

Strategies for Connecting Volunteer Service Activities in Universities with Communities

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Abstract

This study aims to develop strategies to reinforce the roles of universities and volunteer service activities centering on promotion of their connections to communities and community-oriented volunteer service activities. First, for autonomous and continuing development of volunteer services, universities should have active connections with service organizations. Second, more specialized volunteer service programs should be developed. Third, as volunteer service activities are somewhat forced on college students, recognition for them should be improved. Fourth, as the quality of the service and academic achievement decrease, conditions for volunteer service education and programs should be made available. Fifth, for continuing participation in volunteer service activities, organized systems should be established

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I . Preface

As colleges are one of the components of communities, and modern society continues to put demands for new services on colleges, in order to maintain desirable relationships between colleges and communities, colleges should be active in the development of communities and cooperate with them. [1].

Volunteer service activities in colleges are one of the three functions of colleges along with education and research. This emphasizes the idea that colleges should participate in volunteer services to cover the needs of society as members of society, in addition to the pursuit for truth and basic knowledge. In particular, in the 21st century when we share fierce competition and the logic of coexistence, practical experience, the ability to understand humans and nature and volunteer service activities to expand the width of comprehensive thinking have high educational value [2].

The goals of volunteer service activities in colleges are to develop leadership potential through the community activities, and nurture sociability with a sense of belonging to the community as well as team spirit through abundant field learning experiences.

Also, volunteer service activities in colleges can be a field of opportunity where friendship with diverse classes and types of people is available, and can nurture wider personal relationship and self-esteem formation. Through these activities, social relations as a core of social capital can be formed and reliability and correlations can be created in members. These reciprocal relationships lead to the formation of higher reliability and better social norms. Therefore, the volunteer service activities in colleges can have great effects on the formation of social capital in communities[3].

Universities expand the social sense of belonging through the utility of human resources, information and knowledge in communities. The necessity of volunteer service in universities has an efficacy on education through reciprocity between volunteers and clients, and fierce competition and the logic of coexistence.

In this respect, this study focused on development strategies to reinforce the roles of universities and volunteer service activities centering on efficient management of human and physical resources, and the connections of volunteer service activities with the community.

II. Theoretical Background

1. Volunteer Activities

Table 1. Classification according to Volunteer Service Activities

Main Category	middle Category	program
Emergency Relief	Disaster Relief	Emergency relief activities, Life relief activities, sufferers foodservice Etc
	General Relief	Relief activities of Low income families, Livelihoods Measures support Etc
Social Welfare	Child and Youth Welfare	Boys and girls paterfamilias support, Youth study room, Youth counseling room operations Etc
	Elderly Welfare	elderly living at home volunteer, Senior free meals, Elderly Leisure business Support Etc
	Disability welfare	Disabled Camp, Disabled Sports Festival, Assist activities disabilities Etc
Health	Medical Volunteer	Community Medical Volunteer, Hospital Information, Consoles Volunteer Etc
	Health Promotion and prevention	Health Education, Blood donation Campaign, no smoking Education Etc
Environment	Environmental protection activities	Environmental protection campaign, Environmental cleaning activities, Food Bank Etc
	Environmental Education	Public transportation Using, Resource Recycling Etc
International cooperation	International relief	3rd world destitute support, support Earthquake and Tsunami
	International General	desert Tree Planting, dig a well Etc
community	community Development	The love of build house, Rural service activities Etc
	Human rights advocacy	discrimination Opposition Campaign, Immigrant women support, North Korean defectors Support Etc
	Crime Prevention	Night crime prevention, Children's Keeper, Penitentiary Etc

Source: Volunteer Service Manual published by the Red Cross(2010) revised and supplemented, recited[5].

The term volunteer service activities is derived from

“Voluntas(free will)” a latin word meaning volunteer, and ‘volo(will)’ is interpreted as having the meaning of free will or voluntary in English [4].

Volunteer service activities are classified in diverse ways according to the nature of the researchers or organizations. <Table 1> shows the classification of volunteer service activities: Classification 1 and Classification 2.

In that university student participation in volunteer service activities can bring strong physical health and mental relaxation to them, the weight of service activity in our society is great. For active institutionalization and stability in volunteer service which begins in elementary, middle and high schools, university student participation has very important meaning [6].

The Social Service Network regulates: “volunteer service is an activity for the common-good and self-realization for which one volunteer participates in public or private organizations which are made to prevent or solve social problems and perform public projects sponsored by the government without any profitable reward based on the principle of human respect and democracy and provide services needed by others”[7].

2. Community Social Welfare service

To define the concept of community social welfare[8]: First, it means professional or non-professional social efforts to intervene in communities through a series of reasonable processes such as search and assessment of community problems, service planning, performance and evaluation with the goal of preventing and solving problems in and the needs of communities.

Second, community social welfare is a social welfare practice which checks, mobilizes and connects the resources of communities to prevent and solve problems and the needs of diverse client systems including individuals.

The characteristics of the community social welfare service are[9]: First, it is geographical. The conditions of communities are diverse such as nature, weather, transportation, industry and distribution of population. Second, it has a distinctive living culture including historical consciousness, community spirit, and emotional bond.

Third, it is characterized by self-sufficiency rather than expectation for services provided by the government. Fourth, it requires psychological and

emotional service rather than economic. Fifth, it has close bonds with neighbors and interdependency. Sixth, it usually requires complex services rather than one simple need.

Also, the roles of universities and the organic relationship between universities and communities are shown in the formation and developmental process of the universities. That is, communities and universities are combined, not separated and universities were established according to the needs of communities, and have played important roles in the development of communities and the welfare of community people. Universities are not only educational institutes which admit and teach students, but they are community-based organizations established by the people for communities and the country from a comprehensive perspective.

