PATRIOTISM AND THE MOTIVATION AND SPIRIT OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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Previous Research

- A wide array of studies conducted in the US has looked at motivational factors leading to increased civic engagement among college students
- Influence of religiosity (e.g., Jones-Correa, 2001; Lam, Pui-Yan. 2002)
- Schools that encourage or require volunteering produce a net of individuals that are more likely to volunteer (Sundeen & Raskoff, 1994);
Why Research is Needed

- These studies have mostly been conducted in a Western context.
- Not much research has explored motivating factors leading to increased civic engagement among college students in Egypt in general, and among students at an American-Arabic institution such as AUC in particular.
- Previous studies did not explore determinant factor leading to civic engagement in conjunction with the spirit that is produced as an outcome.

Method

- In the study, focus group interviews were conducted with 4 large and active community service clubs at AUC.
- 4-6 leading club members were interviewed during the focus group interviews.
- The data were analyzed using qualitative thematic coding; (preliminary analysis)
## Pathways for joining

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact of social network</th>
<th>Active recruitment from clubs</th>
<th>Internal motivators</th>
<th>External motivators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Campus booths, fliers, etc.</td>
<td>Orientations (FYE, etc.)</td>
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## What Motivates Them?

- Believing in the cause
- Sharing a clear vision
- Making a change or difference in others’ lives
- Being able to use their resources and skills to help others
- Empathizing with the community
- Developing a relationship with the community
- Developing the community
- Developing others
- Finding the work to be enjoyable
- Being part of the BEST club
- Developing themselves
- Sharing the spirit of the club
What Motivates Them?

- Believing in the cause
  - Strong dedication to serve and help others
  - Having a sense of responsibility
  - Wanting to right the injustices
  - Knowing the community needs them
  - Having a duty due to having privileges, blessings
  - Having a passion
  - (Having a religious purpose)

- Sharing a clear vision
  - Sharing a message
  - Seeing the big picture
  - Having a dream for the future

- Making a change or difference in others’ lives
  - Taking the initiative
  - Being innovative, creative
  - Generating internal satisfaction
What Motivates Them?

- Being able to use their resources and skills to help others
  - Feeling proud
  - Feeling inspired
  - “I can actually make a difference”
- Empathizing with the community
  - Getting to know the Cairo communities better
  - Feeling the pain of their situation
  - Finding connections with the community

What Motivates Them?

- Developing a relationship with the community
  - Bridging the gap between communities
  - Building trust and acceptance with the community
  - Feeling attached to the community they are working with
  - Being respected by the community
  - Feeling appreciation from the community
What Motivates Them?

- Developing the community
  - Helping empower the underprivileged
  - Helping community gain status
  - Seeing the positive results
  - Wanting to contribute to improving Cairo
  - Wanting to benefit Egypt
  - Wanting to develop the AUC community

- Developing others
  - Changing people’s mindsets
  - Imparting knowledge
  - Teaching skills
  - Providing resources

- Finding the work to be enjoyable
  - Finding it interesting, fun
What Motivates Them?

- Being part of the BEST club
  - Having a special, unique focus or purpose
  - Having respect and credibility
  - Having an established reputation
  - Being successful with recruitment and events
  - Having a significant, wide-reaching impact
  - Striving to be the best

What Motivates Them?

- Developing themselves
  - Expanding horizons
  - Being able to interact with and understand diverse people
  - Gaining communication skills (including patience, listening)
  - Gaining time management skills
  - Gaining leadership skills and confidence
  - Gaining crisis management skills
  - Making good decisions
  - Managing stress
  - Giving back to myself
  - Modeling other members’ positive attitudes
  - Exploring self and developing personality
What Motivates Them?

- Sharing the spirit of the club
  - Feeling a sense of belonging and unity
  - Having a special culture, atmosphere
  - Dedication from all members
  - Feeling like a family
  - Friendliness among the members
  - Doing everything together (work, school, fun)
  - Collaborating together as team
  - Having loyalty to each other
  - Supporting each other’s confidence
  - Investing in each other

References

