



Enriching Youths' Lives and Preparing Them for the Future: A Multi-Year Study of The Clubhouse Network

by Inverness Research – July 2019

Inverness Research, an external research and evaluation group, has studied the work and contributions of The Clubhouse Network over the past five years. During that time, we conducted three surveys of Clubhouse members (2015, 2017 and 2019). This report presents a summary of findings based on the multi-year set of survey data.

➔ **Across the entire network of Clubhouse sites and over multiple years, youth give consistently high ratings¹ to their Clubhouse experiences and the impact it has had on them. Clubhouse members report that:**

The Clubhouse experience influences them to think more positively about their education and more ambitiously about their futures.

- 91% are committed to doing well in school.
- 93% believe that continuing their education after high school is important.
- 93% are more optimistic about their future.
- 75% have increased interest in studying STEM.

The Clubhouse experience helps them learn valuable knowledge and skills.

- 89% believe they have the technical/computer skills to be successful in their future career.
- 92% are more confident that they have the personal skills to be successful.
- 86% have a better understanding of people from different backgrounds.

Clubhouses are welcoming, supportive and nurturing places where youth can be with friends and caring adults.

- 95% find their Clubhouse to be a fun, and friendly place.
- 94% feel accepted by the adults at the Clubhouse.
- 93% feel like they belong at their Clubhouse.

The Clubhouse Network has been providing youth with life-changing opportunities for 25 years through a global community of nearly 100 Clubhouses located in 19 countries. Each Clubhouse offers a creative and safe out-of-school learning environment where young people from underserved communities work with mentors to explore their own ideas, develop skills, and build confidence through the use of technology.

The Clubhouse Network supports community-based Clubhouses around the world by providing start-up support, professional development, new technology innovations, evaluation and assessment, access to an online community for youth, mentors, and staff, and more.

www.theclubhousenetwork.org

¹Percentages here represent 3-year averages of combined responses of “agree” and “strongly agree,” “important” and “very important,” or “increased it some” and “increased it a lot.”

ABOUT CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS WHO ANSWERED THE SURVEYS

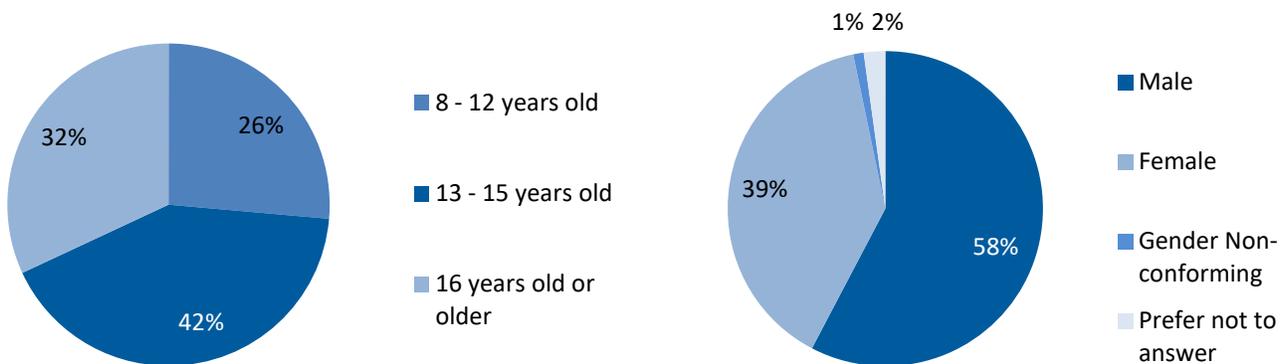
Youth at every Clubhouse around the world were invited to participate in the surveys. The participation rates for the three surveys were: 81% of Clubhouses in 2015, 91% in 2017, and 89% in 2019.

In 2019, a total of 1,640 youth from 85 Clubhouses and representing 18 countries completed surveys. The map below displays the geographical distribution of Clubhouses around the world in 2019.



In general, more males responded to the survey than females. In 2019 the percentages were 58% male respondents and 39% female respondents, similar to 2017 (57% male, 41% female) and 2015 (60% male, 37% female). Ages ranged from 8 to 22 years old,² with a median age of 14 (2017- 14; 2015- 13). The majority of youth who responded to the survey were 13 years and older.

Breakdown of Survey Respondents by Age and Gender 2019



² Clubhouses primarily serve youth 10-18 years old. However, some Clubhouses have members outside that age range and a small percentage of those members (less than 5%) completed the survey.

