Abstract PAPER Submission Form

Title:
Youth Participation on Philanthropy in Korea
: From the Youth Allocation Committee of the Beautiful Foundation

Keywords (5 keywords maximum)
Youth participation, allocation committee, youth philanthropy, active citizenship, leadership skills

Related Conference Theme:
Philanthropy

Abstract (between 500 and 800 words in length, excluding bibliography):
The Youth Allocation Committee (YAC) is a youth-focused and youth-administered grant committee within the Beautiful Foundation (BF) in Korea. Since 2017, BF has developed a youth leadership program designed to nurture the next generation of change-makers committed to positive change in themselves, their communities and the society. It was the first challenge for youth as philanthropists to allocate funds to meet youth-related needs in Korea. It was intended to expand the youth activities on philanthropy beyond giving and fundraising programs. The purpose of this study was to evaluate how the activities of YAC of BF carried out to change in youth and communities, and how they were differentiated from the existing other philanthropic activities in Korea.

Robert Stake’s responsive program evaluation model was applied, which focused on the experiences of participants and the interests of stake-holders from the beginning to the end of the program. Using mixed methods, the Likert-scaled measurements of youth leadership life skills and active citizenship were used for a quantitative pre-post-survey. Various qualitative
data from the participants, adult advisors, and community NGOs were analyzed as well. The YAC of BF had the character of ‘Social participatory model for active youth’. It was designed to help youth drive to find and solve the problems. 14 students of secondary schools and two adult advisors met regularly twice a month from July 2017 to August 2018 in an exploration of leadership and active citizenship. They discussed youth problems in the community and set up detailed standards for allocating the amount of approximately 9 thousand US dollars for proposed projects from NGOs and youth groups. Two NGOs which work for the youth and five groups which work with the youth were selected by the YAC. From the result of qualitative research, it was found that youth participants improved self-esteem and democratic citizenship capacity, and actively engaged as a next-generation of nonprofit leader. Additionally, from the result of quantitative research, the participants’ leadership skills including cooperative work skills, self-understanding skills and interpersonal skills were significantly improved. The level of awareness and intention of participation for solving social problems as parts of active citizenship also increased. The YAC activities promoted for the community to raise the youth issues and motivated for the youth to participate in solving their problems. It was a journey to solve the problems by meeting, communicating and cooperating with the actual community through the unlimited decision-making opportunities, given to the youth in the task of grant allocation. For the NGOs, it was an opportunity to be supported and respected by the youth and to realize what their work should be for the society. As a consequence, the experience of YAC of BF was an opportunity to face the youth not as an immature citizen but as a 'peer citizen' to the adults as well as themselves.

On the basis of this experience, it is expected that more youth activities on philanthropy are prepared in the Korean communities. Furthermore, it can be expanded for international youth solidarity by networking with the other YACs that have been actively conducted overseas.

Bibliography


