interview to be done; the interviewer must provide a consent form and; the location of the interview must also be considered.

Upon the meeting of the participant and the researcher, good relationship shall be established to be able to create a good atmosphere when the interview began. Once the mood was set, the interview proceeds based on the objectives the researchers would like to meet.

When the data needed was met already, the interview will end. The audio- taped interviews were transcribed. Transcriptions were made from the interview for better analysis of the data gathered. Then from the data, identify the terms similar with each other and compare and see which are the important and relevant to the study. From the similar terms, the researchers now come up to creating different themes. The themes will be arranged accordingly. Data used were based from the transcripts.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Statements of the objectives of this study are listed in this chapter.

Own Perception of Youth Volunteers in Volunteerism

Here are the volunteers' points of view when it comes to volunteering. According to the participants you have to be willing when you volunteer. You have to give your all and you have to put your heart in it. Witness their statements:

There is willingness

There is willingness when you volunteer: you are not forced by anything or anyone, you do it by your own will.

“For me, volunteerism is of course giving yourself fully to what you do.”

“Hm para kaku ing volunteerism syempre apin ita itang kusa meng bibye ing lub mu keng metung a bage.” YV2

“Your actions shows your willingness, that it comes from your heart which you love to do without no one telling you to do it.”

“So yun yung action mo na willing siya galing sa kaloob-looban mo na gusto mo siyang gawin ng walang kahit sino man yun gustong magdikta sayo.” YV4

“It is something that is not dictated by anyone but by what you are thinking. Isn’t that we have our hypothalamus? That what tells us whatever we want to do.”

“Yung hindi siya yung dinikta ninu man kundi dinikta siya ng kung ano man ang iniisip mo diba meron kang hypothalamus so yung hypothalamus natin siya yung nagddecide kung ano man gagawin mo.” YV4

Notice that one participant said that you have to give your all, your effort and time when you volunteer.

“Volunteerism for me is giving whole-heartedly your effort, time. Your willingness is there”

“Yung volunteersm for me is pag bibigay ng ahhh... buong pusong effort, time, effort, yung willingness mo nandon.” YV4

It is Intentional

You must put your heart when you do volunteerism, and you have to have a purpose in doing so.

“When it comes to volunterism, the word intentional always come after it. When you are intentional with what you do, you’re putting your heart into your work.”

“When it comes, pag sinabi nating volunteerism, para sakin dun din pumapasok yung salitang intentional, kapag intentional ka ano yun eh, you’re putting your heart into your work.” YV1

Comes with Passion

As stated by one participant above, you must be intentional when you volunteer. And when you are, passion comes out of it. You must love what you are doing as stated by one participant.

“You will fall in love with it, you will have passion. That’s why you need to be intentional on what you do like for instance if you are courting someone you like and you are not serious about it, the girl will definitely reject you. Same as when you volunteer. You must love what you are doing.”

“Maiinlove ka dun magkakaroon ka ng passion. Kaya kaylangan kapag di ka intentional sa isang bagay kunwari pag no ahh nanliligaw yung isang isang tao kapag di siya intentional anong mangyayari? Diba di naman siya sasagutin ng babae, ganun din sa pagigingvolunteer, kailangan intentional ka dun, kailangan gusto mo yung ginagawa mo.”
YV1

Having a heartwarming feeling

In volunteerism you will have that joy in your heart when you know you are able to help others, and when you know that they are happy and satisfied with the help you have given. This is according to two of the youth volunteers that participated in the research.

“But for us, we’re happy because we see that the kids are happy as well. Then you have the chance to share your wisdom to them.”

“Pero kekami, ali, masaya, aliwa kasi eh, masaya kami itang akakit mulang reng anak masaya la din tapus atin kang asusopan atin kang atuturu ketang, ketang wisdom a balu mu, ita masanting.” YV3

“For me to be genuinely happy is when I see others happy.”

“Kasi diba para ako personally magiging masaya ako pag may nakikita akong masay.” YV6

Must be dedicated

When you do things willingly, intentionally and wholeheartedly, dedication must come as well.

When you are serious with what you do, when you do not give your all, it will not have a meaningful result. As this participant said, you must be in love in volunteering.

“And if you put your heart into your work, you begin to fall in love with it. With whatever you do because if you give your heart in it, you’re gonna find yourself excited by the things that you do.”

“And if you put your heart into your work you begin to fall inlove with it. With what whatever you do no kasi pag ibinigay mo yung puso mo dun you’re gonna find yourself excited by the things that you do no.” YV1

Giving Service

It has been known ever since that when you volunteer, you will be giving service to others, whether in simple terms or not for as long as you render help. It is a common definition given to volunteerism.

