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Lami ICT Asset Mapping Report

High Tech Youth Network Pasifica Project, Fiji

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Table of Contents

1. Background

In November 2013, High Tech Youth Network (HTYN), Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and Lami Town Council formalized their relationship under an agreement to undertake a project to set up a High Tech Youth Studio in Lami.

This agreement intends to address Lami Town Council's Strategic Development priority on having a community e-library for community members of Lami. This intention directly addresses a national priority under the National ICT Strategy for establishing e-community around Fiji.

The availability of ICT infrastructure within Lami through broadband internet from Telecom Fiji and 4G connectivity from Digicel and Vodafone connects the small town of Lami to the rest of the world.

FSPI has been tasked to map out the scale of ICT access within the Lami Town. This would provide an insight into the characteristics of ICT products and infrastructure in Lami. Evidence of this survey would greatly inform the delivery of ICT learning programme delivered at Lami Tech Studio and other nearby learning establishment in Fiji. In addition, establishments such as internet providers and other ICT development partners would have an insight of the scale of ICT demand in Lami.

This report outlines the status of ICT access and demand in Lami derived from the survey conducted from November to December 2014 targeting youths residing within Lami Town Boundary. There is a brief description of the method and approach used, results from the analysis of the data with recommendations.

2. Methodology

The ICT Asset mapping of Lami was conducted via survey monkey. The survey questionnaire was designed to gather information on the scale of ICT access in Lami given the existing ICT infrastructure and available ICT technology in Fiji's market. It was also designed to capture what kind of ICT products and program they often use and how much time and effort they invest in it. There are 20-questions focused on the type of access youths have to technological tools like mobile phones, internet, and gaming consoles like Play station. This would provide baseline information of young people's status with information and Communications Technology (ICT), and guiding practitioners on opportunities to strengthen the design of learning programs.

The survey covered the entire boundary of Lami Town Council from Delainavesi road to Wailekutu. Youths aged 10 to 25 were targeted in the survey. However, there were youths over the age of 25 responded to the survey as well.

A survey team four researchers was trained to facilitate the collection of data. The training basically involved the use of laptops to access and use the survey monkey to collect responses from youths residing in Lami. Following the guidelines of the CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC) the survey team were also informed to use consent forms for youths under the age of 18 to ensure parents and guardians provide consent for their participation.

The approach was designed to target youths in Lami based schools and in their community to capture youths who attends school outside of Lami. In collaboration with Lami Town Council, six Lami based school were involved by meeting with all school principals to allow our research assistants to work directly with youths in responding to the survey. Most schools were encouraging in allowing us to work directly with students in their computer classes in collaboration with computer teachers.

The local communities were targeted using the Lami Community Police network to access youths residing in the two villages and informal settlements within Lami.

2007 Census
Population of Lami:
Town = 10, 752 (5,279 males, 5, 473 females)
Peri-Urban = 9,777 (4971 males, 4806 females)

= **20, 529 total population**

The research team was clustered into two teams of two researchers each. One team to co-ordinate responses from local communities and one team to coordinated collection of responses from Lami based schools.

3. Results

A. DEMOGRAPHY

A total of 493 individuals responded to the monkey survey within the Lami Town boundary. This is approximately 2% of the population of Lami and approximately 10% of the youth population in living in Lami of which 64% are males and 36% females (.

