

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

الفروق في اتجاهات الطلاب والطالبات الجامعيين نحو ممارسة العمل التطوعي

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Abstract:

This study aims to identify the differences in attitudes between male and female university students toward volunteering. The study sample consisted of 130 students from the University of Mouloud Mammeri in Tizi Ouzou. The researchers used the Volunteer Work Questionnaire by Said Mahmoud Said Osman and Ismail Khaled Ali Al-Makkawi (2020). After employing a comparative descriptive approach in the study, the results revealed no statistically significant differences in the attitudes of male and female university students toward volunteering. here were no significant statistical differences between male and female students regarding their views on volunteering, their justifications for volunteering, or the obstacles they perceive in volunteering.

Keywords: Student Attitudes, Volunteering.

ملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التعرف على الفروق في اتجاهات الطلاب والطالبات الجامعيين نحو ممارسة العمل التطوعي، وتكونت عينة الدراسة من 130 طالب وطالبة في جامعة مولود معمري بتيزي وزو، واستخدمت الباحثين استبيان العمل التطوعي للسعيد محمود السعيد عثمان وإسماعيل خالد علي المكاوي (2020)، وبعد استخدام المنهج الوصفي المقارن في الدراسة، وتوصلت

نتائجها إلى عدم وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في اتجاهات الطلاب والطالبات الجامعيين نحو ممارسة العمل التطوعي، بحيث لا توجد فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بين الطلاب الذكور والطالبات الجامعيين في نظرتهم نحو ممارسة العمل التطوعي، كما لا توجد فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بين الطلاب الذكور والطالبات الجامعيين في تحديدهم لمبررات العمل التطوعي، كما لا توجد فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بين الطلاب الذكور والطالبات الجامعيين في تحديدهم لمعوقات العمل التطوعي.

كلمات مفتاحية: اتجاهات الطلاب، العمل التطوعي.

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1. Introduction:

By nature, human beings are social creatures who cannot live in isolation. They constantly need to interact with others, whether at home or in school, which facilitates the execution of many tasks required for their daily lives to ensure a dignified life. Among the most significant activities that contribute to strengthening the community is volunteer work. This form of activity aims to promote cooperation and mutual assistance among community members across various fields, and it tends to gain greater traction during crises and challenges to alleviate burdens and achieve shared goals.

Volunteer work represents one of the successful forms of social solidarity, relying on individuals voluntarily undertaking tasks that serve the community without expecting any reward in return. The primary objective of these efforts is to provide support to individuals and the community as a whole.

2. Study Problem:

Volunteer work represents a fundamental pillar that enhances the lives of individuals, families, and the community as a whole across various economic, social, and developmental dimensions. It embodies the principle of social solidarity through a set of humanitarian and charitable activities aimed at serving society. Volunteering is considered an effective means to

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

strengthen the standing of communities amid contemporary challenges. With the increasing complexity of life circumstances and the rise in social needs, the urgent need for volunteer organizations and charitable associations, which work alongside governmental institutions to meet these demands, becomes evident (Al-Bayati & Al-Saadi, 2018, p. 282).

Historically, it is worth noting that volunteer work began as an individual initiative, where people participated without expecting any financial return. Over time, this work evolved to become more organized, forming an integral part of the social fabric. Therefore, it has become essential to develop and safeguard volunteer work as part of community efforts (Abdel Halim & Ghayr Allah, 2022, p. 94).

Volunteer work aims to overcome negative barriers and social isolation by mobilizing human and material resources and directing them toward activities that serve the community. It also seeks to fill gaps in available services and expand their reach to less privileged areas, thereby reinforcing the principle of sufficiency. Moreover, volunteer work contributes to strengthening human relations among individuals, fostering solidarity and social cohesion. It also helps in transforming untapped potential into effective and productive energies, maintaining balanced community development in a natural way. Additionally, it supports governmental efforts by enhancing efficiency and effectiveness, enabling the delivery of services based on citizens' efforts, which in turn strengthens individuals' sense of belonging to their communities and enriches their social experiences (Abdel-Moti & Farghali, 2020, pp. 8-9).

Engaging in volunteer work allows individuals, especially university students, to acquire many positive skills that significantly impact their daily and professional lives. These students always strive for success and aim to leave a positive mark on their communities, as they are considered key elements in community building. With the growing awareness of the importance of volunteer work, numerous studies have been conducted to

Dr. Ilyia KHABET, Dr. Younes SELLAM

explore students' interest in volunteering and their cultural attitudes towards it.

