

The social and economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives

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Abstract:

The study aimed to determine the level of social return for women's voluntary participation in community initiatives, as well as to determine the level of economic return for women's voluntary participation in community initiatives. This study belongs to evaluation studies, and used the comprehensive social survey method for female volunteers in community initiatives in the civil society organizations under study in Cairo Governorate, numbering (113) individuals. The researchers applied a questionnaire form to the female volunteers. The results of the study proved that the level of social return for women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is high, as the dimensions came in order (reinforcing the social values acquired from voluntary participation, strengthening women's social relations, developing life skills acquired from voluntary participation, developing knowledge acquired from voluntary participation). The results of the study also proved that the level of economic return for women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is high, as the dimensions came in order (improving women's standard of living, improving women's income level, increasing opportunities for women to obtain suitable work, satisfying women's basic needs). Finally, the results of the study proved that there is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers according to (marital status - educational qualification) with regard to their determination of the level of social and economic return for participation. Women's volunteerism in community initiatives .

Key Words: Social And Economic Return - Voluntary Participation - Community Initiatives.

Introduction:

The progress of societies is measured by the investment of all their human resources. Women constitute half of Egyptian society, and the state is keen to empower them and enable them to participate in the development process (Janne, 2019, p. 214).

Egyptian society's interest in women's volunteer participation is due to statistics indicating that the percentage of women in Egyptian society has reached 51.5 million, representing 48.6% of the total population (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, 2024, p. 4).

The results of studies by Al-Suwaian (2016) and Al-Qahtani (2021) demonstrated an increase in the rate of women's participation in volunteer work and the diversity of ways women participate in helping others with money, effort, and all forms of support. They recommended developing strategic visions to raise women's awareness of the importance of volunteer activities.

As a result of this increase, the Egyptian state adopted a new strategic approach to instill a culture of women's volunteer participation in society, raising awareness of the importance of their vital role in societal progress and development (Al-Khawli, 2022).

Therefore, women's voluntary participation in community development is an investment in a significant human resource that must be addressed and empowered. It is illogical to expect women to demonstrate personal and societal responsibility and contribute voluntarily to community affairs without a supportive physical, social, political, and cultural environment (Hijazi, 2019, p. 133).

The results of a study by Hyunok (2022) demonstrated that women's participation in voluntary activities plays a significant role in supporting society. They also found that the social and political meaning of women's voluntary work, as well as the types of changes necessary to recognize women's voluntary work in society, must be appropriately rewarded.

Women's voluntary participation in community initiatives helps integrate them, consolidates ethical principles, fosters a sense of security, belonging, and connection with others, and increases awareness of community issues (Mustafa et al., 2024, p. 553).

Community initiatives are large-scale, multifaceted community investments in underserved communities, often undertaken by charitable organizations with the participation of community members to address community problems comprehensively. (Kubisch and Dewar, 2011).

The results of the study by Zaff and Anderson (2015) confirmed the importance of initiatives in making a difference in the lives of community members, as they help develop knowledge, skills, and values and improve the quality of life in society through both political and non-political processes.

Women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is reflected in their social and economic returns. Social returns are the knowledge, skills, and social values that community members acquire

as a result of their participation in programs and projects, based on a cost-benefit analysis (EAST, 2015, p. 2).

The social returns include the advancement and cognitive growth of community members, the development of their skills, the formation of ethical values in dealing with community members and organizations, and the strengthening of values of dealing with others, constructive dialogue, and respect among community members (Hough, 2017, p. 14).

In terms of social returns, we find that women's voluntary participation in community initiatives has positive effects in enhancing community security through their participation in addressing these issues. Some social and economic problems (Al-Qarni, 2022, p. 164).

The results of a study by Princes (2018) confirmed that among the social returns of women's volunteer programs is empowering them and transforming them from passive recipients to active participants in service provision, participating in decision-making, and developing their life skills.

Women's volunteer participation also helps empower them, develop their abilities and skills, and increase their opportunities for volunteer work (Al-Mawlawi, 2023).

Studies by Al-Qadibi (2015) and Morsi (2020) confirmed that women's volunteer participation helps volunteers acquire knowledge related to community needs and problems, as well as acquire skills in teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

The relevant authorities are planning and implementing initiatives to empower women, support them socially, raise their awareness, and build their capacities through education and training to fulfill their roles and enhance their competencies in community work at various levels. This was confirmed by the results of a study by Hijazi (2019).

