Factors Affecting Volunteerism in Kenya

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation sought to analyze why volunteerism appears to be understood as something for the Northern countries and not so well established in Kenya yet it is a contributing factor to development.

The methodology used in the research involved application of descriptive research design together with a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. Purposive sampling was used to select four Volunteer Involving Organizations' staff, volunteers and partner organizations; Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports staff; and students of St. Paul's University. Purposive sampling allowed for choice of groups that had the information and experience on the subject being research on. Data collection was done through mailed and administered questionnaires and analysis was done using frequency distribution through Microsoft Excel software. The major findings of this study show that some volunteering is happening in Kenya and this has potential to grow but is faced with a number of challenges that need to be addressed. Economic factors bear the biggest effect on volunteerism. Other factors include lack of policies and structures; cultural issues; nationality/racial issues; and lack of relevant qualifications/skills and experience. Intrinsic factors affecting volunteerism include personal values, having realistic expectations and the right motivations to volunteer. The findings show that Kenyans are motivated to volunteer to contribute for poverty alleviation, career advancement and source of employment among others. As regards South to North volunteering, the findings show this is not feasible due to the gaps existing between developed and developing countries.

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