

## **Empowering Community Resilience through ALS: The Role of Teachers in Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Initiative in the Division of Batangas City**

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### **Abstract**

In disaster-prone countries like the Philippines, building community resilience through education is essential—especially for marginalized sectors served by the Alternative Learning System (ALS). This study aimed to assess how ALS teachers integrate Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) concepts into instruction, the challenges they face, and the strategies that can enhance teaching effectiveness. Recognizing that ALS learners often reside in high-risk and underserved areas, the integration of DRRM is critical in preparing them for potential hazards. A descriptive mixed-method research design was employed, involving 30 purposively selected ALS teachers from the Schools Division Office of Batangas City. Data were gathered through a structured survey and semi-structured interviews. Quantitative responses were measured using a 4-point Likert scale and analyzed using weighted mean, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. Results revealed that DRRM concepts were moderately integrated into reading (mean= 3.23) and writing (mean= 3.10) lessons, while speaking (mean= 2.87) and listening (mean= 2.75) were less emphasized. Teachers showed moderate confidence in teaching DRRM (mean= 3.20) but strongly indicated a lack of instructional resources (mean= 3.60) and insufficient training (mean= 3.47) as major barriers. Thematic findings confirmed these gaps and further highlighted the need for contextualized modules, practical simulations, and collaboration with local DRRM offices. Additionally, most respondents strongly agreed that DRRM integration enhances learner preparedness (mean= 3.65) and promotes community resilience. The study recommends institutionalized DRRM training for ALS teachers, development of localized DRRM materials, and community-based simulations. Strengthening instructional capacity and support systems will enable ALS learners not only to survive disasters but to become active contributors to safer, more resilient communities.

*Keywords: Community Resilience, Alternative Learning System, Disaster Awareness, Preparedness, DRRM*