

Assessing Criminology Students Knowledge on Disaster and Risk Management

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research study is to examine the current level of knowledge among Criminology students in order to explore strengths and weaknesses to be used in the future disaster preparedness and response plans. Armed with the knowledge and capabilities, Criminology students will be able to develop and implement procedures in order to move forward in an efficient manner to preserve lives and properties in the event of disaster in our municipality.

Results revealed that sixty- five percent (65%) of the respondents were very aware on actions that will contribute in polluting our air environment. Also, 46% are aware on actions that will contribute to the destruction of our land resources. 49% were very aware on the actions that will contribute to the destruction of our marine/ coastal resources. 33% were aware that serious threats to water resources is the degradation of ecosystems which often takes place through changes to landscapes. Majority or seventy- nine percent (79%) of the respondents had knowledge on disaster. Ninety- eight percent (98%) are very aware that natural disaster is a disaster caused by nature. Eighty percent(80%) are very aware that human actions contribute to the occurrence of disaster. Also, Sixty- six percent (66%) are very aware on the effects of natural disaster. Forty- six percent (46%) of the respondents are aware as to their role on disaster risk management.

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KEYWORDS: Criminology Students; Disaster and Risk Management; Philippines

1. INTRODUCTION

The Philippines is highly susceptible to natural disasters such as typhoons, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, tornadoes, and earthquakes. Twenty- three years ago, Tropical Storm Thelma unleashes flash floods on the Central City of Ormoc on Leyte Island, killing more than 5, 100 people.

Typhoon like known in the Philippines as Typhoon Nitang, hits the central islands on August 31, 1984, killing 1,363 people. Between 200,000 and 480,000 people were left homeless in the wake of the storm. In Surigao del Norte, at least 27 towns were completely destroyed by the typhoon, leaving at least 304 dead. Some towns were washed away after Lake Mainit

overflowed its banks, killing hundreds of people caught in the floodwaters. Nearly 100,000 people were left homeless in Cebu. About 70 percent of Surigao City was destroyed by it (NDRRMC).

Severe Tropical Washi, known in the Philippines as Tropical Sendong hits the Northern part of Mindanao Island on December 16, 2011, killing at least 1,080 people. A total of 38, 071 families or 228, 576 persons were affected in 41 Barangays in Cagayan de Oro City alone with a total of 674 persons were reported dead, 181 missing and 441 survivors. While 7, 317 houses were totally damaged and 12, 625 were partially damaged (NDRRMC).

Recently, in August 2012, the wrath of the Monsoon hit the Philippines. The intense flooding and raining caused 95 people dead, 8,428 homes destroyed, and 6,706 damaged. The Philippines ranks as the third most disaster-prone country in the world because of its high exposure to natural calamities.

With all of these natural calamities, it is paramount that citizens are prepared properly to deal with these disasters. Davao Winchester Colleges Inc., Criminology students desire to contribute to this goal by learning how to plan and communicate during times of disaster. It is therefore critical to understand the fundamental knowledge and response capabilities of DWCI- Criminology students in order to plan for future response training, actions and procedures. With a proper planning, communicating and practice it can be assumed that actual disaster preparedness and response can be dealt with much more success.

In June 1978, President Ferdinand Marcos signed Presidential Decree No. 1566 creating the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). Its job was to advise the President on the status of preparedness programs, disaster operations and rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the government and private sectors. The secretary of national defense was designated head of the council. Other members included the secretaries of public works, transportation and communications, social welfare and development, agriculture, education, finance, labor, justice, trade and industry, local government, health, and natural resources. The Armed Forces chief of staff and the executive secretary were also NDCC members.

May of 2010, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 10121 reorganizing the NDCC and renaming it the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council or NDRRMC. Apart from advising the President, one of the NDRRMC primary functions is to develop a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework, which shall provide for a comprehensive, all-hazards, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk reduction and management. While still chaired by the defense secretary, the NDRRMC has four vice chairs the interior secretary, who sits as vice chairperson for disaster preparedness; the social welfare secretary (vice chairperson for disaster response); the science and technology secretary (vice chairperson for

disaster prevention and mitigation); and the socioeconomic planning secretary (vice chairperson for disaster rehabilitation and recovery). From a 19-member NDCC, the new council has become a body of more than 40 members. They include the department secretaries, the chief of the Philippine National Police, and the presidents of the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines and League of Municipalities of the Philippines, among others (Luna, 2001).

