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DEVELOPING SENSE OF VOLUNTEERISM AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Motivation is always part of teaching strategy to encourage the students to participate in various school activities most especially in conducting community service projects. Making them realize the value of what they did is one way of recognizing their worth as volunteers. This article shares some insights on developing sense of volunteerism among students and how can it be achieved. Responsible servant leaders with passion to fulfil the duties of volunteers are what the government needs to build a strong nation. It is the duty of the institutions of higher learning to produce graduates who can provide great contributions in reshaping the future of poverty to prosperity.

KEYWORDS: Community, Leadership, Sense of Responsibility, Volunteerism

INTRODUCTION

Social responsibility is being taught in institutions of higher learning through involving the students in community extension projects as part of the threefold function of their respective colleges or universities aside from research and instruction. The goal of this undertaking is to uplift the lives of people in the adapted community of the university and teach the students to realize the value of volunteerism and its underlying spirit in fulfilling the needs of others. The idea of individual characteristic theory is being emphasized in developing the values, traits, and motivations of the college students to do noble service for mankind.

Volunteerism is a form of helping in which people actively seek out opportunities to assist others in need, make considerable and continuing commitments to provide assistance, and sustain these commitments over extended periods of time, often at considerable personal cost (Snyder, 2001). It would be realized by the students if the institutions of higher learning will initiate activities to support sustainable community outreach programs. The degree to which decision makers

understand community worker motivations and match these with appropriate incentives is likely to influence program sustainability (Glenton et al, 2010). Universities can develop the spirit of volunteerism among students through reshaping the culture and instilling noble values to every individual. Promoting the character of Good Samaritan would set the minds of students to find more time sharing not only the gift of things but also the gift of heart.

Letting the students participate in community extension programs of the university would not only provide them the idea of how they can make people satisfied with the services and donations they brought to the beneficiaries. But the most important insight they must realize is how they could be an instrument of God's vision to impart their full potentials, talent and wisdom to become living emblems of notable volunteers and future heroes.

The making of dedicated volunteers requires some pieces of encouragement, inspiration, guidance, sense of responsibility and purpose. Add some slices of faith, trust, integrity and commitment would complete the ingredients of having a delightful character of good servant leaders. An identity is important to one's sense of self and it influences the way a leader cognitively processes socially relevant information and exercises a particular leadership behavior in response to a situation (Sun, 2013).

The youth of today must take part on many challenging roles of designing plans and implementing the programs that would give them the sense of leadership and ownership of their achievements. Giving them the right empowerment and freedom to think and choose the best way where they could enjoy and be successful volunteers.

Developing an open-handed community of volunteers is a process of building a strong foundation of another society from the underprivileged people to participate in moving out the negative thoughts of hopelessness and wretchedness. Cultivating a positive mental attitude of people would give them enough courage and weapon to fight against poverty. The quest for social transformation and mobility would show them more the challenging experiences leading to another circle of an enormous adventure.

Creating the life of volunteers is a great art of giving and surrendering ones' own gift of time and spirit. Offering material possession is not the only way people could find themselves true volunteers but also through utilizing their power to serve people to the best of their ability. It would lead them to a life which is quite

memorable seeing the faces of children painting the scene of innocence and goodness of God. They are the living examples of why should a university must continue its journey and keep its hand wide open to share and embrace the people who really need care and understanding of God's fairness and justice.

From simple gifts of joy and time to share with hard-up people, students can learn how to appreciate little things they are receiving in any manner and kind, that even little things can provide a greater happiness to the people who lost their way and hope to see if there's still a bright future ahead of them. Sharing the gift that people are receiving from God is the best way of saying "Thank you" from God the Father and Great Provider.

CONCLUSION

Volunteering is a distinctive, significant, and widespread social practice (Einolf & Chambré, 2011). Helping people realize that life is not as hard as they thought. Life would be better off, if they would keep their faith and feet in a journey sharing the same mission of helping other people. The essence of being responsible volunteer is how we use our hands lifting up people from misery and leaving them with life full of hopes and dreams. Little things can be a great reward no matter how much its value, the most important is, to realize the significance and purpose of giving, not only material things, but how we give the gift of our self.

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