The Role of Technology in Enhancing Multicultural Education and Promoting Cultural Awareness Among Students in Fiji

Submitted 9 November 2024 Revised 14 November 2024 Accepted 15 November 2024

Bijita Prasad¹, Taraivini Raiula², Victor Mafone Alasa^{3*}

^{1,2,3}Fiji National University, Suva, Fiji

^{1,2,3}The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

Corresponding Email: *victor.alasa@fnu.ac.fj

Abstract

Fiji, a multicultural nation, presents an opportunity to leverage technology for enriching educational experiences. This research explores the potential of technology to enhance multicultural education and promote cultural awareness among students in Fiji. The study investigates how technology can be used to facilitate access to diverse cultural information and resources, promote intercultural communication and collaboration, and create immersive and interactive learning experiences. The research employs a qualitative approach, combining a literature review with a survey of educators and students in Fiji. The findings aim to inform the development of effective strategies for integrating technology into multicultural education, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and culturally aware learning environment for Fijian students.

Keywords: Technology, Multicultural Education, Cultural Awareness, Convergent design, Community

INTRODUCTION

The role of technology in enhancing multicultural education and promoting cultural awareness among students in Fiji is precisely important in today's modernized and globalized world. Multicultural education helps students to adapt to an environment where different ethnic groups of people meet, exchange, learn, and share knowledge and this allows deep understanding and appreciation of different cultures, promoting social connection and reducing prejudices and discrimination among each other (Banks, 2015).

Technology innovation has emerged as a crucial tool for promoting and understanding multicultural education and enhancing cultural awareness among students. Technology allows for a better understanding and provides interactive platforms for students to engage with different cultures, learn about histories, and gain a deeper understanding of cultural practices and values (Kaplan, 2016). Multicultural education is an important aspect of education in Fiji, where cultural diversity is celebrated (Department of Education, 2014). However, implementing multicultural education is not always without some challenges, such as a lack of resources, limited teacher training, and a lack of awareness and understanding among students (Lal, 2019).

Technology can potentially enhance multicultural education and promote cultural awareness among students. Digital technologies have made it easier to access and share information about different cultures, traditions, and perspectives. Technology can provide a platform for students to explore and appreciate cultural diversity, communicate and collaborate with students from different cultural backgrounds, and engage in interactive and immersive learning experiences (Bolstad et al., 2012).

The study explores technology's role in enhancing multicultural education and promoting cultural awareness among students in Fiji. The study focused on teachers' and students' experiences, perceptions, and attitudes toward using technology in multicultural education. The study also identified the challenges and opportunities associated with using technology in multicultural education and the support needed to integrate technology into multicultural education effectively.

Research Context

The 330-Island archipelago of Fiji is located in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean (See Figure 1). Less than a million people reside in this tropical country, which is visible as a dot on the map. Fiji is known for having the highest level of development among all the other Pacific Island countries. Viti Levu and Vanua Levu are the two largest islands. Around the country, there are multicultural communities that coexist peacefully and respectfully share their respective cultures.



Figure 1. Research context

Research Objectives

The research objectives are:

 To examine how technology can be utilized to support and enhance multicultural education in Fiji's educational system.

- 2. To identify the challenges and benefits of using technology to promote cultural awareness among students in Fiji.
- 3. To develop effective strategies for utilizing technology in multicultural education to promote cultural awareness and understanding among students in Fiji.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- 1. How can technology be utilized to support and enhance multicultural education in Fiji's educational system?
- 2. What are the challenges and benefits of using technology to promote cultural awareness among students in Fiji?
- 3. How can effective strategies be developed for utilizing technology in multicultural education to promote cultural awareness and understanding among students in Fiji?

Review of Literature

Technology is an emerging pedagogical tool in education, especially in developing nations like Fiji. The ideal way to educate students using technology in the current generation will be to promote awareness and enhance multicultural education. In the past, cultural activities were transmitted through direct experience and contact; today, technology has become potent for transmitting and promoting many cultural activities. People can now look for cultural activities on Google and other technological platforms, and they can follow various available rituals and procedures to carry out various cultural activities at home. Currently, technology has made a variety of cultural activities available online. In addition to these activities, all different religious cultures are now accessible online, which encourages learning and interface among our students.

