

Disaster Risk Reduction Management Practices of Augustinian Recollect Schools in Negros Island

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Article history

Submitted: 22 October 2020

Revised: 4 November 2020

Accepted: 13 November 2020

Keywords

Educational Management
Disaster Risk
Reduction
Management
Augustinian Recollect
schools
Descriptive-Correlational
Negros Island

Introduction. Disaster risk reduction and management apply whenever naturally caused disaster or calamity strikes. The reason for this management approach is to minimize injuries and mortalities (Corpuz, 2018). A large part of the globe experiences increased risks to natural disasters and calamities (Hoffman & Muttarak, 2017), including the Philippines (Alcayna, Bollettino, Dy, & Vinck, 2016), affecting even schools as well (Selby & Kagawa, 2012). With that, the Republic Act 10121, known as the “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010,” was passed and enacted into law (Antonio & Antonio, 2017). The utilization of education to build resiliency was given priority (Ozkazanc & Yuksel, 2015). Section 14 of the Act tasked the DepEd, CHED, and TESDA to incorporate DRRM in the school curricula (Mamon, Suba, & Son, 2018), both public and private, including Catholic schools such as the Augustinian Recollect

schools. Thus, this study ascertains the extent of the practice of DRRM measures of Augustinian Recollects schools in Negros Island. The focus of the assessment includes the four thematic areas: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation, and recovery. Also, it explores the relationship between the practice of DRRM measures and the schools’ demographic size, DRRM budget allocation, location, and population.

Methods. A descriptive-correlational research design was used to assess and correlate the extent of the practice of DRRM measures. The respondents are the five Recollect schools in Negros Island, with 174 school personnel selected using a stratified random sampling method as the assessors. The research instrument used was a researcher-made survey questionnaire grounded on RA 10121. Mean, Standard Deviation, and Spearman rho correlation were used to analyze the data.

Results. The findings revealed that the extent of practice of DRRM measures of the Augustinian Recollect schools is a “great extent,” which implies “frequent practice” of the DRRM measures. Likewise, all four thematic areas, irrespective of the schools’ demographic size, DRRM budget allocation, location, and population, incurred “great extent” ratings. Furthermore, no significant relationships were found between the practice of DRRM measures and the schools’ demographic. The results point out that the Augustinian Recollect schools possess sound DRRM measures already and have been practicing those for some time. Perhaps, it is the effect of DRRM curriculum integration, implementation of statutory laws through DepEd DO’s, CHED’s CMOS, and DOLE’s safety guidelines, and the sharing of best practices among the schools. As climate change intensifies, so do hazards. Therefore, the schools craft DRRM measures based on worst-disaster scenarios and in accordance with government standards. This enhances the schools’ capacity to deal with upcoming unpredictable phenomenon regardless of demographic profile. Prospective perils seem to have little effect on the stakeholders. This is supported by the study of Amaratunga, Malalgoda, Haigh, Panda, and Rahayu (2018) which stated that sharing sound DRRM practices with others in partnership with the government helps in the future management of disaster situation. In addition, Malahay and Estrope (2018) also concluded in their study that schools may apply closely similar DRRM measures when disaster strikes, no matter what is its situation and location. With the measures in place, exposure to disaster does not seem to influence people about DRR issues anymore (Tuladhar, Dahal, & Bhandary, 2013).

Conclusion. A good disaster risk reduction and management measures prevent casualties or damages. It is economically helpful and fosters alignment with sustainable development. The

Augustinian Recollect schools' frequent practice of DRRM measures ensures preparedness and commitment to keeping the community safe and secured. Coupled with the schools' strict adherence to the DRRM standard prescribed by the RA10121, it vouches for attaining the OAR schools' mission, which is to provide an encompassing quality Catholic education.

Practical Value of the Paper. The study contributes to the limited body of literature and knowledge regarding DRRM practices, its benefits, and challenges in the Augustinian Recollect schools. Its findings supply other Recollect schools with baseline information in conducting a follow-up study on similar topics. Furthermore, the proposed school-based DRRM program furnishes the schools with a generic DRRM outline and plans for the schools to adopt and supplement to concord with the school's system and answer their DRRM demands.

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