

The impact that characteristics of female volunteering activity has on the sustainability

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Abstract. The study aims to examine the impact that the characteristics of female volunteering activity has on the sustainability. The study conducted survey aimed at female volunteers living in 0 county, Seoul, from Jan. 20 2015 through Mar. 20 2015. The data research involved t-test and one-way ANOVA through the use of SPSSWIN 18.0 Program and used Scheffe multiple range test to detect significant difference in $P < .05$. The analysis result shows that the longer the volunteering period is and the more active the volunteering attitude is, the higher sustainability the employees and experienced volunteers show than general members.

Keywords: volunteering, sustainability, female volunteers and characteristics of volunteering activity

1 Introduction

1.1 Why research is required

It has been revealed that the number of members registered in the country's volunteering center as of 2013 reached 9.53 million. While the number of female volunteers reached 5.42 million or 56.9%, the number of male volunteers reached 4.11 million or 43.1%. This shows that the proportion of female volunteers is higher than that of male volunteers[1] Welfare activity among women in the country has been focused and diversified since the 1980 and may be characterized by motherhood which centers on protecting and educating children[2]. Volunteers who sustained volunteering activity for 6 months or more were categorized as sustainable volunteers [3]. It is necessary for each agency to create conditions encouraging volunteers to participate in sustainable way.

In order for volunteers to engage in sustainable volunteering activity, it is important to identify what factors have effect on the sustainability of volunteering activ-

ity. A study finds that the characteristic of volunteering activity has impact on sustainability among the factors influencing sustainability [4].

The study aims to examine factors which influence sustainability of female volunteers' activity to induce female volunteers to participate in sustainable volunteering activity.

1.2 Research issue

Specific research issue may be described as follows based on the purpose of the research.

1. How can the sustainability of female volunteers' activity be defined based on the characteristics of female volunteers' activity?

2 Research method

2.1 Research target

The research, conducted for the period from Jan. 20 2015 to Mar. 20, has subjected 200 female volunteers living in O County, North Chungcheong Province.

2.2 Research tool

The research tool regarding general characteristics consists items for local society & health examination [5], and the items have been divided into gender, age, educational background, occupation, religion, average income and marital status.

The questionnaire regarding current status of volunteering activity employed items of Yoo Kil-Jun [6] and Park Soo-Gwan [7]. The details of questionnaire include volunteering activity period, attendance times, status in the group (community) and status of educational background.

Measuring determination to sustain volunteering activity involved measurement method used by Yoo Kil-Jun[6] and Bae Seong-Eun [8]. The questionnaire has been divided into 5 items, to each of which 5 point were assigned. 1 point refers to Not At All, while 2 to "It Is Not True", 3 to So So, 4 to "Generally True" and 5 to "So True."

2.3 Reliability

The measurement used by the study involved Cronbach's a coefficient for statistical analysis. If the number is 0.6 or more, this is normally regarded as highly reliable [9]. The study shows that the sustainability of volunteering activity stands at .926, suggesting that the sustainability is relatively high.

3 Research Result

3.1 Demographic characteristics

As a result of examining general characteristics of female volunteers, the result shows:

Women in their 50s represented the highest share or 41.7% (91), followed by those in their 60s (12.8% or 28) and those in their 30s (11.5% or 25). Among them, high school graduates were the most prevalent (48.2% or 105), followed by college graduates (28.4% or 62). As for occupation, full-time housewives were the most prevalent (41.7% or 91), followed by the self-employed (20.2% or 44), service sales worker (11% or 24), the sedentary (7.3% or 16) and professionals (6% or 13)

With regard to religion, the Buddhists were the most dominant (40.8% or 89), followed by the Christians (17.4% or 38), the Catholic (16.5% or 36) and atheists (23.9% or 52).

Regarding monthly income, those with 2 million of monthly earning or less were the most prevalent (46.3% or 101), followed by those with that of between 2 million and 3 million (27.1% or 59) and those with that of between 3 million and 4 million (15.1% or 33). As to marital status, the married ones accounted for 85.8% (or 187), while the unmarried 9.2% (or 20).

3.2 Current status of volunteering activity

By examining current status of volunteering activity, the result shows:

The number of volunteers who spent 1 to 5 years doing volunteering activity represented the largest proportion of 37% (or 67), while the largest number of volunteers representing 30.7% (or 67) engaged in volunteering activity twice or 3 times a month. As for the volunteering attitude, volunteers with mildly active attitude represented the largest portion of 32.1% (or 70), followed by those with usually active attitude (30.3% or 66) and those with very active attitude (26.6% or 58).

The number of respondents who ever received volunteering education reached 148 (or 67.9%), while the number of those who received no relevant education reached 70 (32.1%).

3.3 Sustainability of volunteering activity

As a result of examining sustainability of volunteering activity, it has been revealed that the sustainability of volunteering activity averaged 3.84, suggesting that more than average number of respondents showed determination to sustain their volunteering activity.

4 Discussion and conclusion

The study examined the impact that the characteristics of female volunteers' activity has on the sustainability of volunteering activity. Based on the analysis, the details are described as follows.

First, the study on what causes difference in sustainability of volunteering activity shows that while the difference in sustainability of volunteering activity was significant based on volunteering activity period, working attitude, status and education of volunteering activity, the significance was mere 5% from the perspective of activity times, constraint degree and admission path.

The sustainability was the highest among the women who engaged in volunteering activity for 15 years or more. As for attitude, sustainability was the most noticeable among the women with active attitude. As with status, it was higher among employed women than general members. In particular, it has been revealed that sustainability was higher among the women who received volunteering education. This shows that the longer the participation period was longer [4].

Based on the above result, suggestions follow.

First, the analysis of difference in sustainability of volunteering activity based on characteristics of volunteering activity shows that the more active the attitude is, the higher sustainability is. As for status, sustainability was higher among employed women than the others. In addition, sustainability was higher among the women who received volunteering education than those who did otherwise. This raises the need to develop support policy so that female volunteers may develop their talent and enjoy opportunity to increase their competence.

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