FINDINGS AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE³

Attitudes about School

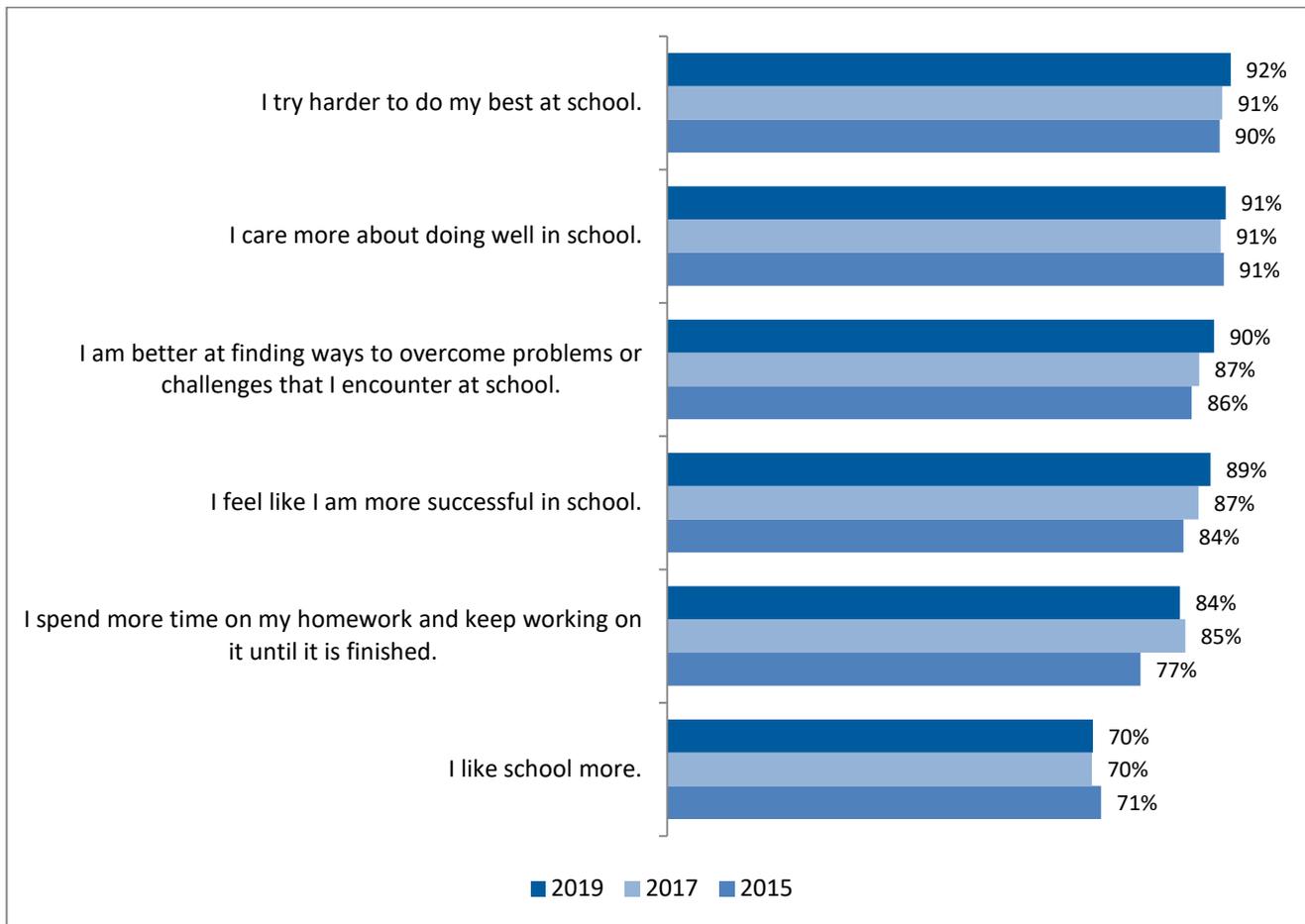
➔ **The Clubhouse experience influences youth to think more positively about their education and more ambitiously about their futures.**

As illustrated in the graph below, on all three surveys a large majority of Clubhouse members report that they:

- try harder in school
- care more about doing well in school
- are better at overcoming challenges at school
- feel more successful in school
- spend more time on homework
- like school more.

“It helps young people with their dreams and makes you realize what you want to do in your future.”

Multi-year Comparison: Contribution of Clubhouse to Attitudes and Thoughts about School



³ Unless otherwise noted, percentages throughout represent combined responses of “agree” and “strongly agree” on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 = “strongly disagree” and 4 = “strongly agree.”

➔ Clubhouse members' positive attitudes about school increase with age.

When comparing respondents age 12 or younger with those 16 years or older, attitudes are similarly positive. In fact, an even larger percentage of older youth state that they try harder at school, care more about doing well, find ways to overcome challenges, feel more successful, spend more time on homework, and like school more as a result of their Clubhouse experience. These strong ratings and positive trends are constant over the past five years.

2019 Contribution of Clubhouse to Attitudes and Thoughts about School by Age Group

	16 or older	12 or younger
I like school more.	69%	64%
I spend more time on my homework and keep working on it until it is finished.	85%	83%
I feel like I am more successful in school.	90%	88%
I am better at finding ways to overcome problems or challenges that I encounter at school.	93%	89%
I care more about doing well in school.	92%	90%
I try harder to do my best at school.	94%	90%

Attitudes about Graduating from High School and Continuing Education after High School

➔ In 2019, 94% of Clubhouse members report that it is important for them to graduate from high school.

