

**OVERVIEW OF VOLUNTOURISM IN TURKEY:
AN IMPLICATION TOWARDS THE EXPERIENCE OF
VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR MOTIVATIONS**

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Abstract

Travelling is an incredible experience of itself. At the same time, travel with a purpose can be even more meaningful. Volunteering Tourism or Voluntourism is one of the ways to travel around the world. Volunteer tourism is a new type of alternative tourism and especially based on a volunteer service.

The purpose of this study is to examine the current state of volunteer tourism in Turkey and a specific form of tourism that is closely related to a range of conception of volunteer tourism in Turkey. With the growth in volunteer tourism, the importance of understanding the factors/ motivations that drive volunteers cannot be overemphasized. This study is also examined motivation of volunteers and their experiences. To quantify this phenomenon, semi-structured interview was used in this study which covered qualitative data collection techniques. The questions received from past studies and developed by researcher and created after the expert opinion. As conclusions of this study, Izmir's voluntary tourist profile and demographic structure of these tourists was examined. The paper also included the reasons and the motivations of tourist to visit Turkey.

Keywords: *Volunteering; Tourism; Voluntourism; Turkey; Izmir*

Introduction

Tourism is an important activity for the global economy that drives thousands of people each year through all continents of the world and provides employment and income (Corti and Castro, 2010). Tourism industry has become mature and new market and product research has started. This quest for new destinations, markets, and products has produced several result including new forms of tourism activities (Günel, 2005).

Volunteer tourism is a form of travel which involves volunteering for a valuable, often charitable cause (Tomazos, 2010). Just as tourism, volunteering also moves thousands of people around the world with the purpose of changing the reality of disadvantaged societies (Corti and Castro, 2010). Therefore, volunteer

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tourism as both a research area and practice has achieved accelerated over the course of the past decade and a half (Coghlan and fennel, 2009). In other words, volunteer tourism began in the late 20th century when both volunteer organizations and international tourism had significant growth.

Volunteer activity has received little attention in the study field of tourism (Uriel et al., 2003). In an attempt to shed light on the range and the complexity of volunteering in the domain of tourism, the current paper provides a complementary analysis to volunteer tourism in Turkey.

Overview of Volunteer Tourism

Volunteer tourism is becoming increasingly important and popular among tourists in different parts of all over the world (Sin, 2009). Volunteer tourism has become increasingly popular under a variety of names: “volunteer tourism”, “volunteer vacation”, “mini mission”, “mission-lite”, “propoor tourism”, “vacation volunteering”, “altruistic tourism”, “service based vacation”, “participatory environmental research” and “voluntourism” (Tomazos, 2010).

Volunteer tourism can be viewed as a tourism activity incorporating volunteer services. As a sector, it combines environmental, cultural and humanitarian issues with an intention to benefit, not only the participants (the tourist element), but also the locals. (Tomazos, 2010).

Volunteering and tourism, at first glance, appear to be unhappy bedfellows representing what might be considered two extremes of leisure behavior. Volunteering has long been associated with altruism and the support of social values and social capital while tourism is, at least stereo-typically, associated with experiences that can be very self-serving. However, a new phenomenon has emerged over the past decade where many are rejecting more hedonistic forms of tourism and are seeking and embracing alternative experiences that focus on the needs of others and the act of volunteering (Lyons et al., 2009).

The growth of alternative tourism has motivated the emergence of many different niche markets, including ‘volunteer tourism,’ which is called as ‘voluntourism’ (Novelli, 2005). Volunteer tourism is one of these new forms that have been especially popular, appealing to the desire of many young people in the developed world to effect a positive change abroad. However, this form of travel is indicative not only of changes in the tourism industry, but of shifts in development ideology and doing something as well. While the phenomenon of volunteer tourism has emerged as a new research topic the ways in which it both reverberate and

contributes to a new logic of development have not been fully analyzed (Vodopivec and Jaffe, 2011).

The main purpose of volunteer tourism is to provide a touristic experience to the volunteer as well as a benefit to the community through the work they do (Wearing, 2001). In Brazil, where the need for help is great, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play an important part in the work to reduce poverty (Domingues and Nöjd, 2012). This and similar cases are observed in many countries.

