

## **Poor Education**

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The poor never really placed education as one of their top priorities. More importance was given to basic needs such as food and shelter. As it turns out, food and shelter are both categorized under basic needs, which is needed for immediate survival, while education (and health care) on the other hand, is an essential need necessary for future survival. In most cases, the poor, having only limited income and resources, forgo future survival, for immediate survival just to make ends meet in their daily expenditures.

Education always had a part in the Philippine government's policies. Ever since the introduction of free schooling for primary education in 1946, numerous programs and projects have been launched to supply education to the entire population. Unfortunately, as promising as these programs were, some key factors were overlooked, thus resulting in an ironic deterioration of the educational system. Instead of reaping the products of these programs, the backfire only entrenched the rooting problem.

One of the key elements is that the government gave more priority to the quantity of admission, rather than to the quality of education. The government paid little attention to other factors such as facilities and teacher salaries, and only concentrated on getting classrooms filled and overcrowded. In most cases, public schools had to take shifts in order to accommodate such large volumes of students. Therefore, cutting down on lessons and subjects taken per day. Add to that, teachers often have to manage with obsolete equipment because of inadequate funding. Since their salaries are low, only a handful prefer the teaching profession, thus increasing the ratio between pupil and teacher. As a result, he/she has to handle a bigger volume of students making the quality of education degraded.