

**MINISTRY OF WOMEN COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**“CHILD VENDORS PILOT
SURVEY”**

2005

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GLOSSARY

Apia Urban Areas - consists of villages from Vaimauga West to Faleata West

Children - children aged 0 -18 years, adopted from the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) definition.

Compulsory Education Act - the education amendment act of 1991/1992 has made education compulsory for all children from the ages of 5 - 14 years (or primary level). The village mayor's responsibility is to ensure that all children are attending school. By the same amendment, all children with special needs are required to be enrolled in a school appropriate to their needs and make it impossible to hide away children who are either intellectually challenged or physically handicapped [*Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture*].

Entrepreneurial Skills - business skills learned through selling goods around Apia Town Area.

Focus Groups - a group of six to twelve people involved in a collective discussion of the research topic. It combines in-depth interviewing and observation in a group context.

Forms of Abuses - include physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse.

Free Education - meaning free school fees at primary level (year 1 - year 8), ratified in 1993 [*MESC Definition*].

NorthWest Upolu - consists of villages from Vaimauga East to Gagaemauga # 1.

Qualitative Approach - summarizes findings in terms of themes, underlined patterns, and sequence of argumentation and so forth. Data collection devices in qualitative research are observation, in-depth interview and focus group discussion.

Quantitative Survey - focuses on numbers, percentages, ratios and so forth.

ACRONYMS

ACEO	<i>Assistant Chief Executive Officer</i>
AUA	<i>Apia Urban Area</i>
CCCS	<i>Congregational Christian Church of Samoa</i>
CEO	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
CFM	<i>Catholic Family Ministry</i>
CRC	<i>Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>
DFRPPIP	<i>Division for Research, Policy Planning and Information Processing</i>
DFW	<i>Division for Women</i>
DFY	<i>Division for Youth</i>
ECPAT	<i>End Child Prostitution And Trafficking</i>
FGD	<i>Focus Group Discussion</i>
MESC	<i>Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture</i>
MJCA	<i>Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration</i>
MOF	<i>Ministry of Finance</i>
MOH	<i>Ministry of Health</i>
MPPFS	<i>Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Services</i>
MWCSD	<i>Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development</i>
NCECE	<i>National Council of Early Childhood of Education, Samoa</i>
NWU	<i>North West Upolu</i>
PCP	<i>Pacific Childrens' Program</i>
YFC	<i>Youth for Christ</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank all the people whose support and co-operation contributed to the success of conducting this Child Vendors Pilot Survey.

Luagalau Foisagasina Eteuati-Shon, Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSD) whose leadership, encouragement and moral support helped us all along.

Palanitina Toelupe - Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health (MOH) who is the former Assistant Chief Executive Officer for Division for Women and former Chairperson of CRC Partnership. Prior to her current appointment as CEO, her enthusiasm and strong support was the main driving force behind the conduct of this pilot study.

Kuiniselani Tago – Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Division for Women and Chairperson of CRC Partnership whose leadership and technical support has maintained the momentum and has resulted in the successful completion of this report

Malaefono Taaloga – Assistant Chief Executive Officer for the Division of Demography and Census - Ministry of Finance (MOF), for providing technical feedback on the survey protocol and survey instrument.

Vinepa Seumanutafa – Information Technology Officer for her invaluable assistance in developing the data entry program, running data edits and tabulation analysis.

Louisa Apelu – Project Manager of the Pacific Children’s Program in Samoa who worked alongside our team and provided constructive comments and technical input from the perspective of the PCP

Special acknowledgement goes to all members of the CRC Partnership who participated in the data collection and fieldwork:

- ◆ Rev Ioane Iosefo
 - Catholic Family Ministry - Fiaola Crisis Centre (CFM)
- ◆ Rev Fepai Koria
 - End Child Prostitution And Trafficking, Samoa (ECPAT)
- ◆ Mailo Sio
 - Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) (Children with Special Needs Unit)
- ◆ Ainslie So’o
 - Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) (Curriculum Materials, Assessment & Development Unit)

- ◆ Rita Ale
 - Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration (MJCA) (Courts Division)
- ◆ Silafaga Malaga
 - National Council of Early Childhood Education of Samoa (NCECE)
- ◆ Sara Filemu
 - Ministry of Health (MOH) (Division for Nursing and Maternal Child Health)
- ◆ Taumafai Poleka / Latoya Lee
 - Ministry of Health (MOH) (Strategic Development & Planning Division)
- ◆ Faafouina Mafua
 - Catholic Family Ministry (CFM) - Sautiamai
- ◆ Lorraine Lees
 - Ministry of Police, Prisons & Fire Services (MPPFS) (Human Resource Division)
- ◆ Kika Ulberg
 - Youth for Christ (YFC)
- ◆ Eka Slade
 - Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSD) (Division for Youth)
- ◆ Henry Levasa / Leslie Mariner
 - Ministry of Women Community and Social Development (MWCSD) (Division for Women /Pacific Children's Program)

Last but not the least I extend a big faamalo to the Division for Research Policy Planning and Information Processing Staff, Ms Easter Manila-Silipa (Senior Research Officer), Ave Faataualofa-Burgess (Research Officer), Veni Gaugatao (Research Officer), Moira Avalii (Policy Planning Officer), Tasi Sanele (Administrative Assistant) and Konelio Aukusitino (Driver). Thank you for all your efforts, patience and having to work long hours to complete the report. The valuable contribution of the former staff Mr Soane Leota, Diana Roma and Motu Fareni is also acknowledged with gratitude, faafetai tele.

May God Bless,

Faasili Afamasaga

Assistant CEO - DFRPPIP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report encompasses the findings and analysis of the Child Vendors Pilot Survey conducted in Samoa in March 2005.

The primary methodology for the pilot study was quantitative in nature. However, a qualitative approach through selected interviews and focus group discussions facilitated collection of in-depth information on the surveyed issues.

1.1 Questionnaire-Based Survey

- 1.1.1 Ten child vendors aged between seven (7) and sixteen (16) years old were interviewed. There were nine (9) males and one (1) female. Eighty percent (80%) were staying with parents and twenty percent (20%) were not staying with parents.
- 1.1.2 Seventy percent (70%) indicated they attended school and thirty percent (30%) were not attending school. Of those attending school, six were males and one was female.
- 1.1.3 Eighty percent (80%) of the respondents were from the Apia-Urban villages. Twenty percent (20%) were from NorthWest of Upolu.
- 1.1.4 Sixty percent (60%) of respondents including the only female claimed they enjoyed their tasks as vendors. Thirty percent (30%) who were all males declared they were not happy and ten percent did not respond.
- 1.1.5 The types of wares these child vendors sold were all different. Eighty percent (80%) of these wares were produced at home. Twenty percent (20%) were obtained from wholesales in Apia.
- 1.1.6 Thirty percent (30%) gave the money earned to their mothers; forty percent (40%) gave it to both their parents; twenty percent (20%) gave it to their uncles (father's brother) and ten percent gave it to brother. None of the respondents kept the money for themselves.
- 1.1.7 The respondents claimed that the money earned was used to buy food, buy clothes, pay for school fees, buy school lunch, pay bills, and for family obligations (faalavelave).
- 1.1.8 The time of selling varied amongst the vendors. Some started early in the morning, some in the afternoon and some at night. Sixty percent (60%) finished between three (3) o'clock in the afternoon and eight o'clock in the evening. Some finished when nightclubs closed at midnight.
- 1.1.9 The respondents' means of transportation to and from Apia also varied. The majority traveled either by bus or walked to and from the locations where their wares were sold.

- 1.1.10 The respondents provided information about the mixed reactions of people they encountered. Some people showed a lot of sympathy towards them and gave them encouragement and good advice whereas some yelled, swore and insulted them publicly.
- 1.1.11 Following 1.1.6, the respondents were asked whether they told their parents about their experiences with these people. Of the ten, only three answered this question. The parents of these three advised them not to answer back to customers and not to go near drunken people.
- 1.1.12 A positive feature of selling wares according to the vendors was, it was a means of earning income for their families to buy food, contribute to church and family obligations, buy school lunch, pay bus fares, pay school fees and others.

2.1 Focus Group Discussions and Selected Interviews

2.1.1 Expressed Views of Participants

2.1.1.1 The majority of the participants strongly rejected sending children to sell wares especially during school hours and at nighttime. They believed that sending children to sell wares would:

- Result in non-attendance in school and poor academic performance, therefore depriving them of opportunities for success in the future
- Expose them to all sorts of dangers and abuses such as getting involved in traffic accidents, burglary, theft, stealing, double-dealing, telling lies and sexual abuse
- Impede personal growth and social development
- Perpetuate in the next generations if not addressed today.

It was strongly asserted that children must be sent to school rather than sent to sell wares.

2.1.1.2 The Compulsory Education Act must be enforced and Government should also consider free education for primary school levels. This should eliminate the justification given by vendors and parents. As refer to the United Nation Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) and its definition, free education ranges from free school fees to free lunches, free rides to and from locations of schools and free uniforms. Otherwise, education system in Samoa has offered only free school fees and not school materials, lunches, uniforms and any bus rides. The real issue here is offering the basic education mainly at the primary level to compliment Compulsory Education approved by Government.

- 2.1.1.3 Almost all participants stressed the importance of parents becoming alert to their responsibility of caring for their children and providing them with all the necessities they needed.
- 2.1.1.4 Children selling wares at night are the most vulnerable to dangers and various forms of abuse. Conversely, they become abusive themselves, ill mannered and nasty. According to eyewitnesses at nightclubs, these children are very disrespectful especially if customers refused to buy their wares. In return, they get beaten up and chased away by nightclub customers.
- 2.1.1.5 The majority also disagreed with parents staying at home whilst the children were sent to sell wares. Again, it was argued that parents/guardians and adults of the family were the ones responsible for earning income for the family.
- 2.1.1.6 Some positive aspects of sending children to sell wares include:
- It is part of the child's service for his/her family
 - The child is contributing to the financial status of their families
 - Children learn business skills at an early age which will be to their benefit in the future
 - The child selling wares in town is no different from the child in the rural areas husking coconuts, collecting firewood and cooking food for his/her family.
- 2.1.1.7 Some participants thought it proper if the selling was done after school.

2.1.2 Is Child Vendor Child Labour?

- 2.1.2.1 The majority of responses thought that the two concepts were the same because:
- Children were the victims
 - Income/Money was earned
 - Both concepts abuse the child's right to education, good health, and social development.
- 1.2.2.2 Some thought the two concepts were not the same given the fact that Child Labour conditions were slightly better in terms of starting and finishing hours, working environments and monetary compensation.

2.1.3 Reasons why children are used to sell wares

- 2.1.3.1 Children attracted customers better than adults. As confirmed by the shared experiences of participants, a natural and caring attitude for children prompted people to buy the wares even if they did not need it.

2.1.3.2 Parents and families were taking advantage of the children's naivety and innocence. Children are usually not ashamed to approach people even if they receive negative reactions and angry replies.

2.1.3.3 Children selling wares are usually unpaid or under-paid and this is one reason why they are used as vendors.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Child Vendors Pilot Survey is an initiative of the former Ministry of Women Affairs now being realized under the new realigned Ministry of Women Community and Social Development through the collaborative efforts of the Division for Research, Policy Planning and Information Processing (DFRPPIP), the Division for Women (DFW), the Division for Youth (DFY) and the CRC Partnership.

The survey focus was to find out some basic aspects of child vendors in the Apia town area and to identify any underlying issues involved and how children are affected. It is really to shed light on the question *“Is child vendor child labour?”* or *“Is child vendor an issue in Samoa?”*

The report will highlight some significant findings that shall clarify a position Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD) and all relevant stakeholders must take in exploring this issue further.

2. BACKGROUND

The Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices in Samoa (2002) commissioned by the Pacific Children’s Program through University of the South Pacific (USP), Alafua describes child vendors selling goods on the street as being commercially exploited. *“The child vendors of Samoa have gained an increasingly public profile because they are firstly very visible and secondly so commonplace that the community does not seem unduly surprised at their presence on the street at any hour of the day... these children are seen on the streets from 8am until 12.20am in the early morning selling all manners of goods from cooked food, matches, batteries, glue, seafood and vegetable”* (Soon-Schuster p81)

A study by Bernadette Pereira (1981) explains who these children are, what they do and the reasons for being on the streets. One of the main issues identified in Pereira’s study are the negative effects of this type of activity on the children’s future. *“These children do not appear to have any control over whether they attend school”* (Soon-Schuster p28) Children perform poorly in school, lose interest in attending school due to physical tiredness or are kept home by parents deliberately.

This study shall provide further insight into the issues and determine any similarities.

3. OBJECTIVES

The pilot study was designed:

- ◆ To find out the current situation of child vendors operating in the Apia town area
- ◆ To identify reasons why children are used as vendors

- ◆ To identify associated concerns and issues experienced by child vendors
- ◆ To utilize the pilot survey findings as baseline information to support recommendations for future national research on this issue.

4. METHODOLOGY

The pilot survey comprised three parts

- A questionnaire-based survey of ten (10) child vendors in the Apia town area to obtain views from children themselves.
- Selected interviews with representatives from various groups of service providers, and relevant stakeholders in government, private and community sectors.
- Focus Group Discussions with a number of people from the groups identified for the interviews.

4.1 Sampling / Participants

A total of one hundred and two (102) participants contributed information to this pilot study. Ten (10) child vendors, fifty-six (56) selected interviewees and thirty-six (36) focus group participants.

4.1.1 Questionnaire-based survey

The questionnaire-based survey targeted ten (10) respondents only. Of this total, nine (9) were males and one (1) female. Field workers randomly selected the ten respondents. The field workers had to find a child vendor whom they can get permission from their parents to be interviewed.

