

Impact of the Peace Education Program in Correctional Facilities

In April 2020, Donald Sheppard of ACE Insights, New Zealand, completed an Impact Assessment of the Peace Education Program facilitated in Correctional Facilities across four continents and in seven countries.

The objectives of the Peace Education Program are for participants to:

- Understand the possibility of personal peace
- Become aware of their inner resources such as peace, appreciation, inner strength, self-awareness, clarity, understanding, dignity, choice and hope
- Recognize their innate value

The Sample

When participants completed the Peace Education Program, they were asked for their feedback by filling out anonymous self-completion survey forms. These survey forms were used in the research of 604 participants who completed the Peace Education Program in correctional facilities in 2018 and 2019. The participants represented seven diverse countries: USA, UK, Spain, Portugal, Finland, Australia, and Trinidad and Tobago. The survey respondents were aged from 20 to 80 with a median age of 42.

The Study

Peace Education Program participants rated the course using a rating scale from 1 (strongly disagree, i.e., very negative) to 5 (strongly agree, i.e., very positive). They indicated their level of agreement with ten statements describing their understanding both before and after participating in the Program. Open-ended questions recorded their assessment of the course in their own words in response to two main questions:

What did you get out of the Peace Education Program?

Do you see the Peace Education Program as meaningful in your life?

Results

Both quantitatively and qualitatively, Peace Education Program participants from correctional institutions strongly endorse the value of the courses.

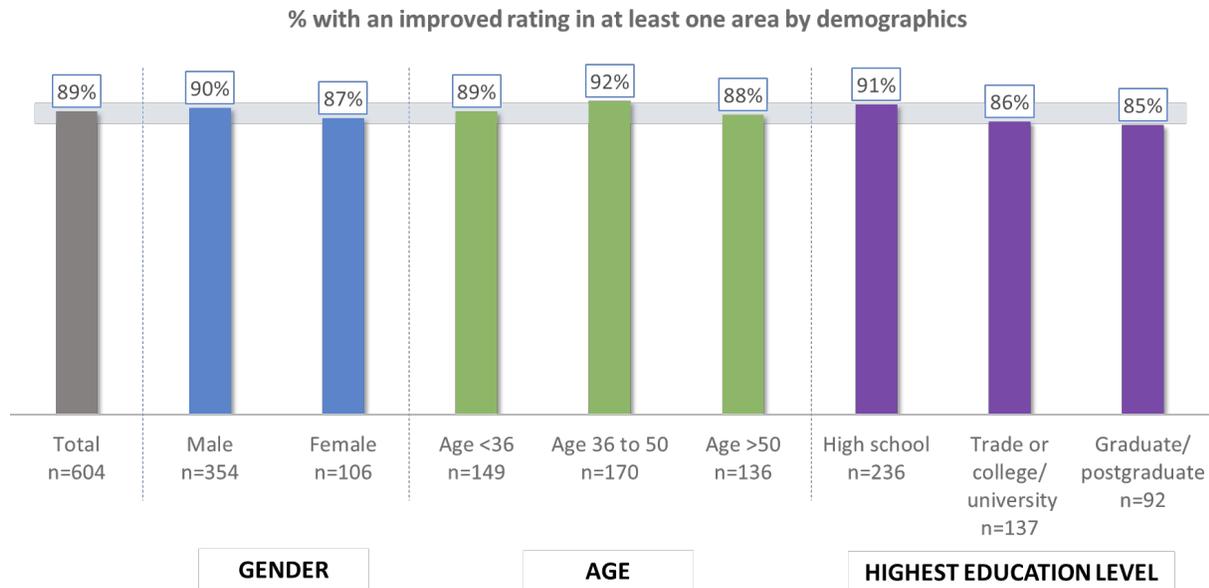
- In all ten areas, there was a big jump in positive ratings, led by “I understand that by knowing my inner strengths and resources, I can be more self-aware and live my life more consciously” (+ 57 percentage points). In all ten areas this improvement was again significant at the 99.5% level.
- 89% of participants reported improvement in at least one of the areas measured and 63% reported improvement in seven or more areas.
- Attitudinal changes: Realizing there is still time to change, being willing to change, being able to face past events, and feeling empowered.
- Behavioral changes: Managing anger and avoiding fighting.

Please see the full Impact Assessment Report now available at https://www.tprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Impact_Assessment_PeaceEducationProgram_2020.pdf

The following diagram shows the seven main results of the Program identified from thematic analysis of participants’ open-ended comments:



As the chart below shows, similar very positive results were recorded for all sub-groups by age, gender and highest educational level – the Program has a positive impact for all types of people.



Please see the full Impact Assessment Report now available at

[https://www.tprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Impact Assessment PeaceEducationProgram 2020.pdf](https://www.tprf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Impact%20Assessment%20PeaceEducationProgram%202020.pdf)