

Disaster, Resilience, and Social Capital: Filipino Students in the Aftermath of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake

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Abstract

The paper explores the experiences of Filipino students as temporary migrants during and in the aftermath of the 11 March 2011 Tohoku Earthquake. Using interviews with 30 Filipino students from the Tohoku and Tokyo region, and a review of relevant social media pages, the study identifies the vulnerabilities of Filipino students, and describes how social capital—the bonds, bridges, and linkages (re)built with various social actors—enabled their resilience: their initial response, their ability to self-organize, their capacity to learn from their experiences, and their ability to adapt and survive the disaster.

Keywords: 2011 Tohoku Earthquake, social vulnerability, resilience, social capital, foreign students