

Reasons why students and individuals do not volunteer: Analysis of the survey

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Introduction

This document provides a simple analysis of a survey data set as to why students and individual do not volunteer within their local communities. According to my survey, which I created and conducted through Surveymonkey.com, as well as personal interviews with other people who have experience in volunteering within their local communities, I also secondary sources: journals and magazines. I came to a hypothesis that individuals do not volunteer due to many reasons. My hypothesis is: Students and individuals in general usually do not volunteer within local communities because they are too busy working, have a family to take care of, or are unaware of where or how to volunteer . The data mainly came from students (local and international students), individuals living within the same area who volunteer and people who have already volunteered and have experience in this area. Amazingly, a good number of people participated more than I expected. These individuals are freshmen and senior students, people and friends on the largest social networks Facebook and MySpace, and from my family members who had the same experience. All of them almost gave me the same response.

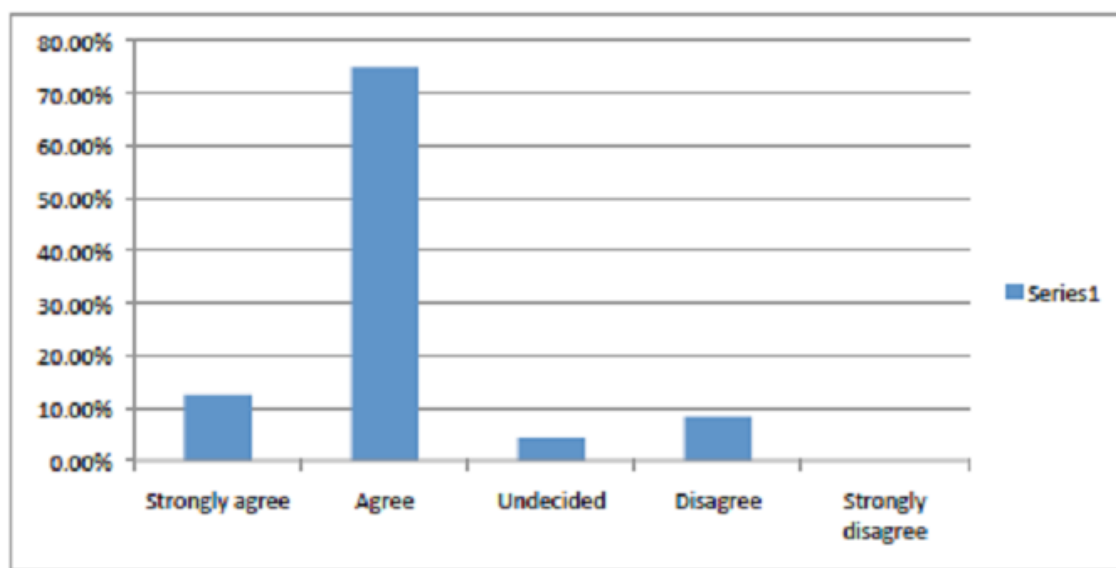
I got the responses by asking questions, although it was complicated and challenging what questions I should ask people in community and students who are either residents and international but I managed to come up with five general questions that helped me pull my data together. The questions I decided to use are as follows:

1. Individuals do not volunteer because they work a lot.
2. Individuals do not volunteer because of family responsibilities.
3. Individuals do not volunteer because they do not know volunteering grounds.
4. Students do not volunteer because of their busy school schedules and programs
5. Are there other reasons why people and individuals do not volunteer

The first four questions were measured in terms of (strength) whether you agree, strongly agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree, the fifth questions was an open box where you could give other reasons why individuals do not volunteer by typing them apart from the ones asked above.

