



Katzir Scholarships Program

Executive Summary

September 2014

Program Description

The Katzir Scholarship Program initiated by Rashi provides financial, material and emotional support to more than one thousand students each year in the social-geographic periphery. The program has been operating since 2000, and presently targets some ten different populations, among them: single mothers, boarding school and youth village graduates, and members of the Ethiopian community.

Purpose of the Research

The research was designed to examine the overall effectiveness of the program and the effectiveness of its various components. In addition, the research was intended to provide a database for decision-making regarding the appropriate model of program activity. In so doing the research sought to study the social mobility of program graduates over the years and the program's contribution to this mobility.

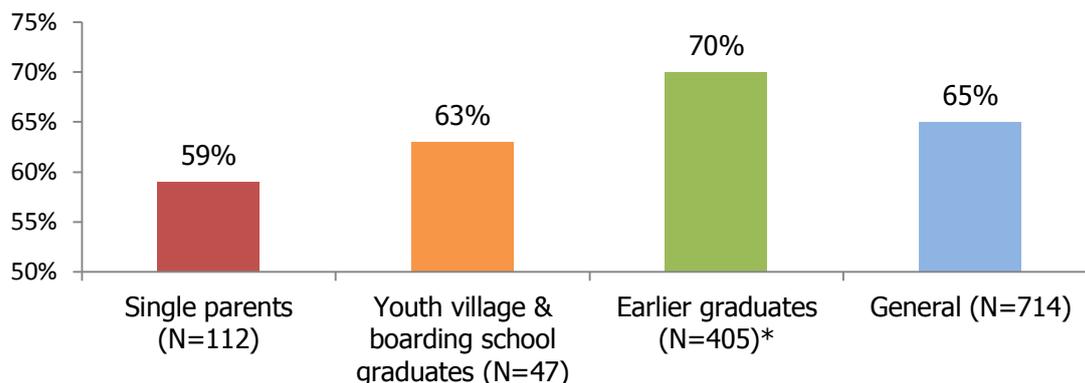
Methodology

Two questionnaires were developed especially for this research – a questionnaire for scholarship recipients (active students), to which 366 participants responded; and a questionnaire for graduates, to which 728 responded. The questionnaires measured social mobility using an index that was built on the basis of literature review. They also examined the following parameters: the contribution of the scholarship and of the program's additional support; the importance of the Katzir Coordinator in the academic institution; personal capability; the contribution of the program to the pursuit of studies and to the prevention of dropout; satisfaction with the program, and its perceived contribution. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with the program management, 10 scholarship recipients, and 4 academic coordinators. A satisfaction questionnaire was also distributed to the deans of the academic institutions.

Main Findings

- 70% of the program graduates placed high in the socio-economic mobility index. Thus most of the participants report average and above average income, acquiring a profession with good employment opportunities, improved economic status as compared with their parents and with friends lacking academic education, expectations for further studies and for developing a career.

Social Mobility Index – the percentage of graduates improving their socio-economic status



* Earlier graduates: those who completed the program in 2012 (sufficient time to expect a change in their socio-economic status)

- 67% of the scholarship recipients (presently active students) state that they would have dropped out of school if not for the scholarship. 29% state that they would have dropped out if not for the additional support of the program (such as the personal guidance, tutoring, and workshops). 28% of the graduates claim in retrospect that they would have dropped out of school without the program.
- More than two thirds of the scholarship recipients who had heard about the Katzir program before they began their studies claimed that without the program, they probably would not have pursued academic studies at all. This applies especially to the single mothers, 90% of whom reported that without the program they would not have made the decision to enroll in academic studies.
- 64% of the graduates stated that thanks to the program they were better able to concentrate on their studies, and 48% stated that the program allowed them to manage economically during their studies.
- The program component that provides the greatest contribution is the financial aid. 93% of the active students and 69% of the graduates claimed that it benefitted them greatly. The components of the additional support were also helpful, but to a lesser degree. 69% of the active students and 49% of the graduates stated that the personal guidance of the program had a substantial contribution, and similar data was found regarding the educational enrichment. The other support components had a smaller contribution.
- The highest perceived contribution was found among single mothers (both graduates and scholarship recipients). The lowest contribution is among graduates of Ma'ase programs and graduates of various short-term or small-scale programs.
- 76% of the scholarship recipients are very highly satisfied. Particularly high satisfaction was found among the single mothers (90%) and scholarship recipients studying in institutions where the program operates in an expanded manner (84%).

- The program is perceived as unique in the personal guidance, support and attention it provides, according to the scholarship recipients who were asked about it in an open-ended question.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the findings, it may be concluded that the Katzir program contributes to a great extent to the social mobility of its graduates. In many instances, it helps to prevent drop-out and enable the completion of studies. This is true particularly for single mothers and in the colleges the program focuses on.

- It is recommended to focus future efforts on populations that especially benefit from the program and cannot get similar support elsewhere (e.g. single parents, youth village graduates).
- The highest level of contribution was measured among graduates and scholarship recipients in colleges in the periphery, which are the location of the program's core activity. Therefore it is recommended that the program concentrate primarily on these institutions.
- It is recommended to make efforts to publicize the program among the target populations that are not aware of it.
- The budget for tutoring lessons is clearly under-utilized. It is recommended to examine whether an investment in this component is worthwhile.