

## **Junior Achievement Company of Entrepreneurs (JACE)**

### **Program Evaluation**

An evaluation instrument was prepared and given to participants of the JACE program. The evaluation was intended to obtain feedback on their learning experience in JACE in order to assess the impact of JACE in improving their business and professional development. A summary of the evaluation and subsequent assessment is provided below.

The questionnaires were issued at the JACE Conference. A total of 500 forms were distributed to students and 385 (77 percent were returned). Representatives from about 25 schools participated in the surveys. Most (65%) of the respondents were females.

#### *Decision to be part of program*

Sixty-five percent (65%) of respondents indicated that it was their decision to apply to be a part of the program. The remainder of the respondents were either selected by teachers or was encouraged by a friend.

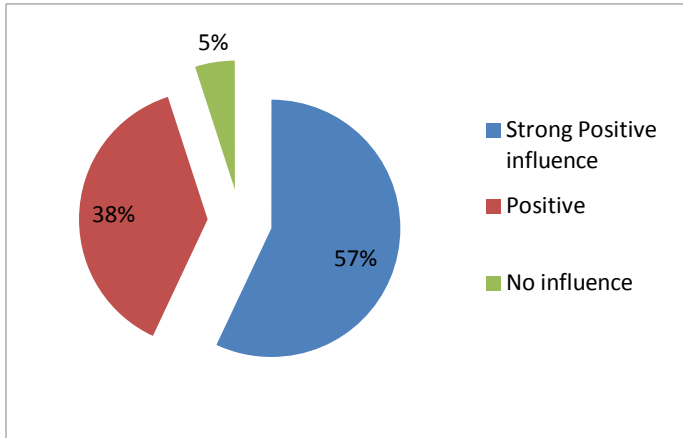
#### *Volunteer engagement*

37.5% of the respondents indicated that their sponsors do not volunteer in the classroom. Only 18% of the respondents indicated that their sponsors lead meetings. However 45% of the respondents noted that their sponsors were engaged but not in the classroom. JAJ continues to encourage volunteers to visit schools as much as possible. This is often difficult for many volunteers as they have their respective jobs doing daily. Efforts are being made to supplement the volunteer pool with organizations such as service clubs like Rotary and Kiwanis.

#### *Attitude towards Entrepreneurship*

Most (95%) of the respondents indicated that the JACE Company program had a strong positive or positive influence on their attitude towards entrepreneurship. The pie chart below illustrates the spread of the other responses. It must be noted that only a minority of the participants indicated that the program had no influence of their attitudes towards entrepreneurship. None of the respondents noted a negative influence of the JACE program on their attitudes.

*Impact of knowledge gained on future education*



95% of the respondents believed that the knowledge gained through JACE either had a strong positive influence or a positive influence of the knowledge they have gained. No negative responses were reported.

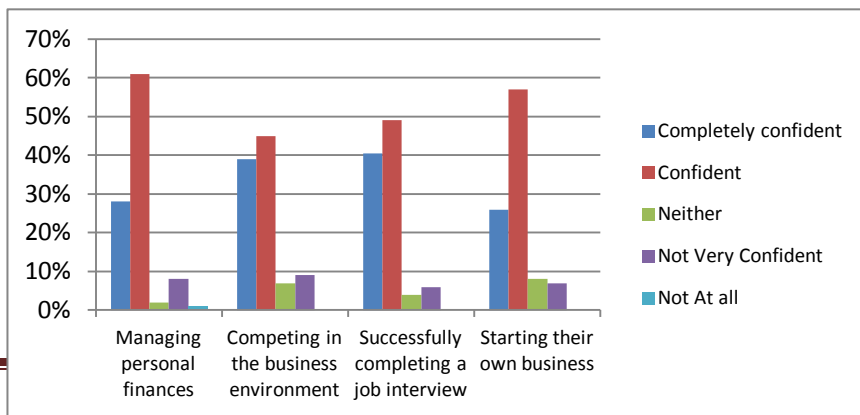
*Attitude towards business*

Most of the respondent (96%) believed that the JACE program has greatly influenced their attitudes towards business.

*Improved confidence*

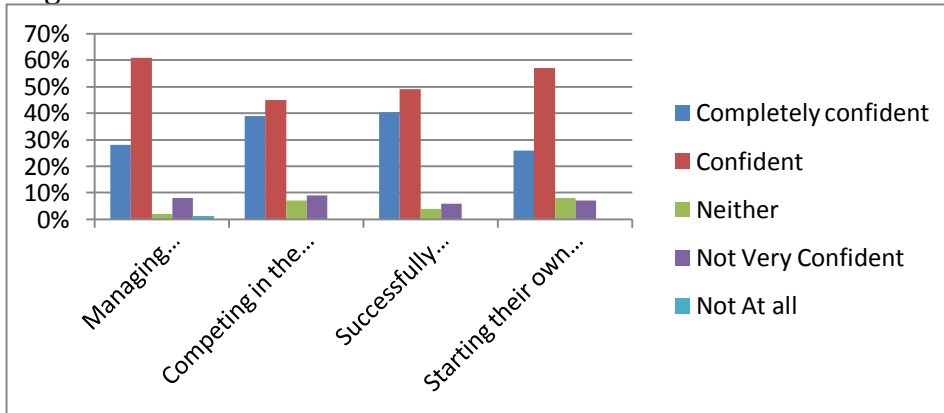
One section of the instrument was targeted towards assessing the impact JACE has been making in improving the individual’s ability in:

- Managing personal finances
- Competing in the business environment
- Successfully completing a job interview
- Starting their own business



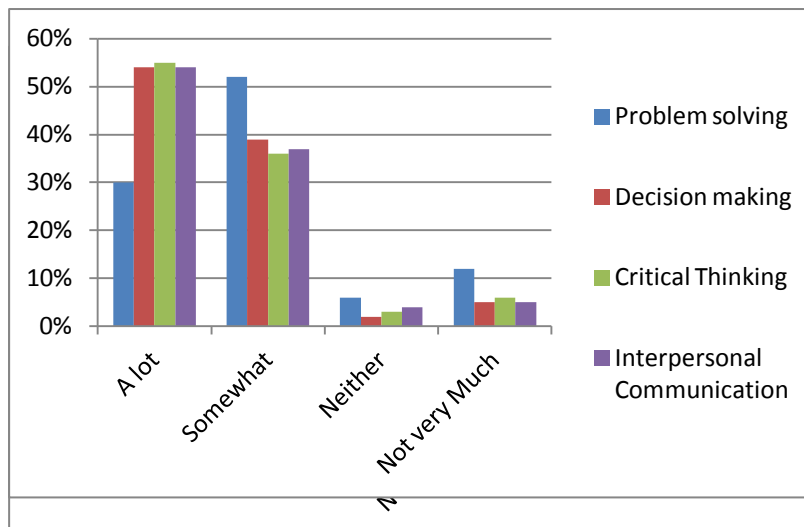
The figure **to the left below** illustrates the range of responses from this set of responses. As noted in the column chart, most of the respondents

indicated that JACE improved their confidence in all of the four areas (represented by the blue and red columns). The respondents showed the most confidence in managing personal finances and starting their own businesses. Students were least confident in competing in a business environment.



The next batch of questions assessed how much JACE has improved the skills of the participants in the areas of:

- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Critical Thinking
- Interpersonal Communication



Junior Achievement continues to positively impact the youth of Jamaica. Continued investment in hands-on business preparation, will help to foster a better Jamaica.