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### Should Community College Be Tuition-Free?

The rising cost of tuition fees has stirred up the debate regarding community college being tuition-free. Many individuals and students have voiced their support for this move as college tuition fee opens up a Pandora's box worth of problems for almost all students not to mention the people who simply cannot afford to go to a college even with the variety of student loans and grants available. A closer evaluation of the issue indicates that community college should indeed provide free tuition because it will not only help those who cannot afford to go to college and those who face student debts but will also change the system of money-making within private colleges.

One of the most significant impacts of the increasing costs of college tuition is on the poor sector that cannot afford to educate their children beyond high school. This group is getting larger day by day and more and more people decide to not send their children to colleges as paying for the tuition cost is simply beyond their capabilities. Most millennials today admit that the financial trouble they face plays a great role in deciding whether or not they will go to college at all. In fact, around 70% of the students have claimed that financial circumstances decide their future in terms of college education (IOP, 2019). Hence, the fraction of students for whom financial difficulties create a problem is not a small one.

Another group that is affected by the cost of a college education is the one that takes student loans to study in college. Most of the students who study in college do so based on these

student loans. This creates a situation where students are crippled by debt post-graduation (*CBS, 2019*). The interest in the student debt piles up and students are forced to give more money than they had spent on college education. This has an impact on their quality of life as most of their money goes into paying off their loans instead of leading a normal and stable life. Despite having a good education, these students are unable to afford things such as buying a car or a house. This leads to them being burdened even more than they initially were.

An advantage of making community colleges tuition-free will be the increased competition between the community and private colleges. Studies show that the system of subsidizing student loans ensures that the prices of college tuition remain high and are even increased (Weissmann). This is because colleges are safeguarded by the fact that these subsidies will ensure student admissions. However, if the community colleges were to go free, then private institutions will have to lower tuition prices or else face a study body that opts for free college tuition instead. This will also help in ensuring that private institutions focus more on quality education than they do on generating profit. If community colleges are free and maintain a respectable standard of education then this will surely change the system in private colleges.

In conclusion, community colleges should be tuition-free due to three very important reasons. First, there is a large sector worth of people who are wasting their potential because they cannot afford to go to college. Second, those who can afford to pay off student loans and go to college with their help end up financially unstable post-graduation. This is because all their money is spent on paying off their debt and they have little left to ensure a quality life. Lastly, making community colleges tuition-free would ensure competition with private institutions that will motivate private colleges to focus on quality education. Hence, the system of free college tuition has ample benefits and should be adopted immediately.

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