

## **The Roles of Men, Women, and Children to DRRM in the five Barangays of Pasacao, Camarines Sur, Philippines**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present study determines the strategies men, women, and children used to support the gaps in the LGUs DRRM program in the five barangays of Pasacao, Camarines Sur, Philippines. The study adopted a descriptive-survey design, utilizing 375 respondents for the survey, FGDs to 25 barangay officials, and interview series to 30 individuals. The analyzed quantitative data used descriptive statistics, while qualitative data employed content analysis. The study revealed that men are known as the strength of each family. Having DRRM preparation measures, protecting their families, and being able to respond, restore and repair. The women play significant DRRM support in the family through their ability to respond to household safety, family needs, and resource management. The children assist with family DRRM strategies by following parental instructions, taking care of younger siblings, and participating in family undertakings. Formal DRRM training is needed, but the family's adopted strategy works well during disasters.

Key words: DRRM, natural calamities, family strategy, gender roles, children's safety

## **1.0 Introduction**

The occurrences of one calamity to the other highly impacted the living condition of men, women, and children in the Philippines. Rich and poor alike are vulnerable to the natural calamities triggered by today's climate change. Though technology-predicting gadgets are available, it is not an assurance to contend with the effects of disasters. Still, the advantage of strategic planning plays a significant role in having zero casualties.

Filipinos are generally labeled resilient because of their ability to smile and throw jokes even when they are in a predicament. The embedded character illustrates the Filipino quote, "*Bahala na*" (come what may). The saying connoted a positive affirmation that everything will return to normal eventually. However, the saying is also one way of tolerating the lack of precautionary measures for any natural calamities resulting in disastrous events.

Generally, insufficient DRRM preparation before a natural calamity strikes equates to poverty (Israel & Briones, 2014; Baybay & Hindmarsh, 2019). Filipino families are so preoccupied with their individual financial needs that attending any DRRM strategy application in the community is ignored (Nkoana et al., 2017). Hence, tragedy usually happens due to disobedience, particularly in evacuation issues (Japan International Cooperation Agency, 2015). Similarly, the public officials' inefficiency in carrying out the needed support to people in providing DRRM awareness and skills added to the challenges in DRRM preparedness (Senate Economic Planning Office, 2017).

Though there are other observable flaws in the country's DRRM strategy on preparedness, the needed focus to strategize is the implementation at the level of families.

## **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

As part of the Bicol region, Camarines Sur is prone to typhoons. It received much of its onslaught in the coastal areas, which triggered other natural hazards to develop and affect the communities. In the municipality of Pasacao, most hard-hit areas are mainly populous. Five of its nineteen barangays are considered the business area where people live permanently, and many are transients. Since the municipality is a gateway to various sea routes in and out of the province, the people's mobility and residence constantly fluctuate. Nevertheless, they all become victims of nature's atrocities during and after the onset of natural calamities.

Primarily, the families suffered the most due to the lack of futuristic strategies and valuable information on disaster awareness, skills training, and official plans. That is why recovery after natural calamities is a struggle for everyone. In this aspect, the strength of men and women clearly defined the partnership often overlooked. Thus, the necessity of the partnership highlights building a robust DRRM strategy backed by the local government unit.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The study's objective was to determine the strategies men, women, and children used in pre, during, and post-disaster activities based on their experiences with natural calamities.

## **1.3 Theoretical Framework of the Study.**

This study utilized the Social role theory of Eagly (1987a). The theory talked about the socialization process of men and women. Accordingly, the skills formed by men and women contribute to their co-existence. The theory provided support to probe the specific roles played by men and women in their families in pre, during, and post-disaster activities. It served as a basis for defining the perspectives of men and women in DRRM strategizing. Thus, the similarities and differences complemented their roles as a family.

## **2.0 Review of Related Literature**

The World Economic Forum (2018) ranked the Philippines third among the countries identified as a disaster-prone areas. Situated in the ring of fire (France-Presse, 2013; Dangan, 2018) and beyond human control (Persson & Povitkina, 2017), natural calamities usually bombarded the country. Such natural calamities would severely damage the lives and economy of the people. Significantly, the natural hazards that would constantly hit the nation are floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and droughts (Bollettino et al., 2020a). Notably, the record shows that various disastrous events impacted the Philippines with billions of damages, including typhoon Haiyan in 2013 (Jha et al., 2018; Eadie et al., 2020). These natural hazards are the government's main concerns as they always pose a national threat to the overall function of the country.

