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What Causes Participation in International Non-Governmental Organizations?

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Submitted in Partial Completion of the
Requirements for Departmental Honors in Political Science

Bridgewater State University

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Abstract

Participation in non-governmental organizations allows individuals to volunteer their time in the name of service. Public participation in non-governmental organizations can be garnered from all corners of the globe and regions of the world for various indirect reasons. There is a focus in this study on humanitarian and human right organizations. This study goes to disprove the perception that people do not participate in non-profits. People are participating and this study sets out to find why people are participating. Employing a case study methodology, this study uses the examples of Colombia and Ecuador to assess the questions of why people participate in non-governmental organizations.. An analysis was conducted and multiple variables were compared between the two states in order to gain an understanding on why individuals participate in non-governmental organizations. Overall, I found that people are participating in non-governmental organizations and that there are high percentages in many states. There is evidence indicating that the variables predicting participation in Colombia are different from those predicting participation in Ecuador.

Chapter 1: Participation and Human Rights

1.1 Introduction

Non-governmental organizations have been at the forefront here for the human rights movement. Organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have made pivotal stances in helping root out gross atrocities that go against a human being's rights. Global factors give indication on reasons that individuals choose to participate in international human rights. Globalization of human rights is associated with greater participation in non-governmental organizations.

To give a stronger and clearer understanding of what an international human rights non-profit organization is, here is a breakdown for a better clarification. One can define a *human rights international nongovernmental organization* as an organization whose primary focus is to promote and protect human rights. To break down each part, *human rights* refers to someone's social, economic, civil, and cultural rights as a human being. In order to be *nongovernmental*, one needs to be free of direct governmental ties and composed of free, independent citizens. To coin the term *international*, an organization needs to consist of two or more countries. In total, this project will focus on factors that contribute to individuals willingness to participate in humanitarian non-governmental organizations (Tsutsui and Wotipka 2004, 591).

1.2 Literature Review: Participation in Human Rights International non-governmental Organizations

People may volunteer for a multitude of reasons. Those reasons may stem from a sense of purpose of doing for others, the ability to build their identity through pursuing their own personal interests, or volunteering allows them to create a schedule or create structure in their everyday lives. Individuals tend to participate as volunteers with no intentions of getting any sort of monetary compensation (Bradley 2000, 2). Other factors that can contribute to participation in non-governmental organizations can come from wanting to engage with one's community, religious responsibilities, or for education requirements (Bradley 2000, 2). There can be several and various reasons as to why individuals choose to participate in volunteering and why individuals choose to not volunteer in non-governmental organizations. Some reasons as to why individuals do not volunteer can be because of time constraints, there can be no volunteer opportunities near them that meet their interests, or maybe because volunteering never crossed their minds.

In respect to human rights, research has indicated that whether individuals in different states look at human rights non-governmental agencies favorably depends on how involved their states are in the different international treaties. People will participate in non-governmental organizations in order to urge their own governments to sign a treaty. For states to be part of the human rights regime, they need to fit into the image that is human rights (Tsutsui and Wotipka 2004, 597). This includes participating in various conferences and various human right organizations. To be fully adopted into the human rights regime, a state needs to have signed international and regional treaties and have domestic human rights laws and policies existing in their state. With these requirements, citizens of those states will see their state involved and it

will bring more awareness to the human right regimes and hopefully citizens will adopt or make human rights a norm.

On an international level, states render themselves to judgement if they do not uphold themselves to the human rights standards. This leaves room for local populations with international level opportunities to pressure their governments (Tsutsui and Wotipka 2004,595). Political opportunities open up for local populations when their governments join intergovernmental human rights organizations via international human rights treaties (Tsutsui and Wotipka 2004,595). In respect to human rights, how involved citizens are in human rights non-governmental organizations is dependent on how much their governments restrict them.