Of those, almost three-quarter credit their Clubhouse experience with influencing their commitment to graduate from high school.

The high school graduation rate for low-income students in the U.S. is 85% overall, but only 78% for low-income students.

U.S. Department of Education, EDFacts/Consolidated State Performance Reports, 2015

➔ Also in 2019, 93% of Clubhouse members say they plan to continue their education after high school.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) say their Clubhouse experience has influenced their decision to continue their education.

Increased Interest in Studying STEM

➔ Importantly, 76% of boys and 74% of girls report in 2019 that their Clubhouse experience has increased their interest in studying STEM.

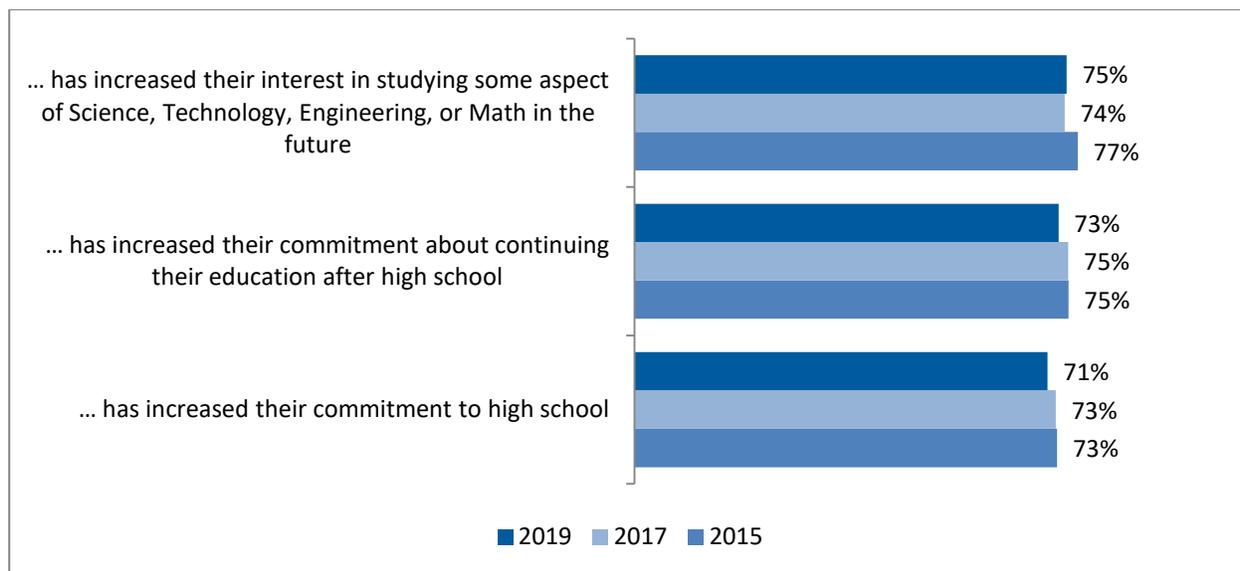
This high rate of positive influence has remained consistent over time and is a significant departure from national trends where there is still great disparity between the percentage of women and men earning

bachelor’s degrees in engineering, computer science, or physics. For example, only 18% of U.S. computer science bachelor’s degrees were awarded to women in 2015, according to the National Science Board.

“It’s a great place to learn about technology. It’s also a great place to get advice for college, careers, etc. The Clubhouse has a lot of opportunities.”

As illustrated in the graph below, about three-quarters of youth report that their Clubhouse experience has increased their interest in studying STEM, their commitment to high school, and their education after high school.

Multi-year Comparison: Contribution of Clubhouse to Attitudes about Graduating High School, Continuing Education, and Interest in Study STEM



NOTE: Percentages represent combined responses of “increased it some” and “increased it a lot” on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = “decreased it a lot” and 5 = “increased it a lot.”

Optimism and Preparedness for the Future

➔ **Because of their Clubhouse experience, youth feel more optimistic about their future and believe they are gaining the skills they will need to be successful.**

In 2019, 2017 and 2015, **90% or more of Clubhouse members agreed with the following statements:**

- *I will be able to get the job I want.*
- *I have high goals and expectations for myself.*
- *I am more optimistic about my future.*
- *I am more confident that I will have the personal skills to be successful in my future career.*
- *I am learning skills that will be useful to me in my future career.*

“You can learn things and get actual life skills to find good careers you are prepared for.”

➔ **Clubhouse members are acquiring knowledge and skills in science and technology and other important domains.**

The Clubhouse provides hands-on experiences with technology that engages members and provides them with important workforce skills. Girls are well represented in these findings; percentages by gender are the same or only a few percentage points different.

