



Research Article

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The Role of Voluntary Work in Raising the Level of Ambition among Students of the University of Jordan

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Abstract

The study aimed to reveal the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among students of the University of Jordan among a sample of (354) male and female students from various scientific and humanitarian disciplines in the second semester of the academic year 2017/2018, who were chosen by random method, they responded on the scale of the study, and the descriptive correlative approach was used. The study results showed that participation in voluntary work and the level of ambition among the study sample members were moderate. Nevertheless, the results showed a positive role for voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among students of the University of Jordan. In light of the study results, the researcher presented recommendations.

Keywords: Voluntary work, Level of ambition, The University of Jordan

1. Introduction

The university represents an important interactive social environment for students. It plays a crucial role in shaping their personalities and identifying their future to promote acceptable behavioral patterns and encourage positive social values and positive attitudes; it is a small community in which members interact and influence each other. Through social relations between students and teaching staff, and students and each other as well as their relationship with their community, as they have the productive capacity and renewed tender, and the nation did not rise from nations - often - only on the shoulders of their conscious youth and their continued enthusiasm.

University youth represent the motor vehicle of societies, and they are the potential human energy that societies seek to harness so that young people can bring about social change (Al- Zair, 2015).

Where volunteering has been an old global phenomenon since the beginning of civilization and a fundamental human value in which people help each other, and is strongly influenced by history, politics, religion, and societies' culture. Therefore, various religions have promoted and supported voluntary activities; university students are among the most community groups to carry out voluntary work. They are more in need of learning through integration in the voluntary activities

offered by the universities to complete their knowledge, values, and skills, and they believe in the importance of aspects of participation and that they gain ambition and a sense of satisfaction and help and qualify them to integrate into other activities (Mohammad, 2011).

Therefore, volunteering and providing goodness is a constant instinct in the human soul. Religions came to confirm the laws, where it is the effort exerted by the person and the time spent to change for the better without considering the material returns; the volunteer seeks to achieve goals that serve all society (Rabah, 2006) where volunteerism does not have one form. However, several forms, including individual volunteerism, are an effort by the individual to help others in high-quality social behavior without expecting a benefit for work (Al-Khosaimi and Bin Shalhoub, 2013).

Any voluntary work is aimed at participating in the responsibilities of society. To contribute to the treatment of its problems and achieve the plans and ambitions it seeks, it is a moral obligation imposed by the person on himself for the benefit, as the volunteer may not get the material return. However, he has a psychological reward, represented by the sense of prestige and influence that accompanies the achievement and the pleasure of excitement and participation and those different relations and experiences that the volunteer receives (Hawala, 2013).

The level of ambition is an essential determinant of personality; the higher the ambition, the greater the personality of the individual; as far as society is advanced, ambition is one of the most important secrets of individual and community success, where young people differ in terms of the patterns of ambition they seek, A level of ambition. That positive level of expected performance towards achieving a relatively long-term goal, which can push the individual to reach a higher position than he is now, by his capabilities, potentials, and future aspirations, represents the goal that the individual sets for himself in the field of what he aspires to achieve to overcome the obstacles encountered and problems belonging to this area and this objective is in line with the individual's psychological training and frame of reference and is determined by the experience of success and failure experienced by him (Al-Nubi, 2010).

The ambition is influenced by several factors which have an essential role, such as the social environment, past experiences, comradeship, mental health, motivations, needs, achievement, self-concept, and personal growth, which passes through the individual experience. As the ambition of individuals is not alike, every individual has their ambition, which increases or decreases according to the circumstances that he faces, where the ambitious individual tries to move from one success to the next by relying on his abilities, efforts, and capabilities, not at the expense of others (Al -Qutnani, 2011).

The universities occupy a prominent position among the local and international institutions that adopt volunteering. This is because they produce constructive ideas and support, such as the culture of volunteerism. The universities also have the human resources represented by their professors, experts, and students, which qualifies them to become the largest volunteer house in any other country society. Therefore, this study was designed to measure the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan.

1.1 The study problem and its questions

Over the last few years, there has been an unprecedented interest in working with university youth through the launch of several initiatives that seek to develop communities at the individual level by developing their abilities and skills to achieve their desired goals, and at the university level by introducing young people to the services and possibilities available in them and how to invest and benefit from them, and motivate them to participate in social, cultural and economic initiatives.

Because of the important role played by the level of an individual's ambition to determine his future and his hopes, and how to exploit that ambition and not only in his presence but also in the appropriateness of the abilities and potential of the individual.

