

W.TEC

Women's Technology Empowerment Centre

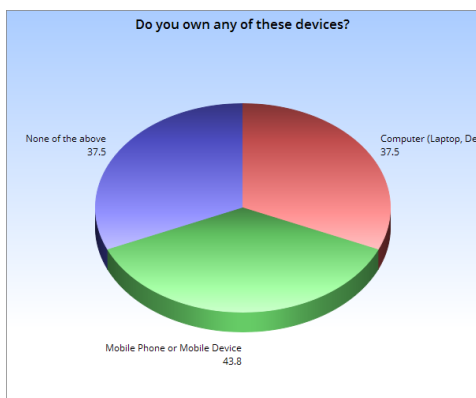
W.TEC She Creates Camp Findings

W.TEC runs a summer camp each year called SheCreates Camp. It is an annual camp which started in 2008 and is targeted towards young girls to give them a positive image of technology, related fields and opportunities while bridging the knowledge and skill gap between boys and girls in their career path. It is an initiative designed to help Nigerian secondary school girls (13-17 years) develop an early interest in computer science, information technology and related careers. The main objectives of this camp is to i) Encourage girls in the pursuit of technological careers by ensuring that realistic and positive ideas of technology related career talks are portrayed. ii) Develop the love for technology by delivering challenging and engaging hands on technology workshops and classes. iii) Establish a network of technology fluent alumni and mentors, where interactions with female role models in the technology field are encouraged.

In 2019, there were 4 camps across the country namely Lagos Mainland, Lekki in Lagos State, Awka in Anambra state and Ilorin in Kwara State. The camp catered to 103 girls in total with 50 of the girls being from the Lagos Mainland Camp, 17 girls from the Lekki camp, 19 girls from the Awka camp and 19 girls from the Ilorin camp. The camp lasted

for about 2 weeks and topics like computing fundamentals, Digital Electronics & Circuits Technologies, Python Programming, Digital Film Making and Artificial Intelligence were covered. Art and craft skill acquisition sessions were also held to accommodate girls who have a passion for this subject. Some other sessions that were held include Self Defense Training, Health & Fitness and team building workshops.

W.TEC conducted a survey during the camp to determine the girls' digital usage and habits in the Lagos and Kwara camps. The purpose of this survey was to find out what technology girls use, how they use it and how often they use it. One of the first questions measured if girls own any digital devices such as mobile phones or computers. A breakdown of the responses is below with **37.5% of the girls having computers and 43.8% of all the girls having mobile devices.**



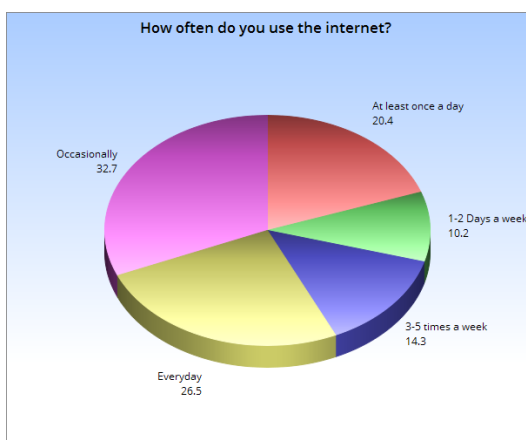
The survey asked if the girls knew a woman working in the STEM field and found that 77.6% of the girls actually know a woman working in STEM.

Lastly, the survey asked what will encourage girls to consider pursuing a STEM career and we found that a good number of the girls were already pursuing a STEM Career. Fifty five point one (55.1%) of the girls indicated that if they had a mentor who could give them advice and guide them then that will encourage them to pursue a STEM Career. Of all the girls, 55.1% indicated that if they enjoyed STEM subjects in school then they'll be encouraged to pursue STEM careers. This shows that more work still needs to be done to make STEM subjects enjoyable and appealing to girls. This is where W.TEC comes in and continues to make technology fun and appealing to young girls.

Research shows that 200 million more men than women have access to the internet and 21 percent of women are less likely to own a mobile phone. This further proves that girls need to be introduced to technology at a young age to ensure they use it as they get older and are convinced to go into a STEM career. The World Bank also reports that of all students pursuing careers in information, communication and technology (ICT) Fields, 28% are women and 72% are men. This also shows how necessary the work WTEC does is.

It is essential to get girls to study STEM careers because diversity in universities and working environments benefits everyone. An article by the study international staff believes that it fosters mutual respect among employees, and that businesses thrive when they are dynamic. Workplaces that do not have equal amount of women cannot be inclusive of all of society and it is imperative that pressure is put specifically on tech companies to include more women in their workforce. W.TEC continues to help girls develop necessary skills to go into the Tech field to gradually bridge the existing gender gap.

An analysis of this shows that a larger portion of the girls own a digital device. The survey also measured girls' access to digital devices and found that a higher number of girls had access to mobile phones and computers. 71.4% of girls have access to a mobile phone and 44.9% of girls have access to a computer. The survey further revealed that 79.6% of all the girls use the internet on their mobile phone. A further analysis of the data found that 32.7% of girls used the internet occasionally while 26.5% of the girls use the internet every day. This shows that although a good number of the girls use the internet everyday many of their counterparts do not, thus more work needs to be done in getting girls to use the internet more frequently. A breakdown of how often these girls use the internet is below:



The survey explored if the girls had mentors or people they could look up to in the technology field.

Sources:

1. <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/our-approach/initiatives/technologyinitiative/>
2. <https://www.studyinternational.com/news/why-girls-should-pursue-technology-related-degrees/>
3. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/improving-pathway-school-stem-careers-girls-and-women>