Volunteer Tourism in Turkey

Traveling is an amazing experience; however, travel with a purpose can be even more meaningful. Volunteering tourism, or voluntourism, is a great way to travel the world and feel great about doing so! Voluntourism programs are focused on a wide variety of areas. These are some of the most popular voluntourism projects and destinations around the world. Table 1 shows some examples of voluntary activities in the world. There are also examples in Turkey. However, studies about voluntourism in Turkey are not as common as it is in the world.

The development of voluntary tourism in Turkey is important. One of the most important points that will influence voluntourism in Turkey is our expatriate. Turkish citizens, who live abroad, generally from the countries are such as Germany, France, and Belgium, are able to take an active role to volunteer tourism development in Turkey. They play important role to teach languages as German, French or Dutch. In this scope, they can play an active role in volunteering tourism in Turkey (Kozak and Türktarhan, 2012). This might just be an important point. But there are some other voluntary work carried out in Turkey. Some of the youth organizations, student clubs at universities, non-governmental organizations or some clubs organize some works related to voluntourism. These institutions can play significant role to bring volunteer tourist to the counties. Their announcements, statement methods and calls for volunteer tourism are important. Some information is needed when volunteer tourist is called. You can see details in examples that are required to bring volunteer tourists.

Table1. Types of Voluntary Works

Types of Volunteering Activity	Examples From The World
Teaching Language	You can teach English to Hungarian children
Nature Children	You can nurture children in Ecuador, working at an orphanage
Helping Care for Disabled Person	You can help care for disabled children.
Health	Medical treatment to patients in local communities
Housing	Building a house for an impoverished family
Community Development	Helping families develop an agricultural business
Conservation and the Environment	Many prominent environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, Earth watch Institute, and the American Hiking Society, offer volunteer opportunities in a variety of unique locations.
Infrastructure Building	Some of infrastructures building organizations that have helped to build and reconstruct communities in many places.
Agriculture and Farming	Many of these opportunities focus on organic farming and environmentally sustainable agricultural techniques. To cut food costs and support local businesses, these opportunities are all about getting healthy foods to one's neighbors.
Archaeology	Archaeology voluntourism experiences allow people to help trained archeologists with digs and excavation sites to help preserve local history and culture.
Human Services	Human services voluntourism work often involves caring for the sick, elderly, and children in orphanages
Teaching	This often involves a 40-hour work week, so you'll need to get your sightseeing in during evenings and weekends.
Creative and Performing Art	These types of opportunities often involve leading workshops related to music, theater, dance, and the visual arts. Local music and art exhibitions that engage children and adults of all ages and strengthen cultural ties are particularly important for volunteer groups.
Disaster Relief	This type of voluntourism often involves removing rubble and building transitional shelters for residents who have been displaced. These are great opportunities if your travel schedule is flexible.

Source: (Lyons and Wearing, 2012; <http://www.travelsense.org/tips/voluntourism.cfm>;<http://www.handsorganization.org/faqvoluntourism>;<http://www.tripstodiscover.com/voluntourism-opportunities-around-the-world/>, 23.11.2014).

Some examples of looking for a volunteer Tourist in Turkey:

Example 1.

TREX-EVS Association looking for EVS volunteer – Izmir/ Turkey

“TREX-EVS (Turkish Ex-EVS Volunteers’ Youth Association) is an Ex-EVS Association located in Izmir and Istanbul. The main office is in Izmir and there is a branch-office in Istanbul. The organization is looking for volunteers for the EVS projects that they plan to have.

Since 2007 TREX-EVS has been trying to promote youth mobility activities in local and national level in order to involve disadvantaged young people into mobility actions. TREX-EVS is an experienced organization in EVS activities and YIA activities. We have been trying to use these actions as a tool for promoting intercultural learning and mutual dialogue.

In Izmir, TREX-EVS has a good collaboration with “Atolye Experiment Art Association”. Atolye Experiment Art organized 1.Street Music Festival in Izmir in 2012. They hosted a music group from Cuba and organized a lovely concert night by the seaside in the city centre. Also Atolye Experiment Art, has been working with disadvantaged children in order to increase their artistic skills. Music workshops, Movie-making workshops are some of their activities.

For 2013, TREX-EVS and Atolye Experiment Art will collaborate for hosting EVS volunteers and creating new projects by adding international color.

There will be 3 volunteers hosted in different periods. Each activity will take place for 6 months.

