

Relationships between Motivational Factors of Environmental Volunteers and Environmental Volunteer Well-being

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Abstract

Islam encourages its followers to voluntarily share their time, wealth, knowledge and acts of kindness with others. In the context of environmental education, volunteers not only play a role as a *khalifah* for individual beneficial but also for community and environment in the whole. In order to sustain the environmental volunteers, the managers or organization need to identify the element of volunteers' motivation to participate and the impact of volunteers' well-being. This paper attempts to conceptualize the relationship among the volunteers' motivation, participation and well-being with integrating the Islamic value in terms of a role as a *Khalifah* in administering the earth. Based on the literature, volunteers' motivation can be categorised into seven element i.e. helping a cause, social interaction, improving skills, learning about the environment, general desire to care for the environment, personal attribute and spirituality meanwhile the volunteers' well-being consists of six element i.e. positive emotion, engagement, relationship, meaning, achievement and health. There have five types of environmental volunteers were identified i.e. activism, education, monitoring, restoration and sustainable living. From the proposed model, motivation affects the volunteer's participation which in turns affect the volunteers' well-being. There also have reciprocal relationship which is volunteers' well-being also can affect volunteers' motivation and the process will be continuing in the cycle. For the extend research, it is suggested to test the fitness of the model based on the empirical study.

Keywords: Environmental education; environmental volunteer; Islamic value; motivation; well-being

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Introduction

Volunteering can be defined as pro-social behaviour, done of one's own free will and without monetary reward, to benefit another person, group or cause (Measham & Barnett, 2007; Sulaiman, 2011) Volunteering helps people to think they can make a positive difference in the world and this feeling can help people feel good about themselves, improved social networks, and an enhanced sense of place. When someone enjoys the tasks in their lives they are more likely to persevere and battle challenges through creative and alternative solutions.

In Islamic perspective, there have not called a volunteer unless one fulfils two conditions. First, to act freely; i.e. to do something for the benefit of others based on one's free will, means that volunteerism should not be made mandatory. Second, to perform an action for the sake of Allah. Seeking Allah's pleasure should always be the primary motive for helping others. This, however, does not mean that a volunteer should not receive reward for his services. Some little money given to a volunteer may ease his burden. For example, he may use it to pay for his transport and support his family (Sulaiman, 2011).