In response to the people's needs, establishing the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMP) provides a possible effective rebut against the different hazards. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (2012) has four priority areas such as (a) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, (b) Disaster Preparedness, (c) Disaster Response, and (d) Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation. The priority areas were mainstreamed in the region and LGU (Local Government Unit) to ensure mitigation and preparedness among the communities through creating and applying policies.

However, Bollettino et al. (2020b) showed that gaps could be seen clearly in the regional management and capacity of the necessary measures and by the insufficient data on disaster responses in the locality. Bandol (2012) and Alampay et al. (2019) mentioned that the entire population must know about the collaboration between the provincial and barangay officials. Such partnership assists the community with better awareness of the plans and strategies to have the necessary competencies for disaster mitigation (Ritchie & Jiang, 2019). As there needs to be more communication and preparation before any natural calamities occur, there is always a tendency for inefficient prevention and implementation, resulting in mishaps. Thus, there should be an outstanding presence of "cognition, communication, and coordination" to avoid further damage (Steigenberger, 2016). Though there were efforts created, the gaps are noticeable as the poorest are the most that suffered from its impact.

The impact of natural disasters or calamities is varied among individuals. Primarily, the impact is on the economic aspect of the communities as it would always suggest disrupting the people's everyday living conditions. Second, the impact is also persisting, particularly in mental health issues. Irmansyah et al. (2010) and Swan et al. (2017) mentioned the lasting effect of social and psychological factors on the victims of disasters. They are most likely to suffer from post-traumatic syndrome, which would need an intervention to safeguard the community's mental health. Preparedness is not only about the effective strategy for combating disasters but the mental readiness of individuals. The communities and barangay officials should be involved in planning activities in disaster management before, during, and after an emergency. There is a need to emphasize that disaster preparedness should be a never-ending process as there is no perfect approach to the various disasters encountered (Bautista-Cruz, 2007; Finn, 2019). Indeed, disaster preparedness activities must be integrated fully into families so that people will become more aware of what to do before, during, and after the disaster.

The national government efforts through the NDRRMP recognize the importance of gender participation and decision-making in disaster mitigation and preparedness in community-based endeavors. The idea is to reduce the vulnerabilities encountered and to exercise the complementary roles of men and women within the family. The differences between men's and women's strengths harmonized and balanced their weaknesses within the household. Nevertheless, men and women are susceptible to dangers with strong physiological survival motives for self-preservation (Mobbs et

al., 2015). That is why men's and women's experiences at the onset of disasters must not be ignored but must be acknowledged to create a secure partnership in achieving a safer household. Women are often discriminated against for acting out in disasters due to their weaker physique, but their substantial contribution to society is unquestionable (Osia-Britanico, 2006; Koenig, 2018). Hence, women are known to be the protector of the children and the elderly, which is why they need to be more capacitated in DRRM.

According to Kaime (2018), children have the right to live healthily in a secure environment. Moya et al. (2004) and Czaja (2016) stressed further that “children are not little adults”; they have the risk of making unreasonable decisions due to cognitive immaturity. That means that the adults surrounding them should know better to respond to dire situations. The adults’ guidance is an effective exercise for the children to develop a particular skill in responding to dangerous situations. Thus, every family needs a concrete DRRM strategy and understanding to play a particular role in disaster mitigation and preparedness.

### **3.0 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Research Design:**

The study employed a descriptive survey design. The design will help comprehensively describe the facts and details of a given group of people according to the study’s particular interest (Dulock, 1993). Through the survey method, Adit (2020) emphasized that collecting data using the appropriate questionnaire can provide the needed answers to the study. Further, Creswell (2012) inferred that a survey process as quantitative research could describe the populations, characteristics, opinions, and attitudes. Indeed the flexibility of a descriptive survey can enhance the study as it can use quantitative and qualitative data to divulge much-needed information on a particular topic (Doyle et al., 2020).

