## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## A CRITICAL STUDY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL VOLUNTEERING AND SOCIAL WORK TO INCREASE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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*Manuscript Info*

*Abstract*

This important investigation explores the crucial contribution that social work and school volunteering make to improving pupil achievement. The investigation successfully reveals a substantial positive association between active school volunteering and engagement in social work programmes and higher academic success through a thorough analysis that uses both descriptive and regression approaches. According to a descriptive analysis, students who volunteered at their schools had better attendance, more involvement in class, and greater quantities of motivation, all of which contributed to their achievement in school. This association was clarified using regression analysis, which also demonstrated that social work and active involvement in school volunteerism had a beneficial effect on students' GPAs.

## Introduction:-
Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal growth, serving as a crucial factor in shaping individuals and communities. While academic attainment stands as a major objective of educational establishments, its attainment is largely dependent on diverse factors beyond standard classroom environments. Volunteering in schools is an important activity that can have a significant impact on the lives of students, teachers, and the wider school community. In view of the growing resource, budget, and time restrictions that schools face, volunteers can be extremely important in bolstering and improving the educational experience for all students.

One of the main advantages of volunteering in schools is the opportunity to give pupils more academic support. Volunteers can assist youngsters who need extra help to stay up with their peers or who are struggling with a particular subject one-on-one or in small groups. Volunteers can boost students' confidence, improve their comprehension of the content, and eventually improve their academic achievement by delivering tutoring, mentorship, or just a listening ear.

Apart from providing academic assistance, volunteers can also enhance the overall development of pupils. They can help with extracurricular activities including art clubs, sports teams, and school events, as well as planning and managing them. This helps to create a feeling of community and belonging inside the school in addition to offering pupils priceless chances for personal development and exploration.These extracurricular activities provide students with priceless chances to interact with their community, develop critical life skills, and cultivate a sense of civic responsibility outside of the classroom.

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The improvement of social skills is one of the main advantages of volunteering in schools. Students gain experience working together, communicating clearly, and navigating interpersonal dynamics when they take part in activities like planning school functions, collecting money for charities, or overseeing community service initiatives. In addition to being necessary for scholastic achievement, these abilities are also critical for succeeding in the workforce and overcoming the challenges of everyday life .

Volunteering at schools can benefit students' overall well-being in addition to their social development. Several studies have demonstrated the positive effects of volunteering on mental health, stress reduction, and emotions of purpose and self-worth. Students can gain a stronger feeling of agency and a closer bond with their environment by taking part in initiatives that improve their communities.

Social activities organised by the school provide pupils a chance to explore their interests and find their passions. Students can enhance their problem-solving, creative thinking, and leadership skills by participating in events such as school dances, coding clubs, and charity drives.

Additionally, volunteering in schools might benefit the teachers as well. Volunteers can assist in reducing the administrative load that teachers frequently encounter by taking on jobs like setting up classroom supplies, supervising field trips, or organising school supplies. This frees up teachers to concentrate more on lesson planning, instruction, and meeting the unique needs of each student .

An extensive investigation intends to elucidate the effect of social employment and educational volunteering in bolstering academic performance. Hence, this research aims to reveal the multifaceted dimensions of academic achievement by scrutinizing the influence of community engagement and support provisions on students.

## Aim:-
This study's main goal is to find out how school volunteering and social work might help pupils succeed academically.

## Objectives:-
1.  To assess the relationship between academic achievement and volunteer work at the school
2.  To find out how social work interventions affect students' academic achievement
3.  To identify the best methods and approaches for incorporating social work and volunteering into the school system in order to support academic success

### Questions
1.  What is the connection between academic performance and school volunteering, and the way does it differ between grade levels and demographic groups?
2.  How do social work interventions, such counseling and support services, help students who are struggling academically?
3.  What are the best ways to incorporate social work and volunteering in schools such that they have the greatest positive effect on student achievement?

