

STUDENTS' SURVEY – EARLY RETURNS – PROJECT

This is the **FIRST GLOBAL REPORT** on results from all surveys made so far from all districts that were taking part in our **STUDENTS' SURVEY** i.e.

- ~ 1033 Students' reports from
- ~ some 80 Districts

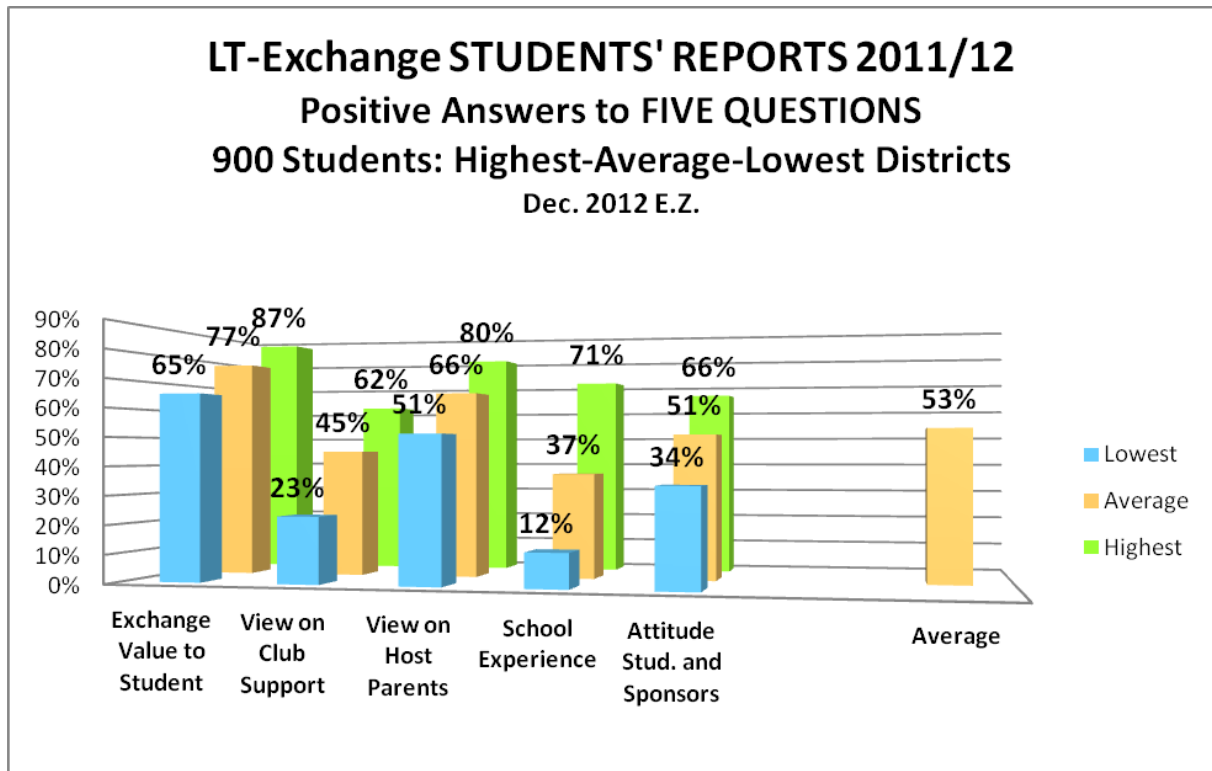
INTRODUCTION

- **Initiation for this project: The RI Annual Report 2007/08 showing 502 Early Returns (ER), rising over the years.** And this, in spite of having addressed this topic at every major conference and pre convention.
A small team started to **look for a different approach** to make progress.
Starting with questionnaires for those who **returned early** – ending up with **monitoring the quality of RI Youth Exchange in general, looking at reports from every student involved in this Survey.**
- **The RI Annual Report is based on reports made by YEOs**
Reasons of ER are reported mainly as **faults of students** (i.e. homesickness, drugs/alcohol, and host family problems – no details).
- The **Students' Survey** adds another dimension of **information**. It **delivers quantifiable information on the quality of exchanges** allowing us to enter into **Quality Management** in RIYE with a **definite chance for success.**
- Most of the **written additional details** in their reports could **not be considered** in this gross average report. However, those important details are **available to every district** doing this Students' Survey.
- **Highlights:**
 - **Support by Rotary Clubs:** There is **room for improvement** in a number of points of their responsibilities.
 - **Host Parents:** are seen from **two different angles:** in general (66%) their **support and care are highly regarded.** From those students who experience **problems** (20%) more than half of them see the **origin in their Host Family.** Written comments tell some sad stories on relationships.

