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BRIDGING THE GAP: ASSESSING VOLUNTEERISM ENGAGEMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS AMONG MALAYSIAN TVET STUDENTS

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Abstract

This study examines volunteerism engagement among TVET students at Seberang Perai Polytechnic, Malaysia, focusing on participation patterns, understanding, and institutional support needs. Using quantitative methods, a Likert-scale questionnaire assessed 189 students' volunteer experiences, comprehension, perceived benefits, and support expectations. Data were analyzed via descriptive and inferential statistics. Key findings reveal 72.3% of students had volunteer experience, with participation frequency ranging from 5+ annual engagements to none. Community service (41.2%) and environmental activities (28.7%) were most common. Students showed strong understanding ($M=4.21/5$), with 89.1% recognizing societal benefits and 92.4% valuing personal skill development. However, 68.5% cited time constraints as the main barrier, while 54.7% reported insufficient institutional support. Significantly, 83.9% advocated for curriculum integration and 76.2% requested formal recognition

mechanisms. Despite high awareness and participation, structural challenges limit optimal engagement. The study recommends: (1) implementing credit-bearing volunteer modules, (2) establishing reward systems, and (3) conducting targeted awareness campaigns. These evidence-based strategies aim to strengthen community engagement while supporting Malaysia's education transformation goals in TVET institutions.

Keywords:

Volunteerism, Tvet Students, Institutional Support, Curriculum Integration, Community Engagement