Immediate Good for Others or Eventual Good for Self: Time Perspective and Volunteerism  
Alexander Maki, Patrick C. Dwyer, & Mark Snyder  
The University of Minnesota

Introduction

- Hypothesis 1: Regression analyses revealed that Future TP, over and above Present-Hedonistic and Present-Fatalistic TPs, predicts greater interest in volunteering in the future among current AmeriCorps volunteers ($p<.01$).
- Satisfaction with other- and self-oriented volunteer motivations (both $p<.01$) also predicted greater interest in volunteering in the future.
- These main effects were qualified by two-way interactions between Future TP and satisfaction of both self- and other-oriented motivations.
- Hypothesis 2: Results indicate that for those high in Future TP, higher levels of satisfaction with self-oriented motivations for volunteering predicted greater interests in volunteering in the future ($p<.055$).
- Hypothesis 3: Alternatively, for those low in Future TP, higher levels of satisfaction with other-oriented motivations predicted greater levels of future volunteer interests ($p<.05$).

Methods

- This study sample included AmeriCorps volunteers (N=110) halfway through their year-long service term.
- AmeriCorps is a nation-wide service program, often regarded as a form of volunteerism because it involves sustained voluntary helping.
- A survey was administered to volunteers in one of six distinct AmeriCorps programs, all based out of Minnesota.

Results


Conclusion

- Future TP was found to be the best predictor of interest to volunteer in the future, over and above other time perspectives.
- Furthermore, these findings suggest that Future TP may serve to regulate the influence of volunteers’ motivational agendas on their intentions to serve.
- Whereas individuals high in Future TP need to feel like they are working toward a better future for themselves, volunteers low in Future TP need to feel as though they are making an immediate impact.
- Though further research must be done, it may be that volunteers that vary in way they orient toward the future may resonate to different types of volunteer experiences and feedback.

References


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