



Revadim Initiative Impact on Academic Achievements Evaluation Study – Executive Summary

February 2015

Program Description

Revadim is a joint initiative of the Rashi Foundation, JDC Israel and the Detroit Federation. The program began in 2010 and operates on the national level in order to support the empowerment and renewal of public elementary schools, with an emphasis on those located in the geographical or social periphery. The program operates alongside the public education system and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The Revadim schools benefit from professional and organizational assistance, aiming to see within three or four years significant improvement in their functioning and in their pupils' achievements.

Purpose of the study

To examine the effectiveness of the program in improving academic achievements of students in the Meitzav Examinations as well as in internal examinations.

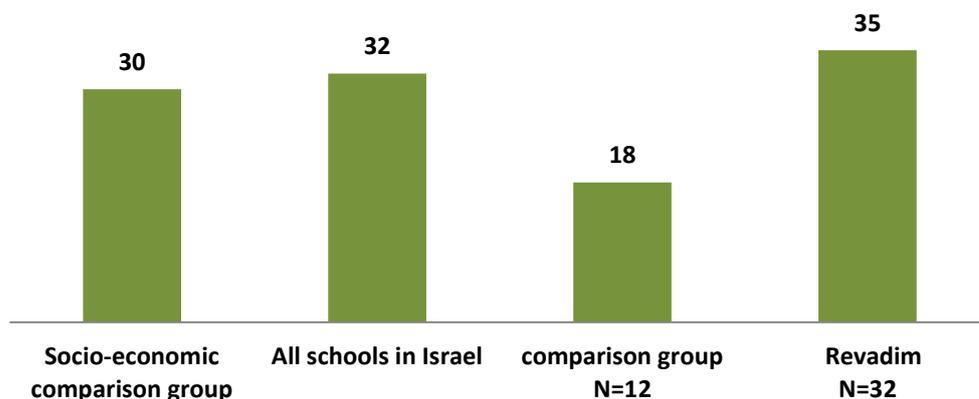
Methodology

An analysis was made of the school achievements in the Meitzav Examinations before and after joining the program, and in comparison to control groups (similar schools that did not participate in the program, all schools in Israel, and schools with comparable socioeconomic variables). In addition, an analysis was made of student achievements in internal examinations in the core subjects (English, Hebrew, math). The analysis focused on students who received intensive educational and emotional support from the program – hereinafter: focus group).

Main Findings

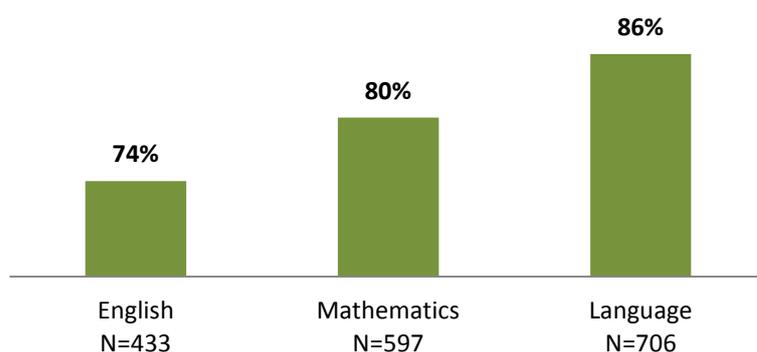
- The research findings show that the Revadim initiative is effective in improving the achievements of schools in the core subjects. Analysis of the data indicates a consistent improvement in the achievements of all schools in the initiative, before and after implementation of the program. The average improvement in the four core subjects (English, Hebrew, math and science) is 35 points (out of a scale with an average of 500). Similarly, the achievements of schools in the initiative are significantly better than those of the control group (similar schools) and slightly better than those of the socio-economic comparison group. In comparison to the achievements of schools throughout Israel, a significant difference was not found among the groups.

Improvement of school achievements in the Meitzav Examinations before and after implementation of the intervention program



- The improvement in the school achievements in the Meitzav Examinations occurred, as stated, in all the core subjects. However, the greatest improvement is in the subjects of language and sciences, both in relation to their achievements before implementation of the program and also in relation to the national norm for the socio-economic group.
- From the research findings one may conclude that the support given by the program to students in the focus group contribute to improvement of their academic achievements. An analysis of student achievements at the beginning of the year as compared with the end of the year indicates significant progress among most of the students and improvement in their scores in Hebrew, math and English (86%, 80%, and 74%, respectively).¹ On the average, the improvement in their achievements was 16% (i.e. approximately 16 points on a scale of 1-100). Furthermore, approximately 70% of the students improved their achievements by at least 5 points.

Number of students who improved their achievements



¹During the last year of activity, learning reinforcements were not provided in science and therefore this subject is not included in the analysis.