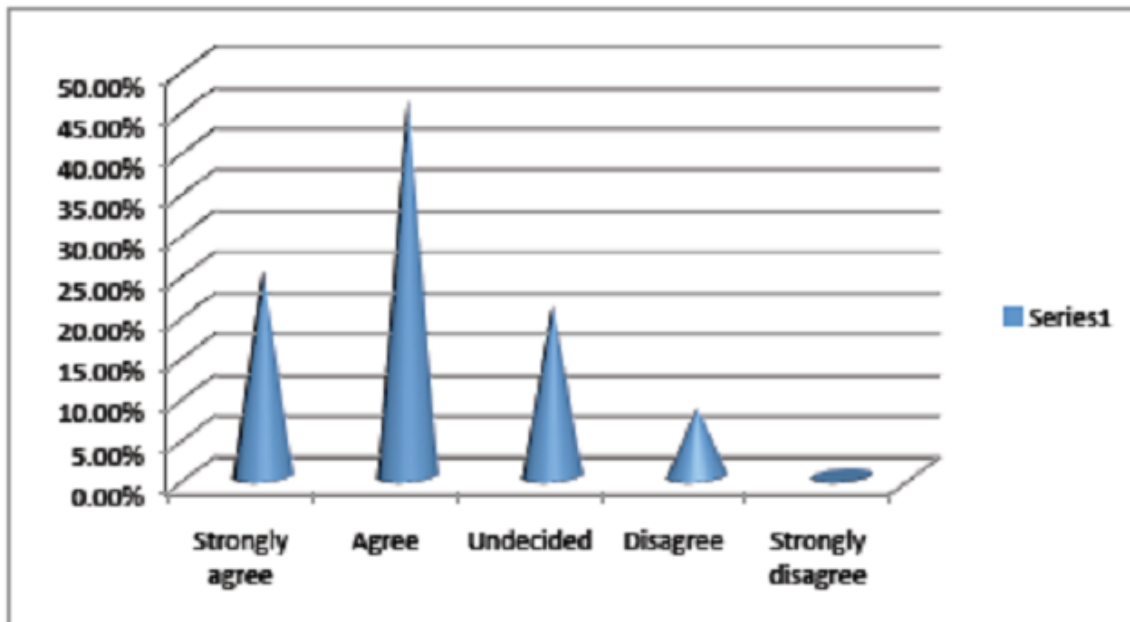
Survey results and analysis

Question 1. Individuals do not volunteer because they work a lot.



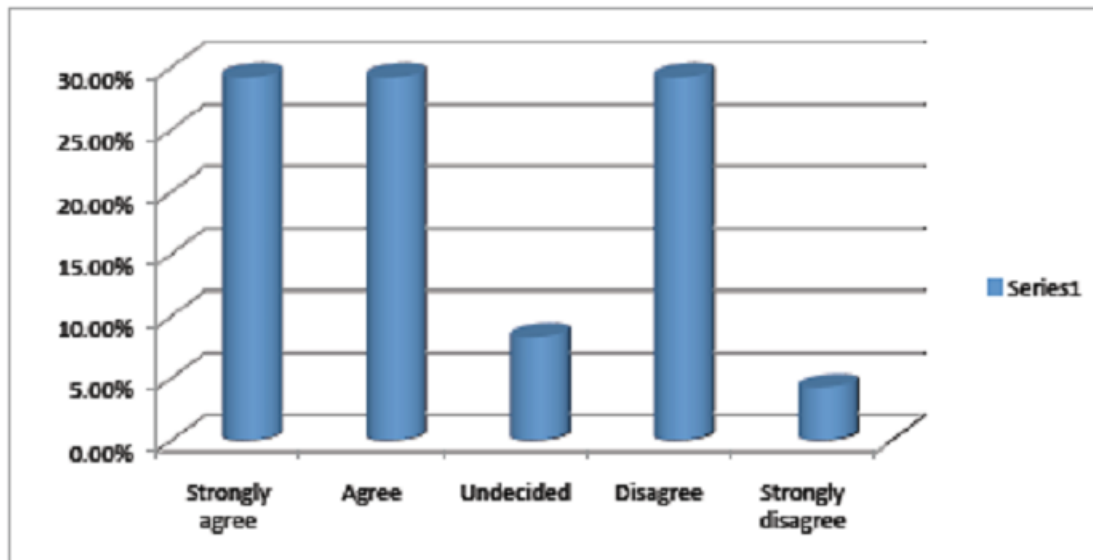
One of the major reasons why people do not want to volunteer was due to the work. Most of them handled between two to three jobs in order to meet their demands hence their viewed volunteering as not rewarding like their job seventy five percent of people agreed and ten percent strongly agreed. These statistics show that most people preferred working so that they can meet their demands, however few people disagreed with the fact.