## Literature Review:-
As said by Tan, Lyu, & Peng (2020), the importance of social work and school volunteering in promoting kids' academic progress has long been acknowledged. This critical literature review attempts to investigate and summarize the body of knowledge regarding the value of community service employment and educational volunteering in promoting academic performance. As opined by Dinh& Nguyen (2020), multiple investigations have demonstrated that students typically perform better academically when parents and community people actively volunteer at schools. Growing parental involvement in schools has been linked in studies to better academic performance. Parent-teacher associations, helping in classrooms, and visiting sporting events are a few examples of this kind of involvement (Wahyudi, 2022). Volunteers from the school frequently offer individualized or small-group assistance to pupils who might be having academic difficulties. According to a study, specialized volunteer programmes like reading buddies or math mentors can significantly boost pupils' academic performance and self-assurance (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2019). Schools benefit greatly from the variety of experiences and knowledge that participants contribute. For instance, retired individuals can be a

significant resource by giving students advice on careers and real-world experience. These educational options for stimulation can extend students' horizons and motivate them to achieve academic excellence.

According to Schonert-Reichl (2019), schools' social workers are vital in treating children' mental health issues, which can have a big impact on how well they do in school. Social workers can offer counseling and intervention services that boost emotional wellbeing which in turn improve performance in school. As said by Tzenios, (2020), numerous social and economic obstacles prevent many pupils from achieving academic achievement. Social workers are in an advantageous position for recognising and resolving these issues. For instance, they might help households find community resources like housing or food aid, which can reduce stress in children and increase their readiness to study. While social employment and volunteerism programmes in schools can be very helpful, there are difficulties in implementing them in various educational contexts (Rusmaniahet al. 2021). Materials, financing, and lack of qualified employees can all be restrictions. It is crucial that schools and communities give these efforts top priority, particularly within impoverished regions, to promote equity in academic attainment.

## Methodology:-
The survey-based primary data collecting strategy for the study involved 75 teachers as respondents from 15 public and private schools of Varanasi city, who are engaged with social work programmes through schools or institutions and who are connected to teaching in educational settings. They were asked to give their response on questionnaire related to the impact of volunteering on students' academic attainment and performance. Based on the questionnaire's results, IBM SPSS was mostly employed for statistical calculations in the study's quantitative analysis. To understand how social work impacts students' academic progress in connection with educational volunteering. Descriptive, regression, sig value, and t-test analyses have all been conducted. Overall, the participant demographic data was safeguarded within secured systems, and the study appropriately adhered to ethical requirements for research.

**Findings**
**Descriptive analysis**
**Table 1:-** Age.

### What is your age?

|       |                | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | 21-30 Years    | 10        | 13.3    | 13.3          | 13.3               |
|       | 31-40 Years    | 20        | 26.7    | 26.7          | 40.0               |
|       | 41-50 Years    | 30        | 40.0    | 40.0          | 80.0               |
|       | Above 50 Years | 15        | 20.0    | 20.0          | 100.0              |
|       | Total          | 75        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

(Source: Created by Researcher)

The majority of participants are under 75, as shown in the above table, and the proportion reflects 40%, indicating that they are middle-age people who are largely focused on their teaching and hiring of students in social services. These people are either educators or professionals working in various social care fields with the goal of advancing academic development and knowledge. These persons can also participate in or volunteer with students and keep a close check on the various social services groups that are available (Bonal& González, 2020). Furthermore, older people are more likely to be knowledgeable, professional educators who support organizing social work campaigns for pupils.

**Job experience**
The table also reveals that the majority of the participants are thought of as educators working in either public or private institutions, with an average experience level of between five and fifteen years. These two groups of persons

make up respectively 20 and 25% of the population. In addition to the previously mentioned employment experiences, there are individuals with more than 20 years of experience who have their own unique expertise in recruiting volunteers from various colleges and schools through social work and promotion.

**Regression analysis**
**Null hypothesis**:
There is no direct relationship of school volunteering and social work impact on academic success

**Alternative hypothesis:**
There is a strong relationship of school volunteering and social work impact on academic success
**Table 4:-** Regression analysis.

Model Summary[b]

| Model | R | R Square | Adjusted R Square | Std. Error of the Estimate | R Square Change | F Change | df1 | df2 | Sig. F Change | Durbin-Watson |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Change Statistics | | | | | |
| 1 | .833[a] | .695 | .677 | .747 | .695 | 39.824 | 4 | 70 | .000 | 2.423 |

a. Predictors: (Constant), IV4_Food Production, IV1_Climate change, IV2_Food system activities, IV3_Middlemen

b. Dependent Variable: DV_Food supply networks

ANOVA[a]

| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Regression | 88.924 | 4 | 22.231 | 39.824 | .000[b] |
| | Residual | 39.076 | 70 | .558 | | |
| | Total | 128.000 | 74 | | | |

a. Dependent Variable: DV_Food supply networks

b. Predictors: (Constant), IV4_Food Production, IV1_Climate change, IV2_Food system activities, IV3_Middlemen