The results of studies by both Al-Qadibi and Morsi (2020) also confirmed that Korinne (2012) and Bulandra (2018) stated that women's participation in initiatives contributes to bringing about change, solving life problems, and providing them with experience and skills.

The economic returns include improving income levels, increasing opportunities for suitable employment, meeting basic needs, and improving the standard of living for community members (Hough, 2017, p. 14).

Women participate in volunteer work in community initiatives to provide a better life for their families (Romero, 2015, p. 289).

The results of Hassan's study (2019) confirmed the importance of community initiatives as a fundamental mechanism for empowering women economically, professionally, and socially by developing their skills and professional abilities, their ability to create and innovate, and providing them with the opportunity to control their resources and increase their ability to make decisions in work, production, and marketing.

The results of Mahmoud and Al-Abbadi's study (2021) also confirmed the importance of women's initiatives in encouraging women to enter the labor market through manual skills, small production projects, and educating women in various fields.

Also, The economic returns from women's volunteering in community initiatives depend on social class, and volunteering has a positive impact on volunteers' income. This was confirmed by the results of a study (Sauer et al., 2019).

The social work profession seeks to empower individuals and provide them with security and protection (Adams, et al., 2005, p. 200). Community organizing is one of the methods of social service that contributes to providing essential services to community members, meeting their needs, and helping them acquire basic skills that enable them to participate in the social and economic system of their community, thus increasing the social and economic returns from their volunteer participation In community programs and initiatives (Deepa, 2023, p. 27).

Therefore, in light of the above, the current study attempts to determine the level of social and economic returns from women's voluntary participation in social initiatives.

The importance of the study:

1. Egyptian society's interest in women and their role in development is due to their increasing numbers. Statistics indicate that the percentage of women in Egyptian society has reached 51.5 million, representing 48.6% of the total population (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, 2024, p. 4).
2. Women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is essential to unleashing women's energies in all areas of volunteer work, based on the belief in their ability to contribute to community development.

3. The impact of women's voluntary participation on improving their social and economic returns to society.
4. The importance of analyzing the social and economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives in the field of specialization to enrich the theoretical framework or practical aspect of the profession and the method of organizing society.

Objectives of the study:

1. Determine the level of social return on women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.
2. Determine the level of economic return on women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.

Study hypotheses:

First hypothesis: The level of social return of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is expected to be high. **This hypothesis can be tested through the following variables:** Developing (knowledge- life skills- strengthening social values - strengthening women's social relations) acquired from voluntary participation

Second hypothesis: The economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives are expected to be high. **This hypothesis can be tested through the following variables:** (Increasing opportunities for women to obtain suitable work- satisfying women's basic needs- improving women's standard of living- improving women's income level).

Third hypothesis: There is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers according to social status with regard to their determination of the level of social and economic return of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.

fourth hypothesis: here is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers according to educational qualifications with regard to their determination of the level of social and economic return of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.

Theoretical directions of the study: - Feminist theory

feminist theory concepts relevant to social work practice are: interconnectedness, reciprocity, mutuality, ambiguity, power and citizenship.

1. Interdependence: refers to the development of social relationships, i.e., the bonds that bind them together within a framework of mutuality.
2. Reciprocity and reciprocity: These are the cornerstones of equal relationships, allowing each person involved in an exchange to contribute their own strengths to the interaction. Teamwork, interdependence, reciprocity, and reciprocity all generate social solidarity.
3. Ambiguity manifests itself in women's roles as caregivers, when women feel a dual responsibility: they are responsible for others and want to help them, while at the same time they want to be free of responsibility and focus on themselves.
4. Citizenship: Relies on interdependence, reciprocity, and reciprocity to build social solidarity, through which individuals accept responsibility for one another and commit to a shared common good, ensuring that the well-being of the individual is the concern of all.(Lena Dominelli,2002)

The justifications for using this theory are due to the fact that it fits with the current study and includes the indicators that the researchers want to measure and related to the social return, namely (development of knowledge gained from voluntary participation, development of life skills gained from voluntary participation, strengthening social values gained from voluntary participation, strengthening women's social relations), as well as related to the economic return, namely (increasing opportunities to get a suitable job for women, satisfying the basic needs of women, improving the standard of living for women, improving the income level of women).

