

VOLUNTEERING AND FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES: AN
ALTERNATIVE PATH TO GAINING EXPERIENCE**Haytboyeva Husniyabonu Hursandbek qizi**

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Annotation. This article analyzes the role of volunteering in the professional development of youth. Volunteering is explored as an alternative means of gaining experience and its importance in increasing youth employment opportunities is highlighted. Based on the author's personal volunteering experiences, the article discusses the development of leadership, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and professional skills. The paper also examines how volunteer work is reflected on résumés, employers' perspectives on volunteering, and how it facilitates professional networking. Real examples from both international and local volunteering practices illustrate the impact of volunteering on young people's future careers.

Keywords: Volunteering, youth, work experience, leadership, networking, communication, professional development, international volunteering, ecological volunteering, tourism, translation, media, career

Thesis. In today's job market, young people's employability depends not only on their education level but also on their practical experience. Many employers focus on a candidate's past experiences when hiring. Therefore, volunteering holds significant value for youth. Through volunteering, young people not only contribute to society but also gain essential personal and professional experience.

The author's volunteering activities span various fields: organizing ecological events, working as an interpreter at international forums, engaging with youth in the tourism sector, and conducting trainings in the media field. These experiences provide practical insights into how volunteering enhances employability.

Skills Gained Through Volunteering

1. Leadership and Teamwork

Volunteering activities help develop leadership skills. For instance, the author, as a mentor-trainer at the Khorezm Volunteers Association, has contributed to training volunteers and enhancing their experience. This work helped shape team collaboration and management abilities.

2. Communication and International Experience

International volunteering fosters intercultural communication skills. Participating in the Global Youth Festival Uzbekistan 2024 as a volunteer interpreter enabled the author to interact with participants from different countries and improve language proficiency.

3. Problem-Solving and Organizational Skills

Unexpected challenges are common in volunteer projects. For example, while organizing Clean Games, the author gained experience in community engagement, event logistics, and managing environmental issues.

4. New Technical and Professional Skills

Through volunteering, young people can acquire new technical and professional competencies. For example, the MediaCamp Uzbekistan 2024 enhanced the author's knowledge in the media field, including content creation and information dissemination techniques.

How Volunteering Increases Employability

1. Including Volunteer Experience in Resumes

Many international and local employers value volunteer experience. Volunteer work should be highlighted on a résumé not merely as "extracurricular activity," but as genuine professional experience.

2. Employers' Perceptions of Volunteering

Candidates with volunteer experience are often perceived by employers as proactive, responsible, and engaged individuals.

3. Networking Through Volunteering

Volunteering creates opportunities to connect with professionals from various fields and open doors to new prospects. For example, applying for the ICYF International Young Volunteers Camp 2025 has enabled the author to build international networks and exchange experiences.

In conclusion, volunteering is an alternative and valuable path for youth to gain experience, contributing not only to society but also to their personal and professional development. Achieving success in any field requires more than theoretical knowledge—practical experience is equally important. Today, volunteering plays a vital role in improving the employment prospects of young people.

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