ANG TUBIG MANABAW, ANSAW HINDI AKO KA TUSNGAW?": A CASE STUDY ON THE INTERSECTING IDENTITIES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) IN NEW LUCENA, ILOILO AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT (DRRM) ENGAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Persons with Disability (PWD) are disproportionately affected by disasters. However, efforts to address their needs remain mismatched due to their unaccounted multiple marginalization. Aside from facing physical barriers in accessing disaster-related information and services, the prevalence of poverty and gender inequality further contribute to low levels of protection and involvement of PWD in Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM). This study examines the intersection of gender and socio-economic status in affecting participation, representation, and inclusion of PWD in DRRM. This cross-sectional study involves a total of 22 respondents with physical disability from three (3) flood-prone barangays in New Lucena, Iloilo. Four different strata were identified namely: (1) No Income Disabled Women, (2) Low Income Disabled Women, (3) No Income Disabled Men, (4) Low Income Disabled Men. Mean comparison was conducted among groups to determine which strata ranks highest in terms of participation, inclusion, and representation along with thematic analysis from semi-structured interviews and document reviews to substantiate statistical data derived from the questionnaire results. Findings indicate that low-income disabled women have the highest level of participation, representation, and inclusion in DRRM; therefore suggesting that socio-economic status is strongly related to PWDs' engagement levels.