For example, the study by Katlo and Al-Jundi (2013) revealed that the attitudes of students at Al-Quds Open University towards volunteer work were generally high, with statistically significant differences in these attitudes based on gender, while no differences were attributed to their fields of study (Al-Qarni, 2021, p. 157). Similarly, the study by Al-Shashniya (2013) showed that the rate of consistent participation in community activities did not exceed 35%, while occasional participation reached 47%. Regarding funding, 53% of the sample expressed concern about the insufficiency of financial resources available for activating volunteer work within the university (Al-Qarni, 2021, p. 158).

Additionally, Khaldi's (2022) study aimed to explore Algerian university students' attitudes towards volunteer work. The results indicated that the attitude towards volunteering was high, with no statistically significant differences based on gender or place of residence (Khaldi, 2023, p. 143).

It is noteworthy that societal perceptions of volunteer work may vary based on an individual's gender. At times, volunteer work is perceived as a role primarily for men, especially in crises that require physical efforts. However, women's contributions to these activities should not be underestimated, as they can provide significant contributions. Nonetheless, some societies may hold differing views on volunteer work based on gender, necessitating further study and research in this context.

From this perspective, the importance of studying university students' attitudes towards volunteer work arises, particularly focusing on university students within the Algerian context. This study aims to address the following question: Are there differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards volunteering?

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

3. Study Hypotheses:

- **Hypothesis 1:** There are statistically significant differences between male and female university students in their engagement in volunteer work and their attitudes towards it.
- **Hypothesis 2:** There are statistically significant differences between male and female university students in their identification of the motivations for volunteer work.
- **Hypothesis 3:** There are statistically significant differences between male and female university students in their identification of the barriers to volunteer work.

4. Study Objectives:

This study aims to explore the attitudes of male and female university students towards volunteer work by examining the extent of their engagement in this activity. It also seeks to understand their motivations for participating in volunteer work and to identify the main barriers they face in engaging in volunteer activities.

5. Significance of the Study:

- This study helps analyze how gender influences individuals' attitudes towards volunteer work, reflecting the cultural and social factors that may impact their behaviors.
- By understanding the differences in attitudes, the study can guide volunteer programs. Universities and civil society organizations can design more suitable volunteer programs that meet students' needs, making it easier to attract more participants.
- The importance of volunteer work lies in fostering a spirit of cooperation and solidarity within the community. Studying these attitudes helps explore ways to enhance this spirit among both genders.

Dr. Iylia KHABET, Dr. Younes SELLAM

- Understanding the factors that influence students' attitudes can contribute to developing strategies that motivate them to actively participate in volunteer activities, thereby increasing the effectiveness of volunteer efforts.
- A deep understanding of attitude differences can help create an educational environment that encourages positive interaction, making volunteer work a part of the university learning experience.
- This study enriches academic knowledge about volunteer work and youth attitudes, offering valuable insights for future researchers.
- It can also help break down stereotypes associated with gender participation in volunteer work, thereby enhancing women's contributions in this field.

6. Study Concepts:

6.1. Attitudes:

Attitudes refer to hypothetical constructs that reflect a relative stability in an individual's feelings, knowledge, and readiness to perform specific actions towards various subjects, whether tangible or abstract. This is manifested in different levels of acceptance or rejection of these subjects and can be expressed through words or behaviors (Al-Muzain, 2015, p. 329).

The attitudes of students towards volunteer work refer to the beliefs, feelings, and predispositions that students hold regarding participation in volunteer activities. This concept represents how students evaluate volunteer work and how these evaluations influence their willingness to engage in such activities.

6.2. Volunteering:

Volunteering is an effort undertaken by an individual or a group of individuals voluntarily to assist those in need, whether they are individuals or communities. This type of work requires the allocation of time, money, or both to meet and satisfy their needs, as well as to serve the community for its

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

growth and development, without expecting any return or personal benefit (Osman & Al-Makkawi, 2020, p. 231).

Volunteering is defined as an activity carried out by individuals or groups spontaneously, aimed at providing services or assistance to others or to society in general, without expecting any financial compensation or monetary return.

7. Methodological Procedures of the Study:

7.1. Study Approach:

The approach adopted in this study is the comparative descriptive method, as it is the most suitable for achieving the objectives of the current study. This method focuses on describing the phenomenon and understanding the differences among its variables.

7.2. Study Population:

The study population consists of all university students at Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi-Ouzou who are enrolled for the academic year 2022/2023 and are engaged in their studies across the university's faculties.

