

The Preserve of Local Wisdom to Mitigate the Landslide Disaster in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas, Central Java

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This study aimed to learn the preserve of local wisdom in landslide disaster mitigation in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas. By using observational method, this study took place in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas. As many as 20 informants were included in this study comprising the village chief, the village officers, the subdistrict head, the spiritual leaders, the opinion leader, and the custodian. The sampling technique of this study was purposive sampling. In-depth interviews were conducted in this research. The results revealed that the local wisdom had been preserved and implemented wisely to mitigate of landslide disaster in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas, Central Java. The preserve of local wisdom consists of sanctification towards forest and trees, communal work (*gotong royong*) tradition, thanksgiving (*sedekah bumi*) tradition, and life principle or a proverb of *menungsa sing beja kuwe kudu eling maring gusti Allah karo kudu waspada*.

Keywords: Gununglurah Village; Landslide Mitigation; Local Wisdom Preservation

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The Preserve of Local Wisdom to Mitigate the Landslide Disaster in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas, Central Java

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Keywords: Gununglurah Village, Local Wisdom Preservation, landslide mitigation

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I. INTRODUCTION

Cilongok, a district in Banyumas Regency, Central Java, has hill morphology of steep relief which makes it susceptible to landslide. Some etiological factors of landslide in Cilongok are geological factor, slope of the land, rainfall intensity, hydrological factor, and human activities.¹ One of villages in Cilongok included in the high susceptibility level zone is Gununglurah Village.

Gununglurah Village is located in Mount Slamet piedmont 300–1,345 metres above sea level. The slope of Gununglurah Village is about 10-70°; it is almost perpendicular in the cliff area. The type of slide in Gununglurah Village is landslide. The potentially dangerous location in Gununglurah Village where landslide commonly occurs is Bandayuda.¹ Banyumas Regional Disaster Management Agency noted that a landslide in Gununglurah Village which occurred in November, 23rd 2012 caused 3 damaged houses, 3 slided house yards, and 2 blocked road accesses. The last landslide happened was in December, 16th 2013 and caused the streets in subdistrict 05/05 to slide and crack.²

Landslide disaster mitigation aims mainly to minimize the disaster impact. To reduce the material loss and dead victims caused by landslide disaster, people in the society need to stay alert to the disaster threat.³ Landslide disaster mitigation can be categorized into structural and nonstructural mitigation. Structural mitigation correlates with engineering efforts while nonstructural mitigation is a non physical effort.¹ Local wisdom

is one of non physical nonstructural landslide disaster mitigation efforts.

A review about local wisdom and disaster mitigation in traditional society of Indonesia showed that there was strong correlation between natural resources and human resources. In traditional society, human and nature is a unit because of their similarity as God's creation. It is believed that both nature and human have spirit. Nature may be hospitable if human treats it nicely and vice versa. Some of such studies showed that local wisdom had been practiced on well conservation in Kendal, Central Java, forest conservation in South Kalimantan and Halmahera, environmental preservation, in environmental management of a community in Tha Pong Village, Thailand, and in sustainable development of rural tourism in Special Region of Yogyakarta.⁴⁻⁹ However, study about local wisdom and its function in disaster mitigation has rarely been done.

Based on that background, the main goal of this study was to learn the local wisdom preservation to mitigate landslide disaster in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas.

2. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

This study was carried out in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas, Central Java. The research used observational method. Field observation was done to inspecting the local wisdom preservation in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas as a landslide disaster mitigation effort.

Communal mindset occupied by the society of Gununglurah Village is implemented as communal work for some particular goals; it is called *gotong royong*. *Gotong royong* is an expression of harmonic desire, people awareness, and helpful intention to achieve common goals. This attitude is part of tradition and value system in the society. People living around the forest or mountain slope perform *gotong royong* to preserve and prevent environmental damage so that landslide disaster is avoidable. An instance of *gotong royong* committed by the society of Gununglurah Village along with the local government was one thousand trees planting program in community timber. This activity reflects people awareness to preserve the community timber area thus water supply for Gununglurah villagers is maintained and landslide disaster can be anticipated. It proves that continuous communal work can serve as an effort in forest preservation.

3. Thanksgiving (*sedekah bumi*) tradition

For this reason, they feel that there should be any ceremony that shows their gratitude to the earth. *Sedekah bumi* tradition is still enforced yearly by the society of Gununglurah Village. This tradition is a form of society gratitude toward nature for the harvest. The other word for *sedekah bumi* is *nylameti bumi* (Javanese). People perform the ritual every month of *Sura* and *Sapar*. Thanksgiving in Gununglurah Village is known as *Suran* and *Saparan*. It is implemented in *mushola* (a place for performing prayers in Islam) and led by the elders of society. They perform prayers and have feast together. *Sedekah Bumi* is an ethnic ritual to show the people's high regard to the earth as a place to live in. People depend on earth as it is a place where they do farming, get food and water, and do other activities.¹¹

By performing *sedekah bumi*, people of Gununglurah Village intend to preserve the tradition, maintain the harmony and their relationship, and show their gratitude for God's blessings. In addition, they also ask for protection and safety from any danger and disaster through this ritual. People believe that this ritual will bring in goodness. Earth will be safe and disaster does not threaten if people always perform communal feast. The leader always asks for people safety during the ritual. They assume that if they are thankful for the Earth, there will be peace and Earth will not cause any disaster to human.

4. Life principle or proverbs

Local wisdom may take form as principles followed, understood, and applied by the local society in their daily interaction and interrelation with environment. It is formularized as system of tradition values and norms.¹² Local wisdom tends to describe a specific phenomenon which usually becomes a typical characteristic of the community, for instances are *alonalon waton klakon* (society of Central Java), *rawe rantas malang-malang putung* (society of East Java), *ikhlas kiai-ne manfaat ilmu-ne*, and *patuh guru-ne barokah uripe-e* (society of Pesantren).¹³

The society of Gununglurah Village has life principles or proverbs as their life guidance. Their belief and life principles are thought as good and positive things; they use it as their guidance to mitigate landslide disaster. They use proverbs in Banyumas dialect such as *menungsa sing beja kuwe kudu eling maring gusti Allah karo kudu waspada*. It means that a lucky human kind is a human who always remembers his/her God (in

Islam is Allah SWT) and always in awareness of any disaster that may be life-threatening including natural disasters. This proverb shows that a disaster may come whenever and wherever as Allah SWT desires. Human only live his/her life and is expected to always remember his/her God and to always aware. Environment preservation-related proverbs are ward-off well and implemented in their social life. The society of Gununglurah Village understands very well that if the living environment is damaged, danger and landslide disaster will occur.

The local wisdom had been understood and implemented wisely to mitigate of landslide disaster in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study results, it is concluded that the local wisdom had been preserved and implemented wisely to mitigate of landslide disaster in Gununglurah Village, Cilongok, Banyumas, Central Java. The preserve of local wisdom consists of sanctification towards forest and trees, communal work (*gotong royong*) tradition, thanksgiving (*sedekah bumi*) tradition, and life principle or a proverb of *menungsa sing beja kuwe kudu eling maring gusti Allah karo kudu waspada*.

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