#### **3.2 Location of the Study:**

The location selected by the study took place in the five barangays of Pasacao Camarines Sur, Philippines. Four of the barangays - Balogo, Caranan, San Cirilo, and Sta. Rosa Del Sur contained the plains, coastal and mountainous areas. These places are home to ports, beaches, farming and fishing, markets, and large oil depots. Further, only Sta Rosa del Norte comprises various offices, business establishments, and schools of all grade levels in the municipality and is landlocked by the four barangays. Thus the five barangays are home to meager-income households to a small population of well-to-do families. These barangays had a booming population of residents and transients who came and went daily.

#### **3.3 Target Population**

The study's target population is the permanent residents of men, women, and children in the five barangays mentioned. The population is mainly composed of farmers and fisher folks, teachers, government employees, entrepreneurs, stevedores, and school and out-of-school youth within the five barangays of the municipality. The population is separated according to the ages of both men and women (18-60 years old) and children (8-17 years old).

#### **3.4 Sampling Technique and Sample Size.**

Based on the population of 19,684 according to the Barangay Health Workers’ Survey of 2015, the study selected 375 respondents according to the sampling technique of Krejcie and Morgan (1970). The number distribution is through stratified sampling. The five barangays received 75 slots, each giving out 25 for each group of male, female, and children respondents. The number was divided

according to the ages of men, women, and children respondents through simple random sampling and answered the distributed questionnaires. Further, additional respondents underwent a series of FGD and individual interviews to make up for the qualitative part of the data collection process. There were 25 barangay officials involved in the FGD and 30 residents for the individual random interviews

**Table 1. Sample size**

Barangays	Respondents			Total
	Men (18-60 years old)	Women (18-60 years old)	Children (8-17 years old)	
Balogo	25	25	25	75
Caranan	25	25	25	75
Sta Del Norte	25	25	25	75
Sta Del Sur	25	25	25	75
San Cirilo	25	25	25	75
Total	125	125	125	375

### 3.5 Quality Control of the Research Tool.

The utilized research tools underwent piloting for validity and reliability. The questionnaire for the quantitative part is composed of survey questions about their awareness of the natural calamities in their places, the DRRM approach conducted in their place, their vulnerabilities, and known roles as males and females. The conducted guide question further elucidates the points not expressed in the questionnaire using the NDRRMP thematic areas to shape the concept of men, women, and children's DRRM involvement. The research tools were checked by an interrater for the pre-testing. The chosen participants' responses served as a guide in enhancing the items in the questionnaire before their final usage.

### 3.6 Data Collection Procedure.

The researcher visited the Barangay Health Workers (BHW) Office of each barangay as the study's initial activity. She asked their assistance to accompany her in distributing the questionnaires to the chosen respondents, which were collected after a few days. Likewise, the researcher administered the FGDs and interviews separately for men, women, and children in an agreed schedule and venue.

### 3.7 Data Analysis Procedure.

The conducted analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data is according to the descriptive survey design. The study analyzed the quantitative data through descriptive statistics, which involved checking and exploring all the answers in the questionnaires. Further, the study conducted qualitative data investigation through content analysis. They organized the transcribed interviews into themes and sub-themes according to the study's objectives.

