

Preparedness of Elderly in The Disaster-Prone Area of Mount Merapi, Sambung Rejo, Balerante

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Abstract. The eruption of Mount Merapi caused extensive damage and loss in Klaten Regency. The most vulnerable members of society, notably the elderly, are most likely to become victims of natural disasters. The goal of this research was to determine the significance and relevance of the elderly's experiences during the Mount Merapi disaster. The study used a qualitative approach, with a descriptive phenomenological technique, to assist researchers understand the picture of senior ready. This research had a population of 22. The sample approach used in this investigation was purposeful sampling. Recruiting participants for qualitative research based on inclusion criteria and collecting data via in-depth interviews, observations, and field notes. The number of participants required to achieve saturation was seven. Ten themes will be discussed in this study : (1) Knowledge about the risks of living in a disaster-prone area III, (2) The impact of Mount Merapi's eruption, (3) Emergency Response Plan, (4) Temporary shelter, (5) Evacuation flow, (6) Information sources, (7) Health Problems, (8) Health Facilities in Refugees, (9) Disaster Preparedness, and (10) Hopes of the Elderly for Officers. This study concludes that older persons in disaster-prone area III are a vulnerable population that should be prioritized. The elderly of Sambungrejo hamlet are already familiar with disaster preparedness procedures.

1 Introduction

Indonesia is one of the countries located in the Ring of Fire, which are prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions (1). This is corroborated by several records of volcanic eruptions in Indonesia, including Mount Tambora in 1815, Mount Krakatau in 1883, Mount Agung in 1963, and Mount Merapi in 2010 (2). The most vulnerable members of society are more likely to become victims of a disaster. This population is particularly vulnerable because natural disasters disproportionately afflict them (3). According to the law, vulnerable populations include infants, toddlers, children, pregnant and nursing mothers, people with disabilities, and the elderly. One way to protect vulnerable populations is to prioritize their rescue, evacuation, security, health, and psychosocial requirements. (4).

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Natural disasters have a harmful impact on people and society. When catastrophic events strike, the elderly confront more challenging living conditions than other populations. They face extra challenges owing to declining physical and mental health (5). The elderly in general struggle with hearing, physical mobility, vision, and memory, making it difficult for them to leave and establish a safe position in an emergency (6). However, genetics, physical and social surroundings, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic standing, as well as healthy living habits, can all have an impact on the health of the elderly (7).

The elderly are considered high-risk because they cannot appropriately prepare for emergencies (8). The repercussions of disasters for vulnerable people, particularly the elderly, include loss of family, property, and things, displacement, dislocation, psychological agony, and feelings of guilt, all of which lead to poor mental health outcomes (5). Merapi's eruption in 2010 was one of the biggest on record, killing 260 people in communities including Glagaharjo, Argomulyo, Umbulharjo, Wukirsari, and Argomulyo Village. The elderly accounted for the majority of fatalities, where men died at a higher rate than women during this disaster (9). The situation indicates that Indonesia's preparedness for emergencies remains inadequate (10).

Preparedness is the attitude of anticipating the possibility of an emergency in order to avoid casualties, property damage, and changes in people's living patterns (11). The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as mentioned by (12), recommended disaster management planning, resource maintenance, and staff training. Knowledge, attitudes, rules and guidelines, catastrophe emergency response plans, disaster simulations, and resource mobilization abilities are all factors that impact readiness (13). Preparedness is particularly important to reduce the damages that might be produced by the disasters (2).

Elvina (2022) discusses the impact and potential of disasters, emergency response infrastructure, the lack of a disaster warning system, the ability to mobilize resources and funds, as well as elderly preparedness efforts to face earthquakes in Pasié Nan Tigo Village. Other research on senior disaster preparedness came to three conclusions: knowledge, attitudes, and evacuation plans (6). (15) According to studies on the readiness of households with older individuals, 45.1% of these families were underprepared. Lisa Rahmadina & Susanti (2019) also did study on the readiness of elderly and discovered that 34.8% of those in the preparedness group were unprepared.

