PHILIPPINES is beset with problems such as flooding, landslides, and other menaces that are considered as man-made disasters. Along with the industrialization and modernization there is an increase in the population that leads to the degradation of the environment. Denuded forests continue to increase and mountains are becoming bare. Destruction of properties and loss of human lives are countless when natural calamities occurred.

Man-made disasters resemble to cancer cells that rapidly develop and can leave catastrophic event. Benign prediction at first but will later become a disaster with unparalleled proportions. Devastating tragedy will pave its way. However, resemblance is exactly not alike, man-made disaster has its cure. Different agencies were tapped to find a solution on how to lessen these. One of such agencies is the Department of Education. Reduction of these disasters can be possible through education. This is the cornerstone at reducing susceptibilities to natural hazards.

Petal (2008) stated in her book entitled “Disaster Prevention for Schools”, basic education and disaster prevention go hand in hand. Disaster risk can be reduced. It is not just “one more thing” to be squeezed into an already full curriculum. It may well be the glue that ensures the survival of our children and future generations. It is therefore imperative for teachers to integrate the disaster safety concept in all forms of daily life.

As asserted by Sinha, et.al. (2007) in their Disaster Education book, it requires that the disaster risk reduction knowledge should be as a built-in component of knowledge block. Disaster awareness needs to be part of every individual’s cultural heritage and the development of such attitudes should be encouraged in early childhood. Only schools give this opportunity to implant that culture to entire future citizens. Disaster risk management should be everybody’s business, children of today must be appropriately educated and adequately trained to face the disaster risks that may be realized in the future in the wake of prevailing natural hazard potential. The goal of education efforts is to change people’s behavior. Disaster education attempts to increase protective actions by people by presenting information about the hazard and the risk it poses. If planned effectively and well implemented, it will make people habituate safety practice in all forms of their action. However, the desired changes in behavior may take time. Considering the education as an excellent opportunity for building awareness about disaster mitigation and for implementing a variety of activities that can minimize the negative impacts of disasters in all sectors, efforts are
made to integrate disaster risk reduction in education system.

Teacher plays a vital role on how to inculcate good manners and right conduct among children. It is best to take into consideration the need to lessen man-made disasters through teaching and training them on how to give importance to the environment. Let them realize that the responsibility for the world we live in and the remedy to those disasters lie on us – it is within our grasp. The truth is, humankind sustains itself through the power of education.

References:
