

"Friends of Beit Ham" in Yeruham

Executive Summary

November 2013

Program Description

The Friends of Beit Ham Association operates two youth centers In Yeruham: "*Neve Haemek*" and "*Machsan 52*". The centers provide a supplementary framework for afternoon activity for at-risk youth (13-18), offering a range of empowering informal activities. The program is designed to foster and develop life skills among adolescents that would facilitate their normative inclusion in society. Another goal centers on training and professionalization of staff working with adolescents.

The Research Goal

The research was designed to examine the degree to which the program achieves its goals and to identify areas that needed improvement.

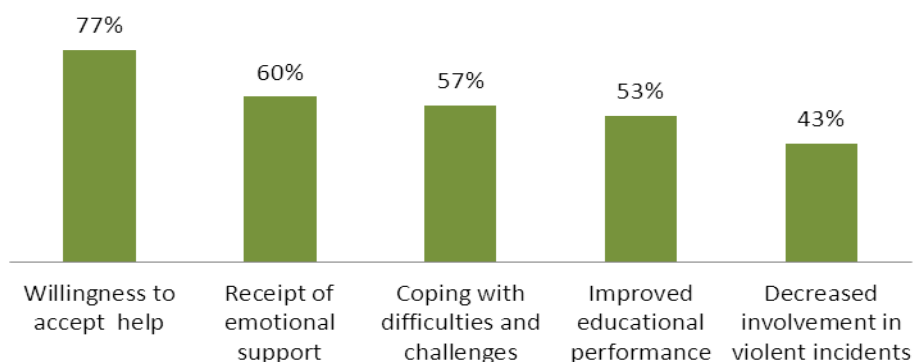
The Research Method

30 teenage boys and girls in both centers answered a questionnaire that was developed in conjunction with the program's management. The questionnaires measured the program's perceived contribution, the degree to which the participants acquire significant tools, how they see their future and their satisfaction with the program.

Main Findings

- The analysis revealed that the program's contribution manifested differently each center. In *Machsan 52*, the contribution was reflected in emotional aspects, in a sense of empowerment and a feeling that 'someone is listening to me'. In contrast, in *Neve Haemek* the primary perceived contribution was in the educational arena.

Contribution of the program as perceived by participants (N=30)



- In both centers, participants expressed high satisfaction with the enrichment activities and the manner in which they spend their leisure time (the adolescents learn to play musical instruments and participate in various clubs such as *Krav Maga*)
- The satisfaction with the program as a whole is high. 93% of the adolescents strongly agreed that they enjoyed coming to the center, and three-quarters of them said that they felt that the counselors cared about them.
- In terms of the future, 93% of the adolescent, girls and boys, plan to enlist in the IDF and 89% believe that they will graduate high school with a full matriculation diploma. Slightly more than half of the participants believe that they will attend academic studies in the future, most of whom in the *Neve Haemek* center.
- The research reveals that *Neve Haemek* reaches a more diverse population and it is clear that some of them are not among the target population. This population comes to the club to benefit from the recreational services it provides and not because they need emotional and educational support.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The research is a pilot study of limited scope. The program seems to provide the participants with tools to cope emotionally with issues that affect teens, and we may conclude that it prevents aimless wandering and exposure to risk situations. Concurrently, the program does not provide pupils with significant tools to prepare them for school and adult life.



Young in Academia Program in Yeruham

Executive Summary

November 2013

Program Description

The Young in Academia Program is designed to prevent young people from dropping out of academic studies. Every year, 15-20 students from Yeruham (second and third generation) participate in the program. The majority of them are in pre-academic programs or in the first year of academic studies. The activity in the program focuses on academic excellence and development of study skills, social responsibility and community involvement.

The Research goal

The purpose of the research was to examine the extent to which the program achieves its goals.

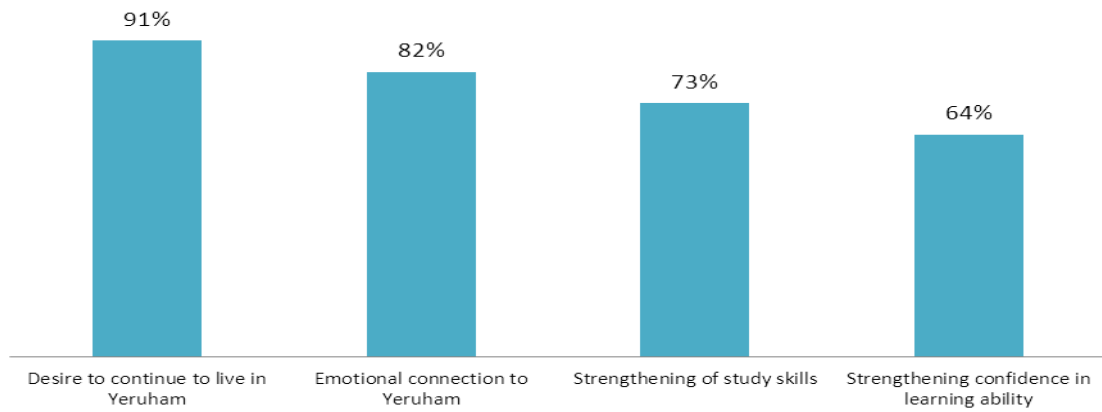
Methodology

A questionnaire that was developed for the research was given to graduates of the program as well as to present participants. The questionnaire examined how they view their future, perceive the contribution of the program, and relate to it. In addition, the research investigated whether the program prevents students from dropping out of academic studies. Only 11 out of 90 participants answered the questionnaire.

Main Findings

- According to the responses, the program helps to a great extent to prevent dropout from academic studies. 36% of the participants reported that they definitely would have dropped without the program. 76% stated that the program's support (academic reinforcement and various workshops) prevented them from dropping out.
- The program seems to have an impact on the desire to pursue advanced studies. When the program began, only 8% of the participants said that they thought about pursuing MA or PhD studies, as compared with 82% today.
- According to the responses, participation in the program increased the desires to live in Yeruham, and helped strengthen study skills and confidence in the ability to learn.

Contribution of the program according to the participants (N = 11)



Conclusions and Recommendations

The program helped its participants in preventing their dropping out of school and succeeded in causing them to consider advanced degrees. However, due to the small sample this conclusion cannot be a generalized. In addition, the program is limited in scope and the size of stipend received is not substantial. Perhaps this fact is connected to the low response rate of the students and graduates.



Educators Community program in Yeruham

Executive Summary

November 2013

Program Description

The program was developed to advance the education system in Yeruham and to attract students who will integrate in formal education, with particular emphasis on science and technology education. As part of the program, students are introduced to issues related to the Israeli education system in general and to formal and informal education in Yeruham in particular. They also receive training in social leadership, interpersonal communication, vocational guidance, etc.

The Research Goal

The purpose of the research was to examine the degree to which the program achieved its goals.

Methodology

For the purpose of this research, a unique questionnaire was developed that examined student attitudes towards the program, their vision of the future and their attitudes towards the town of Yeruham. 19 of the 39 graduates completed the questionnaire.

Main Findings

The graduates' responses revealed that the program largely achieves its main goal – attracting students to teaching. Only 12% of the graduates said that they intended to become teachers prior to the program, and today 61% are involved in teaching (formal or informal) while 74% believe that they will engage in teaching in the future.

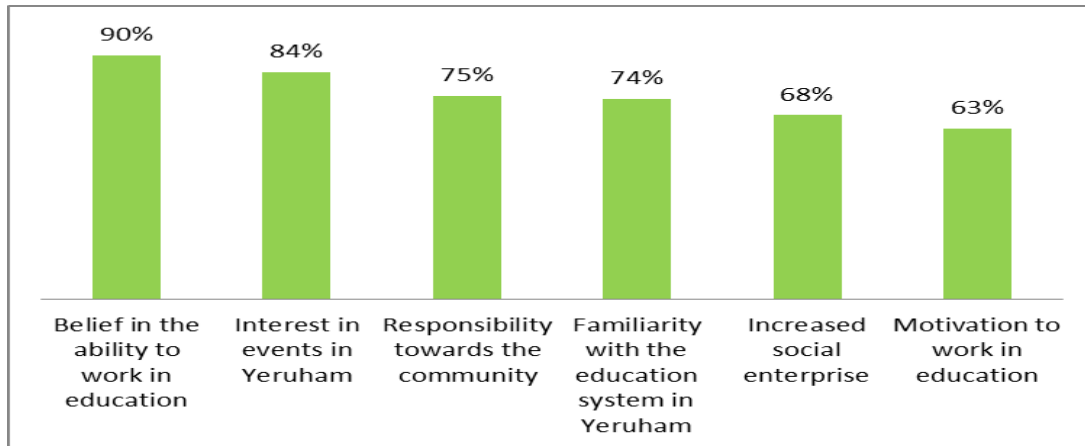
Graduate reports on intentions to enter in the education system (N=19)

Before the program	12%
Today	61%
In the future	74%

- The program was found to contribute to increasing social involvement in general, and particularly in Yeruham. 90% of graduates said that they would like to be involved in social activity in the future. In addition, all program graduates who are originally Yeruham residents are planning to continue living there.

- The graduates' reports indicate that the program contributed to increasing confidence in their ability to work in education, and to an interest in the town and its education system; another perceived contribution is a sense of responsibility and attachment to the community in Yeruham.

The program's Contribution according to Participant Perceptions (N=19)



Conclusions and Recommendations

The program appears to succeed in attracting students to education and community involvement in Yeruham. At the same time, it is necessary to review the scope and implementation of the program, since its scope is currently limited and its curriculum is not sufficiently broad or comprehensive as intended in the initial plan.