Education Funding

How lack of education funding impacted Hopwood Middle School and its students

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Educational Funding at Hopwood Middle School

Lack of educational funding affects students

Many different types of natural disasters happen around the world. Our island, Saipan, has encountered many types of typhoons. One typhoon, in particular, is Yutu in 2018. Due to the damages caused by Yutu, many schools suffered greatly, in particular, Hopwood Middle School. Hopwood had encountered severe damages that led it to be inaccessible. Because of the damages, funding for the school would be most beneficial. However, there seems to be insufficient funding to aid the school back to recovery. As a result, the lack of funding has negatively impacted not only the school but the students and staff as well. This essay explores the question of how the lack of educational funding has impacted Hopwood Middle School and its students by discussing the importance of funding in the school, its effects on the students, information found in literature collected, and data collected from observations.

Educational funding has been a problem for the past couple of years. However, it became more prominent since Typhoon Yutu. According to Sablan (2019), PSS was owed about 42 million dollars for funding in 2019. On the other hand, due to the crisis of Typhoon Yutu and other internal factors, it had dropped to 15% which equals to 35 million dollars, yet PSS was only given 23 million dollars. Due to the situation in hand, the current budget makes it nearly impossible for the reconstruction of Hopwood Middle School. In addition to the delayed reconstruction, Hopwood Middle School and other schools will have difficulties operating in their current conditions. For instance, many school buses are “in need of repair and maintenance” to operate and yet there are not enough funds to repair them (Sablan, 2019). Moreover, there are not enough funds for Hopwood’s classrooms to repaired. Because of this, the students are receiving less than what they deserve to have a proper education.

Another thing to mention is the lack of amenities and unfit conditions of Hopwood’s temporary campus, which can harm the students’ learning in class. Many of Hopwood’s classrooms shows signs of deterioration, students may have difficulty concentrating due to discomfort. According to a U.S. study, a school with poor facilities can affect the health and the morale of students and teachers alike (Frazier, 1993, p. 1). In addition to that, if a school has poor conditions such as “nonfunctioning toilets, poor lighting, inadequate ventilation, and inoperative heating and cooling systems”, it can have a great effect on the students’ health (Frazier, 1993, p. 2). All of this information relates to Hopwood’s current condition since the students are learning in temporary tents. In addition to that, with harmful living conditions such as “poor indoor air quality” it can lower a student’s ability to concentrate in class (Frazier, 1993, p. 2). In those tents, it can be quite uncomfortable if the air-conditioning is not working and can make the students lose focus due to discomfort. With this, another study mentions that “if funding is spent appropriately, it can positively affect a school’s performance” (Venteicher, 2004, p. 60). Furthermore, if there is still inadequate funding for Hopwood Middle School, the student’s ability to learn may be greatly impacted.

Besides the other effects of the budget cuts for Hopwood Middle School, the students who attend school every day to receive proper education are the people who are affected the most. For Hopwood Middle School Students, it had been a challenge to readjust to a new environment that lacks many things. Many students feel that they are not being prioritized when it should be students first. According to one student from Hopwood Middle School, she describes that the classrooms had become an “undesirable, dirty learning environment” due to it being impossible to clean (Chong, 2019). She also mentions that school life has become more difficult due to the campus being overcrowded wherever they go. The students do not feel that they are being accommodated.

To conclude, due to the current conditions of the campus and its students, Hopwood Middle School should be a top priority for educational funding. This does not imply that other schools should be considered less. However, due to Hopwood being one of the largest schools on Saipan and is the largest middle school on the island, there should be a change. If there is nothing done to reconstruct the school soon or if funding remains inadequate, the students who attend Hopwood Middle School in the future to receive proper education will be at risk. Not only that but the teachers who made attempts to fix the situation will remain affected.

# References

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