In responses averaged across the three surveys, members report that as a result of their Clubhouse experience:

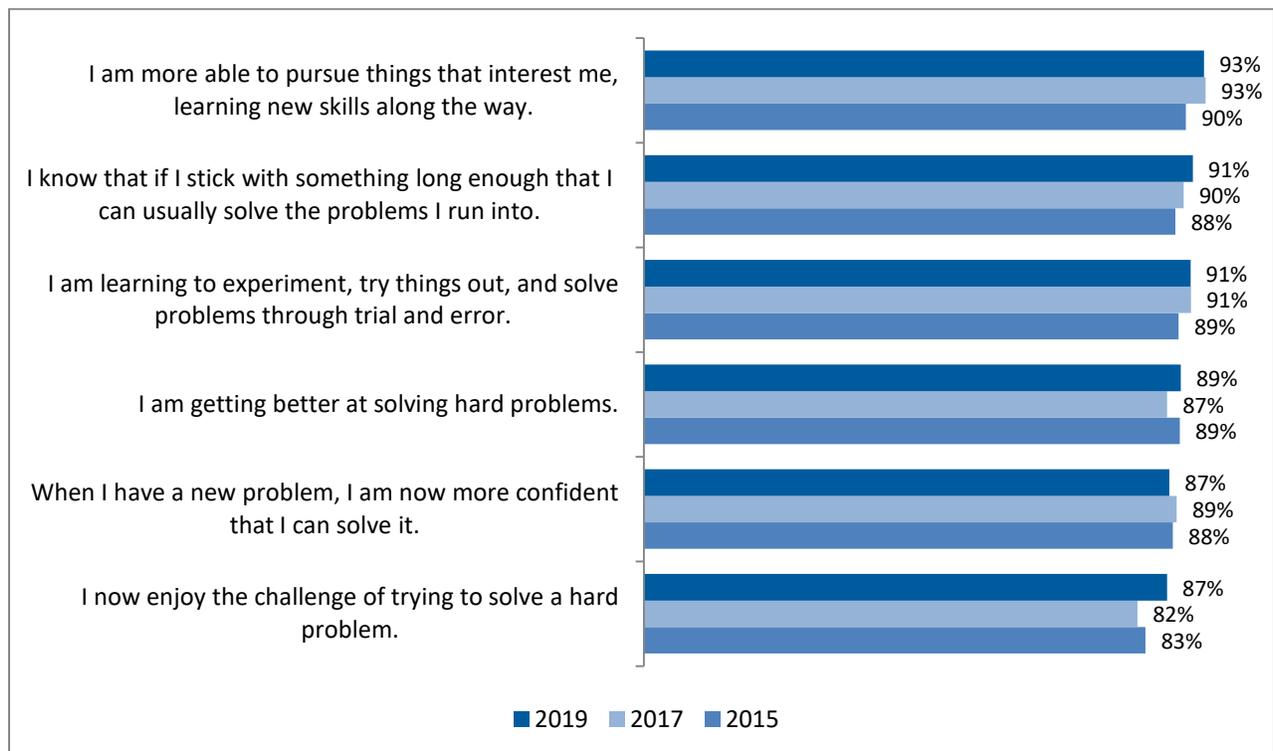
- **90%** have learned to use more technology.
- **89%** better understand how to use technology to make their own projects.
- **88%** are more confident using technology.
- **85%** use technology more often.
- **77%** are better at trouble-shooting technology problems.

“It’s a perfect place to spend free time in learning new skills and getting experience in a lot of tech fields.”

In addition to the many activities related to science and technology, The Clubhouse offers many opportunities for members to learn and increase their skills in other areas, including writing, arts and crafts, photography, audio, video and animation, graphic design, and more.

Problem solving, persistence, and passion are key to being successful in school and the workplace. The Clubhouse by design provides many opportunities for members to develop and expand on these attributes.