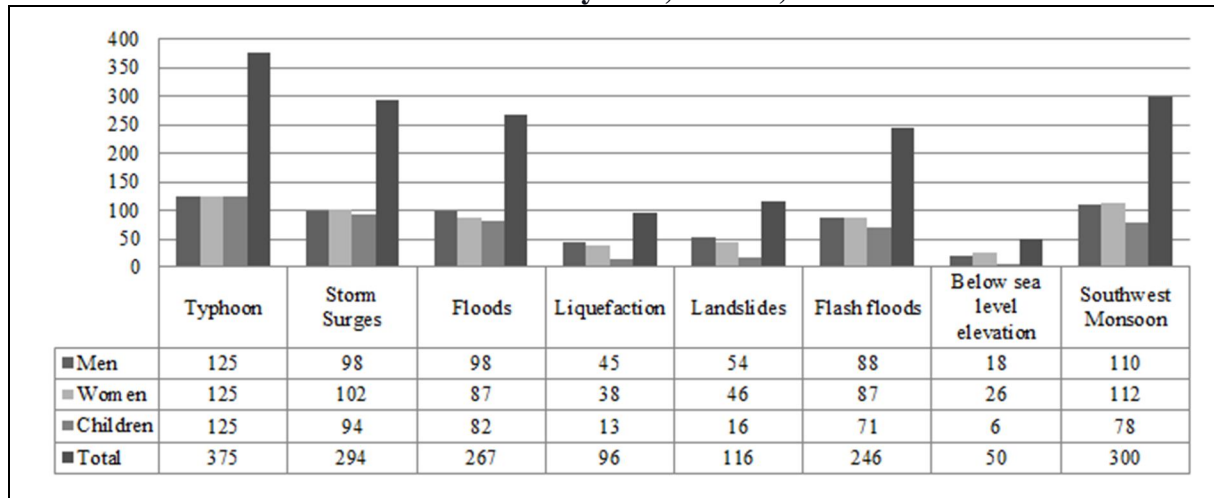
### 3.8 Ethical Consideration

The study complied with the necessary ethical procedures to maintain the transparency of the result and promote the moral obligation not to encourage any form of cheating and fraud in any scientific inquiry (Stern & Elliot, 1997). The respondents were given a proper introduction and information about the study's intent. Thus the intention was printed on the first page of the questionnaires they answered. Nevertheless, the researcher gave the local barangay officials a letter informing them that the study and a survey would take place in their barangay. The researcher also gave informed consent letters to individuals to assure them of the scope and limit of their participation in the study

(Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). Further, the researcher issued parental consent from the parents of the minors involved in the study. Hence during the presentation, participants were assured that they would be given pseudonyms in the study reporting to maintain the confidentiality of the individuals involved.

## 4.0 Findings and Discussion

### 4.1 The natural calamities encountered by men, women, and children.



**Figure 1: Natural calamities identified by the respondents**

Findings showed that a *typhoon* is a typical natural calamity encountered by the respondents in the five barangays. Each typhoon would usually cause storm surges, flooding, flash floods, landslides, and liquefaction that would terrify the residents and affect their livelihoods. Though liquefaction, landslides, and below-sea-level elevation are not present in every barangay, their presence still threatens people's lives. Similarly, the seasonal southwest monsoon triggers poverty in the coastal areas as many residents depend on the sea for their livelihood.

As the threat is imminent in every community, the officials admitted that the entire Council had limited resources to carry out the DRRM programs. Their preparation and responses when a disaster strikes – usually typhoon - is to evacuate the marginalized residents to a safer place and buildings owned by the local government. Though some barangays have no definite plans but to wait for the Municipal announcement, some barangays have conducted DRRM activities. However, the nonchalance of the community people to participate made the given initiatives unsuccessful.

Notably, based on the FGD with the barangay officials and random interviews among individuals, the gaps in DRRM initiatives in the five barangays emphasized the need for strengthening family participation in alleviating the effect of disasters.

### 4.2 The roles of men, women, and children in their DRRM practice.

The percentage distribution findings of the entire population in the five barangays revealed that men constituted 30.8%, women at 28.57%, and children at 40.63%. The more significant number of children dependent on adults could mean a risky chance of survival during disasters. Nevertheless, families, regardless of socio-economic status, developed a mechanism familiar to their struggles. The findings below showed the roles of men, women, and children in each household, particularly when a typhoon hit the places, using the four thematic areas of NDRRMP.



