

Commission on Higher Education Scholarship Programs as Implemented by Pangasinan State University, Lingayen Campus

Roselle C. Dela Cruz
Clyde Aliyah Resurreccion
Rhodora Kaye F. Salacsacan
Rica P. Santos

This study was conducted to assess the implementation of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) scholarship programs at Pangasinan State University (PSU) – Lingayen Campus, with particular focus on two major programs: the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) and the Tulong Dunong Program (TDP). The main objective of the research was to evaluate the profile of fourth-year student-grantees, determine the extent of implementation of CHED scholarship programs, and identify the challenges encountered by the beneficiaries in relation to these programs.

To achieve these objectives, the study employed the descriptive survey method, a research design suited for describing and analyzing the characteristics of a given population. This approach enabled the researchers to gather quantitative data and qualitative insights from student-grantees through a structured questionnaire, which served as the primary data-gathering instrument. The responses collected were systematically described, analyzed, and interpreted to draw conclusions regarding the effectiveness and challenges of the scholarship programs.

The respondents of the study consisted of fourth-year student-grantees of the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) and the Tulong Dunong Program (TDP). However, based on information from the Office of Student Services (OSS) at PSU Lingayen, there was no available updated list of grantees for the academic year 2022–2023 at the time of the study. To address this limitation, the researchers utilized the available list of beneficiaries for the second semester of the academic year 2020–2021, which contained data indicating the grantees' year level at that time. From this list, the researchers identified the students who were fourth-year students during the conduct of the study.

According to the OSS record for that period, there were 19 grantees under the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) and 558 grantees under the Tulong Dunong Program (TDP), totaling 577 student-grantees from both programs at PSU Lingayen Campus. To determine the appropriate number of respondents for the survey, the researchers applied the Slovin's formula to compute for a representative sample size. Based on this computation, a total of 236 respondents were selected using random sampling, ensuring that each grantee had an equal chance of being included in the study.

Prior to the administration of the questionnaire, the instrument underwent a validation process to ensure its reliability, clarity, and content relevance. The validation was conducted by five experts within the PSU Lingayen Campus and two external evaluators, namely the Coordinator of the Provincial Scholarship Program (PSP) for PSU students and a Fiscal Examiner. The feedback and recommendations provided by the validators were carefully considered, and necessary revisions were made to improve the overall quality and accuracy of the questionnaire.

After validation, the finalized questionnaire was distributed to the selected respondents. The survey covered questions regarding the respondents' demographic profile, their awareness and experience regarding CHED scholarship programs, and the challenges they encountered in terms of access, requirements, and implementation. The responses were collected, tabulated, and analyzed using statistical tools such as frequency distribution, percentage, and ranking methods. These statistical techniques were utilized to interpret the data objectively and to present the findings in a clear and organized manner.

The use of a descriptive survey method, combined with a validated questionnaire and a statistically determined sample size, provided a strong foundation for this research. It ensured that the

data gathered were reliable, representative, and sufficient to draw meaningful conclusions about the implementation of CHED scholarship programs at PSU Lingayen Campus.

Overall, the study aimed not only to assess the effectiveness of the TES and TDP programs but also to contribute insights that could help improve the management, accessibility, and efficiency of scholarship implementation. By identifying both the strengths and the challenges of these programs, the research hopes to guide policymakers, administrators, and CHED officials in developing strategies that enhance educational support and promote equitable access to higher education among Filipino students.

The study found that most of the grantees were Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 21 years old, and the majority are female. In terms of occupation of their father, 112 out of 236 are construction and labor workers. In their mother's occupation, 181 out of 236 are housemakers, with the majority of annual combined income being Php100,000 and below. In the level of implementation of Commission on Higher Education scholarship programs in Pangasinan State University Lingayen Campus as perceived by grantees, the study revealed that in terms of submission of requirements, it was highly implemented; and in terms of releasing of grants, it was also highly implemented, which implies that the fourth-year student-grantees have agreed to a significant level of implementation of the scholarship procedures. Among the challenges encountered according to the grantees, releasing of financial assistance is delayed or not released on time served as rank 1. On the other hand, the schedule regarding on claiming of grants is not followed causing a large crowd during the release served as rank 9.

Thus, it is recommended that PSU Lingayen must sustain and be effective in the implementation of the releases of the financial assistance that must be provided to the grantees for each semester. It also needs to be transparent and provide grantees with a semester update in the process of grants if there are any delays or late releases and may establish programs to take into consideration the challenges that grantees encountered and address their specific concerns. The findings of this study should encourage the attention of policymakers involved in strengthening the Commission on Higher Education scholarship programs, specifically the Tertiary Education Subsidy and Tulong Dunong Program, as it is an essential indicator that every grantee is maintaining their scholarship as well receiving their financial grants on time.