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STUDENTS' CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ATTITUDE ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

Climate change is a complex problem because along with it are various consequences such as rise in sea level and extreme weather disturbances resulting to drought, flood, and stronger typhoons. This in effect, threatens food security. According to the study of World Bank (2009), the Philippines ranks first in the list of countries that are in danger of frequent and more intense storms. To cope with these challenges, the commitment and support from younger generations is needed to ensure a more sustainable future. However, most of these young people are not aware that simple daily activities can contribute to global climate change.

To address the knowledge gap on climate change resilience and mitigation, college students from different degree programs, socio-economic status, and age groups were selected as respondents. The objective of this study is to explore on students' attitude toward climate change resilience and mitigation. A survey instrument was developed and administered to the students. This tool included inventory of practices on water and soil conservation, and low-carbon behavior activities. Based on the ordinal scale devised from statistical data, majority of the students showed fair awareness on resilience practices related to health, high awareness for soil and biodiversity conservation while low awareness on water conservation practices. Majority of the students showed low level of disaster-preparedness. The study also revealed that students exhibit fair engagement in mitigation practices.

Based on these findings, it is strongly recommended that educational systems integrate climate change in the frameworks of both natural and social science curricula. A multi-disciplinary based and holistic program for climate change is essential to allow students to comprehend issues intensively, and increase their engagement in climate change resilience and mitigation.

KEYWORDS: Climate Change, Mitigation, Resilience

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