Balerante Village is one of the sites designated as Mount Merapi disaster-prone region III. Due to its proximity to Merapi's fractured slopes, this region is one of the most vulnerable to an eruption. Balerante Village has a large number of old residents. According to statistics from the village secretary, there are 326 elderly persons residing in Balerante Village's disaster-prone Area III. The impact of the previous calamity prompted the elderly in Balerante to leave. Researchers performed a preliminary investigation by interviewing ten senior residents of Balerante hamlet. The interviews revealed that 9 senior persons received disaster preparedness help from their families, whereas 1 elderly person received less support due to living alone in a disaster-prone region like Mount Merapi. Elderly persons reported multiple Merapi eruptions, and seven people reported more than three. The elderly who were interviewed indicated they had gone through training and practiced solo evacuation in the event of a Merapi eruption. The results of interviews with the elderly revealed that the elderly's existing problems included a lack of family support in preparedness, cognitive problems such as the elderly forgetting the designated evacuation route and not knowing how to contact officers because they did not know how to use communication tools. The phenomena of elderly residents in Balerante is fascinating, thus researchers wish to do research on the topic of geriatric preparedness in disaster-prone areas.

The issue addressed in this study is how older people perceive their preparation in the event of a Mount Merapi disaster in a disaster-prone location. The elderly might suffer from a lack of knowledge as well as physical ailments. However, some older individuals have strong knowledge and family support, allowing them to prepare for a calamity. This research aims to explore the elderly's readiness for volcanic emergencies in the disaster-prone area of Mount Merapi, Balerante Village, Kemalang, and Klaten.

2 Methods

This qualitative research adopts a phenomenological approach (17). This study will examine the phenomenon of elderly preparedness in disaster-prone areas III in the aftermath of the Mount Merapi disaster, focusing on emergency plan preparation, knowledge possessed by elderly people, standby bag preparation, and emergency medicine through four steps: bracketing, intuiting, analyzing, and describing (18). The sampling techniques employed in this research was purposive sampling (19). In-depth interviews were performed to collect data for this study, and the interview procedure lasted 30-45 minutes, with field notes and observation sheets provided. The interview venue was chosen in line with the agreement between the researcher and the participant (20). The data in this study was analyzed using Colaizzi's approach (20). This study has passed ethical test No. 4939/B.1/KEPK-FKUMS/VII/2023 by the Health Research Ethics Committee, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.

3 Results

Participants in this study were old persons who had previously dealt with the eruption of Mount Merapi in Dukuh Sambung Rejo, Balerante Klaten. The number of participants was eight, who were chosen using specified exclusion and inclusion criteria. The study successfully identified ten themes that reflect the elderly's readiness in the midst of Mount Merapi's eruption. The ten themes are as follows: (1) Knowledge about the risks of being in disaster-prone area III, (2) The impact of Mount Merapi's eruption, (3) Emergency Response Plan, (4) Temporary shelter, (5) Evacuation flow, (6) Information sources, (7) Health Problems, (8) Health Facilities in Refugees, (9) Disaster Preparedness, and (10) Expectations of the elderly for officers.

3.1 Theme 1: "Knowledge about the risks of being in disaster-prone area III"

The findings of this study explain the elderly's knowledge and attitudes around the eruption of Mount Merapi, which is linked to the subject of knowing the hazards of living in KRB III, which is divided into three categories : danger, vulnerability, and capacity. Participants recounted the insight they had long ago when confronted with the Mount Merapi accident based on their own experiences. The overview of older knowledge covers Mount Merapi's risks, as well as the elderly's fragility and potential. The following interview sample demonstrates the perils of Mount Merapi :

This study examines the elderly's awareness of the threats they face when the Mount Merapi calamity happens. Researchers questioned seven participants and discovered that the participants stated that the threats of the Merapi eruption were lava, ash rain, and heated clouds, as evidenced by the statement:

*"...When it erupts,
what comes out is
lava..." (P1)"...with
those volcano-
pyroclastic flow..."*

(P1)

*"...Merapi erupted and released ash and saw the
fire rising upwards..." (P2)"...volcano-pyroclastic
flow, it reaches here..." (P3)*

"...It

keep

releasi

ng the

ash..."

(P4)

"....it

has

ashes

too...."

