



COMMUNITY EXTENSION PROFILING OF THE STUDENT-VOLUNTEERS IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

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Abstract

Participation in community extension-related activities is self-rewarding once the spirit of volunteerism is applied through rendering service. The community extension program and outreach activities serve as the link between the community and the University. For this reason, along with instruction and research, higher education's focus is significant on extension services. To address this, the University of Cebu-Lapu Lapu and Mandaue Campus established a community extension office where students, faculty, and administrative staff could share resources and expertise and participate in the social participation program. This office served as the institutional home for all the different colleges regarding community extension operations. To prepare the nursing students to become active participants in society's welfare and advancement in harmony with man's values, rights, and dignity, the department surveyed to determine the students' interest in community involvement. A total of one hundred fifty-three students responded in this study from different year levels that are currently enrolled for the first semester of the school year 2022-2023.

Keywords: Reflective evaluation, transformative reflection, community extension, community services

Introduction

Participation in community extension-related activities is self-rewarding once the spirit of volunteerism is applied through rendering service. According to Yamashita et al. (2017), volunteering has received increasing attention as a unique form of learning, one which may complement lifelong learning programs for older adults. One of the strategies to further enhance the

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benefits and experiences of lifelong learning is to incorporate volunteer activities into existing programs. Volunteering is a specific type of indirect learning activity. Additionally, volunteering is beneficial for multiple aspects of well-being. With the Commission on Higher Education Memorandum Order No. 48 Series of 1996, the higher education institution must have a good community extension program, which may include continuing education, research findings, volunteer work, and other activities of a similar nature.

With the trilogy functions of instruction, research, and community extension of the university, it provides an avenue for addressing the community's needs. The community extension program and outreach activities serve as the link between the community and the university. It is the method by which a higher education institution develops its program-related expertise. For this reason, along with instruction and research, higher education's focus is significant on extension services. Indeed, as the functioning of extension services as a component of university management is comparable to socioeconomic growth, its significance as a necessary component of education cannot be taken for granted.

University established a community extension office where students, faculty, and administrative staff could share resources and expertise and participate in the social participation program. This office served as the institutional home for all the different colleges regarding community extension operations. Developing a community where there is a greater need for assistance from various organizations, such as academic institutions, is a way to carry out the mission of helping others raise not only the living standards of the poor, but also the character and values of the students and staff who participate in this admirable endeavor (Laguador & Chaves 2013).

The College of Nursing at the University of Cebu Lapu Lapu and Mandaue Campus provides democratized quality education to prepare students to become active participants in society's welfare and advancement in harmony with man's values, rights, and dignity. To determine the interest of the students in community involvement, a survey was conducted on the profiling of the nursing students. Thus, its community extension program offers the Health Education and Literacy Program (HELP) as the department's flagship.

Methodology

This study is a descriptive, quantitative research design that was conducted on the students in the College of Nursing who are currently enrolled in the first semester of 2022-2023. There are a total of one hundred fifty-three (153) students who responded to the survey from all year levels. The survey was done through a google form. The survey is composed of three parts; the first part delves into determining the profile of the respondents, the second part is to determine the preferred community extension organizations of the department, and the last one is to know the reason why the students wanted to be involved in the community extension program of the College of Nursing at the University of Cebu- Lapu Lapu and Mandaue Campus. A ranking system was used to determine the results of the study. Thus, this is a convenience sampling in which the google form was cascaded by sending a google form link through Facebook messenger and email.

The data was collected only based on the number of informants' responses. After this, the researcher collated and analyzed the data collected from the google form. Ethical considerations are an utmost priority in the duration of this study; thus, the identity of the informants was considered

confidential. Ensuring data privacy and confidentiality is another consideration as part of the ethical standard, ensuring that all data collected are exclusively for the purposes of this study only.

Results and Discussion

The data's findings are presented in this section. The first section provides information on the respondent's profile; the second deals with their favorite community extension services and the top five factors that motivated them to volunteer for community extension activities.

The age distribution of the respondents is shown in Figure 1. Most respondents, or 27.5% of the population, are above 21 years old. Next are those over 22 (26.42%), and respondents under 19 (23.5% of the population) received the third-highest responses. The result suggests that nursing students already feel a civic duty, even at a young age and while pursuing their education.

