

Awareness of the Students in Fire Safety Features of Public Schools in Lingayen, Pangasinan

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This study aimed to determine the awareness of the students in fire safety features of public schools in Lingayen, Pangasinan. It utilized the descriptive method and questionnaire to gather data. The researchers prepared a set of questionnaire and validated by five experts including the BFP Fire Marshall of Lingayen, the BFP SPO3 in Lingayen, Chairperson of Public Administration, ABEL Instructor, and PE/NSTP Coordinator. The improved questionnaire was distributed to the senior high school students of Pangasinan National High School and Pangasinan School of Arts and Trades. The sample size is 362.

Frequency counts and percentages were used in determining the profile of the respondents. The average weighted mean was applied to determine the level of awareness of the students in Fire Safety Features, and the rank was also used to determine the challenges encountered by the students in Fire Safety Features.

Based on the findings of the study, several conclusions were drawn regarding the level of awareness and challenges encountered by Senior High School students in Pangasinan National High School and Pangasinan School of Arts and Trades concerning fire safety features. The results indicate that most of the respondents belong to the age group of 16 to 18 years old, representing the typical age range of senior high school students. The majority of the participants were female and enrolled in Grade 11. When asked about their experiences with fire incidents, most students responded that they had not experienced any actual fire emergency. However, a large number of them had attended fire drills conducted within their schools, reflecting a basic exposure to fire safety practices.

The study further reveals that the overall level of awareness of students regarding fire safety features was rated as "Moderately Aware." This implies that while students possess a general understanding of fire safety concepts, there remain significant gaps in their knowledge and practical application of these safety measures. Among the most common challenges identified were: (1) lack of sufficient knowledge on the proper use of fire extinguishers and other protective equipment, (2) limited familiarity with the types and locations of protective equipment available within school premises, (3) difficulty in interpreting and understanding various fire safety measures and procedures, (4) limited opportunities to attend seminars or training sessions provided by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Lingayen, and (5) poor accessibility of critical fire protection systems such as alarm pull stations, sprinklers, and fire extinguishers during emergencies.

Additionally, statistical analysis using the chi-square test revealed that there is no significant relationship between the students' profile variables—such as age, sex, and grade level—and their level of awareness of fire safety features. This finding suggests that demographic characteristics do not directly influence the students' understanding or preparedness in terms of fire safety, thereby supporting the acceptance of the null hypothesis.

In light of these conclusions, the researchers proposed several recommendations aimed at enhancing the students' knowledge and preparedness in fire safety. Firstly, it is strongly recommended that the school administrations collaborate with BFP Lingayen to regularly conduct seminars, orientations, and hands-on training sessions for Senior High School students. These activities would help strengthen their practical skills and confidence in responding to fire emergencies. Secondly, public schools are encouraged to install reliable fire detection systems, such as smoke detectors and heat sensors, in every building to provide early warnings through both audible and visible alarms. Schools are also advised to provide backup power sources like generator sets to ensure the continuous operation of alarm systems during power interruptions.

Moreover, the installation of swing-out or outward-opening doors is recommended to facilitate faster evacuation during emergencies. Schools should also display clear and complete safety color codes and signage throughout the campus to help students easily recognize different safety symbols and their meanings. Lastly, the Department of Education (DepEd) is encouraged to prioritize and allocate financial assistance to public schools for the procurement and maintenance of essential fire safety equipment and facilities. Through these measures, schools can create a safer learning environment and significantly improve students' awareness, preparedness, and responsiveness in the event of a fire emergency.