



VILLAR FOUNDATION VISAYAS CHAIR (VFVC) DONATION: ITS IMPACT ON LEARNING CENTERS AND COMMUNITY AS BASES FOR POLICY FORMULATION

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ABSTRACT

The study analyzed the impact of Villar Foundation Visayas Chair (VFVC) donations to the learning centers and community as bases for policy formulation in the Province of Iloilo. It was found out that the impact of chair donations to learning centers as assessed by the internal stakeholders are improvement of attendance in school, provision of comfort to learners, benevolent act, appreciation of the importance of waste management, promotion of a wholesome learning environment, development of motivation and passion to teach well, inspiration, motivation, and development of confidence of learners, solution to the shortage of chairs in schools, and provision of motivation and happiness to stakeholders. It was also found out that the impact of chair donations to the community as assessed by the external stakeholders are learning to be appreciative, giving hope to learners, providing solution to the shortage of chairs, promoting proper plastic waste disposal, providing comfort to stakeholders, providing motivation to stakeholders, and developing partnership.

Keywords: *Villar Foundation Visayas Chair (VFVC), Donation, Impact, Learning Centers, Community, Policy Formulation*

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INTRODUCTION

According to WWF-Philippines (2018), the Philippines was regarded as one of the world's top polluters of plastic. Two of the most prevalent issues facing schools today are the accumulation of plastic garbage and a shortage of chairs.

Given the demands of school life, schools—where kids spend the majority of their waking hours—can generate a lot of plastic waste. Stationary, plastic drinking cups and cutlery, wipes with plastic particles, and cleaning gloves for classrooms are among the wasteful products (Sustainable Merton, 2022).

Plastic containers, bags, and food packaging are frequently utilized in educational settings. Many school districts are trying to figure out how to cut back on, recycle, and reuse single-use plastics in their cafeterias and classrooms.

There are numerous strategies for reducing plastic use in schools. Educators, students, and administrators can all exercise creativity while creating reduction initiatives. Recycling bins provide a standard method for recycling plastics, but staff and students can further the reduction practice by reusing and minimizing the quantity of plastics in the school system (Hart, 2024).

Schools can reduce plastic waste by supporting companies that produce recyclable or compostable packaging (Sustainable Merton, 2022). If possible, plastic waste converted into chairs also solve problems on lack and standardized chairs.

Given that students spend the majority of their time in classrooms, schools need to provide the most pleasant and finest atmosphere possible. Students should have interesting

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experiences in school. There are so many aspects that can help schools achieve this goal. It's interesting to note how classroom seats and furniture alter the atmosphere. It is standard knowledge that students who are seated comfortably will concentrate better. Exploration and education require a great deal of focus. It is difficult for a student to concentrate for six or seven hours at a time. Students will lose interest and become bored easily (Inspace, 2023).

The problems on plastic waste and lack of chairs in schools could not easily be addressed by the school authorities alone. It requires a lot of money, effort, and time which the school could not relatively afford.

These problems could probably minimize if not totally solved by the help of other sectors especially the external stakeholders of the school.

One best member of the external stakeholders of the school is educational philanthropists.

Educational philanthropy plays a crucial role in bridging this gap by providing much-needed resources and support to learners and educational institutions.

Furthermore, educational philanthropy plays a critical role in bridging the gap between the demand for quality education and its accessibility, particularly in resource-constrained environments. In the Philippines, the Villar Foundation Visayas Chair (VFVC) has emerged as a significant contributor to educational development, particularly in the province of Iloilo. This study aimed to analyze the impact of VFVC's donation on learning centers and community, providing valuable insights for policy formulations, and future philanthropic initiatives.

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Despite the growing recognition of VFVC's contributions, a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted impact of its donations in a form of chairs to schools to be used by learners in Iloilo is lacking and no specific guidelines were made as to the management in the distribution of chairs is being done. Hence, this study was conducted.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Methodology

This chapter presents the research method, research design, participants of the study, data-gathering procedures, research instrument, and data analysis used in this study. The purpose was to analyze the impact of Villar Foundation Visayas Chair Donations to the learning centers and community as bases for policy formulation in the Province of Iloilo during the school year 2023-2024.

Research Method

The research method utilized in the study was qualitative research using in-depth interview.

Descriptive method according to Fraenkel and Wallen (2007) was used to describe a given situation as fully and carefully as possible.

The interviewer and the interviewee during the interview were allowed to sit together face to face and through online. The aim was to get the main or the necessary views of the participants regarding the study through their responses to the specific questions.

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Research Design

Phenomenological research design was employed in the study. Phenomenology was seen as a philosophical method for carrying out qualitative investigations. By concentrating on an individual's subjective interpretations of her experiences, phenomenology aims to comprehend how others see the world and how this view may differ from widely accepted beliefs. Phenomenology is widely utilized in disciplines including psychology, sociology, and social work. It involves interviewing subjects to find out about their impressions.

According to Smith (2013), the study of consciousness structures as experienced firsthand is known as phenomenology. Since an experience is an encounter with or knowledge of an object, its intentionality and direction toward something constitute its fundamental structure. By virtue of its meaning or content (which symbolizes the object) and the proper enabling conditions, an experience is directed toward an object.

Participants of the Study

The participants of the study were 60 purposely selected stakeholders. There were 40 internal stakeholders and 20 external stakeholders who were selected as the stakeholders of the recipient schools in the Province of Iloilo during the school year 2017-2018 and school year 2018-2019.

The 10 teachers, 10 learners, 10 school heads, and 10 parents who represented the internal stakeholders group and 10 members of the Local Government Units and 10 barangay officials who represented the external stakeholders group were taken from the Municipalities of Dumangas, Miagao, Pavia, Bingawan, Leganes, New Lucena, Alimodian, San Miguel, Ajuy,

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Conception, Dingle, Barotac Viejo, Leon, and Barotac Nuevo. These are the municipalities in the Province of Iloilo that have recipient schools of the VFVC from school year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Sampling Design

The study employed purposeful sampling design. A non-probability sample chosen with consideration for the study's purpose and population characteristics is known as a purposive sample. Judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling are other names for purposeful sampling (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2007).

Research Instrument

The research instrument utilized in the study was a researcher-made interview schedule.

The interview schedule included two different major questions. Each major question had separate questions for the group of learners, teachers, school heads, parents, Local Government Units officials, and barangay officials depending on the purpose of the study.

Voice and video recorders were used for data gathering and documentation depending upon the permission of the participants.

Validity of the Research Instrument

Prior to the determination of the validity of the interview schedule made by the researcher, the adviser, Dean of the Graduate School then a panel of jurors who were considered for their expertise in the field of research, testing and assessment, and English, were requested to validate each question for review and modification.

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The appropriateness, meaningfulness, accuracy, and utility of the conclusions a researcher draws are all considered aspects of validity. The format and substance of content-related evidence of validity must match the specification of the variables and the sample of subjects to be examined. It also aids in the validation of the questionnaire's items (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2007).

Comments, corrections, and suggestions of the panel of validators regarding the interview schedule were considered using the appropriate form of Good and Scates (Appendix A).

Data Gathering Procedures

To conduct the study, the researcher got permissions from the adviser, the Graduate School Dean, the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent, the Office of the District Supervisors, school heads, and individual participants. Upon obtaining ethical approval from the relevant body the researched contact potential participants via message to invite them to participate in the study. The message explained the purpose of the study, the expected duration of the interview, and how the data will be used. The researcher personally visited the communities, schools, or other locations that were convenient for the participants. Face to face interviews took place in a private setting to ensure confidentiality and minimize distractions while online interview used zoom and messenger application to ensure data gathering.

Before conducting an interview with the participants, the researcher asked them to sign a disclaimer or authorization pertaining to the study's implementation. Voice and video

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recorders were offered in order to fully capture the interviewee's statements during the in-depth interview. Following a series of interviews, the researcher compiled all the materials that were gathered.

Data Analysis

The information gathered was analyzed using thematic approach. Finding patterns or themes in qualitative data is known as thematic analysis. The purpose of a thematic analysis, according to Maguire and Delahunt (2017), is to find themes—that is, significant or intriguing patterns in the data—and then utilize those themes to discuss the research or make a point. This involves compiling, evaluating, and interpreting the collected data to make sense of it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study was conducted to analyze the impact of Villar Foundation Visayas Chair (VFVC) donations to the learning centers and community as bases for policy formulation in the Province of Iloilo during the school year 2023-2024. This study used phenomenology as the research design and a qualitative approach utilizing in-depth interviews.

The participants of the study were forty purposely selected internal stakeholders and twenty purposely selected external stakeholders of the school. The schools of these stakeholders are the recipient schools in the Province of Iloilo during the school year 2017-2018 and school year 2018-2019.

A validated researcher-made interview schedule was used as an instrument to gather data.

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Voice and video recorders were also used for data gathering and documentation depending upon the permission of the participants.

The experts' panel validated the questionnaire's content. The validity of the interview schedule's questions was assessed using Fraenkel and Wallen's (2007) Criteria for the Content Validation. Regarding the tool's validation, the researcher took into account all feedback and recommendations. Permits were obtained to enable the researcher to begin conducting the in-depth interview once the validity of the questionnaire had been established.

The researcher was able to carry out the study with permission from the adviser, the Graduate School Dean, the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent, the School Head, and the specific participants. To perform the interview, the researcher personally visited the participants' homes, communities, or places of employment.

Following a series of interviews, the researcher combined all of the data that was gathered. A thematic approach was taken in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of the data.

The following are the findings of the study:

Based on the results of the in-depth interview with the participants, it was found out that the impact of chair donations to learning centers as assessed by the internal stakeholders are improvement of attendance in school, provision of comfort to learners, benevolent act, appreciation of the importance of waste management, promotion of a wholesome learning environment, development of motivation and passion to teach well, inspiration, motivation,

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and development of confidence of learners, solution to the shortage of chairs in schools, and provision of motivation and happiness to stakeholders.

It was also found out that the impact of chair donations to the community as assessed by the external stakeholders are learning to be appreciative, giving hope to learners, solution to the shortage of chairs, promotion of proper plastic waste disposal, provision of comfort to stakeholders, provision of motivation to stakeholders, and development of partnership.

Insights

Based on the findings, the following insights were drawn:

Foundations as mandated by law such as Villar Foundation is committed to the preservation and conservation of the environment and ensuring sustainability of its environmental programs specifically this plastic school chairs produced from plastic wastes to be donated to the different schools that made a big impact on the comfort of learners in their study. The strong partnership of the foundation and school's internal and external stakeholders will not only help the school community but also the environment by reducing amount of plastic garbage that goes in to the water resources that harms the environment. Moreover, through the Villar Foundation's plastic chair, livelihood sources to the poor were provided, because the jobless, the non-skilled and even the physically disabled are employed in Villar Foundation Plastic Factory in producing this plastic school chairs.

The Villar Foundation's plastic chairs significantly improve students' performance by promoting collaborative learning, making classroom activities more comfortable, and enhancing academic performance. These chairs allow learners to work independently and

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comfortably, enhancing their focus, listening, and note-taking skills. Parents appreciate these chairs for active study, teachers appreciate them for improved classroom management, and internal stakeholders view them as a charitable gesture.

The foundation significantly benefited barangay officials and Local Government Units (LGUs) by providing chairs to schools in need. The LGUs are grateful for the assistance and hope the project will continue for community benefit. The chairs have reduced concerns about the shortage of chairs and the future of the schools. The project has also increased awareness about recycling and waste disposal, leading to more disciplined practices. Teachers and parents are encouraged to promote recycling and take care of the chairs.

Overall, the Villar Foundation's chair contributions have significantly benefited the community and schools.

Conclusion

In light of the findings and insights arrived at in this study, the following recommendations are forwarded:

To ensure the longevity of the donated chairs, Villar Foundation may develop a maintenance plan to ensure the longevity of the donated chairs. The foundation may have a receiving document to the recipient schools and may give prior orientation on the proper care and usage of chairs upon delivery of chairs.

There should be an implementation in monitoring and evaluation system to schools as part of Post-Delivery Inspection Stage in order to ensure the chairs comfort, durability,

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ergonomic, and suitable for the learners' age and size, learners' attendance, engagement, and overall learning environment. With this, the foundation may provide a monitoring sheet for compliance.

In maintaining transparency in the donation process, the foundation should develop plan to ensure fair allocation of chairs to the schools based on the needs assessment. The Villar foundation should process request letters from schools provided they can submit proof of chairs shortage in their school. Recipients' schools should complete a chair donation form, providing details about the number of chairs received, condition, and actual photos of chairs received in school.

The foundation should explore continuous improvement in the production of chairs from plastic wastes. They may conduct awareness campaigns to schools to highlight the importance and benefits of plastic wastes which can also help for the possible waste management program of the school.

The chairs should meet local and international safety standards to ensure the safety and well-being of learners. With this, Villar Foundation Visayas should implement acceptance of "low density plastic waste only". The foundation may accept low density of plastic only in their plastic factory.

It is best that the foundation may require success stories and testimonials from learners and teachers to demonstrate the tangible benefit of the donations, in order also for the improvement of foundation's current programs and initiatives. Also, by the consent of the

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Foundation, school may recognize the chair donation via newsletter, websites and social media posting of acknowledgement.

Villar Foundation should integrate learning to the external stakeholders. The foundation may invite the barangay or even the Local Government Unit to the actual tour in Villar Foundation Plastic Factory or the "Lakbay Aral" to see how the chairs were produced and other trainings and programs that the foundation can offer to external stakeholders.

Encouraging the external stakeholders to participate in recycling programs and initiatives, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, the barangay can coordinate with their respective LGU's for the delivery of their soft plastic wastes to Villar Foundation Plastic Factory to reduce cost of expenses as well as to manage efficiently their waste management program. The LGU that delivers shredded plastic waste will receive fifty pieces plastic chairs.

The Foundation can ask a report or a feedback form from external stakeholders a month after the delivery of chairs to continuously improve the donation process and enhance donor and recipient satisfaction.

A similar study is also encouraged to be conducted in the future and consider other variables not used nor mention in the study.

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