

How to Advance Volunteer Work at Qatar University?

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Distinguished academic institutions strive to bring vibrant ideas to life and translate them into tangible frameworks, to elevate university members towards active citizenship, which is capable of equipping society with the expertise that advances it to the ranks of historically impactful communities. One of the key areas in which education, development, and systematic advancement occur is volunteerism, which serves as a reflection of a society's energy, vitality, and sense of solidarity. It is therefore natural that such engagement is deeply intertwined with our Arab-Islamic cultural heritage and identity.



Our Islamic nation fundamentally rests on the emotional unity that gives rise to organizational forms. The emotional unity of the Muslim community stems from bonds of allegiance. Our Prophet, peace be upon him, said: “A believer to another believer is like a building; each part strengthens the other” (Sahih Muslim, No. 2585). In another hadith: “He who does not care about the affairs of the Muslims is not one of them; and he who does not offer advice by day and night for Allah, His Messenger, his imam, and the generality of the Muslims, is not one of them” (Al-Tabarani in Al-Awsat, No. 7473).

however does not concern himself with the affairs of the Muslims is not one of them; and whoever does not offer advice by day and night for Allah, His Messenger, His Book, the leader of the Muslims and the general Muslims, is not one of them.”

It is well known that the sudden civilizational decline that afflicted the nation in recent centuries—manifesting in the stagnation of its social dimensions and the dominance of its invasive, materialistic, consumer-driven patterns over its culture of solidarity—has contributed

to the weakening of the culture of volunteerism. The only remedy lies in revitalizing the human effort through volunteering, directing human energies towards goodness in all aspects of life, and recognizing every beneficial act as counted in the balance of good deeds. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “Every day the sun rises, charity (Sadaqah) is due on every joint of a person: you administer justice between two men is a charity; and assisting a man to mount his beast, or helping him load his luggage on it is a charity; and a good word is a charity; and every step that you take (towards the mosque) for Salat (prayer) is a charity and removing harmful things from the road is a charity” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, No. 2989).

Today, we see leading countries excelling in volunteer work. In Britain, more than 20 million people participate in organized volunteer activities, contributing approximately 90 million hours of work each week. The economic value of these efforts is estimated at £40 billion annually. Such figures highlight the need to promote a culture of volunteering in charitable and solidarity-based initiatives. How could it be otherwise when the Muslim community is, by its very nature, a community grounded in righteousness and benevolence?

To encourage students and academic staff at Qatar University to meaningfully integrate this positive form of engagement into campus life, it is appropriate to propose the following through two parallel plans:

First: The Operational Plan at Qatar University

- Advance scientific research at the University on issues related to social solidarity, zakah, endowments (awqaf), volunteer work, and charitable action.
- Utilize the State’s statistical centers and draw on the resources of survey and data centers to generate actionable knowledge.
- Create libraries and specialized bibliographies on volunteering, social solidarity, and charitable work for accumulation, documentation, and archiving.
- Revive hadith-based sessions in which relevant chapters and explanatory material supporting volunteering and charitable work are read.

- Organize awareness campaigns and mobile convoys to promote giving and volunteerism. These initiatives can coincide with religious occasions, such as Ramadan, the two Eids, and the Prophet’s (Alaihissalaam) migration, as well as national, cultural, and sporting events, in addition to urgent response efforts during disasters, conflicts, or crises.
- Support stationary and mobile tents that operate during major seasons and events, providing permanent or temporary spaces in locations like shopping malls, stadiums, universities, industrial zones, airports, and ports.
- Develop promotional or Dawah cards, tailored to specific occasions and audiences, to communicate the values of solidarity and volunteerism.
- Leverage sporting events by setting up tents and awareness campaigns alongside competitions, encouraging donations and volunteer participation.
- Establish reading circles dedicated to exploring books on charity, almsgiving, and volunteerism; interpreting Qur’anic verses that promote generosity, initiative, good deeds, and cooperation; or reviewing the experiences of pioneers in volunteer, charitable, and relief work.
- Install student donation boxes and voluntary piggy banks within departments, colleges, and student clubs. Contributions are collected and donated monthly to charitable organizations, serving as a continuous reminder of the culture of benevolence.
- Activate University Volunteer Week, a dedicated week that leverages students’ energy and maturity. Volunteer and solidarity clubs can be established to focus on academic support, charitable activities, and relief efforts.
- Organize student competitions in volunteering and solidarity, offering motivational prizes, celebrating role models among distinguished community members, and drawing inspiration from the social heritage of generosity, rapid support, and



mutual assistance.

- Develop volunteer work websites and social media platforms on campus.
- Produce continuous advertising campaigns. Awareness-raising advertisements, including videos and other media products, should be designed with a strong Dawah dimension that encourages good deeds for Allah's sake, while also highlighting practical benefits such as social stability, development, and community security.
- Offer extracurricular training in areas such as first aid, disaster response, and emergency preparedness.
- Introduce a University award for outstanding volunteer entities and issue special volunteer passports to recognize and motivate exceptional contributions.

Second: The Foundational Structural Plan for Volunteer Work in Educational Institutions

This plan addresses schools, educational and training institutions, universities, and other centers. The following proposals can be made:

- Coordinate with curriculum developers and instructional designers to integrate volunteering and charitable work into school curricula.
- Focus on kindergartens by training children from early childhood on volunteer work and teamwork.

- Establish partnerships between schools, universities, and charitable institutions.
- Propose specialized master's programs in volunteering and social solidarity in faculties such as Sharia, Law, Arts, and Sociology.
- Issue the Ministry of Education directives requiring students to present accredited certificates of participation in volunteer work.
- Organize conferences, seminars, and workshops at both school and university levels, locally and internationally, to enhance volunteer experiences.

These teachings embody the social dimension of Islam, which becomes manifest in the positive activation of society, the empowerment of individuals to participate in volunteer work, and the encouragement of engagement in charitable activities. Such efforts foster harmony, compassion, and intergenerational cohesion, while also reducing the security costs that burden the State treasuries. For these reasons, governments endeavor to promote volunteerism and social solidarity initiatives from within the society itself, given their demonstrated role in reducing crime and curbing the rise of violent phenomena that often originate in social alienation.