The purpose of this research study is to examine the current level of knowledge among DWCI- Criminology students in order to explore strengths and weaknesses to be used in the future disaster preparedness and response plans. Armed with the knowledge and capabilities, Criminology students will be able to develop and implement procedures in order to move forward in an efficient manner to preserve lives and properties in the event of disaster in our municipality.

1.1. Limitation and Delimitation of the Study

This study was conducted to assess Criminology students' knowledge on disaster and risk management. This is limited only to Criminology students of Davao Winchester Colleges, Inc. who are currently enrolled in School Year 2019-2020.

2. Materials and Methods

This study involves the assessment of the level of knowledge of Criminology students relative to disaster and risk management. This assessment applied descriptive research design making use of survey techniques to gather data. This focuses on Criminology students' level of knowledge, attitude and practice towards environmental protection and disaster preparedness.

The survey questionnaire was distributed to all Criminology students using simple random method. A total of 122 students were randomly selected during the day of the administration of the instrument and were taken as the respondents of this study.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the level of student's knowledge relative to climate change and environmental protection (upland, lowland, marine resources or coastal)

Table 1 Level of student's knowledge relative to climate change and environmental protection (upland, lowland, marine resources or coastal)

Knowledge	VA	A	LA	NA
1. on actions that will contribute in polluting our air environment.	65%	15%	20%	0%
2. on actions that will contribute to the destruction of our land resources.	39%	46%	8%	7%
3. on the actions that will contribute to the destruction of our marine/ coastal resources.	49%	39%	10%	2%
4. that serious threats to water resources is the degradation of ecosystems which often takes place through changes to landscapes.	25%	33%	31%	11%

Sixty- five percent (65%) of the respondents were very aware on actions that will contribute in polluting our air environment. This implied that majority of them possess underpinning knowledge on the actions making pollution to our air. 46% are aware on actions that will contribute to the destruction of our land resources. 49% were very aware on the actions that will contribute to the destruction of our marine/ coastal resources. 33% were aware that serious threats to water resources is the degradation of ecosystems which often takes place through changes to landscapes.

Table 2 shows the level of student's knowledge relative to natural disasters and their causes.

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Knowledge	VA	A	LA	NA
1. on disaster.	79%	21%	0%	0%
2. that natural disaster is a disaster caused by nature.	98%	2%	0%	0%
3. that human actions/practices will also cause the occurrence of disaster.	80%	20%	0%	0%
4. on the effects of natural disaster.	66%	34%	0%	0%

Majority or seventy- nine percent (79%) of the respondents had knowledge on disaster. Ninety- eight percent (98%) are very aware that natural disaster is a disaster caused by nature. Eighty percent(80%) are very aware that human actions contribute to the occurrence of disaster. Also, Sixty- six percent (66%) are very aware on the effects of natural disaster.

Table 3 shows the level of student's knowledge relative to their role on disaster risk management.

Table 3 Level of student's knowledge relative to their role on disaster risk management

Knowledge	VA	A	LA	NA
1. as to disaster risk management	39%	46%	9%	6%
2. as to the role to be accomplished before the disaster	10%	23%	59%	8%
3. as to the role to be accomplished during the disaster	15%	34%	33%	18%
4. as to the role to be accomplished after the disaster	5%	32%	58%	5%

Forty- six percent (46%) of the respondents are aware as to their role on disaster risk management. Perceived reason for this is due to the fact that they already have their subject on Human Behavior and Crisis Management. Part of the coverage on the said subject is regarding the above- cited matter.

Majority of the respondents are less aware as to their role before and after disaster. Public information before, during and after disaster is an important aspect of disaster management in the Philippines. Both through training and public education campaigns the disaster coordinating councils maintain and enhance public awareness of disaster reduction. Manuals and bulletins provided to media professionals help keep disaster preparedness in the public agenda. Special events like civil defense day, fire prevention month, disaster consciousness week, and the day for the international decade for natural disaster reduction help to mobilize civic consciousness (Carter, 2008).

4. Conclusion

The findings of this study will be the basis to look deeply the training needs of our students for them to become capable force- multipliers of the Philippine National Police and to any of the agencies in charge for the protection of lives and properties particularly during the time of disaster. The administrator, faculty and staff should work together in launching programs

or activities that will further enhance student's level of awareness on disaster preparedness. Since there are indicators that the respondents rated **less aware** like knowledge as to the role to be accomplished before and after the disaster, the administration, faculty and staff should work together in launching programs or activities that will further enhance student's level of awareness on the cited matter.

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