DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS: WAYS TO COMBAT RISKS

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Natural hazards like earthquakes, typhoons, floods, droughts and cyclones are inevitable. No one knows when these tragic events will happen since the climate continuously changes and natural resources are damaged by different human activities. There is no exemption when it comes to calamities – it may happen even in schools. Hence, it is necessary to be alert and ready to the possible visit of those natural phenomena.

The Philippines, being located in the typhoon belt and Pacific Ring of Fire, encounters almost twenty typhoons a year which causes floods in low-lying areas. Aside from that, there are 23 active volcanoes which may erupt any moment once disturbed by an earthquake according to de la Cruz (2015). Since these facts were already verified years ago, it is a must to integrate risk reduction management in teaching. It is important that students are knowledgeable enough before, during and after disaster.

Despite the inevitability of natural hazards, there are agencies that help people reduce the damage. According to an article entitled “What is Disaster Risk Reduction?” published by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR, 2019), it aims to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones, through an ethic of prevention. If the disaster is severe, there is a large impact of hazard in our environment.

Moreover, UNISDR Global Assessment Report (2015) noted that DRR is a part of sustainable development. So it must involve every part of society, government, non-
governmental organizations and the professional and private sector. It requires people-centered and multi-sector approach, multiplebuilding resilience, cascading and interacting hazards and creating a culture of prevention and resilience. Hence, it is a must to prepare students in the possible calamities around. Such preparation is a major stepping stone to provide them with appropriate knowledge and skills that will combat risk, not only in schools but also in their homes.

Disasters are really inevitable. Despite the vulnerabilities around, there are actions that can be done to prepare the students. Facing those problems individually will not make much change; instead, preparedness of each individuality, especially students will somehow lessen the negativities brought by hazardous events. Therefore, it is important to always be ready of whatever will come along our way. Most importantly, the integration of education regarding risk reduction must be done in all the schools within the community because knowledge and awareness can actually save lives.

References:


What is Disaster Risk Reduction? (2019). Retrieved from https://www.unisdr.org/who-we-are/what-is-drr