

*The Title of the Article: Volunteer work : "environmental developmental sustainability" (conceptual study)*

العمل التطوعي: "تنمية بيئية مستدامة"

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**Abstract:**

Volunteer work is the topic of the hour, especially in light of the radical changes taking place in the world, which have resulted in many different health crises, the most important of which are environmental crises, However, this concept has been developed to reflect its importance in sustainable development at the level of the environment in order to develop it for the benefit and benefit in various fields to ensure the progress of countries, whether they are developing or even advanced, The aim of this article is to learn what volunteerism is and sustainable environmental development and finally to learn how volunteering can promote sustainable environmental development in the long term

**Keywords:** *development, environment, environmental development, sustainable environmental development, volunteering, volunteer work*

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**الملخص:**

يعد موضوع العمل التطوعي موضوع الساعة ، خاصة في ظل التغيرات الجذرية التي تحدث في العالم ، والتي نتج عنها العديد من الأزمات الصحية المختلفة ، وأهمها الأزمات البيئية، إلا أن هذا المفهوم قد تطور ليعكس أهميته في التنمية المستدامة على مستوى البيئة من أجل تطويرها بما يعود بالنفع والفائدة في مختلف المجالات بما يضمن تقدم الدول سواء كانت نامية أو حتى متقدمة. بشكل عام، والهدف من هذا المقال هو التعرف على ماهية العمل التطوعي والتنمية البيئية المستدامة وأخيرا التعرف على كيفية تعزيز العمل التطوعي في التنمية المستدامة البيئية على المدى الطويل  
الكلمات المفتاحية: التنمية، البيئة، التنمية البيئية، التنمية البيئية المستدامة، التطوع، العمل التطوعي .

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## **I. Introduction:**

Humanitarian action is a collective and moral conscience transmitted through individuals, through it, the wheel of sustainable development is moved in all its economic, social and cultural fields, whether in developed or developing regions.

And volunteering is one of those humanitarian works that play a major role in development in all its aspects, it is unpaid work done for nonprofits institutions, that people who performe without pay on behalf of a charitable or other non-profit organization this includes any unpaid help that must provide.(ILO,2007),Although it is free work and non-financial,andhas several reports of benefit for the individual and society, It has made it an essential structure that is working on the development of the environment in which society lives in a sustainable manner.

It's also represent the environment as a geographical and social space in which the individual interacts and seeks to develop and develop them,Where several studies indicated

To the importance of developing several mechanisms and several exemplary methods that work on developing and developing the environment through volunteer work, as a study of (melanie J.Randle,and sara dolnicar, 2015)it's focus on the characteristics of potential environmental volunteers implications for marketing communications,it's aims to investigate whether when compared to environmental volunteers, it reached the following results: that promotions that align with the motivations and values of this group are more likely to resonate with them and prompts action and have the potential to increase the overall number of volunteers for environmental causes.(Randle,Dolnicar,2015)

And the study of (GK.dilin betova,and others,2019), where sought to examine mechanism of environmental volunteering development among young people,as priority directions of Educational ecologization,and this study Where found:that must prove the importance of environmental activities based own experience,and mention above key aspects are foundation for the environmental transparency providing students with information about the environmental condition and helth problems.(betova and other,2019),in addition to the study of (ioannidou Eleftheria 2021)that focused on promoting volunteering with the use of new technologies in environmental,and it's purpose was to highlight the elements that show the evolution of volunteering over the year and promoting volunteering in new generations by using the social media technological,and presented key aspects of volunteering in relation to environmental education through new technology (Eleftheria,2021),Through previous studies and research, we conclude that volunteer work is intense work, especially in the environmental field, Despite the fact that these studies are fieldwork and the opposite of our study, in addition to their different methods of research on the subject of volunteer work, they agree with our study in that it is looking at the development of the environment through volunteering, We conclude from the above that sustainable environmental development is a broad and advanced field that volunteer work seeks to achieve in the long term,Through the above, the following questions were subtracted:

- \_ What is meant by volunteer work?
- \_ What do we mean by sustainable environmental development?
- \_ Does volunteer work enhance sustainable development?

## **II. The aim of this study was to:**

- \_ attempt to reveal the nature of voluntary work.
- \_ Trying to understand the nature of environmental development.
- \_ Find out how volunteerism promotes sustainable development in the environmental field.

## **III. the importance of studying:**

The importance of the study lies in the fact that it deals with an important topic, which is,volunteer work and its importance in promoting sustainable development from the environmental field,and This study discusses a vital topic that has positive effects on the individual and society. Despite the fact that the latter has always been associated with helping

the poor and needy, we find that he has gone beyond that concept to work on developing his methods in the environmental field as a natural resource that is exploited in several fields, This study is a new start for the researcher in the social and educational field in order to conduct more studies in such topics.

