

Factors Associated With Volunteering Among Asians In The United States: Findings From 2015 Current Population Surveys

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Abstract

This study examines factors influencing volunteer participations and volunteer hours among Asians. Specific attentions are paid to explore the similarities and differences in the factors associated with volunteer behaviors between Asians and other racial/ethnic groups. The results showed that citizenship, donation, and community service experience increase the likelihood of volunteering for Asians. For the volunteer hours, citizenship status, community participation, employment status, age, and marital status are significant factors among Asians. However, in contrast to other groups, income and education do not significantly influence volunteer hours. The implications for nonprofit professionals who work with ethnic/racial minority groups are discussed.

Keywords: volunteer, Asians, ethnicity, current population survey

1. Introduction

As the United States has become more diverse in its race and ethnicity over the past decade, volunteerism has been examined in the context of this diversity of U.S. society. Some scholars have focused on the inclusiveness of diverse volunteers (Bortree & Waters, 2014; Cherry, 2013; Ecklund & Park, 2007; Sundeen, Garcia, & Raskoff, 2009), consistently reporting that minority groups volunteer less than Caucasians (Johnson & Lee, 2015; Musick, Wilson, & Bynum, 2000). Further, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015), minority groups volunteer less than Caucasians. In 2015, 26.4% of Caucasians donated time to an organization, compared with 19.3% of African Americans, 17.9% of Asians, and 15.5% of Hispanics volunteered (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015). It is therefore imperative to know what factors affect volunteer participation among ethnic minority groups. However, a lack of scholarly work has focused on minority volunteering.

Among ethnic minority groups, Asian Americans have been identified as the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in the United States and the largest share of recent immigrants. According to data presented by the U.S. Census Bureau (2013), the Asian population grew about 6 million, from a 2000 population of 10.2 million to a 2013 population of 16 million, which accounted for 6% of the total population. However, despite of the increasing diversity and the number of Asians in America, little is known about the extent of volunteering activity among Asian Americans. Understanding the various factors influencing volunteering activity among Asians is thus critical to promote volunteer participation among this ethnic minority, which ultimately helps in building a strong and cohesive society.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Factors Associated with Volunteer Participation

Previous research on minority volunteering has found that acculturation, personal resources, social resources, and demographic characteristics influence the volunteering behavior of minority groups (Sundeen, Garcia, & Wang, 2007; Sundeen et al., 2009; Wang, Yoshioka, & Ashcraft, 2013).

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Acculturation is generally defined as the extent to which a person adopts the cultural traits such as norms, values, and practices of another culture while keeping his or her culture of origin (Berry, 2003). Studies of volunteering by ethnic groups have found that acculturation affects one's decision to volunteering (Sundeen, et al., 2007; Wang, et al., 2013). Scholars have used citizenship status, length of stay in a country, place of birth, age of entering a new country, and attendance at a U.S. schools as the indicators of acculturation in studies of volunteering (Lee, Sobal, & Frongillo, 2003; Levine, 2007; Sundeen, et al., 2007). Wang and colleagues (2013) found that citizens of Hispanic groups are more likely to volunteer than other non-citizen immigrants.

In a study of Asian volunteering, Sundeen et al., (2007) found that citizenship and birthplace (foreign-born vs. native-born) affect Asian Americans' act of volunteering, indicating that native-born Asian Americans and naturalized citizens are more likely to volunteer than those who have not attained citizenship. Personal resources such as income and education have consistently been found to be predictors of volunteering. People with higher income and more education are more likely to volunteer in both minority groups and the general population (Johnson & Lee, 2015; Wang et al., 2013; Wilson, 2000). By using dominant status theory, Smith (1994) explained that people with higher education and income in the United States are more attractive to the organizations seeking volunteers (see also Wang et al., 2013). In addition, education promotes volunteering by helping to shape a mainstream norm and enabling people to have more volunteering skills. Interestingly, although Asian-Americans earn the highest incomes and are the best-educated group in the United States, their volunteer participation rate is lower than those of other ethnic groups. Therefore, it is important to assess the effect of these personal resources on volunteering activities among Asians and what other factors might have a larger impact on volunteering.