Therefore, universities should actively participate in the development of communities and lead them along with the subjects of advancement. For community development, there are the following resources: Professors, researchers, students and office workers as human resources, lab facilities and studying places are physical resources and departments, research institutes and social education programs are institutional and organizational resources. If such resources are efficiently mobilized and used, they will contribute to the development of communities.

III. Methods of this Study

This study is to search for problems in university volunteer service activity in communities based on a general review of it, bibliographical data, previous studies and present political suggestions as in [Figure 1]. The discussion above is summarized as in [Figure 1].

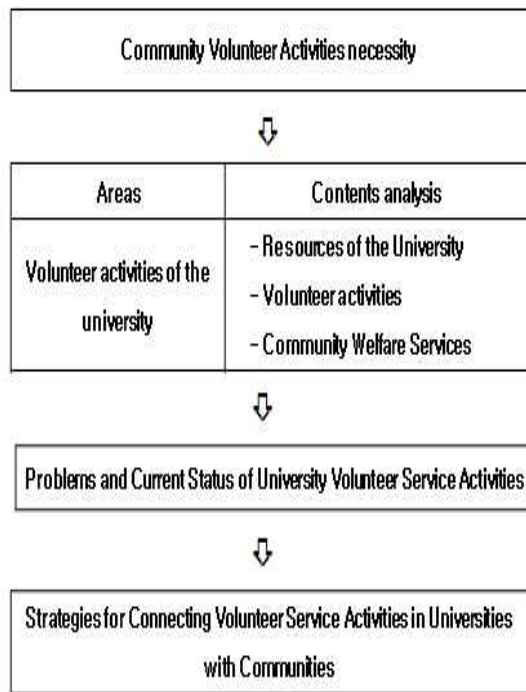


Fig. 1. Research Analysis Model

IV. Problems and Current Status of University Volunteer Service Activities

Recently, many people have had interest in volunteer service activity, but participation rates are low in comparison with that of developed countries and there are diverse problems involving it [10]. First, volunteer service activity was excessively government-oriented. With the introduction of the local government system, as volunteer service was usually led by the government, it was rigid and low in efficiency. Second, as financial independency of volunteer service organizations was low and the organizations had support from the government, they were compelled to follow government policy. Third, volunteer service activities in our country were inclined to help in everyday life and with simple services and there were few specialized volunteer service programs. Fourth, as students were forced to participate in volunteer service activities regardless of their will, they had a wrong recognition of it. Fifth, as volunteer service activity as a practical education program has not been institutionalized, there were many problems in volunteer

service activity relating to majors.

To examine diverse university volunteer service activities, social service can be connected with majors in universities as in <Table 2>. <Table 2> is an example of social service areas in each major at university.

Table 2. An Example of a Social Service Area in Each Major at University

Major department	Volunteer Activities	Volunteer targets	partner
Department of Language and literature	Learning teach	Elementary · Middle · High School Student	education office in local, Elementary · Middle · High School
	Adult education	Adult	Welfare facilities, public, Private organizations
	Administrative Support	public, Private organizations	public, Private organizations
Department of Social Welfare	Learning teach	Elementary · Middle · High School Student	community Child centers
	Life Guidance, Health guidance	Youth, disabled, elderly	community Social Welfare Hall
	Administrative Support	public, Private organizations	public, Private organizations
Department of Journalism	promotion	public, Private organizations	public, Private organizations
Department of Law	Legal advice	Low income families, Private organizations	Private organizations, Government agency
	Inmates advice, Rebirth protection	Inmates	Private organizations, Government agency
Department of Business Administration	Management and technical guidance	small-medium industries	small-medium industries organizations
	Marketing Support	Private organizations	Private organizations

Department of Political	Elections campaign	Election Commission	Election Commission
	confer and decide Activity monitor	Various levels conference	Private organizations
Department of Physical Education	health, Physical Fitness Management, Recreation	Elderly	Elderly Welfare Center, Social Sport Center
Department of Medical / Nursing	Health Care, outback Medical	Public Health Center, Association of nurses and doctors	Free Medical of Low-income families, Health Education
Department of industrial arts	Learning authoring tool	Early classroom, School disorders	education office in local, School disorders, Disabled Welfare Facilities

Source: Social Service Network referred to(1997), some recited[11].

management and they were not properly arranged. To adjust the diverse needs of communities and prevent confusion in management and administration of volunteers in volunteer service, specialized managers who are needed for the education and counselling of volunteers should be arranged.

Third, to encourage university students to voluntarily participate in volunteer service activities and maintain their participation rates, their eagerness to participate should be reinforced. Students' attention, promotion activities and organized training for volunteers are needed. For university volunteer service activity to expand to communities as more volunteer activity in communities, universities should lead in active promotion for the service activity with the need of participation in the service activity.

Finally, welfare facilities and social service organizations established in communities were lacking in human resources and low in their financial status. To secure abundant resources and efficient finance, universities should provide capital and student volunteers should participate in services actively. In addition, to encourage morale in student volunteers and magnify the base for it, diversified appreciation systems should be developed through cooperation between the universities and local governments.

V. Conclusions

As this study highlighted the importance of volunteer service activity in university, further studies on it and active support from universities and the government are needed. Although there was cooperation between the federal government and local governments, and public and private sectors, volunteer service activity has not been efficiently made. Therefore, this study is to present strategies to facilitate active participation in a community's social welfare service.

First, for university volunteer service activity to be a community-oriented central service activity, administrative institutes relating to community volunteer service activity should cooperate, and a network for connections with private organizations and diverse programs which fit the characteristics of universities and communities should be developed.

Second, there were few volunteer service activity managers with specialized skills and knowledge on its

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