

A Comparative Perspective of Volunteering among Israeli Students: Related Factors, Motivations, Benefits and Educational Institutions

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This article presents the findings of research that seeks to study the factors related to student volunteering in 13 countries. Presented is the data on the Israeli students (n=590) compared to the rest of the sample (n=10,095). It was found that Israelis volunteer less than do students in the other countries studied, but they volunteer on a weekly basis and donate money more than do others. Israeli students volunteer mainly for human service organizations, community organizations and children's needs. Their motivations and benefits are satisfaction and recognition, but they do not perceive volunteering as a career opportunity. One important finding indicates that compulsory volunteer programs in high schools ("personal commitment") led to less volunteering 10 years later – when compared to non-compulsory, or no programs. We conclude with a discussion and practical suggestions to encourage volunteering among students.

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