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Religiosity, Parental Support, and Formal Volunteering Among Teenagers

Isaac Paintsil

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Religiosity, Parental Support, and Formal Volunteering Among Teenagers

Isaac Paintsil
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Thesis Committee
Dr. Joseph Baker (Chair), Dr. Leslie McCallister, and Dr. Paul Kamolnick
Formal Volunteering in The United States

Previous Literature

• Religious people more likely to volunteer
• People more likely to volunteer through religious organizations
• Church attendance key determinant of volunteering
• Religious affiliation determines levels of volunteering
• Education and Income has a positive effect on formal volunteering
• Positive correlation with individual and societal health
• Value of formal volunteering service is $193 billion
Formal Volunteering In The United States

Purpose

Additions to Literature

• Ascertain if previous findings on religion and volunteering relates to teens (13 – 17 years)

• Influence of individual religiosity on formal volunteering

• Youth group participation as a measure of collective religiosity

• Parental encouragement
Methodology: Data

National Study on Youth and Religion (NSYR Wave 1)

• Nationally representative survey of English and Spanish-speaking teenagers (13 – 17 years) – 3370 respondents

• Used a random-digit-dial (RDD) method
Methodology: Variables

Dependent Variable
- Teen Volunteering - Never, A few times, Occasionally, Regularly

Predictors
- Demographics
  - Age – 13 -17
  - Sex – Male, Female
  - Race – White, Black, Hispanics, Others
- Fathers’ Education
- Mothers’ Education
Methodology: Variables

- Parental Variables
  - Parents’ Volunteering – yes/no
  - Parents’ Encouragement – yes/no
  - Parents’ financial situation - Indebted, Breaking Even, Some Savings, and Lots of Savings

- Religious Variables
  - Youth group participation – yes/no
Methodology: Variables

- Church Attendance - Never, Once a Month, A few times a year, Almost every week, Once a week, More than once a week

- Religious Salience - Not important at all, Not very important, Somewhat important, Very important, and extremely important

- Religious Experiences – yes/no

- Religious Tradition - Evangelical Protestant. Mainline Protestant, African-American Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, Other religions, and no religion
Methodology – Preliminary Analyses

- Bivariate
  One Way ANOVA Tables with Turkey Post-hoc tests and effect size
  - Religious salience
  - Church attendance
  - Religious traditions

Contingency Tables with Phi effect size
- Youth group participation, religious experience, parents’ financial situation, and parents’ volunteering
Methodology – Primary Analyses

- Multivariate Three-stage Ordinal Logistic Regression
  - Model 1 - Demographics
  - Model 2 - Demographics and Parental Variables
  - Model 3 - Demographics, Parental Variables and Religious Variables
Findings - Bivariate

- ANOVA Table 1
  Church Attendance – (F = 9.932, df = 6, p = .000) with a small effect size (eta squared = 0.02).
  - Bimodal relationship between church attendance and volunteering with high or rarely attending teens most likely to volunteer.

- ANOVA Table 2
  Religious Salience - (F = 7.787, df = 4 p = .000) with a small effect size (eta squared = 0.01).
  - Religious salience influences teens’ volunteering, but faith must be extremely important in order to see an effect.
Findings - Bivariate

- ANOVA Table 3

Religious Traditions - \( F = 14.351, \) df = 7, \( p = .000 \), with a small effect size (eta squared = 0.03)

- Mainline Protestants volunteered more than Black Protestants
- Volunteering lower among teens of “other religion” compared to all other religious traditions except Black Protestants and Non-religious teens.
- Jewish and Mormon teens volunteered more than Evangelical protestants, Mainline Protestants, Black Protestants, Catholics, and Non-religious teens
Findings - Bivariate

- Contingency Table 2

- Teens’ who participated in a religious youth group, and had a religious experience, and less likely to have never volunteered and more likely to volunteer regularly.

- Teens whose parents volunteered less likely to have never volunteered and more likely to volunteer regularly

- Teens’ whose parents are indebted least likely to volunteer and those who parents had a lot of savings most likely to volunteer regularly.
Findings - Multivariate

Demographics
- Whites and Females are more likely to volunteer
- Mothers’ and Fathers’ education has a positive effect on teen volunteering

Parental variables
- Parental Encouragement key to teen volunteering

Religiosity
- Religious experience positively related to teen volunteering
- Youth group participation positively associated with teen volunteering
- Non-religious teens more likely to volunteer than Catholics and Jews
### Multiple Stage Ordinal Logistic Regression Models predicting Teens’ Formal Volunteering

<table>
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<th>Predictors</th>
<th>Model 1</th>
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Source: “National Study on Youth and Religion Wave 1. Notes: **p < .01; *p < .05; (two-tailed tests); 
\(^a\): White is reference category. \(^b\): Indebted is reference category. \(^c\): Non-religious is reference category.
Contributions

- Importance of youth group participation as a pathway to volunteering
- Importance of personal religious experiences
- Importance of parents’ encouraging teens to volunteer
- Extending literature on volunteering patterns among teens (13 – 17 years)
Recommendations

- Testing variables found to be associated with volunteering among young adults on teen samples
- More focus on influence of private/individual religiosity on volunteering
- Further research on what forms of encouragement influence teen volunteering
- Parents’ Income level as a predictor of teen volunteering
QUESTIONS