STUDENTS AS SCHOOLS FIRST RESPONDER

by:

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After considering Quality Education as being the ultimate priority, we can be safe to say that making our school safe and resilient to disasters is the secondary priority of every school. From Grade School up to High School, our students are at the spotlight of every Emergency Drill the school is required to comply. Be it a Fire Exit Drill, a Lockdown Drill, or the most practiced emergency drill in or outside the school, the Earthquake Drill.

In a set-up scenario like an emergency drill, we are limited to a handful of mocked-up emergency situations, few numbers of participants acting out injuries, and probably a few “casualties”. But these are controlled situations, predictable situations, and stage situations that matches the capabilities, or should we say the limitations of the school in disaster or emergency response.

But what would happen if a disaster strikes, far greater than we expected? Can we seek outside help or rescue? It will be futile if schools are to expect quick response from the local government. Remember their great responsibility.

We are not saying that the LGUs are not prepared, but in a catastrophic event, it is highly probable that there will be a short supply of first responders. That is why to train and give the necessary lifesaving skills to our students will play a vital role. This will augment the trained emergency responder-teachers and staff. Senior High School students are already in a stable mindset and are physically capable of learning basic emergency skills.
This is where the training of selected teachers and students come into play. Having trained teachers and students will make our schools self-reliant or self-contained for the time being. Giving the professional responders enough time to address the situation.

Every second, every minute counts in emergency, where loss of life or limb is not just a possibility but a startling reality. Students when trained with the proper medical and technical skills, give the whole school and community a notch higher percentage sense of safety, and a step ahead in creating our school disaster resilient. A “Safer School is a Safer Community”.

References: