

4. Discussion

Our study has found that a majority (54%) of participants interviewed volunteer with the elderly due to intrinsic motivational factors, as compared to gaining benefits (38%) or wanting to receive recognition for their effort (8%). Based on their suggestions on how to attract volunteers shown earlier in table 2, we see that the respondents believe that with proper planning and public education, agencies can attract more volunteers to help with the elderly. These results suggest that volunteering is ultimately driven by a desire to help, and that most respondents believe volunteerism can be encouraged. With this data, the agencies can formulate plans to raise awareness of volunteering, possibly even introducing them to volunteering at an earlier age, e.g. primary school level, to inculcate in them the importance of volunteering with the elderly.

These findings were not unexpected, as volunteering is strongly linked to unselfish motives, as mentioned in review of the literature.

As suggested from research done by Crowe and Gill (2001) covered in the literature review, altruism is a major motivation for volunteers studied. Although Crowe and Gill's research was done on participants in the United States, the findings were replicated here.

Legend:



What do they mean?



Were your findings expected?



How do they fit in?