Structural Conflict such as no rule of law and lack of trust in politicians causes individuals to seek assistance from non-governmental organizations that fight for their rights and the cause of the country (Tsutsui and Wotipka 2004, 610). Individuals whose rights are threatened by a country they cannot trust helps raise participation in non-governmental organizations. These variables matter because it allows us to understand to what extent these variables truly affect participation in charitable/humanitarian organizations.

Civil society or global civil society plays a role domestically but also globally. Non-governmental organizations have become very important in regards to civil society. Civil society is defined as the realm of organized social life that is voluntary, self-generating, self-supporting, autonomous from the state, and bound by a legal order or set of shared rules (Diamond, 1994). Civil society can act as a check on state power, helping prevent government outreach, but it can also legitimize state authority by giving the government the support of the people. Civil society is most important in a democratization process because it allows there to be or puts pressure on political change. Non-governmental organizations such as human rights then have the potential

to play a massive role in that democratic change. It goes to argue that civil society and non-governmental organizations are not always seen as a good thing. Both at times, can undermine or weaken the sovereignty of the state (Mercer 2002, 12). Global civil society allows for the expansion of inflow of international human rights. With the linkage it allows there to be more participants in international human rights.

Civil society can play a role in democracy and checking the abuses of state power and encouraging citizen participation and public scrutiny of the state. Civil society can have negative qualities as well. Civil society can be viewed as weak, underdeveloped, or fragmented. Where there is a massive socio-economic strain, corruption, or an ineffective legal system, a tendency towards civil disruption and conflict and a lack of 'democratic culture', democratic consolidation is thought to be threatened (Mercer 2002, 8).

Personal values, characteristics, and beliefs could also help contribute to whether an individual decides to participate in non-governmental organizations. Internal values and factors can be their religious commitments . There are many values and factors that could cause an individual to participate. To give an example, one may feel the need or desire to volunteer due to their feelings that their religion requires it. Volunteers may choose organizations that connect with the mission of their churches or groups. Socio-economic reasons for individuals participation can be influenced by people's incomes and education (Bradley 2000, 3). How much an individual makes can cause them to seek to participate because of the ability to relate to those who seek assistance from the non-governmental organizations. One's education is another example because an individual may participate in order to make connections that can help them in the future.

Another school of thought holds that a person is more likely to volunteer if that volunteering gives them benefits - either material or non-material. Individuals boast that the value of volunteering for organizations is unmatched and helps to boost the chances of future careers (Briggs and Gregory 2010, 68). Materialistic values are seen as valuable because it improves one's career goals for future endeavors. Individuals can grow, gain knowledge, and acquire new skills (Stebbins 2009). Materialistic values in participation would simply be through career benefits such as networking and adding to your resume. Personal beliefs can stem from learning about one's community, expressing one's own highly held values or moral principles, and living up to the ideals of others (Stukas, Snyder, and Clary 2008). Self-interest plays a major role in the reasoning of why individuals participate. Individuals can grow, gain knowledge, and acquire new skills. Individuals do not have ties only domestically but individuals have ties or connections locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Individuals gravitate volunteering more towards areas that they are more familiar with and where they think they will get the most out of it (Briggs, Peterson, and Gregory 2010,66). This is reason enough to suggest an understanding that one's values dictate whether they participate or volunteer for organizations.

Deciding to volunteer does not go a long way unless the attitude or image of organizations such as human rights are viewed as positive. A volunteers' pride in the organization was increased by how important they found the work as well as how much respect they had for the organization in which they were volunteering for (Garner and Garner 2010, 2). Individuals look at organizations that they are interested in like human rights and they carefully calculate whether the organization would help them reach what they are trying to achieve. Rational choice theory does a great job in depicting this. Rational choice theory explains how individuals make rational calculations in order to help make their decisions (Calvert 1995,228).

You can see the self-interest playing out in which individuals firmly believe the reasons as to why they are doing what they are doing. Individuals believe in what they are saying in regards to participating in non-governmental organizations.