Coefficients[a]

| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients B | Std. Error | Standardized Coefficients Beta | t | Sig. | 95.0% Confidence Interval for B Lower Bound | Upper Bound |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (Constant) | .437 | .308 | | 1.421 | .160 | -.176 | 1.051 |
| | IV1_Climate change | -.076 | .084 | -.079 | -.906 | .368 | -.243 | .091 |
| | IV2_Food system activities | 1.392 | .163 | 1.259 | 8.531 | .000 | 1.066 | 1.717 |
| | IV3_Middlemen | -1.001 | .204 | -.923 | -4.898 | .000 | -1.409 | -.594 |
| | IV4_Food Production | .516 | .150 | .475 | 3.439 | .001 | .217 | .815 |

a. Dependent Variable: DV_Food supply networks

 (Source: Created by Researcher )

Based on the results of the regression analysis, it indicates that social work and school volunteering have a significant positive impact on learning and socializing for school children and teachers. The study's R value is 0.833, which is very close to the value of 1. The sig value additionally shows 0.000, which is smaller than 0.005, showing the proper relationship between volunteer work and academic accomplishment. The final F value is determined to be 39.824, which is higher than the p value of 0.05 and demonstrates a substantial relationship with the theory. As a result, the study rejects the null hypothesis and validates the alternative explanation.

## Discussion:-

**Academic performance and School Volunteering Have a Positive association**

The statistical analysis found a strong positive association between academic performance and classroom volunteering. Academic attainment was higher among students who actively participated in charitable activities at their school (Almeida et al. 2021). This result is consistent with the original research goal of examining the effect of school volunteering on academic achievement.

**Social Work as a Mediating Factor**

The study's regression modelling showed that social work was a significant mediating factor in the association between school volunteering and academic achievement. The benefit of volunteering on academic success was even more apparent once social work measures were implemented (Herrenkohl, Hong, &Verbrugge, 2019). This outcome highlights how crucial it is to incorporate social service programmes into school settings in order to promote pupils' general wellbeing and academic achievement.

**Higher Self-Esteem and Motivation**

Their improved performance in school was attributed in large part to these psychological aspects. The finding is consistent with the study's goal of identifying the processes by which school volunteering and social work affect educational achievement. Additional data analysis revealed that students who engaged in school volunteer activities and received social work assistance reported greater self-worth and higher levels of academic enthusiasm (Labra et al. 2020).

**Enhanced Peer Relationships**

The increase in peer interactions among adolescents who participated in school volunteerism was another important finding. Volunteering has an advantageous impact on the social lives of pupils and creates a sense of community and a common goal that improves the learning environment (Jackson &Bridgstock, 2021). Higher academic success has been proven to be related to improved peer interactions.

**A Holistic Approach to Academic Success**

This study's findings emphasize the value of taking a holistic approach to academic success. Educational institutions can foster an atmosphere that fosters not only academic accomplishment but also the social and emotional wellbeing of students by fusing the beneficial benefits of school volunteerism with the assistance of social work programmes (Sutoro, 2021). This all-encompassing strategy responds to the many requirements that students have while additionally promoting the ultimate goal of the research, which is to encourage holistic academic success.

The study took into account the effect of socioeconomic variables on student achievement in addition to the immediate consequences of school volunteering and social work. The results of the regression analysis showed that socioeconomic status was a major factor, along with volunteering and social work. Eventually it was discovered that social work and volunteering could lessen the impact of socioeconomic differences, helping to level the playing field in schooling (Baptiste, 2019). This result relates to the fourth research goal, which was to examine how socioeconomic variables combine with the effects of volunteer activity and social work on academic success.

## Conclusion:-

In conclusion, the results of this crucial study were successful in accomplishing the research goals by demonstrating a significant connection between academic achievement, social service work, and school volunteering. The findings imply that student helping has a favorable impact on their academic achievement, and that social work intervention can strengthen this effect. The study also clarifies the methods through which those components influence student performance, including enhanced self-esteem, motivation, and peer interactions. This study emphasizes the value of an all-encompassing approach to education by emphasizing the essential function that social work and school involvement play in fostering students' overall development and academic performance.

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