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Exploring the Dimensions of Youth Volunteerism in Times of Crisis: A Framework Development

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In the time of crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, more individuals were affected by its unwanted impact socially, emotionally, and economically, making youth volunteerism imperative in addressing the adversity. This paper delves into the multifaceted dimensions of youth volunteerism during periods of crisis, presenting a comprehensive framework. The study employed an exploratory sequential mixed-methods design to investigate this phenomenon. For the data gathering in the qualitative phase, 12 participants undergone the key informant interview, while in the quantitative, 300 Sangguniang Kabataan members were surveyed to produce data for exploratory factor analysis. Findings revealed four dimensions: *response to public service, personal fulfillment, social support and motivation, and personal development*. Furthermore, a youth volunteerism framework was generated based on the identified dimensions. This framework might be considered by higher authorities responsible for youth organizations to advance and promote the spirit of volunteerism for community development and sustainability, particularly in times of crisis.

Keywords: *Volunteerism, Youth Involvement, Crisis Situation, Sangguniang Kabataan, Local Governance, Exploratory Factor Analysis, Philippines*

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Introduction

Rationale

Youth volunteerism, which is defined as young people actively participating in volunteer activities without receiving payment, is essential for addressing social issues and advancing the welfare of the community (DuBois, 2020). The value of youth volunteering has gained attention in the recent years, since it benefits the communities that young people serve as well as themselves.

Research indicates that young people volunteer for various reasons, with altruism, the desire to have a positive impact, and personal fulfillment identified as the primary drivers (Murphy, 2023). Moreover, young people's decisions to volunteer can be greatly influenced by social factors such as peer networks and parental background (Maiya et al., 2023). Developing successful recruitment and retention methods for youth volunteers requires an understanding of these reasons.

The economic and social integration of youth are continuing issue even before the crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, except if immediate interventions are taken, this long-lasting effect of the pandemic might likely to cause struggles and issues among our youth (Puerto et al., 2020). Given that the youth represent the epitome of our country's future, they embody our nation's aspirations and hopes. Neglecting and ignoring the future of our youth typically leads to significant consequences (Ilechukwu, 2011).

In the Philippines, the State believes in the youth's capacity to lead and empower the nation. It is provided in the Philippine Constitution Article II, Section 13 that "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." This signifies that the State is confident that the youth have innovative minds and thoughts that will undoubtedly hone the nation's future.

It is expressed in the Constitution that the youth have an imperative task in nation-building thus, the conception of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) and this is embodied in the Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. Consequently, due to some issues concerning loopholes in the provisions of Sangguniang Kabataan in the Local

Government Code, a new law was established, the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, which aims to strengthen the power and the autonomy of SK to administer programs relating to youth.

Despite the additional powers and responsibilities devolved to SK officials, the spirit of volunteerism is encouraged among the council members since only the SK chairpersons received an honorarium for their services in the barangay. Nevertheless, amidst these adversities, SK members are actively involved in supporting both the SK and the government in delivering public services to the community. Reports have indicated that SK has undertaken various initiatives to mitigate the economic and social impacts of the pandemic, demonstrating the embedded value of volunteerism among SK members.

The deliberate decision to participate in activities without expecting payment is known as volunteerism. Academics have studied volunteerism in relation to social action, organizational behavior, and community service (Bonnesen, 2018; Kim & Morgül, 2017; Kirbis, 2017; Ljubojević, 2020; Wani, 2016). The research on volunteerism among SK members in the Philippines is noticeably lacking, presenting an opportunity for further exploration into their motivations and contributions to community development initiatives. Addressing this gap can provide valuable insights for policymakers and program developers aiming to promote and support youth volunteerism in the country.

This research project offers the chance to further our understanding of young people's involvement in voluntary work. This paper aims to shed light on the motivations, actions, and impacts of volunteerism among SK members, especially during times of crisis, by employing empirical studies and generating a framework for youth volunteerism.

The foremost objective of this research is to develop a framework that demonstrates the volunteerism of youth in times of crisis. Specifically, it aims: to determine the common responses of youth in engaging in voluntary work during times of crisis; to determine the factor structures of youth volunteerism in times of crisis; and develop a framework about volunteerism of youth in times of crisis through the results of the factor analysis.

Conceptual Framework

This study is anchored on Robert Putnam's theory of Social Capital (1993), which states that social

capital associates shared understanding and values in the society that enable people and groups to work together. The entire concept of social capital centers on social relationships, and its significant components namely, civic engagement, social networks, generalized trust and norms of reciprocity.

Social capital can appear in numerous forms, but it is always linked in the context of volunteerism – from highly formal forms such as labor unions to an informal group of friends. Therefore, a group of people volunteering can be viewed as a form of social capital where volunteers form networks based on trust, norms, and values that enable collective action (Putnam, 2001).