	MEN	WOMEN	CHILDREN	
	<b>P R E V E N T I O N</b>			
<b>PRE DISASTER * Task Dissemination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuning in to updates</li> <li>• Safe-keeping of The family, house and Livelihood</li> <li>• Avoidance of dangerous places</li> <li>• Securing of food and water supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuning in to updates</li> <li>• Safety of the children</li> <li>• Securing of important Documents and emergency Funds</li> <li>• Preparation of the first aid kit, medicine, and other emergency tools necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• staying indoors</li> <li>• Keep their own belongings</li> <li>• following Parental instructions</li> </ul>	<b>M I T I G A T I O N</b>
<b>DURING DISASTER *Staying calm and focus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of the previously learned survival skills</li> <li>• Alertness to emergency</li> <li>• security of the family and self</li> <li>• Staying connected to the Barangay updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• first aid application as the need arises</li> <li>• staying connected to the updates</li> <li>• alertness to unexpected undertaking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keeping children close at hand</li> <li>• Older Children may assist the Parents according to Skills and Capacity</li> <li>• Minor children should Be close at hand</li> </ul>	
<b>POST DISASTER *Adjustment To disasters and self-sufficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rescue in an emergency situation</li> <li>• inspection of home damages</li> <li>• repair and reconstruction</li> <li>• food sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitating of the household concerns</li> <li>• food sustainability</li> <li>• health and security of children</li> <li>• Clean-up drive participation within the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor children Should be in a safe place</li> <li>• Older Children may initiate home activities acceptable to parents</li> </ul>	
	<b>R E C O V E R Y</b>			
<b>R E S P O N S E</b>				<b>M I T I G A T I O N</b>

Figure 2: The men, women and children’s DRRM mechanism

4.2.1 Men as the strength of the family

As the nuclear families in the five barangays are still highly patriarchal, the respondents unanimously described men as the strength of the family. The confidence in what men can perform as the family head is still respected by the family members. The narratives presented three themes for their roles in the DRRM, *the ability to prepare measures, the ability to protect the family, and the ability to respond, restore and repair.*

The constant visit of tropical cyclones has always been a life blow among the residents. Hence, the situation presented the substantiated strength of men. The respondents’ narratives showed that *the ability to prepare measures* was men’s strength. It included tuning in to the updates on the incoming typhoon. As one respondent said,

“The beginning of the preparation is the confirmation that a typhoon has already entered the Philippine area of responsibility. Otherwise, there is no need to prepare for anything.”

Next to the preparation is the safekeeping of the family, house, and livelihood. Since there are fishermen in four barangays, most asserted that they secure their fishing boats first and that farmers harvest their crops early. They said, “protecting their livelihood means protecting their families.” Moreover, avoiding dangerous places is usually observed by the following activities of the residents. (1) Cutting of trees that may affect the nearby houses, (2) the early evacuation of the coastal area residents, and (3) staying away from sites with visible threats as instructed by the local

barangay officials. Most respondents expressed that it is already an expected initiative of men that they are in charge of securing food and water supply as a family head. As one male respondent said, "Of course, it is already the rule of thumb that we, as 'fathers,' should be in charge of feeding our families. That is why we work so hard - to bring food to the table, particularly during calamities."

Most men from marginalized families tried to provide something for their household members. Though there are cases when some men abandon their families and leave all the responsibilities to women, most men in the area are still good providers.

Another theme that describes men's strength is the *ability to protect their families*. Most of the respondents supported the idea, particularly the children. They revealed that having the presence of their "fathers" in times of need provided them security. The application of the previously learned survival skills is men's way of showing their deep involvement in the family. One respondent explained,

"We all have inborn skills to provide for and protect our families. Though we are poor, we were taught to live the hard way, and surviving in daily life is already our achievement. Of course, there is no way that we, men, should be idle."

As the respondents admitted that they lack DRRM skills, their ingenuity and instinct guide their emergency alertness before and during a violent storm. One male respondent shared, "I am nervous most of the time, but I do not let my family see it." One added, "I need to pretend things are okay."

The findings also showed that men are conscious of maintaining the safety of the family and self. It is the end goal during an encounter with disaster. One man explained, "It is okay to lose everything in calamities as long as everyone in the family is okay." Many respondents agreed that material things are replaceable while one's life is not. That is why they made sure they were together during the ordeal to take care of one another. To ensure whether the situation is good or bad, men stay connected to the barangay updates through text or chat messages. If they have no mobile phone at home, they keep in touch with their neighbors. Indeed, maintaining a good relationship with everyone in the community is the goal of every family so they can have someone to lean on during emergencies.

