

Volunteering Girls in Hadhramout

(Scientific Paper)



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Introduction:

Social, development and voluntary work is one of the most important means used to contribute to the advancement of the status of societies in our time. It is gaining increasing importance day by day. It is taken for granted that governments - whether in developed or developing countries - are no longer able to meet the needs of their individuals and societies. With the complexity of life conditions, social needs have increased and become in constant change. Therefore, it was necessary to have another body parallel to the official bodies to fill the public sphere and complement the role played by the official bodies in meeting social needs. These bodies are called “Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)”. In many cases, the role of NGOs is a proactive- not a complementary- role in addressing some social, economic and cultural issue. It is laying down development plans/ programs that governments should follow.

The importance of volunteering is not only ascribed to the fact that it is an act that fills a gap in the services of the state and social bodies. Rather, it is of great importance in developing the volunteer’s sense of volunteer work, which helps in creating an atmosphere of fraternity, noble values, solidarity and social cohesion between the different groups of society having religious foundations in common. Volunteer work depends on several factors for its success, the most important of which is the human resource. Whenever the human resource is enthusiastic about social issues and aware of the dimensions of social work, social work brings positive and real results.

In view of the special importance that young people represent as they are in the tender stage and have a high mental and physical ability, many countries have sought to instill and encourage a culture of volunteerism among them. The importance of youth participation in voluntary work lies in strengthening the youth’s belonging to their homeland, developing their intellectual, artistic, scientific and practical skills and abilities, and providing them with ample opportunities to express their views on issues of interest to their societies.

Despite the importance of voluntary social work in accelerating development issues in the cultural, economic, educational, health and environmental fields and in investing the girl’s time in noble work, the practice of voluntary social work varies from one society to another. Despite the thorny obstacles facing our society as a whole and the girl in particular, the girl sought to overcome the obstacles in front of her in various fields, particularly in the field of vol-

unteering to give us the most prominent examples in volunteer social work activities, and to occupy an active role in many charitable volunteer work, due to her nature and love to help others.

The impact of the girl's participation in voluntary work was clear and distinct, to include participation in voluntary associations and institutions and to provide assistance. It was more evident with the outbreak of war in various regions of Yemen and with the displacement of many families to Hadhramout Governorate. Civil society organizations joined hands to provide aid to the displaced through their volunteers. The number of female volunteers has increased in associations and civil institutions. They carry out individual voluntary work to help families and individuals, or work in community service.

In its first part, this paper deals with voluntary work, its concept, importance, characteristics, and types.

Volunteering Definition:

According to the "Dictionary of Social and Social Services", volunteering is employing unpaid individuals and groups and exploiting them to provide humanitarian services outside the framework of official institutions. This expression also refers to the orientations of self-help groups and mutual aid groups (Al-Sukkari: 2000, 560). It is defined as those efforts and services that an individual provides free of charge for organizing organized services or managing them officially through public or voluntary organizations (Sadiq: 2000, 232).

Voluntary work in its entirety is non-profit, non-functional or non-professional. It is carried out by an individual or a group of individuals in order to provide assistance to any segment of society to develop their standard of living regardless of where they are. Volunteering provides these organizations with an amount of money that would have been spent on non-volunteers. This made some of them call volunteering in such a case an "investment in social capital" (Hussein: 2001).

Volunteering is also an effort made and motivated by a person free of charge (i.e. non-profit, non-functional or non-professional.) It is carried out by an individual or a group of individuals with the aim of achieving human welfare and providing assistance to anyone with a desire for change and development.

Volunteering Importance:

As society progresses and social and human relations become more complex, the need for voluntary work appears to be important. In the sense that if the social relationship in society is simple and direct, then the voluntary efforts will be individual and direct as well and related to the same situation. Due to its small size and interconnectedness, the village community is characterized by social cohesion and human interdependence, in which voluntary work- which is a continuous and necessary social function- is carried out on a permanent basis. The high human values such as chivalry, magnanimity, generosity are prominent in the village community.

Volunteering is a clear expression of the virtuous noble human meanings, whether in primitive societies or advanced civilized societies It has become a social necessity at the present time, in which all citizens participate in all fields of life, within the limits of the individual's abilities and capabilities, and in light of the needs of the community and society (Al-Munif: 2005, 54-52).