(P5)

"..... with hot clouds..." (P5)

*"..... the same as emitting
volcano-pyroclastic flow..."*

*(P6)"... Those volcano-
pyroclastic flow..." (P7)*

"....There is lava passing through the river behind there...." (P5)

Mount Merapi has erupted multiple times, affecting residents in disaster-prone zones III, including the elderly. When the Merapi emergency strikes, elderly folks with severe disabilities may find it impossible to save themselves. The researcher's interviews with the seven participants revealed that the elderly face many risks, including age, geographic location, health, and physical condition. The interview sample below illustrates the fragility of the elderly:

"....My house is at the top of Dukuh Sutan Rejo....." (P2)

"... Many of the roads used as evacuation routes are damaged....." (P4)

".... Yes, if you are an elderly person, you are already old, sis. " (P4)

"...Well, the one next to my house has been sick for a long time....." (P4)

"...Even so, sometimes my feet like gout, sis. " (P5)

"....If that's the case, I'm just an old man....." (P5)

".....people are also parents, right sis. " (P7)

"..... Many of the roads are steep, sis,...." (P7)

Understanding the warning signals of a tragedy might help the elderly save themselves. Knowing the warning indications of an impending eruption allows the elderly to quickly flee risky locations. Interviews with researchers revealed that the elderly's comprehension of the indicators that a volcano would erupt is critical to their ability to escape promptly in the event of a calamity. This is consistent with the following participant statements:

*"...So when I heard that sound, the ashes kept coming out, the earth felt like it was
shaking
lightning like that coming out of the Merapi....." (P1)*

"...The fire seemed to radiate... and the smoke rose to the top. The sound was loud, the sound was like stones hitting each other " (P2)

"That is, the sound goes 'boom boom' like a gunshot. What you can see is like smoke, hot clouds that reach here, the earth feels like it's shaking or there's lightning like that coming out of Merapi" (P3)

"The agreement, Miss, in this area is that if the mountain is about to erupt, the mountain shakes like an earthquake, the glass panes vibrate like they're being tapped like that. " (P4)

"The vibrations were loud, like the earth was shaking, like an earthquakethe glass was like banging and banging like that. " (P5)

"... Look at the mountain it's on fire... It's just like an earthquake... the earth is shaking....." (P6)

"...It felt like it was shaking all the time and there was no rest.....the glass was shaking. Yes, from the sound it

was shaking like that, so I kept going down..." (P7)

3.2 Theme 2: "The impact of Mount Merapi Eruption"

The findings of this study explain elderly persons' awareness of the impact of Mount Merapi's eruption, which is classified into three categories: influence on social life, impact on the environment, and impact on humanity. Participants reported their understanding of the Mount Merapi tragedy based on their own experiences. The categories relating to the impact of Mount Merapi's eruption are as follows:

"...Yes, the house was destroyed, the livestock was destroyed, wood like this was all burned down. " (P1)

" Even the oxen were not saved, people didn't take care of them but they were hit by the hot clouds, so it's

finished, sis, the roof tiles have fallen off the house " (P2)

"...You can't see anything, people are all in the dark without any lights. the houses are charred, the wood is

collapsing in a curved shape " (P5)

" Upstairs it's already quiet, it's dark, there's no electricity, there's only the sound of the wind, the mountains

are already bare and the trees are all burnt down. " (P7)

"...If you get hit by a hot cloud, it could scald you, sis. " (P3)

" then all the people here are fleeing, right?" (P4)

"... continued yesterday until there were victims too " (P7)

3.3 Theme 3: "Emergency Response Plan"

The findings of this study revealed that participants' emergency reaction plans included keeping away from impacted locations, monitoring wind direction, preparing vehicles, and remaining aware to Merapi's eruption. This is consistent with the following statement:

" Yes, it's away from the house, it continues down wherever it doesn't pass through the volcano-pyroclastic flow. " (P1)

"...Yes, if you know the wind is going south, everyone here will evacuate like that..." (P2)

"...The residents continue to evacuate, the young people monitor upstairs and then if there's an emergency they'll continue to come down like that..." (P4)

"...if the earth is already shaking, then the motorbike is ready, facing south, the car is also facing the road, so it's easy..." (P5)

"...The important thing is to be alert, if it's shaking, I'm ready to go down..." (P6)

"...Yes, that's running... in the past, that's running, but now I have the key on my bike so that if it erupts at any time, I can go down quickly... I heard the volcano so I immediately got off..." (P7)

3.4 Theme 4: "Temporary Shelter"

The findings of this study indicated the temporary shelter utilized by the elderly in Balerante during the eruption. Following interviews with seven participants, the researchers discovered that the temporary shelter was located in Bawukan Village, and one elderly person sought safety in their relative's home in Cangkringan. This is consistent with the following participant statements:

"...Refugee in Bawukan..." (P1)

