

## THE ROLE OF MERAPI FM COMMUNITY RADIO IN DISASTER MITIGATION AT MERAPI SLOPE RESIDENTIAL AREA CLUNTANG, MUSUK, BOYOLALI

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the role of Merapi FM community radio in reducing disaster risk in the potential disaster exposure area of the Musuk Boyolali sub-district. This research method is empirical research or field research with a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and behaviour that can be understood. This approach is data collection in the form of oral, written, and also in the form of image documentation. Data from a qualitative descriptive approach can come from interviews, photographs, field notes, video recordings, memos and official documents. The results showed that the community plays an active role in disaster risk reduction efforts in the Cluntang area, namely through disaster response training, environmental preservation, trauma healing, and regional arts and culture. Based on the results of the research, the role of Merapi FM community radio in mitigation and disaster risk reduction in the Cluntang area is (1) Carrying out its role and function by facilitating the needs of the community to reduce the risk of the Merapi disaster, (2) Mobilising the community to be directly involved in all activities, starting from on-air and off-air activities.

**Keywords:** Community, Radio, Mitigation, Disaster.

### Introduction

Since legalising their presence in the Indonesian Broadcasting System through the enactment of Law 32/2002 on Broadcasting, Community Broadcasting Organisations (CBOs) have increasingly established their presence in the social, political and cultural world of Indonesia. In accordance with the law, Community Broadcasting Organisations consist of Community Radio Broadcasting Organisations and Community Television Broadcasting Organisations. Especially Community Radio Broadcasting Organisations (LPK Radio), its increasingly important role has attracted the attention of scholars to measure the effectiveness of its presence in Indonesian politics (Sjuchro & Gustini, 2017).

Mount Merapi is a mountain that is administratively located in 3 regencies, namely the regencies of Magelang, Sleman, and Boyolali regencies. According to the Geological Agency of Mount Merapi, Merapi eruptions often occur, suspected of them due to internal geometry factors of the volcanic system. Based on Merapi seismicity data, in 1991 there were many volcanic earthquakes of various types, it can be seen that the distribution of lateral Merapi earthquakes will not be far from the vertical line of the Merapi peak downward and not widely spread. The danger of the eruption of the Merapi volcano lies not only from lava, cold

lava, and earthquakes but also from hot clouds. People around Merapi call hot clouds *wedhus gembel*, which in Javanese can be interpreted as sheep because the appearance of hot clouds is like sheep passing through the slopes. The use of this word is thought to have been used since centuries ago by the local population (older than the term *nuee-ardente*). Overcoming the disastrous conditions lurking from Mount Merapi, the people of Merapi slopes have a way in the disaster mitigation process, namely through the Indonesian community radio network (Muhammad Alif Alauddin et al., 2019).

The Indonesian Community Radio Network, abbreviated as JRKI, is a network that has developed in various regions in Indonesia. Indonesia, this also happened on the slopes of Mount Merapi. The use of JRKI on the slopes of Mount Merapi is unique and has an interesting function, namely as an information centre for Mount Merapi disasters, which has been carried out until now, the radio is then known as Radio Merapi FM. Seeing the uniqueness of the JRKI which is used as a disaster mitigation information centre, this researcher examines the optimisation of the role of local communities in the development of emergency radio for disaster mitigation in Boyolali Regency (Muhammad Alif Alauddin et al., 2019).

In this research, we will analyse the strategic function of radio media in the field of disaster mitigation. It would be an interesting activity, because of the unique relation between nature (represented by Merapi mountain) and possible damage to the village due to the eruption of Mount Merapi. This research will comprehensively portray the role of Merapi FM community radio in mitigating the disaster.

### Research Method

This research employs a qualitative method with a case study approach to explore the role of Merapi FM Community Radio in disaster mitigation in the residential area on the slopes of Merapi, Cluntang, Musuk, and Boyolali. Data are collected through in-depth interviews with radio managers, local residents, and relevant authorities, as well as participatory observation to understand the dynamics of interaction between the radio and the community in the context of disaster preparedness. Additionally, document analysis is conducted on various broadcast materials and radioactivity reports related to disaster mitigation. Data analysis uses thematic techniques, where findings from interviews, observations, and documents are coded and categorized to identify the role and impact of community radio in educating and mobilizing the community in facing potential threats from Mount Merapi eruptions. Data triangulation is performed to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings by comparing information from various sources and different data collection methods.