Perceptions and Attitudes of Teachers and Students towards the use of technology

Technology has changed the learning and teaching process among teachers and students. Today, technology can connect people all around the world. Kulal and Nayak (2020) suggest that technology has made it easier for students to learn online in the comfort of their own homes. This has enabled numerous students to enroll and complete their coursework at home. Azhar and Iqbal (2018) concur with Kulal and Nayak (2020) in their belief that technology enables students and teachers to learn anytime and anywhere. Due to the availability of technology and its ability to improve learning, it can also be used to increase cultural awareness among Fijian students. Students can use knowledge appropriately, recognize its importance, and support interethnic communication. Although Fidalgo et al. (2020) somewhat agreed with both researchers' ideas, they dissented from the notion that current generations have difficulties

because technology does not yet offer step-by-step training for remote learners. Students modify their learning independently, and this adaptation may result in undesirable outcomes.

Technology in Multicultural Education: Challenges and Opportunities

Multicultural education offers both opportunities and challenges in using technology. Often, chances are recognized before challenges. Our generation of people born in the twenty-first century is fully dependent on technology, thus, they will always find a method to get beyond any difficulties in learning it. According to Balakrishnan (2017), no matter a person's cultural background, they are good at using technology. However, suppose that same group of people are placed in a real school setting. In that case, cultural differences will significantly impact learning because the end-users will come from different ethnic groups and backgrounds. Promoting awareness will be the finest way to leverage technology, which has already helped many people and will continue to help more. Cloete (2017) concurs succinctly with Balakrishnan's (2017) conclusion that technology is driving the market and is the best tool for enhancing better learning through modernization. Although there are many opportunities, such as online learning, comfort zones, and availability at any time, challenges must also be addressed. Controlling how technology is used is crucial (Cloete, 2017), and when children use technology, it is crucial to engage and supervise them appropriately.

Integration of Technology into Multicultural Education

With this technological advancement, traditional education has undergone a radical change. There has been concerted efforts at collaboration among numerous institutions to raise educational standards using technology. Using technology, multicultural education will improve student learning opportunities and student interaction. Nieto (2017) asserts that integrating technology will give students new perspectives and opportunities to communicate with various cultural societies and simultaneously learn about other people's cultures, morals, mores, and value systems. People interact with technology, which encourages participation in multicultural activities that improve cultural understanding between two groups, thereby promoting communal harmony.

In consonant with other researchers, Nayasi et al. (2022) agreed with Nieto's (2017) ideas and concluded that integrating technology will benefit Fiji as a whole. Technology offers options that will improve learning and comprehension for this generation of learners. The emergence of technology abrogates Chau and Truong's (2019) fears and concerns. A concern rooted in their belief that the plethora of cultural affiliations and dispositions within the heterogenous society like Fiji, could challenge many students' engagement, interaction and participation in collective learning and teaching platforms, especially if this obvious difference persists.

Cultural awareness among students using technology.

Cultural awareness among students of using technology is an integral component of the learning and teaching process. Since lifestyles are changing and adaptation towards technology is increasing, cultural activities need to positively impact our generation. According to Malik (2018), we need to train our workforce to be able to handle the variety of electronic technologies that define this digital era if we are to keep up with these rapid changes. It is necessary to take a different approach in instructional delivery to prepare citizens with cosmopolitan outlooks, cross-cultural knowledge, the ability to work in multicultural contexts on group projects, and the capacity to think critically and creatively. Many developed countries have adapted to changes and are working with different stakeholders to improve the awareness program.

According to Chalkiadaki (2018), the language of different cultures is very important in creating awareness. In his journal, he stated that if cultural activities available through technological mode can have more activities in the language people speak, it will have a better impact and learning among our current generation. Kukulska-Hulme and Viberg (2018), added to the views of Chalkiadaki (2018) whereby, according to the findings, the focus has been placed on affordances like adaptable use, continued use, timely feedback, personalization, socialization, self-evaluation, active engagement, peer coaching, outdoor inspiration sources, and cultural authenticity. Promoting social constructivism, which is frequently supported by game-based, task-based, and seamless learning, was particularly well-suited to these affordances. Regarding second and foreign language pedagogical approaches, task-based, contextual, communicative language learning, raising orthographic awareness, and collaborative learning are predominant.

