



PEACE
CORPS

Philippines HOST COUNTRY IMPACT STUDY

Purpose

In 2008, the Peace Corps launched a series of studies to determine the impact of Volunteers in meeting two of the agency's three goals: building local capacity and promoting a better understanding of Americans among local people in host countries. These Host Country Impact Studies are unique in providing feedback from the people who lived and worked with Peace Corps Volunteers. A Filipino research team conducted this study in the winter of 2010, interviewing 245 respondents in 26 communities, and submitted a final report to the post. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and produced a series of reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

Study Focus: Basic Education and Technical Assistance Program in the Philippines

As of 2011, 8,592 Volunteers have served in the Philippines since Peace Corps opened in 1961. The goal of the Basic Education and Technical Assistance (BETA) project is to build the capacity of teachers, students, and community members to address their educational needs and implement sustainable school and community-based educational change.

Peace Corps Goal One

"To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women."

Findings

Educational objectives achieved:

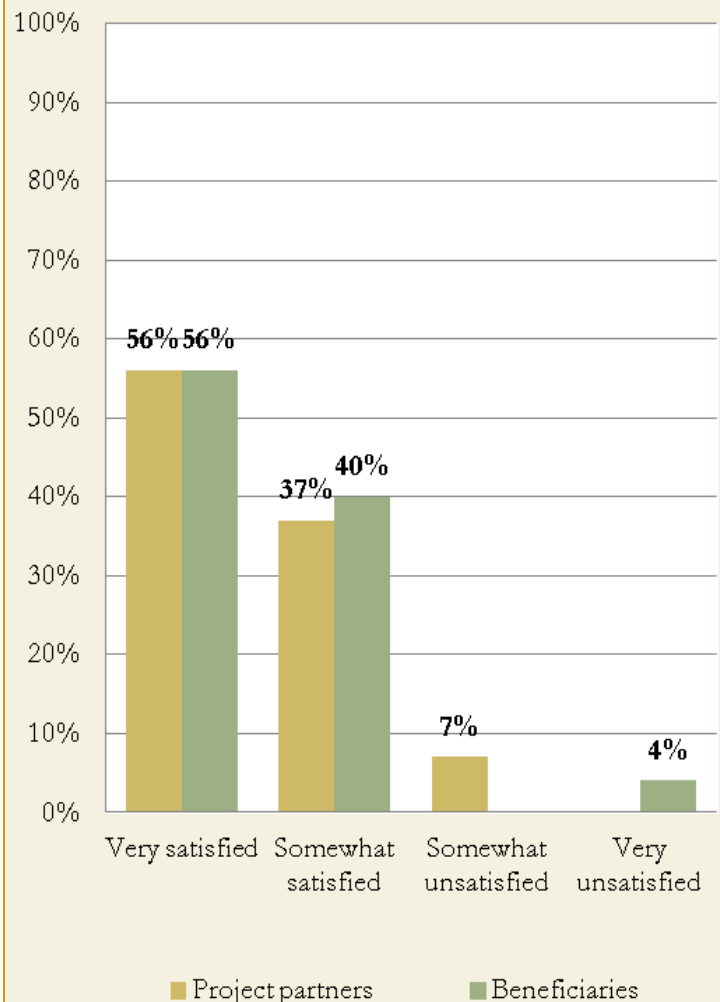
- 96 percent of project partners and 92 percent of beneficiaries (school teachers, parents and administrators) said student confidence and competence in English were much better after working with the Volunteer.
- 93 percent of project partners, 96 percent of beneficiaries, and 51 percent of students reported increased access to classroom resources and books after working with the Volunteer.
- 84 percent of beneficiaries reported using interactive teaching methods.
- One of the most significant outcomes of the project was a better student-teacher relationship after working with a Volunteer.

Sustainability:

- 69 percent of partners reported using the skills they learned from the Volunteer on a daily basis.
- 50 percent of students reported they study more and speak English more often after working with the Volunteer.

Teacher: *"We used to concentrate on grammar while she taught us to focus on comprehension and speaking skills. The reading and comprehension skills of the students are better now."*

Satisfaction with Changes Resulting from Peace Corps Projects





Peace Corps Goal Two

“To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served.”

Findings

Before interacting with Volunteers:

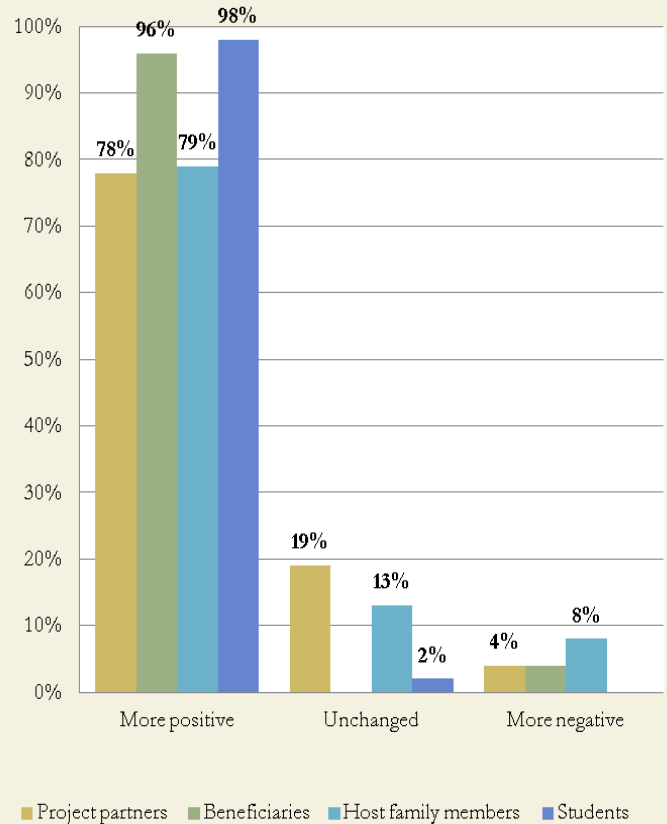
- 78 percent of project partners and 75 percent of beneficiaries had learned about Americans from television or movies.
- Filipino respondents described Americans as friendly and helpful, especially because they give aid to the Philippines.
- They also described them as powerful military and colonial rulers who were superior to Filipinos and often cheated local people.
- Students most often described Americans through their perceived racial characteristics and eating habits: Americans are white, tall, and blond and eat only hamburgers.

After interacting with Volunteers:

- Project partners and beneficiaries more often described Americans as helpful, friendly, and kind, or hardworking, results-oriented, and disciplined.
- 54 percent of students described Americans as kind, caring, and friendly.
- Project partners and beneficiaries stated they had become more punctual at work, more patient with students, more fair in their grading, more committed to completing their work on time, more results-oriented, confident, and organized.

Filipino respondent: *“The Volunteer is the exact opposite of the American persona I conceived in my mind...she changed radically my negative perception of Americans.”*

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



Overall, participants improved their confidence and competence in speaking and reading English. Schools and teachers increased their access to classroom resources and adopted interactive teaching methods. Participants’ opinions about Americans became more positive.