2. Individuals do not volunteer because of family responsibilities.



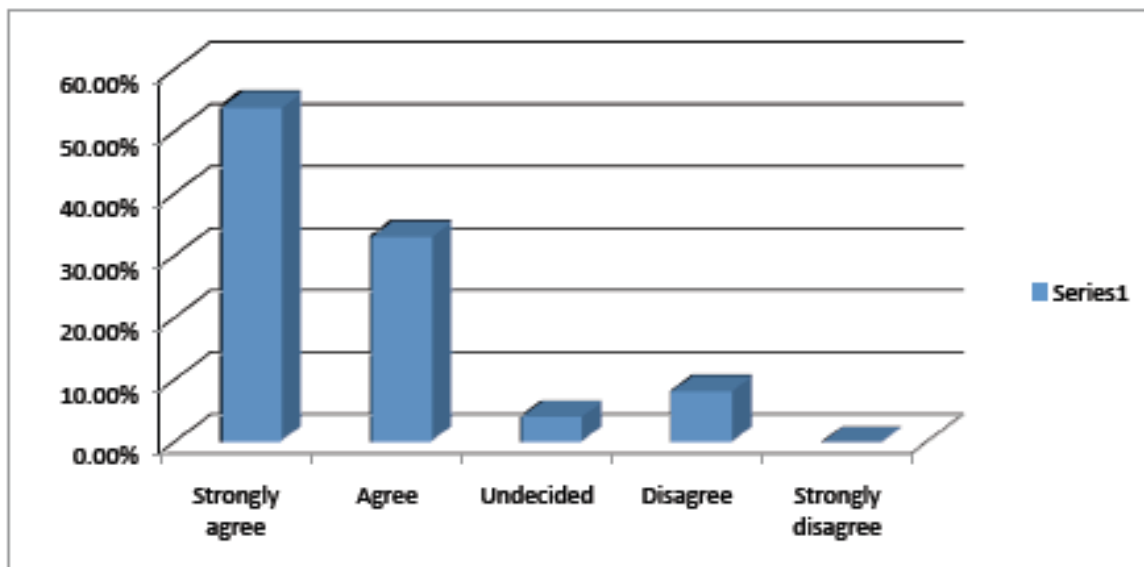
Secondly, students and individuals do not volunteer because of family responsibilities, approximately forty five percent concur with the fact that they main hindrance is that they are tired with family responsibilities, twenty five percent also strongly agreed, and others were undecided ,while a minimal number disagreed.

3. Individuals do not volunteer because they do not know volunteering grounds.



The third reason that people do not want to volunteer is because they lack grounds or they lack information about where to volunteer. This factor was highly debated by the fact approximately twenty-nine percent of individuals strongly agreed and agreed. Most accept the fact that they lack information about where to volunteer because they are international students or they are new to the community. The others did not accept the fact because they are residents or they have stayed in the community/region for a long time, this enables them to acquire their information on where to volunteer but still a few who were undecided.

4. Students do not volunteer because of their busy school schedules and programs.



The forth reason why people don't volunteer is because they have conflicts between their school schedule and other programs. Fifty-four strongly agree and thirty-three percent agree respectively. I realized that I fall in this category simply because I am track and cross country student athlete. This mean that I am supposed to be at school for some time then go for training and later find time to do my homework, leaving me with no time throughout the day. I sometimes have to travel for meets on Wednesdays and come back on Sundays. This means there is no time for me to volunteer, similarly with other students who have to work in order to pay for their tuition or books.

Other reasons why people do not volunteer, Is because most people don't have time to volunteer, maybe due to the fact that they are lazy, working or ignorant, by saying ignorant I necessarily mean that they don't know how to get involved in community service, some don't believe and understand the purpose of the project when they are asked to volunteer, hence making hard for them to choose. At one point, some students get a bad experience in their volunteer services, like they get burnt out or maybe they did volunteer and did not get one thank

you or felt as if they were not appreciated for their service. This makes them discouraged and not want to volunteer anymore. For instance, on June 11, 2008 by Chefforfeng said, "I volunteer and I am proud of it. I do it because growing up I went through some hard times and it was the people that volunteered that got me through it. I wanted to be able to give something back. If someone gives me grief for something I do volunteering (because I must have some ulterior motive for doing so, of course) I have no problem with standing my ground. But it sticks in my craw and makes my heart ache when I see people who have given their hearts and souls and much of their time to volunteerism, getting grief from someone that just wants to sit on the sidelines with way too much time on their hands and vitriol in their hearts." Many students and individuals don't know if they have the right skills to participate in particular field and provide sufficient services to the community.