In previous studies of minority volunteering, social resources such as marital status, number of own children, and employment status have been examined as predictors of volunteering behaviors (Wang et al., 2013). Previous studies have suggested that married people have larger social networks and thus more opportunities to volunteer. Having more children also increases the volunteer participation because it gives parents more chance to be engaged in children's school and sports activities. As for employment status, part-time employees volunteer more as they have more discretionary time. For example, in the study conducted by Sundeen and colleagues (2007), volunteering by Asian Americans was found to be associated with having children in the household and having more discretionary time.

In terms of demographics, mixed results have been reported in previous studies. Gender and age have commonly been found to be predictors of volunteering in previous research. In particular, Asian women volunteer more than Asian men (Johnson & Lee, 2015; Sundeen et al., 2007). Middle-aged people are also more likely to volunteer than younger or older people because of the higher level of social activities in which they are involved. However, some studies show conflicting results. For example, in a study conducted by Ecklund and Park (2007) showed that education, income, and gender (female) may not predict volunteering among Asians, while Sundeen and colleagues (2007) found that Asian American volunteering is associated with being female as well as having higher education and income levels.

Other forms of civic engagement can be useful to understand the pattern of volunteering as well. Specifically, donation and community participation have been found to be associated with volunteering. Pro-social values are a predictor of time spent volunteering (Shantz, Saksida, & Alfes, 2014). While volunteering is an act of giving time and labor to an organization, donating is an act of giving monetary gifts to an organization by an individual donor (Bennett & Sargeant, 2005). Previous studies show that donation experience is related to volunteer participation (Abreu et al., 2015). Likewise, community participation also increases the likelihood of volunteering (Matsuba, Hart, & Atkins, 2007). Participating in community events can promote volunteering by giving more opportunities to volunteering through networking (Wilson, 2000). In addition, previous studies show that if individuals have a strong sense of community, they are more likely to have greater attachment to about their communities, therefore, they more likely to attend community meetings (Kerwin, Warner, Walker, & Stevens, 2015). Neighborhood factors such as connectedness and perceived satisfaction were found to be important to volunteer participation in a recent study in Belgium (Dury et al., 2016).

While reviewing previous studies, several gaps were found. First, there is a lack of studies of volunteering among minority groups. Specifically, limited studies have been conducted on volunteering by Asians over the past decade. In addition, although extensive studies have examined the determinants of volunteer participation, few have particularly examined community participation and donation experience as key predictors of volunteering. The novel contribution of this study is thus the inclusion of donation and community participation as predictors of minority volunteering.

Lastly, limited studies have compared the factors associated with volunteer participation rates and how they are committed to volunteering. Having experience of volunteering and being committed to volunteering are different concepts.

Therefore, this study seeks to examine the variables associated with volunteering activities among Asians by using the Current Population Survey 2015 (CPS hereafter). Only two studies (Sundeen et al., 2007, 2009) examined the extent of volunteering activity and factors associated with volunteer participation among Asian Americans with the use of the CPS. However, these studies used 2004 data and did not include significant factors such as donations and community services. This study particularly focuses on acculturation and community participation and donation behaviors as key predictors of volunteering activities among Asians. The research questions for this study are as follows:

Question1. Are there any differences in volunteer hours and the rate of volunteering in formal organizations between Asians and non-Asians?

Question2. What factors are associated with volunteer participation among Asians? And how do they differ from non-Asian groups?

Questions3. What factors are associated with volunteer hours among Asians? And how do they differ from non-Asian groups?