In each period one volunteer will be hosted.”

The activity periods are;

September 2013 – February 2014

April 2014 – September 2014

October 2014 – March 2015

Project Themes are: *Art, Culture and Children.*

Volunteers should be motivated or experienced in working with disadvantaged children.

Project place: Izmir / Turkey (<http://finddevs.com/2013/01/15/trex-evs-association-looking-for-evs-volunteer-izmir-turkey/>, 24.11.2014).

This is reliable information that volunteers can reach. The information should be clear and understandable. It should include information such as about organization, volunteering program, place and time, activity period and project themes. Another example of this would be as follows;

Example 2.

“Volunteer project: *Volunteers in this project will work for the social integration of people with disabilities through art and sport. The project base is a multipurpose center in a village nearby Kas, Antalya in the south-west of Turkey. In this venue, people with disabilities, who have been excluded from mainstream educational opportunities, have the chance to get education in various fields such as painting, rhythm, instrumental training, dj, drama, photography, sculpture, ceramics, personal development, sign language as well as sports education such as scuba diving, swimming, sailing, canoeing, boat skipping, trekking, various outdoor trainings, yoga and pilates, etc.*

Volunteers who are willing to work with and for disabled people are welcome. Although we do not require a nonstop working effort, volunteers are supposed to dedicate their time and energy when needed. Your help is required all day long, with breaks of course. You can help with the overall running of the site in different fields. Volunteers who can undertake more than just one task will be preferred. The work fields are as follows:

- 1. Kitchen: Food preparation / cooking / table setting / food serving / dish washing.*
- 2. Field: General cleaning of all units / fixing buildings, boats, bikes, instruments / gardening both in main facility and in eco farm / animal care (mainly horses), farming, harvesting, landscaping.*

3. *Training as artist or assistant or just helper: Art workshops (painting, dance, rhythm, instrument, dj, drama, photography, sculpture, ceramics, handicraft) / courses (PC, foreign languages, personal development, sign language) / reading & library management / sport (swimming, scuba diving, sailing, rowing, canoeing, trekking, outdoor sports, volleyball, badminton, biking, bocce, climbing, archery) / boat skipping / various outdoor trainings / yoga and pilates.*
4. *Organization: Entertainment and event organization / indoor – outdoor games, driving & transportation / short trip guiding / health care & first aid / free time activities.*
5. *Administration: Office work (web and social media support / design, graphic design / administrative assistance / leading volunteers.”*

Special requirements: *A motivation letter, specifying in which field you can volunteer, should be sent with the application form.*

Language: *English*

Accommodation: *In a volunteer dormitory, but if there is a group of people with disabilities hosted, then under tents. Usually such groups arrive in May, but just in case. Sleeping bag and mat are necessary. If you prefer privacy you can also bring your own tent.*

Location: *Kas is one of the most popular coastal towns in southern Turkey. The center is in a small village, 11 km away from the Kas City Center.*

Terminal: *Kas*

Age range: *18 and over (<http://www.cadip.org/volunteer-in-turkey.htm>, 24.11.2014).*

In addition to the previous example, project themes, special requirements, language, accommodation, location, terminal and age range added in this example.

Volunteer tourism attempt can be either domestic or international. They can also alter in duration, depending on the project and the volunteer organization involved (Tomazos, 2010). Some of the name of volunteer abroad programs in Turkey (<http://www.goabroad.com/volunteer-abroad/search/turkey/volunteer-abroad-1>, 24.11.2014):

- Travel for Less! Teach English in Turkey
- Volunteers For Peace - Discover the world by volunteering!
- Become an English Conversation Volunteer Abroad (ECV)
- LEAPNOW: Transforming Education
- Eco Farm - Yoga & Art
- CADIP - Canadian Alliance for Development Initiatives and Projects
- Volunteers for International Partnership
- Volunteers for Marine Mammal Research in Turkey
- Turkey & Greece: Mediterranean Initiative
- EKAD (Ecological Research Society)

The conception of voluntourism spreads across a wide range of organizations that used travel as a mechanism for engaging people in projects that

aided communities, the environment and science. The success of volunteer tourism has created numerous commercial organizations who have entered the market, shifting the organizations engaged in this area from the not for profit to the commercial, through what we suggest is a process of commodification. Great increases in the number of commercial operators motivated by profits have also changed the face of volunteer tourism (Wearing and McGehee, 2013) as it happened in Turkey. The larger organizations that can help with finding volunteer opportunities are listed below;