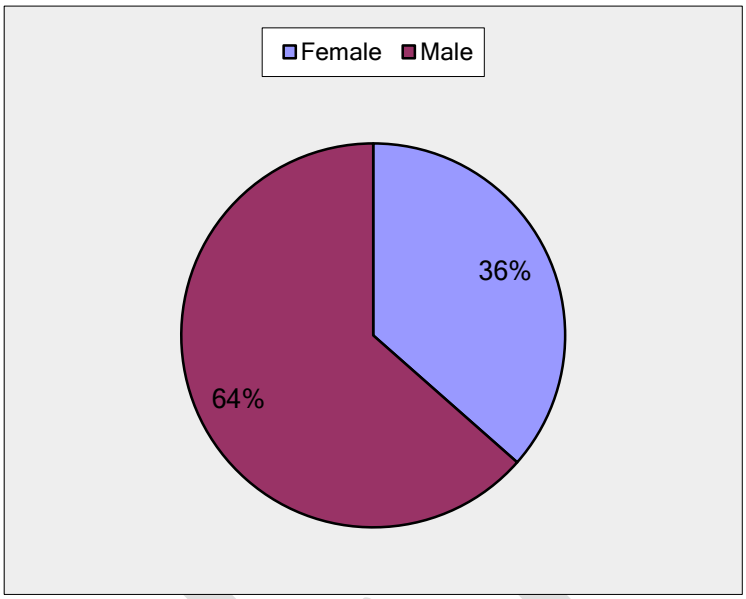
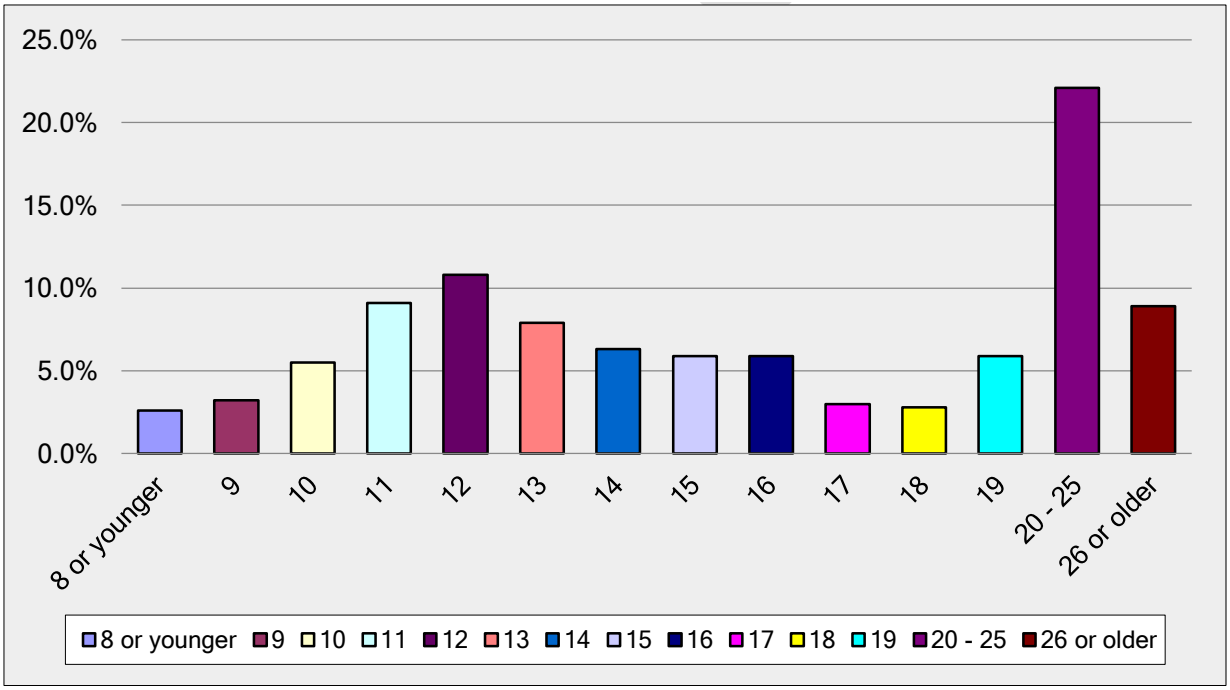


Figure 1: Percentage of youth respondents by gender

Majority of the respondents are below 19 years of age whereas 31.03% respondents are 20 year olds and older of which 77.7% of respondents are still in school whereas 22.3% are no longer attending any school or engaged in formal or informal learning (Table 1).