#### IV. Methodology adopted:

The meta-analysis of the theoretical meta-study was used, with observation used in drawing conclusions

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### Firstly: Conceptual reading of the nature of volunteering

#### 1. the define of volunteering:

the term “volunteer “or “volunteering” is not widely understood in all parts of the world, and has a variety of negative connections in some societies, where “forced” volunteering was a widespread practice. On the other hand United Kingdom Central Statistical Office define it as: “Any activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which aims to benefit (ILO,2007). It has also become a formal category within the development sector, from the local level to the national level and the global level of development. It is closely embedded in the work of charities, philosophies, non-government organization (NGOS) and community based organization (cbos) (wang,2020,p20)

It plays significant and positive contribution to improving the lives of people, and to strengthening communities and civil society (NYCI,2007p05). It is considered as an altruistic activity where an individual or group provides services for non-financial gain to benefit another person, group or organisation. (wang,2020,p26).

Procedural concept: Volunteer work is a humanitarian work that seeks to achieve many goals through which individuals are helped and develop their moral values without having any financial return for those who do it.

#### 2. The key characteristics associated with volunteerism

reinforce capacity development. The following list, while not exhaustive, highlights some of these attributes: 38

Values and commitment and solidarity it's also made people believe in collective action for the public good, and commitment to human rights and gender equity and it's important for Community ownership it's also a significant number of volunteers belong to the communities they serve, and direct contact with communities through living and working at the grassroots level, on the other hand it reciprocity of exchanging skills and experiences

And improving the concept of Sustainability, and mobilizes local rather than external resources. (UNV,2014)

#### 3. volunteer support:

It is important to recognise that whilst the relationship that volunteers have with an organisation is very different to that of paid staff, it does not mean that they should not expect a level of support from the organisation to help them in their work. Whilst some areas of legislation may not apply to volunteers in the way it does to paid staff, it does not mean that the organisation has no duty of responsibility to ensuring a safe working environment for its volunteers. (NYCI,2007,p30) It is therefore critically important that any organisation engaging volunteers to support the delivery of its work in any way, has in place a process of communicating essential information relating to the rights of the volunteer, the responsibilities of their role and more generally, any organisational structures and procedures that affect them. Some items that may be included are: (NYCI,2007,p30)

Internal Procedures, There should be a clear statement of commitment to ensuring that there are specific internal procedures in place in order to ensure the volunteer is aware of all matters that affect him/her. (NYCI,2007,p30).

## 4. Volunteerism and traditional values and his consequences:

### 1.4.1 volunteerism and traditional values

Volunteerism is one of the most basic of expressions of human behavior and arises, out of long-established ancient traditions of sharing and reciprocal exchanges at its core are relationships and their potential to enhance the wellbeing of individuals and communities social cohesion and trust, for example thrive where volunteerism is prevalent volunteerism is not only the backbone of civil society organizations and social and political movement, that also expresses the desire to act on one's feelings about justice and fairness in the face of inequality and to foster social harmony based on shared interests in the wellbeing of one's community in most languages there are words to Express the concept of volunteerism (UNV,2011)

### 1.4.2 Consequences of volunteer work:

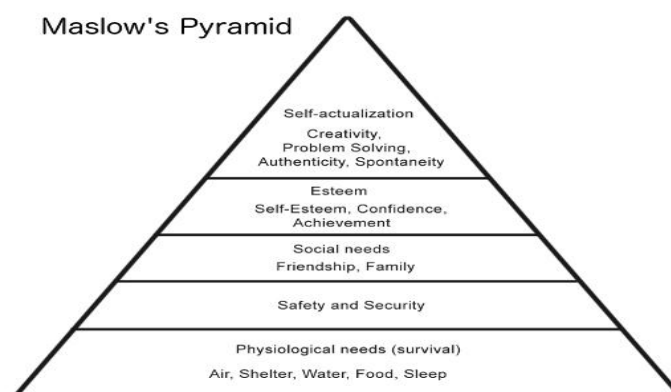
With respect to the consequences of volunteering, as mentioned earlier a large literature documents positive physical and mental health consequences of voluntary association membership of frequency of organizational attendance, for example, voluntary association membership contributes to decreased psychological distress and buffers the negative quences of stressors (thoits,hewitt,2001), it increases life satisfaction and decreases depression and it is associated with better physical health and lower mortality as much as 30 year's later, is beneficial to wellbeing, and prior levels of wellbeing that might have prevented or facilitated the work in the first place (thoits,hewitt,2001)