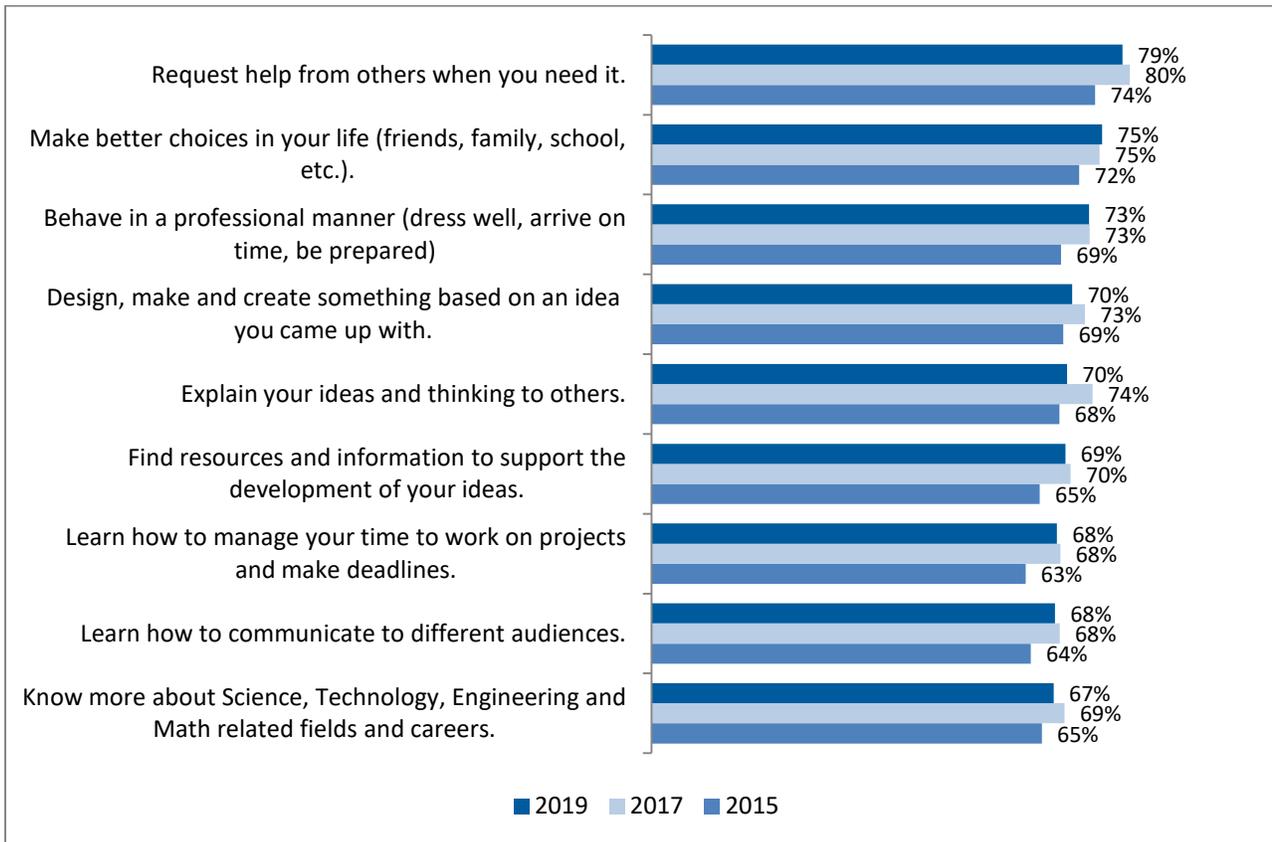
Multi-year Comparison: Contribution of The Clubhouse to Members’ Problem-Solving Skills



➔ **Clubhouse members are gaining professional and social skills, as well as the ability to work collaboratively, all traits that are necessary for future success.**

The Clubhouse contributes to youth learning a range of professional and life skills, including managing their time, communicating, finding resources and information, behaving in a professional manner, and asking for help when they need it. It’s important to note that **75% of members report that they make better choices in their lives as a result of their Clubhouse experience.**

Multi-year Comparison: Contribution of The Clubhouse to Members’ Professional and Social Skills



Percentages represent combined responses of “some” and “a lot” on a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 = “not at all” and 4 = “a lot.”

In addition, The Clubhouse experience helps **youth improve their collaboration skills as well as their ability to work independently.** In 2015, 2017, and 2019, more than 80% of members agreed with the following statements:

Multi-year Comparison: Contribution of The Clubhouse to Members’ Collaboration Skills

	2015	2017	2019
I am more comfortable working together with other young people on projects.	85%	89%	87%
I am better at working on my own to find ways to solve the problems I encounter.	82%	87%	88%
I am better able to get along with the other young people I am working with.	89%	88%	89%
I am better at contributing to and learning from a group.	85%	87%	89%
I am better at helping organize a group to work on a project.	85%	84%	82%

A Supportive Environment for Youth Development

➔ **Clubhouses provide a range of opportunities for youth to participate, be creative, and learn.**

Members go to their Clubhouse for many reasons. Each of the reasons listed below was rated as “important” or “very important” by at least 80% of the youth responding to the survey.

The three highest rated motivations reported in 2019 are:

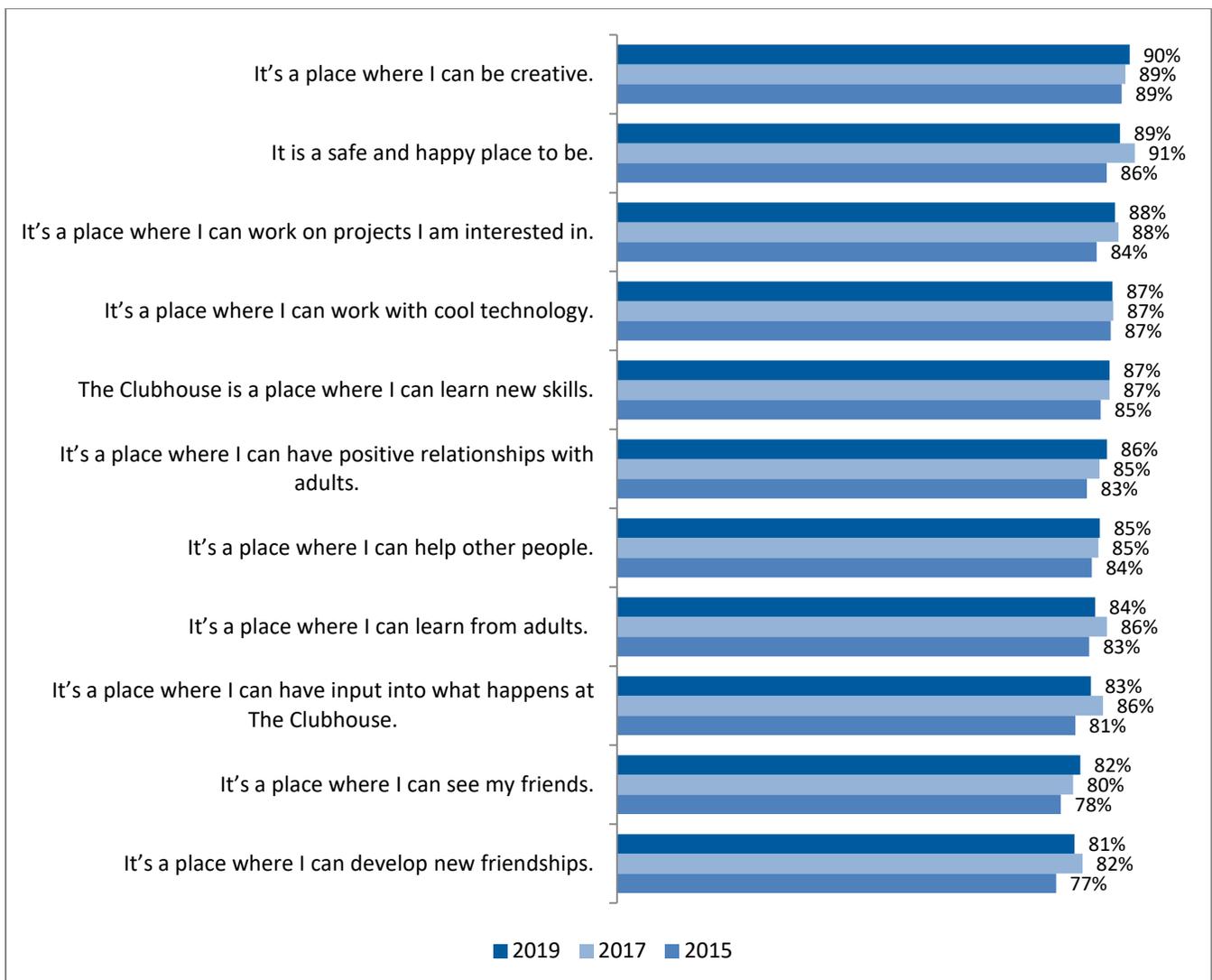
90% - It’s a place where I can be creative.

89% - It’s a safe and happy place to be.

88% - It’s a place where I can work on projects I am interested in.

“This place is fun. It is a good place where I get to be myself, be creative, and hang out with friends. I get to meet amazing people here.”

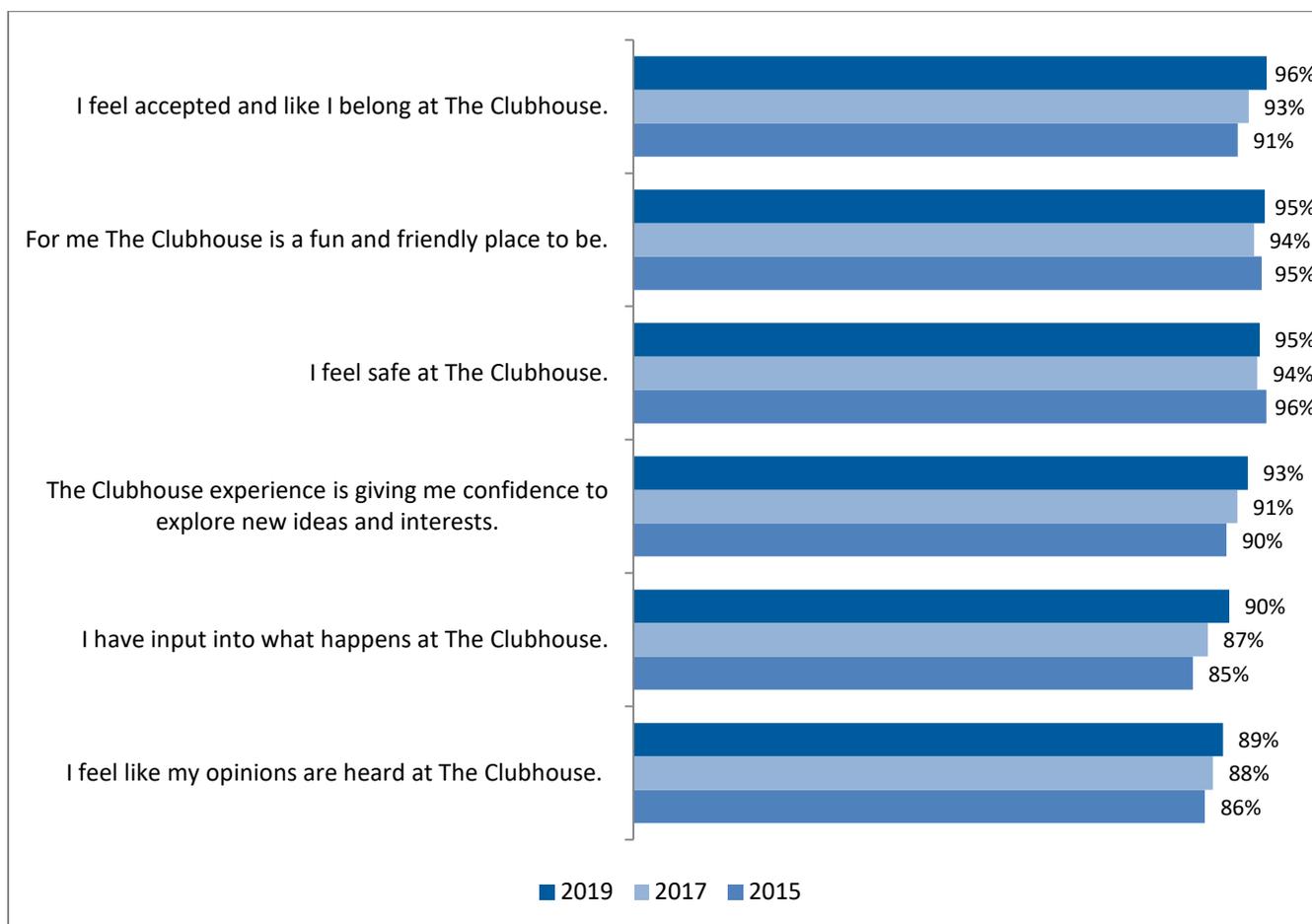
Multi-year Comparison: Why Members Go to Their Clubhouse



