



AWARENESS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PRACTICES: BASIS FOR DESIGNING A SCHOOL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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ABSTRACT

The tremendous effect of natural disasters is continuously brushing up Asia and the Pacific as it did in the past. The education sector is one of the most vulnerable in times of calamities. It is among those that often suffer the impacts of disasters brought about by natural hazards. The necessity of disaster risk management deems it indispensable for the safety of the school community. Hence, this study focused on determining natural hazards awareness and disaster risk reduction practices of the university to provide a basis for proposing a school disaster risk reduction management plan. Using the researcher-made questionnaire to gather the data, this study revealed that the respondents were extremely aware of natural hazards and risk reduction practices. Further, the developed school disaster management plans were found to be acceptable across all variables. Considering the results, it was recommended that the school administrator may conduct regular orientation of programs, seminars, training, and workshops regarding environmental issues to strengthen the awareness of natural hazards and their disastrous impact. School administrators are also encouraged to periodically review and update the school disaster management plan in collaboration with the different agencies for continuous improvement and to strengthen risk reduction practices. In addition, school administrators may engage stakeholders in planning, monitoring, and evaluation through drills and simulations to make them more involved in disaster preparedness and emergency and organize activities regarding first aid to be led by trained or licensed personnel. The aforementioned activities may be emphasized by the concerned authorities for maximum implementation.

Keywords: Science and Technology, natural hazards and disaster risk reduction, descriptive developmental research, Philippines