4.1.2 Selected Interviews

Six different groups of stakeholders and government personnel were identified and five (5) to six (6) representatives of these groups were selected for interview. These groups included Church Ministers, Parliamentarians, Chief Executive Officers of Government Ministries, Heads of Non-Government Organizations, Youth Directors, Teachers, Police Officers, Village Mayors, Government Women Representatives, Children and Child Protection Advocates.

4.1.3 Focus Groups

Twelve (12) Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted. These included two (2) groups of church ministers, three (3) groups of community representatives, one group each of Police Officers, Registered Nurses, Teachers, Taxi drivers, Bus drivers, Court Officers

and Public Servants. It was easier to assemble people of the same profession together to discuss the topic.

4.2 Context

The planning and implementation of the Child Vendor Pilot Survey was family and community focused. Being mindful of the sensitivities of the issues involved the whole survey process was carried out in a cautious and culturally sensitive manner.

4.3 Ethical Consideration

Any attempt to interview children below the age of twelve must not be done without the consent of the child's parents. This was advised by the Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Division of Statistics - Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Malaefono Faafeu Taaloga. Therefore, a letter of consent was prepared, stating the purpose of the survey, how it would be conducted and the confidentiality of any information obtained. This was given to parents or guardians of each child vendor to sign prior to the child's participation in the survey.

Children's consent was sought in the event parents were difficult to reach. It was not easy to find parents who readily concurred to the survey process. Although the sample was for ten (10) child vendors only, it was still difficult because most parents approached by the field staff did not want their children to be interviewed. Responses by each child of the sample were kept confidential.

4.4 Methods of Data Collection / Instruments

For the questionnaire-based survey, the questions were developed by the Research staff of DFRPPIP in consultation with the Division for Women and CRC Partnership. The actual questionnaire was pre-tested, post-tested and finalized by the CRC Partnership. (Refer Appendix 1) A standard list of guiding questions was also developed for the Selected Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (refer Appendix 2 & 3)

Field Work

Eleven members of the CRC Partnership, DFW/PCP and the Research Staff of DFRPPIP conducted the Survey Field Work. All have had some previous experiences of conducting survey work and interviewing. The same field staff conducted selected interviews and focus group discussions. They were each allocated a certain number of selected interviews and focus groups to conduct as well as interviewing one child vendor whose parents gave their consent.

Data Entry

The Integrated Microcomputer Processing System version 3.1 software was used for data entry and data verification. The software is user friendly and simple to use. The tables were run and printed using the Microsoft Excel 2000 for the data analysis process.

This was made possible by the technical assistance of the MWCSO's own Information Technology Officer, Ms Vinepa Seumanutafa.

4.5 Survey Processes / Procedures

The Division for Research Policy Planning and Information Processing coordinated the survey process in close collaboration with the Division for Women and members of the CRC Partnership. There was ongoing communication between this triangular arrangement throughout the survey process. The preparation of the code manual, coding of questionnaires, data entry, data cleaning and analysis was done by the DFRPPIP.

4.6 Limitations

Obtaining parents' consent was not easy because most vendors either refused to be interviewed or their parents refused to give their consent. This confirms the sensitivity of the topic and raises more concern as to why these parents are reluctant to have their children interviewed.

Other Constraints:

(i) Questionnaire-Based Survey

- ✓ Unrepresentative sampling
- ✓ Irrelevancy of answers given by respondents
- ✓ Incomplete answers recorded in questionnaires
- ✓ Respondents not willing to answer some questions

(ii) Focus Groups and Selected Interviews

- ✓ Some focus groups discussions were not properly carried out (should be consulted in a group rather than interviewing separately)
- ✓ Time lapse in submitting collected data
- ✓ Translation of terms (English and Samoan) such as the word "child labour"
- ✓ Deficiencies in collected data

General Issues

- Reporting delays
- Insufficient funds to broaden scope of study

- Definitions of technical terms

5. FINDINGS FROM SURVEY

5.1 FINDINGS FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

5.1.1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS.

This section of the survey is about the demographic information of respondents.

5.1.1 (a) Ages of Respondents

Of the ten (10) respondents who answered the questionnaires, their ages ranged from seven (7) to sixteen (16) years old. One (1) respondent did not state his age. There were nine (9) males and one (1) female interviewed. Out of the nine (9) male respondents, one (1) was seven (7) years old, one (1) was ten (10) years old, one (1) was twelve (12) years old, one (1) was thirteen (13) years old, two (2) were fourteen (14) years old and two (2) were fifth teen (15) years old. The only female respondent was sixteen (16) years old.

Gender	Total	7	10	12	13	14	15	16	Not Stated
Males	9	1	1	1	1	2	2		1
Females	1							1	
Total	10	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1

5.1.1. (b) Villages of Respondents

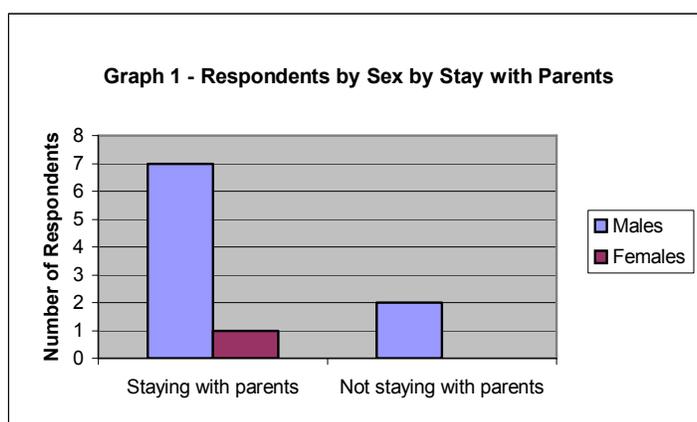
Three (3) of the ten (10) respondents were from Tufuiopa, two (2) from Vaitele-Uta, one (1) from Palisi, one (1) from Vailele, one (1) from Tufulele, one (1) from Sogi and one (1) from Mulifanua.

Two (2) of the respondents were from the North West of Upolu and eight (8) were from the Apia Urban Area.

Gender	Total	Apia Urban Area (AUA)	North West Upolu (NWU)
Males	9	8	1
Females	1		1
Total	10	8	2

5.1.1. (c). Family Background / Characteristics of Respondents

Of the ten (10) respondents, seven (7) males were staying with parents while two (2) were not staying with parents. The only female respondent was staying with her parents.



Respondents were asked about the number of their brothers and sisters. Of the nine (9) male respondents, two (2) had two (2) brothers, four (4) had three (3) brothers, one (1) had five (5) brothers, one (1) had six (6) brothers and one (1) had ten (10) brothers. The only female respondent had two (2) brothers.

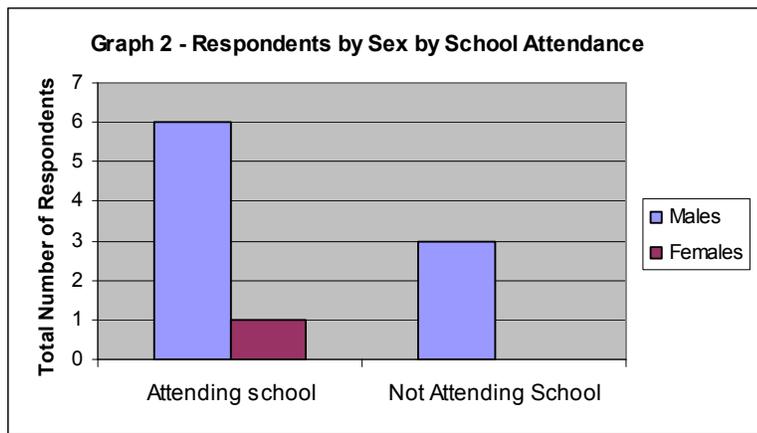
Gender	Total	2	3	5	6	10
Males	9	2	4	1	1	1
Females	1	1				
Total	10	3	4	1	1	1

Of the nine (9) male respondents, two (2) had no sisters, two (2) had one (1) sister, four (4) had three (3) sisters and one (1) had four (4) sisters. The only female respondent had three (3) sisters.

Gender	Total	0	1	3	4
Males	9	2	2	4	1
Females	1			1	
Total	10	2	2	5	1

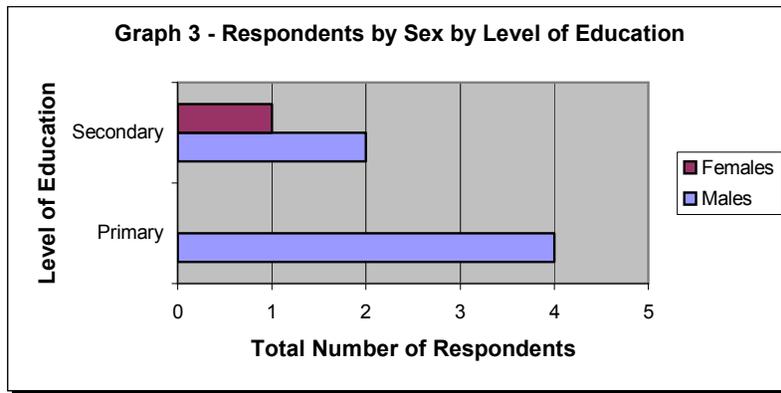
5.1.1. (d) School Attendance and Level of Education

Of the ten (10) respondents interviewed, seven (7) attended school while three (3) were not attending school. Of the seven (7) respondents attending school, six (6) of them were males and one (1) was female. The three (3) not attending school were all males. Of the three (3) not attending school, one (1) stated he did not have any school fees and was not willing to go to school, one (1) did not give any reason why and one (1) did not answer the question.



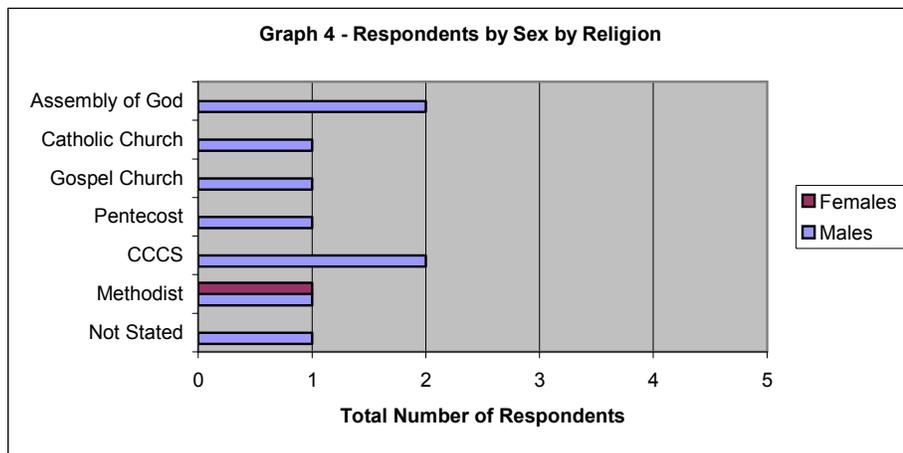
The seven- (7) respondents attending school attended Vaimea Primary School, Vaitele-Uta Primary School, Tanugamanono Primary School, Leifiifi College, Vaimauga College and Aana No.2 College. One (1) respondent did not state what school he went to.

Of the seven (7) respondents attending school, four (4) attended Primary Schools and three (3) attended Colleges. The four (4) respondents attending Primary Schools were males. Two (2) out of the three (3) who attended Colleges were males and one (1) was female.



5.1.1. (e) Religious Denominations

Graph 4 shows that two (2) of the respondents identified the Assembly of God as their religious denomination, two (2) identified Congregational Christian Church of Samoa and two (2) identified the Methodist Church of Samoa. Of the two (2) that identified the Methodist Church of Samoa, one (1) was male and the other one (1) was female. One (1) respondent identified the Pentecost Church as his religious denomination, one (1) identified the Catholic Church and one (1) identified the Gospel Church. One (1) respondent did not state his religious denomination during the survey.

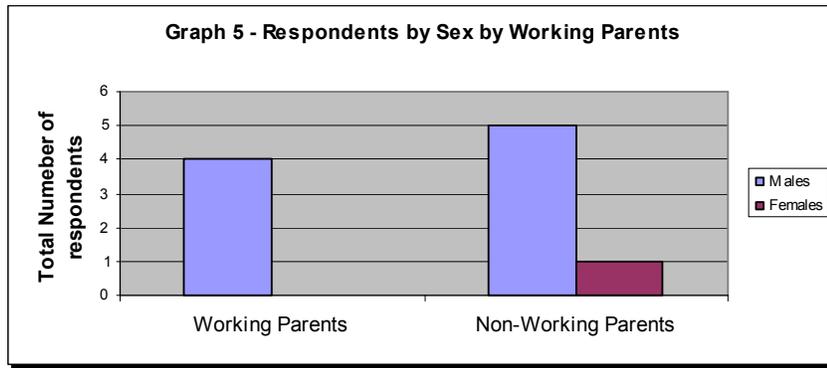


5.1.2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

This section of the survey is about respondents' background information.

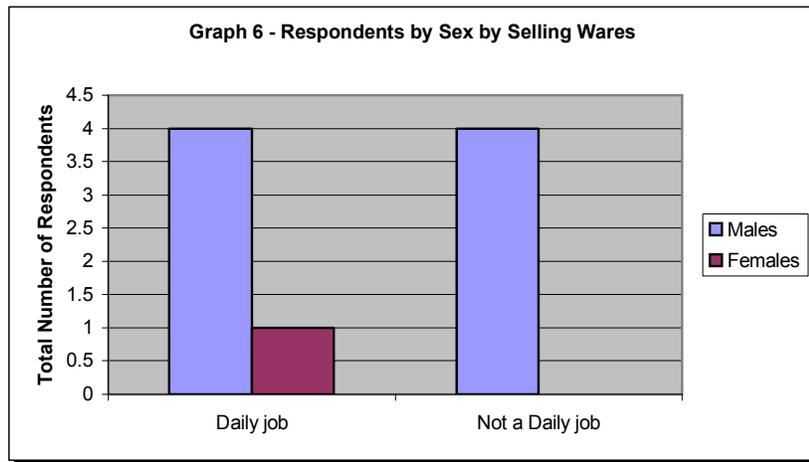
5.1.2. (a) Respondents' parents or guardians job

The respondents were asked whether their parents or guardians were working or not. Of the ten (10) respondents, four (4) said yes while six (6) said no. The four (4) who said yes, were all males. Of the six (6) who said no, five (5) were males and one (1) was female.



