RELATIONSHIP TYPE AND VOLUNTEERING

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ABSTRACT

This is a correlational study on relationship type and volunteering. Respondents of this study were both volunteers and non-volunteers. The communal Orientation Scale of Clark was used in this study to determine the relationship type (exchange/communal)of the respondents. The Interpersonal Reactivity Index (IRI;, Davis,1980) which taps four separate aspeects of empathy, is described, and its relationship with the Communal Orientation Scale. The scale of Davis was used to determine the empathy level of respondents. Results of this study fail to support two hypotheses: 1.) communally oriented individuals are more likely to volunteer, and 2.) highly empathic individuals are more likely to volunteer. The third hypothesis (volunteers are more likely to extend help) of the study, however, was strongly supported by the results. Volunteer respondents' answers on motives for volunteering yields more on the self-oriented interests ("to learn new skills", "to improve myself").