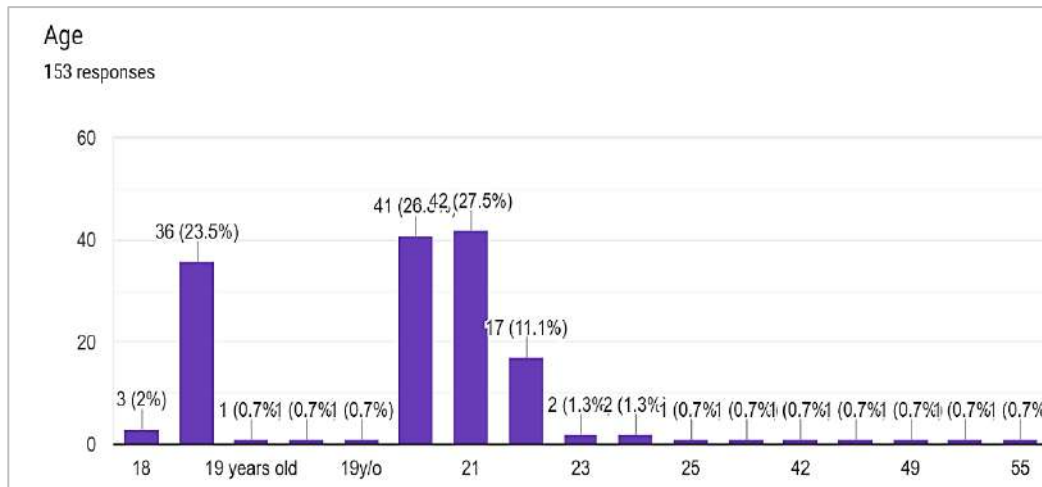


Figure 1
Age profile of the respondents

As presented in Figure 2, most of the respondents are female, comprising 77.8% of the total population, while 20.9% are males. The finding indicates that most of the student volunteers in the nursing college are females.

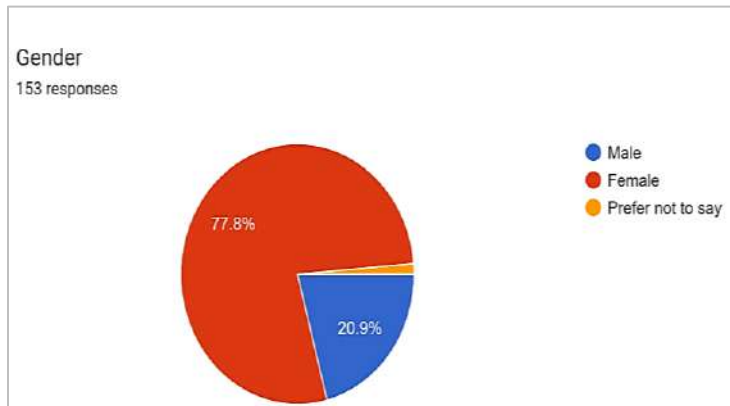


Figure 2
Gender profile of the respondents

Community Extension Profiling of the Student-Volunteers in the College of Nursing

According to figure 3, which represents 76.5% of the overall population, most nursing college student volunteers are second-year students. The results show that students in the lower year levels have already internalized knowledge about the university's corporate social responsibility and its role in the community.