I. FIRST PART OF STUDENTS' SURVEY

1. FIVE MAJOR QUESTIONS to all students

Inbounds and Outbounds (Questions Q 9, Q 10, Q 13-16, Q 17, Q 18)



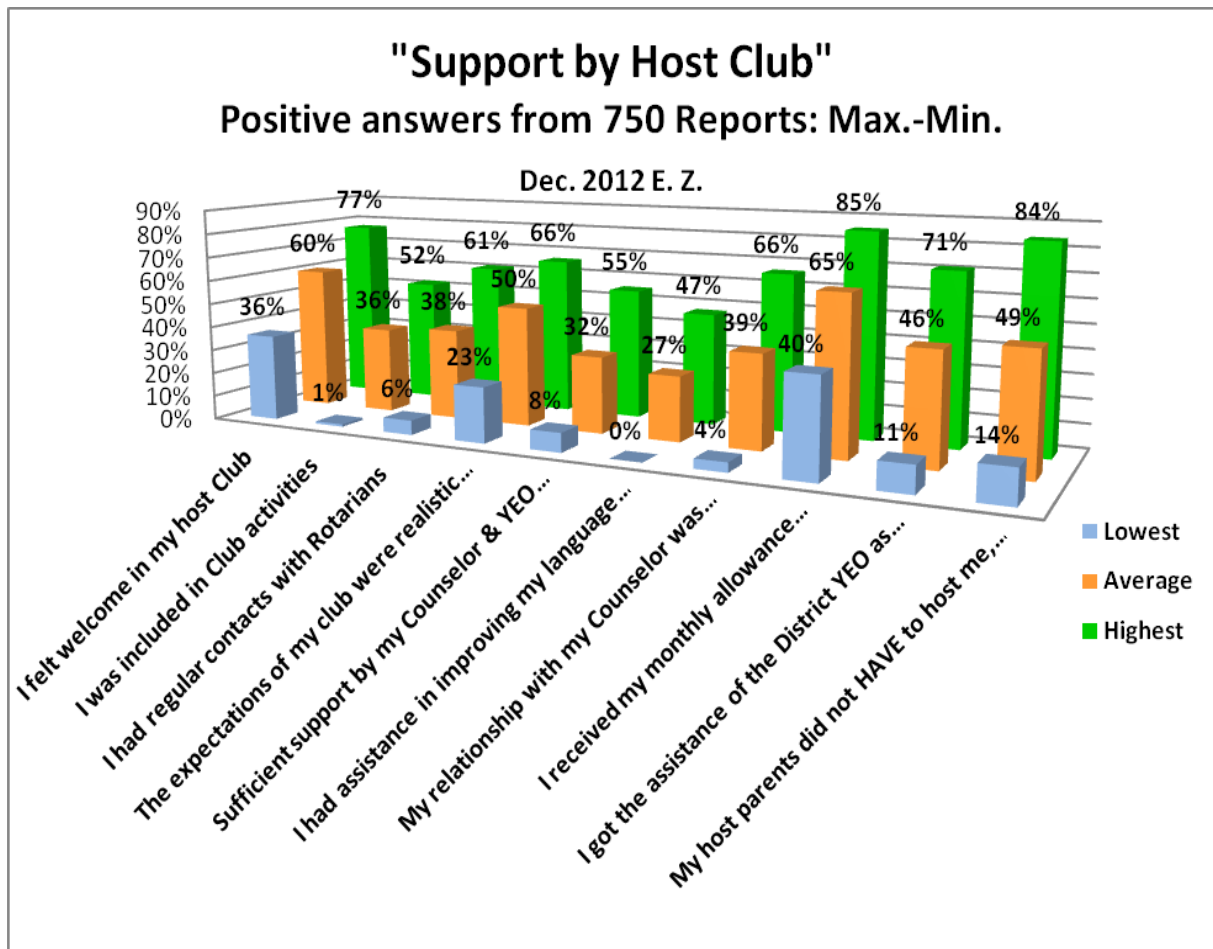
The **PERCENTAGE FIGURES** indicate the students' **degree of complete satisfaction** with a topic: **1 % is the lowest positive assessment, 100 % indicates complete satisfaction.**

NOTE:

- **Average information is not much help for individual districts** because of the enormous spread between best and worst figures (see graph)!
Districts need to do a survey of their own to get to know where they stand.
Best districts that are **evaluated very favorably** (with 80% and above, green columns) and others with **very low performances** (23% for "Club Support" and 12 % for "School Experience", blue columns)
- On average STUDENTS
 - **appreciate highly the VALUE OF THE EXCHANGE**, indicating **good personal attitude** and preparation of students
 - are also **very contented with their HOST PARENTS**
 - **are not satisfied with the CLUB SUPPORT** (down to 23%!)
 - **have difficulties in SCHOOL** (details show that students with **higher language starting skills** of their host language are also **doing much better in school**)
 - the **RELATIONSHIP WITH SPONSORS and PEOPLE BACK HOME** is average

The **TWO LOWEST RATED AREAS** are “**CLUB SUPPORT**” and “**SCHOOL Performance**”.