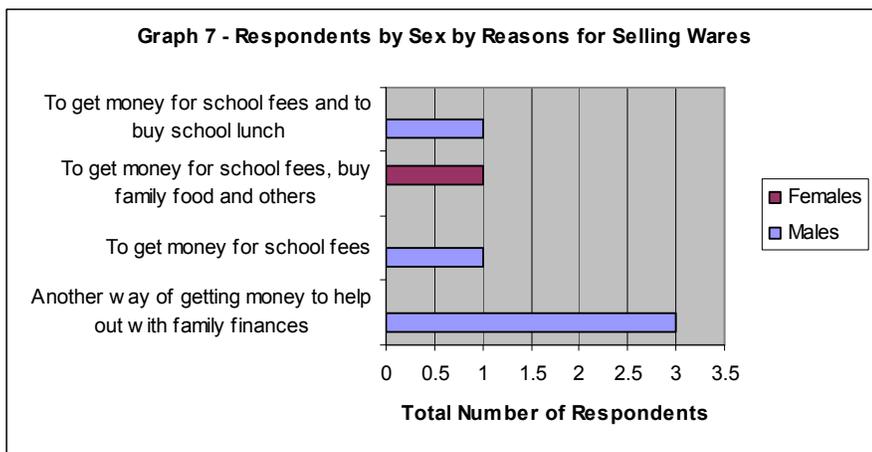
5.1.2 (b) Selling wares as their daily job or not

The respondents were asked whether selling wares on the street of Apia was their daily job. Of the ten (10) respondents, five (5) said yes while four (4) said no and one (1) respondent did not answer the question. Four (4) of respondents who said yes were males while one (1) was female but the four (4) that said no were all males.



Of the ten (10) respondents, only six (6) stated the reason why they were doing this job, and the reasons were as follows:

- Three (3) - as another way of getting money to help out with their family finances
- One (1) - to get money for school fees
- One (1) - to get money for school fees, to buy family food and others (female)
- One (1) - to get money for school fees and to buy school lunch



5.1.2 (c) Respondent's other Jobs

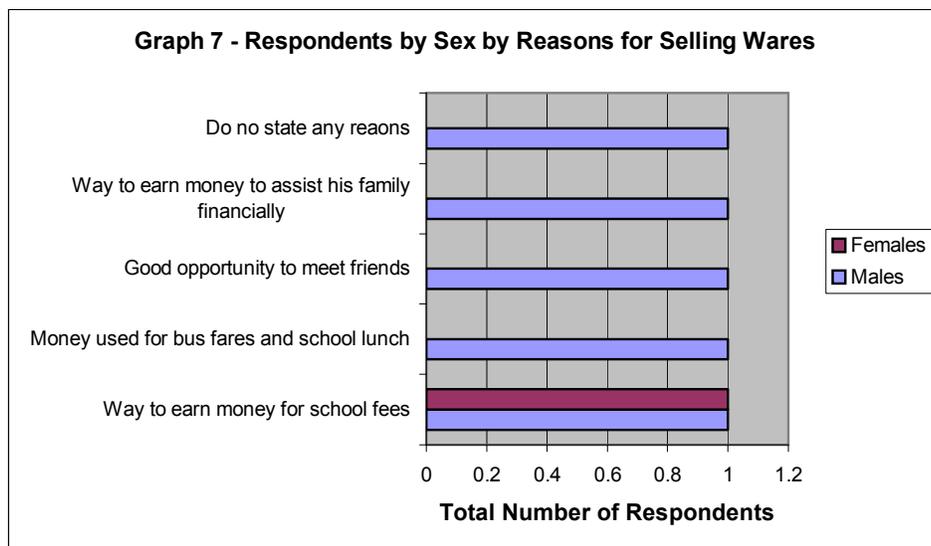
The respondents were asked about other jobs they did apart from selling wares in town. Only four (4) (all males) answered the question as follows:

- One (1) no other activity
- One (1) picked up the rubbish
- One (1) picked up the rubbish and cooked food
- One (1) attended school
- Six (6) didn't answer the question

5.1.2 (d) Respondents are Happy and not Happy to Sell Wares

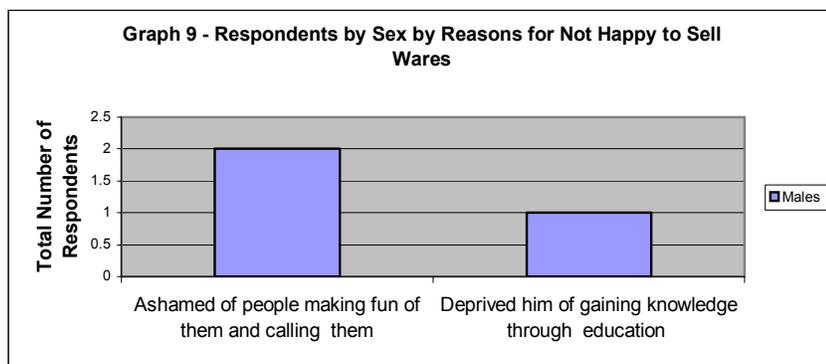
The respondents were asked whether they were happy to sell wares or not. Of the six (6) who replied yes, five (5) were males and one (1) was female. These are the reasons why they are happy to be selling wares:

- Two (2) - a way to earn money for their school fees, (of these two (2) respondents, one (1) was female the other one (1) was male)
- One (1) - money earned from wares were used to for his bus fares to school and to buy his lunch
- One (1) - a good opportunity for him to meet with his friends
- One (1) - a way to earn money to assist his family financially
- One (1) - did not state any reasons



Of the three (3) who said they were not happy the following reasons were given:

- One (1) - selling wares deprived him of gaining knowledge through education
- Two (2) – they were ashamed of people making fun of them and calling them
- One (1) did not answer the question

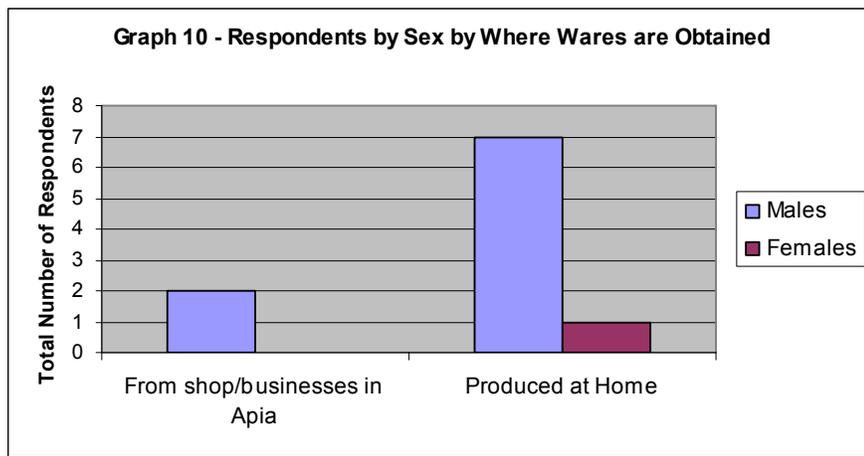


5.1.2.(e). Types of Wares and where they were obtained

The respondents were asked about the type of wares they were selling and where they were obtained. Each of the ten (10) respondents sold different types of wares as follows:

- One (1) sold boiled eggs
- One (1) sold Oka (raw fish)
- One (1) sold leis
- One (1) sold faapapa and Samoan cocoa
- One (1) sold pork cake (keke puua)
- One (1) sold pop corns
- One (1) sold cordial drinks
- One (1) sold matches, popcorns and chips
- One (1) sold cordial drinks, popcorns and chips
- One (1) sold chilled coconuts

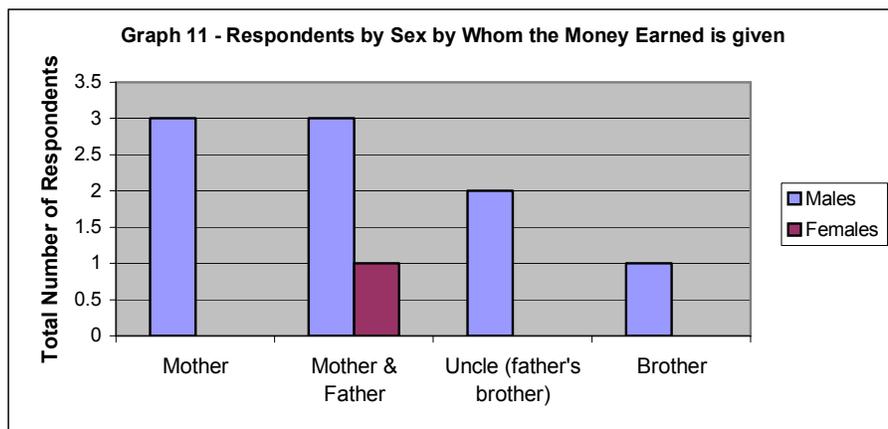
Of the ten (10) respondents, eight (8) said their wares were produced at home while the two (2) said they bought them from Wholesales in Apia. Of the eight (8) respondents, seven (7) of those selling wares produced at home were males and one (1) was female. The two (2) respondents who bought wares from Wholesales in Apia were males.



5.1.2 (f) To whom the Money Earned is given

The respondents were asked whom they give the money that they earned to. The respondents replied as follows:

- Three (3) gave the money to their mothers
- Four (4) gave the money to their mothers and fathers
- Two (2) gave the money to their uncles (father's brother)
- One (1) gave the money to his brother



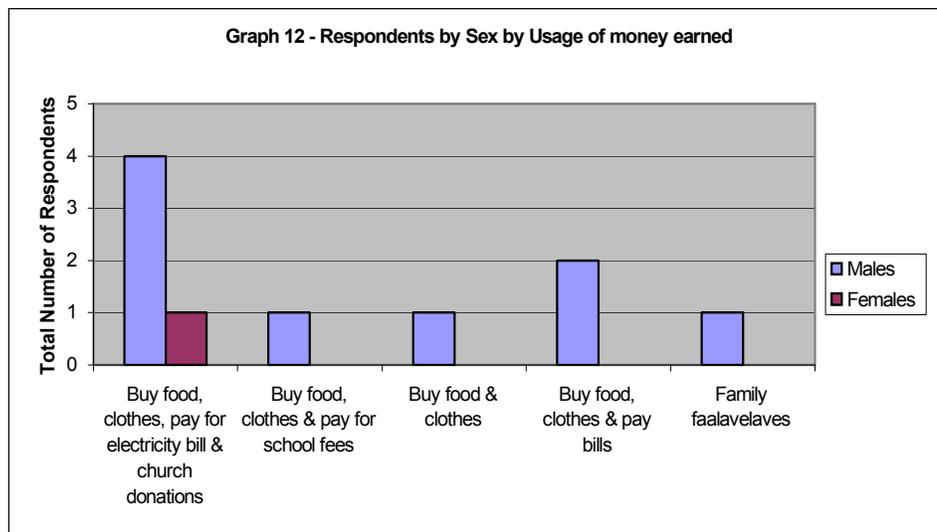
5.1.2 (g) Are the Children paid for their Job?

When asked whether they were paid for selling wares, five (5) said yes, four (4) said no and one (1) did not answer. The five (5) who said yes were all males while three (3) of the four (4) respondents who said no were males and one (1) was female. One (1) did not answer.