➔ **Clubhouses provide a friendly and safe place where youth feel empowered and gain confidence.**

The graph below illustrates how **youth describe their Clubhouse as an environment where they feel accepted and like they belong (96%), as a fun, friendly place to be (95%), and where they feel safe (95%).** Additionally, 93% of members agree that their Clubhouse experience gives them confidence to explore new ideas and interests.

Multi-year Comparison: How Members Describe Their Experience at the Clubhouse



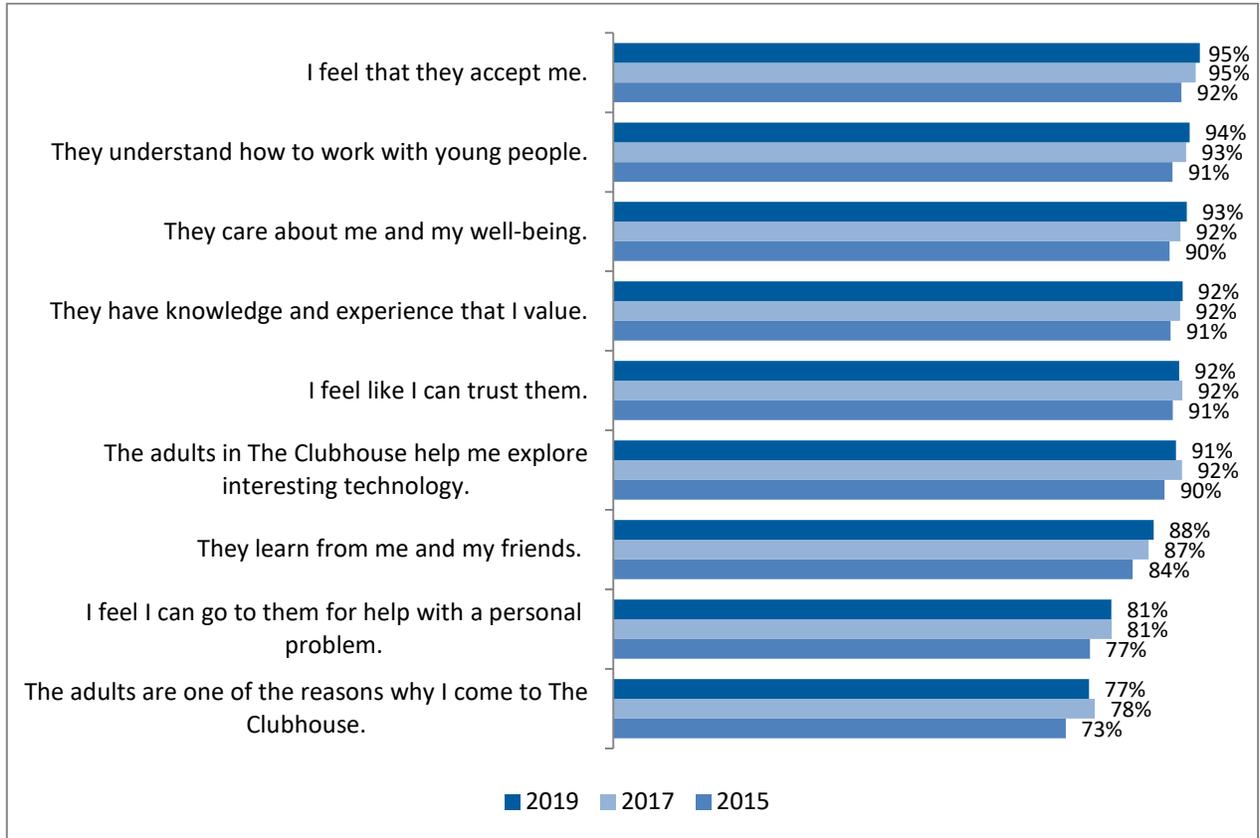
➔ **Clubhouses play a central role in the lives of many Clubhouse members and provide positive, important relationships between adults and youth, and among youth from different backgrounds and cultures.**