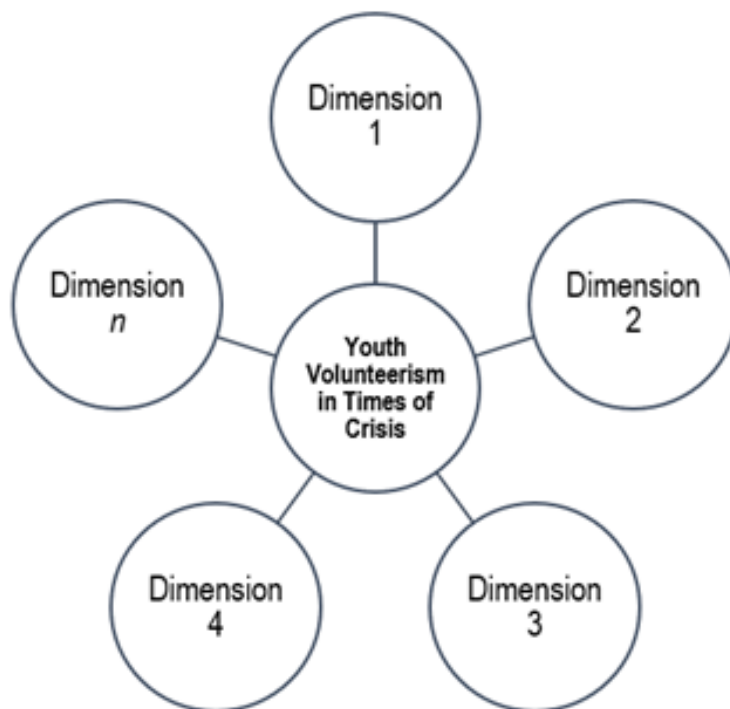


Figure 1. Conceptual Paradigm for Youth Volunteerism in Times of Crisis

Figure 1 is the study's conceptual framework, which comprises the multiple observed/explored dimensions that describe the latent variable about youth volunteerism in times of crisis. It shows that these variables have causal components or dimensions, epitomized as Dimension 1, Dimension 2, Dimension 3...Dimension n. These observed latent variables are not yet fixed since an additional investigation from this study will yield the generated dimension and tag them according to the themes' commonality.

Methodology

Research Design

This scientific inquiry examined the dimensions of youth volunteerism in times of crisis. This study utilized a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods, to determine the structures for comprehensively assessing and validating the phenomena (Bazeley, 2017). In particular, the exploratory sequential mixed-methods design utilized the findings of the qualitative phase to design the quantitative phase by determining variables and developing an instrument (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

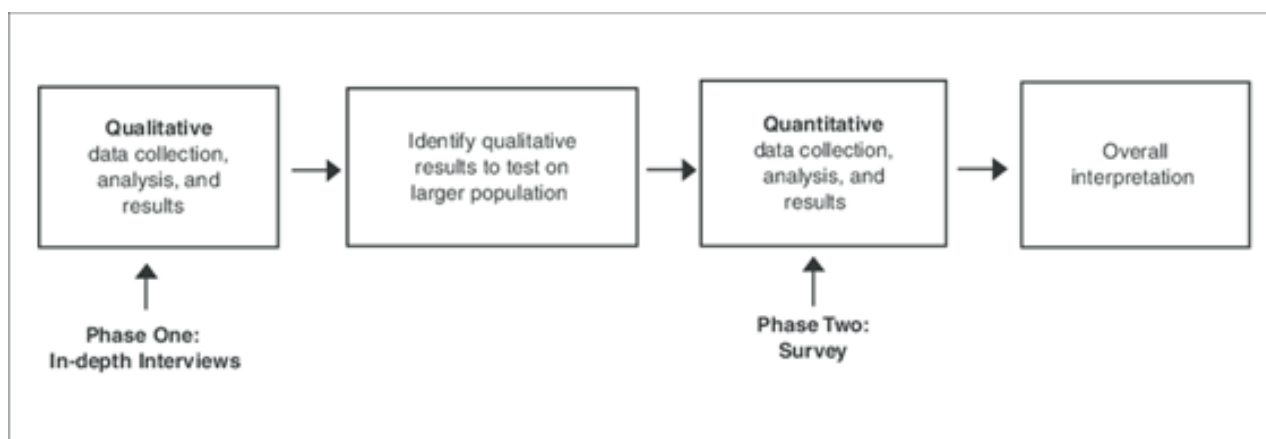


Figure 2. Conceptual Paradigm for Youth Volunteerism in Times of Crisis

The process of the study, depicted in Figure 2, illustrates the implementation of an exploratory sequential mixed-methods adopted Hesse-Biber (2010). This approach facilitated the development of a comprehensive framework detailing youth volunteerism during times of crisis.

Initially, the study employed qualitative methods to gather rich insights into the experiences and perspectives of the youth involved in volunteer activities during crises. This qualitative phase explored nuanced aspects of youth volunteerism, uncovering motivations, challenges, and contributing factors. Subsequently, quantitative data collection and analysis were conducted to systematically examine patterns and associations within the dataset. This phase involved the application of statistical techniques such as factor analysis to identify underlying dimensions and structures within the domain of youth volunteerism.

