Innovative Disaster Emergency Response Services Plan in Pangasinan

Maricar B. Bautista
Leona Irah G. Erguiza
Zyrine Jane B. Manaois
Catherine D. Sindao

This study was undertaken to examine the innovative disaster emergency response services plans implemented in the Province of Pangasinan. Specifically, it aimed to describe the risk profiles of selected local government units (LGUs), assess the standard disaster emergency response services and the challenges encountered across the four thematic areas of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM): Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery. The study also explored the innovative emergency response strategies adopted by the City of Dagupan and the Municipality of Calasiao, Pangasinan.

The main subjects of the research were the heads of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) of Dagupan City and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) of Calasiao. To collect relevant data, the researchers used interview guide questions and document analysis as primary instruments.

This study employed a qualitative research design, focusing on the analysis, understanding, and interpretation of non-numerical data related to the innovations in disaster emergency response services initiated by the selected LGUs. The MDRRMO and CDRRMO heads served as the major sources of information, given their crucial roles in disaster preparedness and response operations. Dagupan City and Calasiao were identified as the research sites based on the findings of Estember et al. (2018), which classified these areas as among the most disaster-prone in Pangasinan, particularly susceptible to typhoons and flooding.

The researchers began the study by securing necessary permissions and data. A formal request letter, signed by both the researchers and the research instructor, was submitted to the concerned offices. The team first visited the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) in Lingayen, Pangasinan, to obtain official data verifying that Dagupan City and Calasiao were among the most flood-prone areas in the province. After securing this information, the researchers proceeded to the selected LGUs to gather additional data.

Before conducting interviews, the researchers sought approval from the Mayor's Office and then proceeded to the DRRM Offices to request copies of their Contingency Plans and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans. These documents, along with responses from the interviews, formed the foundation of the data used in the study. The selection of respondents was conducted with consideration of their willingness to participate, ensuring ethical research practices and the protection of participants. Interview questions were delivered clearly and comprehensively to obtain precise and relevant responses. All data collected were subsequently tabulated, analyzed, and interpreted systematically.

Secondary data gathered from official reports and related literature underwent document analysis, focusing on the innovative emergency response practices of the two DRRM Offices. The researchers used thematic analysis to identify emerging patterns and themes from the data. As stated by Caulfield (2019), thematic analysis enables researchers to examine qualitative data by categorizing and organizing responses into meaningful themes. This method facilitated the identification of common ideas, innovative practices, and patterns across various data sources, ultimately helping the researchers to develop new concepts and insights relevant to disaster response innovations.

The study's findings revealed that innovative disaster emergency response services are actively implemented in the selected LGUs. These innovations are categorized into four key areas: technologies, facilities, products, and approaches. Each innovation serves as an alternative or complementary method that demonstrates efficiency and effectiveness in addressing various disaster situations. The results also showed that most of these innovative practices originated from community initiatives,

reflecting the local population’s adaptability and resilience in facing recurring natural disasters such as typhoons and floods.

Based on these findings, the study recommends the adoption and enhancement of innovative practices as models for improving disaster response and management strategies. Furthermore, it suggests the intensification of seminars, workshops, and training programs focused on disaster response, as well as the strengthening of collaboration between rescuers and the general public. These measures would improve coordination during emergencies and allow communities to address both minor and major challenges more effectively.

In conclusion, the study highlights the significant role of innovation in enhancing local disaster emergency response services. The proactive efforts of LGUs such as Dagupan City and Calasiao demonstrate that creativity, technology, and community involvement are key to building a more resilient and prepared province in the face of natural disasters.