Study concepts:

1. Concept of Social-economic return:

Return: means actually achieved goals, they may be economic or social, and therefore measured by quantitative and qualitative measures (Lynch, 2014, p28).

Return is a concept that has been associated with the economic aspects of increasing the income of individuals, increasing their productive capacities ,increasing investments, as well as with the social aspects of: increasing the scientific capacity of individuals,

increasing the ability of individuals to innovate, preserving social values and cultural heritage (Olsen, et al, 2012, p6).

The economic return is the cost that is sacrificed in order to obtain a higher income in the future (Al-Hawli, 2014, p.2).

As for the social return, it is all the knowledge gained by people, the skills they have been able to develop, the growth and maturity they have achieved, the values and trends they have adopted, as well as the new economic and social activities the project has introduced into society, new values and traditions that are valid, and the improvement of development rates through influencing special variables (Hashem, 1993, p.1).

The procedural definition for social return in this study is:

1. Development of knowledge for women volunteers through participation in community initiatives activities and the preparation of research related to community problems.
2. Developing the life skills of volunteer women through their ability to manage time and face their problems on their own.
3. Strengthening the social values of women volunteers by taking social responsibility towards the community and supporting other groups .
4. Strengthening the social relations of women volunteers by maintaining social ties and contributing to voluntary charity work.

The procedural definition for economic return in this study is:

1. Increasing the chances of women volunteers to get a suitable job by providing them with the skills required for the labor market.
2. Satisfying the basic needs of women volunteers by volunteering through community initiatives.
3. Improving the standard of living of women volunteers by enabling them to deal with life pressures.
4. Improve the income level of women volunteers by providing them with the skills of managing a project that provides income for their family.

2. Concept of Voluntary participation:

Participation in the dictionary (Webster, 2003, p14) is meant as the activity carried out by participants or gathered in a single process and is the reality of a situation related to major interests.

Voluntary participation is defined as " the process of positive participation in the implementation of programs and projects that citizens feel satisfy real needs that benefit them and their society (Gad, 2017, p.11).

The procedural definition for voluntary participation in this study is:

1. The contribution of women to the activities of community initiatives on a regular basis .
2. Through participation in community programs and projects for the social and economic benefit .

3. Concept of community initiatives:

Initiative in the dictionary (Webster,2003,p.652) is meant as the first step or the ability to start a future business .

Community initiatives are defined as a special system developed by a community organization or a number of community organizations with the aim of making a positive contribution to the life of the community by helping local residents to take practical actions to solve their problems (robert, 2020).

The procedural definition for community initiatives in this study is:

1. volunteer efforts of a non-profit organization.
2. it aims to provide women with the knowledge, experience and skills necessary to improve their social and economic level .
3. it includes activities to develop women's awareness of the needs and problems of society and develop their abilities to deal with these problems .
4. the initiatives provide opportunities for women to cooperate and work together to provide many services and activities to raise their standard of living and for the benefit of society as a whole .

Methodological Procedures of the Study:

(1)- Type of the Study: This study is one of the evaluative studies that aims to measure the social and economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.

(2)- Methodology: This study relied on using the comprehensive social survey method for female volunteers in community initiatives in the civil society organizations under study in Cairo Governorate, numbering (113) individuals.

(3)- Study Tools: Questionnaire form for female volunteers on the social and economic returns of women's volunteer participation in community initiatives (N=113).

Tool Validity: The researchers applied content validity on the tool through review of literature and theoretical frameworks, followed by analyzing the literature, research, and studies to determine the different dimensions related to the problem of the.

The researchers also applied face validity on the tool. They presented the tool to five faculty members at the Faculty of Social Work, Helwan University. Consensus reached 80% on the tool validity. The researchers eliminated some statements, and reformulated others, then produced the tool in its final form.

Tool Reliability: Reliability of the tool: The researchers relied on calculating the reliability of the volunteer questionnaire by using the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the estimated reliability values of the tool, by applying it to a sample of (10) volunteers (outside the study community), and it was found that the reliability coefficients for the dimensions enjoy a high degree of reliability.

It was found that the stability coefficients of the dimensions enjoy a high degree of stability, as follows:

Table No (1): The results of the stability of the volunteers' questionnaire.