The importance of volunteering can be identified as follows:

- 1- Seeking to overcome negative and isolationist barriers in society wherever they exist.
- 2- Creating and directing human and material resources and transforming them into social work.
- 3- Eliminating the causes of underdevelopment and providing the causes of progress and welfare for the society by the easiest and most accessible means and the best performing and most beneficial method.
- 4- Filling the gaps in services, expanding their base in order to achieve the principle of sufficiency and reaching the disadvantaged areas in order to achieve the principle of justice.
- 5- Documenting the basic relationships between individuals and groups to create the best interaction in life and the continuous happiness of the human being.
- 6- Helping change inactive or incapacitated human resources into active ones.
- 7- Maintaining balance in the movement of community development in an automatic way.
- 8- Supporting government work and increasing its effectiveness and efficiency.

- 9- Highlighting the human image of society, strengthening interdependence between people, and emphasizing the abstract side of conflicts and competition (Fahmy and Badawi: 1995, 216).

Therefore, volunteering is of great importance in developing a sense of belonging and loyalty to the community among the volunteers and those to whom the service is provided and in strengthening social cohesion between the different social groups. Voluntary social work is a criterion for the level of sophistication and development of society, of the awareness of its members about the importance of time and the benefit of others, and of their keenness to take care of their private and public interests and the extent to which they feel the suffering and needs of others.

Thus, it can be said that the mainstay of the human resource for practicing social work are the youth, because they are the category that benefits the most from this development; They constitute the majority of society, and they are the most educated and educated class. They constitute the majority of society and are the most educated class.

Voluntary Social Work Characteristics:

Perhaps one of the most important characteristics of voluntary social work are:

- An organized humanitarian effort made by members of the community.
- It is based on the desire or self-motivation of the individuals.
- It is performed without waiting for a reward or a financial return.
- It aims to serve the community and achieve its progress and welfare.
- It takes multiple forms, such as donating money, offering effort, or sacrificing time.
- The availability of scientific and practical preparation is not always required. Rather, it is based on previous skills or experiences. Yet, this does not preclude training in the work in which the volunteer participates (Al-Khater: 1993, 32).

Voluntary Work Forms:

There are four forms of volunteering:

1- Mutual Aid or Self-Help:

In many developing countries, self-help or mutual aid is the main system of economic and social support. Volunteering plays an essential role, ranging from families with small kinship links to larger communities.

2- Philanthropy or Service to Others:

This issue differs from the previous one in that the beneficiary of the volunteer is not the volunteer himself /herself, but another party. If some researchers believe that there is an element of personal benefit, this type of assistance takes place in volunteering organizations and local community service organizations. In certain countries there is a strong tradition of volunteering in the public sector and a growing interest in the corporate sector. There is also a mutual volunteering participation between North and South countries and South and South countries (Al-Jawhari: 2001, 87).

3- Participation:

Participation refers to the role that individuals play in formal processes in terms of representation, consultation, and participation in development processes. Participation in the form of volunteering is found in all countries of the world, and it is more developed in countries that have a large degree of awareness and work in the arranged service.

4- Advocacy or Campaigning:

Usually this kind of volunteering is executed by what we might call “activists”. For example, they carry out campaigns to change some legislation that affects the rights of some groups, such as those who are healthy, make campaigns against environmental destruction, or launch campaigns to ban landmines or to advocate human rights. Some campaigns may be local and some may be global in their approach to the project (Al-Jawhari: 2001, 94).

Fields of Voluntary Work:

There are so many fields of voluntary work:

A. The Social Field

This type of work targets the poor groups in society. It is considered one of the traditional fields that is easy in terms of management and implementation and corresponds to the limited experiences and skills of voluntary social work leaders and employees. Its importance lies in the fact that it aims to confront the growing poverty and the low standard of living in society (Abdullah: 2008, 78). It includes: child care, women's care, drug addiction rehabilitation, juvenile care, smoking control, elderly care, family counseling, helping the homeless, orphan care, and helping poor families.

B. The Educational Field

It includes: literacy, continuing education, learning difficulties programs, providing home education for those who are falling behind in school.

C. The Healthcare Field

It includes: health care, patient service and entertainment, psychological and health counseling, home exercise, and assistance to people with special needs (Al-Sultan: 2006, 20).