3. Methods

3.1 Data and Sample

In this study, we used the CPS Volunteer Supplement, released in May 2016. The CPS is a monthly labor force survey conducted in approximately 56,000 households across the United States. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics collected data on volunteers through a supplement to the September 2014. The Volunteer Supplement questions were asked of people aged 15 years or over. Questions related to participation in volunteering activities, the frequency and types of such activities, and the types of organizations volunteered for. This dataset is one of the few volunteer-related datasets, updated yearly with nationally representative samples. Samples were selected by using the multistage stratified probability method and the survey was conducted via computer-assisted telephone interviews or computer-assisted personal interviews. The sample size of the CPS Volunteer Supplement was 150,087 people. Among them, 20,311 people (13.5%) did not provide the information on their age. Further, 24,806 children under 15 years were excluded from this study. Those who identified themselves as more than one race or ethnicity were excluded from the analysis, which yielded a final sample size of 101,654 comprising 5,215 Asian (5.1%), 72,582 Whites (71.4%), 10,954 African Americans (10.8%), and 12,903 Hispanics (12.7%).

3.2 Variables and Measurement

3.2.1 Dependent Variable

Volunteering was coded as 1 if a respondent did any volunteer work in one of nine types of organizations in the past 12 months and 0 otherwise. These organizations included (a) religious organizations, (b) children or youth service, (c) civic, political, or international, (d) cultural/environmental/animal care, (e) hospital or other health, (f) sports/hobbies, and (g) others. Volunteer work excluded any informal volunteering such as helping families or friends. As an indicator of commitment to volunteering, annual volunteer hours were also examined in this study.

3.2.2 Independent Variables

We measured acculturation by using two variables: citizenship status and age of immigrant entry. Based on previous studies (e.g., Sundeen et al., 2009), citizenship status was a dummy variable with three categories; foreign-born-non-citizen (comparison baseline), native-born citizen (born abroad to American parent(s)), and foreign-born naturalized citizen. We used a dummy variable, with 1 indicating that the respondent immigrated to the United States before age 10 years and 0 otherwise. Education represented respondents' highest grade of school or level of education completed. This ranged from less than first grade to professional school or doctoral degree (values from 1 to 13). Income was the respondent's total household annual income before taxes, which ranged from less than \$5000 to \$150,000 or more (values from 1 to 16). Gender was a dummy variable with male coded 0, female coded 1. Age was a continuous variable ranging from 16 to 85 or more. As the relationship between age and volunteering may be curvilinear based on previous studies, the square term of age was included in the model. Following previous studies, we included three indicators of an individual's social resources in the model: marital status, number of children under 18 years in the household, and employment status.

For marital status, we used a dummy variable with 1 indicating married and 0 single. The number of children in the households under 18 years of age was a continuous variable. Employment status was also a dummy variable (unemployed =0 and employed either fulltime or part-time=1). Community participation was assessed by asking respondents whether they had attended any public meetings in which community affairs were discussed in the past year (yes=1). Respondents were asked about donations experience with the following, “During the past 12 months, did you donate money, assets, or property with a combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations?” Yes coded as 1, no coded as 0.

3.3 Data Analysis Strategy

To answer the first research question, descriptive analyses were performed. First, we assessed the hours volunteered and the rates of volunteering. In addition, we compared Asians with non-Asians for these two variables. Additional t-tests, chi-square analyses were performed to answer research questions 2 and question 3.

We used a binary logistic regression model to analyze what factors affect the decisions of Asian Americans and non-Asian Americans to volunteer to answer research question 2. For research question 3, multiple regressions were used to examine the factors associated with volunteer hours among Asians and non-Asians.

4. Results

4.1 Descriptive Analysis

4.1.1 Sample Size and Demographic Characteristics

As shown in Table 1, 53% of the Asian participants were women and about 30% were never married. The average age of Asian study participants was 44 years old (SD=18.01), which is slightly younger than that of the total study participants (M=46.97; SD=18.90). In addition, about 39% of Asians were foreign-born and naturalized citizens, 32.2% of Asians were native-born U.S. citizens, and 28.6% of Asians were foreign-born, but not naturalized citizens, which includes lawful permanent residents and legal non-immigrants. In the total sample, the majority of the study participants were native-born U.S. citizens (87%). The t-test results showed that education and income were significantly different between Asians and the other ethnic groups. Asians received more education and earned higher incomes compared with the other groups.

