

Abstract

Migration processes, particularly among adolescents, can undermine the sense of personal security and strengthen a sense of social alienation, which may lead to involvement in risky behaviors (Kahn-Stravchinsky, Levy, & Konstantinov, 2010, p. 13). Moreover, researchers studying ethnicity and immigration emphasize the importance of examining Academic achievement among adolescent immigrants (Fuligni, Hughes & Way, 2009). This is crucial because immigrant students often encounter academic challenges that can have long-lasting negative effects (Kozulin, 1993; Vengor & Kozulin, 1992, in Ritz, 1996, p. 255).

Hence, adolescence as an immigrant is a complex process that may make the integration into the new place even more difficult (Gruper & Romi, 2014, p. 213). However, there is a potential solution to address these problems, which involves encouraging adolescents to engage in community involvement (Weisblai, 2011, p. 1). This is because adolescents' involvement in the community and volunteering in organizations serves as an important and significant activity that positively affect their social and academic achievements (Weisblai, 2011, p. 1). In this way, the unique benefit of volunteering activity for at-risk youth is reflected in the transition of adolescent volunteers from the supported and receiving side, which they are accustomed to and identify with, to the side that provides support to others, as well as takes responsibility (Hadar, 2010).

In this study, we tested the hypotheses that a sense of satisfaction with life and a sense of self-worth predict higher school achievement and a lower level of involvement in risky behaviors. We also hypothesized that the experience of volunteering in the community would have a positive effect on school achievement and reduce involvement in risky behaviors, through the mediation of a sense of satisfaction with life and a sense of self-worth. We compared two subject groups: one consisting of adolescent immigrants and the other comprising adolescent nonimmigrants . We hypothesized that the relations described above will

be stronger for the immigrant Youth group compared to nonimmigrant Youth.

Research Methods: The research is based on a secondary analysis of the data from the multinational survey of the World Health Organization - the HBSC (Health Behavior in School-Aged Children), which was conducted in Israel in 2019. This questionnaire is a self-report digital questionnaire, completed at school, and is completely anonymous (Harel-Fish and others, 2020 p. 19).

Target Population: The study focused on students studying in grades 6th, 8th, and 10th, 11th - 12th, in state or religious-state schools in Israel. The sample consisted of 108 state education schools, of which 359 classes were sampled (64 class in 6th grade, 60 classes in 8th grade, and 98 class in 10th grade and 137 in 11th - 12th), 47 religious-state education schools of which 143 classes were sampled (36 classes in 6th grade, 45 classes in 8th grade, 16 classes in 10th grade and 46 in 11th - 12th). 72 Arab state education schools of which 219 classes were sampled (47 classes in 6th grade, 45 classes in 8th grade, and 46 classes in 10th grade and 81 in 11th - 12th). The sample consisted of 13,845 students. The final sample used for this study consisted of 4,902 students.

Findings: The sense of satisfaction with life and the sense of self-worth predict School achievement, as well as the level of involvement in risky behaviors among all adolescents, including both immigrant Youth and nonimmigrant Youth. When comparing the strength of these connections immigrant Youth and nonimmigrant Youth, no differences were found, except in the relationship between the sense of satisfaction with life and school achievement, which was found to be stronger among immigrant Youth.

Additionally, the findings demonstrate that the experience of volunteering had a positive effect on school achievement and also reduced involvement in risky behaviors, through the mediation of a sense of satisfaction with life and a sense of self-worth Among nonimmigrant Youth but not among the immigrant Youth.

At the same time, it was found that the experience of volunteering affects the sense of self-worth and the sense of satisfaction with life, reduces risky behaviors, and contributes to school achievement among all adolescents, both immigrant Youth and nonimmigrant Youth. When comparing the effect of volunteering experience on reducing risk behaviors between immigrant adolescents and nonimmigrant adolescents, no differences were found. The effects of volunteering on the sense of self-worth and the sense of satisfaction with life were found to be stronger among immigrant adolescents, while the effect of volunteering on school achievements was found to be stronger among the nonimmigrant adolescents.

Conclusions: This study establishes and presents the sense of satisfaction with life as a predictor of School achievement and the reduction of involvement in risky behaviors among all adolescents, both the group of immigrant Youth and the nonimmigrant Youth. Moreover, these relationships are particularly significant for adolescent immigrants (Kahn et al., 2010).

The findings of this study strengthen this claim by pointing to a strong connection between a sense of satisfaction with life and school achievement, specifically among adolescent immigrants.

Additionally, it is suggested that "the main beneficiaries of volunteering are the adolescents who come from a more 'difficult' background and experience a sense of helplessness, but discover their inner strength by providing assistance to others (Ben-David, Haski-Lewenthal, York, and Ronal, 2004).

Accordingly, this study did find that there is a significant effect of the volunteering experience on school achievement, specifically among adolescent immigrants.

Considering that adolescent immigrants find it difficult to develop positive relationships with organizational agents (Zdun, 2011), such as with teachers (Walsh, Kolobov & Harel-Fisch, 2018), it is advisable to appoint an instructor responsible for reflecting the student's voluntary process to him and providing support to the student's positive journey. This

instructor could also serve as a significant adult who acts as a resilience factor, according to Harel-Fish's (2014) "Youth Resilience Model."

Moreover, we found that the volunteering experience affects school achievement and the reduction of risk behaviors through the mediation of two variables: a sense of life satisfaction and a sense of self-worth among adolescent nonimmigrants, but not among adolescent immigrants. It may be beneficial to explore additional variables that mediate between volunteering and school achievements and involvement in risky behaviors, in order to contribute to the model that predicts academic achievement and reducing risky behaviors.

also, some argue that when considering volunteering and its benefits, there is no proof of a cause-and-effect process (Wilson & Musick, 1999). That is, the benefits of volunteering do not necessarily derive directly from the volunteering activity (Wilson & Musick, 1999). For example, studies among adolescents who chose to take part in leisure activities as part of informal education, such as sports groups, art classes, and community organizations, indicate an impact and contribution similar to that of participating in volunteer activities (Wilson & Musick, 1999).

Therefore, it is recommended to conduct a study that should examine the differences in the strength of the relationships and effects of participating in leisure activities within the framework of informal education and the effects of the volunteering experience on academic achievement and risk behaviors among adolescent immigrants and adolescent nonimmigrants.

Finally, it is valuable to encourage and adhere to the requirement for students to volunteer, due to the importance community involvement may hold for immigrant adolescents. This is especially important in light of the literature findings that show that the level of volunteering among adolescents immigrants is lower than among adolescent nonimmigrants.

Limitations of the study:

The study is based on student survey data using a self-report questionnaire, and it contains information collected at one point in time only. Therefore, it is possible that the data suffers from the known

limitations of this research method, which include forgetting and the inability to examine changes that occur over time. Consequently, hypotheses based on causality cannot be confirmed, there may be biases of social bias in the measures, and more. However, the methodology and tools of the HBSC survey have been used for 40 years, and the survey is regularly administered in all 50 member countries, including Israel. Over the years, its validity and reliability have been tested and published regularly. Therefore, the ability to rely on research data is high and proven.