For many youth, The Clubhouse is an important and major presence in their lives. **Most youth go to their Clubhouse at least once a week and half go almost every day.** Each time they visit, over a third (39%) stay for more than 3 hours, and close to a third (31%) stay for 2 to 3 hours.

“The staff members are here to help us grow as individuals if we ever need anything.”

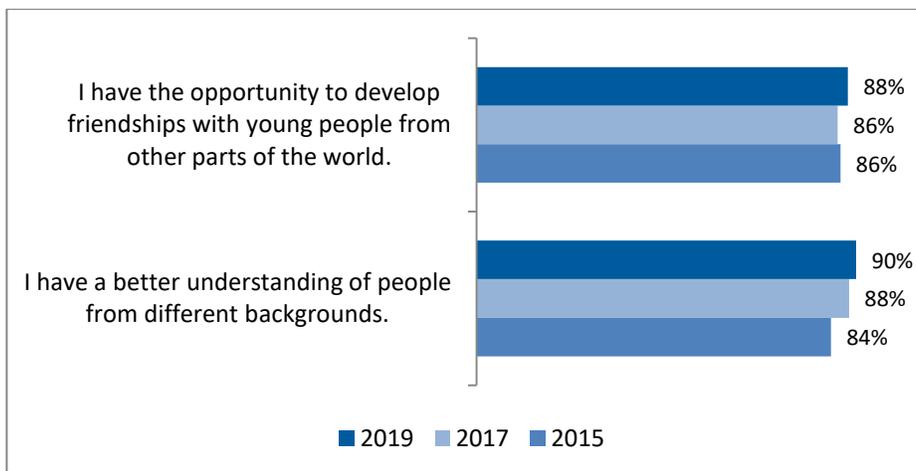
The Clubhouse is a place where youth feel accepted by the adults (95%), and say the adults know how to work with youth (94%), and have knowledge and experience that are valuable (92%). Clubhouse members feel like they can trust the adults who work there (92%). For many, the adults are one of the many reasons the members enjoy spending time in The Clubhouse (77%).

Multi-year Comparison: How Members Describe the Adults at Their Clubhouses



In an increasingly diverse world, **The Clubhouse offers youth an opportunity to better understand people of different backgrounds.**

Multi-year Comparison: Understanding People of Different Backgrounds



“The Clubhouse is a very welcoming and happy place where everyone from different backgrounds can come to do robotics, art, music, sports, and other recreation activities.”

Summary

➔ **The Clubhouse Network provides a foundational infrastructure for over 100 Clubhouse sites around the world to provide high-quality programs for thousands of young people.**

The survey results show that youth value and benefit from their Clubhouse experiences. It is important to note that these results are consistently positive across The Clubhouse Network over time. This is possible only because individual Clubhouses are part of a strong international network that provides supports, guidance, and shared community for all Clubhouses and their leaders. The Network is essentially an international infrastructure capable of steadily nurturing and supporting over 100 Clubhouse sites around the world. The Network has strong vision, leadership, and shared culture—important foundational capacities developed over the past 25 years. Properly supported, The Clubhouse Network is capable of continuing this work and of further expansion to reach more youth.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

The Clubhouse surveys were administered in eight languages: English, Arabic, Danish, Hebrew, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Traditional Chinese. At Clubhouses around the world, youth were invited to participate in the survey when they visited the Clubhouse during a designated timeframe. Survey participants were informed about the survey requirements and given an option to exit from the survey or proceed to answer the questions. Those who agreed to take the survey proceeded to answer a set of “core” questions and one out of three sets of randomly assigned “non-core” questions.

For each dataset (2015, 2017 and 2019), surveys that were incomplete or did not meet the necessary requirements (e.g. no consent, incorrect password, no Clubhouse listed, outside the designated age range) were not included in the final analysis. The complete dataset contains 1,640 entries from 2019 yielding an 82% response rate, 1,563 responses in 2017 with an 82% response rate, and 1,384 responses in 2015 for a 78% response rate.

Inverness Research, a national education evaluation and consulting group headquartered in Northern California, has over 25 years of experience studying local, state, and national investments in the improvement of education.