

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Peace Education Programme for Schools

While the Peace Education Programme, in particular PEP Collection, has been hosted by schools and universities in many countries worldwide, the course content was designed for adults. For this reason, the Peace Education Programme for Schools (PEP EDU) was specifically developed for schools and universities. This Programme was designed with shorter videos and more activities to build understanding and promote discussion.

The overall objective of the evaluation study was to conduct a small-scale initial investigation to see if participation in the Peace Education Programme for Schools will make a positive difference in the lives of students who complete the Programme.

Student sample

Sixty students from and four schools in the U.S., U.K. and New Zealand took part in the trial and study.

Student Feedback

Both quantitatively and qualitatively, students in the study strongly endorse participation in the Peace Education Programme for Schools.

When 60 students who completed the Programme were asked to rate their level of understanding of the ten themes of the Programme, they reported **very positive improvements**:

- Strongly agree (very positive) **ratings of understanding increased five-fold** from 9% of 'before' responses to 46% of 'after' responses.
- Total **disagree ratings** (negative and very negative) **dropped very sharply** from 38% to 3% of the total.
- In all ten areas there was a **big jump in positive ratings**, led by *I recognize that I have the freedom and power to make daily choices and that these choices affect my wellbeing* (+ 49 percentage points).
- 93% of Programme participants reported **improvement in at least one of the areas measured** and 70% reported improvement in **seven or more areas**.

In the three schools¹ where these questions were asked:

- 82% said they would **recommend** the Programme to others.
- 100% said that the Programme had **helped them in their lives**.

The main **positive themes** from open-ended comments included:

- Feeling peace inside
- Appreciating being alive

¹ Two New Zealand high schools and the girls' high school in the United Kingdom

- Looking at life differently
- Greater understanding
- Applying the Programme
- Inclusiveness
- Being thankful

Only three students (5%) made **negative comments** about the Programme – two said the Programme was boring.

These initial results from a relatively small sample of students across a diverse range of schools around the world, indicate that the **Peace Education Programme for Schools will make a positive difference in most participants' lives.**

Teachers' Feedback

Three New Zealand teachers gave the Programme a rating of **4.2 out of 5** as an educational resource.

- **Highest rated areas** include the Educator's Guide, Activities and Session Plans
- **Areas to improve** include Videos (make them shorter) and Course Workbooks (students using the workbooks to record their observations and teachers having the opportunity for formative assessments).

Four key positives of the Programme were identified from teachers' open-ended comments:

- Students have greater **self-awareness**
- Their **attitudes improve**
- Their **academic performance improves**
- The Programme **complements other learning activities.**

Main **suggested improvements** echo those made by students:

- Shorter videos and more animations
- More games and interactive activities.