Some students, especially international students, face the problem of cultural and environmental obstacles like language barriers and transportation to the volunteer grounds. Similarly, insecurity about skills is another major factor, also unfriendly newcomers makes community service to exclusive not mention the fact that some recruitment are to general, this makes student not sure if they making the right choice to volunteer in a certain filed. In general, some individuals claim that they don't want much responsibility in their lives or long term commitment in volunteering for a community. This is what I call being a coward when it comes to exploring skills and talents. I believe this is one of the reasons that kill many upcoming skilful and talented people. For those people that volunteer, I know you don't have "ulterior motives", I know you do it because you honestly want to help, I know that you are special people and I thank you from the bottom of my heart and wish you could all receive medals of valor for being the wonderful people that you are. Please keep volunteering! My family and I appreciate you! And

to the rest of you in-between, when was the last time you did something nice for someone.

Opening doors for little old women counts and so does smiling and wishing someone a good day! Someone I know who never volunteers for anything making the best-hearted older woman I know cry inspired this rant by the way.

On the other hand, students and individuals do volunteer for a couple of reasons for example; they want to gain skills and experience. Volunteer work is a great way to gain experience in a broad range of fields. You can gain experience in education, journalism, social work, animal care, health care, marketing, politics, web design ... the opportunities are endless. Volunteering is a great way to put in a little of your time and gain some valuable skills, whether they are professional or practical. One of the major, common known reasons why individuals do volunteer is to get a good job; volunteer work can often lead to a paying job. Volunteers have the possibility of becoming volunteer coordinators. Similar to interns, volunteers can try out a field to see if it suits them and show that they are dedicated enough to work for free in the hopes that it may lead to a paying job. English teachers are a great example of volunteer jobs that often turns into careers.

Others do it for personal growth for instance many people choose to volunteer because of the personal benefits that volunteering has on their character. Indeed, volunteers often say that the experience has made them a better person. In most cases, volunteers also become more concerned and aware of the problems facing the world and many feel that they were ignorant or narrow minded before. Volunteers returning from abroad or local areas are usually more independent, more adventurous and more courageous, especially if it was their first foray into independent travel. A huge part of the personal growth of a volunteer is becoming more compassionate. People who have volunteered in the past often become emotionally involved and

are more likely to volunteer again in the future, either on the same project or a new one. It is not uncommon for volunteers to return home with a determination to continue their good work in the local community as well.

Interestingly, people volunteer to get recognition of their efforts is another thing that keeps volunteers coming back repeatedly. Not recognizing what a good job a person is doing causes frustration and a feeling of abandonment. It can cause you to doubt your abilities, to think that maybe you aren't doing a good job and that your presence is just a waste of time. Of course, to tell someone that they are doing a good job is always a good thing to hear but it is especially important in a volunteer position where the volunteer isn't receiving monetary recognition for their good work. Telling someone that they are doing a good job inspires confidence and pride. It reminds you that the work you are doing is important and that you are making a difference. Plus, it just feels good to be appreciated. Most volunteer projects are aware of this and are genuinely grateful for the time and effort that volunteer contribute to their cause. Though they are unable to offer monetary rewards, they are often determined to show you their gratitude through kind words and actions.

Most people do want to view a culture from the inside. This one of the greatest benefits of volunteering abroad or in multicultural environment, being able to spend an extended period of time in a new country or place. It is a truly unique learning experience that involves interaction with new cultures, trying new food, speaking new languages and meeting new people. As a volunteer, one will get a real glimpse of the local culture, allowing him or her to become a traveler/discoverer instead of just a tourist. Many volunteer travel experiences offer the opportunity to stay with a local family, so one will have the chance to really get to know the local people and experience the traditional lifestyle.

In conclusion, many people do not volunteer because they see it as something that is not beneficial. This is to say that most people are self-centered and want something beneficial, something that can boost their own growth in their own personal life. They do not see the virtue of helping others as important in the future for themselves or their grandchildren. What we can conclude is that nobody is willing to give up his or her time in order to help other without benefiting from it, hence making us materialistic in nature.