PERCEPTION ON COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM AMONG STUDENTS OF A SELECTED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN CAVITE, PHILIPPINES

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Abstract- Community extension service is one of the functions of the Philippine education system that can never be ignored if an educational institution purports to create a lasting impact to its society. Through this service, corporate social responsibility of an academic institution finds a relevant avenue for the fruition of its goals and objectives. Volunteerism becomes the driving force of every institution in this aspect. Consequently, this research study aimed to determine the difference in the perception about community volunteerism among Dominican students on themes: Noble Act, Sacrifice, Selfless, Service and Joy. This study utilized the descriptive-comparative design and employed the Chi-Square to determine statistical differences of their perceptions across different disciplines. There were 600 students from selected schools of the HEI who participated in this study and were gathered through stratified-random sampling. The researcher used a 27- item self-made questionnaire (α=.912) using a 4-point Likert scale. Results show that the five major themes of volunteerism are highly perceived by the students. As a result, different colleges and disciplines have different perceptions regarding volunteerism but these differences are not statistically significant ($\chi^{2=}$12.00, p=0.21). The School of Arts, Sciences and Education (x=3.60), School of Business and Computer Studies (x=3.54), and School of International Hospitality and Tourism Management (x=3.66) consider volunteerism as joy. On the other hand, the School of Health Science Professions perceives it as a noble act (x=3.49). Thus, college students' perception of community extension service and volunteerism does not vary across disciplines and programs may they be in business, health sciences, arts, information technology, hospitality and services. They all perceive volunteerism as a noble act, sacrifice, selfless, service, and joy.

Keywords- Community extension service, volunteerism, perception, community

I. INTRODUCTION

Volunteerism, as theorized by Faustorilla (2010) can be categorized into five major themes, first: volunteerism is a noble act, which involves a sense of calling from being involved in voluntary works, it includes giving a hundred percent of a person's effort and dedication in helping one's fellowmen. Secondly, volunteerism is a sacrifice which entails hardship to be ableto reach out with the people who are in great need. Thirdly, volunteerism is also a service that ncompasses a sense of reaching out without having any expectations in mind about being to gain a reward for the effort exerted. Fourth, volunteerism is a selfless act that implies having a willingness to help. Lastly, it brings joy to the people to whom the service is being rendered and to the one who volunteers as well. This study aimed to determine the differences in the perceptions of volunteerism among Dominican students of St. Dominic College of Asia. Specifically it seeks to answer the following questions: What are the perceptions of Dominican students of various schools in St. Dominic College of Asia regarding volunteerism related on the following concepts: Noble Act, Sacrifice, Selfless, Service, Joy. Furthermore, is there a significant difference in the perceptions of Dominican students regarding volunteerism when grouped according to various schools in terms of perception on volunteerism as a noble act, sacrifice, selfless, service, and joy? These are the questions that this study addressed.

Noble Act

Noble act is doing the most honorable and it is something beyond monetary form. It gives the person the feeling of self-actualization. Faustorilla (2010) further mentioned that noble act is about being a role model to others because volunteering in nature, means that a person is doing a good deed. Furthermore, Debbie Kendle Lawson, in her article entitled, "Why volunteerism is good for people", agreed that volunteerism is a noble act, which involves helping others and receiving no pay for your work. And according to her, being a volunteer is very rewarding to the volunteer. It provides the volunteer with a good feeling about themselves knowing that they are providing a useful service and that they are helping others. Also, noble act, according to Dr. Romulo Virola of NSCB, is a work activity to promote a cause or help someone wherein monetary reward in not the principal motivating factor. Despite less than noble reasons in some cases for its existence, philanthropy may be considered as falling under the realm of volunteer work, which aside from its direct economic contribution, has a variety of broader social impact and multiplier effects that deliver significant added benefits to society and to the volunteers themselves.

Moreover, according to the Case Study of Yerevan (2010) entitled, "Culture of Volunteerism in Armenia", volunteering provokes various reactions in Armenia. For many it is a noble act. Yet others consider it a mere waste of time and energy sometimes even attaching a stigma to volunteer work. However, volunteering empowers individuals, encourages civic participation, and enhances social cohesion. It creates bonds of trust and solidarity, and this social capital. Volunteers bring new perspectives and skills to organizations and foster greater effectiveness and efficiency of the latter.