Name of School or programme	Age															
	< 8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20 - 25	9	26 >	Per cent	Number
Marist Convent	0	14	17	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	11.6%	57
SDAPrimary	1	2	0	4	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	1	4.1%	20
Lami Primary	3	7	21	30	21	17	4	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	21.9%	108
Lami High	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.8%	14
SDA College	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	8	1	0	1	2	0	1	3.9%	19
BMS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.4%	2
Not schooling	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	1	4	4	11	0	4	6.5%	32
Unemployed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	11	44	0	19	15.8%	78
FNU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	15	0	2	5.3%	26
USP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	0	1	2.6%	13
Working	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	27	0	14	9.1%	45
Outside Lami School	9	3	5	4	5	4	14	8	4	1	0	0	5	0	12.6%	62
Other	0	1	0	0	1	4	3	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	3.4%	17
Total																**493**

Table 1: School /programme name vs Age Category

On Figure 2 below, survey respondents are mostly from Qauia settlement (14.6%) and Suvavou village (14.2%) and majority of respondents are i-taukei (94.73%) while other ethnicity makes up the rest.

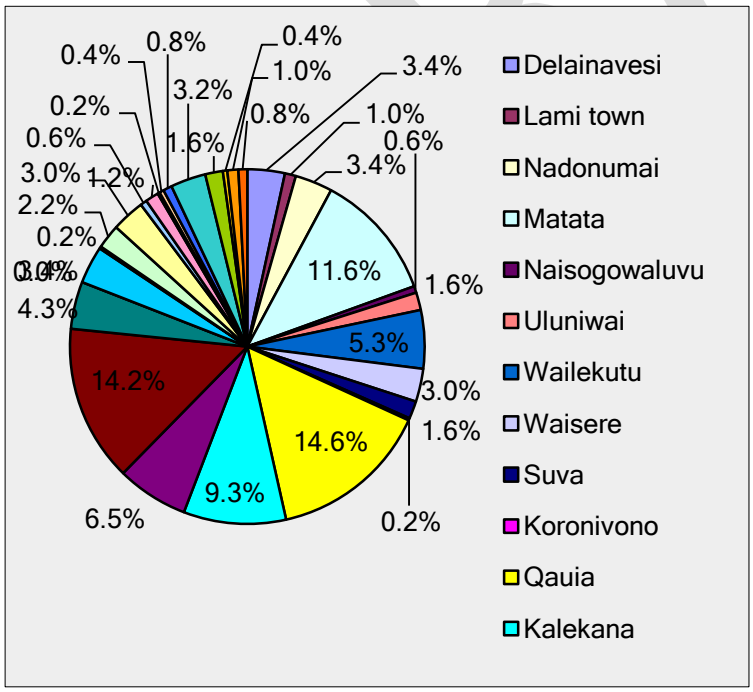


Figure 2: Percentage of youth by where they live in Lami

Majority of the respondents have more than 5 people currently living in their household. Only 12.78% have less than 5 people living in their household.

B. ICT IN THE COMMUNITY

The survey results showed that majority don't have a landline phone that is working (71.20%) whereas 28.8% have a landline phone at home. However, majority have a mobile phone that works (65.11%) whereas 34.89% mentioned that do not own a mobile phone that works. In addition, as shown on figure 4 below majority (65.11%) uses 3 or more mobile phones at home.