Strategies for utilizing Technology in Multicultural Education

Strategies are crucial to improve relationships amongst many stakeholders when learning multicultural education. Despite a sincere commitment to the students, Fletcher (2018) reports that his research revealed certain gaps in the relationships between the family and school and a lack of focus on reading professional development. However, for the past three years, two institutions have actively engaged in eLearning professional development. According to Chala (2020), the inclusion of materials will enhance the target language and culture. This will be accomplished by developing various websites with comprehensive information on all cultures. Lingam (2019), however, highlighted that any training will require time, which can be a

significant drawback for tactics. Training needs time, and teaching is one of the challenging tasks since technology has made many differences in students' lifestyle.

In conclusion, the use of technology to advance intercultural education and foster cultural awareness among students in Fiji has been demonstrated through the literature there as one technique to enhance and adapt to new ways of living. Because our younger generation relies so much on technology, the literature has revealed writers' opinions that it is essential and the finest means to raise awareness among them. Strategies will change people's perspectives on how to promote multicultural education.

METHOD

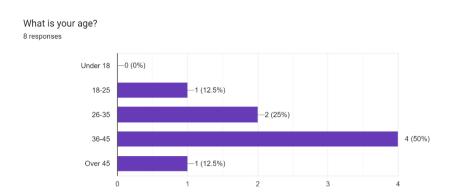
The qualitative approach was based on a constructivist paradigm. It used interviews and questionnaires to gather data from primary and secondary school students, teachers, and other stakeholders in Fiji's educational system. The study also utilized a content analysis of relevant literature on multicultural education and technology to provide a theoretical framework for the research (Creswell, 2014). The purposeful sampling technique was used to select 8 participants who provided detailed information about the phenomenon under investigation. Google questionnaire was generated using an online platform, and a Viber text message was sent to participants to get their consent; participants agreed and filled the questionnaire after clarifying all ethical issues. The researchers' teaching experiences leveraged appropriate observational options that were potent for data collection and analysis.

The participants were 8 in-service teachers enrolled as students at higher education institutions. These participants were of both genders and ages ranging from 18-45 years and above, following the ethical standard prescribed for conducting research in Fiji context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis resulted in findings that explain the role of technology in promoting multicultural education and enhancing cultural awareness among students in Fiji. Below are the questions used during the online interview survey with the participants' responses. There were 8 participants with mixed cultural backgrounds. They were also from different age groups. This age will determine the knowledge and effectiveness of technology in learning.

Jurnal Pendidikan Abad Ke-21 Vol.2, No.2, 2024, pp. 92-110 e-ISSN 2809-5073. DOI. 10.53889/jpak.v2i2.506



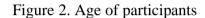


Figure 2 is the eight interview questions with the responses from the 8 participants. The participants are codified as P1 (Participant 1), P2 (Participant 2), P3 (Participant 3) and so on.

Q1. Can you describe your experience with using technology in multicultural education?

According to P1 and P2, from Figure 3 Experience using technology in multicultural education *helps a lot in getting across the needs of cultures*. It is a way of connecting to information available on different websites. Technology in multicultural education is a very convenient way of getting information about anyone's culture.

Some of the Participants commented on this in this way:

It is an easy way of getting information and exploring the world at the fingertip (P3) It is an easy way of getting information (P4)

it is an easy way of genning information (1-1)

It is an efficient way of getting information (P5)

The finding shows that participants view their experiences of using technology in multicultural education as easier and more efficient, and information collection is faster. In the same vein, P6 & P8 opined that:

Technology helps to get information in a faster and more convenient way (P6&P8)

Whereas participant (7) stated that in a more succinct way as follows: *Too many changes in education. Moving away from the traditional way of teaching. Poor*

connection and less knowledge of ICT (P7)

Since technology holds many advantages, but some people still need time and training to adapt to this change.

Can you describe your experience with using technology in multicultural education? ⁸ responses



Figure 3. Experience with using technology in multicultural education

Q2. How can technology enhance multicultural education and promote cultural awareness among students?

