DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT: A SERIOUS TAKE

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Disasters can strike at anytime, anywhere. If the right measures are not put in place to avoid the impacts, it can cause irrevocable damage to life and property. This can also bring out the best and worst of human nature. However, is the education sector ready for this phenomenon?

In the assessment of DRRM at the local level as part of the report of the Commission on Audit (COA), the Philippines is prone to earthquakes in relation to its location in the pacific ring of fire. The perils add up in the mention of 300 volcanoes with 22 categorized as active ones. Not to mention that because the country is tropical, it is also located in the typhoon belt experiencing at least 20-30 typhoons annually. The manner in which action is taken goes a long way to determine how people fare from the experience. Hence, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) is needed.

As defined in the RA10121 an act institutionalizing the creation of disaster risk reduction council in most government agencies, DRRM is the systematic process of using administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities. DRRM aims to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and natural disasters.

Knowing the fact that the education is one of the affected sector in terms of disasters, the department of education adheres to the new law thus the creation of toolkit manuals as guide to school level DRRM council in aid in the creation of viable action plans related to disaster preparedness of every institution.
In some observations, some schools link communities and other non-government organizations (NGOs) in order to achieve a risk-free school. Some local researchers found out also that the level of preparedness of these schools falls into moderately prepared category showing as evidence to the previous statement.

However, majority of the schools in the Philippines seemed to be unaware of their level of readiness when it comes to preparedness to the hazards of disasters. Taken into consideration the situation of the Yolanda victims and some other strong typhoon victims, the education sector in the school level must get their act together to address the issue or at least do some mitigating measures.

The horrors of the previous disasters must not be seen again in the future to come. The Department of Education in the national level is working hand-in-hand with the different government agencies tapping different NGOs to address the alarming impacts of disasters. Hence, the school level administration must also take the issue seriously and answer to the needs of the times. If other schools can do such things the rest of the schools in the country can also. They just have to work – like very hard.

References:


Commission on Audit (2014). Assessment of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) at the local level. Retrieved from