Therefore, the researcher drew on the problem of the study through the existence of some shortcomings in supporting voluntary work by universities and some institutions and bodies that

have a direct link with youth, which is supposed to be its central role in supporting initiatives, teams, and clubs students to develop the personality of students. There is no doubt that such shortcomings contribute to delaying the process of voluntary work and the negative repercussions it has on the voluntary movement and its ability to give, production, effectiveness, and level of work and achievement, and hence the current study tries to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan?
2. What level of practice of voluntary work at the University of Jordan students?
3. What is the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan?

1.2 *The Importance of the Study*

1. The subject of voluntary work in general, and volunteerism in universities in particular, are considered of the issues that correspond to the variables of the age and the need for active participation of all human groups in the management of their lives, especially university students because they are in the stage of construction for greater participation in their community after graduation.
2. The knowledge of individuals of the nature of their ambition, and some of the factors affecting it, make them try to match their abilities and potentials with these ambitions, which results in not feeling frustrated and failing when doing their various jobs.
3. The importance of this study to society is due to the vital need for voluntary work within universities to fill the gap within the governmental, educational institutions. It also has many economic and social returns that can contribute to the advancement of universities and society.
4. The importance of the segment that we are interested in studying, as this segment constitutes a third of the society.
5. It may be a theoretical addition to what is written from previous literature on volunteerism and its role in raising ambition.
6. The results of this study are expected to help faculty members, parents, specialists, and decision-makers ineffective planning and propose future programs to integrate students into voluntary extracurricular activities at the university.

1.3 *The Study Objectives*

Highlight the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among university youth.

1. Explain the concept of both voluntary work and social skills.
2. Demonstrate the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan.
3. Determine the level of ambition among the sample members of the study.
4. To determine the level of voluntary work among the sample members.

1.4 *The Study Limits*

The current study limits are as follows:

1. Human borders: Students of the University of Jordan.
2. The spatial boundaries: The Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan \ University of Jordan.
3. Time limits: the academic year 2018 \ 2019.
4. Scientific boundaries: It is the study of the concept of voluntary work, the level of ambition.

1.5 The study determinants

- A sample of students from the University of Jordan was accredited according to their diagnosis in the universities to which they are enrolled.
- The study community and its sample: It was limited to students of the Jordanian State University affiliated with higher education and scientific research.

1.6 Definitions of Terms

1.6.1 Voluntary Work

The effort exerted by individuals through their work in voluntary institutions in their desire to solve societal problems at the cultural, social, and economic levels and develop society (Al- Zair, 2015). Procedurally it is defined as the degree to which the respondent obtains through his answer to the items on the scale of voluntary work in the present study.

1.6.2 Level of Ambition

It is a sign that recognizes the individual and his way of dealing with himself and his environment; productivity is positively correlated with the high level of ambition, which is one of the most important dimensions of personality and plays a vital role in the life of the individual (Barakat, 2009). Procedurally it is defined as the degree to which the respondent obtains through his answer to the items to measure the level of ambition in the current study.

2. Previous Studies

Al- Azazi (2014) study aims at drawing up the features of a strategic vision to strengthen voluntary work within Saudi universities. The research uses the descriptive approach. The study used a questionnaire from several axes. The sample included (259) students at Hail University, combining scientific disciplines and clubs. The field study results indicated very weak participation in voluntary work, where the participation rate reached only 47.2% of the total female students. The study ended with a strategic vision to strengthen voluntary work within educational institutions through extracurricular activities within universities, teaching methods, and creative management of universities.

The study of Barakat (2009) aimed to identify the relationship of the self-concept to the level of ambition among the students of Al-Quds Open University in the light of variables: Gender, specialization, and academic achievement. For this purpose, two scales were applied: the first to measure the self-concept, and the other to the level of ambition on a sample of (378) male and female students (197) female students, and (181) male students, enrolled in Al-Quds Open University in the educational areas of Nablus, Tulkarm, Jenin, Qalqiliya and Salfit. Results showed an average level of self-concept and ambition among the study members. Results also showed a positive correlation between the level of ambition among university students and self-concept. Furthermore, there were statistically significant differences in the level of ambition according to the achievement variable and the self-concept on students' scores in favor of the high achievement students. On the other hand, there are significant differences in these grades according to gender and specialization.

