

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2020, over 6,000 incarcerated people have completed the Peace Education Program in Correctional Facilities in Brazil. The overall objective of the impact study was to investigate whether participation in the Peace Education Program made a positive difference in the lives of inmates who complete the Program.

With a total sample of 5,276 incarcerated individuals, the quantitative findings are extremely robust.

Both quantitatively and qualitatively, individuals in the study strongly endorse participation in the Peace Education Program. Benefits include reduced anxiety, improved self-understanding and better appreciation for the value of life.

Positive results from the 5,267 participants who provided feedback on the Program include the following:

- On completion of the Program, on average 94% agree that they understand or recognise the ten course themes, while only 4% disagree
- 96% said they are likely to recommend the Program to others (73% strongly likely).
- 99.7% said that the Program had helped them in their lives, with only 15 participants out of 5,276 (0.3%) disagreeing.

The main things incarcerated participants like about the Program include:

- Understanding that inner peace is possible
- Experiencing hope, inner strength
- New ways of thinking and self-understanding
- Videos, stories and examples.

Almost nine out of ten (89%) see no need for any improvements to the Program.

Main results of how the Program helped participants in their lives are:

- My life is changed – I see things differently – I am a better person
- I know/feel inner peace
- I understand and appreciate the value of my life
- I have better self-awareness.

In summary, these results from a very large sample of participants incarcerated in Brazilian correctional facilities, indicate that the Peace Education Program is making a very positive impact in almost all inmates' lives.