"...the entire RW evacuated to Bawukan..." (P2) "...evacuated to Bawukan first..." (P3)

"...Continue to evacuate in Bawukan, if there is a big eruption move to the Regency..." (P4) "...The refuge was in Bawukan, then when the big eruption moved to the city like that..." (P5) "...to Bawukan..." (P6)

"...I have relatives in Cangkringan so I go there when I evacuate..." (P7)

3.5 Theme 5: "Evacuation Flow"

The findings of this study show that planning for older persons during an evacuation include recognizing evacuation routes, gathering sites, and arranging emergency transportation that will be used. Participants reported how they planned evacuation routes using their knowledge and experience from the Mount Merapi tragedy. The following is a description of kinds of evacuation routes during the eruption of Mount Merapi:

"...Yes, through the front, Mr. Jaiu, heading south, through Kikis via the Butuh market route..." (P2), (P5), (P6), (P7)

"...The route is this thin road until the village hall stops..." (P3), (P4) "...The truck will pick it up later..." (P1), (P2), (P4), (P5)

"...Later the vehicle will be prepared from down there..." (P3)

"...Picked up in a police vehicle, if I go with my neighbor I ride a motorbike..." (P6) "...If I take my own motorbike..." (P7)

"...Later we will continue to gather at the village hall..." (P1)-(P7)

3.6 Theme 6: "Information Source"

People living in disaster-prone Area III require reliable sources of disaster information. Information is gathered directly from authorities in charge of spreading information about an anticipated eruption. Information can be obtained through either word of mouth or electronic media. The necessity to know the sources of catastrophe information might be a reference for the elderly to know the state of Mount Merapi:

"...That came from Mr. Bayan and then directly ordered the RT-RW sir, that's directly to the community..." (P1)

"...I am one of my relatives and neighbors.. I also watch TV while resting..." (P2)

"...When it was about to erupt, the government already told us... there was a tool for it and then the BPTK conveyed it..." (P3)

"...Residents here have received information from the government via BPTK, so they have been told to evacuate..." (P4)

"...Usually from radio, if not TV..." (P5)

"...From the government, Miss RW.. I also said that to my neighbors..." (P6) "...If I was informed by Mr. Jainu (Mr. Bayan)..." (P7)

3.7 Theme 7: "Health Issues"

Mount Merapi has erupted multiple times, causing anguish for the afflicted population, who are similar to the elderly who have a history of disease. The results of the researcher's interviews with the seven participants revealed that the health difficulties faced by the elderly varied according to the type of sickness they had and the treatment strategy they picked. The categories of health concerns are as follows:

"...Usually I take him for treatment to a midwife..." (P1)

"...If I usually go to the doctor they will give me medicine..." (P2) "...I take medicine regularly..." (P4)

"...If you feel sick at any time, go to the doctor and give you medicine..." (P5) "...Yes, I took it to the orderly or to the community health center..." (P6)

"...I took him to the community health center and asked for medicine and it would heal itself..." (P7)

3.8 Theme 8: "Health Facility in the Shelter"

The elderly's health concerns must be treated swiftly, especially during disasters, through health service points that supply medicines to old persons in need. Health points staffed by physicians, village midwives, and other health workers may tackle health issues effectively, resulting in no victims. The findings of this study revealed that there are health facilities in refugee camps where older individuals may seek medical attention and check their health. This is consistent with the following participant statements:

"...Yes, it has been prepared at the refugee camp..." (P1)

"...Yes, there is a health center and the midwives have prepared it, right..." (P2)

"...Everything is complete..." (P3)

"...There's that...if you need it, just ask..." (P5)

3.9 Theme 9: "Preparation before a disaster"

Preparation for the Merapi volcanic disaster is the most important measure for those living in disaster-prone region III. Things that can lead to losses can be avoided with cautious planning. Participants explained the concept of disaster preparedness by preparing a standby bag and its contents, which were divided into two categories: plan for a standby bag and contents of a standby bag.

