



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.**

Mission Statement

- **“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.**

Success Story

- **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