Overall, factors that help facilitate participation are religion, income, and civil service. Each factor helps determine possibilities for individuals participating in non-governmental organizations. Civil service groups coincide with civil society in regards to the way that it puts pressure on its government to stay or to follow their rule of law. Lack of rule of law in turn can increase participation because there is no trust in their political leaders when it comes to protecting individuals rights. Ultimately each factor plays a role in influencing each other and influencing an increase or decrease in participation in non-governmental organizations.

1.3 Data Source and Methodology

Studying and examining why individuals participate is important because it allows one to understand what drives people to want to join and help the causes of the non-governmental organizations that they are joining. Research wise, it is understudied but if researched enough it can prove to be successful in helping non-governmental organizations grow bigger than they thought capable. This study will test three hypotheses:

- H1: Structural, country level variables, such as levels of democracy, rule of law, or political conflict, drives participation in NGOs.
- H2: International factors, such as a state's membership in human right treaties and organizations drives participation in NGOs.
- H3: Individual factors, such as demographic variables or trust in the government, drives participation in NGOs.

For this study I will be using the World Value Survey (WVS) in conducting my study. The World Value Survey is an international research program devoted to the scientific and academic study of social, political, economic, religious, and cultural values of people in the world. The project's goal is to assess which impact values stability or change over time has on the social, political, and economic development of countries and societies. Projects overall aim to analyze people's values, beliefs, and norms in a comparative cross-national and over-time perspective. To reach this aim, the project covers a broad scope of topics from the field of sociology, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Public Health, Demography, Anthropology, Social Psychology and etc. In addition, WVS is the only academic study which covers the whole scope of global variations, from very poor to very rich societies in all the world's main cultural zones. The WVS combines two institutional components. From one side, WVS is a scientific program and social research infrastructure that explores people's values and beliefs. At the same time, WVS comprises an international network of social scientists and researchers from 120 world countries and societies.

This study uses the United Nations Population Fund in order to examine human right international treaties. UNFPA works in more than 150 countries and territories that are home to the vast majority of the world's people. Its mission: to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. Guided by the 1994 Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), UNFPA partners with governments, civil society and other agencies to advance its mission. The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Report, released in February 2014, revealed how much progress has been made and the significant work that remains to be done. The actions and recommendations identified in the report are crucial for achieving the goals of the ICPD Program of Action and its

linkage with the post-2015 development agenda. The work of UNFPA is based on the premise that all human beings are entitled to equal rights and protections. They focus on women and young people because these are groups whose ability to exercise their right to sexual and reproductive health is often compromised.

Lastly, I used the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard. Human rights indicators are essential in the implementation of human rights standards and commitments, to support policy formulation, impact assessment and transparency. OHCHR has developed a framework of indicators to respond to a longstanding demand to develop and deploy appropriate statistical indicators in furthering the cause of human rights. One of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna was the use and analysis of indicators to help measure progress in human rights. Several years of research and consultation went into the development of this tool. It was guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and cooperation to strengthen the capacity of Member States in meeting their human rights obligations. This framework is already being applied by national governments, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations worldwide.

I chose Colombia and Ecuador because they are similar in terms of colonial legacy, executive branches, and their culture. I can control for these variables. I am interested in seeing how participation varied amongst both and why participation varied amongst both. In order to do that I had to compare both Colombia and Ecuador in order to determine whether there similarities or differences in reasons why individuals participated in non-governmental organizations. As well, I had to compare Colombia and Ecuador as a whole.

Chapter 2: Results

In this section we will first test h1 which focuses on global and structural variables. Here we will be looking at the variables that show confidence in elections, confidence in their governments, and confidence in the civil service. For h2 we will focus on the variables of social class and income. For our last hypothesis, h3, we will focus on the variables of age, religion, and rural/urban living. What we hope to find here is that these variables will play a significant role in why individuals participate in charitable/ humanitarian organizations.