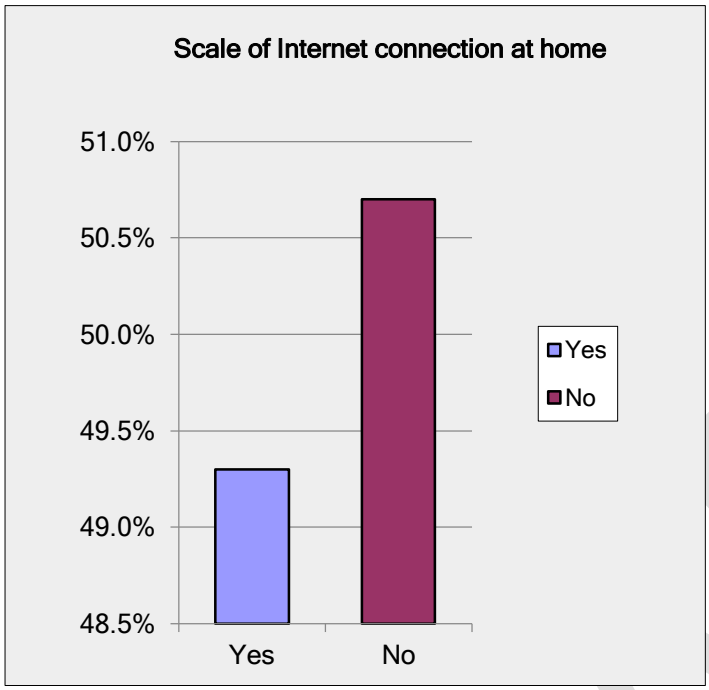


Figure 3: Scale of Internet Connection at home in Lami

Internet is readily available to the wider Lami Town area through service providers such as mobile networks like VODAFONE, DIGICEL, and Telecom via Connect and Fintel via Kidanet. Interestingly, slightly over 50% of survey respondents mentioned they do not have internet connection at home and were mainly from informal settlements such as Matata, and Qauia and the two villages of Lami and Suvavou whereas almost 50% of respondents mentioned they have internet connection at home (Fig 3) and were mainly from formal settlements such as Delainavesi, Nukuwatu and Nadonumai (Table 2). This clearly identified sections of Lami community with high internet demand.

