ABSTRACT

Belanting village, situated in the foot of Rinjani mountain range and crossed over by Belanting River, is a fast-growing village. Almost all of its inhabitants are migrants who came there on their own support. On January 21, 2006, disaster struck: debris flow came, taking people’s lives and creating havoc to local infrastructures. One of the difficulties in the area is that it lacks non-structural disaster mitigation. At this rate, a study needs to be done concerning the awareness of local inhabitants of the threat posed by debris flow.

The objective of the study is to find out the level of local people’s understanding of debris flow disaster, functioning as the basis in determining disaster management pattern by non-structural mitigation. Data were collected from questionnaires and interviews with 80 respondents.

The resulting questionnaire data were then analyzed using SPSS (Statistic Pocket for Social Science). Result of the analysis indicates that 52.5 per cent of respondents do not yet understand the threat of disaster. In the meantime, the interviews indicate that religious leaders (Tuan Guru) have very high social status. Therefore, based on the result of the analysis and of the interviews, there is a need for a strategy in non-structural mitigation program and, as far as the study is concerned, socialization during public religious learning is regarded as more effective and efficient.

Keywords: Debris flows, Understanding, Non-structural mitigation