Integration of the qualitative and quantitative findings resulted, enabling a holistic understanding of youth volunteerism in times of crisis. Through this iterative process, the framework emerged, synthesizing qualitative narratives with quantitative evidences to provide a comprehensive depiction of the phenomenon. Furthermore, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was employed, a multivariate statistical technique aimed at identifying the underlying constructs, also known as factors, latent variables, synthetic variables, internal attributes, or dimensions, which adequately explain the observed covariation among a set of measured variables. Through this process, the determination of the communal elements that elucidate the structure and order of the assessed variables is achieved (Watkins, 2018).

Participants and Sampling Methods

The participants of this study were SK members in the Province of Davao del Norte, Philippines. SK members, serving as government officials within the barangay governments, fulfill their duties to the community without compensation, exemplifying the concept of volunteerism. For the qualitative phase, the researchers utilized the principle of data saturation in gathering the data (Lowe et al, 2018). With this method, the researchers purposively interviewed 12 informants through Key Informant Interview (KII).

To ensure that the interview informants were suitably qualified to provide insightful responses, the following inclusion criteria were applied: participants must have served in their SK position for a minimum of two years, possess direct experience with voluntary initiatives as an SK official, and demonstrate active involvement in the operational activities of the SK within their respective barangays.

In the quantitative phase of this study, the instrument was developed based on the thematic findings derived from the qualitative inquiry. These identified themes were translated into statements to construct the survey questionnaire. There were 300 samples during the survey, this can be supported by referencing both Tabachnick et al. (2013) and Hair et al. (1998). While Hair et al. (1998) suggests that a sample size of 100 or greater is suitable for EFA, Tabachnick et al. (2013) recommend having at least 300 cases as a rule of thumb for EFA. By adhering to the more conservative guideline provided by Tabachnick et al., the research ensures a robust sample size that is sufficient for conducting reliable and comprehensive EFA, thus justifying the selection of 300 samples.

To ensure the reliability of the instrument used for EFA, a pilot test was conducted in Davao City. Thirty SK members from Davao City participated in the pilot testing. The results revealed a Cronbach's alpha of .920, which exceeds the required threshold of .70 for reliability. This suggests that the survey instrument effectively measured the study's variables, establishing the desired level of reliability. Additionally, the researchers employed the 6-point Likert attitudinal scale, which enables respondents to indicate the degree to which they concur or disagree with a given statement (McLeod, 2019). The 6-point Likert scale was anchored using the semantic differential scale of "strongly disagree to strongly agree."

The study employed data reduction via EFA to discern the pertinent domain structures characterizing the factors of youth volunteerism during times of crisis. The dimensionality of the constructs was determined using the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) method, selecting an eigenvalue threshold of at least 1.0. Coefficients exceeding +0.50 were considered significant upon factor rotation utilizing Varimax rotation by Kaiser (1958) with 50 iterations.

The aim of EFA is to pinpoint the minimum number of hypothetical constructs or dimensions necessary to elucidate the observed covariation among a set of measured variables. This method assists in identifying common factors elucidating the order and structure among measured variables (Brown, 2015).

Results and Discussion

Findings of the Qualitative Phase

The study used the developed and validated interview guide questionnaire to conduct in-depth interviews with 12 SK members in order to collect data for the study's first phase, or the qualitative phase. On the other hand, in order to come up with potential topics for the survey questions that would be developed during the quantitative phase of the study, data gathered were transcribed and evaluated the data from this section of the study. The themes were developed to meet the survey instrument's requirements, resulting in a total of 30 items generated (Table 1).

Table 1. Themes Generated from In-depth Interviews on Youth Volunteerism

Themes	
1	Volunteerism is very important in times of crisis.
2	We have the responsibility to help youth in this time of pandemic.
3	Serving people provides a sense of fulfillment.
4	Receiving words of thanks from others springs a desirable mood in fulfilling our tasks.
5	Our families motivate us to volunteer.
6	Our family would be happy if our duties as volunteers are fulfilled.
7	Seeing our family pleased with our tasks as volunteers make us happy.
9	This provides an opportunity to develop our social skills, which will help us become better individuals.
9	We learn a lot with our co-volunteers in the organization.
10	It is our heart's desire to help others, especially the youth.
11	Seeing other organizations do volunteer works makes us happy.
12	We are always willing to lead other people.
13	The youth need someone to lead them, particularly in this time of the pandemic.