The study of Al- Shahrani (2006) aims to study voluntary work and its multiple domains, the laws regulating volunteering in Saudi society, in addition to the characteristics of the volunteers, their goals, and motivations. It is an attempt to determine the relationship of voluntary work with its different characteristics in security to identify the characteristics of volunteers and their motivation to join voluntary work. The relationship to community security and safety, and the procedures and

systems taken by voluntary work and its relationship to the security of society, the researcher used the descriptive analytical approach, the results of the study showed that all areas of voluntary work in the Saudi society, volunteers play a very large role in them. The degree of a tendency towards volunteering in the Saudi community, in general, is very high, the degree of difficulties - in general - is very high.

Al-Amer (2005) examined a study aimed at studying the concept of volunteering and ways of activating it, to identify the most critical factors affecting the participation of individuals in the institutions of voluntary work, and to identify the youth's vision of the motives that motivate them to participate in voluntary work institutions, and the obstacles that prevent them from joining these institutions, the field study was conducted in Hail. A random stratified sample of young people was chosen (male-female). The total sample (507) of the study found statistically significant differences between the views of female students of science college and scientific students in favor of female students. In addition, there were significant statistical differences between males and females in the study sample for the female sample, and there are significant differences between the views of male principals and students of the community college and the views of female literary sections in contrast to the differences between males and females in general.

It is noted through previous studies that there is a level between the average and high in the results of the previous studies measured by the level of ambition and voluntary work but did not clarify any of the previous studies the relationship between them. In terms of sample size, it ranged between (100-750) and benefited the researcher in determining the size of the study sample. The present study is also characterized by previous studies in its objective, character, and procedures to determine the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan.

3. The Study Methodology

The descriptive correlative approach was used in this study to suit its purposes.

3.1 The Population of the Study and its Sample

The study population consists of all students enrolled in the University of Jordan, totaling (37000) students from various scientific and humanitarian disciplines so that a random sample of (370) male and female students was selected. In comparison, 16 students were excluded from the sample because they did not respond fully to the tools. Thus, the sample became 354 male and female students and 96% of the actual sample size. Table 1 shows the characteristics of the study sample.

Table 1: Distribution of actual study sample individuals according to the number of students and the percentage

Demographic variables		Number of students	percentage
Gender	Male	204	58%
	Female	150	42%
Specialization	Scientific	167	47%
	humaneness	187	53%
Total		354	100%

Table (1) shows that:

1. In terms of gender, the majority of the study sample favored males (58%), while females accounted for 42% of the sample.
2. Regarding the variable specialties, we note that the category of students from the humanities is the most significant proportion of the study sample (53%), while the class of

students from scientific disciplines (47%), which is the lowest proportion of the sample study.

3.2 The Study Tool

A scale has been developed based on several relevant studies and research, including two sections distributed as follows:

Section I: A set of items has been developed to measure the level of voluntary work, based on several studies such as the study (Al- Zair, 2015), (Al- Amer, 2005) and (Al- Alwan, 2011) and their number (9) items, to be answered by students in the light of a five-step scale. The items have been drafted in a positive direction.

Section II: A set of items measuring the level of ambition, which was developed using several studies such as the study of Barakat (2009); and Mansi (2003) and the number (16) item, by (4) items of each dimension of the four dimensions of the level of ambition (Outlook on life, academic excellence, take responsibility and self-reliance, perseverance in the study) to be answered by students in the light of a five-step scale, the items have been drafted in a positive direction.

3.2.1 The Validity of the Tool

The researcher verified the validity of the test in two ways:

Arbitrators validity: The tool was presented to a group of arbitrators who specialize in educational psychology and sociology, taking their views on the appropriateness of its fields and items the integrity of its language, and asked them to judge each item of the test in terms of representation and suitability to the category to which the study sample belongs, as well as in terms of the appropriateness of its language, and based on the observations of the arbitrators, the required amendments were made to the items.

3.2.2 Validity of Internal Consistency

To extract the semantics of the validity of the internal consistency of the scale, the correlation coefficients of the vertebrae were extracted with the total score; where the coefficient of correlation here represents a sign of truth for each item in the form of the correlation coefficient between each item, and the total score, the correlation coefficients of the items with the tool as a whole ranged between (0.384 - 0.721) and Table (2) shows that:

Table 2: Correlation coefficients between the items on the scale of the study

Voluntary work				Level of ambition					
Item number	Correlation with the tool	Item number	Correlation with the tool	Item number	Correlation with the tool	Item number	Correlation with the tool	Item number	Correlation with the tool
1	.384*	7	.480**	1	.621**	7	.630**	13	.526**
2	.524**	8	.566**	2	.811**	8	.454**	14	0.541**
3	.393*	9	.454**	3	.471**	9	.610**	15	.705**
4	.705**			4	.432*	10	.421*	16	.721**
5	.529**			5	.472**	11	.454**		
6	.621**			6	.454**	12	.526**		

*Statistically significant at the significance level (0.05).

