## UNRAVELING THE IMPACT OF SUMMER WEATHER ON STUDENT EDUCATION: NAVIGATING CLASSROOM CONDITIONS WITHOUT AIR CONDITIONING

*by:* **Riane Serapion** *Mariveles District* 

As the sun's relentless rays dominate the summer sky, our classrooms transform into a battleground where soaring temperatures collide with the pursuit of knowledge. The sweltering heat not only compromises students' comfort but also profoundly impacts their educational journey. With the absence of air conditioning, educational institutions worldwide grapple with navigating through stifling classroom conditions. In this article, we explore how summer weather affects student learning, shedding light on the innovative strategies adopted by the Department of Education (DepEd) to establish an optimal learning environment for students across nations. From unearthing the struggles induced by scorching heat to showcasing inventive solutions, we delve deep into the impact of summer weather on education, calling upon governments to embrace transformative measures that empower students to reach their full potential, regardless of seasonal adversities.

The rising temperatures and humidity levels during the summer can create discomfort and distractions within classrooms lacking air conditioning systems. As students grapple with stifling heat, their ability to concentrate, engage in active learning, and retain information is compromised. Heat-induced fatigue, irritability, and physical discomfort can all hamper students' cognitive skills and hinder their educational progress.



The burden of inadequate cooling systems falls disproportionately on schools serving disadvantaged communities, where limited resources make providing air conditioning for every classroom challenging. The Department of Education, in collaboration with educational stakeholders, must prioritize addressing this disparity to ensure that all students have equal opportunities for a conducive learning environment.

Research indicates that temperature and comfort play crucial roles in facilitating effective learning. Relaxed and comfortable classrooms promote better student focus, concentration, and information retention. Recognizing this, the Department of Education encourages implementing climate-responsive strategies such as proper ventilation, shading, and strategic classroom organization to alleviate students' heat-related challenges during the summer months.

Natural and mechanical ventilation plays a pivotal role in improving classroom conditions. Maximizing airflow through windows and doors and using fans helps dissipate heat and create a more comfortable learning environment – strategic shading solutions, such as installing polarized materials or blinds. Blinds can also significantly reduce the direct impact of sunlight, reducing excessive heat and glare within classrooms.

Additionally, proper classroom organization can contribute to a more comfortable learning experience. Rearranging furniture to optimize air circulation, minimizing clutter, and allowing for flexible seating arrangements can help students find their preferred learning positions and enhance their comfort levels during warmer weather.

The Department of Education emphasizes the need for schools to embrace holistic approaches that incorporate climate-conscious measures into their infrastructure development plans. It entails thoroughly evaluating school facilities and prioritizing installing air conditioning units in classrooms most susceptible to extreme heat. By fostering partnerships with government agencies, local communities, and private sectors, schools can access the necessary assistance and resources to overcome financial



limitations and ensure equitable access to learning environments that adapt to climate conditions.

In addition, the Department of Education acknowledges the significance of equipping students with practical strategies to combat the challenges posed by hot weather conditions inside classrooms without air conditioning. By incorporating teachings on heat safety, maintaining hydration levels, and prioritizing personal well-being into the curriculum, students can gain valuable knowledge and develop habits that foster their physical and mental wellness throughout the summer months. These educational efforts aim to empower students, enabling them to navigate and mitigate the effects of excessive heat, ensuring a conducive learning environment despite the absence of air conditioning systems.

Furthermore, recognizing the potential hazards of extreme heat in classrooms without air conditioning, the Department of Education (DepEd) has implemented measures to provide flexibility in learning options. DepEd allows for remote learning or the possibility of shifting classes to alternative venues to avoid the discomfort and health risks associated with excessive heat inside classrooms. This adaptive approach ensures that students can continue their education in environments conducive to learning and safeguard their wellbeing. By offering these options, DepEd prioritizes students' safety and academic progress, allowing them to adapt and thrive in diverse learning settings during the summer season.

In conclusion, it is important to express gratitude and admiration for the dedicated efforts of teachers and the Department of Education (DepEd) in prioritizing educators' and students' safety and well-being. Their unwavering commitment shines through in the comprehensive safety measures they have implemented to navigate the challenges posed by summer weather conditions in classrooms without air conditioning. Through their resourcefulness and determination, they have incorporated climate-responsive strategies, delivered crucial lessons on heat safety, and provided alternative learning options. Their



## depedbataan.comPublications

proactive and caring approach reflects their steadfast dedication to creating a secure and conducive learning environment. As we move forward, let us continue to support and recognize the exceptional work of teachers and DepEd in ensuring every student's holistic development and success, even in the face of seasonal obstacles.

## References:

https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1766684/extreme-caution-danger-heat-indices-of-35-44c-to-hit-ph-says-pagasa

https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2023/04/24/2261149/deped-allows-distance-learning-amid-extreme-heat

## **The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan**

