

Educational Materials for the Community-based Understanding of Disaster Risks -Taking Advantage of four-frame Cartoon

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One of the lessons from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake is that educational approach to prevent natural disasters can compensate the limitations of earthquake science and technologies. Hereinafter we call it as "BOSAI education". BOSAI can be translated as disaster prevention based on individual awareness of disaster risks and leading to personal empowerment to take preventive action. After the earthquake, more schools started to conduct BOSAI education, while the government had not provided schools with certain time, textbooks, and curriculum guidelines.

As well as learning how to react to protect lives at the moment, one of the goals of BOSAI education for mid-school students is to deal with a dilemma situation that may take place afterwards. We provided a BOSAI educational material to take up the situation of evacuation site to ask students how to distribute aid supply if the total number is less than that of evacuees. The educational material is made as a four-frame cartoon as follows: 1) 12 hours after the earthquake at an evacuation site... 2) Person1: "There arrived 100 of aid supply!", 3) Person2: "What? We have 500 people here." 4) Person1: "Mmm... ". Students have to give an appropriate line that follows "Mmm..." Some of the answers were "We should put a priority to elderly persons and small kids" or "Why don't we ask for cooperation to those who brought their own emergency supplies in their backpacks?"

Another point of great importance of this material is to let the local school teachers join and share. We asked for advice to improve the material, and collected comments and suggestions. Some said they will have another class with the improved material. They can arrange the contents to bring community-based understanding of disaster risks. In the presentation, we share the material and report good practices.

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