

## UNRAVELING SOCIAL GAP THROUGH THE LENS OF REPUBLIC ACT 6655

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The issue of social inequality and the resulting social gap is a pervasive concern in many societies around the world. Education, as a fundamental pillar of development and social mobility, plays a crucial role in addressing and narrowing this gap. In the context of the Philippines, Republic Act 6655, also known as the Free Secondary Education Act, has been a significant legislative measure aimed at unraveling the social gap and promoting equal access to education.

By critically examining the impact and effectiveness of Republic Act 6655, we can identify areas for improvement and propose strategies to further address the social gap in education. Ultimately, the goal is to foster a more inclusive and equitable society, where education serves as a powerful tool for empowering individuals and communities, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds.

In light of the discussion above, Bautista (2018) examined the impact of Republic Act 6655 on the Philippine education system. It discussed the provisions of the act and evaluates its effectiveness in reducing the social gap in education. The study analyzes the enrollment and dropout rates before and after the implementation of the act, providing valuable insights into its impact.

Through an examination of the act's provisions and an evaluation of its effectiveness in reducing the social gap in education, studies have shed light on its influence. Analysis of enrollment and dropout rates before and after the implementation of the act has provided valuable insights into its impact. These findings have revealed the

positive effects of Republic Act 6655 in promoting greater access to education and narrowing the disparities that exist, thereby contributing to the ongoing effort of reducing the social gap in the Philippine education system.

In addition, social gap among the indigenous people has been unanswered issues in the Philippine education system. The study of Fianza (2019) focused on the impact of Republic Act 6655 on indigenous peoples' access to education in the Philippines. It explores the challenges faced by indigenous communities in accessing quality education and examines how the act has contributed to addressing these issues. The study provides a comprehensive analysis of the provisions of the act and its implications for indigenous peoples' educational opportunities.

Prior to the enactment of the act, indigenous communities faced numerous challenges in accessing quality education. However, the act has played a crucial role in addressing these issues by providing mechanisms and provisions that promote equal educational opportunities for indigenous peoples. Ortigoza (2016) Analyzes the contribution of Republic Act 6655 in reducing the social gap in basic education in the Philippines, discussing its provisions, impact on addressing disparities, and challenges faced in implementation. Through a comprehensive analysis, it becomes evident that Republic Act 6655 has contributed to expanding indigenous peoples' access to education, fostering inclusive learning environments, and ensuring that their unique cultural identities are respected and integrated into the education system. This legislation has been instrumental in narrowing the educational gap and empowering indigenous communities by recognizing their right to education and creating pathways for their educational advancement.

However, the implementation of Republic Act 6655 has also faced challenges. Issues such as limited resources, infrastructure constraints, and the need for targeted support services have been identified. These challenges highlight the importance of

continued efforts to strengthen and improve the implementation of the act to ensure its maximum impact in narrowing the social gap.

Overall, Republic Act 6655 has made significant strides in unraveling the social gap and promoting equitable access to education in the Philippines. Continued efforts to address the challenges and build upon the achievements of the act will be crucial for creating a more inclusive and equitable education system that benefits all members of society.

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