BOOSTING TIES FOR A STRONG DEFENSE AGAINST DISASTERS

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We all know that disasters can visit us at any time and any place-- whenever we are at home, school, public places or even we are just passing by the road. Disasters such as typhoon, earthquake, fire, flash floods, landslides and many other dangers may come along our way, often times without a notice or slightest sign.

According to the World Risk Report in 2016, the Philippines is the third most vulnerable country to disasters. The country lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire where 80% of earthquakes happen. Around 20-25 typhoons devastate the country every year, leading to the loss of lives and millions of damages to road and rail network and source of revenue. About 220 known volcanoes dot the country, and at least 22 of them are considered active.

In addition to this, the Philippines is also one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The drought brought by the El Niño Southern Oscillation has increased in the last few decades. The dry season is also becoming warmer, and on the other hand, the wet season becoming wetter. Sea level rise menace the coastal areas of the country.

It is important to have an actual practice of the drills and safety precautions that everyone must apply once the disaster comes. Aside from planning, the application of all the things that are needed to be done before, during and after disaster are practiced in the schools where the participants teach in order to assure that everyone can learn from the drills, symposiums, seminars and other forms of educating the people.

Educational communities have big responsibility in disaster preparedness because their clients are the students and they are the ones who are responsible of their education, not only
academically but also regarding the matters that people have to deal with in the community such as hazards and disasters.

Otherwise, schools may invite local government units to conduct lectures, symposiums and seminars regarding emergency preparedness and risk reduction in able to gear students with necessary skills and knowledge that would enable them to know what they have to do in able to prevent such risks or what to do if they experience being in the situation.

This is the reason why the collaboration of schools to the local community is very important because community serves as their support in some matters such as disaster preparedness and risk reduction because these risks often happen not just in schools but at home and in the community as well. It is evident that schools where the participants are assigned collaborate with different sectors in order to teach everyone to be prepared in any disaster.

The more we know, the more that the risks will be reduced and if many people are knowledgeable enough of the practices to prevent or to keep safe during disasters, there is a greater chance of survival because of being capable enough to cope with perilous situations. Through disaster preparedness and risk reduction, communities will be disaster resilient and most especially, the welfare of the students will still be prioritized not just only their academic performance but their safety as well.

References:

https://www.cdp.org.ph/