## 5. The needs of volunteer :

Abraham maslow presented a useful way of looking at human needs by using a five level pyramid, the needs he identified were physiological (thirst hunger and warmth), safety (protections against danger or harm) social (friend ships, belonging, being accepted) positive selfe opinion (self-respect, status authority) and self-fulfillment, (development of one's own abilities and personality) in this scheme the needs of higher level can be met only when (pawl,1997,p09) the needs of all the lower levels have been satisfied, for example, successful self-fulfillment depends on the satisfied, for example successful self fulfillment depends on the self opinion needs, for contact with other people and over coming feelings of loneliness, they feel it is very important for them to find their place in group. (pawl,1997,p09)

**Source:(Brooks,2019)**

From the above, we conclude that volunteer work is a human need linked to the human



desire to satisfy it, The more a person satisfies one of his innate desires present in the pyramid, the more other desires are generated for him, Because human is a weak creature of a human nature that is controlled by the human social conscience, and voluntary work is a human need that expresses his missing needs.

## 6. Emergency Volunteer Management:

Effective and planned emergency volunteer management provides the opportunity to capture the inspiring, yet overwhelming, volunteer energy and interest that surfaces during the response phase. The envisioned disaster volunteer management process is consistent with the comprehensive emergency management cycle and includes roles for volunteers in each phase – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Moreover, the approach to volunteer management in any given phase of the cycle supports efforts in the next phase. This holistic approach engages volunteers in the mitigation and preparedness stages, to help build more disaster-resistant and well-equipped communities. Potential volunteers are introduced to the emergency management system prior to a disaster and, therefore, are likely to become trained and affiliated with an experienced voluntary agency. This approach is designed to generate volunteers that are more effective during response and recovery. (melshand others, 2001, p05)

### Secondly :Public reading conceptual for sustainable environmental development

#### 1. Define sustainable environmental development

Development is a contested concept implying that it has meant different things from one historical situation to another and from one actor to another, however during the past century the word “development” has been used in numerous contexts because of its ability and behaviour as risk argues. (Katsoulakos, 2016)

The environment is known as the complex of psychological chemical, and biotic factors “such as climate, soil, and living things” that act upon organisms or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival (<http://www.merriam-webster.com>)

– So, after knowing the definition of development and the environment, we proceed to the concept of sustainable environmental development:

Is a concept that at its core is revolutionary yet it's took on the meaning of conserving the earth's natural resources, what the world conservation strategy had realized is that with the world's natural resources, which in turn was negatively affecting the environment (anon, 2011), the Brundtland report became the first document to support sustainable development as a multi-disciplinary field, as it explained that the economy, society and the environment were key to sustainable development (anon, 2011)

**Procedural concept:** Sustainable environmental development is a combination of three broad concepts that can be said to be caring for the environment in order to develop it as a natural resource that is used to help individuals through generations.

#### 2. Evolution of the concept of environmental sustainable development

Though the terms “sustainability” or “sustainable” first appeared in the 20th century, the equivalent concepts have been used for centuries. The idea of SD has a long history in China, and the concept of SD can be traced back to the core idea of Chinese classical philosophy—“天人合一” (Heaven and people in one) ]. As early as the Western Zhou Dynasty (B.C. 1100~771), the emperors realized that the mountains, forests, and rivers should be rationally used according to the laws of nature rather than overexploiting it. (Shi, 2019) Since then, various measures have been taken to protect natural resources, such as establishing designated management departments, enforcing state monopoly, collecting taxes in regard to mountains and gardens, and issuing bans. Afterward, different causes of environmental degradation, including farming, logging, and mining, were discussed in the ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian, (Shi, 2019) Greek, and Roman civilizations. And some measures were also recommended. Varro (first century AD) stated that “we can, by care, lessen the evil effects” The term “sustainability” was first used in Carlowitz's monograph — Afforestation and Economy,

which was published in 1713 and systematically addressed the issue of sustainable forestry. The German Dictionary, which was published in 1809, (Shi, 2019) interpreted the term "sustainability" as something that people can still rely on when everything else is unsustainable. It can be seen that the early thought of SD mainly reflected in the sustainable use of natural resources. (Shi, 2019)

### **3. The goal of environmental sustainability:**

is to conserve natural resources and to develop alternate sources of power while reducing pollution and harm to the environment. For environmental sustainability, the state of the future – as measured in 50, 100 and 1,000 years is the guiding principle. Many of the projects that are rooted in environmental sustainability will involve replanting forests, preserving wetlands and protecting natural areas from resource harvesting. The biggest criticism of environmental sustainability initiatives is that their priorities can be at odds with the needs of a growing industrialized society. (Sharma, 2020)

### **4. Causes of interest in sustainable environmental development:**

The environmental sustainability plans may show the sustainable development engineers that there are aspects of their design that can be improved to lessen the impact of the project on wetland areas that would still be in existence through committing funds and development to protected areas that are not a part of the development, environmental sustainability projects that emphasize conservation and public education can advance further than they would have on their own. (Sharma, 2020)