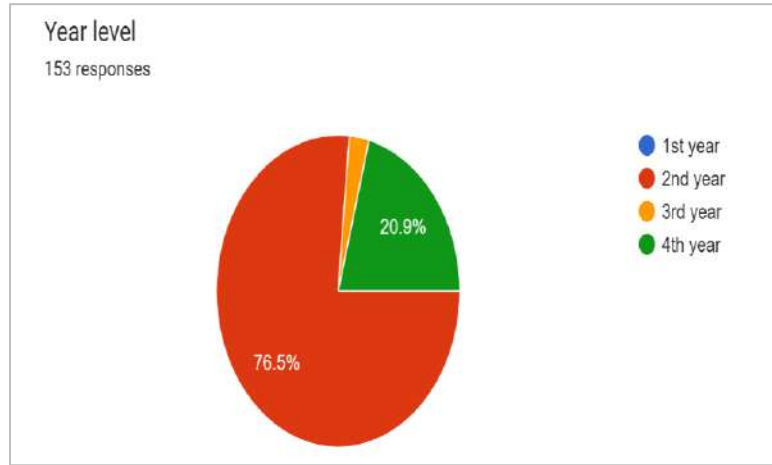
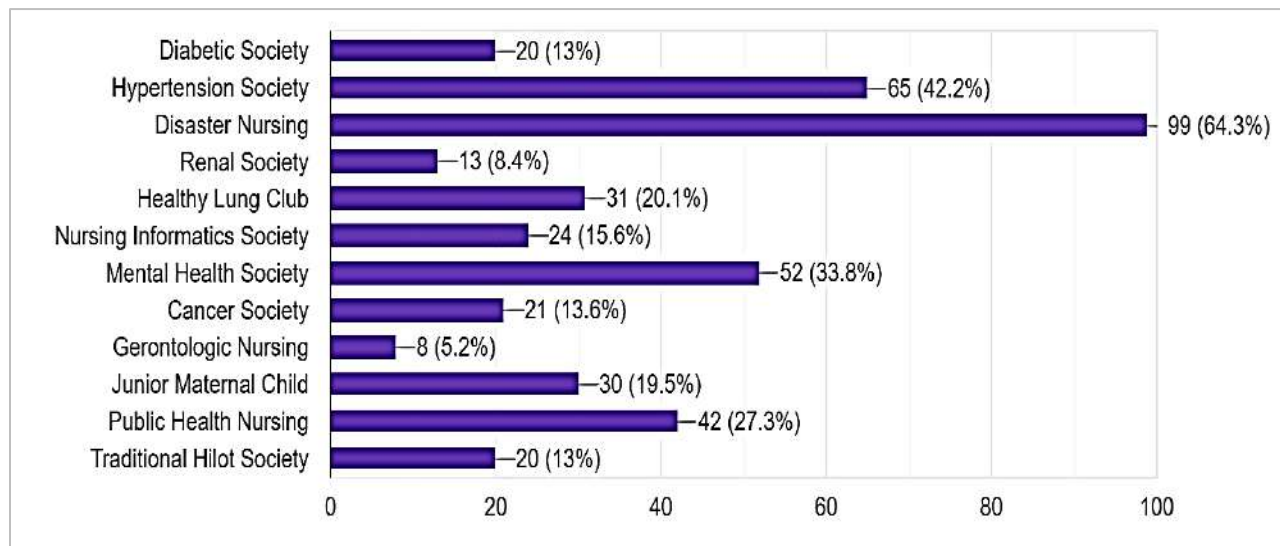


Figure 3
Year level profile of the respondents

Preferred Community Extension Organizations of the Student-Volunteers

As reflected in figure 4, the most preferred community extension organization of the college of nursing is Disaster Nursing garnering 64.30% of the total respondents. Next is the Hypertension Society, with 42.20% of the total population; third is the Mental Health Society, with a response rating of 33.80%. This result is crucial when selecting what extension activities the nursing college should engage in, and it will also serve as the basis for designing the nursing college's community services.

Figure 4
Preferred organizations of student-volunteers
Reasons for volunteering in the community extension programs/activities of the University



Reasons for volunteering in the community extension programs/activities of the university

Figure 5 is the list of reasons why nursing students want to be part of volunteer in community extension programs/activities. It was revealed that the number one reason why nursing students want to volunteer is to promote personal growth and self-esteem. It demonstrates the desire of nursing students to grow personally and to support the development of their unique identities.

Giving back to the community boosts confidence, and the person will feel naturally accomplished since he is helping people and the community (Cassady, 2021). Volunteer work may make one feel proud of and connected to himself. Moreover, the more confident he feels in himself, the more probable he will have a positive outlook in life and future aspirations. Volunteering does make a person feel better about himself, which can carry over to a "normal" routine and ideally result in a more optimistic outlook on your life and future objectives (Fairley et al., 2016; Gaber et al., 2020).

The second reason nursing students want to volunteer is to gain professional experience. The finding implies that their participation in the university community extension services will enable them to advance their career, and their experience will be more useful in their future nursing practice.