Table 2. The larger organizations that can help with finding volunteer opportunities in Turkey

Name	websites
Gençtur	www.genctur.com
TaTuTa	www.bugday.org/bugdaygil/Tatuta
EIL UK	www.eiluk.org
Workaway	www.workaway.info
UNA Exchange	www.unaexchange.org
Involvement Volunteers	www.volunteering.org.au
Conservation Volunteers Australia	www.conservationvolunteers.com.au
Volunteer Action for Peace	www.vap.org.uk
Volunteers for Peace	www.vfp.org
American Jewish Joint distribution Committee	www.jdc.org
European Voluntary Service Youth in Action Program	www.britishcouncil.org/youthinaction

Source:<http://www.the-working-traveller.com/volunteer-work-in-turkey/>, 24.11.2014

The studies about voluntourism in Turkey are not as common as it is in the world. However volunteer tourism organizations in Turkey are regulated extensively as we can see the name of volunteer abroad programs and organizations that can help with finding volunteer opportunities. In addition to these activities, there are more things to be done.

Increasing youth organizations, student clubs at universities and non-governmental organizations participation through volunteer tourism in Turkey will be able to ensure the development of destinations through these clubs and organizations. In this context, The Higher Education Authority or the Ministry of Culture and Tourism need to forming "Young Ambassadors Club" as a pioneer (Kozak ve Türktarhan, 2012) to ensure the active participation of student clubs at universities and youth organizations in volunteer tourism.

Methodology

Semi-structured interview is used in this study which covered qualitative data collection techniques. As a data collection tool is used semi-structured interview form earlier interview questions. Participants are composed of volunteers in Izmir.

Interviews followed a semi-structured format, allowing for detailed follow-up on any issue. The interview schedule contained open questions on two themes which mirrored those used in the questionnaire survey: Demographic characteristics of the participants and volunteering motivation. Analysis of interview data involved categorization of responses into a number of specific themes (thematic content analysis), in relation to the specific style of safety management employed by each participant.

12 volunteers were interviewed in 2015. Interviews took place at the site of the volunteer's offices and where they worked as volunteers, and took between 30 minutes and 1 hour to complete. Each interview was recorded at the permission of the respondent, and respondents were informed of their participants' rights according to the human ethics requirements, notably the confidential nature of their participation and their right to refuse to answer any question or withdraw from the survey at any point. The process of analysis evolved from concrete to more abstract categories.

Data Analysis

According to the research problem and purpose, open-ended questions posed to the participants. This questionnaire received from past work and developed by researcher and created after the expert opinion. Open-ended questions addressed to the participants during the face to face interviews. And it is supported by such questions; "could you give me more information about it?", "Could you give some examples?".

A total of 12 volunteers were identified from the database. Table 3 shows the distribution of volunteers by age group, gender, marital status, educational qualification, origin, current position, the language that they can speak and respond to the following questions; "How did you find out about this?", How long are you here? How did you fund your volunteering? Do you speak Turkish?

The demographic profile of the respondents is presented in Table 3. There were 7 (58, 3 %) male and 5 (41, 7%) female respondents. The numbers of female

participants are more than the male participants. The results show that woman's care more than male to be voluntary as it is seen in the results of Brown, 2005. The results are in line.

There were two (16, 6%) married respondents and ten (83, 4%) single respondents related to marital status. The vast majority of volunteers were single. The interviews shows that, people can more easily leave their home countries and stay longer for the volunteer activities.