Both Colombia and Ecuador are located in Latin America. Both countries have presidential systems. The electoral process in Colombia consists of the president being elected for a four-year term. In 2015, there were constitutional amendments made which eliminated the immediate re-election for presidents. Congress is composed of the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives. Every four years the seats are open for re-election. The nation at large selects a hundred Senate members using a proportional representation system. Then there are two additional members who are chosen by indigenous communities. The electoral process for Ecuador calls for the president to be directly elected and the president can serve up to two years. Ecuador has a unitary presidential constitutional republic. The president of Ecuador has the power to get rid of the legislature. This power allows for there to be new elections in regards to the presidency and the assembly. Ecuador has a unicameral National Assembly which holds a hundred and thirty-seven seats with a hundred and sixteen members that are elected directly. There are six seats that are elected through multi seat constituencies for Ecuadorians living abroad.

While Colombia was the last remaining site of open warfare in the America's until it formalized a peace treaty with FARC in 2016, Ecuador faces substantial issues itself with violent

protests. These challenges are reflected in their Freedom House scores of 66 and 65 respectively and their measures as “partially free”. A big difference in Ecuador and Colombia is in the way human rights and non - governmental organizations are handled. Colombia struggles with the government's said protection for human right defenders. Human rights defenders are getting killed at an alarming rate. Whereas in Ecuador, human rights are accepted but there are restrictions put on non-governmental organizations and what they can do. On the next page in chart 1 you can see a list of all 18 ratified international human rights treaties in the world. Colombia has 14 out of the 18 ratified while Ecuador has all 18 of the treaties ratified.

Chart 1

International Human Rights Treaties	Colombia	Ecuador
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Signature: 23 Mar 1967 Ratification: 02 Sep 1981	Signature: - - Ratification: 22 Sep 1966
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Signature: 21 Dec 1966 Ratification: 29 Oct 1969	Signature: 04 Apr 1968 Ratification: 06 Mar 1969
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Signature: 21 Dec 1966 Ratification: 29 Oct 1969	Signature: 04 Apr Ratification: 06 Mar 1969
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty	Signature: - - Ratification: 05 Aug 1997	Signature: - - Ratification: 23 Feb 1993
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	Signature: 21 Dec 1966 Ratification: 29 Oct 1969	Signature: 29 Sep 1967 Ratification: 06 Mar 1969
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	Signature: - - Ratification: - -	Signature: 24 Sep 2009 Ratification: 11 Jun 2010
Convention of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Signature: 17 Jul 1980 Ratification: 19 Jan 1982	Signature: 17 Jul 1980 Ratification: 09 Nov 1981
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Signature: 10 Dec 1999 Ratification: 23 Jan 2007	Signature: 10 Dec 1999 Ratification: 05 Feb 2002
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Signature: 10 Apr 1985 Ratification: 08 Dec 1987	Signature: 04 Feb 1985 Ratification: 30 Mar 1988
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Signature: - - Ratification: - -	Signature: 24 May 2007 Ratification: 20 Jul 2010
Convention on the Rights of a Child	Signature: 26 Jan 1990 Ratification: 28 Jan 1991	Signature: 26 Jan 1990 Ratification: 23 Mar 1990
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Signature: 06 Sep 2000 Ratification: 25 May 2005	Signature: 06 Sep 2000 Ratification: 07 Jun 2004
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography	Signature: 06 Sep 2000 Ratification: 11 Nov 2003	Signature: 06 Sep 2000 Ratification: 30 Jan 2004
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure	Signature: - - Ratification: - -	Signature: 24 Apr 2013 Ratification: 19 Sep 2018
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families	Signature: - - Ratification: 24 May 1995	Signature: - - Ratification: 05 Feb 2002
International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance	Signature: 27 Sep 2007 Ratification: 11 Jul 2012	Signature: 24 May 2007 Ratification: 20 Oct 2009

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signature: 30 Mar 2007 Ratification: 10 May 2011	Signature: 30 Mar 2007 Ratification: 03 Apr 2008
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signature: - - Ratification: - -	Signature: 30 Mar 2007 Ratification: 03 Apr 2008

2.1 Participation in Colombia and Ecuador

Colombia and Ecuador are similar in structure and on the plane of participation in charitable/humanitarian organizations. Overall, participation without regards to variables and influences, does not present any variations to look further into.