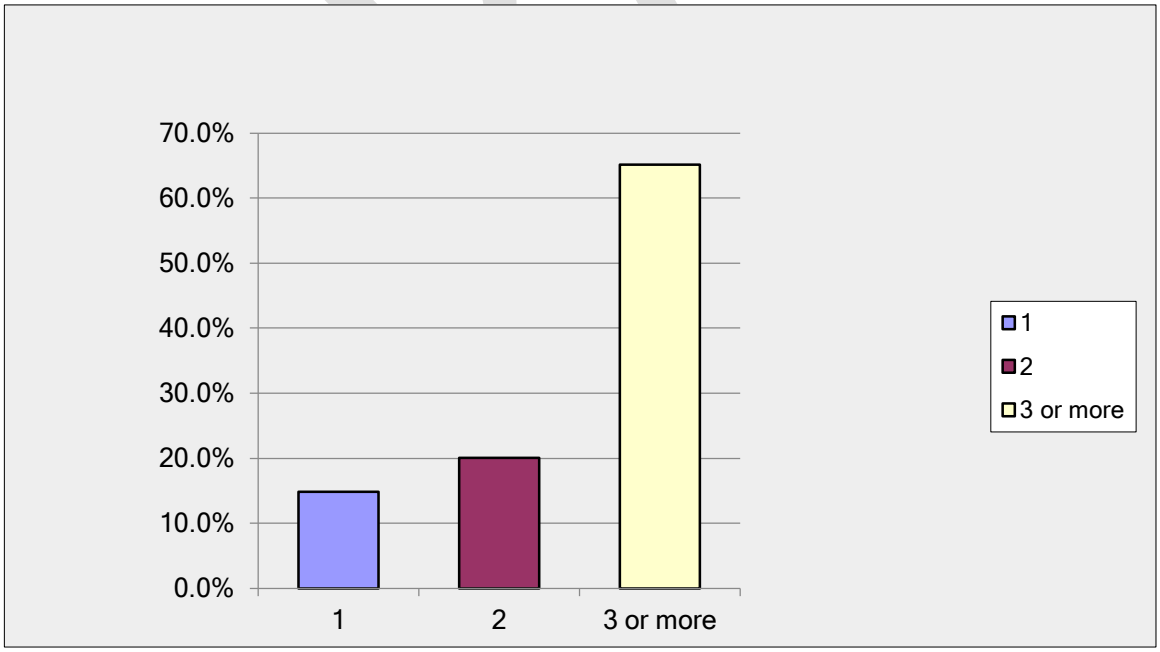


Figure 4: Number of mobile Phones respondents use at home

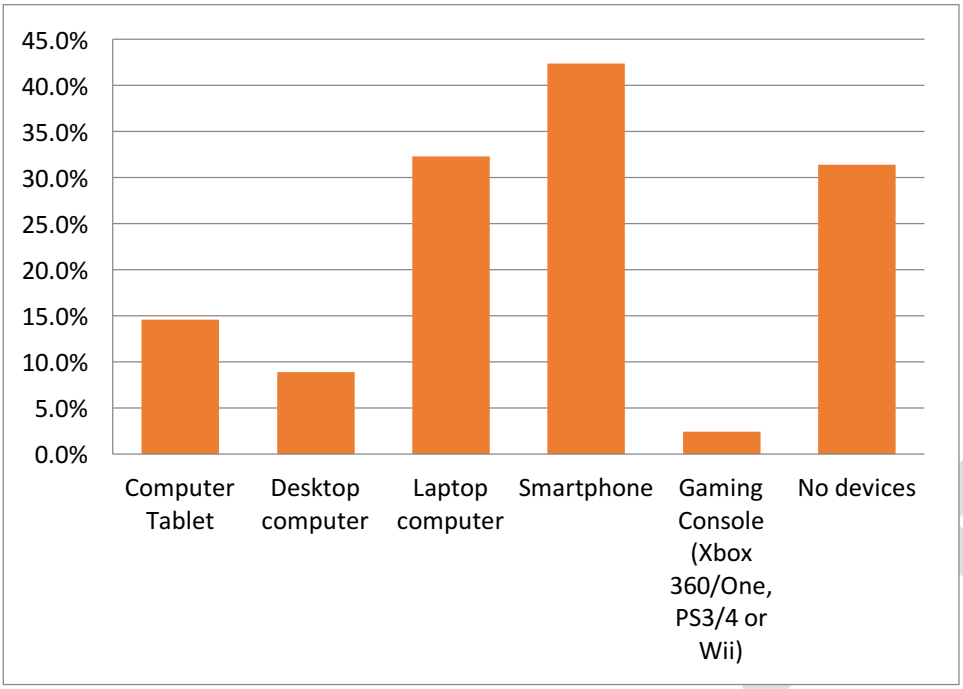


Figure 5: Device mostly used at home for connecting to the internet

However, Figure 5 illustrates majority use their smartphones and laptop computers to connect to the internet. Clearly mobile technology is more common than computers with the existence of android technology.

Android technology is increasingly used being used on a range of devices and is commonly used hardware for mobile phones. This has given software developers the opportunity to write and sell applications (apps) such as games, social networking and business modules for Android smartphones to a wide range of consumers.

Locality	Have internet connection at home		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	No		
Delainavesi	12	5	3.4%	17
Lami town	3	2	1.0%	5
Nadonumai	10	7	3.4%	17
Matata	15	42	11.6%	57
Naisogowaluvu	1	2	0.6%	3
Uluniwai	1	7	1.6%	8
Wailekutu	12	14	5.3%	26
Waisere	2	13	3.0%	15
Suva	4	4	1.6%	8
Koronivono	0	1	0.2%	1
Qauia	37	35	14.6%	72
Kalekana	27	19	9.3%	46
Lami Koro	12	20	6.5%	32
Suvavou Koro	35	35	14.2%	70
Naivikinikini	10	11	4.3%	21
Samoan	0	0	0.0%	0
Yadrana	12	5	3.4%	17
Motusa	0	1	0.2%	1
Nukuwatu	11	0	2.2%	11
Valenicina	8	7	3.0%	15
Wainidinu	1	2	0.6%	3

Waigasa	1	5	1.2%	6
Uduya	0	1	0.2%	1
Bilo	1	1	0.4%	2
Other	3	1	0.8%	4
Solomoni Street	14	2	3.2%	16
Nasevou Street	6	2	1.6%	8
Labiko Street	0	2	0.4%	2
Nakula Street	2	3	1.0%	5
Nakoba Street	3	1	0.8%	4
Other (please specify)				4
Total				**493**

Table 2: Locality vs Internet Connection

C. USER PREFERENCES AND USE OF ICT

Devises used at home are mostly shared by parents and siblings. Only 33.1% connect and use internet at home. Majority access the internet outside their homes especially in internet café (44.2%), schools, at work, friend and relative's home.