Volunteers (n=10)	Dimensions of social return	Dimensions of economic return	Dimensions of the tool as a whole
Dimensions			
Number of statements	20	20	20
Coefficient value	0.838	0.929	0.937
Degree of reliability	high degree	high degree	high degree

The previous table demonstrates that the reliability coefficients for the dimensions of the volunteer questionnaire are highly stable, accurate, and reliable. The instrument is now in its final form, and its results are therefore reliable. Furthermore, its results are generalizable to the study population.

(4)- Study Fields:

- 1. Location Field:** The study was implemented in Arab Women Leaders Union in Nasr City, Arab Union for Sustainable Social Development in the Fifth Settlement, Comprehensive Development Association in El Marg. **The Foundation was chosen based on the following criteria :**(The goals of these associations include encouraging women's volunteer participation., These associations contribute to the implementation of numerous community initiatives., Presence of a large number of volunteers in the Foundation).

2. Human Field:

Table (2): The distribution of female volunteers in community initiatives in civil society organizations in the study community is shown.

Sr.	civil society organizations	Dependency	Number of volunteers	stability sample
1	Arab Women Leaders Union in Nasr City	Cairo Governorate	35	3
2	Arab Union for Sustainable Social Development in the Fifth Settlement		40	4
3	Comprehensive Development Association in El Marg		38	3
the total			113	10

3. Time Field: The field data collection was conducted from 1/1/2025 to 27/3/2025.

Results of the Field Study:

First Axis: Social returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives:

Table (3): Demonstrates the development of knowledge gained from women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Through my volunteering, I became aware of some of the social problems facing society.	2.84	0.37	1
2	After joining initiatives, I participated in preparing research related to community problems.	2.32	0.75	5
3	I realized the importance of completing the tasks required of me efficiently.	2.6	0.51	3
4	I learned how to plan to achieve my goals.	2.56	0.55	4
5	I learned about all the types of activities offered by volunteer organizations.	2.69	0.48	2
development of knowledge gained As a Whole		2.6	0.35	High Level

In the first ranking came “Through my volunteering, I became aware of some of the social problems that society suffers from, with an arithmetic mean of (2.84). In second place, I became familiar with all types of activities provided by volunteer organizations, with an arithmetic mean of (2.69). Then, in third place, I realized the importance of completing the tasks required of me efficiently, with an arithmetic mean of (2.6). Finally, in fifth place, I participated after joining the initiatives in preparing research related to society’s problems, with an arithmetic mean of (2.32).

Table (4) : Demonstrates the development of life skills acquired through women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	I learned time management and organization skills.	2.65	0.5	4
2	I now face my problems on my own.	2.7	0.46	1
3	I gained the ability to make decisions.	2.65	0.52	5
4	I have the ability to come up with ideas for volunteer work projects.	2.71	0.48	2
5	It has helped me become more productive and effective in managing various activities.	2.66	0.47	3
development of life skills gained As a Whole		2.67	0.33	High Level

In the first ranking came “I now face my problems alone with an arithmetic mean of (2.71), followed by the second rank, my ability to come up with ideas for volunteer work projects with an arithmetic mean of (2.7), then the third rank helped me to be more productive and effective in managing different activities with an arithmetic mean of (2.66), and finally the fifth rank, I had the ability to make decisions with an arithmetic mean of (2.65).

Table (5) :Demonstrates Reinforcing the social values gained from women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	It helped me increase my confidence in my abilities.	2.65	0.75	1
2	I educate others about the importance of participating in volunteer work.	2.7	0.73	2
3	I feel a sense of social responsibility toward society.	2.65	0.72	3
4	I have the ability to stand with certain groups in achieving their demands.	2.69	0.52	4
5	I have the ability to contribute my opinion on community issues.	2.68	0.5	5
Reinforcing the social values gained As a Whole		2.71	0.34	High Level

In the first ranking came “It helped me increase my confidence in my abilities with an arithmetic mean of (2.75), followed by the second rank, I educate others about the necessity of participating in volunteer work with an arithmetic mean of (2.73), then the third rank, I feel my social responsibilities towards society with an arithmetic mean of (2.72), and finally the fifth rank, I have the ability to participate with an opinion on community issues with an arithmetic mean of (2.68)