"...That's it, yes, the items that have been prepared are put in the bag. If there's danger, just take them..." (P1), (P2), (P3), (P4)

"...Now the government has told me to prepare a bag, I have prepared everything so that my child can take it later..." (P5), (P6), (P7)

"...Yes, what is clear is a certificate, yes, a letter, a child's birth certificate..." (P1), (P2), (P3)

"...Yes, that's a marriage card, certificate, ID card, BPKB letter, vehicle documents and clothes..." (P4)

3.10 Theme 10: "Elderly wishes for officer"

The elderly's dream for dealing with Mount Merapi's eruption is to be able to prepare everything and confront the calamity without losing any lives. The elderly look to officers such as the government, health professionals, and rescue squads. This is consistent with the following statement:

"...If you predict that there will be another disaster, give prior notice..." (P1)

" then what are the hopes of the residents so that evacuation routes should be prioritized, those that are

damaged should be repaired immediately. " (P4)

"...if I ask for what causes shortness of breath, prepare the medicine if it's something like steam, prepare

something like additional oxygen " (P5)

"...Yes...be more patient and ask for help if someone is sick like this, treat it like that. (P6)

"...yes help to be rescued immediately, so that there are no victims either " (P7)

4 Discussions

The outcomes of this study revealed that older persons had reasonably excellent understanding of the hazards they faced while in disaster-prone area III, as demonstrated when participants attempted to answer questions posed by researchers. Participants recognized the dangers of lava, volcanic ash, and heated clouds. Participants also recognize their own vulnerabilities and strengths. Participants comprehend the susceptibility of age, geographical location, health, and physical condition, as well as the capability to recognize the indicators of an imminent eruption. The participants' knowledge of the threat risks is consistent with the idea offered by Rahayu et al (2019), which states that the dangers of volcanic eruptions are divided into main and secondary dangers.

The vulnerabilities identified by the participants are consistent with the findings of research (22) which found that environmental vulnerabilities experienced by the community include land areas that are easily damaged and covered in material during an eruption, as well as plants and animals that die when protected forest areas are disturbed. Prepared elderly are those who can confront calamities because they are familiar with the signals of a crisis and are ready to leave at any moment (23). According to the Regional Disaster Management Agency, signs that Mount Merapi will erupt include rising temperatures surrounding the mountain, roaring sounds accompanied by vibrations (earthquakes), and animals near the mountain starting to tumble down (24).

This study focused on the impact of Mount Merapi's eruption, namely on social life, the environment, and individuals. Natural disasters are harmful phenomena of varying magnitudes that affect human social life, the economy, the environment, and psychosocial difficulties (25). According to Karimatunnisa & Pandjaitan, (2018) the effect of the Merapi eruption not only impacted livelihood systems and buildings, but it also endangered the lives of survivors. Isnaini (2019) stated that the tragedy had a negative impact on infrastructure, property, and human life. This hypothesis supports the influence of disasters on the environment and humanity, based on the experiences of participants.

This study found that the emergency response strategy was extremely effective. According to what participants said, when a disaster strikes, they will leave their homes and seek refuge, they will determine the direction of the wind, and they will evacuate and prepare cars. Each participant's emergency response plan is unique, however this might indicate a participant's preparedness to handle a volcanic eruption tragedy. Researchers believe it is connected to the emergency reaction strategy of promptly leaving the house

and finding for a secure location. Putri (2020) mentioned that society can respond quickly and appropriately to prevent loss of life, property, and environmental harm. Another participant responded that given prior safety, they would opt to depart immediately. According to Kristifolus (2017), prior disaster experiences helped community members prepare for the next crisis. This idea supports the existence of participant-prepared emergency response plans.

This study identified the subject of temporary shelter; participants' knowledge of temporary shelter was fairly excellent, according to the findings of interviews, which revealed that the elderly already knew where to reside temporarily if a natural disaster struck. The most common shelter is in the Bawukan region, but if it becomes unsafe, it will be relocated to the Regency. When a crisis strikes, people might utilize a temporary shelter they are familiar with as a reference point to ensure that no further casualties occur. Temporary housing is a solution for the transition period; nevertheless, it must be created swiftly. Temporary shelter is a vital necessity in the aftermath of a disaster; consequently, the psychological condition of victims is taken into account, and shelter construction is carried out swiftly, effectively, efficiently, and accurately, with the ability to be reused (30).

This study highlights evacuation flow themes. The elderly have strong knowledge of evacuation routes, and they suggest evacuation routes, vehicles, and agreed-upon rendezvous sites. Participants' responses indicated that they were already familiar with the evacuation route in the Balerante region. The community already knows where the meeting location is, the evacuation route to take, and the vehicle that will pick them up at the spot. This is consistent with research conducted by Afik et al., (2021), which states that in the BNPB Tangkas Tangguh pocket book in facing disasters, three main efforts in preparing a preparedness plan are explained, namely by identifying gathering points and knowing evacuation routes so that it makes it easier for residents to carry out independent evacuation.