In addition to conforming it for several challenges these environmental challenges are making the relationship between environmental sustainability and poverty reduction stronger, so are new economic opportunities related to green growth and technology, this is why it is important to help developing countries to improve and sustainably manage their natural environment (<http://www.international.gc.ca>)

### **Third: Volunteerism promotes and enhancing environmental development sustainability:**

Volunteerism has long been considered an important strategy for overall sustainable development, in 2011 the declaration of the 64th department of public information/Non-government organizations conference, agreed to by over 1,300 NGO representatives emphasized the critical contributions of the voluntary action of millions of people towards Sustainable development environment, it underlined the intrinsic interconnectedness of volunteerism and environmental sustainability, (UN Volunteers, 2014) and it called for governments to ensure that volunteerism and civic engagement are incorporated in all global national and local plans for the implementation of sustainable development, it explicitly recognized the impact of volunteering or adaptation to and mitigation of climate change and on the development of sustainable livelihoods, the 2011 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on the 10th anniversary of the international year of volunteers (UNV, 2014) also recognize volunteerism as an important component of the range of strategies aimed at climate change and disaster management (UNV, 2014)

### **Conclusion:**

Volunteering is an effective strategy in developing several private environmental areas, in order for community development, especially in developing countries, so this development is sustainable development that it is exchanged between individuals and generations

This study reached the following results:

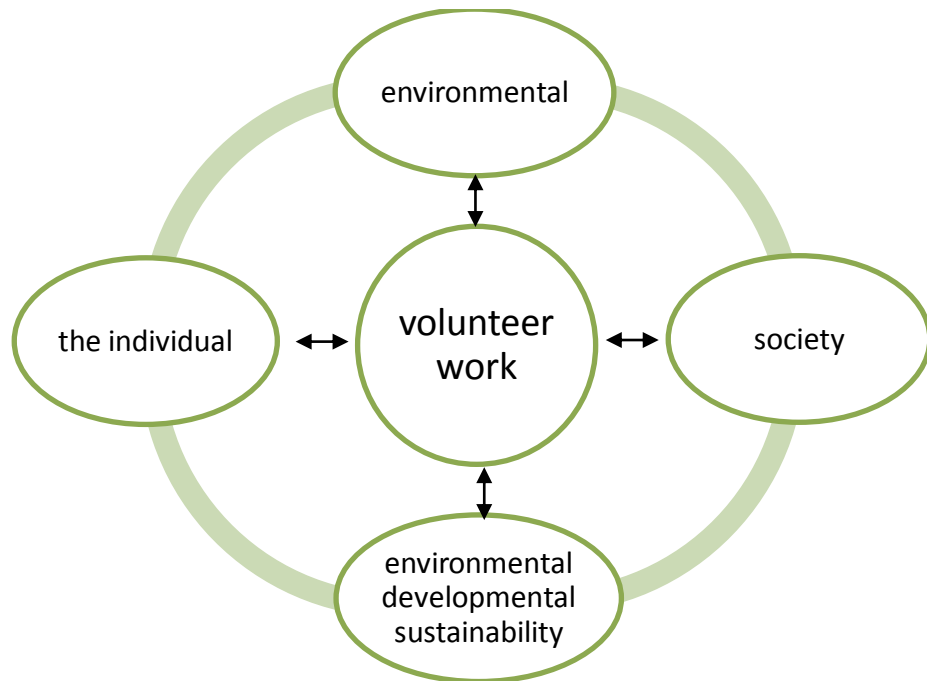
Volunteer work: It is a conscientious commitment made by individuals without receiving any financial return for it, so that it develops societal, environmental and developmental values and it improves the economic profitability in addition to its positive effects and people express it as a necessary human need in emergency situations.

Sustainable environmental development: It is an updated concept, it includes economic

growth, natural and environmental resources, in addition to its social development so that it challenges environmental obstacles, In order to meet the needs and preserve the environment.

Volunteering promotes sustainable environmental development by introducing several effective strategies, So that encourages participation in this volunteers process, Several parties and basic elements, such as government organizations, in order to develop the wheel of the economy on the one hand, On the other hand, developing the environment and the values of volunteering.

### **A blueprint illustrating the mutual role of volunteerism and environmentally sustainable development for the achievement of community goals**



**Source:** “From the Finder's inference through previous research readings”

Through the view of the theoretical concepts of volunteerism and sustainable environmental development as well as what were traded from different studies and research, the outline of the above planned, which explains that the voluntary action was a broad role in between the environmental environment, where volunteer work seeks to develop development concepts that seek the environment in addition to the exploitation of its natural resources in sustainable development through various strategies in several ways, To develop the progress of the progress in a year and the individual's specially recognized

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