Table 1 Demographic Characteristics of Study Participations

4.1.2	All	Asian	White	Black	Hispanic
	% or M (SD) N=101,654	% or M (SD) N=5215	% or M (SD) N=72,582	% or M (SD) N=10,954	% or M (SD) N=12,903
Gender ***					
- Male	48.1	47	48.6	44.6	48.3
- Female	51.9	53	51.4	55.4	51.7
Marital status ***					
- Never married	28.9	30.2	24.9	44.6	38.1
- Married	71.1	69.8	75.1	55.4	61.9
Age***	46.97 (18.90)	43.95 (18.01)	48.86 (18.97)	44.76 (18.28)	39.45 (17.01)
Number of children ***					
0	74.8	68.5	76.9	77.3	64.5
1	10.6	14.7	9.9	10.5	13.3
2	9.3	12.7	8.7	7.4	13.5
3 or more	5.1	4.2	4.6	4.7	8.7
Education ***	9.49 (2.04)	9.85 (2.34)	9.73 (1.78)	9.21 (1.90)	8.18 (2.73)
Income ***	11.09 (4.00)	11.88 (4.02)	11.49 (3.83)	9.36 (4.36)	10.02 (3.96)
Employment***					
- Employed	58	58.8	58.3	52.7	60.1
- Unemployed	42	41.3	41.7	47.3	39.9
Acculturation***					
- Before 10	2.6	9.3	1.2	1.3	8.7
- After 10	97.4	90.7	98.8	98.7	91.3
Citizenship ***					
Native born	87	32.2	96	90.1	54.6
Foreign born-naturalized citizen	6.5	39.2	2.5	5.6	16.2
Foreign born-not citizen	6.7	28.6	1.5	4.2	29.2

Volunteering Activities among Asians

Asians volunteered an average of 107.33 hours in 2014-2015 compared with 132.54 hours among the total population. Moreover, Asians were less likely to spend hours volunteering compared with Whites and African Americans. The rate of volunteering was significantly different between Asians and the other groups. About 681 (17.4%) Asians volunteered in 2014-2015, compared with 26.2% of the total populations. Further, Asians volunteered less compared with Whites and African Americans, which was statistically different between the groups. However, Asians participated in volunteer activities more than Hispanics. The chi-square results showed that the number of organizations for which study participants volunteered was significantly different between Asians and the other groups. About 77.5% of Asians were volunteered to one organization. Overall, there were no significant differences on how people became a volunteer by ethnic groups. However, Asians were asked to become volunteers by co-workers or employers more than the other groups.

4.1.3 Donations and Community Participation.

There were significant differences in donations and community participations among Asians and the other ethnicity groups. About 5% of Asians answered that they had attended public meetings that discussed community affairs in the past compared with 10.5% of Whites and 7.4% of African Americans. In addition, Asians were less likely to donate money, assets, or property with combined value of more than \$25 to charitable or religious organizations (44.8%) compared with the total populations. About 57% of Whites had donated to charitable or religious organizations in the past, which was significantly different among the two groups. However, Asians were more likely to donate money compared with African Americans and Hispanics.

4.2. Factors Associated with Volunteer Participation among Asians

The results of logistics regression analysis were presented in Table 2. In the logistic regression analysis, donation experience was one of the strongest predictors of Asian volunteering (OR=4.25, $p<.001$). In addition, attending public meetings with discussions of community affairs also increased Asians' likelihood of volunteering (OR=3.33, $p<.001$). For socioeconomic status, the results showed that higher income and more education increased the likelihood of volunteering among Asians (OR=1.05, $p=.001$; OR=1.09, $p=.002$, respectively). In addition, the number of children in the household significantly increased the likelihood of Asians volunteering (OR=1.23, $p<.001$). Citizenship was also significantly associated with the likelihood of volunteering among Asians. Foreign-born naturalized citizens were more likely to volunteer compared with foreign-born non-U.S. citizens (OR=1.31, $p=.04$). This finding indicated that Asian immigrants that are U.S. citizens are at least 31% more likely to volunteer than foreign-born Asian non-citizen. In addition, native-born Asian Americans were more likely to volunteer than foreign-born non-citizen Asians (OR=1.87, $p<.001$).