### Result And Discussion

In disaster communication, according to West and Turner, communication is a process, an interconnected, dynamic event with no end in sight. process, which is an interconnected, dynamic event without an end. Social means that humans always have a reciprocal relationship with other humans in a particular group. Symbols are labels given to an existing phenomenon. Symbols are divided into two, concrete symbols that represent an object and abstract symbols that represent an idea, idea or thought. Meaning is a meaning that a person takes from a message that is conveyed. Gema Merapi community radio conducts a

communication process through the distribution of information to the community environment by approaching through On-air and Off-air programmes that entertain and educate the community in handling natural disasters. From the communication process, Gema Merapi community radio also makes the community do a lot of social activities in carrying out its role through several activities with the community, such as environmental preservation, community training on disaster, first aid simulations, economic activities, and entertainment (Ramadhan Wiratama, 2019).

Community radio is not established for the benefit of managers, but to serve the interests of members to serve the interests of its members. Therefore, community radio plays a role that is needed by its community. The role of mass media in disaster risk reduction is inseparable from information. The role of information, according to Green III (2001, 176-177), is that in a disaster situation kinds of data or inputs become diverse, and individuals can explore or gain various knowledge about one or something (Budi, 2011: 09). Community radio has an important role in raising awareness and improving the ability to deal with a disaster. Community radio becomes a central actor in the community to socialise and improve the ability and skills to deal with disasters. Community radio can be used for socialisation, providing information and disaster communication. Even before and after a disaster, community radio continues to socialise the community on how to deal with disasters (Ramadhan Wiratama, 2019).

Community broadcasters are referred to as community broadcasting organisations. Community radio is also often referred to as social radio, educational radio, or alternative radio. According to Tobing, community radio is a radio station operated in a particular neighbourhood, region, or area that is intended specifically for local residents, and contains programmes with local content, processed and managed by local residents. Community radio is unique from other broadcasters because of its specialised audience segment or only certain communities and provides limited information, not just commercial radio in general. However, this makes community radio have loyal listeners. Currently, there are more than 300 community radios in Indonesia. These community radios are scattered throughout Indonesia, especially in rural or remote areas. Some of them are members of community radio organisations, such as Jaringan Radio Komunitas Indonesia (JRKI) and Jaringan Independent Radio Komunitas. According to the provisions of the Minister of Transport Decree No. 15 of 2002 and No. 15A of 2003, community radio is broadcast on FM frequencies 107.7 Mhz; 107.8 Mhz; 107.9 Mhz, with a limited range of maximum power of 50 watts and a maximum service range of 2.5 km (Laksono, 2022).

Typology of community radio in Indonesia using indicators: founder/pioneer, institution, programme formulation and monitoring, programme content/materials, transmission coverage and quality of management. Based on these indicators, the developing radio stations can be categorised according to their type. Community Radio is the media focus of community radio to make the audience/community the main actors through their involvement in all aspects of radio operations. The focus of community radio is to make the audience/community the protagonist through their involvement in all aspects of radio organisation. Therefore, the community must be involved in all aspects of radio establishment, radio funding, radio management and radio broadcast production (Panutra & Atmojo, 2012).

Community radio is initially needed as a medium for information, entertainment, and education in communities living in rural or remote areas. Through community radio, people can also express their opinions and interests, because community radio is able to answer or touch the needs of the community or community in accordance with their locality. Radio Petani Merapi FM is community radio for farmers working independently in Cluntang village, Musuk sub-district, Boyolali district. This radio was established on 10 April 2006. Initially, Merapi FM Farmers Radio was established by individuals as an entertainment radio and at the same time as a medium of information about the danger of the Mount Merapi disaster, but gradually the community radio became a radio that provides a lot of information about agriculture (Laksono, 2022).

Along with its development, this radio developed into a farming community radio. This is because most of the Cluntang community are farmers. Many residents need information related to agricultural information, to increase their knowledge about agriculture which will have an impact on increasing their agricultural yields. In 2007, Radio Petani Merapi FM changed its frequency to 107.5 FM(Laksono, 2022).

This radio then became a farmer community radio with LESMAN (Lembaga Masyarakat Mandiri) as its companion. Radio Petani Merapai FM has been an alternative source of information and entertainment for the community. The information delivered is usually in the form of agricultural information and information about the Merapi volcano disaster. Radio Petani Merapi FM has been functioning as a medium of information and entertainment for farm workers and local residents (Panutra & Atmojo, 2012).

With the existence of Radio Petani Merapi FM, the community at least has a medium to accommodate the interests of the community and a medium for self-actualisation, especially farmworkers as a farming community in Cluntang village, Musuk sub-district, Boyolali district. As required by community media, the management and broadcasting of media both in the management of radio management, broadcast production, wisdom in decision making and presentation of broadcasts both material and content should be in the hands of the community(Laksono, 2022).