7.3. Study Sample:

The selection of the sample by the researcher is one of the important steps in the research process. The researcher identifies the study population based on the topic or issue chosen for the study. In this research, the sample was selected using a simple random sampling method. The study sample consisted of 130 individuals, including 50 male students and 80 female students at Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi-Ouzou.

Table 1: Distribution of Sample Participants by Gender

Gender	Frequencies	Percentage
Males	50	38.47%
Females	80	61.53%
Total	130	100%

From Table 1, it can be observed that the majority of the sample participants, representing 61.53%, are female, totaling 80 students. In contrast, males represent 38.47% of the sample, totaling 50 students.

7.4. Measurement Tool:

In scientific research, various tools are employed by researchers during their studies. In this study, the researcher used a questionnaire prepared by Said Mahmoud Said Osman and Ismail Khalid Ali Al-Makkawi (2020) to test the study hypotheses and answer its questions.

• Description of the Questionnaire:

The questionnaire contains 92 items related to volunteering, prepared by Said Mahmoud Said Osman and Ismail Khalid Ali Al-Makkawi (2020). It is divided into two parts: the first part includes an introduction outlining the purpose of the questionnaire and some preliminary data, while the second part includes the following sections: the first section addresses the participation of Egyptian university students in volunteering and their attitudes towards it, comprising 22 items; the second section discusses the justifications for volunteering from the students' perspective, consisting of 34 items; and the third section focuses on the barriers to volunteering, including 36 items. Participants in the sample are asked to respond to each item individually, using one of the response degrees (always, sometimes, rarely).

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

• Psychometric Properties in the Algerian Context:

• Validity of the Questionnaire: The validity was assessed based on:

• Internal Consistency Validity:

The internal consistency validity of the volunteering questionnaire by Said Mahmoud Said Osman and Ismail Khalid Ali Al-Makkawi (2020) was calculated by administering it to a pilot sample of 30 students. This was done to ensure the correlation of each item with the overall score of the questionnaire.

After calculating the correlations of the items, two criteria were adopted for retaining an item in the scale. Accordingly, an item must meet both criteria, and it is insufficient for it to meet only one. These two criteria are:

1. The item must have statistical significance in its correlation with the total score of the questionnaire, and it is not enough for it to be statistically significant in only one of them.
2. The correlation of the item with the total score of the questionnaire must not be less than 0.25. After applying the previous criteria to all items of the questionnaire, all items were retained due to their adherence to the specified criteria.

• Discriminant Validity:

Discriminant validity was assessed by ranking the members of the pilot sample (30 individuals) in descending order based on the total score achieved by each on the overall questionnaire. The top 27% of scores (8 individuals) and the bottom 27% (also 8 individuals) were selected for comparison. A comparison of the scores between the two groups was conducted using the t-test, and all values were statistically significant across the three sections of the questionnaire and the total score, indicating that the questionnaire has an acceptable degree of discriminant validity.

• **Reliability of the Questionnaire:**

The reliability of the questionnaire was assessed using two methods: the first was Cronbach's alpha for the total score of the questionnaire, and the second was the split-half method using the Spearman-Brown and Guttman equations. The following table summarizes these results:

Table 2: Reliability Coefficients for the Volunteering Questionnaire

	Cronbach's Alpha	Split-Half Method
	Spearman-Brown	Guttman
Volunteering Questionnaire	0.84	0.77

It is evident from Table 2 that the reliability coefficient of the volunteering questionnaire using Cronbach's alpha was 0.84, while the split-half method using the Spearman-Brown equation yielded a value of 0.77, and Guttman produced a value of 0.75, all of which are statistically significant, making the questionnaire suitable for the purposes of this study.

8. Presentation and Discussion of Study Results:

8.1. Presentation and Discussion of the First Hypothesis Results:

The hypothesis states: "There are statistically significant differences between male and female university students in their practices of volunteering and their attitudes towards it."

Table 3: Differences Between Male and Female University Students in Their Volunteering Practices and Attitudes

Group	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Degrees of Freedom	Calculated Significance Level	Adopted Significance Level
Males	50	54.60	4.57	0.21	128	0.83	0.05

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

Group	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Degrees of Freedom	Calculated Significance Level	Adopted Significance Level
Females	80	54.85	5.97				

It is evident from Table 3 that there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level of (0.05) between male and female university students in their volunteering practices and attitudes towards it, as the t-value is (0.21) and the significance level is (0.83), which is greater than the adopted significance level. Therefore, it can be concluded that the first hypothesis is not supported, indicating that there is no difference between male and female students in their views on volunteering.