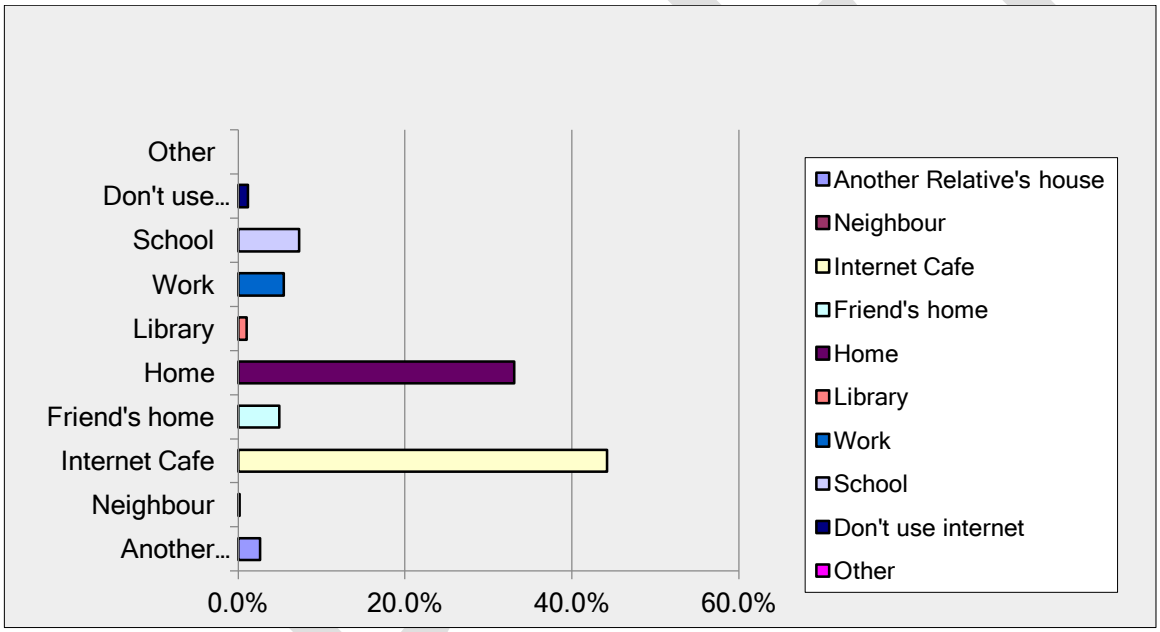


Figure 6: Where internet is accessed and used

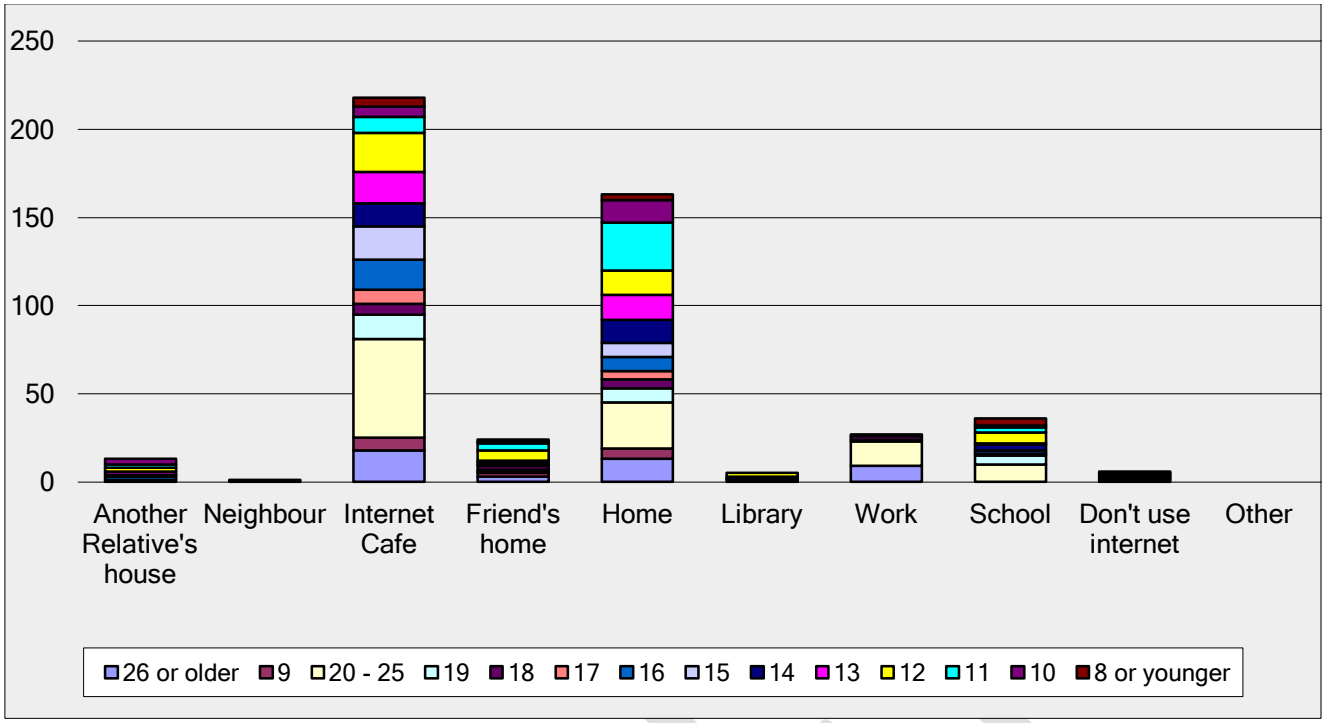


Figure 7: Location of Internet Access vs. Age Category

Figure 7 illustrates that more youths as young as 12years of age are accessing internet more at internet café than at home. The set-up of local internet café', appeals to the curiosity of young people's minds especially with the availability of online games and social networking programs. In addition, Internet cafe lacks adult supervision and exposes young people to risky behaviours especially when they're spending more than an hour inside these cafes. It excites and attracts more young people to engage in more risky social behaviours.

In a typical week, internet is most often used for personal reasons (40.37%) and also on school work (30.43%). Table 3 showed three main activities when online is Facebook, messaging/chatting with friends and families, playing online games. These young people are also heavily engaged online playing music, carrying out research, reading other peoples comments, keeping in touch with friends and YouTube.

Three main activities when connected to internet	Response Percent	Response Count
Find local events	7.1%	35
Find work	0.8%	4