5.1.2 (h) How the Money earned is spent

The respondents were asked how the money earned from selling wares was spent. The respondents replied as follows:

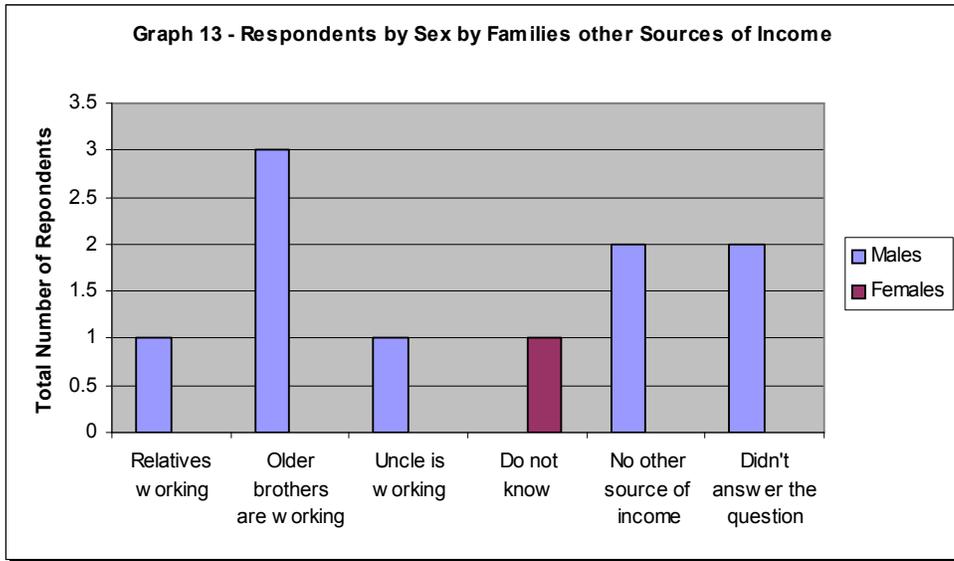
- Five (5) - used to buy food, clothes, pay for electricity bills and given for church donations (of these five (5) respondents, four (4) were males and one (1) was female)
- Two (2) - used to buy food, clothes and pay bills
- One (1) - used to buy food, clothes and pay for school fees
- One (1) - used to buy food and clothes
- One (1) - used for family faalavelave's



5.1.2 (i) Other Sources of Income for Respondents Families

The respondents were asked about their families' other sources of income and these were the responses:

- Three (3) - older brothers were working
- One (1) - some relatives were working
- One (1) - uncle was working
- One (1) - did not know (female)
- Two (2) - no other source of income
- Two (2) - did not answer the question



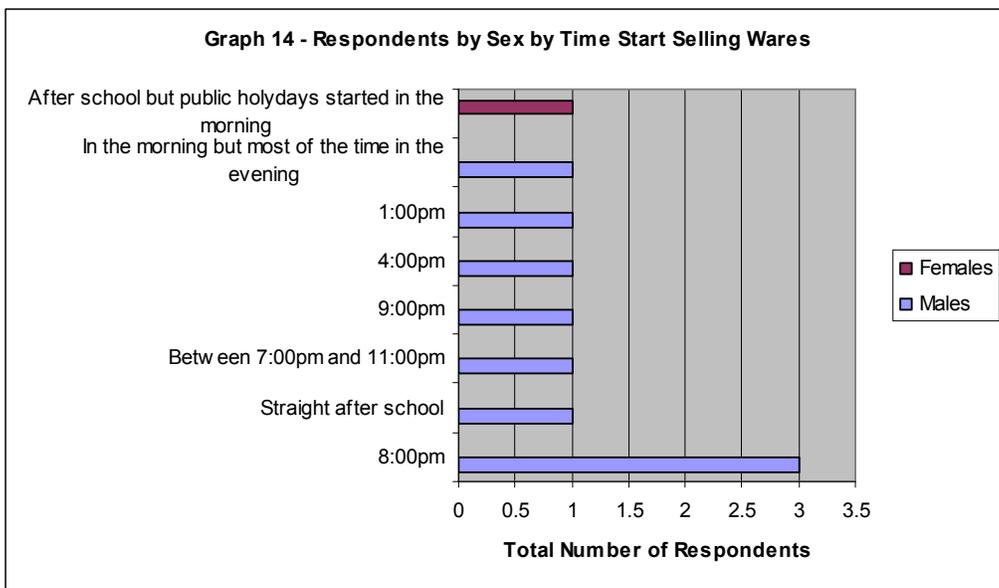
5.1.3. TIME RESPONDENTS SELL WARES AND MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

This section of the survey is about the time respondents sell wares on the street of Apia and how they traveled to and from Apia.

5.1.3.(a). Time of Selling Wares

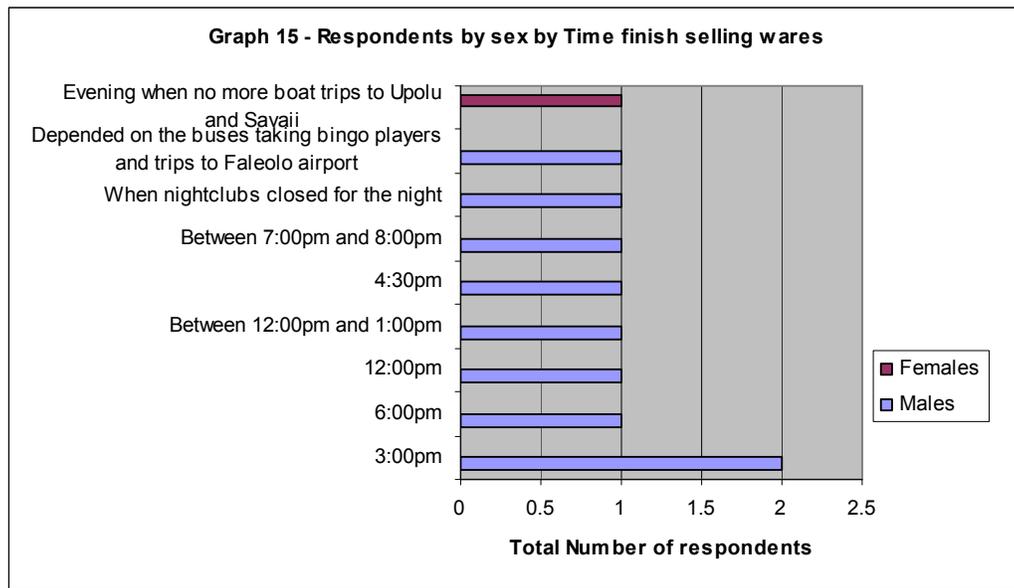
The respondents were asked of the time they started selling wares. They answered as follows:

- Three (3) - 8:00am
- One (1) - straight after school
- One (1) - between 7:00pm and 11:00pm
- One (1) - 9:00pm
- One (1) - 4:00pm
- One (1) - after school but on Public Holidays started early in the morning
- One (1) - early in the morning but most of the time starts in the evening
- One (1) - 1:00pm



The respondents were also asked of the time they finished selling wares. These were their replies:

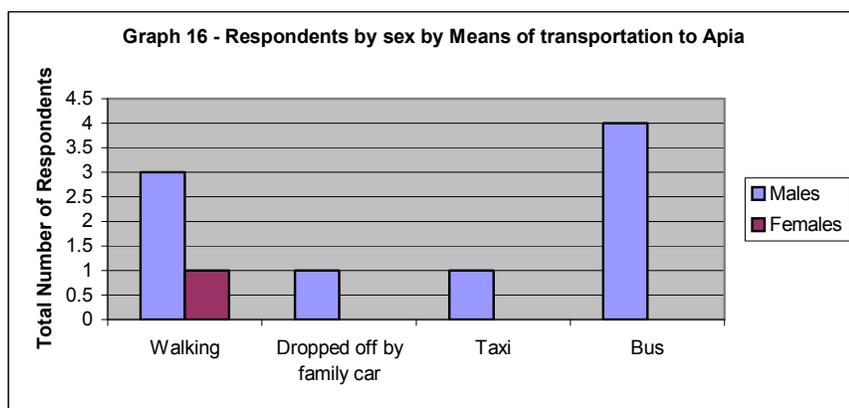
- Two (2) - 3:00pm
- One (1) - in the evening when the boat trips to and from Mulifanua and Salelologa closed for the day (female)
- One (1) - 6:00pm
- One (1) - 12:00pm
- One (1) - between 12:00pm and 1:00pm
- One (1) - it depends on buses that took bingo players home and buses going to the Faleolo International Airport
- One (1) - between 7:00pm and 8:00pm
- One (1) - when nightclubs closed for the night
- One (1) - 4:30pm



5.1.3 (b) Respondents means of Transportation to and from Apia

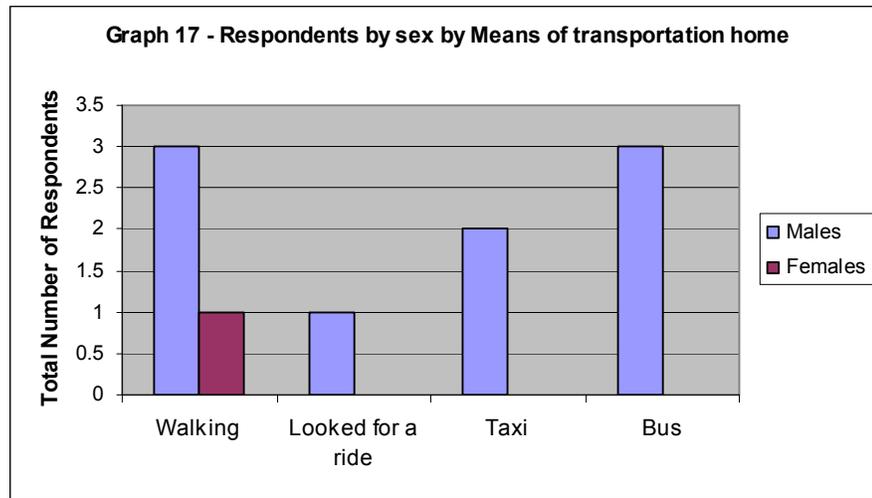
The respondents were asked about their means of transportation to Apia. The respondents answered the question as follows:

- Four (4) - caught the bus to Apia
- Four (4) - walked to Apia (of the four (4) respondents, three (3) were males and one (1) was female)
- One (1) - went by taxi
- One (1) - his family car dropped him off at Apia.



The respondents answered as follows when asked about their means of transport home:

- Four (4) - walked home (of the four (4) respondents, three (3) were males and one (1) was female)
- Three (3) - caught the bus home
- Two (2) - went home by taxi
- One (1) - looked for a ride home.

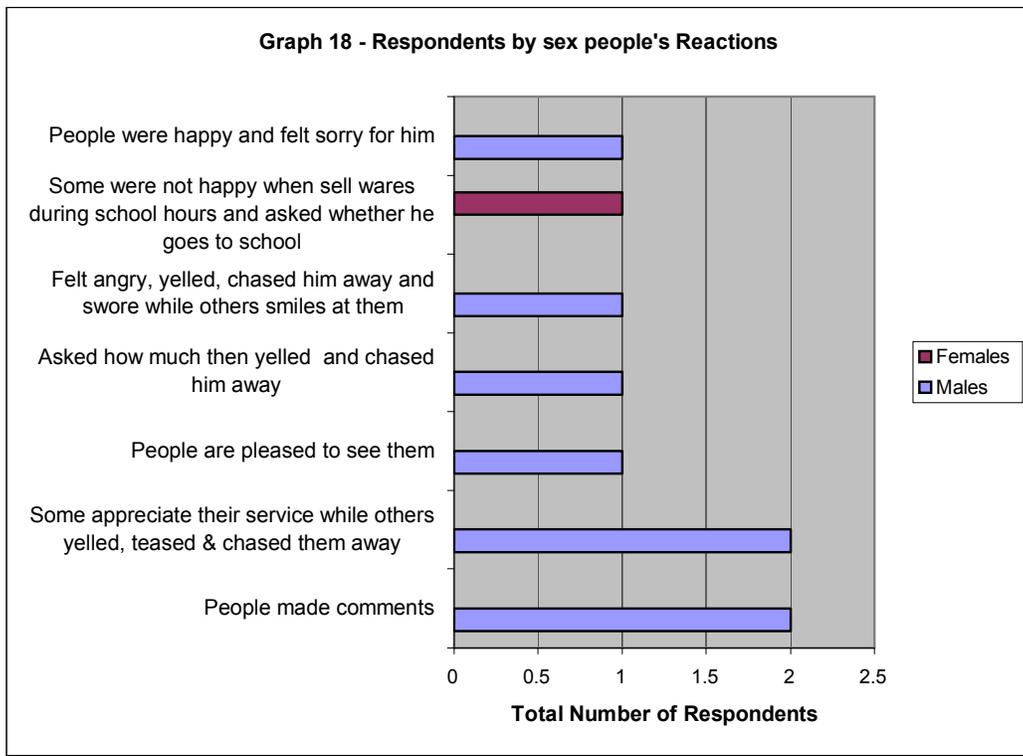


5.1.4. PROBLEMS FACED BY RESPONDENTS WHILE ON THE STREET

5.1.4 (a) People's Reactions to Respondents on the Streets

The respondents were asked about the public's reaction to them when selling wares on the street. The respondents answered the question as follows:

- Two (2) - people passed comments at them
- Two (2) – some people appreciated their service while at the same time some people yelled, teased and chased them away
- One (1) - people are pleased to see them come to sell wares
- One (1) - people asked how much their wares cost then yelled and chased him away
- One (1) - people were not happy with them selling wares during school hours. They asked him whether he goes to school or not
- One (1) – some people were angry, yelled, chased him away and swore at the same time while others smiled at them
- One (1) – some people were happy to see him and felt sorry for him
- One (1) – did not reply

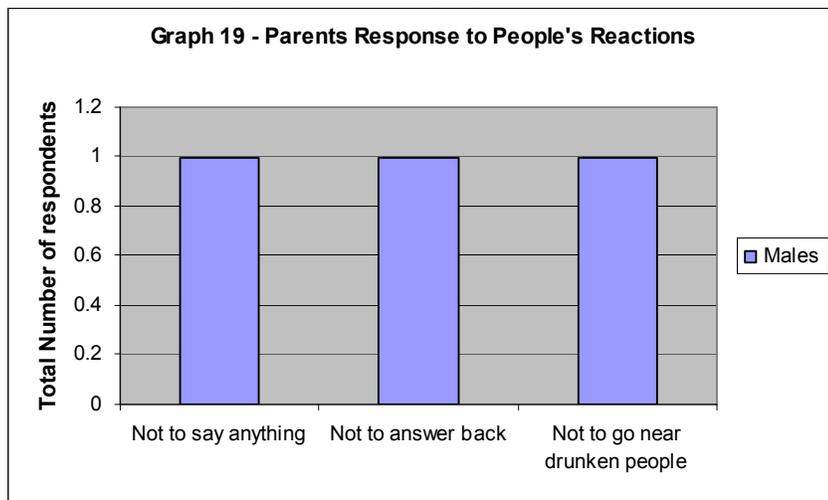


5.1.4 (b) Do Respondents tell their Parents about People’s Reactions?

Of the nine (9) males respondents, three (3) said they told their parents what people said to them, five (5) said they didn’t tell their parents while one (1) did not reply. The female respondent didn’t answer the question.

