
CHAPTER 3: INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEERING

MPU 2422 EVENT MANAGEMENT



VOLUNTEER



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:-

- 1.1. Definition of volunteering.
- 1.2. Reasons for volunteering.
- 1.3. Types of volunteering

DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERING

- Volunteering is defined as **any activity** of any individual, alone or with others, as a solitary act or as a member of some informal group or formal organization, that is **performed without compulsion/coercion** and mainly without direct remuneration/payment that directly or indirectly attempts **to improve the satisfactions and quality of life of one or more others outside the boundaries of the immediate family and household.**



GENEROUS
GIVING
AWARENESS
SERVICES
ASSISTANCE
MORAL
CARE
AID
MISSION
HELPING
RESPECT
TOGETHERNESS
CHARITY
LIFE
ALTRUISTIC
VOLUNTEER
TIME
COMMUNITY
CONTRIBUTION
ASSISTED
RESCUE
SUPPORT
HOPE
TEAMWORK
PERSON
ADULT

REASONS FOR VOLUNTEERING

- To 'give back' to society.
- To help fulfill the need of the society to have better facilities.
- To learn new cultures.
- To see new places.
- Sharing great experiences.
- Making friends.
- Meet new challenges.
- Journey of self-discovery.

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- Volunteers can be skilled or unskilled. Skilled volunteers are often people such as teachers, accountants, civil engineers or nurses who work in their professions abroad.
 - However, everyone has skills to offer: a parent might be skilled in conflict resolution, or a university graduate in acting and drama.
 - Ultimately, being skilled or unskilled will not necessarily dictate what area you work in, but it will impact on the level of responsibility you're given.

TYPES OF VOLUNTEERING

- Development Volunteering
- Conservation and Wildlife Volunteering

DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEERING

- Emergency and relief
- Working with children
- Education and training
- Business administration and office work
- Building and construction
- Health and nutrition
- Staff volunteering
- Agriculture and farming

CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERING

- Archaeology and Paleontology
- Wildlife Volunteering
- Marine Conservation



DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEERING



EMERGENCY AND RELIEF

- An option for highly skilled and experienced volunteers only.
- This is where doctors, nurses, midwives, psychologists and so forth responds to humanitarian crises, conflicts, wars and natural disasters.
- Some volunteers are on 72-hour standby to go anywhere they are needed.
- Many of the organisations working in this sector have longer-term volunteer opportunities for skilled non-medical staff, such as logisticians or administrators.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN

- Typically, work in this area might include volunteering as a sports coach, working in an orphanage or with street children.
- A clean criminal record is paramount in this area as all organisations featured in this book require them.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Most volunteer in this category maybe required to teach English (with or without qualifications, though criminal background checks are required) in preschools and primary or secondary schools, although teaching adults is also common.
- Depending on your talents or qualifications, however, you could end up teaching almost anything. For a example, a volunteer volunteered in Ghana and taught English along with art and photography.



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE WORK

- Depending on your experience, you might work for a local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) writing fundraising proposals, managing a project or volunteering in their marketing, PR or finance departments.
- The aim of these placements is usually to train local people in the skills you possess so that they can become self-sufficient (such work is referred to as capacity-building).



BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

- Good old-fashioned manual labour often plays a big part in volunteering overseas. You are usually sent as part of a team to help build schools, community centres, houses, bridges, dams or latrines.
- There is also a need for skilled volunteers in this area to work as civil or structural engineers and construction or site supervisors.
- For example, a volunteer went to Ecuador and quite literally volunteered with his bare hands: He built a house on the coast of Ecuador, near a national park, so that future volunteers could base themselves there. He had no power tools so everything was done by hand! He was supported by a very friendly and hard-working bunch of locals that the charity were paying.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Health professionals are required in this area, but you don't have to be a fully trained nurse, doctor, speech therapist, nutritionist or physiotherapist to contribute.
- Non-medical volunteers can often help in other areas, like the promotion of health and hygiene issues in a local community.
- Kate Sturgeon volunteered with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, Doctors Without Borders) in Zimbabwe and explains: I was the project nurse for an HIV/anti-retroviral programme working alongside the Ministry of Health to provide free anti-retroviral drugs in one of the first HIV/opportunistic infections clinics in the country. I ran follow-up clinics, seeing all patients who had started on these drugs either weekly, monthly or quarterly to monitor their progress and any side effects.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Community development covers a wide variety of community and social programmes.
- You might help women's groups set up income-generating schemes (eg selling handicrafts), work with a local village on empowerment issues or help establish a system for disposing of rubbish in a village or region.

STAFF VOLUNTEERING

- Some volunteer organisations, particularly those aimed at the youth market, need in-country volunteer staff to help manage and run their overseas programmes.
- You might be a medic on an expedition, an interpreter at a field base or a project manager working with a group of 17- to 24-year-olds. Michelle Hawkins volunteered with Raleigh International (p151) in Ghana, Costa Rica and Nicaragua and describes the roles she filled: On the first expedition I was a public relations officer in Ghana.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMING

- Agriculture and farming are almost exclusively for skilled volunteers.
- Communities often need horticulturalists, foresters, agronomists and agriculturists.





CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERING



CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERING

- Volunteering in conservation could involve clearing or constructing trails in African national parks, studying flora and fauna in a cloud-forest reserve in Ecuador, or monitoring climate change in the Arctic. There are wide-ranging options available including tree planting.
- Archaeology and palaeontology also come under the conservation banner and are two fields that rely heavily on international volunteers. There are opportunities to excavate burial chambers, temples and ancient shipwrecks.



WILDLIFE VOLUNTEERING

- If you choose to work with animals you might do anything from helping monitor sea turtle populations in Costa Rica to analysing the migration of grey whales in Canada to working in a home for neglected or orphaned wild animals in Namibia.



MARINE CONSERVATION

- Marine conservation straddles both the conservation and wildlife camps. Tasks for volunteers may include underwater surveys of coral reefs in the Philippines, diving with whale sharks in Honduras or helping with dolphin conservation in Florida.



ETHICS OF VOLUNTEERING

- Cultural awareness
 - The reason for our volunteerism is to learn new culture.
 - Therefore it is important for all volunteers to understand cultural differences and sensitivity of the local people.
 - For example, do we know the ethics of photographing.
 - Do we conform to the local dress code.
 - Do we know whether to take part in spiritual ceremonies.

- Empowering local people.

- Our volunteering placement must help in improving the well-being of the local people.
- We must ensure that our presence will not deprive the locals of employment. Instead, volunteering organisations ought to offer employment to the locals.

- Sustainable environment.

- The principle of protecting the environment and maintaining sustainability must be upheld by all volunteerism.
- The activities must be able to preserve the biodiversity of the environment.
- Their activities must also be ensured not to pollute the natural environment.
- Thorough research must be conducted before carrying out volunteering that involves activities in the areas of wildlife sanctuaries.

- Educational benefits

- Make a list of the skills you want to develop and the topics you would like to learn about, then ask the organisation if they can help you reach these objectives.
- The aim of the volunteering activities must be geared towards giving people, both locally and internationally, the knowledge and skills necessary for life improvement.