Another theme to support the strength of men is their *ability to restore and repair* after a calamity strikes. Admittedly, the first thing men do is inspect home damages. Though they said that the destruction encounter is nerve-wracking, they have in mind that life must go on. As the physical strength of men is evident, during the recovery period, they are in charge of repairing and reconstructing their respective houses. As one respondent said,

"The most challenging part after the typhoon destruction is our helplessness - this is where the poor get poorer in the process. While we are repairing our houses, it feels like we are starting over as we used to when my wife and I were starting our family. The experience has always been a cycle"

Most respondents also described their roles in *rescue in an emergency* as a part of their response. Their assistance does not stop with their own family, as they explained that in times of emergencies where the community needed the men's strength, they are obliged to help. One respondent affirmed, "You need to help, so when you need them, they are also there. In life, there is this give-and-take relationship."



Most respondents said part of restoring is the ability of men to deal with food sustainability. Although they said that finding food after the calamity is difficult, it is their priority. The little savings, available crops, and relief from the local government and non-government organizations helped them get assistance. Nevertheless, their idea of food sustainability is to work laboriously to earn money to bring food to the table.

#### **4.2.2 Women as the support of the family**

Most of the respondents described women as family support. Their presence is highly recognized within the family as they play a versatile role that suffices the needs of both men and children. The emergent themes in the narratives of the respondents are the *ability to household safety*, *ability to respond to family needs*, and *ability to resource management*.

A more significant number of participants revealed that women's support during calamities is their *ability to ensure household safety*. Recognized as housekeepers, women in these places are still highly domesticated, which most respondents acknowledge as an essential quality of being a wife and a mother. Ensuring household safety, the priority of women during the onset of natural calamities is tuning into updates. Like men, women keep track of the typhoon's progress so they can act accordingly with their preparation. Similarly, during the preparation phase majority of the respondents identified the safety of their children as the top priority; as one respondent said,

“Of course, my children are the priority at home. When I know there is a bad weather, I ensure they are just near my sight. I do not want to see them going out. Repentance comes later.”

Most respondents stated that keeping the children at home is not just about their safety but for the peace of mind of the adults taking care of them. Further, another notable preparation conducted by women is the securing of important documents and emergency funds. They said that even if they have a small amount of money, it gives them enough assurance for the time being. It is something that women are already acquainted with doing when there is a calamity. One respondent said,

“As our men are busy preparing for the safe keeping of our house and livelihood, we women helped them equally by preparing to secure everything at home. So, when we go to the evacuation center, things are already settled. Moreover, going back, we can expect we still have our things intact.”

Hence, another critical concern described by the respondents is preparing the first aid kit, medicines, and other emergency tools. Such preparation is something that the women stated so essential for their family. Though few said they never prepared such because they have nothing, they said there are the barangay officials to assist them with their needs. However, most respondents said it is more difficult to wait for barangay assistance as it is limited. They need to do something for their family's necessities on their own. Indeed, the women's nurturing ability likewise expresses their sensitivity to situations, which is why they function well in crucial times.

Another theme to describe women as strong family support is their *ability to respond to family needs*. The DRRM responses of women vary depending on the situation. Their strong motivation to keep everyone safe forced women to participate in every aspect of family concerns. They performed first aid applications as the need arose. Though they admitted that they never had first aid training,

they are doing the ingenuity learned from the past to cure anyone unwell. One respondent said, "Our greatest cure is our trust in God." Highly Christianized, the respondents in the five barangays would always submit their fate to God's will.

Further, the participants disclosed that one way of lessening the risk is alertness to an unexpected situation. Most respondents pointed out that women tend to overthink and that overthinking is somehow helping them prepare for the unforeseen.

The respondents emphasized the role of women as mentally strong people matching the physical strength of men. Though women are known for being soft-hearted, they get superior inner strength when their family is at risk, particularly during the onset of calamities. A typhoon, on top of all the natural calamities, will always try the endurance and resilience of women.

Another finding to support women's ability to respond to family needs is staying connected to the updates during natural calamities' destruction. Staying connected to announcements gives them time to focus on what to prioritize and do next. They primarily relied on their gadgets or husbands to get informed of the latest updates. Since they are already preoccupied with the concerns inside the house, it is a common practice that men provide them the updates since they are usually out in the streets.

