

CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES FOR A DISASTER-READY SCHOOL COMMUNITY: DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Abstract

Considering the importance of the safety of learners and school personnel and the need for intensive planning and implementation of DRRM in schools, this study attempts to identify the school's potential hazards and the disaster awareness, preparedness and involvement in capacity-building initiatives of the school community in General Emilio Aguinaldo National High School, a densely-populated school with 9,788 students. In order to attain the objectives of the study, a mixed-methods research design was employed, with the students, teachers, non-teaching personnel and administrators as respondents. From the assessment of the hazard, the school is at risk of both natural and human-induced hazards. The location of the school has low to high susceptibility to flood and high susceptibility to earthquake, with low susceptibility to liquefaction. In terms of building capacity in the community, the study reveals that the members of the school community have utmost awareness on disasters but have limited belief in the preparedness of the school and participation in capability-building initiatives of the SDRRM. Therefore, communicating risk information and safeguarding trust on community preparedness remain challenges. To address this concern, there is a need to create concrete measures on how to these risk information and contingency plans to the total enumeration of the school community. All members must be well-informed about the specific hazards risks in the school in order to heighten awareness and preparedness.

Keywords: *SDRRM, hazard, disaster*