**Statistically significant at the significance level (0.01).

Table (7) shows that the correlation coefficients of the vertebrae were statistically significant at $\alpha = (0.05)$ and (0.01) ; therefore, none of them has been deleted. This indicates that the scale is suitable for measuring the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among the students of the

University of Jordan. Furthermore, this indicates that the standard is very high and suitable for the current study.

3.2.3 Reliability of the Tool

To calculate reliability, the scale was applied to a survey sample of the study population. Out of its sample consisting of (30) students, the researcher then calculated the reliability coefficient of internal consistency in terms of regression stability and alpha-Cronbach equation. It was found that the total internal consistency coefficient of the study scale in alpha Cronbach was 0.79, while it reached in the method of return reliability (0.75) Alpha Cronbach values for the four dimensions of the aspiration level ranged between 0.80-0.85, which are high and acceptable for study purposes. This supports the use of this measure in the current study. Table 3 shows:

Table 3: Value of reliability coefficient of internal consistency. In both regression and Alpha-Cronbach equations for the study scale

The role of volunteerism in raising the level of ambition		Alpha Cronbach coefficient	Repetition reliability
voluntary work		0,81	0,76
Level of ambition	The outlook on life	,84	0,82
	Academic excellence	0,85	0,81
	Take responsibility and self-reliance	0,80	0,78
	Perseverance in the study	0,80	0,79
	Total	0,85	0,80
Total Scale		0,79	0,75

Results related to the first question: What is the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan?

To answer this question, the arithmetical averages, standard deviations, and rank of the responses of the study sample members were extracted on the items for measuring the overall level of ambition, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: arithmetical averages, standard deviations, and level of dimensions of the level of ambition

Dimension	Arithmetic average	standard deviation	Rank	Level
The outlook on life	3.65	0.64	1	Average
Academic excellence	3.62	0.71	3	Average
Take responsibility and self-reliance	3.64	0.65	2	Average
Perseverance in the study	3.57	0.77	4	Average
The total level of ambition	3.59	.58	Average	

Table (4) shows that (after looking at life) has the highest mean of (3.65) and the standard deviation (0.64), and the average level of responses of the sample members of the study. However, after the persistence of the study had the lowest mean of (3.57) and standard deviation (0.77), the total arithmetic average of the level of ambition (3.59) and the standard deviation (0.58) with an average level, indicating that the students of the University of Jordan have an average level of ambition.

This result explains what is distinguished by the bodies working in the University of Jordan from the Deanship of Student Affairs. In its interest in providing voluntary activities, clubs, and service initiatives worthy of respect and appreciation makes the students more connected to the university, as well as the existence of opportunities for strengthening imposed by the university through participation in voluntary extracurricular activities internal and external, which have a more significant role in honing the skills, abilities, and personality of students and thus raising their ambition to reach higher levels that increase their ambition. The study agrees with the study of both

Mansi (2003) and Bandey (2002) and the study of Barakat (2009).

Results related to the second question: What is the level of volunteering among Jordanian university students?

To answer this question, the arithmetical averages, standard deviations, and rank of the responses of the study sample members were extracted from the items on the scale of voluntary work as a whole, shown in Table (5).

Table 5: Arithmetical averages, standard deviations, grades, and level of items for measuring voluntarism

No	Items	Arithmetic average	Standard deviation	Rank	Level
1)	Voluntary work increases the sense of belonging to the homeland.	3.53	.73	1	Average
2)	Volunteerism has a significant impact on the unity the cohesion of society.	94.2	.83	6	Average
3)	Community members should overcome the problems suffered by those around them.	2.93	.76	7	Average
4)	I have no reservation to work with anyone based on gender, religion, color, tribe, or material level.	3.06	.87	4	Average
5)	Volunteerism increases the sense of responsibility towards those in need of members of society.	2.96	.72	5	Average
6)	The practice of volunteerism positively impacts the openness and acceptance of others.	2.87	.81	8	Average
7)	Voluntary institutions play a prominent role in integrating the individual into society.	3.29	.81	2	Average
8)	Volunteerism is limited to one category of society, not the other.	3.17	.89	3	Average
9)	Volunteerism has increased the sense of social responsibility.	2.75	.91	9	Average
Total		3.06	.87		Average

It is noted from Table (5) that all the items related to the scale of the level of voluntary work for the responses of the sample members of the study came at an average level, where the item (1) had, which states that "voluntary work increases the feeling of belonging to the homeland" at the highest mean of (3.53) and a standard deviation (0.73) while item 9, which states that "voluntary work has increased the sense of social responsibility," has the lowest average score of 2.75 and a standard deviation of 0.91, and the total arithmetic average of the level of voluntary work (3.06) and standard deviation (0.87), indicating that the students of the University of Jordan enjoy an average level of participation in voluntary work.

