

THE EARTHQUAKE DRILL PREPAREDNESS OF COMMONWEALTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY COMMONWEALTH QUEZON CITY

ABSTRACT

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Earthquakes pose a significant risk to school communities, making preparedness a critical aspect of disaster risk reduction. This study assessed the level of earthquake preparedness among school personnel by examining their demographic profile, knowledge of safety protocols, participation in drills, availability of emergency kits, awareness of evacuation plans, challenges encountered, and proposed improvement measures. The findings aim to support the development of more effective and sustainable preparedness programs in educational institutions. A quantitative descriptive research design was used. Fifty (50) respondents participated, composed of 30 Teachers and other Staff, 15 BDRMC, and 5 BFP officials. Data were gathered through a structured survey questionnaire. Statistical tools included frequency and percentage distribution, weighted mean, and ANOVA. Findings revealed that most respondents were aged 34-41, predominantly female, largely married, and college-educated. Overall preparedness levels were high. Personnel demonstrated strong understanding of safety protocols (mean = 3.88), particularly the "duck cover, and hold" procedure. Participation in earthquake drills was also rated highly (mean = 3.95), indicating familiarity with appropriate actions. However, some respondents reported reduced confidence following drills, suggesting the need for more frequent practice. Awareness of evacuation plans (mean = 3.75) and availability of emergency kits (mean = 3.74) were satisfactory, though maintenance and restocking of kits were inconsistently performed. Key challenges included fear or lack of seriousness during drills (27.5%), insufficient equipment or space (24.4%), overcrowded classrooms (18.3%), limited knowledge (15.3%), and time constraints (14.5%). While school personnel exhibited a generally high level of earthquake preparedness, several issues remain. Enhancing regular safety training, improving drill frequency, ensuring consistent emergency kit maintenance, and updating evacuation plans are recommended. Addressing resource limitations and environmental constraints is essential to strengthening institutional readiness. Sustained preparedness efforts are vital to ensuring the safety of both staff and students.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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