Table 1 Continuation

Themes	
14	We are motivated to help the youth of our community because of the trust they have provided us.
15	Our parents do not hesitate to sacrifice something to help others.
16	Unity is necessary for this time, and even the government needs help from the people.
17	In volunteerism, we exercise effective decision-making in solving community problems.
18	Volunteerism provides opportunities for promoting positive vibes among the youth.
19	We volunteer because we have been given this exceptional opportunity to serve the youth.
20	In volunteerism, services, regardless of their extent, are essential.
21	As elected officials, we should be the role models since our actions will always have an impact on the youth.
22	We believe that youths have a significant impact on society.
23	Volunteerism encourages the youth to be proactive in participating in different activities.
24	Manifestations of gratitude among the beneficiaries of our programs motivate us to initiate more activities.
25	In volunteerism, we can encounter various people with different characteristics.
26	In volunteerism, we can explore different places.
27	With this engagement, management and leadership skills can be developed.
28	Volunteerism is healthy for the youth and this will also lead to a healthy community.
29	Voluntary works should be accomplished with love and compassion to help others truly.
30	Programs for the common good of the youth should be realized regardless of the challenges we encounter.

Findings of the Quantitative Phase

To examine the dimensionality of youth volunteerism, the following assessments namely, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin test, Bartlett's test and PCA were conducted. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Index of Sampling Adequacy. This is an analysis utilized for measuring adequacy of the sample. The range of this measure is from the values 0 to 1 a value of 0.6 is proposed minimum for satisfactory factor analysis to continue and values closer to 1 are great. The outcome of this criterion is found below (Table 2).

Table 2. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Test for Sample Adequacy

Item	MSA
Overall MSA	0.915
1	0.948
2	0.904
3	0.936
4	0.874
5	0.878
6	0.852
7	0.928
8	0.884
9	0.967
10	0.910
11	0.923
12	0.956
13	0.929
14	0.906
15	0.943
16	0.866
17	0.945
18	0.895
19	0.908
20	0.920
21	0.906
22	0.913
23	0.929
24	0.878
25	0.967
26	0.952
27	0.917
28	0.931
29	0.915
30	0.888

For this criterion, the overall test result is 0.915 (Table 2). This indicates that the sample size is considered adequate and excellent according to Nkansah (2011), as it surpasses the recommended threshold of 0.6. This outcome serves as an overarching index affirming that the data are conducive to employing EFA, suggesting that the dataset can be condensed into smaller sets of underlying causal dimensions. These findings thereby validate the suitability of the dataset for factor analysis, indicating that it possesses the necessary characteristics to effectively explore and identify underlying factors or dimensions within the data.

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity is a critical statistical tool used in EFA to determine the appropriateness of conducting factor analysis on a dataset. It assesses whether the correlations between variables are sufficiently large to justify the use of EFA. A significant result in Bartlett's Test suggests that there are significant correlations among the variables in the dataset, indicating that the data are suitable for factor analysis. Thus, Bartlett's Test serves as a crucial step in ensuring the validity and reliability of the factor analysis results. The result for this test is indicated below.

Table 3. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity on the Variables for Youth Volunteerism

X ²	df	P
23761.877	23761.877	< .001

The test results indicate a high Chi-square value of 23761.887 (X²) with 446.100 degrees of freedom (df) and a p-value of < .001 (Table 3), implying the rejection of the null hypothesis. Also, the data set is considered suitable for factor analysis. Accordingly, the significance value of Bartlett's test of sphericity must be less than 0.05 in order to reject the null hypothesis (Hair et al., 2010).

The Latent Roots Criterion is a key aspect of exploratory factor analysis, providing insight into the significance of the results. It determines the overall value of the variances explained, with the higher the overall variance described, the more meaningful the outcome. This criterion is assessed by examining the eigenvalues of the dimensions and the variance attributed to each individual dimension, shedding light on the structure and significance of the factors identified through the analysis.

Table 4. Latent Roots Criterion Analysis for Youth Volunteerism

Dimension	Eigenvalues	Variance	Cumulative Variance
1	14.005	0.467	0.467
2	10.371	0.346	0.813
3	9.356	0.303	0.915
4	11.574	0.371	0.936

Table 4 provides detailed insights into the outcomes of the latent root criterion, a crucial aspect of EFA. The criterion suggests that the dataset is conducive to extracting four distinct dimensions or factors from the set of items utilized for factor analysis. These dimensions represent underlying constructs or patterns within the data. Furthermore, the collective explanation of 93.6% of the data variations by these four factors indicates that they capture a substantial portion of the variability present in the

dataset. This implies that the identified dimensions effectively summarize the key characteristics and structure of the dataset, offering valuable insights into the underlying relationships among the variables examined in the study.

The Rotated Component Matrix represents the outcome of principal component analysis, aimed at discerning the underlying factor structure within the data. Through PCA, the assessment focuses

on determining whether specific items measure common factors. Additionally, factor rotation serves to streamline the rows and columns of the factor matrix, optimizing a variable's loading onto a single dimension to enhance interpretability, as proposed by Hair et al. (2010).

