Inter-School Cultural Programmes
Programme Evaluation
July 2016

Supported by

Peacebuilding
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
The purpose of the survey is to:

- Evaluate ONUR facilitated cross-cultural programming;
- Measure its impact on strengthening inter-cultural interaction;
- Identify ways to increase programme effectiveness.
Methodology

- Quantitative research
- Fieldwork period from 14 to 16 June 2016
- Random selection of 15 schools (6 host & 9 participating) from Western, Central, Southern and Northern Provinces
- Pen and paper self-filled questionnaire by 605 students
- Including 305 students that participated and 300 that did not participate in inter-school cross-cultural programme
- Margin of error +/-4 at 95% confidence level

Survey carried out in Rathmalana Hindu College – 15 June 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Host school</th>
<th>Participated school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Vidyalankara M.V.-Negombo</td>
<td>St Peter's College, Negombo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colombo Hindu College, Rathmalana</td>
<td>Kothalavalapura M.V.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Mapalagama Sirisunanda Vidyalaya</td>
<td>Karandeniya Maha Vidyalaya</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sacred Heart Convent-Galle</td>
<td>Alvicious Vidyalaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vavuniya</td>
<td>Sivaprakasha Balika Vidyalaya</td>
<td>Bogaswatta maha Vidyalaya</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Parakum Maha Vidyalaya</td>
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<td>Dharmapala Vidyalaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuwara Eliya</td>
<td>Nanuoya Nawalar Tamil Vidyalaya</td>
<td>Gamini M.M.V.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Madduma Bandara Vidyalaya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section I

Rating of Inter-School Cultural Programme
Rating of Inter-School Cultural Events

#### Avurudu
- **Excellent**: 77
- **Very good**: 17
- **Don’t know**: 2

#### Thai Pongal
- **Excellent**: 51
- **Very good**: 26
- **Don’t know**: 1

UNITY SURVEY 2016 - QUESTION 9
Overall Rating of Inter-School Cultural Programme

I would like to attend a similar event in the future

- Strongly agree: 88%
- Somewhat agree: 10%
- Somewhat disagree: 1%
- Strongly disagree: 1%

It was an enjoyable event overall

- Strongly agree: 81%
- Somewhat agree: 18%
- Somewhat disagree: 0%
- Strongly disagree: 0%

Event leaders were knowledgeable

- Strongly agree: 71%
- Somewhat agree: 23%
- Somewhat disagree: 5%
- Strongly disagree: 2%

Understanding of the event

- Strongly agree: 44%
- Somewhat agree: 19%
- Somewhat disagree: 30%
- Strongly disagree: 7%

UNITY SURVEY 2016 - QUESTION 11
The event increased my knowledge of a culture/religion other than my own

I had a chance to talk with students of other ethnic-religious from me

I was able to interact with students of other culture and religion from me during activities

I made new friends

The event increased my comfort with another culture/religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The event increased my knowledge of a culture/religion other than my own</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had a chance to talk with students of other ethnic-religious from me</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was able to interact with students of other culture and religion from me during activities</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I made new friends</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The event increased my comfort with another culture/religion</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cross-Cultural Events Important for Country

These types of events are important for our country

- Strongly agree: 90%
- Somewhat agree: 9%
- Somewhat disagree: 0%
- Strongly disagree: 0%

These types of events are important for students in my area

- Strongly agree: 79%
- Somewhat agree: 16%
- Somewhat disagree: 4%
- Strongly disagree: 0%

UNITY SURVEY 2016 - QUESTION 11
I mostly hung out with my usual school friends

More information prior to the event would have been helpful

I learned directly from peers

The event was too long

I had a chance to give feedback after the event

strongly agree | somewhat agree | somewhat disagree | strongly disagree

Percentages

UNITY SURVEY 2016 - QUESTION 11
Feedback from Students

- All national and religious festivals should be celebrated collaboratively
- More programs should be organized every year
- Institute tri-lingual Announcements/Introductions/Objectives of programs.
- Address communication issues by having both Sinhalese and Tamil teachers involved.
- Encourage participation by school prefects, parents and Sinhala and Tamil teachers
- Change the host school so more schools can participate
- Provide more games representing all cultures.
- Provide more opportunities to express thoughts and ideas
- Provide for food, water, sun shelter, hygienic/common facilities.
- Give students more responsibility
- Run program on time
Section II

