



FORTIFYING DISASTER RESILIENCE: CHALLENGES, COPING STRATEGIES, AND ASPIRATIONS OF DAVAO REGION'S DRRMOCs IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE WELLBEING OF COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT – Being the world's most disaster-prone nation, the Philippines is an enviable position that highlights the necessity of having strong Disaster Risk Reduction Management Operations Centers (DRRMOC). These facilities are essential for lessening the effects of natural disasters. In particular, the Davao Region's Operations Centers act as essential centers for response cluster coordination. Under normal conditions, they provide routine monitoring and report production, acting as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of a potential emergency. However, the lack of funding for these DRRMOCs presents serious difficulties. This study explores the challenges faced by the DRRMOCs in the Davao Region, looking at their strategies for overcoming setbacks, constraints, goals, and understanding of the larger catastrophe context and each wellbeing taken into account. Twenty-five informants took part in focus groups and interviews, including DRRMOC staff and victims of disasters. The results show that the Davao Region's DRRMOCs face difficulties related to resource limitations, such as decreased output, work inefficacy, and staff burnout. In spite of these obstacles, the DRRMOCs use coping mechanisms such staff empowerment, resource efficiency, and positive resource management to get over operational difficulties. The need of establishing uniform resource requirements, bolstering capacity building, and allotting adequate funds to remove operational obstacles are emphasized in the discussion. In addition, it becomes clear that engaging stakeholders and carrying out doable tasks are essential elements of improving readiness when confronted with constraints. In summary, although the Philippines must confront its extreme catastrophe susceptibility, proactive steps, sufficient funding, and cooperative efforts may strengthen the DRRMOCs, guaranteeing a more effective response to the challenges inherent in disaster management with the community wellbeing as the prime goal.

Keywords: coping mechanism, disaster experiences, environmental management



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