Table 5. Rotated Component Matrix for Youth Volunteerism

Items	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Dimension 4	Uniqueness
18	0.999				0.076
21	0.984				0.037
13	0.975				0.111
22	0.967				0.049
16	0.965				0.201
20	0.960				0.067
30	0.956				0.035
28	0.946				0.042
23	0.930				0.071
1	0.913				0.105
2	0.907				0.166
11		0.604			0.059
12		0.591			0.106
19		0.586			0.040
24		0.579			0.053
4		0.561			0.055
29		0.560			0.034
10		0.552			0.039
3		0.540			0.243
14			0.538		0.015
15			0.536		0.019
5			0.531		0.030
6			0.527		0.051
7			0.526		0.027
26				0.524	0.022
27				0.520	0.016
17				0.519	0.030
8				0.515	0.033
9				0.511	0.065
25				0.508	0.020

Presented in Table 5 are the rotation results, which illustrate that all the four dimensions of youth volunteerism have significant loadings above ± 0.50 , which is considered a standard coefficient value in utilizing the Varimax method. A total of 30 items were loaded into the analysis, resulting in the generation of four-factor

structures or attributes. These four dimensions were subsequently labeled based on the nature of the items within each particular structure. Specifically, the dimensions were identified as *response to public service, personal fulfillment, social support and motivation, and personal development*. This categorization reflects the underlying themes or constructs represented by the items within each factor, providing a comprehensive understanding of the various aspects of youth volunteerism captured by the survey instrument.

Dimension 1. Table 6 reveals that dimension 1 extracted 11 items. The coefficient pattern of the 11 items ranged from 0.907 to 0.999. Item 2, which states “We have the responsibility to help youth in this time of pandemic,” had the lowest value coefficient, which is 0.907. On the other hand, item 18, which states “Volunteerism provides opportunities for promoting positive vibes among the youth,” got the highest value of coefficient that is 0.999. All the items of this dimension surpass the minimum requirement of +0.50.

Table 6. Constructs and Loadings under Dimension 1 of Youth Volunteerism

Item	Constructs	Loadings
18	Volunteerism provides opportunities for promoting positive vibes among the youth.	0.999
21	As elected officials, we should be the role models since our actions will always have an impact on the youth.	0.984
13	The youth need someone to lead them, particularly in this time of the pandemic.	0.975
22	We believe that the youths have a significant impact on society.	0.967
16	Unity is necessary for this time, and even the government needs help from the people.	0.965
20	In volunteerism, services, regardless of their extent, are essential.	0.960
30	Programs for the common good of the youth should be realized regardless of the challenges we encounter.	0.956
28	Volunteerism is healthy for the youth; this will also lead to a healthy community.	0.946
23	Volunteerism encourages the youth to be proactive in participating in different activities.	0.930
1	Volunteerism is very important in times of crisis.	0.913
2	We have the responsibility to help the youth in this time of pandemic.	0.907

Through an examination of the shared characteristics among the 11 items, which encompass expressions of responsibilities amid challenges, recognition of the importance of youth volunteerism, advocacy for the common good, dedication to public service, willingness to provide assistance, demonstration of initiative, display of leadership qualities, and active participation, this dimension is identified and categorized as *a response to public service*. This categorization signifies that the items within this dimension collectively reflect attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs related to engaging in volunteer activities aimed at serving the community and promoting the welfare of others.

Dimension 2. Table 7 divulges that dimension 2 extracted eight items. The coefficient pattern of the eight items ranged from 0.540 to 0.604. Item 3, which states “Serving people provides a sense of fulfillment,” had the lowest value coefficient, at 0.540. Besides, item 11, which is the “Seeing other organizations do volunteer works makes us happy,” obtained the highest coefficient value of 0.604. All the items of this dimension surpass the minimum requirement of +0.50. Examining the similarity of the eight items, centered on happiness, willingness, opportunity, gratitude and appreciation, love, and compassion, hence, this dimension is labeled as *personal fulfillment*.

Table 7. Constructs and Loadings under Dimension 2 of Youth Volunteerism

Item	Constructs	Loadings
11	Seeing other organizations do volunteer works makes us happy.	0.604
12	We are always willing to lead other people.	0.591
19	We volunteer because we have been given this exceptional opportunity to serve the youth.	0.586
24	Manifestations of gratitude among the beneficiaries of our programs motivate us to initiate more activities.	0.579
4	Receiving words of thanks from others springs a desirable mood in fulfilling our tasks.	0.561
29	Voluntary works should be accomplished with love and compassion to help others truly.	0.560
10	It is our heart's desire to help others, especially the youth.	0.552
3	Serving people provides a sense of fulfillment.	0.540

Dimension 3. Table 8 comprises five items. The coefficient pattern, ranging from 0.526 to 0.538, represents the strength and consistency of the relationship between the items and the underlying factor within Dimension 3. This pattern indicates the degree to which each item is associated with the overarching dimension, with higher coefficient values suggesting a stronger correlation. Notably, "Seeing our family pleased with our tasks as

volunteers make us happy" (Item 7) exhibits the lowest coefficient value at 0.526, while Item 14, "We are motivated to help the youth of our community because of the trust they have provided us," demonstrates the highest coefficient value of 0.538. Importantly, all items within this dimension surpass the minimum requirement of +0.50, indicating a strong level of association with the underlying factor.

