

The role of civil society organizations in promoting voluntary participation of youth in the Bethlehem Governorate from the point of view of young volunteers

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Abstract

The present study aims at identifying the role of civil society organizations in enhancing voluntary participation of youth in the Bethlehem Governorate from the point of view of young volunteers. The study deals with the subject on three main levels. The first is the relationship between the environment of the institution and volunteer participation of youth, which discusses seven dimensions. The first considers the activities of civil society organization. The second dimension discusses management patterns used in those community organizations. The third studies the organizational policies in civil society organizations. The fourth dimension delves into social gender variation. The fifth examines the needs of youth volunteers in civil society organizations. The sixth dimension talks about facilities of civil society organizations related to volunteers, and the seventh dimension discusses means used by civil society organizations to promote their activities. The second component talks about the degree of promotion of voluntary participation of youth in civil society organizations. The third component of the study includes the obstacles to enhancing voluntary participation of youth in civil society organizations.

The importance of this study stems from the findings on the role of civil society organizations in enhancing voluntary participation of youth in Bethlehem Governorate from the point of view of young volunteers. The study is built on the descriptive method. The study population consists of young volunteers in youth organizations in the Bethlehem Governorate, numbering 223 volunteers. The study sample consists of 141 volunteers. A questionnaire was used in the collection of primary data. from the study population.

After data collection, statistical analysis was done using SPSS. from the study population.

Results show that the relationship between civil society organizations and volunteering youth was positive obstruction. The results of the study also showed that the degree of enhancing voluntary participation of youth in civil society organizations was largely intermediate.

The results also reveal that there are some obstacles affecting voluntary participation. These obstacles include lack of awareness of the importance of voluntary participation of youth in civil society organizations, and the discouragement of parents concerning participation in volunteering activities.

The study results explain that there are statistically significant differences in the study subjects concerning the “level of education”. No statistical significant differences were found in relation to gender, age, marital status, occupation, family income, and average hours spent volunteering per month.

In light of the results of this study, the researcher recommends to raise awareness about the importance and sanctity of voluntary work and its

positive outcomes for both volunteers and their society; in addition to providing civil society organizations with volunteers' logistics in order to enhance the voluntary participation of youth in civil society organizations.

The researcher also recommends that researchers should study more broadly the control variables (gender, age, marital status, average hours spent in voluntary participation, family income level, job).