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# The Influence of PeaceJam's Ambassadors Program on Youth in Relation to their Future Career Choice, Community Involvement and Acceptance of Diversity: A Qualitative Study of Program Alumni from Four Affiliate Regions in the US

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**ABSTRACT**

PeaceJam is a yearlong educational program for youth ranging from age 5 to 25 with a mission of creating the next generation of 'Change Agents.' Its curriculum focuses on the model of "Education, Inspiration and Action" with the intention of providing youth a comprehensive understanding of the complex problems of today and what is needed for them to gain the skills, knowledge and commitment to create positive change in themselves, their community, and the world in the future. Through previous research, the program has demonstrated success in achieving its short term and intermediate outcomes in the youth participants. However, no systematic research has been done to examine the long-term impacts of PeaceJam's programs. As such, this research focuses on how these youth participants in PeaceJam carry new ways of thinking and behaving into their adult lives to have the most positive impact on society. Specifically, this research will study the life choices of alumni of the PeaceJam program, in order to measure the impact at a personal, local and global level.

The methods of inquiry were surveys and interviews of alumni participants of the PeaceJam Ambassador program. Fifty surveys were collected and ten interviews were conducted. The results showed that PeaceJam is making positive impacts not just for the youth participants who are involved, but also communities they interact with. These individuals create positive change in the world by choosing careers that matter to them and make an impact at multiple levels of society. They also show understanding and compassion for the diversity in this world.

*Keywords:* PeaceJam, Youth Service Learning Programing, Nobel Laureates Program

