Lani Fritz

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Dr. Bunts-Anderson

Reflection

Doing research requires time and dedication. When our English Composition II class opted to do research on Typhoon Soudelor, there were many subject areas to choose from as the whole island was affected by the typhoon. Residents, businesses, and government agencies were affected. Typhoon Soudelor toppled over 300 power lines on the island so there was no power. The island was with no power for about three weeks. Many people were affected by this, especially stores. I saw that most stores in the southern part of Saipan didn’t have generators which really affected them. Therefore, I chose to do research on the effects of business sales caused by Typhoon Soudelor due to the power outage.

I chose this topic because I wanted to see how stores were affected. I was in Martha Store the first four days after the typhoon and it was a struggle for real. The first thing that was out in the store was mosquito coils. I also noticed how hard it was to get fuel just to keep the generator running. Produce and frozen items were marked down so they can get rid of them because the generator was not powerful enough to maintain all the refrigerators and freezers in the store, not to mention, the poker machines and off the lightings. The sales in Martha store sales actually went up for the next three months. This is also one of the reasons I chose my research question. I wanted to see if all the stores experienced the same thing. With all my data that I collected thru interviews and surveys, it was not the case.

Would I work with this further? I actually thought about it at first. For my research, I only concentrated on the south side of the island. So I wanted to give the survey to each and every store on the island just so that I can get the data and analyze them to see the difference or similarities. But now when I think about it, it is just way too many stores and too much gas to be driving around this island. Even though very small, it could take me up to three days to complete because I would spend about 5-15 minutes in each store, depending if they need me to collaborate on what the survey is about.

I am happy I selected this as my research because I did see a big difference in the results than what I expected. If only there was money involved because most of the store I went to would ask if this survey will help them get money for what was lost because of no power. I am happy to report the results of my survey and interviews, but I am saddened to know that these stores really did lose a lot of money due to the power outage. I am also happy to report that all these stores now have generators so I can say that they have learned from the past and are prepared for what is yet to come. I am also happy to report that I enjoyed my interview times with the stores.

In concluding my essay, I did enjoy the time spent on this research. As I mentioned, I expected the results to be like Martha Store’s, but it turned out the other way around. The stores actually reported sales decrease due to the power outage.