Table 3. Personal Profiles of Respondents

Socio-Demographic Characteristics					
Gender	N	%	Age Group	N	%
Male	7	58,3	17 or younger	-	0,00
Female	5	41,7	18 - 24	4	33,33
Marital Status	N	%	25 -31	7	58,33
Married	2	16,6	32 - 38	1	8,33
Single	10	83,4	39 - 45	-	0,00
Educational Qualification	N	%	46 - 52	-	0,00
Primary school	-	0,00	53 or over	-	
Secondary School	-	0,00	How Many Foreign Languages Speaks	N	%
Bachelor Degree	8	66,67	None	-	
Master Degree	3	8,33	1	5	41,67
Doctoral Degree	1	25,00	2	5	41,67
Current Position	N	%	3 or over	2	16,67
Employee	1	8,33	Origin	N	%
Government official	3	25,00	Asia	2	16,67
Housewife/Man or Career	-	0,00	Europe	7	58,33
Retired	-	0,00	America	1	8,33
Student	2	16,67	Africa	1	8,33
Unemployed	2	16,67	Australia	1	8,33
Others	4	33,33			

The education level of the respondents is classified into 5 groups such as "Primary School", "Secondary School", "Bachelor Degree" and "Master degree and Doctoral Degree". As a result of the applied analysis, it is determined that the main educational level was "Bachelor Degree" (66, 67%). All of the volunteers have bachelor degree or higher education levels. According to the research, participants in the voluntary activities are generally high level of educated people.

Most respondents described themselves as the “others” 33, 33% (n=4) for the question that current position. Three of them described their current position as a Government official worker, 25, 00 % (n=3). According to information obtained during the interviews, participants generally work in multinational companies and they are working for the job which is related with project or organization.

In terms of age group, most popular answer was “25-31”, representing 58, 33% (n=7) of the respondents. The next 6 age groups were "17 or younger" 0, 00% (n=0), "18-24" 33, 33 % (n=4), "32-38" 8, 33% (n=1), "39-45" 0, 00% (n=0), "46-52" 0, 00 % (n=0) and “43 or over” 0, 00 % (n=0). In terms of age group, generally the young generation is interested in voluntary work as it concluded from the numbers. According to Brown’s (2005) research, individuals between the ages of 35 and 44 years old make up the largest group of volunteers. It is observed that middle-aged volunteers are more interested to be volunteerism. The numbers are important to make comparisons. Cheung, Michel and Miller (2010) research findings show that (60%) aged 20 – 39. More than half of the volunteers are that this result supports our research (<https://voluntourismgal.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/voluntourism-give-a-little-gain-a-lot.pdf>, 20.11.2014).

Five of the respondents can speak 1 foreign language, 41, 67% (n=5), another five can speak 2 foreign language, 41, 67% (n=5). And there were 2 (16, 67%) respondents that can speak 3 or more languages. The results show that volunteers can speak at least one foreign language. This situation has been observed that empowers them.

Most respondents described themselves as a “European” 58, 33% (n=7). This can be attributed to the geographical proximity. This result can be reached from the question, “Why did you choose to come to Turkey?” Geographical proximity was one of the given answers. Two of respondents described themselves as an “Asian”. One of the respondents was from “Continent of American”, the other one was from “Continent of African” and the last one was from “Continent of Australia”.

Table 4.The respondents’ Finding Volunteering

First Information Resources		
Themes and Codes	N	%
Friends	5	41,67
Stands	2	16,67
Internet	2	16,67
Volunteering organizations	2	16,67
Personal connection	1	8,33

Five of our respondents answered “Friends” as a first information resource for funding their volunteering programs. Two of them have found through the “Stands”, two of them have found through the “Internet”, two of them have found through the “Volunteering Organizations” and one of them have found through the “Personal Connection”.

Many of the respondents in this study mentioned “Different Cultures” as a reason to why they wanted to go to Turkey; the answers were not only the typical tourist areas but also they wanted to see the “real” community. We identified 17 reasons explaining why the respondents have chosen to go to Turkey to do volunteer work (some respondents mentioned several reasons).

Table 5. The respondents’ reasons for choosing Turkey

Destination Preference		
Themes and Codes	N	%
Internship	1	8,33
Different cultures	8	66,67
Scope of the organization	1	8,33
Improve language	3	25,00
Meeting friends	2	16,67
Curiosity for the country	3	25,00
Different religions	3	25,00
Former experiences	2	16,6
Different geographies	2	16,67
Women’s support	1	8,33
Geographical proximity	2	16,67
Migrants	1	8,33
Cultural similarities	1	8,33
Rural life	1	8,33
Troubled country	1	8,33
Comparison	1	8,33
Weather	1	8,33

For three of the volunteers were curious for the country, and they thought they would improve their languages and they would have the chance to see a different religion. Some of them gave some interesting answers. As one of the respondent said, “I am more interested in women’s rights and I was looking for volunteer programs that I could help to women’s”. Another one of the respondents said, “I would like to learn the difference and similarity between two neighbor countries”. Some of respondents mentioned that they had always wanted to visit Turkey as one of their reasons. They did not know why, just had a longing to go to Turkey and that is why they have chosen the country. Two people also told us that

“meeting with friends”, “former experiences”, “different geography” and “geographical proximity” were the main reasons for choosing Turkey.