D. The Environmental Field

There are many civil society organizations that are concerned with environmental issues. The interests of organizations working in this field have varied to include the problems of chemical and radioactive pollution, the preservation of environment, the conservation of biodiversity and the prevention of health (Committee on Rights and Freedoms and Civil Society Organizations: 2003, 26). This field includes: environmental guidance, forest care, desertification control, beach and park care and improvement, and pollution control.

E. Civil Defense Field:

It includes: participation in relief work, contribution with the paramedics, participation in times of natural disasters (Al-Sultan: 2006, 20).

F. Legal Defense Field:

One of the most prominent activities in this field is human rights in the general sense, which links these rights to various fields of life (polit-

ical, social, women's rights, children's rights...etc.). The work in this field is manifested by raising the level of human rights awareness of the various social groups, enabling them to defend their interests and express their opinions and issues (Al-Salahi, 2001, 37).

Types of Volunteering:

There are several types of volunteering in NGOs (Abdul Latif: 2000, 130):

- 1) Volunteering with money.
- 2) Volunteering with work effort.
- 3) Volunteering with ideas, opinions and advice.
- 4) Volunteer to motivate others to participate in projects.

Volunteering with Money:

It is initially carried out by associations working in the field of caring for the poor to provide the appropriate financial resource. This emerged in a number of civil associations, where parties were held for several days. Volunteers sell tickets to the concerts in order to provide the appropriate financial source.

Volunteering with Work Effort:

It means accepting work in the association during the day or night without obtaining a financial compensation after getting the appropriate training. An example of this is the volunteers in the Red Crescent Society. An important model for volunteering also appeared in the Arab world during the 1973 war.

Volunteering with Ideas and Opinions:

It is executed through the opinions of intellectual leaders interacting with the issues, hopes and aspirations of society.

Volunteer to Motivate Others to Participate in Projects:

There are volunteers who do not have money, effort or thought, but rather have the ability to motivate others and encourage them to volunteer. They may be very simple people who have acceptance and the ability to influence others (Abdul Latif: 2000, 132).

Organized Volunteering:

Volunteering can be structured where individuals and groups are involved in voluntary organization frameworks in the form of institutions such as NGOs and youth centers.

Unorganized Volunteering:

In such type of volunteering, individual volunteers help others (family, friends, community members and institutions) without any specific obligations. It is well known that unorganized volunteering in our society spreads to a large extent for various reasons, including the prevailing culture that encourages solidarity and social solidarity and urges every person, no matter how limited or few his capabilities, to be prepared to support others without announcing it.

There is another classification of the types of voluntary social work based on the qualification held by the volunteer. The voluntary work can be classified into the following:

Specialized Voluntary Work: It means those voluntary work that can only be carried out by specialized professional volunteers, in any case. In the sense that the volunteer must have a special theoretical and practical preparation.

Semi-Specialized Voluntary Work: It means those volunteer work that does not require a precise professional specialization, while not neglecting the specialization entirely. Volunteering should be close to a specialty.

Non-Specialized Voluntary Work: It means those voluntary work that does not require a precise professional specialization (Rashid, 1994, pp. 32-33).

The participation of Women in Voluntary Work in Hadhramout:

Volunteering has become an integral part of the culture of developed societies. It represents a system of values, principles, ethics, standards, symbols, and practices that encourage initiative and positive work that benefits others (Barakat: 2005, 2153). Volunteer work is one of the factors affecting community service and development. The volunteer is the one who brings change in the community. The success of volunteer work is not based on the com-

munity's desire for change and development, but it depends on the volunteer himself or herself.

Volunteer work has arisen with the human being; it is practiced through the ages through groups of people who feel their role and duties towards their people. Although there is group of people who do not know the value of volunteer work and are not concerned with social responsibility fight this trend or take a negative position from it at the beginnings. Then volunteer work programs and practices have developed astonishingly, and have now become an organized institutional work, and a vital source of giving and development as a result of the advancement of community awareness. (Al-Khatib: 2010, 8).

The beginnings of voluntary work appeared in the Arab world in the nineteenth century and continued at different rates according to the social, economic, and political conditions of each of the Arab countries. It had great contributions in providing aid and assistance to disadvantaged social groups.