Gender and employment status were also significantly associated with volunteer participation. For example, male, employed (either full-time or part-time) Asians were less likely to volunteer compared with female and unemployed Asians. However, marital status and age were not significantly associated with the likelihood of volunteering. Similar results were found for the non-Asian group. For example, personal resources such as income and education were significantly associated with volunteer participation across the groups. In addition, consistent with the findings from the Asian group, the number of children, community participation, donation experiences, native-born U.S. citizenship, and gender were significantly associated with the volunteer participation. However, unlike the Asian group, being an immigrant and being a naturalized citizen were not significantly associated with the likelihood of volunteering among the other groups. In addition, age was significant in all non-Asian groups, which indicated that older people were less likely to volunteer in the White, African-American, and Hispanic groups.

Table 2 Logistic Regressions Analysis Predicting Volunteer Participation

	Asians N=3804				White N=57667				Black N=8435				Hispanic N=9805			
	B	Odds Ratio	S.E.	Sig.	B	Odds Ratio	S.E.	Sig.	B	Odds Ratio	S.E.	Sig.	B	Odds Ratio	S.E.	Sig.
Income	.05	1.05	.01	<.001	.04	1.04	.00	<.001	.02	1.02	.01	.01	.02	1.02	.01	.03
education	.09	1.09	.03	.002	.14	1.15	.01	<.001	.16	1.17	.02	<.001	.09	1.10	.01	<.001
Age of Entry	.31	1.36	.15	.05	.13	1.14	.10	.19	.69	1.99	.25	.01	.24	1.27	.11	.03
Immigrant naturalized citizen	.27	1.31	.13	.04	.12	1.13	.12	.31	-.03	.97	.21	.88	.03	1.03	.10	.80
Native born U.S. citizen	.63	1.87	.13	<.001	.59	1.81	.10	<.001	.37	1.45	.17	.03	.31	1.36	.08	<.001
Community Participation	1.20	3.33	.17	<.001	1.37	3.95	.03	<.001	1.49	4.46	.10	<.001	1.47	4.35	.11	<.001
Donation experience	1.45	4.25	.11	<.001	1.48	4.38	.03	<.001	1.63	5.11	.07	<.001	1.60	4.93	.07	<.001
Gender (female)	.30	1.35	.10	.002	.31	1.36	.02	<.001	.23	1.26	.06	<.001	.34	1.41	.06	<.001
Age	-.02	.98	.02	.21	-.04	.97	.00	<.001	-.03	.97	.01	.01	-.05	.96	.01	<.001
Age2	<.001	1.00	<.001	.57	<.001	1.00	<.001	<.001	<.001	1.00	<.001	.24	<.001	.96	<.001	<.001
Married	-.27	.76	.15	.08	-.01	.74	.04	.99	.06	1.07	.08	.43	.01	1.01	.09	.95
Number of Children	.21	1.23	.06	<.001	.20	1.23	.01	<.001	.10	1.11	.04	.00	.09	1.09	.03	.01
Employed	-.29	.75	.11	.01	-.06	.94	.03	.02	-.11	.90	.07	.15	-.18	.84	.07	.01
Constant	-3.45	.03	.41	<.001	-3.66	.03	.13	<.001	-3.75	.02	.31	<.001	-2.66	.07	.23	<.001
% predicted correct																

