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The productive and reproductive activities of women as form of adaptation and post-disaster livelihood strategies in Huntap Kuwang and Huntap Plosokerep

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Abstract

The Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Action Plan in Post-disaster Merapi Eruption Region in 2010 stated the rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing and settlements carried out with the approach of the relocation of residents in disaster prone area III to another safer area. 2,516 Permanent Housing (Huntap) housing units were built in scattered locations independently or in groups. The changes in living environment have changed the community's livelihood, especially women.

Qualitative research method used to answer research objectives: to analyse changes in women's productive and reproductive activities; and to evaluate the basic infrastructure in huntap based on women's perspective in Huntap Kuwang and Plosokerep.

Women reproductive activities do not change much in both Huntaps. Women in Huntap Kuwang do productive activities to meet the resident's daily needs, while women in Huntap Plosokerep are now working in the tourism sector at Merapi. Basic infrastructure in both huntap considered good, but not yet provide facilities for child development.

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1. Introduction

Merapi Volcano is one of the most active volcanoes in the world with more than 70 eruptions since 1548 (Historical eruptions of Merapi Volcano, Central Java, Indonesia, 1768-1998, 2000). Over the last two decades, Volcano Merapi erupted every 8-15 years and erupted violently once every 26-54 years, with the eruption period of approximately 4 years (Thouret, et al., 2000).

More than 1.3 million people living on the slopes of this volcano (a radius of 20 km from the peak) (May, et al., 2013). In the eruption of 1994, resulted in approximately 6,000 refugees, while in 2006, there were 20 080 refugees (UNOCHA, 2006; May et al., 2012), and the last eruption in 2010 has made approximately 400,000 people registered displaced (Surono, et al., 2012; May et al., 2013).

Since the volcanic soil is fertile and rich in minerals, population tend to live and to stay in the volcano area. More and more people live in disaster prone areas, the greater the disaster will affect human life. At least 9.6% of the population live in disaster prone areas to volcanic activity and the majority of those region are in developing countries (Tilling, 2008).

Referring to Rule of BNPB Regency No. 5 of 2011 on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Action Plan (Action Plan) at the Regional Post-Disaster Merapi eruption in 2010, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing and settlements carried out with the approach of the relocation of population of Region III in disaster prone areas to safer with REKOMPAK scheme. Relocation is done by several independent methods ie relocation on land owned by its own residents, and collective relocation to the land prepared by the local government.

A total of 2,516 housing units have been built in independent location that is situated scattered and in some permanent residential (huntap) with locations in groups. For Huntap groups, there are 18 locations in Sleman Regency and 10 locations in Magelang Regency which apply the concept of eco-settlement and have met the standards of the settlement, in accordance with Law No. 1 of 2011.

Approach to the concept of eco-settlement is the basic concept of eco-towns and villages which includes three pillars, namely the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural pillars. The concept is based on the core principles for eco-settlements including ecological integrity, sustainable lifestyle, good governance, and maintenance of cultural diversity harmony.

To ensure the settlement with disaster risk reduction (DRR) concept and to meet the requirements standard of the settlement, then each huntap strived to have the facilities and infrastructure in accordance with the classification of the typology of settlements (Act No. 1 of 2011 on Housing and Settlement Area), then each huntap group can be categorized in 4 typologies, ie small: 0-50 home / 0-250 people, being: 50-200 home / 250-1000 people, big: 200-600 home / 1000 to 3000 people, and for the region: more than 600 houses / above 3000 people.

Those huntap have also been equipped with 312 points settlements basic infrastructure and infrastructure for disaster risk reduction needs. Other facilities that have been built is 1,145 points basic infrastructure in 106 villages affected by the eruption of Merapi in Sleman, Klaten, Magelang and Boyolali Regencies. Huntap residents of four districts affected by the eruption have declared their huntap as liveable sustainable settlements.

With the end of the program, various questions arise about the life and livelihood of the people who relocated to huntap. The first, changes in the residential environment will certainly affect lifestyle community. Women, more especially mothers who have more responsibility in the reproductive roles, for example, do homework and take care of the child would be greatly feel the change and must adapt to a new living environment. Patterns of social interaction among residents were also severely affected by the lack of insulation in the form of yard that separates her house with her neighbor's house. Differences and changes will certainly affect the activity of society, especially women in running their livelihood. Changing livelihoods, diversification of jobs, and the emergence of community productive activities that aim to meet the needs of residents in huntap is a form of adaptation and community livelihood strategies in huntap. Second, do available service facilities in huntap have met the needs of citizens and compliance with the huntap service standards? Opinions of women who have more time staying in huntap and perhaps more use those facilities are certainly interesting to be explored. This study aimed to answer both questions. Results from this study is intended as a contribution to the government to enhance and to develop the concept of huntap that the concept of resettlement in each huntap completely in accordance with the settlement based DRR standard, environmentally friendly as well as livelihood development efforts.

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