“Volunteerism for me, as a choir, being a youth of Apung Tomas and of our Lord God, is our service.”

“Ummm volunteerism kayi bastat itang, kaku kasi bilang metung a choir ne, makanta kabilang ding metung youth ng apung tomas ampo ning apung ginu ita, itang service mi.” YV3

“You’re the one who gives help to other people, to your environment, to your community, and to all those who can benefit from your service.”

“Ikaw yung tumutulong pwede sa tao, sa environment, sa lugar, sa community, sa lahat kung sino man yung tatamaan ng service mo.” YV4

Service without pay

From the description of these volunteers they have stated that when you volunteer, you will not be expecting anything in return. So when you volunteer, when you give service to others, you should not ask for anything especially you do volunteerism whole-heartedly.

“It’s when you do something without having anything in return. The only thing that you’ll have is when you give your time and energy.”

“Itang ala man, itang gawan me ing bageng ayta na alang kapalit. Ing kapalit mu mung bibiye mu ing oras mu atsaka itang pagal mu, makanta.” YV2

“We don’t wait for anything in return.”

“Ahhh... ali kami manayang kapalit itang makanta.” YV3

“Your service doesn’t expect anything. It’s spending your time helping not waiting for anything in return. That is volunteerism for me.”

“Yung pag seserve nila yung hindi ka naghihintay ng kapalit, parang spend ng time ng makatulong na hindi ka naghihintay ng kung anumang ibabalik sayo yun yung pinaka volunteerism, para sakin.” YV5

“Volunteerism is like your doing something even though you will not benefit from it.”

“Volunteerism kasi parang your doing something na kahit hindi ka nag bebenifit”. YV6

These mentioned above are the descriptions of volunteerism according to the participants.

Characteristics seen in these Youth Volunteers

Participants were asked individually what they have in themselves why they are volunteering. Here are their answers:

Individual's Self-Actualization

One participant said that they know their self that's why they volunteer. Others have said they discover who they really are (their skills and talent) in volunteering. Another one stated that she gained more self-confidence.

"First is of course I know who I am."

"Una is I know who I am..." YV1

"Because of being an active member of our church, maybe that's what God has given me... my talent. Because of that I was able to discover that I can help through my talent."

"So ita, dahil ketang pamag lub ku king pisamban karin ya me enhance itang kanakung, oyta itang talent ku siguru binye ning apung Ginu na pamagkanta. Dahil karin, ah abalu ke ampong ita a discover ke na, pwedi ku palang sumawup, through my talent makanyan." YV3

"I was able to boost my self-confidence thru getting along with other people." YV4

"Bumubooost yung confidence ko, makikisalamuha ako sa maraming tao."

So according to some of the participants, you will also gain something for yourself when you volunteer- your confidence. You will realize your capacities.

God-centered

Some of our participants are volunteers of the church that is why they have mentioned that being close to God is one reason.

"I love God and he said you are the light of the world, and as a light we are born to shine."

“... I love God and sabi ni God you are the light of the world, and as a light we are born to shine.” YV1

“Maybe, for me, it is the will of the Lord.”

“Hm siguru kaku uhm will ng Lord ni kaya makantini.”

YV2

It is like a “calling” from the Creator that made them volunteers.

Sensitive

One participant has said that she know how it feels to be in need of help, that is one trait she has why she volunteer. You must be sensitive enough on the things around you.

“Maybe, it’s your sensitivity, because sometimes you feel that you’re not needed but if you are sensitive enough, right? To know the reality...”

“Siguro ano...hm sensitivity kasi, diba pag minsan kasi feeling mo hindi ka kailangan pero your if sensitive enough diba to know the reality.” YV6

Another participant has supported this statement:

“So you should... even though you’re still a student, you must see what is happening around you. You must make an action.”

“So dapat.. ah.. kahit student ka palang dapat nakikita mona yung nangyayari sa paligid mo dapat gumawa ka ng ano diba.. parang action.” YV5

One volunteer have further said that you must be aware on what happens around you.

Observant

“For me, I have observed that the youth today are really hooked into social media.”

“Ahh for me, na observe ko first no yung mga tao na mga kabataan ngayon, social media pinagkakaabalahan nila.” YV4

Has passion

Just like how they have described volunteerism, participants said that you really have to have passion when you volunteer. Because once you love what you do, you will not get tired of doing it.

“I have passion, I love what I’m doing and if I will be asked why do I wanna do this, it’s just because of one thing, I’m doing this out of love.”