Further, the respondent cited the importance of keeping children close at hand during the onslaught of the typhoon. Most of the narratives believed that children must be taught to follow instructions and behave accordingly. One woman said,

"You know children will act without thinking, so accidents may happen anytime. That is why I keep telling them not to get out of my sight. I need to see them most of the time."

The women's fear of their children being out of sight stemmed from the news of Typhoon Haiyan, where many helpless children died. Considering the same scenario, most adult respondents admitted to becoming more protective of their children, particularly when experiencing calamity.

Another theme to describe women's family support is their *resource management ability*. The majority of the respondents are confident that women are highly resourceful. They always went out of their way to sustain the family's needs, even without men's help. This resourcefulness is what they call maternal instinct. Women can show resource management by facilitating household concerns during their post-disaster activity and recovery. As one respondent narrated,

"Of course, coming home from the evacuation center, the first thing that we do is clean the entire house. We are lucky to see it intact, but I feel sorry for my family when it is not. I usually cry seeing the vast devastation, but what can I do? I am just thankful to God that my husband and children are safe. We do extensive cleaning, keeping everything that is still useful".

Most of the respondents felt the heartbreak of ruins after the typhoon. However, everyone is already used to the calamities visiting the place where they have already built resilience. Hence, just like the men's concern, food sustainability is also the women's worry, particularly the marginalized families. After the typhoon, it is challenging for women to extend the food supply so it can last for a few days, asking the family members to be patient. Moreover, families with a pleasant living

standard have no problem with food supplies, and sometimes they extend a helping hand to low-income families.

Most of the respondents proudly said they never were out of inventiveness. Women with low-income families helped their men sustain their living by buying and selling anything that they could offer to augment the family's financial needs.

However, resource management does not end with caring for their own family. Hence, they are also active in playing their roles within the community. They commented that participation in clean-up drives within the community is also essential to being useful as a citizen. Just like men, women are also aware of the importance of having a good relationship with their neighbors, who, in times of dire need, they will have someone to rely upon. They also meant it as a support to resource management, where everyone in the community should help one another as they all belong in one community with shared resources.

#### **4.2.3 Children as assistants to the family**

The children, who comprised 40.63% of the entire population in the five barangays, became instantly vulnerable to natural calamities. Though most of them depend on the men and women adults in the family, the children aged 10-17 years old are already responsible enough to assist the parents. The emerging themes from the narratives of the respondent are as follows: *ability to follow parental instruction*, *ability to take care of the younger siblings*, and *ability to participate in family undertakings*.

The respondents declared that the best assistance of children to parents when there is an incoming typhoon is for their children to stay indoors. Staying indoors minimizes their mishaps risk, ensuring their safety while near the adults' supervision since children tend to explore a lot due to their playful nature. However, they fear their parents' anger, so they behave accordingly. One respondent said, "I do not want my parents to get mad at me, so I behaved."

Most of the respondents said that children aged ten years are old enough that they are already responsible for keeping their belongings in preparation for an incoming typhoon. Their parents would usually instruct them to keep their school materials, their clothes for evacuation, and other materials that the parents told them to bring. One child respondent said,

“Since I am the eldest, I feel responsible enough to help my parents, but I feel bad that we will need to go through this again. It is tiring, and I think this is an experience nobody deserves as a child. We feel deprived of the many things in life.”

Observably low-income families would involve children starting at ten years old in the errands the older siblings do. In contrast, those families with a higher income looked at ten to twelve years old as children not given heavy responsibilities yet.

Most respondents insisted that the children follow parental instructions to keep the family functioning. Since children act according to their instinct and cannot produce sound decisions so far, older adults limit them by simply requiring that they be obedient. Even older children should adhere to this to minimize the pressure of going against parental decisions. Though parents tend to hear suggestions from the older children, the best decision made in the family prevails.

The more significant number of respondents pointed out that the central assistance of older children is their *ability to take care of their younger siblings* during a raging typhoon. Since the men and women in the family are busy dealing with their expected course, the older siblings should be paying attention to their parents' instructions. According to the older children's skills and capacities, assisting the parents should be taken care of with a focus. One respondent said,

"Since my oldest brother is helping my father with his work, my mother is busy in the kitchen, with my other brother helping her. As the third sibling, I cared for my younger brothers and sisters. I played with them so they would not go anywhere."