8.2. Presentation of the Second Hypothesis Results:

The hypothesis states: "There are statistically significant differences between male and female university students in identifying the justifications for volunteering."

Table 4: Differences Between Male and Female University Students in Identifying Justifications for Volunteering

Group	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Degrees of Freedom	Calculated Significance Level	Adopted Significance Level
Males	50	86.20	7.93	0.35	128	0.72	0.05
Females	80	86.73	8.70				

It can be observed from Table 4 that there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level of (0.05) between male and female university students in their identification of the justifications for volunteering, as the t-value is (0.35) and the significance level is (0.72),

Dr. Iyilia KHABET, Dr. Younes SELLAM

which is greater than the adopted significance level. Therefore, the second hypothesis is not supported.

8.3. Presentation of the Third Hypothesis Results:

The hypothesis states: "There are statistically significant differences between male and female university students in identifying the barriers to volunteering."

Table 5: Differences Between Male and Female University Students in Identifying Barriers to Volunteering

Group	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Degrees of Freedom	Calculated Significance Level	Adopted Significance Level
Males	50	90.54	6.57	-0.48	128	0.63	0.05
Females	80	89.96	6.69				

It can be seen from Table 5 that there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level of (0.05) between male and female university students in their identification of the barriers to volunteering, as the t-value is (-0.48) and the significance level is (0.63), which is greater than the adopted significance level. Thus, the third hypothesis is also not supported.

9. Discussion of Study Results:

The statistical results of the first hypothesis indicate that there are no statistically significant differences between male and female university students in their volunteering practices and attitudes towards volunteering. This can be interpreted as both genders participating in volunteer work at nearly the same level and having similar attitudes towards it. This may suggest that volunteering is considered a shared value among male and female students.

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

Additionally, cultural and social changes may contribute to this equality, as this balance might result from shifts in societal perceptions of volunteering, where it is increasingly viewed as an opportunity available to all, regardless of gender. There may also be programs or initiatives within universities encouraging all students to engage in volunteer work, leading to the reinforcement of similar practices between genders.

The statistical results of the second hypothesis also show no significant differences between male and female university students in their identification of the justifications for volunteering. This can be interpreted as both genders sharing similar motivations for volunteering, indicating that the reasons for engaging in volunteer work are common among students. This may suggest that the university community fosters shared values regarding the importance and benefits of volunteering, resulting in a consensus between genders. Furthermore, there might be a general cultural orientation that supports volunteering, leading both male and female students to recognize the same justifications for its significance.

The results of the third hypothesis indicate no statistically significant differences between male and female university students in identifying the barriers to volunteering. This can be interpreted as the obstacles faced by students in volunteer work being similar for both genders, reflecting that the challenges associated with volunteering are not gender-specific.

Moreover, the barriers identified, such as time constraints, lack of resources, or insufficient support from relevant authorities, may be equally present among both genders. There could also be a social and cultural framework influencing how students perceive these obstacles, leading to similar results.

10. Conclusion:

The results of this study indicate that there are no statistically significant differences between male and female university students in their practices and attitudes towards volunteering, as well as no differences in their justifications or the barriers they face. These findings reflect a consensus in both genders' perspectives on volunteering, highlighting its importance as an effective means of community engagement and the promotion of human values. Therefore, it can be concluded that volunteering remains a significant factor in the development of university students' personalities and in achieving social solidarity, and students of both genders should be encouraged to engage in it actively.

Based on the study results, the following recommendations can be made:

- ✓ **Awareness Campaigns:** It is recommended to raise awareness among students about the importance of volunteering by organizing workshops and lectures that highlight the personal and social benefits of this activity.
- ✓ **Institutional Support:** Universities should provide a supportive environment for volunteering by establishing programs and platforms that facilitate student participation and offer opportunities for volunteering.
- ✓ **Overcoming Barriers:** Universities should adopt strategies to overcome the challenges students may face, such as providing scholarships or financial incentives for participation in volunteer activities.
- ✓ **Further Research:** Additional studies are recommended to understand the factors influencing students' attitudes towards volunteering, focusing on cultural and social differences and their impact on individual experiences.
- ✓ **Joint Activities:** It is advisable to increase joint volunteer activities between male and female students to strengthen human relationships and share experiences.

Differences in the attitudes of male and female university students towards the practice of voluntary work

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