



PEACE
CORPS

Thailand HOST COUNTRY IMPACT STUDY

Purpose

In 2008, the Peace Corps launched a series of studies to determine the impact of its 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 have lived and worked with Peace Corps Volunteers. A Thai research team conducted this study in the fall of 2010, interviewing 254 respondents in 30 communities, and submitted a final report to the post upon completion of the field work. The Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning developed the methods and protocols, trained the local researchers, and has produced a series of standard format reports from this and other Host Country Impact Studies.

Study Focus: Teacher Collaboration and Community Outreach Project

As of 2012, 5,095 Volunteers have served in Thailand since Peace Corps opened in 1961. The goal of the Teacher Collaboration and Community Outreach (TCCO) project was to help Thai teachers learn new student-centered and participatory teaching methods, lesson planning, classroom resource development, and community networking.

Peace Corps Goal One

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

Findings

Educational objectives achieved:

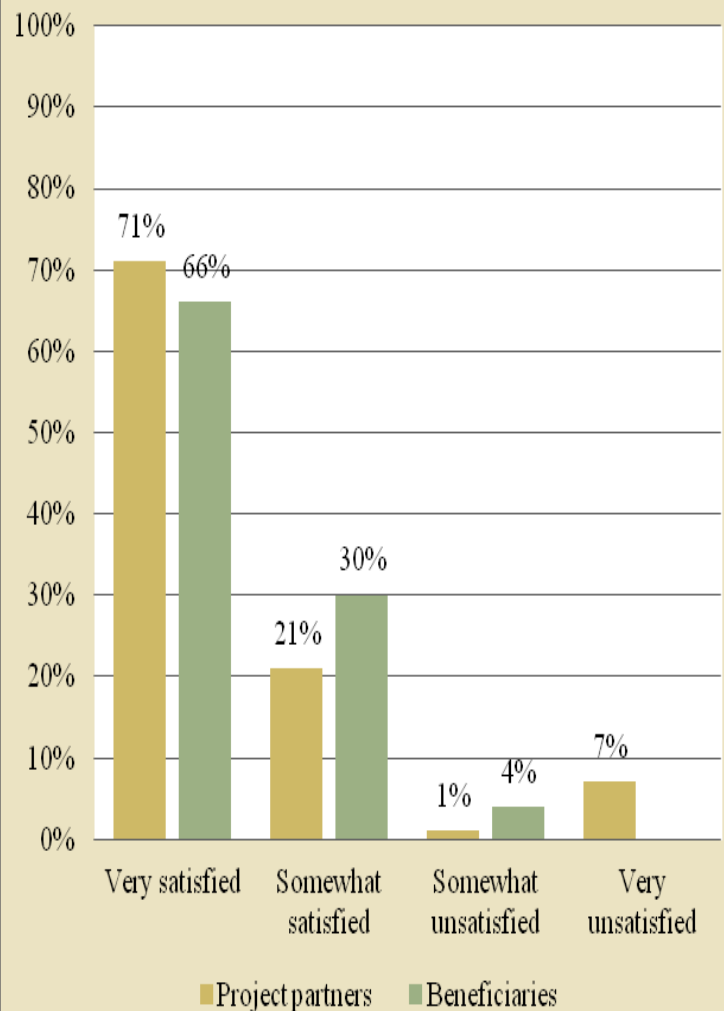
- 94 percent of project partners and 94 percent of beneficiaries (school teachers and administrators) adopted student-centered teaching methods.
- 94 percent of project partners and 91 percent of beneficiaries reported students were more engaged in class.
- 94 percent of project partners and 91 percent of beneficiaries reported creating and using new teacher resources.
- One significant outcome of the project was the development of better student-teacher relationships after working with a Volunteer.

Sustainability:

- 61 percent of partners reported using the skills they learned from the Volunteer on a daily or weekly basis in the classroom.
- 77 percent of students reported their teachers continued to use student-centered teaching methods.

Teacher: *"I can develop lessons plans and prepare materials by myself, not just copy from books. Because I became more disciplined and keep strict deadlines, other teachers also [see] me as a role model."*

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:

- 65 percent of all respondents learned about Americans from television or movies.
- 15 percent of counterparts had a very positive opinion of Americans.
- Thai respondents described Americans as independent, self-reliant and hard workers who are kind.
- They also described them as rich people who dress inappropriately, and bring drugs and sex tourism to Thailand.

After interacting with Volunteers:

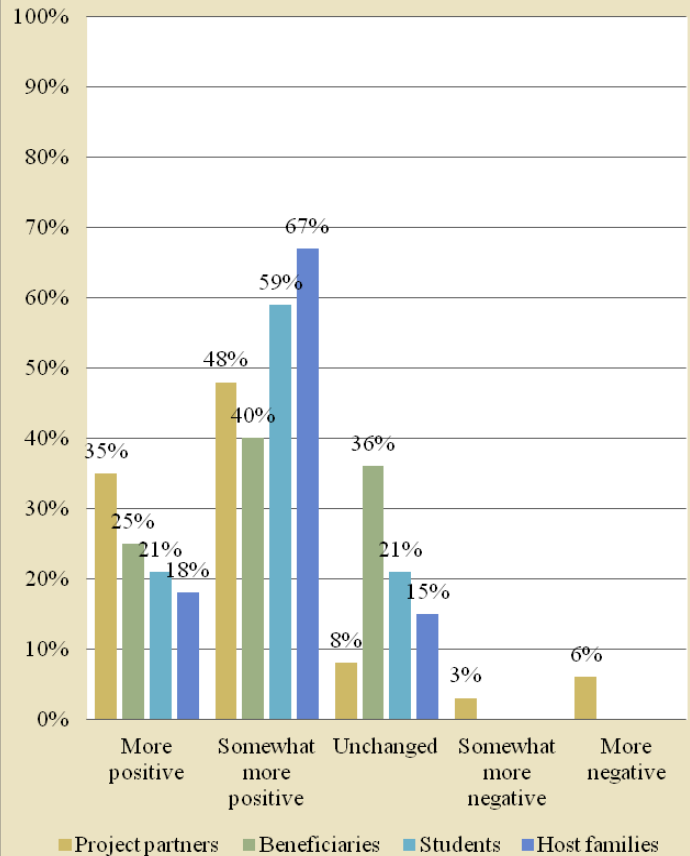
- 35 percent of counterparts had a very positive opinion of Americans.
- Thai respondents often described Americans as hard-working, friendly and kind individuals who plan their work systematically, and are good-tempered and committed to their work.
- Project partners and beneficiaries said they became more responsible and organized at work, more patient with students, and more confident. They were willing to try new ideas and listen to different opinions.

Thai counterpart: *“I had never worked with Americans before so I did not quite understand how they thought or behaved...Now I have realized that...Americans are friendly. They are good teachers who care a lot about the students.”*

Thai Counterpart: *“I remember the enthusiasm, strong commitment, and determination of the Volunteer.”*

Thai Host Family: *“We feel like brothers and sisters. The Volunteer respected me and my wife...We helped each other in many things and ate together just like in a family.”*

Opinion of Americans After Interacting with Volunteers



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