Focusing on Q2 and referring to *Figure 4. Enhancement of technology in multicultural education and promotion of cultural awareness among students,* the use of technology enhances multicultural education through some websites that allow cultural activities to appear and have plenty of information about it. Schools need to implement policies for cultural activities that encourage students to search for information and promote cultural awareness such as behavior, tone, language, etc. The following were the opinions of Participants with regard to the above question:

I think since technology is convenient and if both parents and students sit together and watch cultural activities and songs, then it can provide awareness in a better way (P1)

Other Participants opined in the same vein:

It provides a platform in which different cultures can have a common understanding and tolerance (P2 & P3)

Another participant added to the above in the following way:

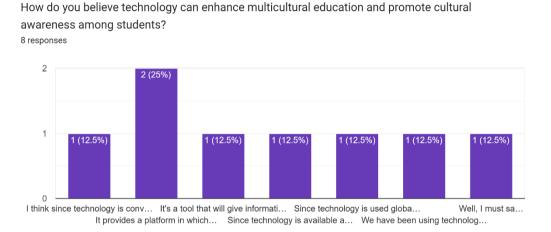
It's a tool that will give information instantly, and people's comments are attached to guide and create awareness (P4 & P5& P8)

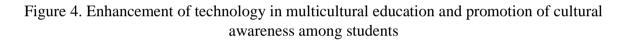
While on that same note, participant (6) opined that:

Since technology is used globally and many people are online, I believe if we post information, many people will read and gain knowledge positively, and that is how awareness will be created (P6)

However, the participant (7) raised a good point and that made his idea different from the rest of the participants:

We have been using technology for years, but has it promoted cultural awareness so far? I think the issue is high above technology. But with creativity and finances, something can happen (P7) In addition, technology creates awareness among students because students reflect when using technology: their views and comments show their cultural background.





Q3. In your experience, what are the benefits and challenges of using technology in multicultural education?

Continuing with Q3, the response from participants on the benefits and challenges of multicultural education were in Figure 5.

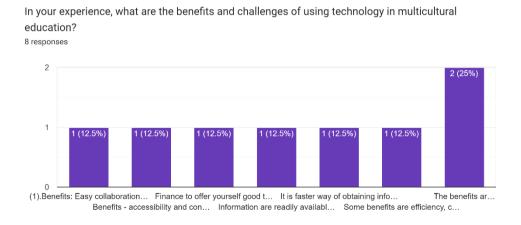


Figure 5. Benefits and Challenges of using technology in multicultural education

According to P1 to P8, they all agreed that the benefits of using technology are as follows: Improves creativity, Innovation problem solving, and communication between people (P1 & P8)

Accessibility and convenient (P2 & P3 & P7)

Jurnal Pendidikan Abad Ke-21 Vol.2, No.2, 2024, pp. 92-110 e-ISSN 2809-5073. DOI. 10.53889/jpak.v2i2.506

Information is faster and readily available (P4 & P5)

However, the challenges differed for each participant. P1 stated that:

Insufficient service and lack of skill in technology (P1)

P2 and P3, in a similar vein, agreed that:

Plenty of options and network issues (P2 & P3)

However, P4, P5 and P8, stated that:

Bulky information is available and confuses the user (P4, P5 & P8)

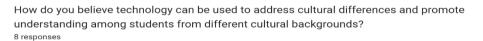
While P6 and P7 succinct that:

Low connectivity and poor network (P6 & P7)

With previous experience, we know that networks are a major issue when using technology. Apart from readily available information, poor networks sometimes don't allow users to get the necessary information.

Q4. How do you believe technology can be used to address cultural differences and promote understanding among students from different cultural backgrounds?

Cultural differences include language, ethnic, gender and cultural practice one carries with them (See Figure 6). Fiji is multicultural country and good part; cultural discrimination is not a big issue in our country. However, technology is one tool that interacts people from anyplace and any kind.