4.3. Factors Associated with Volunteer Hours among Asians

To examine the factors associated with volunteer hours, multiple regressions were performed. The dependent variable, volunteer hours, was not normally distributed, which violated the assumptions of multiple regressions. Therefore, the dependent variable was log transformed following the suggestions by Stevens (2012). For the Asian groups, as shown in Table 3, citizenship, community participation, age, marital status, and employment were significantly associated with volunteer hours. This finding indicated that immigrant naturalized citizens and native-born U.S. citizens had longer volunteer hours per year compared with foreign-born-U.S. noncitizen Asians. In addition, Asians who participated in community meetings spent more hours volunteering. Younger, married, and employed Asians spent fewer hours in volunteering compared with older, unmarried, and unemployed Asians. Other variables such as income, education, gender, and donation experience were not significantly associated with volunteer hours among Asians. Naturalized citizenship was only significant in the Asian group, while donation experience was not significant only in the Asian group. This finding indicated that in non-Asian groups, if an individual had donation experience, he/she spent more hours volunteering. Community participation and employment predicted volunteering hours in all groups, suggesting that employed people spent fewer hours on volunteering than those unemployed. Interestingly, the relationship between marital status and volunteer hours was different for Asians and Whites. For example, for Asian, marital status was negatively associated with volunteer hours, which indicated that married Asians were less likely to spend time on volunteering activities compared with unmarried Asians. However, for Whites, married people spent more hours volunteering than unmarried people.

Table 3 Multiple Regressions Predicting Hours of Volunteered

	Asians (N=620)			White (N=16149)			Black (N=1533)			Hispanic (N=1488)		
	B	SE	Sig.	B	S.E.	Sig.	B	S.E.	Sig.	B	S.E.	Sig.
	2.57	.51	<.001	3.20	.16	<.001	3.82	.38	<.001	3.44	.30	<.001
Income	-.03	.02	.08	-.01	.00	<.001	-.02	.01	.07	-.01	.01	.33
Education	-.05	.04	.22	.04	.01	<.001	-.03	.03	.36	.04	.02	.04
Age of Entry	.18	.19	.35	.09	.11	.40	.43	.29	.14	-.05	.14	.75
Immigrant – naturalized citizen	.36	.17	.04	-.20	.15	.16	-.22	.27	.43	.03	.14	.80
Native born U.S. citizen	.47	.17	.01	.11	.12	.38	.05	.22	.82	-.23	.11	.04
Community Participation	.46	.17	.01	.45	.03	<.001	.41	.09	<.001	.38	.11	.00
Donation experience	.28	.15	.06	.35	.03	<.001	.63	.10	<.001	.49	.09	<.001
Gender (female)	.08	.12	.53	-.08	.02	<.001	-.22	.08	.01	-.03	.13	.82
Age	.08	.03	.00	-.00	.00	.59	.00	.01	.94	.01	.02	.56
Age2	-.00	<.001	-.58	.03	<.001	.02	<.001	<.001	.73	<.001	<.001	.80
Married	-.47	.21	.03	.11	.04	.01	.15	.10	.14	-.03	.13	.82
Number of Children	-.08	.07	.26	.02	.01	.16	-.01	.04	.91	-.06	.04	.15
Employed	-.55	.15	<.001	-.28	.03	<.001	-.30	.09	.00	-.37	.09	<.001
	F=5.958, p<.001, R square = .113, Adjusted R square=.094			F=92.697, p<.001, R square = .069, Adjusted square=.069			F=10.572, p<.001, R square = .083, Adjusted square=.075			F=6.930, p<.001, R square = .058, Adjusted square=.049		

