12-5-2017

Religion Declining

Oscar Pascual

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, pascub1@unlv.nevada.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/educ_sys_202

Part of the Education Commons, and the Service Learning Commons

Recommended Citation


https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/educ_sys_202/19
**Religion Declining**

### Social Issue/Issue Research

**As of today, compared to previous generations there are fewer people going to church or are affiliated with a religion that day practice daily.**

During my volunteering in my service site, where it was my job to basically teach, or enlighten youths from a Catholic family and show them what their religion means to them and its importance, my fellow teachers and I face the challenge of basically grabbing their interest even worse their attention to the topic.

**Current and Ideal State of Issue**

70.6 percent of American adults (173 million) say they are Christian, but that's a drop of at least 5 million adults or 8 percentage points, since 2007. This decline is mostly associated with young adults, which is our generation and there's no single factor that causes it like it's not because of education, race, ethnicity or any of that because it is a more widespread problem and the country is becoming less religious.

**Service Site Approach to Issue**

My service site St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, tackle this problem through Confirmation where youths go to our church to be schooled for two years where they learn more about their religion, and only after completing the program they become truly part of the catholic church.

**My Approach to Issue**

I approach this issue by volunteering my time at the church every Sunday to help try and teach youths, and help them understand what it can do for them. As for what I have learned through this experience, I learned that the social issue at hand is a difficult one to solve because you can inspire and teach as much as you want, but it is still up to the individual or youth whether they will take it to heart or apply what they learn, but I still believe my fellow volunteers and I can make a difference one step at a time.

**Pros**

- I learn more about my religion through teaching
- I have the opportunity to teach and share my belief to youths
- I gain more teaching experience
- I get to serve my community
- I feel a sense of accomplishment

**Cons**

- Sometimes find my patience waning
- Sometimes feel my time is wasted when no one is paying attention

**Expectations**

My expectations for going in this program was to be able to teach youths and learn from it as well, and so far, even though I am only three months in I believe I am meeting this expectation. For starters, I have been given the opportunity to teach others and more importantly through teaching I get to learn and participate in my religion and I continue to learn from it the more I volunteer and teach

**Reference**


**Differences in My Own Views**

I don’t think in my views changed all that much, one thing for sure is that although there are difficulties trying to inspire the youths and have them see how great and important their religion can be, I still love what I do because I also learn through it and it makes me better at understanding how others view our religion.

**Differences I Made for the Site**

I believe in its own way my service made a difference in the site itself because during our outing in the mountains I was able to at least make a difference and help the youths through my personal experience how important religion really is and what it can do for them. As for what I have learned through this experience, I learned that the social issue at hand is a difficult one to solve because you can inspire and teach as much as you want, but it is still up to the individual or youth whether they will take it to heart or apply what they learn, but I still believe my fellow volunteers and I can make a difference one step at a time.

**Personal/Professional Learning**

During my service I learned how to be patient and most importantly the difficulty of trying to teach, this experience made me appreciate my teachers back in high school and their extreme patience with us, it gave me a bit of an insight of how difficult teaching could be. Even so I learned many valuable experiences and teaching and patience being the best once I have experienced.

**Future Change, Effort, and Outcomes**

One thing I would want to change in my service site would be to stay away from a classroom setting and have it more interactive learning, because this way the youths will be more engaged and involved and I believe will be more interested to participate and learn.