5.1.4 (c) Parents' Response to People’s Reactions to their children

Of the ten (10) respondents, only three (3) answered this question. One (1) said his parents told him not to say anything to them, one (1) said not answer to what people said to them and one (1) said not to go near drunken people.



5.1.4 (d) Positive Sides of Selling Wares on the Street

The respondents were asked about the positive side of selling wares on the street. Of the ten (10) respondents, seven (7) replied as follows:

- Three (3) – was another means of income or another way of earning money for their families

- One (1) – money earned is used to buy her stationeries and school lunch
- One (1) - money earned is used to pay for his bus fares to school and lunch money
- One (1) – was another way to earn money to help out his family financially and for church donations
- One (1) – no positive side of selling wares on the street
- Three (3) - did not answer the question

5.2 FINDINGS FROM SELECTED FACE TO FACE INTERVIEWS

5.2.1 WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF CHILD VENDOR?

Pastors

The summary of responses from interviews with selected pastors is as follows:

- It is not right for children to sell wares to earn money for supporting families because this is the parents and adults' responsibility. Parents are obligated to earn for the family. The child's right is to live a healthy life, be educated, and live according to God's will. There is an overlap between parents and children's responsibilities.
- It is not a good lesson for children as they will be involved and affected with problems such as:
 - ✓ Dealing with money at a young age
 - ✓ No enthusiasm of going to school
 - ✓ Destroying the child's growth development
 - ✓ The working environment is not safe and secure
 - ✓ Children are subject to rape, stealing and all forms of abuses.
- Parents and families should encourage children to go to school because they will earn a lot more when achieving qualification from school.
- With the issue of child vendors, the Government should enforce the existing Compulsory Education Act. The existence of this problem maybe due to the absence of free education, therefore Government should endorse free education to help all families.

Head of Non Governmental Organisations

The respondents' thoughts are as follows:

- The positive effects are as follows:
 - ✓ Training children on entrepreneurial skills
 - ✓ It is not a problem if children sell wares after school
 - ✓ A Samoan child is trained to do chores at a young age. A child always has a set of responsibilities to assist his/her parent and at the same time train him/her to perform such duties.
- The negative sides include:
 - ✓ Children do not have enough time to rest
 - ✓ It is abusing the rights of children.

- ✓ Parents and guardians should prioritize children's education for reason that, once successful they will earn a lot of money and seen as a financial blessing to their families.
- The children are used to sell wares because families are poor. There should be free education because parents cannot afford to pay for their school fees as mentioned under clause 28 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Government should give financial assistance to Secondary Schools and Vocational Institutions as mentioned under clause 29 of the Convention.

Government Ministries Chief Executive Officers

The interviews with the selected interviewees gave the following responses:

- Children are not the ones to be blamed about this issue but the parents and families. The carelessness of parents has resulted in children selling wares.
- The responsibility of parents is to prioritize their children's education.
- Selling wares has a lot of negative effects on children such as:
 - ✓ Not going to school thus depriving them from having a good future
 - ✓ Children are subject to physical and emotional abuse, criminal activities and car accidents.
- The only positive effect is earning income.

Village Mayors

The following are responses given by the selected interviewees:

- Child vendor is not right and parents should be advised to discontinue sending children to do such job. The existing Compulsory Education Act should be enforced in villages through the village council and the Ministry of Police, Prisons and Fire Services.
- The issue of child vendors can be due to many life changes, financial commitments and high cost of living.
- Child vendors should not exist due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children are too young
 - ✓ Children are subject to accidents
 - ✓ In-appropriateness of time (night and during school hours) children selling wares.
- The reason behind the existence of child vendors is due to urban migration of people, for example, Vaitele Fou and Vailele. The migration of these people to town isolates them from their customary land, which results in increased unemployment.

Parents

The responses from the selected parents interviewed are as follows:

- Positive side of sending children to sell wares:
 - ✓ Children learned entrepreneurial skills
 - ✓ It is no problem if children between 13 and 18 years old selling wares.
- Negatives sides of sending children to sell wares:
 - ✓ Despite any Entrepreneurial skills learnt from selling wares there is still a limitation because these children should have being attending school.
 - ✓ Children dealing with money at early age
 - ✓ Children are performing parents responsibilities
 - ✓ Children between 5 and 12 years are too young to perform these activities
 - ✓ Children are subject to accidents.

Parliamentarians

These are the answers given by selected members during the interview:

- Samoan child is taught at a very young age to do chores until he/she is matured. The child helps his/her family with collecting coconuts and other light chores after school. All family members have to work together to ensure that there is enough money to look after the family.
- The issue of children selling wares during school hours was raised and discussed in one of the Parliament Meetings. It was then suggested that school attendance of children was a community based responsibility and must be enforced by the Village Council and village pastors. Parents not sending children to school should be penalized.
- It is not right to send children to sell wares anytime. After school hours are when children study, rest and prepare for the following school day.

Children's Protection Advocates

Responses stated by interviewees are as follows:

- Negative effects:
 - ✓ Increased number of children not attending school
 - ✓ Exposure to social problems such as theft, smoking cigarettes and cannabis as well as drinking beer
 - ✓ Working environment for children is not safe and secure
 - ✓ Children dealing with money at a young age which leads them to committing criminal activities.

- It is the parents' responsibility to earn for the family.

Nightclub - Owner/Workers/Customers

The answers from the selected interviewees are as follows:

- The negative impacts of selling wares are:
 - ✓ These vendors will pass on bad examples to their children and grandchildren
 - ✓ Children's rights are not considered
 - ✓ Children are too young to do such a job
 - ✓ It is not safe and secure for children especially at night
 - ✓ Very annoying and they harass the customers.
- Positive impacts of selling wares:
 - ✓ If selling wares is one family's only income.

Wholesales - Owner/Workers/Customers

These are the responses from the interviewees:

- Children are forced to sell wares by their parents instead of sending them to school.
- Selling wares may be due to the existence of poverty in some families. It is not the childrens' initiative but the parents'.
- Felt sympathetic for children selling wares during school hours because they are subject to various effects.
- *“Child vendor is a hassle to my business. You can see a lot of people using foyer of my supermarket at Fugalei to sell their wares and it has been very hectic for my workers and me. We have tried so hard to chase them away because they have caused a lot of hassle and inconvenience to customers coming to buy goods from our Supermarket. I will never want to encourage the kids to sell wares because I believe that education is the gate to the better future”.*

Government Women Representatives

These are the responses from the interviewees:

- It is not right to send children to sell wares due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children must be in school
 - ✓ Children are subject to accidents and abuses such as rape and carnal knowledge
 - ✓ Abusing the rights' of children.
- It is right to send children to sell wares due to the following reason:
 - ✓ If selling wares is the only source of income for the family.

Children

These are the responses stated by the selected children interviewed:

- Children should not be allowed to sell wares because they are obligated to go to school.
- Felt sympathetic towards the children selling wares for not going to school.
- Positive impact include:
 - ✓ Children are helping their parents financially.
- Negative effects:
 - ✓ Children are subject to various social problems
 - ✓ Children not attending school
 - ✓ Parents were not caring towards their children.

Hotels - Owner/Workers/Customers

These are the responses given by the interviewees:

- It is not right to send children to sell wares due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children are exposed to social problems especially when selling inside and in front of nightclubs
 - ✓ Children are subject to car accidents
 - ✓ When wares are sold during school hours.
- It is not a problem if:
 - ✓ Wares are sold during holidays
 - ✓ Wares are sold after school.

Youth Directors

The answers from the interviewees are:

- It is getting common nowadays but children in those days were not used to doing this job. It is a problem that the Government, churches and especially parents should take seriously.
- It reflects that families are experiencing financial hardship and that children's education is not a priority.
- Parents are not doing their responsibility.

5.2.2 IS CHILD VENDOR CHILD LABOUR?

Pastors

The responses from the selected pastors interviewed are as follows:

- Child vendor and child labour are the same in the following context:
 - ✓ Earning money for the family
- Not the same because:
 - ✓ For the child vendors, the parents are producing goods at home
 - ✓ Child vendors are not paid
- It depends on what the law says about child labour.

Head of Non Governmental Organisations

The responses from the interviewees are:

- Child vendor and child labour are the same because:
 - ✓ Children are used to earn money
 - ✓ A child collecting firewood, coconuts and pawpaw for the family in the rural areas is the same as those children selling wares on the streets, because it is part of their service.

Government Ministries Chief Executive Officers

The following are answers stated by the interviewees:

- Child vendor and child labour are the same due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Some children are forced to sell wares by their parents
 - ✓ They worked to earn money
 - ✓ The *Convention on the Rights of a Child* states that children should not work to earn money.
 - ✓ It is stopping children from going to school.

Village Mayors

The selected interviewees gave the following responses:

- Child vendor and child labour are the same because:
 - ✓ Children will not have enough time to rest
 - ✓ They both aim at earning money.
- They are not the same because.
 - ✓ Child vendors do not get formal salaries while child labour does earn formal salaries.

Parents

- The two are the same because:
 - ✓ Inappropriateness of time they are working
 - ✓ Parents give money first priority
 - ✓ Parents are not doing their duty
 - ✓ They both generate income
 - ✓ Both are paid for their job.

Parliamentarians

These are the responses by the selected members of the parliament:

- *“This child labour concept derived from Britain during revolution where people lived in very poor conditions. If people do not look for jobs to get food they would die, because they have no lands for cultivation. In this case, life in Britain is totally different from ours. So we can not describe the Samoan way of life as that type of living.”*
- If selling wares is considered a child’s permanent job then it is the same as child labour. For example, a Samoan child helps his parents after school with the plantation. Not only that but also collected coconuts to dry to sell for cash whilst parents went fishing then the children sold their catch for money. These are all part of a Samoan child's service to his/her family. So its different from what the child is doing permanently.
- It is not the same because:
 - ✓ Children find it easy to sell wares and it gives them the freedom to do whatever they like/want.
 - ✓ Some children are happy to sell wares because it earns money to buy their food.

Children's Protection Advocates

Following responses presented by selected members:

- It is the same due to the following:
 - ✓ Children are not spending time with their parents in particular evening prayers
 - ✓ Aim at earning money to cater for the family needs and wants.
- It is not the same:
 - ✓ Using children to do heavy work which is not suitable to their physical strength

Nightclub - Owners/Workers/Customers

The following are responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is the same because:
 - ✓ Children are doing their parents' responsibility of earning money
 - ✓ Children do not get paid
 - ✓ Children are too young
 - ✓ Parents are abusing the children's right to education
- It is not the same:
 - ✓ Children working in companies are safe in their working environment
 - ✓ Children selling wares are not safe from drunken people.

The respondents recommended existing programs to involve children instead of sending them to sell wares.

Wholesales - Owners/Workers/Customers

These are responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is the same because of the following:
 - ✓ Children are worked to earn money while they are young
 - ✓ Children were given jobs that were beyond their limits
 - ✓ Children are doing their parents responsibilities.

Government Women Representatives

This is the summary of answers presented by the selected interviewees:

- It is the same due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children are too young for the heavy work they are doing
 - ✓ Children are not attending school
 - ✓ Means of earning money
 - ✓ Children get paid.

Children

These are the responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is the same due to the following:
 - ✓ Children are worked to earn money
 - ✓ Children's school studies affected due to the lack of time spent on their schoolwork
 - ✓ Inappropriateness of time they are performing this job, for example, standing in front of nightclubs late at night

- ✓ They are not old enough and might involve in car accidents.
- It is not the same because:
 - ✓ Children should not work but adults must work to earn money for their families.

Hotels - Owners/Workers/Customers

Summary of responses given:

- It is the same because of the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children are used to search for money whilst young.
- It is not the same:
 - ✓ Children selling wares do not get paid
 - ✓ Child labour get paid.

Youth Directors

Summary of responses given by the selected interviewees:

- It is the same due to the following:
 - ✓ Children are used to search for money to cater for the family
 - ✓ Children are used to search for money whilst young.
- It is not the same:
 - ✓ It depends on whoever sends the children to sell wares and to be engage in child labour. If families are desperately in need of help, then they should be employed as child labour.

5.2.3 WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE REASONS WHY CHILDREN ARE USED AS VENDORS?

Pastors

These are the responses from the selected pastors:

- Reasons why children are used as vendors:
 - ✓ Parents had no formal education background
 - ✓ Child vendors are more attractive to customers and likewise customers buy the wares
 - ✓ Insufficient income to support the family
 - ✓ Excessive financial commitments to village, church and family.
 - ✓ Some children wants to assist their parents financially
 - ✓ Some children worked for business owners to earn money to pay for their school fees
 - ✓ Child vendors received minimal compensation for their work.

Head of Non Governmental Organisations

These are summary of responses from selected head of NGOs:

- It is the child's attempt to help their families. Children in rural areas help their families in light chores like gathering coconuts while children in urban area help their families by selling wares.
- Reasons why children are used as vendors:
 - ✓ Customers feel sympathetic towards the child therefore bought their wares
 - ✓ Parents have no love for their children
 - ✓ Parents failed to consider their children's future
 - ✓ Parents prioritize money to satisfy their selfish cravings such as smoking, alcohol and playing bingo
 - ✓ Limited number of households
 - ✓ Financial hardship experienced by families
 - ✓ High cost of living
 - ✓ Parents have limited education
 - ✓ Excessive financial obligations of village, church and family affairs.

Government Ministries Chief Executive Officers

These are the responses from selected interviewees:

- Reasons why children were used as vendors:
 - ✓ Unemployed parents and adults
 - ✓ Families experiencing financial hardship
 - ✓ Parents stopped children from going to school but send them to sell wares
 - ✓ Children obeying their parents orders
 - ✓ Children are more attractive to customers
 - ✓ Children only given minimal compensation
 - ✓ When there is an urgent need for money but there is no other means of getting money.