Table 8. Constructs and Loadings under Dimension 3 of Youth Volunteerism

Item	Constructs	Loadings
14	We are motivated to help the youth of our community because of the trust they have provided us.	0.538
15	Our parents do not hesitate to sacrifice something to help others.	0.536
5	Our families motivate us to volunteer.	0.531
6	Our family would be happy if our duties as volunteers are fulfilled.	0.527
7	Seeing our family pleased with our tasks as volunteers make us happy.	0.526

Furthermore, analyzing the similarities of the five items, it becomes apparent that they collectively emphasize themes related to community motivation, family values, family motivation, and family support and aspirations. These items reflect a shared emphasis on the importance of community engagement, the influence of family dynamics, and the role of familial support in motivating individuals to engage in volunteer activities. The overarching theme emerging from this pattern is one of social support and motivation, where individuals

draw inspiration and encouragement from their community and family networks to actively participate in volunteer endeavors. Therefore, this dimension is aptly labeled as *social support and motivation*.

Dimension 4. Table 9 presents the details of dimension 4, revealing that it consists of six items. The coefficient pattern for these items spans from 0.508 to 0.524, indicating the strength of the relationship between each item and the

underlying factor. Remarkably, “In volunteerism, we can encounter various people with different characteristics” exhibits the lowest coefficient value at 0.508, while Item 26, “In volunteerism, we can explore different places,” demonstrates the highest coefficient value of 0.524. Importantly, all items within this dimension surpass the minimum

requirement of +0.50, indicating a notable level of association with the underlying factor. This pattern suggests that the items collectively capture diverse aspects related to the experiences and opportunities associated with volunteerism, ranging from interpersonal interactions to exploration of new environments.

Table 9. Constructs and Loadings under Dimension 4

Item	Constructs	Loadings
26	In volunteerism, we can explore different places.	0.524
27	With this engagement, management and leadership skills can be developed.	0.520
17	In volunteerism, we exercise effective decision-making in solving community problems.	0.519
8	This provides an opportunity to develop our social skills, which will help us to become better individuals.	0.515
9	We learn a lot with our co-volunteers in the organization.	0.511
25	In volunteerism, we can encounter various people with different characteristics.	0.508

Upon closer examination of the six items, it becomes evident that they collectively emphasize themes related to personal growth and development. These items highlight the acquisition and enhancement of various skills and competencies, including learning, management, leadership skills, critical thinking skills, and exposure to other cultures. The overarching theme emerging from this pattern is one of personal development, where engagement in volunteer activities provides individuals with opportunities to expand their knowledge, develop new skills, and broaden their perspectives. Therefore, this dimension is aptly labeled as *personal development*, reflecting the transformative nature of volunteerism in fostering individual growth and self-improvement.

The exploratory factor analysis generated four valid dimensions for youth volunteerism in times of crisis. These four dimensions are labeled as (1) *response to public service*, (2) *personal fulfillment*, (3) *social support and motivation*, and (4) *personal development* (Figure 3). These four dimensions are the components that characterize how volunteerism is developed among the youth, particularly in times of adversities and calamities. This framework explains 93.6 percent of the data variations as gleaned from the gathered responses from the SK members in the Province of Davao del Norte, Philippines.

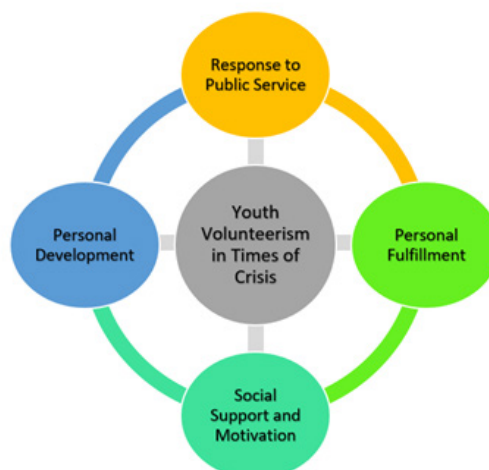


Figure 3. Framework on Youth Volunteerism in Times of Crisis

The developed framework provides a comprehensive understanding of how youth engage in volunteerism during times of crisis, elucidating the multifaceted motivations and influences that drive their participation. First, the framework highlights the intrinsic motivation of youth to respond to the call of public service. When faced with crises or challenges within their communities, youth are often inspired to step up and contribute towards addressing these issues. This sense of duty and responsibility towards serving the public reflects a deep-rooted commitment to social welfare and community well-being.

Furthermore, the framework underscores the role of youth leaders in promoting volunteerism among their peers. When youth leaders demonstrate a genuine understanding of the needs of their communities and actively engage in volunteer initiatives, they serve as influential role models who inspire others to follow. This highlights the importance of leadership and mentorship in fostering a culture of volunteerism among young individuals.