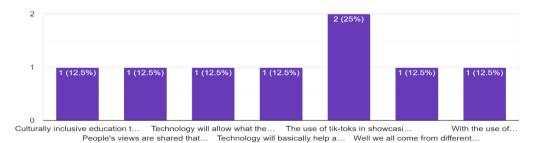


Figure 6. Cultural differences and promoting understanding among students from different cultural background when using technology

The following were the opinions expressed by various participants on the promotion of cultural differences:

Culturally inclusive education through the promotion of cultural aspects that are to preserve (P1)

People's views are shared, which improves understanding (P2)

Technology will allow what the user will search about; therefore, if the user feels that there is a group of people and they are not chatting with them, then cultural differences could be identified (P3)

However, the following participant also stated:

Technology will help a user to search for a particular cultural activity, and these will show differences between different cultures (P4)

Well, we all come from different cultural backgrounds, and to learn about other cultures, technology will be the best instrument to address cultural differences through communication; many people will be able to search for more information about people's cultures (P5 & P6) With technology, teachers may improve their lesson plans and students' learning experiences while being more accommodating of different learning styles. Through information and experience sharing, technology makes the world smaller. This is evident in the multilingual and multicultural classroom of today (P8)

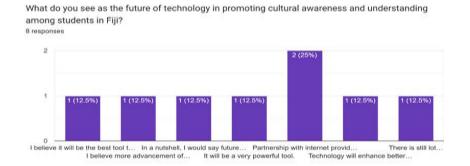
The response from P8 was quite different from the rest of the participants, whereby the use of Tik-toks, which is the most common tool used by many users, is the best way for the collaboration of cultures while using technology:

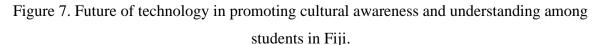
The use of tik-toks in showcasing their cultural dances is a better way of collaboration between cultures (P7)

Technology with the use of the internet has many different websites and web addresses available, allowing many users to interact and use different sites to convey information.

Q5. What do you see as the future of technology in promoting cultural awareness and understanding among students in Fiji?

The future is unpredictable. Nobody knows what will happen in years to come; however, with the development of technology, one can thatsay, the world will be getting madvancedance with the use of technology. Future of technology in promoting cultural awareness and understanding among students in Fiji can be seen in Figure 7.





According to participants, they all have their own thoughts in regard to the above question. According to the following participants:

I believe it will be the best tool to enhance and promote culture awareness among students (P1) I believe more advancement of knowledge will help learners (P2)

In a nutshell, I would say the future of using technology in Fiji will only be significant if it uses in an appropriate manner (P3)

It will be a powerful tool (P4)

Partnership with internet providers is the way forward in providing better connectivity to cover 100% will boost the cultural activities that is presently in formation (P5 & P6)

Technology will enhance discovery and promote cultural awareness among people. More knowledge on culture's will be shared among people (P7)

There is still lot to do (P8)

Even though different perception is noted, talking about the future, participants believe that Fiji is still a developing country therefore, there is still a lot that need to be done. Our remote areas need to be given more attention.

Q6. How often do you use technology in your class or learning environment?

In Fiji, the classroom environment is becoming more modern. Urban schools have smartboards and whiteboards in every classroom. Many schools did away with the blackboard, chalk, and duster. However, a lot of improvement is still required because many schools continue to accept conventional aid. This research demonstrates that teachers as students also interact with technology in learning environments, as 75% of participants utilize it regularly in their classes or learning environments. However, 25% of teachers utilize technology weekly, and these teachers must have network or connectivity issues.

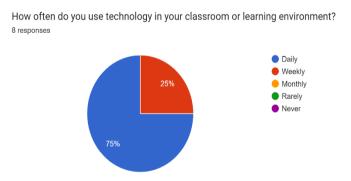


Figure 8. Using technology in class or learning environment.

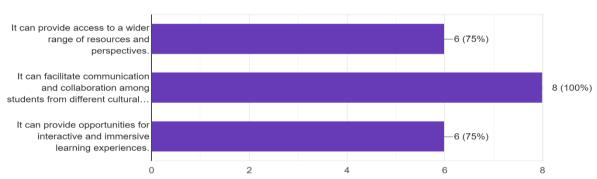
Q7. How do you believe technology can enhance multicultural education?

