



MEDIA RELEASE

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Address challenges that restrict access to quality education holistically

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has made significant strides in education since gaining independence in 1975, with improvements in services, infrastructure, and educational outcomes. However, significant challenges remain.

This Media Release concerns the National Research Institute Spotlight Vol. 17, Issue 11, titled "**Assessing quality of Education in Enga Province, PNG: Factors impacting students' learning experience**" by Research officer, Hafford Norea.

The study highlights the impact of the Tuition Fee-Free (TFF) Policy, which, while increasing student enrolment rates and easing financial burdens, has also contributed to overcrowded classrooms, resource constraints, and increased teacher workloads.

Additional factors affecting quality Education include the following:

- Poor relationships between schools and neighbouring communities;
- Tribal conflicts disrupting educational activities;
- Transportation challenges for students;and
- High parental unemployment rates affecting student learning.

Addressing these challenges requires strategic and collaborative efforts from the government, local communities, and educational stakeholders. Implementing effective solutions can enhance the quality of education and improve learning outcomes in Enga Province.

To address the issues raised, the paper recommends the following:

- Improve the TFF administration, procurement process, governance and management to reduce its adverse effects that deteriorates the quality of education.
- Consider constructing schools within the reach of feeder communities, ensuring accessibility to enhance the quality of education, particularly in remote areas.
- Develop community-based initiatives to foster positive relationships between schools and communities.
- Prioritise conflict resolution mechanisms to reduce the impact of tribal conflicts, protect schools and enhance stability.

The Publication and Media Release can be accessed on the PNG NRI website <https://www.pngnri.org>.

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