This result may be attributed to the fact that young people are the mainstay of the power of society and a group that has a strong desire for change but who need guidance and capacity development to serve society, and this supports the fact that voluntary work is an instinct in the human spirit to obtain reward rather than getting material gains. The study results also confirm that voluntary work seeks to develop the skills and experiences of the students to benefit the development of the university and society as a whole. The study agrees with Al- Shahrani (2006) and Al- Azazi (2014).

Results related to the third question: What is the role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among the students of the University of Jordan?

To demonstrate the role of volunteerism in raising overall ambition, the regression test was performed as shown in Tables 6 and 7 below:

Table 6: Linear regression between voluntary work and total ambition level

The role of volunteerism in raising the level of ambition	Standard error	Modified Selection Factor	Regression analysis	number	Regression R
	0.14	0.978	0.973	354	0.765 ^a

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.

Table 7: Pearson correlation coefficients between sample scores on voluntary work and dimensions of ambition level

	Relationship indicators	Level of ambition			
		The outlook on life	Academic excellence	Take responsibility and self-reliance	Perseverance in the study
Voluntary work	Pearson coefficient	.146 ^{**}	.155 ^{**}	.125 [*]	.136 [*]
	Statistical significance	.009	.004	.006	.007
	number	354	354	354	354

* Statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$)

** Statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.01$)

The results showed in the two tables above a positive correlative relationship between voluntary work and all dimensions of the level of ambition and the level of overall ambition. The total regression coefficient (R) of the level of ambition = 0.765a, which is close to the number (1) and indicates a positive correlation relationship; the value of SIG = (0.01) is below the level of statistical significance (0.05). Therefore, there is a role of voluntary work in raising the level of ambition among students of the University of Jordan.

The researcher believes that this result is logical to exist such a relationship and this role because of the policy of taking and giving to the level of ambition of students, which leads to stimulating the student, students who feel that they have the potential to participate in voluntary work generate positive expectations. Therefore, their ambition will be high, which leads them to think about the need for successful construction and continue to participate actively to serve the community and participate in more voluntary service work, and perseverance on that and the study is consistent with the study of Mansi (2003), Bandey (2002), Barakat (2009), Al- Shahrani (2006) and Al-Azazi (2014).

4. Conclusion

The idea of volunteering is not a new idea in Jordanian society. The existence of volunteer work has spread and developed throughout Jordanian history and civil culture, and it was known as aid. The dissemination of the culture of volunteer work is not the responsibility of a particular party but rather a national responsibility in which institutions play an active and influential role, especially higher education institutions. Therefore, this requires institutions to bring about a change in societal awareness to spread and develop a culture of volunteer work among students. Volunteer work must be considered a social and human value that we must preserve and pass on from generation to generation. The principle of voluntary work must first start with higher education institutions through institutes, colleges, and universities in different forms and methods to strengthen the spirit of voluntary work in society. This consolidation will only take place through the concerted efforts of those in charge of the curriculum with a sharp vision of the need to include the value of volunteer work in building curricula. Volunteer work is also considered one of the most influential factors affecting the preparation of the new generation because it is part of their moral, psychological and social formation. Rather, it is considered a requirement of contemporary life that brought development and rapid development in all fields. Voluntary work also affects the students' way of thinking and enhances their ambition.

5. Recommendations

1. Work to support students by helping them overcome obstacles and difficulties by rewarding those with high aspirations for their success as an encouragement to serve as role models and motivators for others.

2. To encourage the culture of volunteering among university students and make them the required activities of each student and part of the curriculum through activating the role of universities, institutions, and voluntary service organizations that directly link with youth.
3. The universities should provide all the necessary to their students by engaging them in many extracurricular, voluntary service activities to hon their personalities, develop themselves, raise their level of ambition, and create a spirit of honest competition.
4. Increase volunteer opportunities for youth in various fields to develop their abilities and enhance their knowledge and experience.

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