Table (6) : Demonstrates Strengthening women's social relations from women's voluntary participation in community initiatives.(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	I was able to build social relationships with others.	2.72	0.45	3
2	It allowed me to organize visits to charitable and volunteer organizations that help us achieve our goals.	2.58	0.58	5
3	My social standing in society improved.	2.76	0.45	1
4	My relationships with my colleagues are now characterized by mutual respect.	2.74	0.46	2
5	was able to build social relationships with others.	2.69	0.52	4
Strengthening women's social relations As a Whole		2.7	0.32	High Level

In the first ranking came “My social standing in society improved with an arithmetic mean of (2.76), followed by the second rank, my relationships with my colleagues became dominated by mutual respect with an arithmetic mean of (2.74), then the third rank, I was able to form social relationships with others with an arithmetic mean of (2.72), and finally the fifth rank, it allowed me to organize visits to charitable voluntary work institutions that help us achieve our goals with an arithmetic mean of (2.58).

Second Axis: The economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives::

Table (7) Demonstrates Increasing opportunities for women to find suitable work:(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	I am aware of the job opportunities available in the community.	2.65	0.48	1
2	I believe that volunteering provides job opportunities.	2.52	0.54	2
3	I have found job opportunities with a reasonable income.	2.41	0.64	4
4	I have acquired the skills required by the job market.	2.5	0.54	3
5	I have been offered various job opportunities.	2.39	0.62	5
Increasing opportunities for women to find suitable work As a Whole		2.5	0.38	High Level

In the first ranking came “have knowledge of the job opportunities available in the community with an arithmetic mean of (2.65), followed by the second rank, I believe that voluntary participation is a field for providing job opportunities with an arithmetic mean of (2.52), then the third rank, I gained the required skills that the labor market needs with an arithmetic mean of (2.5), and finally the fifth rank, I was offered various job opportunities with an arithmetic mean of(2.39).

Table (8) Demonstrates Satisfying women's basic needs:(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	I provided suitable housing for my family members.	2.26	0.78	3
2	I provided daily meals for my family members.	2.39	0.67	2
3	I provided consumer goods for my family.	2.41	0.62	1
4	I provided electrical appliances for my daughter's wedding.	2.13	0.83	5
5	I provided a drinking water connection for my home.	2.23	0.79	4
Satisfying women's basic needs As a Whole		2.28	0.6	Medium Level

In the first ranking came “ I provided consumer goods for my family with an arithmetic mean of (2.41), followed by the second place by providing daily meals for my family members with an arithmetic mean of (2.39), then the third place by providing suitable housing for my family members with an arithmetic mean of (2.26), and finally the fifth place by providing electrical appliances for my daughter’s wedding with an arithmetic mean of (2.13).

Table (9): Demonstrates Improving women's standard of living:(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	It helped me feel more secure about my future life.	2.64	0.54	1
2	I have the ability to cope with life's pressures.	2.63	0.5	2
3	It helped me avoid borrowing from others.	2.59	0.53	3
4	I worked to cope with my living burdens.	2.64	0.48	4
5	I invest my abilities to improve my current situation.	2.69	0.48	5
Improving women's standard of living As a Whole		264	0.37	High Level

In the first ranking came “I invest my abilities to improve my current situation with an arithmetic mean of (2.69), followed by the second rank, I worked to confront my living burdens with an arithmetic mean of (2.64) and a standard deviation of (0.48), then the third rank helped me increase the feeling of security for my future life with an arithmetic mean of (2.64) and a standard deviation of (0.54), and finally the fifth rank helped me not to borrow from others with an arithmetic mean of (2.59).

Table(10):Demonstrates Improving women's income level(N=113)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	I implemented a small project that provides income for my family members.	2.5	0.6	4
2	The income now meets my family's needs.	2.58	0.58	2

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
3	I gained the skill to manage and succeed in any income-generating project.	2.6	0.54	1
4	I have knowledge of multiple sales outlets to market my products.	2.5	0.55	3
5	I participated in productive family projects.	2.5	0.61	5
Improving women's income level As a Whole		2.54	0.42	High Level

In the first ranking came "I gained the skill to manage and succeed in any income-generating project an arithmetic mean (2.6), followed by the second rank, the income has become suitable for the needs of my family members with an arithmetic mean (2.58), then the third rank, I have knowledge of multiple sales outlets to market my products with an arithmetic mean (2.5) and a standard deviation (0.55), and finally the fifth rank, I have participated in productive family projects with an arithmetic mean (2.5) and a standard deviation(0.61).