Additionally, the framework recognizes the personal fulfillment that youth derive from their engagement in volunteer activities. By aligning their actions with their values, beliefs, and aspirations, youth find a sense of purpose and satisfaction in making meaningful contributions to society. This intrinsic motivation serves as a powerful driving force behind their continued involvement in volunteerism efforts.

Moreover, the framework emphasizes the significant role of family support in shaping youth's engagement in volunteerism. When youth receive encouragement, guidance, and resources from their families to participate in civic works, they are more likely to perceive volunteerism as a meaningful and rewarding endeavor. This underscores the importance of familial influences in nurturing a sense of civic responsibility and community engagement among young individuals.

Finally, the framework highlights the belief among youth leaders that engaging in volunteerism enhances their personal skills and capacities. By actively participating in volunteer initiatives, youth gain valuable experiences, develop leadership abilities, and acquire practical skills that contribute to their overall personal and professional growth. This perceived benefit further reinforces their motivation to volunteer and actively contribute to community development efforts.

Essentially, the developed framework provides a nuanced understanding of the various factors that shape youth engagement in volunteerism during times of crisis. By recognizing the interplay between intrinsic motivations, external influences, and perceived benefits, the framework offers valuable insights for policymakers, community leaders, and youth organizations seeking to promote and support youth volunteerism initiatives.

Discussion

The findings of this study revealed a framework for youth volunteerism in times of crisis. This framework comprises four dimensions: *response to public service, personal fulfillment, social support and motivation, and personal development*.

The dimension *response to public service* corroborates with the following assertions: more young people today are creating extraordinary potential in the advancement of the economic and social aspects of society. Recognized as a valuable asset for development by the United Nations Volunteers (2017), today's youth represent potential responders to the call of public service. Through volunteerism, youth are transforming into an active catalyst of change in the society (Berk, 2018). Also, in volunteerism, individuals share personal resources to respond to others' needs without expecting to receive something in return (Kinyua, 2017).

Moreover, among the Gen Z group, a new burning passion for volunteerism is developing. Research showed that there is an increasing commitment to volunteerism because of the pandemic (Wu, 2021). Also, people are motivated to volunteer if they think that there is a need to help other people and the community as a whole (Llenares & Deocaris, 2015). Furthermore, most young volunteers felt socially obliged to help and serve others since this can provide meaning to their lives as they genuinely love to help others (Ismail et al., 2014).

Meanwhile, for the *personal fulfillment dimension*, it is asserted that volunteerism is an activity that is instrumental in attaining such ends which volunteers find rewarding (Smith, 1981). If an individual is recognized and appreciated, volunteerism is developed (Llenares & Deocaris, 2015). Also, a study revealed that some of the influential factors of volunteerism are expressing values relevant to beliefs about the altruism of individuals (Burns et al., 2005). Meanwhile, in China, young people do not want to miss an activity to

learn significant knowledge and experience. Thus, it suggests that youth are interested in volunteering if activity provides an unforgettable experience, which they can determine with themselves (Liao, Chang, & Tsai, 2012).

In Africa, community volunteers demonstrated that respect and recognition are the main motivating factors for volunteerism aside from wanting to make a difference, education, and becoming a volunteer (Wijeyesekera, 2011). In a study conducted in Malaysia, the study revealed that the majority of youth volunteers attribute their engagement in volunteerism activities to a desire for meaningful contributions, enhancing their self-esteem, and a sense of satisfaction in their community contributions (Ismail et al., 2014).

The *social support and motivation* dimension supports that the power of youth should not be underestimated. Youth can achieve something with proper guidance and appropriate support. As asserted by Padilla et al. (2017), youth represent the hope of our country, thus, interventions from the government, educators, parents, and peers, as recommended by Sahri et al. (2013), are essential to both attract new volunteers and maintain existing ones. Also, the influential circle of youth such as parents, teachers, and peers must play their part in molding them to volunteer. A study surprisingly reveals that inspirational teachers are more influential than parents in volunteerism since usually, parents were too busy to engage with such activity (Holdsworth, 2010). Teachers and parents play a crucial role in fostering the spirit of volunteerism among young people, while simultaneously inspiring youth to serve as role models for their peers (Sahri et al., 2013).

A study revealed a need for a comprehensive policy to motivate youth in different sectors to engage in volunteerism activities. With this, young people can help contribute to the development of their community (Hussin & Arshad, 2012). Furthermore, research indicates that individuals who volunteer in faith-based organizations are inclined to sustain their services for longer durations. Social institutions, such as churches, are crucial for volunteerism, as emphasized by Hussin and Arshad (2012), while religiosity, sense of belonging, and parental involvement in civic activities are positively linked to youths' sustained community engagement, as highlighted by Barber et al. (2013).