Emergency radio is simply set up by the community so that the management process is carried out by the community and utilised to the greatest extent for the community itself. and utilised to the greatest extent for the community itself. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) requires each radio transmitter to have a distance of about 2.5 km with a power of 50 watts and members of 250 people or half the population + 1. Cluntang village, which is 4.5 km from the top of Mount Merapi, has 5 RW, 18 RT and 13 dukuh which are spread out from each other (Muhammad Alif Alauddin et al., 2019).

Further development of Merapi FM Farmer Radio became Karya Tani farmer community radio and was utilised as a source of information in agriculture. During this time, the community really needs this information to improve their knowledge in agriculture which is expected to have an impact on increasing agricultural yields. As a community radio, although it has given a wide space for the community to participate in the establishment, planning, management and evaluation of the existence of Community Radio, the participation/role of community members in terms of radio operations is very minimal, only a few people are active continuously in radio management and broadcasting.

This is due to the limited time and ability of the members of the radio community. In addition, the problem of funding has been an obstacle to the sustainability of the Merapi FM Farmer community radio. The initial establishment of Merapi FM radio was pioneered by Selam and Sriyanto who initially had the initiative to make a radio. They then together with the local youth established Merapi FM radio, which was initially used as entertainment and then developed as a communication tool for the community to disseminate information related to the Merapi disaster. Those selected are people who are really interested and able to run the radio well(Laksono, 2022).

It's just that so far what has happened is that only a few communities have participated. There has been a division of labour in the management of radio Petani Merapi FM so that the radio can really broadcast to entertain the community and provide information. Each member of the community has a task according to their position. However, what has happened so far is that many communities are not active in managing the Merapi FM Farmer Radio Community. They only manage the radio according to their free time(Laksono, 2022).

So far, Sriyanto and Selam are the ones who mostly manage Merapi FM Farmer Radio with the help of local youths although their participation is very minimal. All decisions regarding radio policies related to the implementation of broadcasts and other policies are the authority of the management. The management is given freedom in making programmes and programmes on the radio. However, all decisions made must be in accordance with the wishes of the community. The decisions and policies taken so far have been suggestions from community members. Usually, they provide input regarding broadcast schedules or other issues regarding the implementation of broadcasts so that they are appropriate and right on target. So the existence of radio can provide real benefits. In terms of supervision at Radio Petani Merapi, there is not much attention. So far, what has happened is that supervision is only in the form of evaluations held by the management every month(Laksono, 2022).

This evaluation is intended so that the broadcast of Petani Merapi FM is truly in accordance with the original purpose of its establishment, namely as a community radio for Merapi Farmers. By involving all members of the community both in terms of implementation and supervision, it is hoped that the implementation of the Merapi FM Farmer Community Radio can contribute to the development of the community. However, most communities lack a sense of ownership of the radio. They only surrender to the administrators who have been given the trust to manage the Merapi FM Farmer Community radio, especially Sriyanto and Salam, assisted by several local youths. This is what causes the supervisory function to not run well. In this study, the thesis writer sees from the background above will take the title: Optimisation of Broadcast Management of Merapi Farmer Community Radio 107.5 FM Cluntang Village, Boyolali Regency(Laksono, 2022).

Despite the many obstacles faced by community radio in general, community radio Lintas Merapi FM can show its existence until now and get various awards from both government agencies and private institutions. Therefore, this research tries to find out what kind of marketing communication strategies and activities are carried out to get active participation from its community and to know the activities carried out by Lintas Merapi FM community radio to overcome the basic problems of community radio, such as financial problems, human resources, programme concepts and production are also the objectives of this research (Sa'diyah, 2016).

Community radio as a product of Community radio as a product of the reformation still faces various problems, namely management, funding, community participation, and support from third parties. These problems arise from the technical limitations of community radio managers, as well as government regulations that are considered to limit the movement of community radio to exist and develop (Sanjaya & Pandiangan, 2019).

## Conclusion

As a community radio, although However, the participation/role of community members in terms of organising the radio is very minimal, only a few people are active continuously in the management of the radio and the sustainability of radio. In the beginning, Community Radio Merapi FM was originally an electronic hobbyist's dark radio in Cluntang village, according to the needs, then with the help of an independent non-governmental organisation (NGO), it was turned into a community radio, especially for information and news on volcanic disasters. Further development of Radio Merapi FM became Karya Tani farmer community radio and was utilised as a source of information in the field of agriculture. During this time, the community really needs this information to improve their knowledge in agriculture which is expected to have an impact on increasing agricultural yields.

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