A person's career may benefit from volunteering (Rodell, 2013). Volunteering might help gain experience in a person's sector of interest and network with professionals if a person is thinking about changing careers (Pring & Roco, 2012). Volunteering allows the person to practice crucial workplace skills like teamwork, communication, problem-solving, project planning, task management, and organization, even if he has yet to make plans to change careers. Once he refines these talents in a volunteer position, he might feel more at ease expanding his wings at work (Sánchez, 2022; Millora, 2020).

The third reason nursing students want to volunteer is to see a different way of life and new places. The outcome suggests that nursing students are open to all career options besides practicing medicine. Volunteering also entails seeing new areas because students are sent to other communities where their expertise and assistance are greatly needed. The research also suggests that nursing student volunteers are more likely to seek out their own identities and authentic significance in life.

A person can learn about other cultures via volunteering (Howard & Burns, 2015). It is frequently undervalued and can alter the person's perspective to have the chance to learn more about various viewpoints. His viewpoint and social adaptability can be improved by volunteering for various initiatives that expose him to new cultures and lifestyles (Wood et al., 2019).

Volunteering will also increase a person's sense of contentment and purpose (Wilson, 2012). People are trying to live happier lives, and volunteering can help them make a big step in that direction. Many regular volunteers concur that lending their time and skills to others is a satisfying experience and can give their life meaning. As a result, they could also feel generally happier since they know they are making the world a better place (Withers et al., 2013).

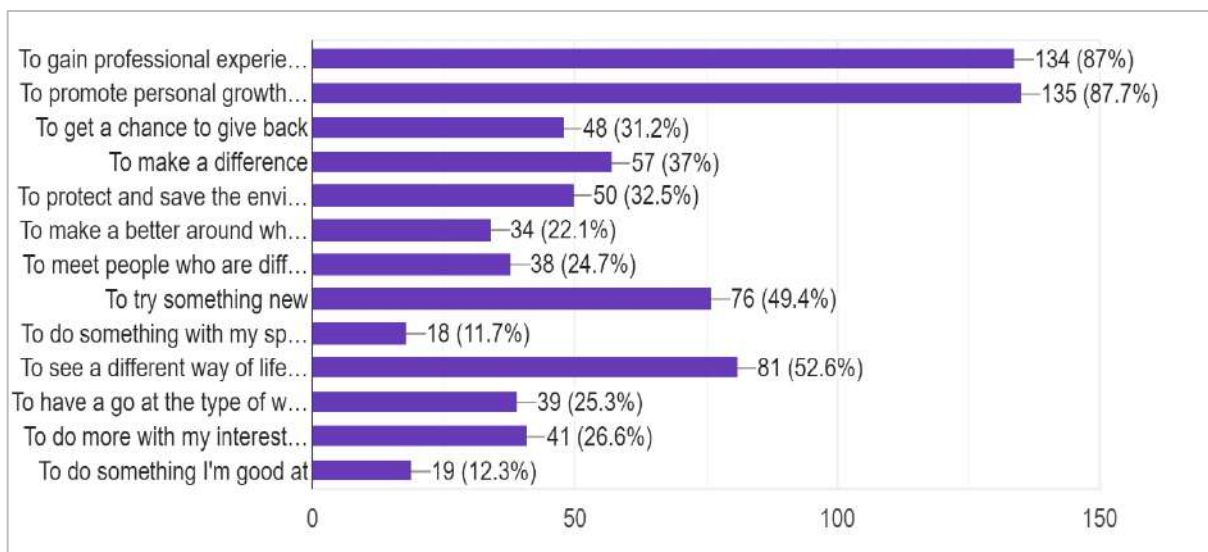


Figure 5
Reasons for volunteering in the community extension programs/activities

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

- Most nursing student volunteers are 21 years old, female, and in the second-year level.
- Nursing student-volunteers want to be a member of the top three organizations the nursing disaster, hypertension society, and mental health society.
- The top three reasons nursing students volunteer in community extension programs/activities are to promote personal growth and self-esteem, gain professional experience, and see a different way of life and new places.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions, the following recommendations were drawn;

- Intensify the participation of male nursing students in the community extension services
- Support various nursing organizations where students can practice their skills and develop their potential in nursing services.
- Introduce community extension activities that are connected and aligned with students' reasons for volunteering.

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