5. Discussions

The results showed that Asians were less likely to participate in volunteering activities compared with Whites and African Americans. In addition, Asians spent fewer hours on volunteering compared with those two groups. This finding partially supported previous studies that have found that Asians are less likely to volunteer than Whites. However, in a previous study, Asians were shown to be more likely to volunteer than African Americans and Hispanics (Sundeen et al., 2009), in contrast to the current study. Consistent with the previous studies (Johnson & Lee, 2015), across the groups, personal resources such as education and family income were significantly associated with volunteer participation. This finding indicated that an individual with higher income and education is more likely to volunteer. Further, being female, having more children under 18 years old, and being unemployed were significantly and positively associated with volunteer participation. As Wilson and Music kexplained (1997), female characteristics such as being caring, emphatic, and religious can influence their propensity of volunteering more than male characteristics. Moreover, the traditional female roles of taking care of children and being outside the workforce may also be relevant to their volunteer participation(Musick& Wilson, 2008).This finding aligns with a previous study that reported that Asian Americans volunteer most in religious organizations and children’s educational organizations (Sundeen et al., 2007).

As expected, participation in community meetings and a previous donation experience were also significantly associated with volunteer participation. This finding supports previous studies by confirming that an individual’s trust in his or her community is an important determinant of volunteering (Brown & Ferris, 2007). If individuals are interested in community problems or community matters, they are more likely to attend community meetings and this experience motivates them to volunteer. Further, in terms of previous donation experience, pro-social values can play a role in this mechanism (Shantz et al., 2014).Indeed, as suggested by personality researchers, these activities are influenced by a helping identity (Matsuba et al., 2007). People with pro-social values or a helping identity can be more likely to donate to charitable organizations as well as volunteer. However, the relationship between donation and volunteering can be considered to be bi-directional. For example, Abreu et al. (2015) showed that volunteering is a predictor of donations, rather than outcomes, therefore, cautious interpretations should be made and further research should be conducted to confirm this finding.

Across the groups, immigrants were much less likely for formal organizations than their native-born counterparts. Previous studies have similarly reported that immigrants lack knowledge of the norms of the new culture, have fewer social networks, and struggle with language barriers (Musick & Wilson, 2008; Sundeenet al., 2007; Wang & Handy, 2014). However, for Asian immigrants, U.S. citizenship status was critical because foreign-born, non-naturalized citizens were more likely to be volunteer compared with foreign-born, non-naturalized citizens. This finding is somewhat different from the results for non-Asian groups. This difference may be associated with the characteristics of naturalized Asian American citizens. The t-test and bivariate analyses showed that the citizenship status of the Asian group was significantly associated with household income and education, indicating that foreign-born naturalized citizens were more likely to earn higher income and have higher education compared with foreign-born non-naturalized citizens. Further, as discussed in previous studies, naturalized Asian citizens have a better sense of belongings compared with the non-citizen immigrants and, therefore, are more likely to contribute their time and money to serve communities in the United States.

Our multiple regression analysis predicting volunteer hours showed that citizenship status, community participation, and employment status were significant among Asians. This finding is consistent with the volunteer participation among Asians. Important findings from the results of volunteer participation were marital status and age, which were not significant for volunteer participation (see also Sundeenet al., 2009).

However, age and marital status were shown to be significant predictors of volunteer hours among Asians. This result indicated that older and never married Asians spend more hours volunteering, perhaps because of they have more discretionary time. Interestingly, for Asians, income and education were not significantly associated with volunteer hours. However, for non-Asians, especially for Whites, income and educations were significantly associated with volunteering hours, consistent with the findings on volunteer participation. Matsuba et al. (2007) also noted that education plays a critical role in entry to volunteering but has less long-term commitment.

Further, the cultural norm for Whites with higher income and education is to be involved in volunteering in the long-run. Another possible explanation is that an Asian individual who has a higher level of income and education is more likely to being male and have a full-time job; therefore, they cannot spend more hours on volunteering. In addition, previous donation experience was not significantly associated with volunteer hours, which was distinct from other ethnic/racial groups. This finding indicated that for Asians, donation experience may lead to volunteer participation; however, it may not necessarily lead to a commitment to volunteering by spending more hours. Moreover, the number of children was significant for volunteer participation across the groups including Asians; however, this may not significant for volunteer hours among Asians. Hence, the number of children in the household seems to provide an opportunity for volunteering, but, this may not lead to a long-term commitment to volunteering. Given that volunteer hours are closely related to the continuity of volunteering activities, Asians may be more engaged in one-time or short-term volunteering compared with Whites.