This study highlights commonalities in the information sources that participants typically utilize while dealing with emergencies. According to the findings of the interviews, participants' primary sources of information were alert team personnel, local government, and electronic media such as TV and radio, with mobile phones and HT serving as communication tools. The majority of participants do not own personal communication devices; nonetheless, some participants rely on their children or neighbors to utilize electronic communication devices such as cell phones. This source of information is consistent with study undertaken by Afik et al., (2021) who argue that the government is accountable for spreading information using various media such as sirens or electronic devices. The public should also be aware of and comprehend the current volcanic level of Mount Merapi, since this might impact the activities that individuals living in disaster-prone regions must take.

This study discovered several health problem themes among participants, including blood circulation issues, musculoskeletal disorders, diabetes mellitus, and asthma. The individuals' blood circulation issue was excessive blood pressure. Several patients had a history of high blood pressure, which often need further medication. The participants complained of feeling dizzy. Participants cope with health issues by seeking care at a hospital or health facility. Disasters followed by displacement can result in health concerns. In crisis scenarios, emergencies arise in many parts of society as a result of government paralysis, damage to public infrastructure, and disruptions to communication and transportation networks. The rise of health problems is often preceded by difficulties in other disciplines or industries. The refugee population group requires special attention since they have lost certain key rights against their consent (32)

This study focuses on the issue of health facilities in refugee camps. With the many health difficulties that participants face, the presence of health facilities is critical for participants to overcome health issues in refugee camps. Complete the workforce with village midwives, community health center health workers, doctors, and volunteers to ensure optimal service delivery. Health services in refugee camps are frequently inadequate due to insufficient health facilities, a lack of drugs and medical equipment, and a shortage of health workers (32). According to the Ministry of Health's 2007 basic criteria for refugee health care include health services, infectious disease prevention and eradication, and nutritional surveillance. Health services include public health, reproductive health, and mental health (32).

The findings of this study highlight items that should be prepared before to a crisis, namely a disaster preparedness bag. A standby bag is one of the preparations that must be made prior to a disaster occurring. The findings of the interviews revealed that participants had packed material in disaster preparedness packs, although it was still at a minimum. The backup bag contains vital letters, money, and clothing. To decrease the effect of major emergencies, the community must be familiar with the disaster preparedness pack, which will make it simpler for the community to respond to a disaster (33). The eruption of Merapi has an impact on the people who live around it. Thus, understanding or knowledge about disasters is needed to prevent greater impacts by identifying local areas that can be used as places of refuge, monitoring and listening to information about the status of the volcano, as well as preparing supplies of basic needs such as medicine, food, and important documents (34).

The findings of this study revealed commonalities in participants' hopes for officers, including wishes for the government, the health team, and the rescue team. The administration hopes that damaged routes will be restored soon and evacuation places readied. The health team hopes to be ready to service participants while also preparing medications and other health support equipment. The rescue team's goal is that they prioritize vulnerable people for evacuation and are supported in evacuating so that no lives are lost.

According to academics, disaster management officers such as volunteers, government, and health teams play a significant role during a natural disaster as information sources, rescuers, assisting with evacuation, providing shelter, and minimizing health concerns for survivors. This is in accordance with Disaster Management Law Number 24 of 2007, which states that the central government is responsible for implementing disaster management, including disaster risk reduction, and integrating disaster risk reduction with development programs, as well as protecting communities from disaster impacts and ensuring the fulfillment of community and refugee rights through BNPB (35).

5 CONCLUSION

This research seeks to understand the elderly's readiness for volcanic emergencies in the disaster-prone area of Mount Merapi, Balerante Village, Kemalang, and Klaten. The findings of this study reflect the elderly's awareness of capacity and susceptibility, as well as the preparations they took prior to the Mount Merapi tragedy, such as readiness packs, emergency plans, and the effect of Mount Merapi. Colaizzi's analysis revealed ten themes: knowledge of the risks of being in disaster-prone area III, the impact of Mount Merapi's eruption, emergency response plan, temporary shelter, evacuation flow, information sources, health problems, health facilities in evacuees, disaster preparations, and hope for elderly officers.

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