Village Mayors

Summary of responses given by selected village mayors interviewed:

- Reasons:
 - ✓ Families experiencing financial hardship
 - ✓ Unemployed parents and adults
 - ✓ Customers felt sympathetic towards the child
 - ✓ Parents cannot afford the payment of their children's education

- ✓ Excessive financial obligations of village, church and family affairs
- ✓ Children are energetic and can move faster from one side of town to the other.

Parents

These are the answers given by selected parents:

- Reasons why children were used as vendors:
 - ✓ Children are more attractive to customers
 - ✓ Parents are lazy and embarrassed to sell wares in town
 - ✓ Children know the places in town the wares will easily sold
 - ✓ Children choose their words wisely to persuade customers
 - ✓ Children finished selling wares faster because they are more vigorous and move around quickly.

Parliamentarians

Summary of responses from selected interviewees:

- Reasons why children were used as vendors:
 - ✓ *“In a Samoan culture, children are taught to understand that the Samoan way is working together.”*
 - ✓ If a child offers to do the job as part of his/her service in his/her family
 - ✓ Inadequate financial support
 - ✓ Parents not doing their responsibilities
 - ✓ Parents are lazy to work
 - ✓ Children are attractive to customers
 - ✓ Children are energetic and can move faster from one side of town to the other.

Children's Protection Advocates

These are the responses from selected interviewees:

- Reasons why children were used as vendors:
 - ✓ Children are attractive to customers
 - ✓ Children were not aware of their rights
 - ✓ Child vendors received minimal compensation for their work
 - ✓ Parents not fully aware of the negative impacts of engaging the children in selling wares, examples, beaten by adults, raped, drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes.

Nightclub - Owners/Workers/Customers

These are the responses from the selected interviewees:

- Reasons:
 - ✓ Families experiencing financial hardship
 - ✓ Children enjoy doing this job because they are used to it
 - ✓ Children are more attractive to customers
 - ✓ Parents are not doing their responsibilities to earn income for the family
 - ✓ Children are energetic and can move faster from one side of town to the other
 - ✓ Parents are lazy to do the job themselves.

Wholesale - Owners/Workers/Customers

- Reasons why children were used as vendors:
 - ✓ Parents are too lazy to do their responsibilities
 - ✓ Inadequate financial support
 - ✓ Children are attractive to customers
 - ✓ Parents and adults do not value the importance of educating their children
 - ✓ Parents know that their children obeys their orders
- Some parents send their children to sell wares thinking it will teach them a lesson. However, they are not aware that they are suppressing them.

Government Women Representatives

Summary of answers from selected interviewees:

- Reasons of sending children to sell wares:
 - ✓ Children are attractive to customers
 - ✓ Inadequate financial support
 - ✓ This is the only source of income
 - ✓ Parents are producing goods at home but their children are sent to sell wares.
 - ✓ Parents not valuing the importance of their children's education.

Children

Summary of responses from selected children interviewed:

- Reasons why children were used as vendors:
 - ✓ Inadequate financial support
 - ✓ Bad and inconsiderate parents
 - ✓ Parents have low level of education
 - ✓ Children are more attractive to customers

- ✓ Parents are not doing their responsibilities of sending children to school
- ✓ Children begged their children to let them do the job.

Hotel - Owners/Workers/Customers

Summary of responses from the selected interviewees:

- Reasons:
 - ✓ Source of income for some families
 - ✓ Some parents used their children to sell wares in town while they themselves are engaged in other family, church and village commitments. At others time they go to played bingo, poker and cards.
 - ✓ Parents find it easy to send children because they obey them.

Youth Directors

Summary of responses from selected interviewees:

- Reasons:
 - ✓ Families experiencing financial hardship
 - ✓ Some children preferred to sell wares rather than go to school
 - ✓ Children are more attractive to customers
 - ✓ Parents that have good educational background strongly encouraged their children to go to school. Uneducated parents do not value the importance of their children's education.
 - ✓ Unemployed family members and no other source of income
 - ✓ Parents are lazy and neglecting their responsibilities.

5.2.4. IS IT RIGHT FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO LET CHILDREN SELL WARES ON THEIR BEHALF?

Pastors

The selected interviewees presented the following responses:

- It is not right for the following reasons:
 - ✓ Parents are not valuing the importance of their children's education
 - ✓ Children are exposed to handling money at a young age
 - ✓ Children are vulnerable to abuse and other criminal activities such as stealing and carnal knowledge
 - ✓ Parents not doing their responsibilities

- It is right if:
 - ✓ This is their only source of income

Head of Non Governmental Organisations

Following responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is not right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children's school studies are affected when they sell wares at night
 - ✓ Parents' responsibility is to provide financially for the family not children
 - ✓ *"These young kids are becoming breadwinners for their families and it is totally wrong. Parents are not caring towards their children."*
 - ✓ Children are exposed to different social problems, such as rape and start to learn awful behaviors
- It is right because of these reasons:
 - ✓ Selling wares is a good example where children learn how to develop and strive for the best for themselves in the future.
 - ✓ If a child decides to sell wares as part of his/her service for the family.
- One interviewee recommended that using children to sell wares should depend on his/her age and physical strength.

Government Ministries Chief Executive Officers

Summary of responses from selected interviewees:

- It is not right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ If this is a child's permanent job
 - ✓ It is another form of abusing children's rights
 - ✓ Children must be in school
 - ✓ Selling wares should be done by parents
 - ✓ Influence their innocent mind for seeing bad behavior everyday
- It is right because of the following reasons:
 - ✓ *"Parents giving orders to their children to do this job to earn money for their school fees. Also a learning process on how to deal with business matters and develop their own family."*

Village Mayors

Following Responses from the selected village mayors:

- It is not right because of these reasons:
 - ✓ Deal with money at a very young age
 - ✓ Dealing with money will lead to stealing, burglary and smoking marijuana
 - ✓ Parents depending too much on their children to earn money for the family
 - ✓ Children are exposed to many social problems especially those selling wares in front of nightclubs
 - ✓ *“It is illegal to send children to sell wares because they might get involved in car accidents or kidnapped by strangers”.*
 - ✓ Parents must prioritize their children’s education
- It is right to send children to sell wares:
 - ✓ If children were not willing to go to school
 - ✓ If this is the only source of income

Parents

The selected interviewees presented the following responses:

- It is not right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ Despite some children being tired they are forced to sell wares because they are afraid of their parents
 - ✓ Children encountered many social problems and accidents
 - ✓ Children will be deprived of a good future
 - ✓ They will learn indecent behaviour and practices such as stealing and begging
 - ✓ If children selling wares were in the age 5-12 years old
- It is right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ If children selling wares were in the age of 13 – 18 years old
 - ✓ Children must also play their roles in order for them to work hard in the future

Parliamentarians

Responses from selected members of the parliament being interviewed:

- It is not right if:
 - ✓ If parents are staying home doing nothing
 - ✓ It is parents responsibility to care for their families
- It is right if:
 - ✓ It is another source of income for some families

- ✓ The child offers to sell wares as part of his/her contribution to the family in terms of income

Children's Protection Advocates

The following responses from interviewees:

- It is not right because:
 - ✓ Children are subject to car accidents and being beaten up by drunken people
 - ✓ Its is the parents' responsibility to send children to school rather than selling wares

Nightclub – Owners/Workers/Customers

The selected members presented the following responses:

- It is not right because of the following reasons:
 - ✓ Children must be in school
 - ✓ It is the parents responsibility to provide for the family financially
 - ✓ Children's innocent minds might be spoiled by scenes they saw on the street
 - ✓ Parents are not considering their children as gift from God
 - ✓ Children subject to car accidents and beaten by drunken people
 - ✓ Perhaps in years to come, these children would become troublemakers and greatly ruin their lives.

Wholesale – Owners/Workers/Customers

These are the responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is not right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ It appears that parents and adults are not caring
 - ✓ Sending children to sell wares is abusing their right to education because they are not in school. Also they are selling wares at a young age and at a wrong time.
 - ✓ It is setting a bad example for the child as he/she grows up
 - ✓ It is the parents' responsibility to find ways to earn money for their family.

Government Women Representatives

Summary of responses from selected interviewees:

- It is not right due to the following:
 - ✓ Children must be in school
 - ✓ Selling wares is a bad example for children because their innocent minds might be spoiled by scenes they saw on the street

- ✓ It is parents responsibility to earn for the family and provide for the future of their children
- ✓ Parents not caring towards their children

Children

Responses from the selected interviewees:

- It not is right because of the following reasons:
 - ✓ It is parents and guardians responsibility to work and earn money to support the family
 - ✓ Selling wares will stop children from going to school
 - ✓ Parents ashamed to sell wares on the streets.

Hotel - Owners/Workers/Customers

These are the following responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is not right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ The amount of money earned cannot compensate for the lives of children if involved in accidents such as car accidents leading to death
 - ✓ It is not safe for children to do this kind of job given their age.
- It is right if:
 - ✓ This is the only source of income to support the family
 - ✓ Children can't reject their parents' instructions.

Youth Directors

Responses from the selected interviewees:

- It is not right due to the following reasons:
 - ✓ It is not safe and secure for the child's growth development
 - ✓ It is a form of child abuse
 - ✓ *"What are parents doing but they should sell wares? This is parents and adults responsibility. How would they feel if children are involved in accidents or not returning home"*

5.2.5. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN APPROACHED BY A CHILD VENDOR TO BUY GOODS?

Pastors

The responses presented by the pastors interviewed are as follows:

- All of the interviewees stated that child vendors approached them and these were their experiences with them:
 - ✓ *“I asked if he attended school but he said no because there is no money”*
 - ✓ *“I noticed that people ignored and showed no affection to these children which convinced me to buy their wares although I did not want to”*
 - ✓ *“I asked him why he is doing this job and he replied it was to pay for his school fees, buy school lunch and for his mother’s bingo”*
- *“A child came to sell boxes of matches and I felt sympathy for him. He mentioned there were only him and his sick mother at their home at Vaitele. I visited the home and confirmed this, so I brought the mother and the child to our home. They stayed for two (2) years and I paid for the child’s education until the child vendor’s aunt came from New Zealand and took them over”*

Head of Non Governmental Organisations

The responses from the selected interviewees are as follows:

- *“Yes, a child vendor came to my office to sell eggs. I asked him whether he goes to school or not. He answered yes but he needed money to pay for his school fees. I felt sorry for him and advised this vendor to go to school first. I told him that he would earn more money if he goes to school first. I even told him to tell his parents to take him to school but not to send him to sell wares during school hours.”*
- *“I felt sorry for these children and I thought to myself where their parents are and wondered what they are doing?”*
- *“Yes, child vendors begged me to buy their wares but what I noticed, these children are very disrespectful especially when they asked people to buy their goods”*

Government Ministries Chief Executive Officers

The responses from the interviewees are as follows:

- *“I asked the child vendor whether he goes to school or not and he answered yes but he needs the money to pay for his school fees. He also said his parents do not work. I felt sorry for the child so I bought eggs he was selling although I did not want and advised him to go to school.”*

- *“The reason for buying wares is because I felt touched when I see these children as they are like my own.”*
- *“I gave them extra money because I pity them. I believe this issue must be addressed and the Government must enforce all children’s education”.*

Village Mayors

The replies given from the interviewees are listed below:

- *“I witnessed an incident one night at a nightclub around 12 midnight when a child vendor came inside and forced drunken people to wear his leis. In the end one of the drunken customers beat up the child vendor when he was begging to be paid for the lei. These are the things that parents’ are not aware of.”*
- *“I felt sorry for female child vendors because I have seen them doing this job whilst young and they seem delighted with what they are doing. A question that came into mind is where their parents are. I do not believe it that these parents are not caring for their children. It would have been better if these children were not born.”*

Parents

The responses stated by the selected parents interviewed are listed below:

- *“I noticed that these children are really smart at persuading people to buy their wares. The way they expressed themselves convinced people to buy their wares.”*
- *“A child vendor came to sell leis at the RSA nightclub. I was stunned when the child was fearless in moving around selling leis. I felt sympathy so I give the child five tala and return his lei.”*

Parliamentarians

The replies from the selected interviewees are as follows:

- *“I went to the market to buy food for Sunday toonai and a child vendor approached me before heading in. He said he is selling bundles of seaweeds. I bought it to save time from walking around.”*
- *“A child vendor came to sell coconuts and I asked whether he goes to school and he said yes but he is in need of money to pay for his school fees. I felt sympathetic and then bought the basket of coconuts he was selling.”*
- *“A number of child vendors were standing with heaps of leis when I came to Kitano Tusitala for the government function. I felt sympathetic for them but did not know which child to buy his leis as they were all running to me.”*

- It is recommended that parents must perform their responsibilities in looking after their children and ensuring their presence during evening prayers. The decency of a child's life started from the family.

Children's Protection Advocates.