During our interviews, we asked our respondents why they wanted to work as volunteers (Table 6). We varied response (some respondents mentioned several reasons):

Tablo6. The respondents’ reasons for volunteering

“Reason for volunteering		
Themes and Codes	N	%
Friends	1	8,33
Interesting projects	1	8,33
Meeting with new people	4	33,33
Relaxation environment	1	8,33
Learning language	3	25,00
Understanding different cultures	6	50,00
Personal development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-knowledge ▪ Develop their skills ▪ Self-motivation ▪ Self-esteem ▪ Helping themselves ▪ Personal evolution ▪ self-confidence 	8	66,67
Cultural communication	2	16,67
Entrepreneurship	1	8,33
Helping young people	1	8,33
Developing their own country	1	8,33
Make other lives better / Helping People in need	3	25,00
For an interesting experience	1	8,33
Learning new things	1	8,33
Believe in human equality	1	8,33
Develop social communication	1	8,33
Responsibility	3	25,00

For eight volunteers, the intrinsic wish of “Personal Development” was mentioned as a major motivator; which is including “self-knowledge, development of skills, self-motivation, self-esteem, helping themselves, personal evolution, and self-confidence”.

Second common motivator was the “understanding different cultures”. Six of the volunteers answered this question understand Turkish culture as a different culture. During our interviews, volunteers were willing to spent time with the locals and travel the rural areas.

One of the other important motivator was “meeting with new people”. “Learning language”, “Responsibility feeling” and “making other lives better/Helping People in need” was observed as important motivators. Three of volunteers said they were motivated with “helping people in need”. One of these volunteers said, “Travelling is more satisfying when you can help the people at the same time”.

“Friends, interesting projects, relaxation environment, entrepreneurship, helping young people, develop their own country, for an interesting experience, learning new things, believing in human equality, develop social communication” were the remaining motivation factors.

Much of the debate about the motivations for volunteer tourists centers on the “self-interest versus altruism” issue, which is certainly unique from mainstream tourism (Wearing, 2013). According to research of McIntosh and Zahra (2007), main motivation for undertaking the volunteer project was not primarily related to sightseeing but to volunteering. Brown’s (2005) research say that four major motivational themes appear to take shape concerning why individuals volunteer while on a leisure trip: cultural immersion, giving back, seeking camaraderie and seeking educational and bonding opportunities. Callanan and Thomas (2005) research shows that volunteer tourist motivation includes three types, shallow, intermediate and deep volunteer tourists, and based on six main criteria: destination, duration of project, focus of experience (self-interest versus altruistic), qualifications, active versus passive participation, and level of contribution. Brown (2005) and Callanan and Thomas (2005) found that there are four motivations that strengthen volunteer tourism: cultural immersion, making a difference, seeking camaraderie, and family bonding. Seibert and Benson (2009) found five main essential motives: to experience something different/new, to meet people, to learn, about another country and culture, to live in another country, and to broaden one’s mind. There are similarities and common aspects of this research among others.

Since all volunteers had different reasons to embark on this adventure, their expectations are different. Some had personal expectations, such as personal development, develop personal skill, personal evolution, improving language,

personal experience, personal knowledge, spending quality time and meeting new people. Others were expecting a more (or less) developed country. Some of them were nervous and anxious about the county. Table 7 shows the reasons that were mentioned by respondents (some respondents mentioned several reasons).

