

Young volunteer's perception of volunteering and their experiences with peer reactions to volunteering

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Abstract

Peer influence is usually studied in the field of negative behavior. This thesis handles the topic of influence of peers and their reaction to prosocial behavior and volunteering as one of its manifestations.

In the first part of thesis a search of research from foreign countries was performed. Focus groups and semi-structured interviews were conducted in the second empirical part of this research. The aim was to find out how volunteers perceive their volunteering within their social environment, which reaction of their peers they experience and how they deal with them. Target group for this research were young volunteers in the age from 15 to 25 from environmental non-profit organizations.

Findings from the empirical analysis of the focus group and interviews can be used for work with volunteers in organizations, so there are recommendations for volunteer coordinators in the final part of the thesis.

Key words

Volunteering, volunteer, youth, young people, peers, peer reactions, non-profit organization