

THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL ACTIVISM FOR GEORGIAN STUDENTS

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საქართველოს
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Research goal/strategy for Needs Analysis

1. Identifying students' knowledge about Civil Activism;
2. Determining students' attitude towards civil activism;
3. Finding ways and means of promoting civil activism in the universities.



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Methodology for Needs analysis study

Desk research- overview of the literature;

Quantitative – 420 respondents online survey;

Qualitative – 2 focus groups;

Research limitations:

Lack of statistical analysis methods

Lack of the data

Goals:

CURE projects at Georgian Universities;

Civic Participation and Integration
Clubs

Importance of Civic Activism



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1st stage - Desk Research

Active citizenship Indicators and definitions - Caucasian, European and American practices;

Civil activism in the Caucasus

Georgia



Armenia



Azerbaijan



European and American Practices

3 types of active citizenship by Adjic-Toprac

1. Contacts with politicians
2. Noncommittal
3. Political consumerism

CEU

The USA Education Practices

Universities



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2nd Stage – Quantitative Gathering of information

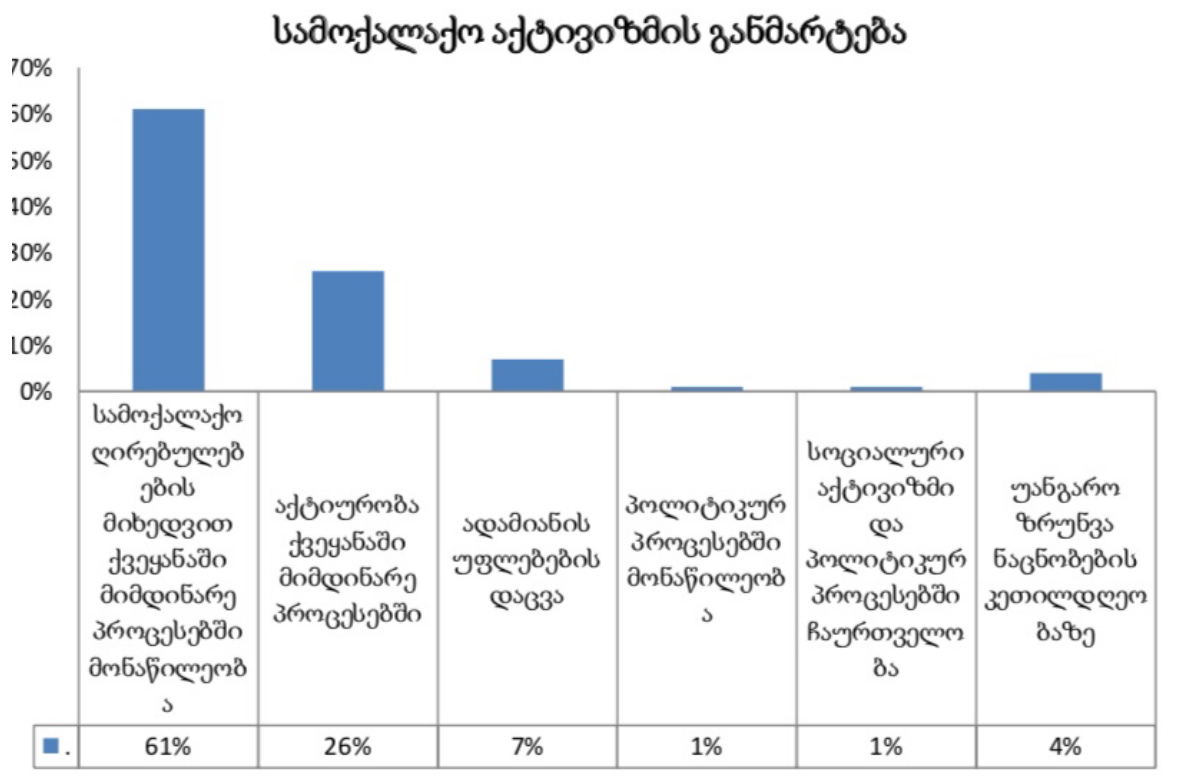
- Demographic characteristics of respondents
 - 420 respondents;
 - Online survey;
 - 5 Universities;
 - 21-26 years;
 - 66% women – 34% men;
- Civil activism at the universities



