Military vs Educational Spending by our Government Research Project

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Presentation Outline

• Executive Summary
• Needs Analysis
• Solution Description
• Solution Criteria
• Solution Choice
Executive Summary

Diana Cabanban
Fabian Leonor

Project Goal

- To collect information and data on citizen's knowledge about the amount of funds the government allocates to the military and education:
  - How much the citizens of Watsonville know about the allocation of these funds
  - How would the citizens of Watsonville want these funds directed once they knew
Research Questions Addressed

- How aware are the people of Watsonville regarding spending on military and education?
- What do the people of Watsonville think about military spending?
- How do the people of Watsonville benefit (or not) by military spending?
- What do the citizens of Watsonville think of the presences of the military in our high school and university?
- How important is going to school or into the military to the people of Watsonville?

Responsibilities

- Co-Team Leader - Diana Cabanban
- Co-Team Leader - Fabian Leonor
- Need Statement - Dagoberto Torrecillas
- Need Statement - Gabriela Vargas
- Solution Statement - Guadalupe Amesquita
- Solution Statement - Eduardo Gutierrez-Perez
Data Collection

- 155 people surveyed
- 60% Male; 40% Female
- Age Distribution:
  - 47% between 16-20
  - 17% between 21-25
  - 24% 31 and over
- Ethnicity:
  - 66% Hispanic/Latino; 25% Caucasian
- Educational background
  - 18% High school diploma
  - 11% College diploma; 34% Some college
  - 24% Some high school; 10% Primary school; 3% Middle school

Surveys distributed to and collected from:

- Schools
  - Alternative Schools
  - New School
  - Cabrillo College Aptos/Watsonville Campuses
- Shopping Centers
  - Target
  - Starbuck
- On the Streets
  - Library
  - Plaza
- Friends
- Family members
Facts About our Government’s Spending Priorities

We surveyed citizens about their awareness of the following facts:

- **Fact #1**: The US Government spends over $513 billion a year on the military (in 2002). This does not include the $380 billion that has been spent on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars so far.

- **Fact #2**: The US Government is requesting $63.4 billion for next year’s budget towards education in U.S.
What is the need?

The citizen’s of our county:
- Want more money spent on education
- Want more after school programs
- Lack knowledge about our government’s spending priorities
- Are not voting

More Facts

We surveyed citizens about their awareness of the following facts:
- **Fact #3**: The Bush Administration is requesting a 7% increase in the military budget for next year.
- **Fact #4**: The U.S. Government allocated $88.9 billion on education this year and is proposing decreasing funds for education to $63.4 billion next year.
When is the need evident?

- When 63% of the respondents think that the Bush administration’s request for a 7% increase in military funds next year is **not** good
- When 88% of the respondents don’t agree with the Bush administration to decrease funds for education next year
- When there is not enough people voting in our community
  - 66% of the respondents who could vote - did not vote

**More Facts**

We surveyed citizens about their awareness of the following facts:

- **Fact #5:** In 2002, the US Government spent over $513 billion a year on military expenditures.
- **Fact #6:** In 2002, the rest of the world spent $500 billion a year on military expenditures.
Why does this need occur?

- If citizens were educated about how the government spends our tax dollars they would have different priorities
  - 89% of respondents indicate that they think the government's priorities are misdirected
  - 71% of respondents indicate that we are spending too much on the military
  - 75% of the respondents think that 50%-75% of $567 billion dollars spent on the military should be redirected back into the educational system

What are the consequences of meeting the need?

- Less poverty in the community
  - Individuals are educated and have higher wage jobs
  - Less gangs and violence
- Better student / faculty ratio
  - More instructors
  - Extra curricular activities are in place
- Lower school drop out rate
  - More students graduating from high school
- More students going to college
- More people registering to vote and voting
  - Electing officials that address our community's educational needs
Consequences of **not** meeting the need.

- Kids get involved with drugs and gangs because our government doesn’t have extra funding for kids at risk
- Less students attending college
- More young adults enlisting in the military because they need financial support for college
- More people living below their means because of their lack of education
  - End up seeking other means to make ends meet legally or illegally
- If people don’t vote our needs won’t be met

Military vs. Ed. - Core Needs

- Need to educate citizens to overcome their lack of knowledge about Government spending
  - Need education about linkage between spending on military and the effects on spending on education
  - When citizens know about linkage they are dissatisfied with Government Spending Priorities
  - Increase the number of student going to college
  - Decrease the number of high school drop outs
  - Educate students about career choices in addition to military recruitment / career
- Available voters not registering or voting
Three recommended solutions

Educating the public about government spending:

1. Educating the Citizens of Watsonville
2. Developing a state proposition
3. Organizing student governments

Lupe Amesquita
Diana Cabanban
Eduardo Gutierrez-Perez
Solution 1: Education the citizens of Watsonville

- Educate the citizens of Watsonville about our government’s budget for military and education
- Organize citizens to show their voice by demonstrating and marching
- Registering eligible citizens to vote and making sure they vote

Solution 2: Developing a state proposition

- Develop a proposition to be placed on the California State ballot to indicate voter’s spending priorities
  - Organize the collection of signatures
  - Collect the required signatures
  - Create a coalition to support the passage of this proposition
Solution 3:
Organizing student governments

- Organize local student governments to address the education of students about government spending
  - Cabrillo College
  - CSUMB
  - UCSC
  - Local High Schools

- Develop a strategy with local student bodies on how to get this topic on the agenda for other student body governments in the State of California and nationally

Criteria for Selecting Final Solution

1. Resources needed
2. Supportive Leaders (Long Term Support)
3. Location (Availability)
4. Organization (How easy)
5. Long term impact/effect/need
6. Time (time to complete)
7. Media Required
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Chosen Solution
Organizing Student Governments

- Organize local student governments to push for educating students about government spending
  - Colleges: Cabrillo College; CSUMB; UCSC
  - Local High Schools

- Develop a strategy with local student bodies to get this topic on the agenda for other student body governments in the State of California and nationally
Goals

1. To increase the awareness among students about how our tax dollars are being spent on military versus education
2. Create a movement starting with students to change the spending priorities of our government

Objectives

• Develop a plan of action to organize student governments
• Develop strategies for creating a movement among students
• Implement plan of action and strategies
Outcomes

1. To gain support from high school and college student governments
2. Establish political support at the local/state levels of government
3. Develop an educated citizenry about how our government allocates and spends funds
4. Increase the amount of funds allocated to education
5. Raise the level of voters