THE IMPORTANCE OF DRRMC IN SCHOOLS

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In the past years, Philippines experienced innumerable number of natural and human induced hazards. One of those is the Typhoon Yolanda, one of the worlds’ strongest typhoon, which hit the country in 2013. It left us with massive destructions and a big number of fatalities which is not less than 6,000 Filipinos. In April of 2019, a magnitude 6.1 earthquake that struck Luzon left 18 casualties. These are just some examples of the tragic natural calamities that we experienced.

In the statistics showed by the IFSEC Philippines, the BFP or the Bureau of Fire Protection recorded a total number of 77,724 fire incidents from 2013 to 2017. It gives us an average of 15,545 fire incident each year. Moreover, the said incidents recorded P23,273 billion as total estimated damage to property.

With these reasons the government created the Republic Act Number 10121 entitled The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. In this law, all government agencies, including DepEd, will take part in the government’s campaign in disaster preparedness. With this, the Education Department released the DepEd Order Number 50, Series of 2011, signed by the former Education Secretary Armin Luistro, entitled “Creation of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO)”. Because of this, each schools established their own DRRM Centers headed by the school head and the designated DRRM coordinator.

In the establishment of this law, a quarterly earthquake drill is being conducted simultaneously every year in all parts of the contry. The DRRM coordinators also attended various trainings and seminars that will equip them with enough knowledge in disaster preparedness. They also attend trainings in contingency plan making that will
eventually help in decreasing the number of fatalities and damage to properties once a disaster happened. Through the DRRM team of schools as well, the communication between the school and the local government unit is being strengthened.

According to ASSI or the Asean Safe School Initiative, DRRM team of schools help in securing a safe learning facilities not only to learner but also to teachers and other school personnel. It is very evident in the conduct of the school watching. The members of the SWT together with their moderator, roam around the school to check and record the hazards present in the school. Using the gathered information, they will make a hazard map that they will be presenting to the member of the AIP team. Because of this, the school head is able to prioritize the repair and reconstruction of some facilities in schools.

Natural and human induced hazards are inevitable for they are part of life. Hence, it is our duty to equip ourselves with the necessary knowledge about the nature and the possible effect of any disaster. The DRRM team of schools play a vital role in teaching the importance of this multidisciplinary action. Through education, it is believed that each of our learners will also be an agent of change by spreading awareness among other kids, acquaintances and most especially to their families.

References:


Republic Act Number 10121

DepEd Order Number 50, Series of 2011

https://aseansafeschoolsinitiative.org/