



How can we support the Oglala Sioux population?



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INTRODUCTION

There is a problem in Native American Reservations and their living conditions. Despite the Indian Housing Authority's efforts, there are 90,000 underhoused or homeless Native Americans. This problem has negatively impacted Native Americans and their families because their living conditions are not great. Homes have inadequate plumbing, kitchens and heating. While we take running water, electricity and our other utilities for advantage, these utilities are seen as a luxury in many reservations. There is a scarcity of jobs. A possible cause of this problem is people looking the other way. Like they know what is going on but they don't try to do anything about it. The Indian Housing Authorities have tried but no one else does anything to put their goals into action. A few people are able to get jobs on the Reservation but others have to travel over 50 miles to work Seasonal jobs. Four to eight out of ten Native Americans are unemployed. There is a housing crisis on Native American lands, 30% of Native American housing is overcrowded. Native Americans have the highest rate of diabetes This is due to poverty and a lack of sufficient funding.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Being Native American has greatly pushed me to do this project, I want to help other Native Americans, although i do not know them, they are still my people.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

I have used historical and action research . I have used historical research, I have been researching the history of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In addition I have researched why many people in the reservation have many health conditions. For my action research portion, I was having a donation drive for clothes and school supplies at both my school and at my workplace in January.



Figure 1; This is the flyer I created. They were put on the bins that were set up.

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DATA AND FINDINGS



Figure 2; This is one of the donation bins in the breakroom of my workplace.



Figure 3; These are bags of clothes that I received from one of my bosses.

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

After doing this donation drive, I found that we don't really notice everything that goes on in the world. Many people believe that they do but, many people don't know the problems that Native Americans face in their lives. However, I was pleased to see that the donations exceeded my expectations. Because people are willing to help, it is important to have ways to do so.

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

If someone were to continue this research, I would recommend that they do as much research as they can about the history of Native American reservations to best understand their circumstances. If they are able to contact organizations early in the process to learn about the impact that they've organizations have made, that could help determine next steps in helping these communities in an impactful way.