Send or receive instant messages	32.9%	162
Make or receive calls	5.5%	27
Play videos (Other than video games)	11.4%	56
Send or receive photos	6.3%	31
Send or receive videos	4.9%	24
Keep in touch with friends and family	24.5%	121
Read other people's comments/posts on FaceBook	11.2%	55
Use YouTube	23.9%	118
Keep up with current events	24.9%	123
Check the weather forecast	1.8%	9
Record videos	4.5%	22
Use Tumblr	0.2%	1
Use Snapchat	0.6%	3

Use Instagram	1.6%	8
Carry out research	27.4%	135
Play music	27.8%	137
Find people you know	8.1%	40
Find recipes	3.2%	16
Play games	32.5%	160
Use FaceBook	58.4%	288
Use Twitter	2.4%	12
Other (please specify)		0
Total		**493**

- About 64% of females and 75% of males have a landline phone that is working at home
- Around 50% of both female and males have an internet connection at home.
- 68% of male and 60% of females do not own a mobile phone that works.
- 55% females and 71% of males mentioned using three or more phones in their household
- 74% female and 75% males respondents mentioned they do not have a gaming console at home
- For those that have gaming console, majority have Xbox and Xbox 360.
- About 45% of female respondents and 35.58% of male respondents most often use smartphones to connect to the internet.