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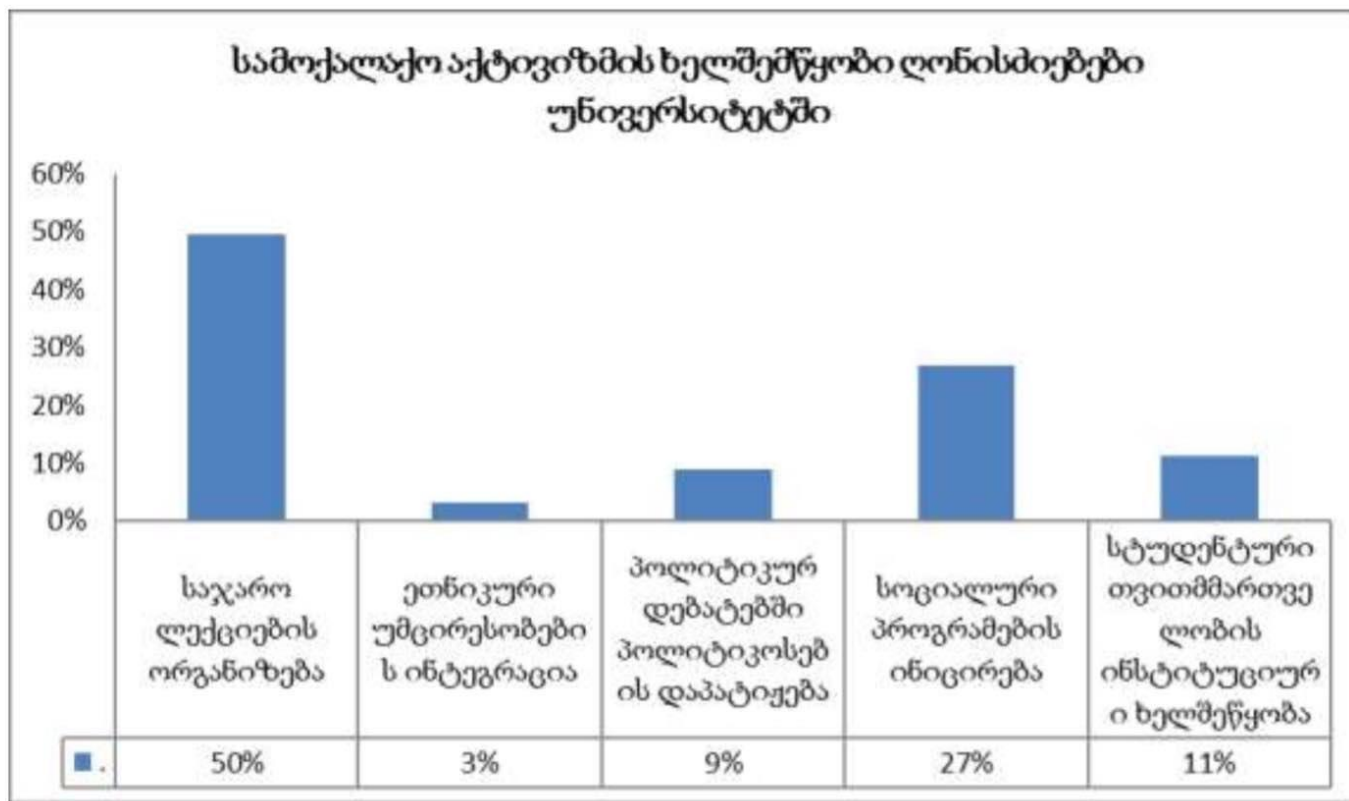


Definition of Civil Activism



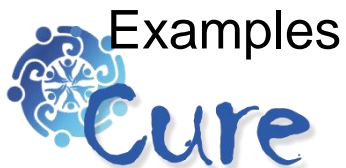
Supporting civil activism at the universities

დიაგრამა 4.



3rd stage – Qualitative Collection of Information

- Two focus groups – ISU and TSU Students;
- Main Questions: 1. What attitude do students have for civil activism, 2. how they understand this term and 2. how to promote civil activism in the university space;
- Definition and examples of civil activism
 - Examples
- Civil activism in the university area
 - Examples
- Prohibiting factors of civil activism



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Definiton of civil activism by students

- Helping other people
- Taking care of the environment
- Voting in the election
- Volunteering
- Reflecting to the ongoing political situations
- Participating in the protest demonstrations
- Signing petitions
- Environmental protection activities



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Measures to achieve civil activism

Improving factors of civil participation

- Liberal environment and freedom of expression - ISU
- Rage as a source of social activism - mobilization, protest;

"One of the criteria of civil activism is how angry the students are at university ... the level of civil activism will be reduced when students are less angry" - Aslan



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University interaction with communities

- Providing information about ongoing events via internet;
- Creating discussion space;
- Creating research space;
- Giving theoretical knowledge to students on civil activism;
- Cooperation with public and private structures

"The university should start creating research centers and spaces. Civil activism can not be if there is no data on certain issues "(Tamari)



Personal Experiences

- Focus group participant experiences;
- Anger;
- Ineffective administration support;
- Initiative to promote civil activism:
 - Educational Trainings
 - Liberal environment
 - Visiting communities
 - Promoting non-formal education



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Analyze and review of research results

- Participation in public processes VS initiating active actions;
- Lack of understanding of civil activism benefits;
- Lack of flexible learning environment;
- Low level of civil engagement;
- Lack of financial and university administration support;
- Strengthening civil activism:

Regional level - Georgia and Armenia (volunteering)

Changes in education national and university levels



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conclusion

- Interest to strengthen civil activism and engagement;
- Importance to implement supportive environment at the universities
- Importance to determine the specific needs for particular universities
- understanding the importance of civil activism, but have low experience
- Importance of collaboration between universities and other institutions
- Supporting volunteer practices



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