Table 7.The respondents' expectations on volunteering

Previous expectations		
Themes and Codes	N	%
Personal expectations	11	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal development ▪ Personal evolution ▪ Develop personal skill ▪ Improving language ▪ Personal experience ▪ Personal knowledge ▪ Spending quality time ▪ Meeting new people 		91,67
Expect to observe a different culture	2	16,67
Being nervous and anxious	2	16,67
Expected more support to execute their task	2	16,67
Expect to contribute to society	2	16,67
Located in the social responsibility project	1	8,33
Strengthen communication	1	8,33
Different lifestyle	1	8,33
Expected a less developed country (close society)	1	8,33
Strengthen the team work	1	8,33
No expectations	1	8,33

The expectations about volunteering were very different. Two of them expected to “observe a different culture, contribute to society and more support to execute their task”. Two of our respondents mentioned that they were nervous and anxious before came the county and one of them was expected a less developed country (close society). As one of the respondent said, “I was waiting so different life style and expecting more close society because of the religion and nationalist structure”.

The other Volunteers' expectations can be listed as, “located in the social responsibility project; strengthen communication; take a different lifestyle; strengthen the team work”. One of our respondent said that he had no expectations before. He just packed his staff and took a flight.

It was observed that most of the 91, 67% (n=11) volunteers' expectations had been satisfied.

Table 8.The respondents' satisfied on volunteering

Realization of expectations		
Themes and Codes	N	%
Yes	11	91,67
No	1	8,33

One of the respondents said that, "Absolutely yes. I had an experience even above my expectations. I noticed that the end of my social learning process did not finish. I believe that continuous improvement is required". Nevertheless, one of the respondents said his expectation was not satisfied. He said that they did not take enough support that they expected from the organizations which helped to found volunteer opportunities.

As well as a high degree of satisfaction in this research, Cheung, Michel and Miller (2010) research findings show that most of the voluntourists would recommend a volunteer vacation and would likely go again ([https://voluntourismgal.files.wordpress.com /2011/08/voluntourism-give-a-little-gain-a-lot.pdf](https://voluntourismgal.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/voluntourism-give-a-little-gain-a-lot.pdf), 20.11.2014). A similar result was found in Brown (2005) in the heat of the study. According to demonstrate in his research, volunteering concept brings about a higher level of trip satisfaction.

Table 9 reveals that all of the volunteers provided benefit from their volunteerism experience. All the answers to the questions, "do you feel like you have gained something from your experience?" were yes.

Table 9.The respondents' perceived gain and how it will affect them

Acquisition Status		
Themes and Codes	N	%
Yes	12	100
No	-	0

One of the respondents said, "This opportunity allows me to gain the skill and realize my social development potential". Other one said, "We are all together from many countries. It was great luck to human interaction. And we received training about people with disabilities and I think it will be very useful". Another respondent said, "To be volunteer can be seen as to do something for someone not

for yourself. But it is wrong. There is actually two-sided win. It's important for doing something useful and also for your own development”.

Conclusion

It's quite common mistake to think of volunteering as a good behavior that people can do. Volunteer tourism not only includes volunteering activities, but also is a form of tourism, and tourism is consumption-based (Mustonen, 2007). For example, volunteer tourists must sometimes fly to destinations and be transported to remote village locations, which can affect the host destination's environment. Mustonen's (2007) research says that tourists may explain that they are worried about global issues, but they do not always consider these issues when booking a trip.

There are many factors that affect volunteers. It is important to understand what motivates people to volunteer while on vacation. Not everyone is motivated by the same ideas or interests which is evident in the noticeable differences between the altruistic volunteer and the adventure tourist. This study keeps light to be volunteer tourist with the main steps such as first information resources, destination preference, reason for volunteering, previous expectations, realization of expectations, acquisition status. Key findings of this research focus on two interrelated themes. Firstly, demographic characteristic of volunteers, secondly motivation to be volunteers. It means feelings that they experienced.

When we examine the Turkish literature and world researches, It is observing that volunteer tourism, i.e. voluntourism, increasingly important all over the world. And the people' interest is also increasing in voluntary programs. In this context, it is increasing the importance of the work done on volunteer tourism. Volunteer tourism benefits are not only for the area where the activity is carried out, but also create a benefit for the participants. It is creating two-way gain in a mainly. Volunteer tourism has benefits to individuals, local communities, countries and relatively to the world peace. In this regard, studies in this area are important in many respects.

This study has provided interesting insights on the individuals' experience in volunteer tourism in Turkey. For the increase of volunteer tourism, volunteer organizations, youth organizations, student clubs at universities and non-governmental organizations need to work more. And it is hoped that these study will be starting point for further research and discussion for Turkey. And also more research focusing on the perspectives of volunteer tourism is needed.

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