Technology can enhance multicultural education in many ways. Technology has its own benefits as this is the latest tool that allows users to effectively and efficiently collect information online. However, the following option was given to participants whereby 100% of participants agreed that it can facilitate communication and collaboration among students from different cultural backgrounds. In comparison, 75% of participants opted for two options that was provided in Figure 8.

a. It can provide access to a wider range of resources and perspectives (75%)
b. It can facilitate communication and collaboration among students from different cultural backgrounds (100%)

c. It can provide opportunities for interactive and immersive learning experiences (75%)

Technology enhances multicultural education as it is the best tool for communication and allows different user interactions (See Figure 9). Knowledge and ideas are shared and used, and this increases the chances of different ethnic groups of people using the information.



How do you believe technology can enhance multicultural education? 8 responses

Figure 9. Enhancement of technology toward multicultural education

Q8. What support do you need to integrate technology into multicultural education effectively?

Support is a crucial concept that often enables people to sit down and consider who will assist once things are in place and how they will improve better performances and final outcomes. When eight participants were posed this question, they responded with an equal percentage in favor of the available answers. According to the data in Figure 10, 62.5% of respondents stated that they needed access to resources and materials as well as technical, professional development, and training. However, without these three supports, many users would have found it difficult to use technology to assist with multicultural education.

What support do you need to effectively integrate technology into multicultural education? 8 responses

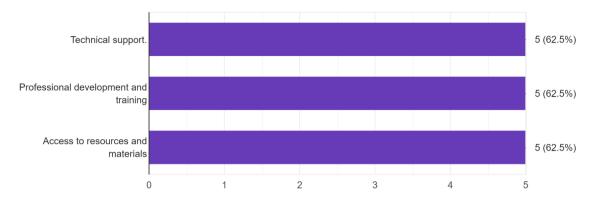


Figure 10. Support needed to effectively integrate technology into multicultural education

The attitude of teachers and students toward the use of technology

The study showed that technology in multicultural education and promoting cultural awareness among students is better. As a result, positive feedback was provided, agreeing that technology is an efficient way of gathering information that allows communication among various ethnic groups. The research of Kunal and Nayak (2020) suggested that technology has made it easier for students to learn online in their comfort zone. The current study also agreed that gathering information from one's comfort is easier. Azhar and Iqbal (2018) found that technology enables students to learn anytime and from any location. On the same note, they stated that technology improves learning and increases cultural awareness among Fijian students. The results of the current study also showed that technology enhances learning and location has no influence on any learner. However, according to research by Fidalgo et al. (2020), technology still needs to provide students with step-by-step training. Student results will be of low value if this isn't modified appropriately. A recent study also revealed that some issues transcend technology. A study found that issues with money and creativity need to be addressed to improve students' understanding of its use.

Challenges and opportunities of using technology in multicultural education.

Multicultural education is crucial while implementing technology in the classroom. The typical method of instructing a group of students who share a common interest is in a classroom. Due to Fiji's multiculturalism, these students represent several ethnic groups. However, because of technological change, students are now studying in comfortable environments. Many students who took lessons online could earn the certifications they had always wanted. No matter what cultural background a student comes from, according to a study by Balakrishnan (2017), they are all likely to perform well while using technology. According to a recent study,

105

Jurnal Pendidikan Abad Ke-21 Vol.2, No.2, 2024, pp. 92-110 e-ISSN 2809-5073. DOI. 10.53889/jpak.v2i2.506

everyone using technology has an equal right to effectively and efficiently receive relevant information. Good teamwork has benefited contemporary consumers while using technology, regardless of a person's ethnicity. According to Cloete (2017), technology dominates the market with its most recent innovations. Promoting awareness is the greatest way to use technology, and studies have shown that all the terms and conditions bind individuals who use technology, so they behave extremely professionally while speaking with others. According to a recent study, using technology simplifies getting important information better and faster. In the study's challenge's part, Balakrishnan (2017) said that when students are placed in the same classroom, discipline problems are common and that this is because of prejudice based on a person's race or cultural background. According to a new study, schools are tackling these concerns in various ways, and the current generation is better aware of the need for everyone in Fiji to live in peace and harmony. The use of technology to raise student awareness has had good effects and helped students overcome difficulties and negative outcomes. In addition to this, a study by Cloete (2017) revealed additional difficulties, such as the requirement for constant student conduct supervision when using technology. According to a recent study, parents should monitor their children's technology use and set reasonable limits for it. Other difficulties mentioned in studies include bad connectivity, bulky content, and a lack of IT skills. Since Fiji is currently developing and has a high need for technology, it requires the support of other ministries to help improve technology and overcome these obstacles.

