

Opening Doors to a Brighter Future – Further information about the SIGBI project



The issue being addressed is that digital technology comes with both significant opportunities as well as lots of security risks. The challenge that this project is working to mitigate is the difficulty of girls and women to capitalise on the numerous opportunities available in the digital arena and their lack of understanding of how to be cyber safe.

Driving this are other causes/problems:

1. Socio economic situations of many families that do not just prevent their access to opportunities but also causes their attention to be focused on basic survival
2. Digital divides whether it is access to devices, the Internet or knowledge
3. An education system that promotes academic

qualifications.

Many people think that the ability to navigate social media means that the person is digitally literate, and by extension is a digital citizen and can use the web safely. This is not so.

New research shows that the number of children accessing the internet and access to devices generally has increased significantly in the last 10 years. For the first time, watching online videos on sites like YouTube now constitutes the largest proportion of children's total TV and video viewing. Smartphone ownership by children has also increased, granting greater access to the internet than ever before. Consequently, instances of cyberbullying and invasion of online privacy have increased dramatically as well. Instances such as these affect children's mental wellbeing, leading to depression, feelings of non-inclusion and rejection, and can manifest as physical ailments or more detrimental, hurting oneself and others.

Based on this premise, 3 training modules will be rolled out;

1. Digital wellness and health
2. Digital security and privacy
3. Digital fluency and literacy.

SI San Fernando will be the local contact and will be "the watching eye" as the project progresses.