Chart 2

Participation	Number of Cases	Colombia	Number of Cases	Ecuador
Not a Member	1,029	67.7%	977	81.4%
Inactive Member	342	22.5%	85	7.1%
Active Member	149	9.8%	125	10.4%
		N = 1,520		N = 1,187

Looking at both graphs side by side, we can see that there is a slightly higher percentage of participation overall in Colombia but it is not drastic enough to raise any alarms as to why one state has more participation than the other. Ecuador has 10.4% of active members participating while Colombia has 9.8% of active members. So here we can see that there is not a huge gap in terms of participation in either states of Colombia and Ecuador. Though there is a higher

percentage of individuals in Colombia who are inactive in participating in humanitarian organizations than Ecuador.

2.2 Country Level Variables

Colombia and Ecuador have similar processes when it comes to elections of the presidency and when it comes to the Chamber of Representatives and the National Assembly. In Colombia we can see that there is not a high percentage of individuals who have confidence in their country's elections. In fact we see that 54.4% do not have very much confidence in their elections. While there is 22.8% of individuals in Colombia who no confidence at all in their elections

Now compare it to Ecuador who shows a slight difference in confidence of their elections but not a huge difference compared to Colombia. It is hard to say why there is a small difference in confidence between both states of Colombia and Ecuador.

Chart 3

Ecuador Election	Not a Member	Inactive	Active	Colombia Election	Not a Member	Inactive	Active
Great Deal	6.9%	7.1%	11.2%		5.2%	8.2%	12.8%
Quite a Lot	5.9%	25.9%	33.6%		5.9%	8.2%	10.1%
Not Very Much	35.8%	40%	25.6%		54.3%	61.1%	54.4%
None at All	27%	27.1%	29.6%		34.6%	22.5%	22.8%
N = 1,183				N = 1,520			

In Ecuador there seems to be more confidence in their elections than Colombia. 33.6% of individuals in Ecuador say that they have quite a lot of confidence in their elections but in Colombia 10.1% say they have confidence. There is a greater variation between Ecuador and Colombia when it comes to individuals saying that they do not have very much confidence in

their elections. This is interesting to think about in terms of the type of governments that Colombia and Ecuador have. One would think that Ecuador would have a higher percentage of individuals who have little to no confidence in their elections because of the powers that the Ecuadorian president has to change elections. We see that a percentage of active members in both countries are more likely to have confidence in elections than non - members.

Chart 4

Ecuador Government	Not a Member	Inactive	Active	Colombia Government	Not a Member	Inactive	Active
Great Deal	4.7%	8.2%	10.5%		5%	10.2%	8.7%
Quite A lot	27.1%	22.4%	26.6%		4.2%	5%	14.8%
Not Very Much	39.1%	45.9%	33.1%		56.7%	64%	53%
None at All	29.1%	23.5%	29.8%		34.2%	20.8%	23.5%
N= 1,175				N= 1,520			

When looking at and comparing Colombia and Ecuador and the confidence they have in their governments, we can once again see a small variation among those who are active in non-governmental organizations. Both countries appear to have a very close percentage in terms of having a great deal in confidence in their government. There is a 12% difference between Colombia and Ecuador in terms of having quite a lot of confidence.

Where we see a little bit of a greater difference is in Colombia and Ecuador not having very much confidence in their government. Colombia has 53% and Ecuador has 33.1% of their individuals saying there is not much confidence. Other than that, there is nothing huge here that says confidence in government plays a huge role in why people participate but what we can see

is that people with greater confidence in governments should be more likely to participate than those who have lower levels of confidence in their governments.