Enhancement of technology in multicultural education

Many nations worldwide have seen the traditional shift in education, but Fiji is also moving and adapting to these changes. Technology is a tool that, according to Nieto's 2017 study, enables various racial collaborations, as well as the exchange of ideas and beliefs. This transformation has resulted in many improvements, and students now have friends from other ethnic groups. They are acquiring and practicing many cultural beliefs, which enable them to perform and behave positively today. According to the most recent study, all participants agree that students work together and effectively interact with people of different ethnic backgrounds. Students can watch and comprehend multicultural activities thanks to technology. According to Nayasi et al. (2022), there are more opportunities for students to comprehend other ethnic groups' cultures and countries and to acquire recommendations on where to go while planning a trip when interacting with members of other groups. According to the current study, 75% of participants believe technology improves access to resources and viewpoints. To deepen their understanding, students watch films and read blog posts from researchers. According to Chau and Truong (2019), it will be exceedingly challenging for many students to communicate with

other ethnic children in a classroom setting owing to cultural differences, and they have different opinions on how technology should be used. However, the current study has also concurred that there would eventually be an issue if these students cannot adapt and are repeatedly chosen as the victims. With 75% of participants in agreement, the study presented a solution wherein these children may be counseled and observed in the classroom to foster unity. Numerous schools in Fiji have adjusted, and as a result, children from various ethnic groups are engaging and conversing with one another. They can accept things as they come to them because of their mentality.

Cultural awareness among students through the use of technology

According to Malik's (2018) study findings, there will be rapid changes, so it is essential to change the way education is delivered to prepare people with global perspectives, crosscultural knowledge, the ability to collaborate in multicultural settings on projects, and the capacity to think critically and creatively. Many industrialized nations have adjusted to the changes and are collaborating with various stakeholders to strengthen the awareness campaign. A recent study confirmed that technology is the best tool and will greatly benefit students by raising awareness. It is recommended that technology be utilized properly and with the least amount of supervision possible. According to Chalkiadaki (2018), if cultural activities are accessible through technology, then there can be more activities in the language that people speak, and it will have a better influence and promote learning among our present generation. According to a recent study, collaboration with internet service providers is the way to go to provide better connectivity, covering 100% of the population. This will boost the cultural activities that are currently taking place, and technology will foster better discovery and increase public awareness of culture. There will be a greater exchange of information about cultures. Additionally, the study by Kukulska-Hulme and Viberg (2018) found that these affordances were particularly well adapted to promoting social constructivism, which is commonly promoted by game-based, task-based, and seamless learning. Task-based, contextual, communicative language acquisition, increasing orthographic awareness, and a blend of individualized and collaborative learning are the most common pedagogical approaches for teaching second and foreign languages. According to recent research, there is still a lot more work to be done. Stakeholder support is necessary to promote cultural awareness among students using technology.

Strategies for utilizing technology in multicultural education

When research is done, gaps can be found. Fletcher (2018) discovered a gap between parents and students when doing his investigation. These gaps persisted for years due to

commitment and a lack of professional development. According to a recent study, using technological resources to manage the nation will increase student learning, thus, we need assistance from all stakeholders. Chala (2020) agreed that a positive change will result from improving the language and culture. A recent study found that the language practiced while using technology differs from the language spoken at home. Videos and tik toks must be posted to promote better understanding and advance the use of technology in multicultural education. According to Lingam, in his findings, he highlighted the need for training when using technology; however, recent research has supported his ideas while also outlining the timeframe in which teachers must receive training to better understand and teach students using online resources. Better utilization of materials and resources is advised to enhance and employ technology in multicultural education.

CONCLUSION

This project aimed to investigate how technology may improve multicultural education and foster cultural awareness among students in Fiji. The project aimed to identify efficient methods for integrating technology into multicultural education to encourage students' enjoyment and comprehension of other cultures. The results of this study aided in creating practices and policies that would improve multicultural education in Fiji's educational system and encourage students to be aware of other cultures.

SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions, which may assist in improving the use of technology in multicultural education and promoting cultural awareness among students in Fiji, are based on research findings and literature review.

- a. Competent aid and advice are needed to get relevant information when using technology.
- b. Terms and conditions must be read, and users' conduct must be professional and maintained at that level.
- c. Collaboration between persons must be at a standard, and the language used must be formal.
- d. Constant parental involvement and constant student supervision are required.
- e. Any newfound cultural knowledge and awareness must always be respected.
- f. Since there is a lot of information available and it can be confusing to choose the best information, it is advised that thorough research be done.

REFERENCES

Asenahabi, B. M. (2019). Basics of research design: A guide to selecting appropriate research design. *International Journal of Contemporary Applied Research*, 6(5), 76-89.

- Azhar, K. A., & Iqbal, N. (2018). Effectiveness of Google classroom: Teachers' perceptions. *Prizren Social Science Journal*, 2(2), 52.
- Balakrishnan, V., & Claiborne, L. (2017). Participatory action research in culturally complex societies: Opportunities and challenges. *Educational Action Research*, 25(2), 185-202.
- Banks, J. A. (2015). *Cultural diversity and education: Foundations, curriculum, and teaching*. Routledge.
- Bolstad, R., Gilbert, J., McDowall, S., Bull, A., Boyd, S., & Hipkins, R. (2012). Supporting future-oriented learning and teaching: A New Zealand perspective. Wellington: Ministry of Education.
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative research in psychology*, *3*(2), 77-101.
- Chala, I. A. (2020). A Selection of Online Resources to Foster Intercultural Communicative Competence in the EFL Classroom. Greensboro College.
- Chalkiadaki, A. (2018). A systematic literature review of 21st century skills and competencies in primary education. *International Journal of Instruction*, *11*(3), 1-16.
- Chau, T. H. H., & Truong, V. (2019). The integration of intercultural education into teaching English: What Vietnamese teachers do and say. *International Journal of Instruction*, 12(1), 441-456.
- Cloete, A. L. (2017). Technology and education: Challenges and opportunities. *HTS: Theological Studies*, 73(3), 1-7.
- Creswell, J.W. (2014). Qualitative inquiring & research Design (4th ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publication.
- Department of Education. (2014). National Education Policy Framework 2014-2020. Suva: Department of Education.
- Delahunt, B. & Maguire, M., (2017). Doing a Thematic Analysis: A Practical, Step-by-Step Guide for Learning and Teaching Scholars. All Ireland journal of higher education, 9(3).
- Fidalgo, P., Thormann, J., Kulyk, O., & Lencastre, J. A. (2020). Students' perceptions on distance education: A multinational study. *International journal of educational Technology in Higher Education*, 17(1), 1-18.
- Fletcher, J. (2018). Challenges and Ways Forward in Teaching Reading: Case Studies of Low Socioeconomic Multicultural Schools. *Journal of Information Technologies and Lifelong Learning (JITLL)*, 1(1).

- Kaplan, R. L. (2016). Cultural power among nations in the era of globalization. *Global Culture: Media, Arts, Policy, and Globalization*, 191.
- Kukulska-Hulme, A., & Viberg, O. (2018). Mobile collaborative language learning: State of the art. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 49(2), 207-218.
- Kulal, A., & Nayak, A. (2020). A study on perception of teachers and students toward online classes in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District. *Asian Association of Open Universities Journal*, 15(3), 285-296.
- Lal, M. (2019). Multicultural Education in Fiji: Opportunities and Challenges. *International Journal of Multicultural Education*, 21(1), 63-80.
- Lingam, N. (2019). Professional learning in an era of continuous education change. *Encyclopedia of Teacher Education*.
- Malik, R. S. (2018). Educational challenges in 21st century and sustainable development. *Journal of Sustainable Development Education and Research*, 2(1), 9-20.
- Nayasi, K., Qabale, I., Tagimaucia, V., & Chand, S. P. (2022). Readiness to teach for cultural inclusivity and sustainable learning: Views of preservice primary teachers in Fiji. *Issues* in Educational Research, 32(3), 1020-1044.
- Nieto, S. (2017). Re-imagining multicultural education: New visions, new possibilities. *Multicultural Education Review*, 9(1), 1-10.