“I have a passion no, meron akong mahal ko yung ginagawa ko and ahhh kung tatanungin nila ako kung why do I wanna di this kase isa lang I’m doing this out of love akala kasi naten no.” YV1

“I feel like I have this something in me like if I didn’t do it, there’s something missing. Its’s like that. Because once you reallu like what you’re doing, you will never get tired of doing it again and again even though there’s nothing you’ll get (material things) in return.”

“So ita nung atin ku talagang balamu bukal king puso ku king gagawan ku syempre itang ali ku atsu na kanaku balamu pag eku gawa ini feel ku atin something kulang kanaku. Itang makantang bage. Kasi once na talagang sabi ku nga once na buri me ing metung bage, gawan at gawan me. Even though na ala mang nanung bageng kayi kapalit makanta.” YV2

Willingness

One participant said that she has still this willingness in her.

“For me it’s the willingness”

“Yaku ita nang keta nakumung kayi ahhh willingness.”

YV7

ENCOURAGEMENT/MOTIVATIONS IN VOLUNTEERING God

According to the church youth volunteers, their main source of motivation to volunteer is the Heavenly Father. They have that

it is somewhat His will why they volunteer, to acknowledge Him more and give back to Him what He has done to the participants.

“My real encouragement is God.”

“Unang nageencourage sakín is God,” YV1

“Of course its God because if not for him I will not be here”

“Syempre ing mumuna ing apung guinu kasi syempre nung aliwa naman kaya ala ku keni.” YV2

“For us first and for most we serve God and he is our main priority”

“Kekami ne, mumunang muna kasi syempre mag serve kami diba as in kang God ita ing pinaka mumunang priority.” YV7

Service to other people

Giving service will always be on the tail of volunteerism. These volunteers have clearly said that they want to give service to others which is one reason why they are volunteering.

“I’m not lifting myself here but the fact that you see the happiness of the people you’re helping, that you were able to fulfil their needs that you make them happy. For me that is already enough and that’s the most important thing when you give service to people.”

“Im not lifting myself here pero yung makita mo lang yung mga tao na maging masaya yung mga tao na mapagsisilbihan mo tapos nafufulfill mo yung mga pangangailangan nila yung napapasaya mo sila no para sakín sapat nay un and yung pinaka impotante yung kapag kasi yung mga tao pinagsilbihan mo.” YV1

“Second is for my fellow men because who else will you help if not them right? As they say once you help your fellow men is like your helping God as well.”

“Ing kadwa karetang kapara kung tau. Reng kayabe kung tau kasi di ba ninu wari reng pagserbisyuhan mi nune detang kayi, ding kayabe tamung tau. Sabi da nga once na sasawup karing kayabe mu kayi kung sasawup ka karing kapara mung tau balamu sosopan munya rin ing apung Guinu.” YV2

“Our main goal is to volunteer to help other people and to give them joy the feeling is priceless when you know you make othe people happy.”

“Itang pinaka goal yu itang mag volunteer itang maka sawup ka kareng kapara mung tau ampo itang adinan mong tula, itang aliwa itang, aliwang pakiramdam itang pache manakit kang Masaya, Masaya lareng a susopan mu.” YV3

“When you know what you do is a great help to them, that’s what encourages me to volunteer.”

“Ang nageencourage sakin or magvolunteer lalo na kung yung mga taong tinutulungan mo rin naman is alam mong nakakabuti sa kanila.” YV4

“It’s like when you see your fellow youth and you’ll be able to help them then after the program they will thank you.”

“Parang ganon lang yung ano, pag nakikita mo yung mga ka-youth mo, makakatulong ka sa kanila tapos pag ano pagkatapos ng program magte-thank you sila sayo.” YV5

The joy it gives you

When you volunteer, definitely the joy it will give you back is one of the best feelings these volunteers can get, knowing that they have helped others.

“That’s what encourages me, when they keep on going back to us it feel so good to know that we make them happy.”

“Yun yung nage-encourage sakin, yung balik-balik sila kasi ang sarap sa feeling kung masaya sila lagi.” YV5

“It’s overwhelming even just for a single candy they will still thank you.”

“Ang sarap sa feeling, kahit sa simpleng candy nagpapasalamat na eh.” YV6

Companionship

One participant shared with us that through volunteering, she seeks companionship with her members. That within that certain group, they understand each and everyone.

“It’s like having companionship with them.”

“Balamu atin kang companionship itang makanta..” YV7

The impact and change it will bring

This participant believed that there will be an impact when you volunteer. A change that will happen, it will benefit the volunteer himself, as well the ones he will be helping. And he said that this is a change for the better.

“For me what really encourages me is that everytime I will do something there’s a change afterwards but that change is helpful.”