Impact of Inter-School Cultural Programme
My Closest Friends are from...
-ADULTS vs STUDENTS-

- All from MY ethnic-religious groups: ADULTS 44% vs STUDENTS 31%
- Mostly from MY ethnic-religious groups: ADULTS 32% vs STUDENTS 32%
- Mixed ethnic-religious groups: ADULTS 21% vs STUDENTS 31%
- Mostly other ethnic-religious group: ADULTS 2% vs STUDENTS 4%

NATIONAL SURVEY 2014 and UNITY SURVEY 2016 - QUESTION 6
Contributes to Cross-Cultural Interaction, Understanding & Trust

- People of other ethnic/religious groups are just as trustworthy as those from my group
  - **PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 48%
    - Somewhat agree: 44%
    - Somewhat disagree: 8%
    - Strongly disagree: 5%
  - **NON PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 39%
    - Somewhat agree: 45%
    - Somewhat disagree: 10%
    - Strongly disagree: 5%

- I am comfortable interacting with students who are other religion and culture from me
  - **PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 43%
    - Somewhat agree: 43%
    - Somewhat disagree: 11%
    - Strongly disagree: 3%
  - **NON PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 30%
    - Somewhat agree: 46%
    - Somewhat disagree: 19%
    - Strongly disagree: 4%

- In my everyday life, I have opportunities to interact with people of other religion and culture from me
  - **PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 28%
    - Somewhat agree: 49%
    - Somewhat disagree: 16%
    - Strongly disagree: 7%
  - **NON PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 28%
    - Somewhat agree: 39%
    - Somewhat disagree: 17%
    - Strongly disagree: 16%

- I understand the ways and customs of other ethnic/religious groups
  - **PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 21%
    - Somewhat agree: 74%
    - Somewhat disagree: 12%
    - Strongly disagree: 5%
  - **NON PARTICIPANTS**
    - Strongly agree: 20%
    - Somewhat agree: 63%
    - Somewhat disagree: 12%
    - Strongly disagree: 6%
Interaction between cultures will reduce disputes in Sri Lanka

**PARTICIPANTS**
- Strongly agree: 59%
- Somewhat agree: 28%
- Somewhat disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 6%

**NON PARTICIPANTS**
- Strongly agree: 40%
- Somewhat agree: 37%
- Somewhat disagree: 16%
- Strongly disagree: 7%

**Inter-ethnic/religious interaction will help me in my life**

**P**
- Strongly agree: 58%
- Somewhat agree: 30%
- Somewhat disagree: 10%
- Strongly disagree: 3%

**NP**
- Strongly agree: 48%
- Somewhat agree: 36%
- Somewhat disagree: 10%
- Strongly disagree: 6%
Support Bilingual & Integrated Schools

Both Sinhala and Tamil should be taught in all Sri Lanka schools

- **Participants**: 79 strongly agree, 13 somewhat agree, 5 somewhat disagree, 2 strongly disagree
- **Non Participants**: 73 strongly agree, 18 somewhat agree, 3 somewhat disagree, 7 strongly disagree

Integrated schools will improve ethnic-religious relations

- **P**: 76 strongly agree, 19 somewhat agree, 4 somewhat disagree, 1 strongly disagree
- **NP**: 58 strongly agree, 26 somewhat agree, 11 somewhat disagree, 5 strongly disagree

UNITY SURVEY 2016 - QUESTION 6
Barriers to Cross-Cultural Interaction*

- Language differences
- I am uncomfortable / I am afraid I might say/do the wrong thing
- I do not know much about other cultures/religions
- No opportunity to interact
- I feel my culture/religion is disrespected
- My parents/family/religious leader(s) discourage interaction with those outside our culture

*MULTIPLES RESPONSES WERE ALLOWED
Section III

Key Takeaways
Conclusions

- Inter-school cross-cultural programmes foster interaction, understanding & trust.
- Need to be institutionalized to contribute to reconciliation.
- Students demand for more opportunities to interact, learn from each other & potentially form life-long friendships.
- To enhance future efforts, consistent evaluation & feedback mechanisms for students & administrators critical.
- Special effort to enhance opportunities for more Sinhala students, especially boys, to interact with minority cultures, as they are more likely to have homogenous peer groups, & less knowledge, understanding & trust of other ethno-religious groups.