5.1. Limitations and Implications for Future Research

This study has several limitations. First, it used secondary data; therefore, critical variables that may be associated with volunteerism were not included. For example, religious beliefs and religious attendance, language difficulties, and identity with the origin culture, which have consistently been shown to be significant for volunteer participation among minority groups, were not included. Country of origin was also not included in our model; therefore, we could not explain the cultural differences among Asians and how these affect volunteering activities. Given the differences in experiences and status within Asian groups, further research should focus on specific nationality groups. In addition, the dataset did not include information on informal volunteering, which is particularly important to ethnic minorities. Given that ethnic minorities may volunteer less for formal organizations and are more likely to contribute their time to help friends, families, and neighbors (Wang et al., 2013), further studies should compare the factors associated with formal and informal volunteering among Asians. Finally, as Sundeenet al. (2009) pointed out, further research should examine how Asians become involved in formal volunteering, perhaps by using qualitative research methods. Knowing how they start volunteering activity or what motivates them to volunteer can offer implications for how to retain volunteers (Newton, Becker, & Bell, 2014).

Despite the selimitations, this study contributes to research and practice in the area of philanthropy and charity. This paper is one of the few studies in examining volunteer behavior among Asians in the United States. A particular strength of the study is the use of recent national data, which can reflect the current status of volunteering activities among Asians. This study also found that different factors are associated with volunteer participation and volunteer hours among Asians, which has been paid little attentions in previous studies.

Additionally, this study explored volunteering activities among Asians and compared the similarities and differences with other ethnic groups, bridging the gaps in the previous volunteering literature. The inclusion of understudied variables such as a community meeting participation and donation experience can contribute to expanding the theoretical model on volunteer behaviors among ethnic minority groups. Given that novel findings were shown in this study, additional studies should be conducted to compare the similarities and differences of volunteering activities between Asians and other racial/ethnicity groups. Further, as few studies have compared the factors associated with volunteer participation and volunteer hours, a replication of the study with the use of a different dataset is also needed to confirm these findings. Lastly, more in-depth qualitative research regarding volunteering activities among Asian Americans should be conducted to examine their paths to getting involved in involuntary or voluntary activities. Finally, the relationship between donation experience and volunteering activities may be bi-directional; therefore, additional longitudinal research should be conducted to confirm the causal relationships.

5.2. Conclusions and Implications

The findings of the present study can provide practical implications to scholars and practitioners interested in increasing minority involvement in the nonprofit sector. First, the findings show that certain socio demographic characteristics are associated with volunteering, which provides practical insights into the target groups likely to respond to requests to volunteer.

Further, as different socio demographic characteristics are associated with volunteer participation and volunteer hours, this study can provide information on committed volunteers among Asians. As pointed out by Sundeen et al. (2009), the association between the age of entry and volunteering among Asians, Whites, and African Americans can suggest that our educational system does not emphasize civic engagement. Therefore, the integration of the content of civic engagement in to the curriculum is important, especially for immigrants, to motivate them to get more involved in volunteering activities in their later life.

Third, a community meeting participation is a critical factor associated with volunteer participation. Therefore, nonprofit professionals may recruit volunteers from community meetings or gatherings. In addition, nonprofit professionals should also approach donors in their agencies and ask them to get involved in volunteering activities. Fourth, nonprofits professionals in areas with large immigrant populations including Asians need to develop programs to educate immigrants about the benefits of volunteering and actively encourage them to participate. Moreover, volunteer management is particularly important to Asian groups. Nonprofit professionals need to develop management strategies to make one-time short-term volunteers to more committed long-term volunteers. In conclusion, a better understanding of volunteer participation across racial/ethnic groups is important to promote inclusive opportunities for civic engagement among diverse populations.

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