



أفاق • מעשה • Ma'ase

A new study shows: volunteering in the community raises chances of integration in the academic and professional worlds, published in The-Marker web site, March 2014.

The study, which was held among 251 graduates of volunteer programs from the past seven years, measured the effect of a year of volunteer work among Arabs, Druze, Ethiopians, religious women, and young men and women from the periphery on integration in the Army, academy and the job market

A year of community volunteer work, as part of national-civic service or another framework, raises the volunteer's chances of being accepted to academic studies and the job market – this, according to a study held by “Ma'ase Center”, a subsidiary of the Rashi Foundation. The study, which was held among 251 volunteer program graduates from the past seven years, measured the effect of a year of community volunteer work of disadvantaged populations on their integration in the Army, academy and job market. The graduates come from disadvantaged populations: Arabs, Druze, Ethiopians, religious women and young men and women from the periphery.

In regards to higher education, the Ethiopian and Arab graduates of post-high school volunteer years showed the greatest increase in acceptance to academic studies. A comparison to data reported by the CBS regarding the percentage of students in higher education among these populations shows an increase of 42% (64% in total) among young men and women of Ethiopian origin, and an increase of 18% (54% in total) among the Arab population.

In the field of employment, the study shows a decreased percentage of unemployed young Arab women aged 18-24, among program graduates – 69%, compared to an extremely high proportion of 86% unemployed young Arab women, who did not participate in a volunteer program. Of the Arab volunteer program graduates, 42% continued volunteering in the community after the end of the volunteer year. Among the Jewish volunteer program graduates, 50% continued volunteering in the community following the volunteer year.

Yossi Malka, CEO of “Ma'ase Center”, said: “the findings of this study show that a year of community volunteer work with children and youth in educational frameworks strengthens the informal capabilities of youth, improves their sense of efficacy and contributes to socio-economic mobility. It increases their chances of being accepted to academic studies in institutions of higher education and integration in the job market. In a country where social gaps between center and periphery and different sections of the population is ever growing, the state must encourage growth of volunteer year frameworks, while increasing the proportion of disadvantaged populations taking part in them”.