

Economic Motivations for Volunteering: a case study

Michael **Achtzehn** and Geoff **Antrobus**
Rhodes University

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The place of volunteering in the economy

- Often understated
- Involves a trade-off of time
- USA est actual value 2.5 to 3.8% GDP
- Canada: wages 7% higher of individuals who had volunteered at some point

Motivations for Volunteering

- Altruism
- Investment in human capital
- Impure altruism model

- Extrinsically vs Intrinsically motivated individuals
- Importance of being asked
 - nature of activity
 - identity of individual asking

Research Questions

- Who volunteers?

- What motivates students to volunteer?

Method

- Questionnaires
- Sample: 100
- CSD: 40 Student Volunteer Programme
- Further: 60 (mainly Econ 3 candidates)
 - 21 volunteers
 - 39 non-volunteers

Results

- Volunteers (n = 61):
 - Larger proportion of
 - women than men
 - Humanities than Commerce
- Non-volunteers (n = 39)
 - proportional to population
 - high proportion Commerce

Results

- Volunteers: more motivated by intrinsic factors
 - self actualisation; feelings of self worth
- Non-volunteers: motivated by both extrinsic and intrinsic factors
- Contribution to personal growth, employment, CV
 - volunteers: 92% 51% 42%
 - non-volunteers 79% 76% 71%
- Appreciated; Alleviate conscience; Give back
 - 79 53 85

Conclusions

- Capitalising on volunteer benefits
- Provision by HEIs of conducive environment
- Minimise opportunity cost of volunteering, and maximise expected benefits