“Pero for me, ang nageencourage talaga sakin is yung everytime na may ginagawa kang bagay, may change di ba? Pero yung change na yon, makakabuti pa rin siya.” YV4

Summary of Findings, Conclusion, and Recommendation

This research study “Giving a Piece of Me: The Characteristics of Youth Volunteers” mainly wants to find out about the characteristics of the youth volunteers.

The researchers have used a qualitative method of research. It is the most appropriate method to be used for the said study.

The researchers have found answers to the questions in their study after the interview done with the participants.

It was found in this study and they may conclude that for these youth volunteers, volunteerism is an intentional act; it is done with passion, dedication and willingness; it is giving

service to others without asking anything in return; it gives you a heartwarming feeling; and of course it is voluntary.

The characteristics of these youth volunteers are: being God-centered; self-actualization (realizing their talents and skills); the passion they have; sensitivity; being observant; and their willingness.

These are the motivational factors that drive these youth to volunteer: God; service to other people; experience they will gain; the impact and change it will bring; the joy they get from helping; and the companionship.

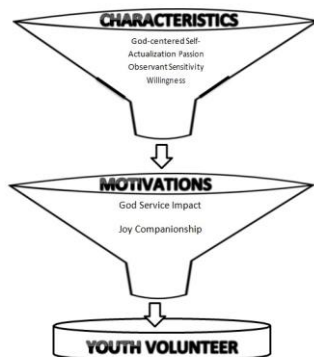


Figure1. Emerging framework of the Characteristics and Motivational Factors of Youth Volunteers

In this figure, it shows the characteristics and those that encourage them to be a volunteer. Here is what the researchers have come up to after the research process. The youth volunteers are God-centered, they have passion and willingness, they are sensitive and observant on what happens around them, and they have been realizing themselves. What drives them to volunteer are the impact they will bring, the joy and companionship they will get, their service to God and to the people they will help.

Students should involve themselves in volunteering because there is so much to learn from it especially in their

chosen profession. It is a big opportunity to practice their skills & abilities.

Instructors can encourage their students not only the youth to volunteer. By this study Instructors can easily improve the growth and development of every student specifically youth.

To inform that the youth are still capable of bringing change in the society. Future leaders are expected to be from the young people so it is a must to have them be well rounded.

REFERENCES

1. Colin Rochester (2006). Making sense of volunteering: A literature review retrieved from <http://practicalwisdomr2z.co.uk/consultancy/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Making-sense-of-volunteering-ROCHESTER-2006.pdf>
2. Dr. Romulo A. Virola (2010). Volunteerism in the Philippines: Dead or Alive? From http://www.nscb.gov.ph/headlines/StatsSpeak/2010/121310_rav_cmr_volunteerism.as
3. Emmeline Widjaja (2010). Motivation Behind Volunteerism retrieved from http://scholarship.claremont.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1015&context=cmc_the_ses
4. Erika D. Balinguit, Julienne Joyce V. Dadivas (2012). VolunTeens: A study on how leaders of youth volunteer organizations communicate volunteerism and how it is perceived by the members. University of the Philippines retrieved from http://iskwiki.upd.edu.ph/images/6/6b/Balinguit,_Erika_Damalerio%3B_Dadivas,_Julienne_Joyce_Verceles_04-12_VolunTeens_A_study_on_how_leaders_of_youth_volunteer_organizations_communicate_volunteerism_and_how_it_is_perceived_by_the_members.pdf

5. Gawel, Joseph E. (1997). Herzberg's theory of motivation and maslow's hierarchy of needs. *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*, 5(11). Retrieved October 27,2015 from <http://PAREonline.net/getvn.asp?v=5&n=11>
6. Helen Scott (2009). Grounded Theory Online... Supporting Grounded Theory Researchers from <http://www.groundedtheoryonline.com/what-is-grounded-theory>
7. Kendra Cherry (2015). What Is Positive Psychology? A Brief Overview of the Field of Positive Psychology retrieved from <http://psychology.about.com/od/branchesofpsychology1/a/positive-psychology.htm>
8. Kristine M. Liddie (2010). What Motivates People to Volunteer: A Case Study Using Coastal Cleanup Day in San Luis Obispo, California <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1041&context=socssp>
9. M. A. Brennan, Rosemary V. Barnett, Eboni Baugh (2007). Youth Involvement in Community Development: Implications and Possibilities for Extension retrieved from <http://www.joe.org/joe/2007august/a3.php>
10. (August 2014) Sample Qualitative Research Paper from <http://www.trinitydc.edu/sps/files/2010/09/APA-6-BGS-Qualitative-Research-Paper- August-20142.pd>