Third Axis: Testing the Study Hypotheses

Table (11): demonstrates the level of social return of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives as a whole:(N=113)

Sr .	Mechanisms	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Ranking
1	Developing knowledge gained through volunteer participation	2.6	0.35	High	4
2	Developing life skills gained through volunteer participation	2.67	0.33	High	3
3	Reinforcing social values gained through volunteer participation	2.71	0.34	High	1
4	Strengthening women's social relationships	2.7	0.32	High	2
Total Dimensions of social return		2.67	0.29	High Level	

The table above reveals that:The level of social return of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives as a whole is high, with an arithmetic mean of (2.67). The indicators of this,

according to the order of the arithmetic mean, are: First, strengthening the social values acquired from voluntary participation, with an arithmetic mean of (2.71), followed by second, strengthening women's social relations, with an arithmetic mean of (2.7), then third, developing life skills acquired from voluntary participation, with an arithmetic mean of (2.67), and finally fourth, developing knowledge acquired from voluntary participation, with an arithmetic mean of (2.6). **This makes us accept the first hypothesis of the study.**

Table (12) demonstrates the level of economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives as a whole:(N=113)

Sr .	Mechanisms	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Ranking
1	Increasing women's access to suitable employment opportunities	2.5	0.38	High	3
2	Meeting women's basic needs	2.28	0.6	Medium	4
3	Improving women's standard of living	2.64	0.37	High	1
4	Improving women's income levels	2.54	0.42	High	2
Total Dimensions of economic return		2.49	0.36	High Level	

The table above reveals that:The level of economic return for women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is generally high, with an arithmetic mean of (2.49). The indicators of this, according to the order of the arithmetic mean, are: first place is improving women's standard of living with an arithmetic mean of (2.64), followed by second place is improving women's income with an arithmetic mean of (2.54), then third place is increasing women's opportunities to obtain suitable work with an arithmetic mean of (2.5), and finally fourth place is satisfying women's basic needs with an arithmetic mean of (2.28). **This makes us accept the second hypothesis of the study.**

Table (13): The analysis of variance shows the level of social and economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives according to the responses of female volunteers according to marital status.

Dimensions	Volunteers (N=113)		Number N	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	value (f)	value (Sig)	Significance
	Research community							
social return	Social status	Married	47	2.68	0.32	1.543	0.218	Not significant
		Divorced	37	2.72	0.25			
		Widowed	29	2.59	0.29			
economic return		Married	47	2.49	0.41	0.442	0.644	Not significant
		Divorced	37	2.53	0.33			
		Widowed	29	2.44	0.3			

** Significant at (0.01)

* Significant at (0.05)

The table above reveals that:

- There is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers according to marital status (married/divorced/widowed) regarding their assessment of the level of social returns for women's volunteer participation in community initiatives.
- There is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers according to marital status (married/divorced/widowed) regarding their assessment of the level of economic returns for women's volunteer participation in community initiatives. **This leads us to accept the third hypothesis of the study.**

Table (14): The analysis of variance shows the level of social and economic returns of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives according to the responses of female volunteers according to educational qualification.

Dimensions	Volunteers(N=113)		Number N	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	value (f)	value (Sig)	Significa ness
	Research community							
social return	Educational qualification	Intermediate qualification	49	2.69	0.28	0.433	0.784	Not significant
		Higher qualification	34	2.69	0.28			
		Postgraduate diploma	13	2.68	0.25			
		Master's degree	10	2.59	0.35			
		Doctorate	7	2.59	0.43			
economic return		Intermediate qualification	49	2.51	0.33	0.384	0.819	N ot significant

Dimensions	Volunteers(N=113)		Number N	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	value (f)	value (Sig)	Significa ness			
	Research community										
		Higher qualification							34	2.5	0.35
		Postgraduate diploma							13	2.48	0.45
		Master's degree							10	2.4	0.42
		Doctorate	7	2.39	0.39						

** Significant at (0.01)

* Significant at (0.05)

The table above reveals that:

- There is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers based on their educational qualifications (intermediate qualification/higher qualification/postgraduate diploma/master's/doctorate) regarding their assessment of the level of social returns of women's volunteer participation in community initiatives.
- There is no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers based on their educational qualifications (intermediate qualification/higher qualification/postgraduate diploma/master's/doctorate) regarding their assessment of the level of economic returns of women's volunteer participation in community initiatives. **This leads us to accept the fourth hypothesis of the study.**

Discussion of Results:

This study has proven the validity of its objectives and hypotheses that it seeks to achieve, as it has proven that the level of social return for women's voluntary participation in community initiatives is high. The results of the study by Al-Suwaian (2016) and Al-Qahtani (2021) demonstrated a high percentage of women's participation in voluntary work and multiple methods of women's participation in helping others with money, effort and all forms of support. The reinforcement of social values acquired from women's voluntary participation was high, as women's voluntary participation in community initiatives helps them integrate, consolidate ethical principles, achieve a sense of security, belonging and connection with others, and increase awareness of community issues (Mustafa et al., 2024), as well as form ethical values in dealing between members of society and its organizations and reinforce the values of dealing with others, constructive dialogue and respect among members of society (Hough, 2017). The results of the study also proved that strengthening

women's social relations and developing life skills acquired from women's voluntary participation is high. The results of the study (Princes, (2018) One of the social returns of women's volunteer programs is their empowerment, transforming them from passive recipients into active participants in service provision, participating in decision-making, and developing their life skills. Finally, the study results demonstrated that the development of knowledge gained from volunteer participation is high. This may be due to the importance of initiatives in making a difference in women's lives, as they help develop knowledge, skills, and values, and improve the quality of life in society through both political and non-political processes. This was confirmed by the results of a study by Zaff and Anderson (2015). Studies by Al-Qadibi (2015) and Morsi (2020) also confirmed that women's volunteer participation helps volunteers acquire knowledge related to community needs and problems, as well as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. This leads us to accept the first hypothesis of the study. While the study results demonstrated that the level of economic returns from women's volunteer participation in community initiatives is high, women participate in volunteer work in community initiatives to provide a better life for their families (Romero, 2015). The dimensions of economic returns were high, with improvements in women's standard of living and income levels being high. The economic returns from women's volunteering have a positive impact on volunteers' income, as confirmed by the results of a study by Sauer et al. (2019). Furthermore, increasing women's opportunities for suitable employment is also high, as the results of a study by Mahmoud and Al-Abadi (2021) confirmed the importance of women's initiatives in encouraging women to enter the labor market through manual skills, small production projects, and educating women in various fields. Finally, the results demonstrated that women's basic needs are met, as women's volunteer participation in community initiatives is reflected in women's satisfaction of their basic needs for food, drink, and shelter for themselves and their families, as confirmed by the results of a study by Hough (2017). This leads us to accept the second hypothesis of the study. Finally, the study results proved that there was no statistically significant difference between the responses of female volunteers according to (marital status - educational qualification) with regard to their determination of the level of social and economic return of women's voluntary participation in community initiatives..

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Reviewer2

This manuscript addresses an important topic that concerns the majority of the world, especially developing countries. The author has made a good effort, but to be eligible for publication, the following must be taken into account:

- 1) There are numerous linguistic and typographical errors that should be reviewed by language specialists.
- 2) The study's concepts need to be reviewed, as it should focus only on the variables being measured. Therefore, neither volunteer participant nor community initiative are considered concepts. Therefore, the study's concepts should include the concepts of social return and economic return, as they are defined operationally in light of the study tool.

This is an operational, not procedural definition.

- 3) The study aims to evaluate the pros and cons of the study topic. Therefore, this study is descriptive, not evaluative.
- 4) Content validity includes the opinions of experts qualitatively, not quantitatively. This means that the author seeks the opinions of experts and selects the appropriate ones. No statistics or percentages are conducted. What is the percentage of experts who represent 80%, and there are five of them?

Reviewer2

Thanks to the author for making some adjustments based on the comments, but some have not been considered:

- 1) The linguistic review of the manuscript.
- 2) The volunteer participant is not considered a variable, but rather a representative of the study sample. Therefore, it should be deleted. Additionally, the operational definition of the variables and concepts must reflect the data collection tool used, but not provide a detailed theoretical definition. The correct term is "operational definition," not "operational definition."
- 3) Content validity is based on the opinions of the reviewers, not an analysis of the theoretical frameworks of the concepts, previously used to determine items for each dimension.