Sacrifice

Sacrifice is surrendering your own possessions for the good of others. According to Faustorilla (2010), volunteerism as a sacrifice entails hardship and being able to go an extra mile in order to become flexible in dealing with different kinds of people. Moreover, it involves offering of free-of-charge assistance to the needy and victims of calamities by making use of one's spare time just to lend help. Volunteering also involves the demand of the people. And when a person is fully de3dicated to what he or she does, one is already accepting a responsibility which is to be involved in making the society even better. Kale (2010) further came up with "The Spirit of Volunteerism Involves Sacrifice" which discusses that a volunteer will be willing to live in poverty so they can see how the people who they are serving live. Another study that speaks of sacrifice in volunteerism is the study of Bishnu hari Bhatta on Volunteerism in Nepal. Volunteering is a fundamental building block of civil society. It brings to life the noblest aspirations of humankind. The pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety, and justice for all people, volunteering is an essential element of all societies. To sacrifice a part of what owns for the benefit of others is considered a virtue.

Selfless

Selfless is being caring and dedicated to others' welfare and interest more than themselves. Another theme of volunteerism according to Faustorilla (2010) is being selfless which includes giving oneself without expecting anything in return and giving services without any expectations, sharing what you have, and showing a concern to others who are affected. Also, Sharon Hornberger (2008) mentioned that volunteerism is the ultimate in demonstrating compassionate concern for all people and the community we share. With a selfless mind, a person who volunteers is motivated by the needs of people to be willing to reach his hand outland do his best despite minimal benefits.

Service

Service is an act of doing something to extend a helping hand. It is also a way of contributing oneself to the welfare of others. Volunteerism as a form of service, as mentioned by Faustorilla (2010), is being initiative to serve people and having a will to render care to the community or group of people through working together for a free cost by immersing oneself in a certain community. Furthermore, Tugend, Alina (2010) defined service in her study entitled, "The Benefits of Volunteerism, If the Service is Real", as looking beyond themselves and understanding the role they can play in their community and country.

Joy

Joy is a feeling of great happiness and pleasure caused by something exceptionally satisfying. Faustorilla (2010) also proved that volunteerism is a form of joy as well, that people finds helping as sharing of happiness with others and gaining confidence within oneself in return. Also, it provides a feeling of contentment to self and is considered as a way of enjoying own capability to extend help which rings smile and joy to everyone. According to Andrew Chatham's article entitled, "The Joy of Volunteering in your local community" (2009), volunteering is a great way to support your community and there are so many opportunities to do something that is actually enjoyable. Also, according to him, volunteering can bring joy in to your life and someone else's life in unexpected ways that will make someone feel contented and will make one think that he or she made a difference in someone else's life. Lastly, Sara Fernandez (2009) said that people volunteer because being happy plays an important role in health and many people find happiness in volunteering.

In the grounded theory of John Faustorilla Jr. (2010) entitled, "Towards an understanding of Volunteerism in the Nursing Profession", volunteerism is about setting a good example to others because it entails doing a good deed. Secondly, volunteerism as a sacrifice entails hardship and being able to exert an extra effort in order to become flexible in dealing with different kinds of people. It may involve offering of free-of-charge assistance to the needy and victims of calamities by making use of one's spare time to lend help. Furthermore, according to Kale's (2010) study entitled, "The Spirit of Volunteerism Involves Sacrifice", volunteerism entails willingness and dedication to live in poverty, no matter how high the demand will be, he or she will be willing to stay and listen. By virtue of volunteering, one is already

II. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized the descriptive-comparative quantitative design. Comparative study examines the differences between the different departments namely School of Health and Science Professions, School of Arts, Sciences and Education, School of Business and Computer Studies, and School of International Hospitality and Tourism Management. The researcher used a 27- item self-made questionnaire (α=.912)

using a 4-point Likert scale. There are 5 areas of perceptions which include noble act, selfless, sacrifice, service and joy.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All the findings about perception of Dominican students of various schools or departments in SDCA regarding volunteerism as seen in the tables below the five major themes used and the difference in perception regarding volunteerism in terms of perceiving noble act, sacrifice, selfless, service and joy.

TABLE I: PERCEPTIONS ON VOLUNTEERISM BASED ON THE FIVE THEMES ACCORDING TO THE DOMINICAN STUDENTS OF ST. DOMINIC COLLEGE OF ASIA.