The cultural value dimension is an important factor in voluntary work because the cultural and value system has an impact on the motives and reasons that individuals carry. Undoubtedly, the Arab-Islamic cultural heritage contains many positive social and cultural values such as cooperation, solidarity, zakat, charitable giving, and other values that motivate the citizen to dedicate for the sake of others (Abdul Haq: 2001, 1).

Women have achieved many successes in voluntary work since ancient times. The active role of women extends with the emergence of charitable societies, bodies, institutions, and charitable centers to the present day. Nowadays, volunteering is a social phenomenon that imposed its presence on the scene and in all fields.

Hadhramout governorate recorded the highest number of female members increasing by (4,162) female members. It is about 30 percent of the total increase in female membership at the level of the Republic. At the same time, it occupied the fourth place among the governorates in the ranking of the rate of women in terms of the increase in membership. Hadhramout also has the first place in the increase for female members at a rate of 30 percent compared to other governorates that surpass them in terms of population. It preceded other governorates such as Taiz and Sana'a in the percentage of enrollment in

public education and the percentage of female enrollment (Al-Hamid: 2002, 70-74).

Women also occupied the third place in terms of the high percentage of membership in civil society organizations (The Status of Women in Yemen for the year 2002). The contribution of women in voluntary work varied to include participation in voluntary charities in general. Bearing in mind that the most important activities carried out by these associations are various social activities such as investigating the conditions of families and individuals in need by providing them with assistance and participating in markets and charitable dishes whose proceeds are used in funding charitable projects. If women have specialized scientific qualifications, they can participate in holding awareness lectures and lessons for women, especially in the social aspect. In addition to what institutions provide to their volunteers to build their capacities through courses and workshops.

The outbreak of war in several regions of Yemen and the displacement of many families to Hadhramout governorate had an impact on the increase in the number of volunteers in civil society organizations, as well as the increase in the number of female volunteers to provide aid to the displaced.

Despite all the difficulties and obstacles, women in Hadhramout worked as volunteers with humanitarian motives. In 2015, they worked in the most difficult times, and from the outset of the crisis, many girls volunteered to work in the field of volunteering and humanitarian work. By providing support and giving assistance to the displaced and poor families. Besides, providing psychological and social support to them in all cities and villages of Hadhramout (Bahshwan: 2017, 5-6).

During this period women leaders appeared in institutions and associations, who helped identify the needs of this group. Women also found partnerships between them to make humanitarian work successful.

The economic, social, and political changes that have occurred worldwide in the recent period have led to the emergence of a new formula for voluntary work. The new formula characterized by organization in planning and implementation on the one hand, and the diversity of activities covered by the voluntary participation practices on the other hand. Then, the so-called institutional volunteer work appeared.

The political, social, and economic conditions in any society play a pivotal role in the growth and development of its various institutions. These conditions that prevailed in Yemen in its various stages played a key role in the emergence and development of civil organizations (Committee on Rights and Freedoms and Civil Society Organizations in the Shura Council: 2003, 18).

With the increase institutions and associations at the present time, the number of female volunteers has increased. Many institutions have relied on their activities, most of which are aimed at the development of women and society. It played an active role in the process of social and economic empowerment and capacity building for women, young, displaced women, and members of civil society. Women from different political and social parties took the initiative to provide humanitarian relief services and assist the displaced in all Hadhramout villages and cities. Women had the greatest role in this, whether in the form of individual or collective initiatives, or through their institutions or organizations. They have also put pressure on international humanitarian organizations and international relief organizations to support their participation in this aspect.

From voluntary work, women have acquired administrative skills and the ability to plan. They have also played a prominent role in developing these resources by operating and investing these funds, and the depth of performing these roles in the institutions available and benefiting from the experiences of working women, developed their creative and innovative abilities, and gained them many skills. In addition to increasing the scope of their interaction, helping to solve some of the social and economic problems resulting from global changes and the life conditions experienced by women.

Many of these associations and organizations, especially women's Non-Government Organizations "NGOS" run by women. These organizations are active in the field of Yemeni women's issues. The women issues include providing health, educational and cultural services, establishing and supporting small productive projects, caring for disabled women, and providing their needs through training them, rehabilitating them, and rising awareness among them. The increase in the number of human rights organizations in the recent period, especially those aimed at raising awareness of human rights, providing protection and legal support for women, providing support, advocacy and defending them, and trying to seek to amend laws and legislation that contain

discriminatory texts against them that contradict societal values.

