

ABSTRACT

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EXPLORATION OF THE FATCORS DETERMINING VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF KOTWA DISTRICT OF ZIMBABWE

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Abstract:

Youth volunteering is a vital tool for development. The demand for volunteers is increasing due to worsening challenges that afflict communities such as HIV/AIDS, Unemployment and poverty, among others. However, despite this high demand for volunteers, voluntary participation of youth is decreasing. It is not clear why this is happening when the demand for volunteers is increasing. Failure to address this problem might deepen poverty, youth irresponsibility and curtail development efforts in developing countries. The aim of the study was to examine the factors contributing to voluntary participation of youth in community development in Kotwa District. It was carried out in 5 wards of Kotwa District. A qualitative approach involving individual and group interviews was followed. Youth participants were selected using a multistage stratified random sampling technique. The Atlas Ti version 6 software was used to analyze the qualitative data. Youth voluntary participation in community development seemed to vary with gender. Likewise, the factors of volunteering seemed to differ as distance increased from the main urban area. It was therefore deduced that strategies for volunteering must be established taking into consideration gender and distance from the urban area to youth residential places. Target oriented strategies of promoting youth voluntary participation in community development were highlighted unlike the strategies generalized to the currently existing population. The need for carrying a study that tests the significance of effects of distance from urban area, gender and age of youth was evident.

Most important references:

youth; volunteering; participation; community development