4. Challenges

Targeting schools in the last month of the school calendar is one of the main challenges as this is a very busy time for schools with examinations. Therefore, many students were not reached, especially for Lami High School. Many students only came for their examination papers and left promptly thereafter, despite knowing about the survey. It is hoped that these ones will be reached via the community surveys which are scheduled for all Lami communities and which take place in the evenings and nights.

5. Key Findings

Technology that exists in Lami is quite significant as shown by the survey results. Clearly, this volume of technology is an indication of how communities are reliant on technology with their survival especially for communication. A community such as Lami has come a long way from communication through word by mouth, radio telegraphy, and landlines telephones to mobiles network phones. This evolution of technology has also shaped how things are done and a way of life in particular for local villages such as Suvavou and Lami village. Local villages are communicating more frequently with relatives within and outside the community more than before. This increased access has raised the development of local communities. On the other hand, it has practically dismantled the social fabric of local communities where face to face communication is still of great value and importance.

Face to face communication available through internet connection has to be explored to ascertain its value in reconnecting families and communities. Various online programs such

as Skype and Facebook may have provisions for connecting people face to face online but the extent of its effectiveness in preserving a local culture is yet to be understood.

Evidently Facebook has dominated the means to socially connect with families and friends online. Young people of Lami are certainly very much engaged in socially connecting via Facebook. However, there is limited understanding of how Facebook has affected the ability of young person to be a better citizen of her or his community.

Mobile technology is prevalent among young females who mainly use their smartphones to connect to the internet. This could signify that females are more tech-savvy than males. However, more detailed study could be done to shed more light on this. General observation showed that young females are connect more to the internet on their phones than young males.

Interestingly, the results showed that majority of respondent's access internet outside their homes and mainly access internet at internet café available in Lami Town centre. This clearly showed the limited access to internet at home which could be attributed to high costs or lack of computer and internet literacy (e.g. knowledge of available cheap internet packages provided by internet service providers) in local communities. However, youths mainly access internet at café as it provides access to gaming computers as well.

Youths of Lami mainly use the internet for social networking and to a lesser extent on school work. Evidently youths are greatly influenced by social websites such as Facebook and consuming massive information disseminated via facebook. Therein lays a great challenge today, on how this facebook phenomenon is affecting change on what young people are thinking influencing their attitude and behaviour in the community.

6. Conclusion & Recommendations

1. Smartphones are widely used in Lami for communication via mobile phone networks and internet connection.

2. While online, young people invest most of their time and effort online on Facebook and online games.

3. Internet is mostly used by young people outside their homes exposing them to risky social behaviours. However, the internet, when used via a designed intervention program will allow young people to use internet constructively. For example, young people producing projects for a showcase competition to ensure exposure of their artistry.

4. A closer look at the content of what young people are consuming through the internet is critical to their development. Information about anything and everything is available online. With existing technology, we are slowly designing a society without knowledge of its limits and boundaries. We have not allowed ourselves time to understand the full impact of flooding new technology into our community.

5. Evidently, education in Fiji is greatly influenced by latest technologies. We are up-skilling young people to be able to effectively use new technologies but we lack the opportunity to guide our young people to create their own technology, develop contents that are relevant for them and their community.

6. Educators in the community and school institutions have a more challenging role in guiding young people today with the abundance of technology that kids nowadays are exposed. Educators have to quickly learn these new technologies that youths are exposed to on a daily basis to avoid being redundant and irrelevant.

7. Technology Industries are rarely concerned about the impact of their products on the lives of the people and their community. This mind-set has to be changed to ensure we live in a society that is safe and encourage people to improve their life conditions through good decision making.

7. References

Mwawasi, F.M.2014. Technology leadership and ICT use: strategies for capacity building for ICT integration. *Journal of Learning for Development* (JL4D), Vol 1, No 2.

8. Appendices

a. Questionnaire
b. Letter to parents