PACE
Partners in the Advancement of Children Education
Highlights and Achievement of ‘PACE’: Lesson for the Pacific.
About Us

- **Continuing and Community Education (CCE) Department Important Goals**
  - Engagement with the communities
  - Offer various short & non-credit courses & programmes
  - Enable people to participate in ‘lifelong learning’

- ‘PACE’ is an example of one of the Programme delivered by our CCE Department in Lautoka.
What ‘PACE’ Means?

‘PACE’ stands for ‘Partners in the Advancement of Children Education’

- To promote children education, it needs the collaborative contribution of institutions, (USP, MOE, Schools) parents and the community as a whole

Also synonymous for:

- ‘Progress’ or
- ‘Moving forward’

An education programme designed for both Children and Parents
Background

- **Concept of ‘PACE’** - first developed at the Canterbury Fiji Community in, NZ.
  - **Involve**
    - Homework Programme for Primary & Secondary students
    - Basic Computer (IT) training for adults
  - **Reasons for the Programme**
    - To improve academic performance of Fiji students in subject areas such as the Sciences, English & Mathematics
    - To increase the technical know-how of Pacific Parents in IT
  - Very Successful in NZ due to support from the government & the communities.
“To strengthen and promote the link between school and homes by using the close-knit family unit to educate children and the community together in order to achieve social and economic prosperity for the benefit of our future local communities”
Why PACE?

- ‘Digital Divide’ between:
  - those who have IT access and skills and those who have not.

- IT learning limited to particular generation level.
  - Secondary
  - Tertiary

- No or very little IT learning at Primary level

- Very little understanding of the role of family & community in children learning

- Local communities
  - not aware of some important programmes which can offer a variety of interesting & stimulating learning opportunities for them.
What ‘PACE’ Covers

- Children Education.
  - Basic Computer learning skills.
    - Identifying parts
    - How to switch on & off
    - The window interface
    - Mouse movement
    - Keyboarding
    - Working with fonts
    - Using word-art/Drawing
    - Saving Files
    - What is a floppy disk
    - What is a program (software)
What ‘PACE’ Covers
(Cont)

- Parents & Community Education
  - Family Planning
  - HIV AIDS & Drug Issues
  - Suicide Prevention Strategies
  - Time Management
  - Stress Management Skills
  - Human Rights
  - Basic Family Support
  - Positive Mental Attitude
  - Budgeting
Aims & Objectives

- To allow young children who do not have or use computers in their homes to gain basic skills in computers.
- To narrow the ‘digital divide’ between the technological ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’.
- To give the opportunity for community members to be aware of important community education which is part & parcel of their life.
- To increase understanding of the role of family & community in learning.
Target Areas

- **Local Communities in Fiji.**
  - Urban- Areas covered under the town boundary.
    - Villages
    - Farming communities
    - Schools
  - Rural- Areas outside the town boundary.
    - Villages
    - Farming communities
    - Schools
Programme Stages

1. Approaching Communities
2. Advertisement
3. Implementation
4. Assessment & Evaluation
Stage 1: Approaching Communities

- **Districts Covered:**
  - Sigatoka
  - Nadi
  - Lautoka
  - Ba
  - Tavua
  - Rakiraki
  - Yasawa Group
  - Central Division

- **Channel of Visits:**
  - Ministry Of Education (MOE)
  - School Heads
  - District Officer
  - Provincial Councils
  - Advisory Committees
  - Sugarcane Grower’s Council
Stage 1: Approaching Communities Cont...

- **In visiting these districts:**
  
  - Explain the meaning & purpose of ‘PACE’
  
  - Find out and or liaise with Head Teachers/Principals/Heads of Corporate Bodies about:
    
    - Educational needs of the community
    - Availability of:
      - Computer facilities and software
      - Electricity/phones
      - Rooms/space
    - Community interests in the programme
    - Central area for the surrounding communities
Stage 2: Advertisement

- Other Ways of Raising Community Awareness:
  - Sending Fliers to:
    - Schools
    - Community groups
    - Religious Leaders
  - Radio Broadcasts
  - Website: http://www.usp.ac.fj/lautoka/pace
  - Advertisement in daily newspapers
Stage 3: Implementation

- Begin with 14 Pilot Schools in the Western Districts
  - Seven Rural
  - Seven Urban

- Launched
  - 18th April, 2006
Stage 3: Implementation Cont..

- Programme Timing
  - Choice of the community/school
    - Day time
    - Afternoon
  - Most - prefer afternoons

- Duration
  - 2 - 3 hours
Stage 3: Implementation Cont..

- **Who Delivers the Programme?**
  - **Basic IT Learning:**
    - IT Tutors (Lautoka Campus)
  - **Community Education:**
    - Invited Specialist Speakers on community need areas.
Stage 4: Assessment/Evaluation

- Evaluation forms – given at the end of every session

- Assessed According to:
  - Quality Assurance
  - Effectiveness

- Participants’ reward:
  - Certificate of Participation for those taking part.
Slight Modification

2007 - Small fees charged

  • $15/students to cover:
    - Cost of transport
    - Cost of tutoring

Reason – Lack of funding from Government, NGOs, USP to support the programme.
After evaluation of the programme, the following things were found:

- Almost all participants (students & parents) say that they very much like the programme.
- Find it very useful.
- Learn a lot from it.
- Enhanced cultural identities through communication with extended families in the communities.
- Improved educational aspirations of parents.
Success attributed to 3 main factors

- Free/Small fee charged
- "Just-in-time" training for both children & adults.
- Suitability of the Programme time in the evening for both the participants.
- The combining together of the two programmes to involve both the children & their parents.
CONCLUSION

- **End Results**
  - Since the launching of the Programme in April 2006 until today, PACE was implemented in 20 schools/communities in both the Western & Central Division.
  - A total of 1656 people (both children & adults) participated.
    - 888 - primary school children (576 Ethnic-Fijians & 312 Indo-Fijians)
    - 768 – adults (544 Ethnic Fijians & 224 Indo-Fijians)
    - Of the 768 adults - More females attended (487) than males (281)

- **Expectations**
  - Participants to spread what they learn from the programme to others in their respective communities.

- **Long Term Plan**
  - PACE to be implemented as a regional Programme
  - Interested Countries can study the USP Lautoka Campus PACE Model to assist them in implementing the programme in their various countries.
THANK YOU