These are the answers presented by the interviewees:

- *"A female child vendor came to sell a bundle of seaweed at Lighthouse nightclub. I asked how much and she replied it was \$5 then I said no but she pleaded for me to buy because she wanted to go home. This was 9 o'clock at night and for that reason I bought the remaining bundle giving her \$2 extra although I didn't want it."*

Nightclub - Owners/Workers/Customers

The responses stated from the selected members are:

- *"It was noticed that these children are naughty regarding the attitudes they show in public. Sometimes when I said no to them, they started to say awful words. This reveals that children's minds are affected from selling wares."*
- *"I asked the child about the cost of his leis and he said \$5.00 but when a European man asked him he said \$6.00. I felt sorry, because these children learnt how to lie and see awful things they should not see at all because of this job."*

Wholesale - Owners/Workers/Customers

The responses from the interviewees are listed below:

- *"The young girls selling wares were very disrespectful and eventually they would end up being young mothers. As for the boys they were very rude to customers if no one bought their wares."*

Government Women Representatives

The responses from the interviewees are as follows:

- *"I asked the child whether he goes to school. Why he is not going to school? Where his mother is? I noticed that he is enjoying the job and it seems that what he is doing is alright. He replied that selling wares is the chance to get away from his family and for him to roam around town. I pity these children because they are wasted with what they doing. I wish I could look after them and take to school."*

Children

The replies from the selected children interviewed are as follows:

- *“It is a must to force children to go to school”*
- *“I do not want to be a child vendor.”*
- *“I bought a box of matches from one child vendor because I felt sympathy for him.”*

Hotel - Owners/Workers/Customers

The answers from the selected interviewees are listed below:

- *“A lot of child vendors are pretty good liars. When asked why their parents were not doing the job, they replied their parents were at home sick.”*
- *“I felt sympathetic and bought the child’s wares, but if not he seems naughty. Sometimes I ordered him to wait outside the office but he looked as if he is teasing.”*

Youth Directors

The replies from the selected interviewees are listed below:

- *“Most of the times child vendors approached and begged me to buy their wares. Sometimes I get annoyed when I said no thank you but they keep on coming”*
- *“The majority of child vendors begged me to buy their wares because they needed money. I felt sorry for them for what they are doing. Sometimes these child vendors are very good at persuading people to buy wares so they may get money quickly.”*

5.3 FINDINGS FROM FOCUS GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

5.3.1 WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS OF CHILD VENDORS?

Teachers

Following is a summary of the teachers' group discussion:

- It is not appropriate for children to sell wares because:
 - ✓ They would be exposed to all sorts of trouble or become involved in theft such as stealing toys sold in front of Departments Stores in town
 - ✓ Children will catch sight of obscene behaviour of young adults in town dating at the Sogi Park near the bus station
 - ✓ It is parents responsibility to earn money to support the family and not the children
 - ✓ The parental affection of people towards children is exploited by parents to serve their interest. That is, parents know that people feel sympathetic towards children and thus buy their wares
 - ✓ Sending children to sell wares is actually employing them for money. Yet this is the time children must attend school
 - ✓ Children are too young to do this kind of job
 - ✓ The engagement of children in this type of activity is actually giving them pre-mature experience of handling money and may have harmful consequences like getting involved in burglary and theft when they get desperate for money
 - ✓ Sending children to sell wares violate their rights of going to school
- Reasons why children were used to sell wares are:
 - ✓ There is a lot of difference between the olden days and today. The change from a barter system to a cash economy is one major change
 - ✓ Rural people migrating to urban areas results in families living in urban areas having limited access to land for agricultural production
 - ✓ There is an increase in the number of households but there is not enough means of financial support

One participant quoted *"I would never send my children to sell wares because I love them too much"*

The teachers recommended that there must be training programs to raise the awareness of parents on the importance of sending children to school and the long term benefits this would gain.

It was also suggested that the spiritual teachings of the church ministers is one important intervention to take advantage of in carrying out parents and caregivers responsibilities.

Public Servants

There was a strong rejection from this group to the issue of child vendor due to the following reasons:

- Children would be vulnerable to numerous problems such as
 - ✓ Premature handling of money which will lead them to stealing at an early age
 - ✓ Children would spend less quality time with their parents and families
- Parents must protect their children from getting exposed to different forms of abuses whilst selling wares on the streets
- Children are wrongly utilised to attract people to buy their wares
- Government must call a halt to this kind of activity and enforce sending children to school
- If this type of activity is not stopped, it will continue to increase from one generation to the other
- Parents must enclose their children with their own hands rather than exposing them on the streets and on the roads.
- A positive response:
 - ✓ Children selling wares are actually contributing to their families' well being and financial costs especially the low-income families.

Community Representatives

This group expressed a lot of compassion and concern towards children selling wares due to the risks they would be exposed to such as:

- ✓ Getting hit by traffic vehicles on the road
- ✓ Not attending school
- ✓ Getting beaten up by adults
- ✓ Vulnerability to theft, burglary and abuse
- ✓ Getting involved in unanticipated troubles.

Another concern was that parents were actually forcing their children to carry out this activity. Hence, children out of fear submit to their parents' demands. This is a form of child abuse and violates the existing laws on children's rights.

Moreover, parents are inappropriately inflicting their own failure as parents on their children. It is their own fault that they did not take education seriously whilst young and which has resulted in their current financial hardship. This is no reason why children should be expected to ease the burden.

Several recommendations included the following:

- ✓ Establish a legislation to prohibit this type of job

- ✓ Parents sending their children to sell wares must be prosecuted under the new legislation.

Pastors

This group gave both negative and positive effects of this type of activity

➤ Negatives for children:

- ✓ The child's right to go to school is neglected
- ✓ Children lack fellowship with parents and families
- ✓ Temptation to steal
- ✓ Get beaten up by adults
- ✓ Engaged in sodomised acts, drinking alcohol and drug abuse
- ✓ Inappropriateness of time wares are sold
- ✓ Children are too young to do this type of job.

This group further reiterated the view that the safety and protection of children selling wares is at risk. Parents are taking this risk due to their incapability to face financial difficulties and hardship.

Also parents are only making excuses by saying they cannot afford their children's school fees. They use this to justify sending their children to sell wares.

"It is totally inappropriate to send children to sell wares at night time. The children are too young to go by themselves to public places and get ill-treated by different people"

"It is not right to use children in this type of activity because a child's primary role is to go to school and get a proper education. Education is the key to one's future success"

➤ Positives for children:

- ✓ Children are contributing to the financial status of their families and easing the financial burden
- ✓ Children will gain experience in handling financial matters
- ✓ It is better for children to be engaged in selling wares than to roam around doing nothing
- ✓ Only if there is no other person in the family that earns an income
- ✓ If there is lack of skills and capacity in other fields of work.

Registered Nurses

This group comprises Registered Nurses working at the National Hospital at Motootua and these were their responses:

- ✓ The Compulsory Education Act must be enforced for all children to attend school

- ✓ It is not appropriate to send young children to sell wares because they will get hit by traffic vehicles
- ✓ A child's education must be the priority because a well educated child will easily find employment to cater for his/her family's needs in the future
- ✓ It is parents' responsibility to earn a living for the family
- ✓ Children must not engage in such activity because they would be exposed to a lot of temptations and dangers.

On the positive, this group had the view that it is no problem if the child is sent to sell wares after school hours. It is understandable that families do need sufficient finances to cater for their needs and this is one way children may contribute.

Court Officers

This group also thinks it is not appropriate for children to sell wares at such a young age because of the following reasons:

- ✓ They are not fully qualified to carry out this kind of activity
- ✓ Children must be sent to school but not to sell wares
- ✓ Children selling wares will be exposed to all sorts of dangers, abuses and insults from adults
- ✓ Children engaged in this type of activity will have no hope for the future
- ✓ Child vendors will be perpetrators of all sorts of crimes and abuses, which they witness during the time of their activity.

This group raised the issue of parents and Government working together to enforce the Compulsory Education Act. Government should also consider the establishing of free education in Samoa so that parents do not have any excuse on why their children are not sent to school.

Police Officers

This group thought it was totally unacceptable to use children to sell wares in town. They shared the view that it is parents' and adults' responsibility to sell these wares but not children. Children have the right to go to school and the right to proper care and protection.

The group also gave the view that children engaged in paid employment at a premature age are quite detrimental because it will increase the chance of them getting involved in crime and corruption.

The police pointed out that some children might be forced against their will to do this work just to please their parents. This leads to them stealing from other vendors so they may have more sales and make their parents more pleased, yet it is a malpractice.

Bus Drivers

This group operates buses of the rural villages. They had the view that it is appropriate for people over twenty years of age and over to carry out this type of work because they are old enough to protect themselves from the dangers and problems they would face.

The group also thought that if children are sent to sell wares, it is best if done after school, and as long as the money earned is spent wisely by the parents and not on beer and cigarettes. They also share the view that children must be encouraged to go to school.

Taxi Drivers

In contrast to the views of bus drivers, this group thought is totally unaccepted for children to sell wares because:

- ✓ It is not right for parents and adults of the family to sit at home whilst the children are sent to town to sell wares
- ✓ It shows parents have no feelings and no love for their children
- ✓ Children selling wares will have no future because they are not attending school.

The group recommended that Government must provide free education so that every child is able to go to school

5.3.2 IS CHILD VENDOR CHILD LABOUR?

This is the Guiding Question of the Survey and all the groups were asked for their opinions. There were both affirmative and negative responses given by all the groups

Teachers

- Child Vendor is the same as Child Labour in the following aspects:
 - ✓ Both activities involved using children to seek money. It is not right to use children this way while parents and adults of the family is at home doing nothing
 - ✓ Children inappropriately used given their age
 - ✓ Negative impact of issues involved are similar e.g.:
 - Stealing
 - Burglary
 - Rape
 - Murder

- ✓ Children get exposed to poor working conditions/environment
- ✓ Children do not get sufficient rest both physically and mentally and may lead to mental illness which will be followed by committing crimes and eventually end up in prison
- ✓ Both are the same in the context that these children's future is jeopardized by not sending them to school.

Recommendation:

It is important to educate parents before they get married to foresee the future and the challenges of setting up a family and raising children. They must be prepared physically, mentally and spiritually otherwise will perpetuate from one generation to another.

Public Servants

According to this group, both concepts are the same because children engaged in money earning activities.

They further expressed the view that children should not be engaged in both activities because given their age, they are not supposed to be used in any of the two activities.

Community Representatives

This group thought that the two concepts are the same in the following aspects:

- ✓ Money is earned
- ✓ Children get exposed to insults and ridicule from the public
- ✓ Children involved in any of the two activities are not important to their parents
- ✓ Lures children to steal
- ✓ Engaging children in any of the two will result in disobedience negligence
- ✓ It is not appropriate for children to roam on the road.

Pastors

Those that agreed that the two are generally the same given the fact that the issues involved are similar and children are the victims.

Similar to the above groups, this group gave alternative answers in regards to the two concepts.

More reasons why the two concepts are the same are:

- ✓ Parents are using their children to earn money that they themselves spend on their own interests e.g., alcohol, cigarette, bingo, poker and other similar entertainment.
- ✓ Parents are neglecting their responsibility and it is left to the children to search for money to provide for their needs.

- ✓ Some children have refused to go home after work but sleep over at strange places, enjoy the life of earning money for them and get involved in indecent acts and behaviour.
- ✓ Parents have no empathy for their children.

Alternatively, some of the respondents thought that the two concepts are not the same in the context of the Samoan culture; a Samoan child is taught right from his/her young age to perform light chores in the household. This is similar for the Hebrews as taught in the Bible. The existence of child labour in Samoa however, is very unlikely.

Registered Nurses

These respondents thought that the two concepts are the same in the following reasons:

- Children engaged in these activities are no longer attending school
- Both are imposing a business-oriented focus on the children and results in children not wanting to go to school.

On the other hand, if selling wares is done after school then the two concepts are not the same because the child is actually helping out his parents to earn money for his school.

Court Officers

According to these respondents, the two concepts are the same given the fact that children are involved and used to earn money. Moreover, children are following their parents' instructions, which reflect how some parents are forcing their children to carry out these types of work.

Police Officers

The two concepts are the same according to these respondents because even if a child sells wares for just one day, he/she is actually earning money.

Bus Drivers

This group of respondents thought that the two concepts are not the same because of the following reasons:

- Child vendors do not have a set time to finish work. They may only have a rest when their wares are all sold for the day
- Child vendors get beaten up by people in the foyer of shops especially at the Fugalei Market
- Child vendors are bad-mannered
- Child vendors do not get paid because all the money earned is given to their families.

Taxi Driver

This group had alternative answers about the two concepts

- The two concepts are the same in the following reasons:
 - ✓ Both provide future opportunities for the children involved
 - ✓ Children are earning money for their families.
- The two are not the same due to the following:
 - ✓ Even though both are earning money, the child vendor works in the sun or rain to fulfill his duty
 - ✓ Child vendors are exposed to lots of danger and trouble such as getting hit by traffic vehicles or involved in stealing, etc. Children engaged in 'child labour' are considered protected from these dangers in their places of employment.

5.3.3. IS IT RIGHT/APPROPRIATE TO SEND CHILDREN TO SELL WARES WHILE THEIR PARENTS AND ADULTS STAYS HOME?

Teachers

- It is not appropriate because:
 - ✓ It is the parents' responsibility to look for money
 - ✓ Children must be sent to school so they may be educated and be able to get good jobs in the future
 - ✓ Children might get involved in public brawl, traffic accidents or beaten up by people for making noise
 - ✓ Lack of fellowship between parents and children
 - ✓ Children especially those selling leis in front of nightclubs in town get beaten up by drunken people
 - ✓ Children's' young lives will be flawed by listening to offensive language and observing indecent behaviour of drunken people. *"Children are like cameras whose minds are easily influenced by what they hear and see at their young age"*
 - ✓ The Bible teaches that children are a heritage from the Lord. It is the parents responsibility to care for their children (Parents must first of all prepare their inner selves and plan their families' future wisely)
 - ✓ Sending children to sell wares is actually giving them the freedom to roam purposelessly in town
 - ✓ Children will be handling money at a young age which may result in temptation to steal Parents are supposed to safeguard their children under their care.

Public Servants

- These are the reasons why it is not right:
 - ✓ It shows that parents of children selling wares do not love their children
 - ✓ Parents must be responsible for earning income to care for their children and children must be sent to school
 - ✓ Children are the pupil of the parents' eyes and therefore should not be disparaged because of the pursuit for money. Children are a precious gift from God therefore must be cared for with a lot of affection
 - ✓ Children get exposed to and get engaged in problems such as drinking alcohol, sexual immorality and others
 - ✓ Children are exposed to traffic accidents given their young age.