FIVE THEMES OF VOLUNTEERISM	MEAN SCORE
Noble Act	3.63
Sacrifice	3.59
Selfless	3.53
Service	3.53
Joy	3.57

The results show that mostly of the Dominican students perceived volunteerism as a noble act with a mean score of 3.63 regardless of what school they belong. Volunteering is becoming more and more popular nowadays as individuals in communities could use the help that volunteers can provide. They realize that doing something for ones next to them could be emotionally and spiritually rewarding and that their actions will be remembered by the ones that they helped.

TABLE II: DIFFERENCE IN THE PERCEPTION OF DOMINICAN STUDENTS OF VARIOUS SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO THE FIVE THEMES OF VOLUNTEERISM.

	Mean	SD
SHSP		
Noble Act	3.48534	
Service	3.386657	
Sacrifice	3.3811	0.05072349
Selfless	3.458325	
Joy	3.48	
Total	3.4382844	
SASE		
Noble Act	3.5523	
Service	3.528843	
Sacrifice	3.5	0.04821847
Selfless	3.4785	
Joy	3.60266	
Total	3.5324606	
SBCS		
Noble Act	3.47152	
Service	3.344357	
Sacrifice	3.34436667	0.08416324
Selfless	3.43875	
Joy	3.53906	
Total	3.427611	
SIHTM		
Noble Act	3.6331	
Service	3.613057	
Sacrifice	3.58225	0.03227609
Selfless	3.5894	
Joy	3.66094	
Total	3.6157494	

($p = >0.05$) There is no significant difference among the perceptions of Dominican students from various schools regarding the five themes of volunteerism.

Noble Act is highly perceived by the students belonging from the School of Health Science Professions because in their field of work they allot more time for others in order to help. Their profession focuses on caring for the people who needed them the most and thru this; they offer themselves as to render care without expecting anything in return. They view themselves as an instrument of help through communication and building good interpersonal relationships which aides in guidance for the prioritization of their necessities. Moreover, they do volunteer in order to immerse themselves with the communities in order for them to establish rapport and gain the trust of the people and build collaboration with them for the betterment of the community.

On the other hand, the School of Arts, Sciences and Education students find joy in volunteerism. They do in fact hold the belief that helping others is a good way to gain fulfillment for them. From volunteering, it creates the sense of self worthiness and instills self-esteem. It gives the very important feeling of being needed as through volunteering somebody is offered help, which is by itself a very rewarding and fulfilling experience for the volunteer. Volunteering involves exerting an extra effort and being flexible in dealing with different kinds of personality, for them to be able to learn and understand the different necessities of the people. Likewise, the students from the School of Business and Computer Studies find volunteering a great way to support the community and that there are so many opportunities to do something that is actually enjoyable. They volunteer in order for them to expound what they need to know more about the society and the community in connection with their future profession. Furthermore, they engage themselves in public events through business plans and promotions for the future development of the whole society from different communities.

The School of International Hospitality and Tourism Management also sees volunteerism as a way of finding happiness by being committed in the services they give and enhancing their own knowledge and skills. The students find this distinct and genuine happiness from rendering care to people for the benefit of the wider community by an individual, group, or institution without necessarily expecting monetary gain in full knowledge and appreciation of being a volunteer. The whole idea behind volunteering is to bring some moments of happiness into someone else's life without anything in return. People who were string enough agreed that with every effort they make for someone else, they get back emotional rewards that entails a genuine happiness for the volunteer. The work of the volunteer may in many cases mean little

for the one who does the job, but it can make a significant difference to the one for whom the favor is made.

TABLE II: DIFFERENCE IN THE PERCEPTION OF DOMINICAN STUDENTS ACCORDING TO THE FIVE THEMES OF VOLUNTEERISM.

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
NOBLE ACT	Between Groups	6.828	3	2.276	7.848	.000
	Within Groups	172.836	596	.290		
	Total	179.664	599			
SACRIFICE	Between Groups	3.813	3	1.271	4.618	.003
	Within Groups	164.038	596	.275		
	Total	167.851	599			
SELFLESSNES	Between Groups	5.819	3	1.940	6.942	.000
	Within Groups	166.539	596	.279		
	Total	172.358	599			
SERVICE	Between Groups	1.436	3	.479	1.601	.188
	Within Groups	178.192	596	.299		
	Total	179.628	599			
JOY	Between Groups	3.035	3	1.012	4.612	.003
	Within Groups	130.736	596	.219		
	Total	133.771	599			
TOTAL PERCEPTION	Between Groups	3.701	3	1.234	6.288	.000
	Within Groups	116.945	596	.196		
	Total	120.647	599			

(p = >0.05) There is no significance difference among the perceptions of Dominican students from the 4 schools except for the third theme which is Service with (sig = .118).