Chart 5

Ecuador Civil Service	Not a Member	Inactive	Active	Colombia Civil Service	Not a Member	Inactive	Active
Great Deal	.9%	3.5%	2.4%		2.5%	4.7%	8.7%
Quite a lot	14%	9.4%	13.6%		3.6%	5.3%	8.7%
Not Very Much	54.7%	40%	32%		56.2%	67%	59.1%
None at All	50.4%	47.1%	52%		37.7%	23.1%	23.5%
N= 1,168				N= 1,520			

In examining chart 5, higher levels of confidence in the civil service should be associated with a greater likelihood of non-governmental organizations participation. Both Colombia and Ecuador have almost opposite percentages in terms of their confidence in civil service which is interesting. It appears that Colombia has a higher percentage in terms of having a great deal of confidence with civil service whereas Ecuador does not. It is about even or so with the individuals having quite a lot of confidence but then there is a big variation in terms of not having very much confidence. Ecuador leads with 32% in not having very much confidence and leads by a massive amount in not having any confidence at all with 52% compared to Colombia's 7%. Civil Service may play a role in participation in non-governmental organizations.

Over all what we can see from examining the variables of confidence in elections, confidence in government, and confidence in civil services is that high confidence in these three

variables most likely leads to higher numbers of participation in charitable/humanitarian organizations. As well, we can see high percentages of there being no confidence at all with all three variables.

2.3 Socio-economic and Internal Factors

In terms of social class in Colombia and Ecuador the lower middle class seem to have the most participation with percentages of 39.6% in Colombia and 45% in Ecuador. This is not a huge difference between them. As well, with the lower class, they are close in percentage but other than that they are opposites when it comes to the higher classes. I would say that social class does not play a big role but maybe a small role in who participates in non-governmental organizations.

Chart 6

Social Class (Active Member)	Colombia	Ecuador
Upper Class	4.0%	1.7%
Upper Middle Class	8.1%	27.5%
Lower Middle Class	39.6%	45.0%
Working Class	22.8%	8.3%
Lower Class	25.5%	17.5%
	N = 1,520	N = 1,159

Income level, when looking at chart 7, it does not have any variation. Across states - it does show us that in both states, high income individuals make up a smaller percentage of active members. In Colombia 45% of those who participate in charitable/humanitarian organizations have a low income and in Ecuador those who participate and have a low income are 36.3%.

While in Colombia there are 43% who participate and have a medium income and in Ecuador 47.6% participate and have a medium income. Individuals with high income and participate in Colombia are 12.1% and Ecuador has 16.1%. Seeing the percentages there is not a big difference in them and it is not big enough to say that income for sure is a reason. I expected those with a low income to dominate in participating in charitable/humanitarian organizations and to not be close to those with a medium income.

Chart 7

Income (Active Member)	Colombia	Ecuador
Low	45%	36.3%
Medium	43%	47.6%
High	12.1%	16.1%
	N = 1,520	N = 1,177

Age is considered a factor because an individual's age shapes the way that they view non-governmental organizations. It appears that older people and poor people are more likely to participate in both countries. The percentages are very close, they are about one or two percent off from each other. Though wanting to compare and contrast them, it seems that in both Ecuador and Colombia the age group of 50 and more seems to be the age where there is the most participation but not by much. It looks like the age group of up to 29 has the least amount of participation out of the three age groups. Older individuals look like they like to participate and join non-governmental organizations which is to the contrary of what we know that older people are not as likely to volunteer (Bradley 2000,30).

Chart 8

Ecuador Age	Not a Member	Inactive	Active	Colombia Age	Not a Member	Inactive	Active
Up to 29	33.1%	37.6%	26.4%		36.2%	42.1%	28.9%
30-49	39.9%	36.5%	36%		37.2%	29.8%	34.2%
50 and up	27%	25.9%	37.6%		26.6%	28.1%	36.9%
N= 1,187				N = 1,520			

Overall, social class, income, and age does not play a big factor in deciding whether people are going to volunteer for charitable/humanitarian organizations. As we saw with the social class variable, the lower middle class are most likely to participate in non-governmental organizations with the upper class being the least likely. In terms of income, the middle class are the ones who would participate more in charitable/humanitarian organizations. We are able to see a pattern forming where the middle class citizens are being the ones who tend to participate more. Age is close in percentage between the 30-49 and 50 and up, we can say that there is no specific age range that will participate.

