ADDRESSING POVERTY AND OVERPOPULATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Children growing up in poverty and disadvantage are less likely to do well at school. This feeds into disadvantage in later life and in turn affects their children. Most studies show that socio-economic differences affect children's learning through a range of factors. Only by understanding the varied factors influencing social differences in education will it be possible to design effective responses in practice.

Nutrition plays a crucial role as well. Children who grow up in poor families are exposed to food with lower nutritional value. This can adversely affect them even in the womb (Antonow-Schlorke et al., 2011). Moreover, poor nutrition at breakfast affects gray matter mass in children's brains (Taki et al., 2010). Skipping breakfast is highly prevalent among urban minority youth, and it negatively affects students' academic achievement by adversely affecting cognition and raising absenteeism (Basch, 2011).

A key message of the evidence is that equality of educational opportunity cannot rely solely on better delivery of the school curriculum for disadvantaged groups, but must address multiple aspects of disadvantaged children's lives. To address this issue, the school administrator should imbibe necessary programs. Including the teachers, they, involve more stakeholders both internal and external to lessen the impact of poverty in education. Actually, there are different organizations that are very much willing to help. They just need to be tapped and school personnel should have the initiative to do so.

Aside from poverty, overpopulation still alarms in some public schools. Overpopulation is a condition when an organism's numbers exceed the carrying capacity of its ecological niche. In common parlance, the term usually refers to the relationship between the human population and its environment, the Earth. Overpopulation is not simply a function of the size or density of the population. Overpopulation can be determined using the ratio of population to available sustainable resources.

In my own understanding, when there is overpopulation, there will be insufficient resources. When we have insufficient resources, our clienteles won’t get all they need. At the same time, because of this, overcrowding will take place that will lead to inability to create proper schooling environments, funds or even the necessary materials. To end this dilemma, involvement of stakeholders also matters to provide ways and means. Teachers should have the know-how in the use of different strategies to provide to their learners. As administrators, aside from involving stakeholders, they should always have accurate report on the needs of the schools so that the Department of Education will be able to provide the needs of the school.

Reference:
Jensen, Eric (2013) How Poverty Affects Classroom Engagement
http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may13/vol70/num08/How-Poverty-Affects-Classroom-Engagement.aspx