We have a closer look at the first area **CLUB SUPPORT**; it is our own “home yard”.



NOTE:

Most **AVERAGE RESULTS** are below 60%! average 46%, **NON SATISFACTORY**, (Highest score: “I received my monthly allowance on time”!). **The lowest results (blue columns) need DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT!** Some results are extremely low:

- I was **included in Club activities** 1%
- I had regular **contacts with Rotarians** 6%
- Sufficient **support by Counselor & YEO** 8%
- Assistance in **improving language skills** 0%
- **Relationship with the counselor** 4%
- Assistance by the **district YEO** 11%
- **My host parents WANTED to host me** 14% (only)

On average only **49%** (with a span **from 14% to 84%**) of all students reported that their **host parents were hosting voluntarily!!** The balance of **51%** (in districts ranging from **16% up to 86%**) of host parents were in some form **PRESSURIZED TO HOST**.

Consequently it is not surprising to read in the **written reports of students** on their Host Parents expressions like “I was ignored, ridiculed; they were running me down, made a fool of me, did not want me, yelling at me; there was no family togetherness, no communication; they made me think of returning early, ruined my exchange, ...”

We have to prevent having students sent to parents who are not willing or capable to host!

2. Additional Questions

Answers of 509 Students, some with significance.

Q 19 INFLUENCES OUTSIDE STUDENT'S CONTROL	445		
Did you suffer from Homesickness?	194		44%!
Were there any Deaths, serious illnesses in Family at home?	89		20%!
Did you suffer from pre-existing Health Conditions	41		9%
Any other problems	41		9%
Did you suffer from a serious Illness	29		7%
Did you return early for qualifyig Exams	32		7%
Q 20 Was there any kind of Sexual Harassment to you?	303	9	3%!
Q 21 Did you consider an Early Return during your exchange?	436	106	24%!
Q 22 Did you return early on your own free will?	399	28	7%
Q 23 Were you sent home by Host Club?	421	6	1,5%

NOTE:

- ~ **A high degree of Homesickness** (most students can manage, they are very grateful for help)
- ~ **Importance of preparation of outbounds for cases of deaths or serious illness in their families at home** (coming home for visits, funeral?)
- ~ **Sexual Harassment!**
- ~ **A high degree of students considering an Early Return**
- ~ **The total of real Early Returns with 8.5% coincides with the figure reported in the RI annual report 2007/08.**

II. SECOND PART OF STUDENTS' SURVEY

**STUDENTS WHO CONSIDERED AN EARLY RETURN (Q 21: 106 [or 24%])
and some others (42 = 148 in total)**

1. Q 26 THE ORIGIN OF PROBLEMS (Reports up to December 2012)

	Stud. answers	
Total	148	
Host Family	81	55%!
Homesickness	48	32%
Host School	46	31%
Other	31	21%
Adaption Problems >	28	19%
My own Attitude >	27	18%
Rotary Club	20	14%
People back home	21	14%
Club Counselor	17	11%
Boy/Girlfriend back home	9	6%
Pressure from natural Parents	5	3%
Political Unrest	5	3%
Natural Disaster	3	2%

NOTE:

- The main source of problems originates in the Host Family!
- Accepting responsibility themselves with 19% or 18% for "Adaption problems" or "My own attitude" indicates **HONESTY IN REPORTING**.

2. Q 27 WHO HELPED YOU TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM?

Total	208	
Talk with other Inbounds	108	52%
Host Family	95	46%
People back home	73	35%
Nobody	42	20%
Club Counselor	36	17%
Rotary Club	28	13%
Other	27	13%
Host School	24	12%

3. Q 28 HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THEIR HELP?

Total	198	
Very much	123	62%
Somewhat	51	26%
Not at all	18	9%

4. Q 29 WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL?

Total	172	
Talk with other Exchange Students	110	64%
Get a new Host Family	66	38%
Talk with Family and Friends back Home	46	27%
Other	45	26%
Talk with my Counselor	43	25%
Meet with School Officials	6	3%

NOTE (for 2., 3., and 4.):

- **The importance of friendship with other Exchange Students!**
- **The hope for improvement in a new/different Host Family**
- **Minor expectation from Club/Counselor, let alone school.**
44% of students met their counselor LESS THAN ONCE IN A MONTH!

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