Voluntary charitable work is carried out in contemporary societies through methods or mechanisms of an institutional nature. The institutions work according to mechanisms, a timetable and alignment between resources and needs. The most prominent of these institutions are civil society organizations, both civil and defense, as it reflects the contemporary form of charitable volunteer work and development resources (Moses: 2002, 75).

Moreover, volunteering is a social phenomenon that has existed throughout the ages. Since the beginning of creation until the present time, it differs in its forms, fields, and method of performance according to trends, customs and traditions that are consistent with the cultures and religious beliefs of each era and country. The general concept of volunteering is the effort, money, time, or experience that is self-motivated without any financial reward.

Volunteering Obstacles:

1. Many of those able to volunteer are preoccupied with their economic problems.
2. The monopoly of governments in many developing countries of all economic, social, and political activities and services, and their dominance over all organizations, administratively and politically, reduced the effectiveness of civil efforts and limited their activity and reduced their role.
3. The large number of administrative procedures and the existence of laws and regulations restricting freedoms in those societies.
4. Lack of interest in educational programs about the importance of volunteering in the life of the individual, the child is not used to giving in various educational stages. Even with a little of his/her time, effort, and money. So, it will be part of his/her social upbringing.
5. Lack of awareness of voluntary efforts due to the low level of education and the increase in illiteracy, and the spread of many negative values such as individualism and isolationism.
6. Social institutions are not interested in volunteering and volunteers. Working with social institutions is limited to a small number of stakeholders who do not care about the presence of many volunteers. So,

- the work is a monopoly on them (Abdul Hadi: 1995, 68).
7. The low standard of living in society, so that people tend to use their time in additional work to improve their living conditions, and then they no longer have enough time to do voluntary work (Committee on Rights, Freedoms and Civil Society Organizations in the Shura Council: 2003, 60).
 8. The limited resources available to NGOs, the lack of training for their administrative bodies, the absence of proper planning for their work, the control of certain individuals over their management, the deviation from the goals, and the emptying of voluntary work of its humanitarian content (Saleh: 2008, 65).
 9. Young people feel that the voluntary work they do does not change anything. (Al-Salmi: 2005, 122).
 10. Weak institutional structure of organizations; There are some organizations that practice activities that are not consistent with the goals they have adopted, and their activities are often seasonal, in a narrow framework, and to serve their members only, which leads to a weakening of enthusiasm for volunteer work among local communities and among members of associations (Ministry of Planning and Development, 2001: 31).

Recommendations:

- Conducting scientific research to identify the conditions of charitable civil society associations and institutions and their adequacy in presenting their programs. Besides, identifying their needs and problems they encounter and helping them to confront them.
- Building a database for the information about the needs of the community and its members by providing these institutions with the data.
- Spreading the culture of volunteering, providing the opportunity for the contributions of volunteer youth, and creating new leaders because of its effective impact in contributing to the development of the society. In addition to bringing changes in the social and economic aspects, and not monopolizing volunteer work on a particular group.
- Providing technical and professional advice to the boards of directors of NGOs and its committees, and through it. The advice to volunteer teams is provided.
- Evaluating the conditions of associations and institutions periodically.

- Having a view to benefiting from the results of the evaluation in developing and improving the programs and services they provide and develop, in addition to developing new programs.
- The media should provide a greater impact in inviting members of society to volunteer work, and publicize the voluntary activities carried out by official institutions and civil society institutions.
 - Encouraging the girl by creating her own projects aimed at developing her sense of belonging and initiative, ensuring real opportunities to participate in decision-making related to social work.
 - The necessity of supporting NGOs financially, morally, humanly, and providing them with the necessary facilities.
 - Civil societies should build a base of relations and cooperation between them and community members by closely identifying the community's priorities and needs in terms of development projects. All these things would enable them to convey a clear image to decision makers and official institutions.
 - Cooperation of the private sector with associations of public interest and work to support them financially in proportion to the services of those associations, and work to place this support within a legal framework.
 - Institutions cooperate with each other in an integrated manner to support volunteer work, spread and consolidate the spirit of joint work, and exchange experiences and information.

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