Parents must realise that a person has only one chance in life to be a child and expected to go to school. When one grows into an adult this opportunity is missed.

A child that succeeds academic-wise reflects his/her parents' commitment in raising him/her. But if a child is not successful in life, it explains the parents' failure to fulfil their responsibilities.

Community Representatives

These respondents thought that it is not right to send children to sell wares because of the following reasons:

- ✓ Selling wares is a specific responsibility of parents and adults of the family
- ✓ Children are a heritage from the Lord therefore must live happy and successful lives. Children are the future leaders
- ✓ Children's lives will be vulnerable to danger
- ✓ Children must be sent to school
- ✓ It is the child's right to go to school, not to sell wares during school hours. Children selling wares therefore means parents and families are using them for the wrong purpose and parents are not doing their duty as appropriate for the children.

Pastors

This group gave the following responses:

- ✓ This type of practice is considered 'child abuse'
- ✓ The negative consequences involved outweigh any monetary gain earned from wares sold
- ✓ If parents truly love their children, they themselves must do the selling while their children are sent to school

- ✓ Parents' responsibility is to sell wares and earn money to care for their children
- ✓ *"What has happened is that parents have cunningly built crosses and cast it on their children's shoulders to carry. The crosses are actually the wares sold, the inappropriateness of selling time, people's insults and humiliation and especially the harm done on their bodies, minds and souls."*

Here is one reason given why it is right to send children to sell wares while their parents and adults stay home:

- ✓ *"It is strongly believed that a lot of the world's rich people were not geniuses but they started off as vendors. A lot of business people and church ministers were once vendors in the market and in the village prior to the increased degree of child vendors in town nowadays."*

Registered Nurses

This group thought it is not right because of the following reasons:

- ✓ If children are sent to sell wares to get money to buy beer and for mothers to play bingo
- ✓ Parents must be responsible for selling wares while children are sent to school
- ✓ It is not proper to send children below the age of ten (10) to sell wares especially girls
- ✓ Parents must ensure that the places which the children go to are safe and they must accompany their children at all times
- ✓ It shows that parents have no love for their children.

On the positive side, the respondents thought as follows:

- ✓ It is not a problem if children are selling wares after school hours and that parents are staying home producing more wares to sell and the money earned is spent of children's school expenses.

Court Officers

This group thought it is not right because it is a responsibility of parents and adults of the family to sell wares in town. It also shows that parents are not doing their duty of providing financial care for their children.

Police Officers

This group shared the view that parents are responsible for taking care of their children until such time that children are grown up, get jobs and are able to look after themselves.

Bus Drivers

Following are the views of these respondents:

- ✓ It is obvious that parents and adults are embarrassed to sell wares in town
- ✓ Some parents beat up their children if they refuse to sell wares
- ✓ Children get beaten up by adults and their wares get snatched away
- ✓ Children might get hit by traffic vehicles
- ✓ Most wares sold in town are unhygienic
- ✓ It is not known whether these child vendors are paying business licenses and VAGST because they are no different from bus operators, both are earning money
- ✓ If parents love their children, they themselves must do the selling.

Taxi Drivers

This group thought it is not right because of the following reasons:

- ✓ Children must be sent to school so they may have a future
- ✓ It is illegal to send children to sell wares while parents and adults of the family are at home
- ✓ It shows that parents do not love their children
- ✓ Children are parents' ultimate blessing therefore should not be used in this type of activity

6. ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

In view of the guiding questions imposed at the outset of this pilot study, the findings indicate two differing views in regards to:

- (i) Child Vendor is an Issue and *Child Vendor is not an issue*
- (ii) Child Vendor is the same as Child Labour and *Child Vendor is not the same as Child Labour*

1. Child Vendor as an Issue

The majority of participants of both face-to-face interviews and focus groups discussions do not agree with children selling wares on the street. Child Vendor is considered an issue.

- 1.1 One glaring view is that children selling wares are disadvantaged in terms of their academic development. Parents must give their children's education first priority because education is the key to a child's success in the future. Any entrepreneurial skills or monetary experience gained from being a child vendor cannot be matched with one's success if they go through proper schooling. Children selling wares will not only lose interest in school but will be deprived of all good things other children of their age groups are taught in school. Basically, these children simply fall off the education system of Samoa if we may say the least. Child Vendors are seen as at risk or marginalised group because they will be left behind. As a result more problems will be created for our society and future economic growth. For instance, an increased unemployment rate. Therefore children should never be selling goods in town during school hours.
- 1.2 The participants repeatedly emphasised the fact that it is the responsibility of parents and adults to earn for and support their families financially. Children should not carry the financial burden of their families merely due to the negligence of their parents. There should also be no overlap in the roles and responsibilities of parents and children. As one respondent quoted "*These young kids are becoming breadwinners for their families and it is totally wrong,*" given the age and exposure of these minds.
- 1.3 The negative impact and serious consequences of engaging children in this type of activity is quite detrimental, according to the findings. The young and innocent minds of these children will become contaminated by the social evils they encounter in the course of their jobs as vendors.

These include being subject to all sorts of dangers, abuses, temptations and getting involved in criminal activities such as stealing, burglary, cheating and double-dealing. This could have a deep psychological impact leading to depression, low self-esteem and suicidal feelings.

- 1.4 Children selling leis in front of nightclubs at night are the most vulnerable to the abovementioned dangers as witnessed by nightclub workers. These vendors in particular have become very bad mannered and disrespectful to the nightclub customers if the latter refuse to buy their leis. In return some of them get beaten up and sworn at by customers.

This is quite disappointing and it casts doubt on the moral values of these children's parents and whether they are aware of the dangers their children are exposed to in public places

- 1.5 Moreover, the child vendors selling wares at night lose out on quality time and fellowship with their families especially during evening prayers. Some don't return home for days. These children are losing out on a childhood and could never be fulfilled at a latter time.

- 1.6 Urbanisation and rapid social change may also be responsible for the increasing trend of child vendors in town. People are moving away from their traditional/customary land and settling in freehold lands close to town. This means they have less land for agricultural production and therefore must find other means of income generation one of which is to produce/obtain goods for their children to sell.

- 1.7 Since most parents still cannot afford to send their children to school, Compulsory Education should yet again be enforced by Government. As refer to the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) and its definition, free education ranges from free school fees to free lunches, free rides to and from locations of schools and free uniforms. Otherwise, education system in Samoa has offered only free school fees and not school materials, lunches, uniforms and any bus rides. The real issue here is offering the basic education mainly at the primary level to compliment Compulsory Education approved by Government.

2. Child Vendor as a positive.

A lesser number of respondents indicated some significant and productive aspects of Child Vending.

- 2.1 A child selling wares in town is no different from a child in the rural villages collecting firewood, husking coconuts and planting bananas. It is part of their service and contribution to the development of their families and wellbeing.
- 2.2 Children selling wares will eventually become business people. The entrepreneurial skills and experience they gain from their dealings, as vendors will benefit them in the future. They know how to attract customers and market their goods. They are familiar with the market demands and the locations where their goods get sold faster.
- 2.3 The financial contribution and support the vendors are making to their families is quite significant. For the low-income families, the children are making a difference especially if there is no other income earner of the family. They sacrifice their rights to education in order to provide for their family.
- 2.4 A child selling wares is not a problem if they are of the age group of thirteen years and over and if selling is done after school. This age factor coincides with the primary schooling years, which is from five (5) years old to twelve (12) years old, covered under the Compulsory Education Act.

3. Child Vendor is the same as Child Labour

- 3.1 The negative aspects of both concepts are why they are seen as the same. The majority of respondents agreed on the similarity of these concepts given that children are the victims of both events.
- 3.2 Both aim at earning money not necessarily for the child's benefit but for the family financial benefits.
- 3.3 Child Vending as a source of income for the family. Most of these child vendors as earlier mentioned in summary are usually unpaid or underpaid. This has clearly spells out child labour and its consequences. In other words, exploitation of children has long been and is currently visible in Samoa. Thus, the issue of parents and where their priority lies of where sending children to obtain basic school knowledge or sending them straight on the street to obtain entrepreneur skills that comes with all risks and other associated bad behaviors.

4. Child Vendor is not the same as Child Labour

- 4.1 Some thought that Child Labour is a foreign concept and does not exist in Samoa.
- 4.2 Others thought that Child Labour conditions are more favorable in terms of starting and finishing times, working environment and monetary compensation.

7. Conclusions

This pilot study reiterates the findings of former studies, which describe child vendors as being commercially exploited by their parents and families, deprived of academic opportunities, neglected and abused. Children have the right to be protected from all social evils and dangers, be educated and to live a healthy and productive life given the negative consequences on the children's educational, health and social development, child vending is an issue that must be addressed in a strategic manner.

Although there are positive aspects involved, the negative consequences outweigh any benefits gained. Some exceptions may be considered however, based on the age of the vendor and the time of selling wares.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) This pilot survey on Child Vendors has raised a lot of issues that need to be further explored in a national survey:

- Whether the children selling wares are actually staying with their real parents
- Whether the vendors are victims of urban migration
- What the financial status of vendors' families is
- Why the vendors are not attending school
- The experience of child vendors in the urban area at night time

A national survey should be undertaken as soon as is practicable.

(ii) A collective effort amongst all stakeholders in Government and community should be made to enforce the Compulsory Education Act.

(iii) The Government should revisit the reservation made on CRC Article 29 - free education for all primary schools. This would eliminate the increasing number of child vendors around the Apia Town Area.

(iv) The Government should introduce legislation to disallow any child below fifteen years of age to sell wares anywhere at any time of the day. For all other child vendors the selling time is should be restricted to 1pm to 5pm in the afternoons.

(v) The Government should work with stakeholders to facilitate increased parents awareness of their responsibilities and obligations through community based programs

(vi) The Government should work with stakeholders to conduct awareness programs for young couples to prepare them to take up parental responsibilities

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Survey Questionnaire

MINISTRY OF WOMEN COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
'CHILD VENDORS PILOT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE'

The Ministry of Women Community & Social Development under its Division of Research is implementing a pilot survey on child vendors in the Apia Urban Area.

This is the first time a child vendor's pilot survey is carried out in the Ministry, as it is one of the performance measures for the Research Unit to be achieved.

The main objectives of the pilot survey are:

- To find out the current situation of child vendors in Apia Urban Area
- To identify reasons behind the existence of child vendors in Apia Urban Area
- To utilize the pilot survey findings for future actions.
- To identify issues associated with child vendors in Apia Urban Area.

All answers and information obtained from this pilot survey will be strictly confidential. The names of the respondents will also not be specified. The information will be compiled and analyzed in order to come to a report of whether a child vendor in Apia Urban area is a major issue.

Please, your cooperation is needed in answering the following questions when asked.

Name of Interviewer:	
Date of Interview:	
Time of Interview:	
Place of Interview:	

**DIVISION OF RESEARCH POLICY PLANNING & INFORMATION
PROCESSING**

CHILD VENDORS PILOT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: Demographic Characteristics

Age:

Male:
Female:

Village: _____

Religion: _____

1. (a): Are you staying with your parents?

Yes No

(b): If not, please identify who you are staying with?

(c): Do you have any brothers and sisters?

Yes No

(d): How many brother and sisters do you have?

Brothers Sisters

2. Are your parents working?

Yes No

3. (a): Do you go to school?

Yes No

(b): If yes, which school do you go to?

(c): Who is your teacher?

(d): What class are you in?

Year 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Year 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 9	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Year 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Year 10	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other responses: _____

(c): If not, why are not you going to school?

4. What other sources of income for your family?

Section B: Information on Vendors' Job

5. (a): Is this your daily job?

Yes No

(b): If yes, why are you doing this job?

6. What type of goods are you selling?

Brooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Samoan oil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sea Cucumbers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matches	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pop-corn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Super-glue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: _____	

7. Where do you obtain the goods you are selling?

Produced at home

From shops / businesses

Others: _____

8. Whom do you give the money that you earn to?

Father

Aunty

Mother

Uncle

Brother

Others: _____

Sister

9. Do you receive part of the money you earn from selling the goods?

Yes

No

10. What is usually bought with the money earned from selling goods?

Buy food

Pay electricity bill

Church Donation

Buy clothes

Others: _____

Section C: Time and Transportation

11. (a): What time do you usually start selling your goods?

(b): What time do you usually finish selling your goods?

12. How do you get to Apia to sell your goods?

13. How do you go home when you finish selling your goods?

14. Do you have other chores to do at home besides selling goods?

Pick up rubbish

Feed pigs/chickens

Clean the house

Others: _____

15 a): Are you happy with your job of selling goods on the street?

Yes

No

(b): If yes, why?

(c): If not, why?

Section D: Problems Faced by Vendors While on the Streets

16. Do you face any problems while selling your goods?

Yes

No

17. If yes, what sort of problems?

Bitten by dogs

Fight with other street vendors

Teased by people

Chased away by people

Beaten by people

Others: _____

18. What would your parents do concerning these problems?

19. What have you learnt from selling wares in town?

Appendix 2 - Selected Face to Face Interviews Questions**CHILD VENDORS PILOT SURVEY**
INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1) What is your view of Child Vendors?

- 2) Is Child Vendor Child Labour?

- 3) What do you think are the reasons why children are used as vendors?

- 4) Is it right to parents and guardians to let children sell wares on their behalf?

- 5) Have you ever been approached by a child vendor to buy goods

Appendix 3 - Focus Groups Discussion Questions**CHILD VENDORS PILOT SURVEY**
FOCUS GROUPS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What are your views of child vendor

- 2) Is Child Vendor Child Labour?

- 3) Is it right for parents and guardians to let children sell wares on their behalf?

