

The Motivation and Purpose behind Student Volunteers Participating in Rehabilitation Support for Juvenile Delinquents

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The purpose of this research is: 1) to explore the motivation and purpose behind student volunteers participating in rehabilitation support for juvenile delinquents and 2) to clarify the process as to why these student volunteers were able to continue on without quitting. For this study, five participants (three of which are currently students volunteering in rehabilitation support services and two of which had volunteered when they were students) were recruited, and semi-structured interviews were carried out. Interview transcripts showed that the participants that volunteered did so because they felt that they were able to learn more about the lives of juvenile delinquents, while gaining clinical experience for their career path. After volunteering, the participants felt that the significant gains from volunteering in such activities were that they were able to: 1) learn more about juvenile delinquents, 2) gain clinical experience that would help in their prospective career paths and, 3) build good relationships with the other professionals and students that had volunteered. These results showed a cyclical structure to the process regarding why student volunteers were able to continue with their participation.