Original Article

The Disaster Resiliency Situation of Catarman Northern Samar

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Abstract - *This study generally aimed to ascertain the disaster resiliency situation of Catarman Northern Samar. Specifically, it aimed to document the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, civil status, educational attainment, occupation, monthly income, disaster experienced (10 years past), training attended (disaster preparedness); to know the disaster resiliency situation of the Municipality; to identify the capacities; to identify the vulnerabilities; and to draw recommendations/suggestions from the residents in Catarman, Northern Samar to improve disaster preparedness and immediate recovery for future disaster.*

The descriptive survey method was utilized in this study with 273 respondents. It used the survey questionnaire to gather the needed data.

Based on the data gathered, the following are the salient findings of the study:

On the profile of the respondents, most of the respondents were within the age bracket of 31-40 years old, married female, and reached high school level of education. The occupation was housekeeping with monthly income ranged from five thousand (5,000) below. They have experienced floods and attended training on disaster risk reduction and management.

Most of the respondents do not have stable jobs or incomes. Most respondents have memories of past disasters and have good hygiene practices.

In social protection, most of the respondents said that there were NGOs in their Barangay; and the Barangay has a well-developed plan for floods and other hazards.

Among the capacities, roads and highways were marked as the most functional. Houses made of light materials were the most vulnerable.

Household resources stocked/prepared by most of the respondents were clothing.

Suggestions/recommendations from the respondents to improve the disaster preparedness in their Barangay were many, but most of them suggested the construction of an Evacuation Center.

Keywords - *Disaster resiliency, Descriptive survey, Social protection*

I. INTRODUCTION

Communities worldwide are increasingly impacted by disasters arising from natural hazards, conflict, and humanitarian emergencies or man-made events. These disasters frequently occur in unexpected forms, magnitude, and locations, making it virtually impossible to prevent or address all such threats.

Resilience to disaster is an important status a community must possess. It is to withstand crisis events and have an enhanced ability to recover from residual impacts and return to their original state. A culture of disaster preparedness will allow many days, and to recover from an emergency even quickly.

Various community assets should be considered when evaluating community resilience, such as community member skills, knowledge, experience, and motivation, as well as physical assets and the connections between them. It is important to consider the internal community structure, the community resources, and adaptive capacities.

Literature speaks about a "change agent". Since then, a community development worker fits such as its modern role and is equipped with power and authority to deliver changes in the community. Community development workers have the main responsibility of organizing through community people's participation by assessing them in finding the main problems and issues of the community, especially in facilitating them in building a sustainable disaster-resilient community.

This study described the disaster resiliency situation in a community, particularly in Catarman Northern Samar. The researchers chose this study in order to know better the community disaster situation and would like to enlighten community people that disaster preparedness is very important. Catarman is the target location of our study because it is located in low-lying areas where flooding is very frequent. Hence, preparedness is important. Likewise, it is a way to facilitate experiences and the best practices on how to mitigate, prevent, recover and rehabilitate the

community to engage and understand safety and security.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study generally aimed to ascertain the disaster resiliency situation in Catarman, Northern Samar. Specifically, this study aimed to:

1. To document the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of:
   a. Age
   b. Sex
   c. Civil status
   d. Educational attainment
   e. Occupation
   f. Monthly income
   g. Disaster experience (10 years ago)
   h. Training attended (disaster preparedness)
2. To know the disaster resiliency situation in Catarman, Northern Samar.
3. To identify the capacities in Catarman, Northern Samar.
4. To identify the vulnerabilities in Catarman, Northern Samar.
5. To enumerate recommendations/suggestions of the residents in Catarman, Northern Samar, to improve disaster preparedness and immediate recovery for future disasters.

III. METHODOLOGY

The respondents of this study were specifically the head of households and the Officials of Catarman, Northern Samar.

The research instrument used in this study was the survey questionnaire. It consists of five (5) parts.

Part I delved into the socio-demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, sex, educational attainment, civil status, monthly income, disaster experienced, and training attended pertaining to disaster preparedness.

Part II delved into the community disaster resiliency situation by attempting to measure vulnerability and capacity assessment components (VCA Components) such as livelihood, self-protection, social protection, governance and well-being.

Part III gathered data on the available resources or capacities and vulnerabilities in the municipality. Part IV delved into the household resources being prepared.

Part V delved into the suggestions of recommendations of the residents in Catarman, Northern Samar, which greatly helped in the improvement of disaster preparedness as well as immediate recovery.

Part VI of the instrument was lifted from the DRRM manual, and the rest were made by the researchers.

The data gathered were through the survey questionnaire. The instrument was administered to the respondents.

Upon retrieval, data gathered were collated, tabulated, and statistically treated for analysis and interpretation.

Therefore, conclusions and recommendations were presented.

The variables of this study were age, sex, educational attainment, occupation, monthly income, disaster experienced and training attended pertaining to disaster preparedness.

For purposes of analysis and interpretation, the variables were quantified as follows;

Age was categorized as:

20-30 years old

31-40 years old

41-50 years old

51-60 years old

Sex was categorized as:

Male

Female

Educational Attainment was categorized as:

Elementary Level

Elementary Graduate

High School Level

High School Graduate

College Level

College Graduate

The occupation was categorized as:

Self-Employed

Government Employee

Part-time job

Private Employees

Disaster Experienced was categorized as:

Natural Disaster

Man-made Disaster

Training attended was categorized as:

Seminar

Workshop

Games

Frequency counts, percentages, and rankings were used to analyze the data. All items in the research instrument were treated accordingly using the following:

P= f/n x 100

Where:

P= Percentage

f= frequency

n= total number of respondents

100= constant multiplier

IV. FINDINGS

This study determined the disaster resiliency situation of Catarman, Northern Samar.

The study employed a descriptive survey method. The survey questionnaire was used to gather the necessary data. The data gathered were analyzed statistically using frequency counts, percentages, and ranking.

Based on the data gathered, the following were the salient findings of the study.

On the respondents' socio-demographic profile, most of the respondents were married females 31-40 years old and reached high school level of education. The occupation was housekeeping with monthly income ranged from five thousand (5,000) below. They have experienced floods and attended training on disaster risk reduction and management.

For livelihood, most of the respondents do not have stable jobs or incomes. Respondents have memories of past disasters; have good hygiene practices; most of the respondents said that there were NGOs in their barangay; and well-developed plans for floods and other hazards.

Among the capacities, roads and highways were marked as the most functional. Houses made of light materials were the most vulnerable.

Household resources stocked/prepared by most of the respondents is clothing.

Suggestions/ recommendations forwarded by the respondents to improve their disaster preparedness were the construction of an Evacuation Center; clearing of drainage canal; the community should have rescue motorboats; should have alternative livelihood; water pump, concrete pathways; street CCTV in order to secure the safety of the community people; garbage trucks; housing assistance; relocation of unsafe houses to a safe area; solid waste management; standby vehicles; community solidarity and accountable officials.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. The Municipal Officials should conduct training regarding disaster preparedness with the participation of the community for awareness building.
2. Municipal officials should generate alternative livelihood projects to help augment household income so they may be able to provide the things needed for disaster preparedness, among others.
3. An evacuation center should be constructed as many families need shelter during disasters/calamities as their houses are made of light materials which are vulnerable.
4. Households should be disaster prepared. There is a need to stock crucial resources such as basic needs to survive in times of disaster/calamities.
5. Suggestions listed must be priorities by the officials. They should take action, not just position for the improvement of disaster preparedness in their community.

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