2.4 Structural Factors

Chart 9

Crime (Active Member)	Colombia	Ecuador
Often	10.7%	8.1%
Sometimes	12.1%	13.8%
Rarely	19.5%	24.4%
Never	57.7%	53.7%
	N = 1,520	N = 1,180

When individuals were asked whether they felt unsafe from crime in your own home in the last 12 months there were pretty similar numbers between both Colombia and Ecuador. In examining chart 9, active members who never feel safe from crime in their own homes tend to be the ones who participate in charitable/humanitarian organizations. The highest percentage was found in individuals saying that they never feel unsafe from crime in their own homes in both Ecuador and Colombia. Ecuador has a percentage of 53.7% and Colombia has a percentage of 57.7% so we can see that they are pretty even in terms of individuals not feeling safe. The second highest percentage was found with the individuals who said that they rarely feel unsafe. For those who say that they often feel unsafe and sometimes is significantly lower compared to never feeling unsafe in your own home from crime

Chart 10

Freedom of Choice and Control (Active Member)	Ecuador	Colombia
A Great Deal	36.3%	52.3%
9	8.9%	8.7%
8	12.1%	12.8%
7	10.5%	4.7%
6	5.6%	8.1%
5	9.7%	8.7%
4	2.4%	-
3	1.6%	1.3%
2	4.0%	-
None at All	8.9%	3.4%
	N = 1,175	N = 1,520

When presented with the question of how much freedom of choice and control they have, Colombia and Ecuador look to have a little bit more of choice and control than Ecuador.

Colombia has 52.3% that say they have a great deal of freedom of choice and control while Ecuador has 36.3% who say they have a great deal. So there is a slight variation between the two but nothing drastic or worth looking deeper into. Only 3.4 % in Colombia said they have no freedom of choice and control and in Ecuador 8.9% individuals said they have no freedom of choice and control. Once again there is a small gap between the two but nothing big. In looking at chart 10 it seems that those who have a great deal of freedom of political choice and control are the ones that participate in charitable/humanitarian organizations.

Overall, in Ecuador and Colombia, individuals feel like they have a great deal of choice and control. As well, a high percentage of individuals never feel unsafe from crime in their homes. These two variables show that those who have more freedom and are not scared about crime are most likely to participate in organizations like human rights.

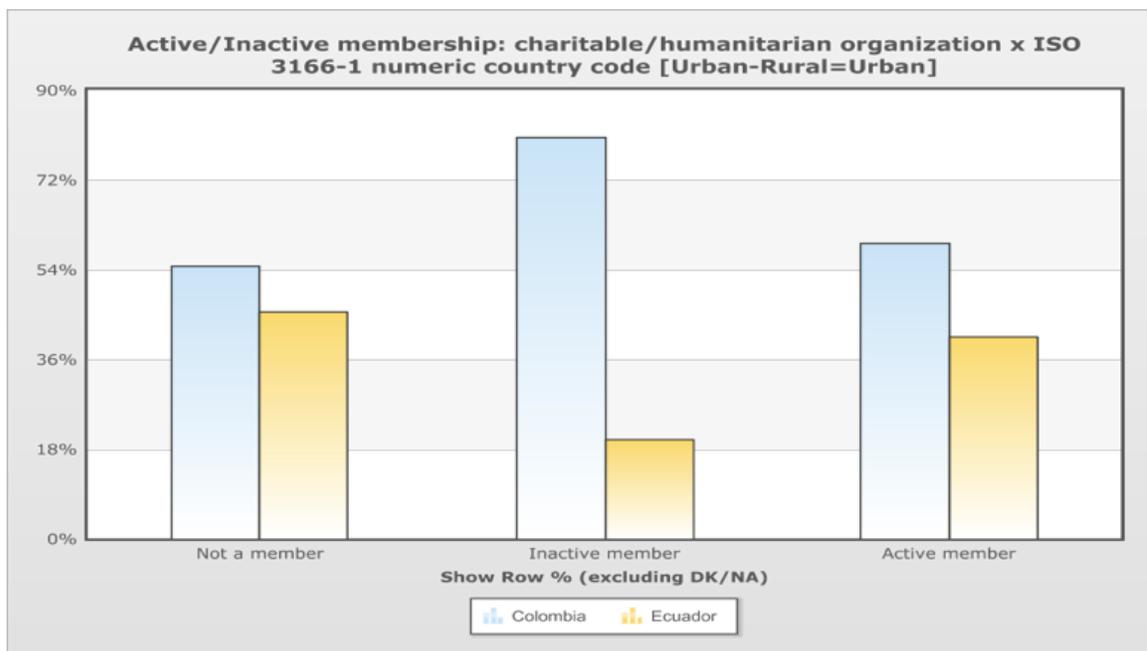
2.5: Personal Variables

Chart 11

Ecuador Religion	Not a Member	Inactive	Active	Colombia Religion	Not a Member	Inactive	Active
Very Important	53%	44%	66.4%		58.1%	59.9%	57%
Rather Important	28.7%	39.3%	24%		21.2%	25.4%	22.8%
Not Very Important	14.3%	11.9%	4.8%		14.4%	10.5%	12.8%
Not at all Important	4%	4.8%	4.8%		6.3%	4.1%	7.4%
N = 1,185				N= 1,520			

Religion is personal and is an individual's personal choice to practice. In Colombia and Ecuador there is no huge variation between the two states in regards to religion. In examining chart 10 those who find religion very important are the ones who we should see participating more in charitable/humanitarian organizations. Ecuador has 66.4% of individuals saying that religion is very important to them. While in Colombia there are 57% saying that religion is very important to them. There is a slight higher percentage in Ecuador where individuals say that religion is not important to them at all. The numbers are pretty close to each other so religion is not the biggest factor in participation in non-governmental organizations.

Graph 1



I examined the urban-rural variable for both Ecuador and Colombia in order to see if that played a factor in why individuals participate in non-governmental organizations. Urban-rural living is a factor for participation because location of one’s residence affects how an individual lives. More people in Colombia live in an urban area than they do in Ecuador but not by much.

In Ecuador more people live in a rural area than in Colombia but as well not by much. In Colombia there are 69.8% of individuals who live in a rural setting and 56.8% in Ecuador. As well, in Ecuador there are 43.2% living in a rural setting and 30.2% in Colombia. The percentages are close and not far apart so urban-rural living is not a huge factor in participation.

Chapter 3: Conclusion

When conducting this study, I used the World Value Survey Database in order to accumulate information that would allow me to build an understanding as to why people participate in non-governmental organizations. I looked into the United Nations and their international human rights treaties in order to get an understanding at how committed Colombia and Ecuador are in providing protections for their citizens' individual human rights.

Looking at various states as well as narrowing my search to Colombia and Ecuador allowed me to understand that there is no one reason or situation that pinpoints why people decide to participate. Social and economic factors show that individuals participate because it makes them feel good about contributing and allows them to build skills for future references. Internal problems such as ones that were in Colombia help attribute and motivate individuals to participate in order to keep governments from overreaching. With Colombia and Ecuador being very similar and obtaining close answers to each other, it is difficult as of right now to say why individuals participate in international non-governmental organizations. I believe one way that Ecuador and Colombia can increase their participation can be through social media because they can reach a multitude of individuals who are supportive of their cause and will most likely participate in some way even if it is only donating. There will need to be deeper analysis that is conducted into both Colombia and Ecuador in order to establish a core reason as to why there is

participation. As of right now, there is no definite answer that explains why we are seeing an increase in participation in international non-governmental organizations like human rights.

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