Most respondents also mentioned that minor children should be close at hand during the typhoon. The children participants seconded the idea as they were already aware of the dangers of staying away from their parents during the onset of natural calamity. One child respondent said, "I do not want to die. I am afraid to die. So I followed what my parents told us". The adults are aware of the helplessness of children during calamities which is why they are keener on attending to children than on any other errands at home as part of their mitigation responses.

Most participants also described that the assistance of children to parents during the recovery phase manifests in *participating in family undertakings*. When it comes to children, the rule of thumb is keeping the minor children in a safe place. Hence, this is the only participation they can contribute so the adult and older siblings can proceed to their assigned tasks.

Everyone also shared that older children are expected to initiate home activities acceptable to parents. During the recovery phase, older children of low-income families tend to find jobs to sustain the family needs. Some work as a stevedore, some sell goods, and some work as housekeepers. One male respondent aged fifteen said,

"It is challenging being poor and facing the devastation of natural calamities. We must work hard to help our parents and feed our younger siblings. I do not like this life, but what can I do? I hope that one day things will just change for the better."

A seventeen-year-old female respondent expressed her opinion this way;

"I love my parents, and I can see their struggles; as one of the older siblings, I can not wait for everyone to help us. We need to help ourselves too. I need to do something to help them. My parents are apologizing for the kind of life they gave us, but I am sure they never chose it, either."

The older children respondents' maturity is the strength of the men and women in the house. The parents consider having their older children's initiatives felt by the family as a blessing. Though there are irresponsible children, according to some of the respondents, they are optimistic that they will learn one day.

This study supports the Social Role theory of Eagly (1987b), where men and women, with their initiatives to live, can co-exist. The need to apply the previously learned skills according to their physical capacities strengthens the value of partnership. Hence the present study proved that the contributed strength of men, women, and children in the family significantly impacts survival. Though they have insufficient knowledge of DRRM, it did not fail them, as their survival instinct is

strong. However, this does not adhere to the idea that they never needed training on DRRM because appropriate knowledge will preserve the community and each life in it.

## **5.0 Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendation**

### **5.1 Summary**

This descriptive survey study described how men, women, and children strategize in their DRRM practices. It included 375 respondents and an additional 30 residents for the individual random interviews within the five barangays of Balogo, Caranan, San Cirilo, Sta Rosa del Norte, and Sta Rosa del Sur in the Municipality of Pasacao. The objective is to find out the DRRM practices of families despite the insufficient training of the LGU.

The study found that men, women, and children are all involved in the prevention phase. It means that everyone's primary role is task dissemination avoiding any possible threats or hazards. Similarly, women and children partner in the mitigation process of hazard reduction. Since they are more vulnerable than men, women and children focus on safekeeping while men do external activities. Further, men involved themselves more in responses with the support of women. Hence, men, women, and children teamed together for the recovery phase. The result implied that working with the family members according to their strengths and capability was an effective strategy.

### **5.2 Conclusion**

The known partnership of men, women, and children may be familiar. However, their narratives described a culture of a typical Filipino family in their survival initiative. Though they must be fully equipped with the knowledge to withstand the disasters encountered, their strategies are working well. Further, the study highlighted the significant value of women in a family. Unlike men and children, women are engaged in the four thematic areas, as shown in the participants' narratives (Figure 2). Thus, the study produced a DRRM mechanism (Figure 2) that contributes to a better understanding of how family group together, minimizing the impact of a disaster, which contributes to the community's zero casualty goal.

### **5.3 Recommendation**

The following statements are the study's recommendations based on the findings and conclusion.

**5.3.1** The Barangay Council should produce a concrete DRRM plan for their constituents before a natural calamity strikes. Consultation among the people is an ideal beginning in crafting the program.

**5.3.2** The Barangay council should provide training and seminars about first-aid and other beneficial DRRM skills and capability development. It would benefit the families in preparation for encountering future natural calamities.

**5.3.3** The Barangay Council should initiate and introduce a livelihood program for marginalized families to sustain their financial needs for self-reliance on their pre, during, and post disasters activities.



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