Lastly, the dimension of *personal development* affirms that, nowadays, volunteering for younger

adults is pursued out of career benefits, work experience, and skills development to enhance their employability (Curtin University, 2019). Further, volunteerism promotes positive citizenship among young people through civic engagement experience. Apart from hope and altruism for a better society, youth are driven by reasons to volunteer, including gaining skills for future employment. Besides, volunteerism allows youth to express their capacities, develop skills, increase visibility, and partner for community improvements (de Guzman, 2007).

Findings reveal that youth volunteers realized that they are the ones being empowered because of the learning from the community and through experience, they grew to be better individuals (Santillan, 2011). Also, people are motivated to volunteer if there are opportunities to enhance their talents, skills, and self-esteem. Moreover, students regularly participating in volunteer activities hold a significantly advanced degree of professional competence and communication skills (Llenares & Deocarís, 2019). Besides, findings reveal that influential factors to volunteerism are personal development, learning new skills, and practicing underutilized abilities (Burns et al., 2005). Furthermore, young people get involved in volunteerism because they want to gain additional skills, abilities, and experiences (Ismail et al., 2014).

Finally, drawing from Putnam's (1993) theory of Social Capital, which posits that volunteerism embodies a form of social capital characterized by interconnectedness among individuals based on shared norms, trust, and values, the findings of this study align with and provide a deeper understanding of this theoretical framework. According to Putnam, such social capital facilitates collective actions and community resilience.

Conclusion

The study conducted an assessment of youth volunteerism in times of crisis has identified and delineated four distinct dimensions, thereby contributing to the development of a comprehensive framework. Indeed, the study's findings support the notion that youth involvement in volunteerism is intrinsically linked to values, trust, and norms. The identified dimensions of youth volunteerism—*response to public service, personal fulfillment, social support and motivation, and personal development*—underscore the diverse motivations and benefits that drive young individuals to engage in volunteer activities during times of crisis. In essence, the

identification of these dimensions not only enriches our understanding of youth volunteerism but also underscores its significance as a form of social capital. By elucidating the motivations and dynamics underlying youth engagement in volunteer activities during times of crisis, this study contributes to the broader discourse on social capital and collective action, thereby informing strategies for promoting youth participation in community resilience-building efforts.

Moreover, the involvement of youth in volunteering is multifaceted, with various motivations driving their participation. Amid the challenges posed by the pandemic, young individuals have recognized the pressing need to assist others, thus answering the call for public service and demonstrating their altruistic nature. Their engagement in volunteer work is not solely driven by external rewards but also by personal fulfillment derived from recognition and appreciation for their contributions, as well as the desire for meaningful experiences. Social support and motivation from family, peers, educators, and community leaders play pivotal roles in nurturing their spirit of volunteerism and fostering a culture of civic engagement. Additionally, youth view volunteering as a means for personal development, seeking to enhance their skills and competencies while contributing to their career advancement. Through their involvement in volunteer activities, youth not only develop valuable social and communication skills but also contribute significantly to community development efforts, embodying the ideals of service and making tangible contributions to societal progress.

Recommendations

The framework developed in this study might be considered by the following organizations and individuals in promoting the spirit of volunteerism in our community, particularly in times of crisis. For the *National Youth Commission* (NYC) of the Philippines, NYC might utilize the framework in proposing new interventions in promoting volunteerism among the youth. They may create activities wherein individuals responsible for social support and motivation, such as parents, church leaders, teachers, and even local government leaders, understand their roles in molding youth volunteers.

For the *Department of the Interior and Local Government* (DILG), since DILG has direct supervision among SK officials, they may consider initiating policies and guidelines relevant to the advancement of the four dimensions since this will advance

the volunteerism of SK members, particularly in times of crisis. For *SK officials*, they may initiate more undertakings relevant to skills and capability development and activities recognizing and appreciating efforts of outstanding volunteers since these are found to be significant for volunteerism.

For the *youth* in general, they may consider the framework in seeing themselves to be involved in volunteerism since the framework illustrates that those who are volunteerism activists are generally for the public common good, personally fulfilled, socially supported and motivated, and personally developed individuals. *Future researchers* may adopt the items and dimensions generated from this study to investigate youth volunteerism further. They may consider it as an instrument to measure the degree of volunteerism in other contexts.

Ethics Statement

We the authors consciously assure that for this research paper, the following were fulfilled:

This material is the authors' own original work, which has not been previously published elsewhere.

The paper is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere.

The paper reflects the authors' own research and analysis in a truthful and complete manner.

The paper properly credits the meaningful contributions of co-authors and co-researchers.

All sources used are properly disclosed (correct citation). Literally copying of text must be indicated as such by using quotation marks and giving proper reference.

All authors have been personally and actively involved in substantial work leading to the paper, and will take public responsibility for its content.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare. All co-authors have seen and agree with the contents of the manuscript and there is no financial interest to report. We certify that the submission is original work and is not under review at any other publication.

Authors Contribution

Dagohoy: conceptualization, methodology, data analysis, writing-original draft preparation. **Juaton:** Data curation, investigation. **Navales:** Validation and editing.

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