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CGAP

Centre for Charitable Giving
and Philanthropy

Supporting Volunteering:

*A Cross-Sectional
Comparative Study of the
Volunteer Centre and
Timebanking in Edinburgh*

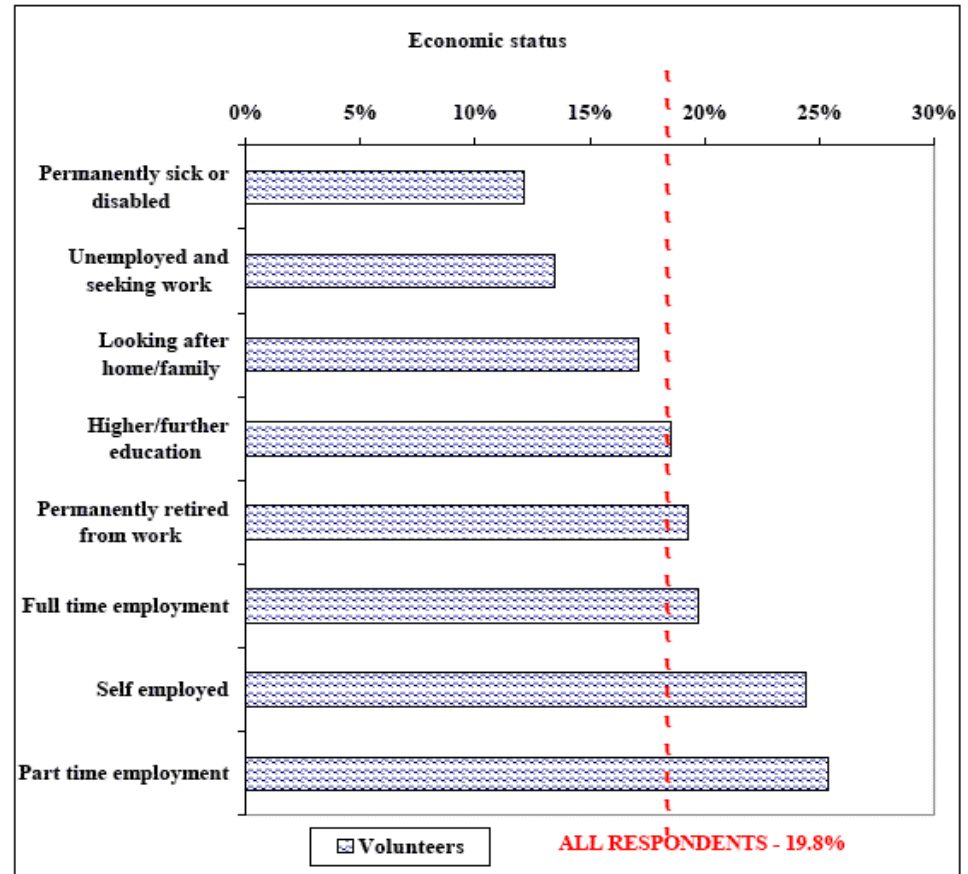
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Overview

1	Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Context• Rationale & Aims
2	Proposed Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case Selection• Methodology
3	Intended Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule• Relevant Themes• Preliminary Findings

Volunteering...in context

- 1.2 million adults volunteer (Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, 2005)
- 86.5% of unemployed people do not volunteer, but however observe that they would do if they 'could afford it' (Scottish Government, 2008)
- Addressing 'Barriers to Volunteering' entering the employability agenda (Volunteering Development Scotland, 2008)



Proposed Research

- The key aim is to understand how different models and cultures of volunteering operate and how they motivate participants – hence contributing to volunteer management theory
- Rationale:
 - Strategies developed so far are pragmatic but *cultural* dimension of volunteering underplayed
 - *Supporting Volunteering* will focus on how different volunteering environments operate and how their different *social worlds* (e.g. Becker, 1982) are attractive to different socio-economic groups

Case Selection



Volunteer Centre

- Historical, well-established
- Traditional, philanthropic
- Recognised as a pathway to employment



Timebank

- Relatively new model
- Tit-for-tat, complementary 'currency'
- Recognised as contributing to community cohesion

Methodology

Cultural dimension:

- Qualitative Interview Approach

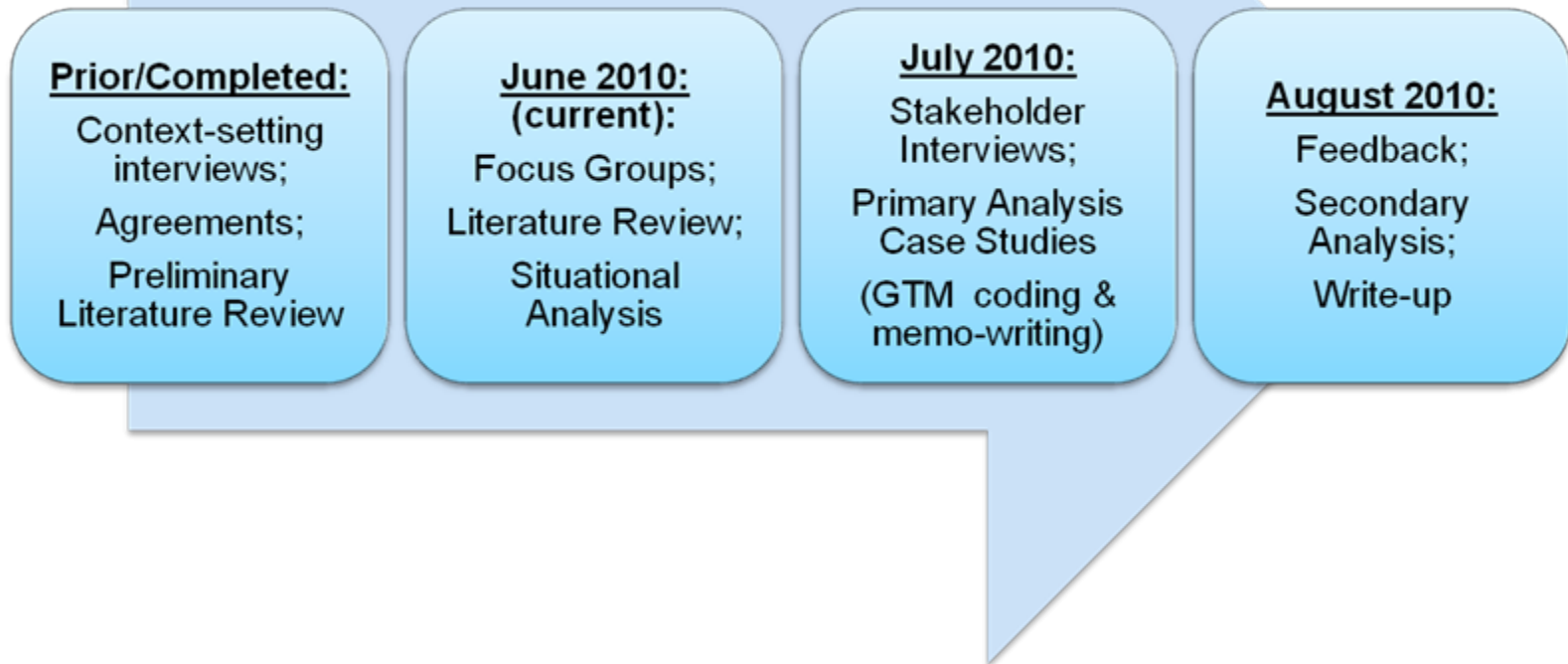
Understanding & Uncovering Processes:

- Grounded Theory Method (GTM)
- Situational Analysis

Research Questions:

- *‘What’s going on?’*
- *‘What is the main problem of the participants and how are they trying to solve it?’*

Research Schedule



Relevant Themes

Volunteer
Management
Theory

Timebanking
& Community
Development

Situational
Analysis

Service
Management

Grounded
Theory
Method



Preliminary Findings

Timebanking:

- Effective as a 'first step' towards employability
- Particularly suited to urban communities - builds community cohesion
- Better perceived as a 'good neighbour' scheme than volunteering *per se*

'Traditional' Volunteering

- Getting more and more recognised as a suitable pathway to employment as competition increases
- However, the main motivation might be accessing or participating in a culture rather than employability



Questions ?

Thank You