

Outline

Fatuaiupu Consult/Samoa Culture Centre

1. Definitions of traditional knowledge and skills
2. Initiatives and activities taken
3. Traditional knowledge and generic skills
4. Traditional knowledge and technical skills
5. Traditional knowledge and contribution of lifelong learning to employability

Definition of traditional knowledge

Traditional Knowledge (TK) is the knowledge, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from one generation to generation within a community, often formed part of its cultural and/or spiritual identity - (*Wikipedia*)

Initiatives

1. Trainings/Workshops on:

- building Samoan traditional houses - *AusAID/SQA*
- carving traditional canoes- *AusAID/SQA*
- Making *siapo* - *UNESCO*

2. TV Prog. on Climate Change – climate vs behaviourism of animals/birds - *CSSP*

3. Showcasing of culture/traditions of Samoa to government visiting guests- *Commonwealth Conference 2 weeks ago*

4. Public Course: Communication Language / *Vaogagana o Fesootaiga* (*CBS, SQA, MFAT, LTA, NHS, SBEC, Electoral Commission,public*)

Traditional knowledge and generic skills

- Workshops and programs on traditional knowledge have contributed to participants' generic skills in:
 - *Problem solving & Decision making*
 - Participants were tested on their ability to formulate problem and generate options to solve it
 - *Creative skills*
 - Participants were trained to think creatively when preparing their own *Lauga / Campaign Speech etc*

Traditional knowledge and generic skills

- *Communication skills*
 - Participants were given opportunity to present a *lauga, folafolaga o: 'ava; fa'aaloaloga*
- *Information skills*
 - The Samoan culture is based on various motions (e mau eseese le atunnu'u)
 - Participants had the opportunity to learn how to determine which information is genuine and reliable (evidence based)

Traditional knowledge and generic skills

- *Social and ethical skills*
 - Participants had the opportunity to work independently and in a group environment
 - Participants were also exposed to make ethical judgment both in the day-to-day interpersonal contact and to various types of societal issues

Traditional knowledge and technical skills

- Technical skills is about technical knowledge and skills
- The activities conducted have strengthened the technical knowledge of participants on the Samoan culture and customs
- For instance:
 - How to greet customers; village councils
 - Folafolaga o 'ava pe a feagai ma nu'u
 - Lauga o feiloaiga pe a feagai ma nu'u
 - -what to say when presented with a sua (povi/ietoga) and you have no money to reciprocate (lafo)

Contribution to lifelong learning and employability

1. *Lifelong learning is about building individual capacity and ability to contribute to their work effectively*
 - From observation, participants attended our programs have added another ability/capacity to their generic and technical knowledge in the form of traditional knowledge
 - It gives them another layer of knowledge that contributes to the effective performance of their work (workplace & community)

Contribution to lifelong learning and employability

2. *Lifelong learning is about creating new ideas*

- I have witnessed discussions of new ideas amongst participants of the program on how to improve their services based on the new knowledge from the programs
- What to say to the village when they present your ministry a sua (big povi + finemats) and no money to reciprocate/lafo o le nu'u etc

(eg. MFAT, Central Bank, SBEC etc)

Contribution to lifelong learning and employability

3. *Formal learning is not enough*

- Based on my experience, the majority of participants have undergone formal training at the University/tertiary level.
- While this is commended, it is evident that there are gaps where informal/non formal training though lifelong learning can fill in

For instance, many participants are holding senior positions due to their formal education but reluctant to face *Ali'i ma Faipule* in 'ava ceremony because they do not have that knowledge and skill

Soifua and faafetai tele for asking no questions.