(p = >0.05) We can see that $\chi^{2=}$ .196, p= 0.000. This implies that there is no statistically significant difference between the different schools towards volunteerism; that is all schools almost equally have the same perception regarding volunteerism.

Volunteerism is giving time, compassion, and attention to those who need it the most. Thus, there are different factors that can contribute to the reason why volunteers continue to volunteer. The role of the volunteer is ever changing and it is important to understand the value of volunteers and how they can be used now and in the future.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings, the researcher therefore conclude that volunteerism according to Dominican students is a noble act, involves sacrificing and rendering free services, being selfless and that it brings joy to the persons involved in the act. There is no significant difference in the perception regarding the five themes of volunteerism between Dominican students from various schools. Since there is no significant difference, the researcher failed to reject the null hypothesis.

However, when grouped according to schools, volunteerism is perceived by the School of Health Science Profession as a noble act. The School of Arts, Sciences and Education, School of Business and Computer Studies, and School of International Hospitality and Tourism Management perceived volunteerism as a joyful act.

The study showed that volunteerism entails a noble act since it involves deep patience and never-ending willfulness to share what one has, giving what they can give to make time to who are in deep need which can greatly enhance the quality of life for someone who is involved or ill. It is a sacrifice in which a volunteer spends effort and knowledge to understand what others are going through and being able to offer a lending hand or kind words to make a difference in the lives of the majority. Being selfless is another quality which involves giving an extra time to brighten the day of those suffering in sorrow and lend help to those who are experiencing the downfall of life, wherein a simple time is one of the important things that a person can offer to help out. Furthermore, volunteering brings joy to both sides as well, the one who volunteer and the one being helped which is a win-win case and according to the study, aside from sacrificing, it can also be a fun and productive way to explore own interest and passion because doing volunteer work provides a person with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into their personal and professional life. Also, it is being engaged in rendering service which requires a person's skill that can make a world of change to people around them through conducting or being involved in activities for the betterment of the people without expecting anything in return.

Volunteerism provides a number of opportunities in order to gain experiences in an area of interest and meet people in their field of work. It offers a chance to practice important skills used in their workplace, such as teamwork, problem solving, communication, planning, and management. Volunteering brings together a diverse range of people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Both the recipients of your volunteer efforts and your co-workers can be a rich source of inspiration and an excellent way to develop your interpersonal skills. Not only will you develop lasting personal and professional relationships but it is also a great way to learn about people from all walks of life.

The study proves that volunteerism enables a person to spend quality time, demonstrate responsibilities and show the importance of lifelong learning which can later on instill a significant effect on one's life. Lastly, it opens a whole new world for improvement and change, making each individual feel like an important

part of the community, family, or organization and providing the rest an image of who, what and how a child of God should act.

Based from the findings, Dominican students highly perceived volunteerism as a noble act, sacrifice, selfless, service, and joy. After a thorough analysis of data, the following recommendations are hereby made:

For the students in St. Dominic College of Asia specifically the School of Health Science Profession, that they continue to perform their duties and responsibilities as allied health professionals in different settings where their care and services are needed the most and may they preserve their flexibility in dealing with different circumstances in order to maintain the spirit of volunteerism no matter the cause is. Secondly, the School of Arts, Sciences and Education, which they continue to be dedicated to their respective capabilities to render services that may become helpful for others in a different aspect because there are people who do not just experience financial stress and physical abuse, they are also people who suffer from emotional and psychological aspect. Also, being an educator is a big help for every being because in this aspect, people are able to have a good future and they should continue teaching what are necessary because in times of oppression, knowledge can be the only possession that a person may have and with regards to volunteerism, future educators share and do contribute a big part on a person's life. Third would be the School of Business and Computer Studies, that they continuously enhance or project great team building which involves people working together across the organization having a common goal to serve the affected and to continue reaching out considering the resource allocation and people management. Through this, the students will be able to enhance their leadership skills while being able to help the people who need them the most. Lastly, for the School of International Hospitality and Tourism

Management, that they would be able and willing to volunteer to enhance their interpersonal skills including communication for a more improved public service that will entail a personal and professional growth thereafter.

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