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# Exploring Community Resilience, Emotional Solidarity and Place Attachment for Disaster Preparedness (Case Study: Rural Destination in West Sumatera)

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**Abstract:** This research explores community resilience, emotional solidarity, and place attachment in disaster preparedness at rural tourist destinations in West Sumatra. Using a qualitative approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with stakeholders, including village tourism managers, disaster activists, and community representatives. The research results show that place attachment and emotional solidarity play an important role in building community resilience to disasters. Factors such as disaster mitigation, social support, and the readiness of infrastructure and regulations are key in strengthening community preparedness. This study provides in-depth insights for tourism destination managers and policymakers in designing more effective strategies for community-based disaster preparedness.

**Keyword:** Community Resilience, Emotional Solidarity, Place Attachment, Disaster Preparedness, Tourist Destination, West Sumatra.

#### INTRODUCTION

The tourism sector is one of the important economic sectors and plays a significant role in increasing regional income (Li et al., 2016). However, according to Genç, (2018) this sector is also highly vulnerable to various natural disaster threats such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and floods, particularly in regions with high disaster risk, such as Indonesia. These disaster risks pose a serious challenge to the sustainability of the tourism industry as they can threaten tourists and tourism industry players, considering that disaster can occur suddenly, cause infrastructure damage, and disrupt the operations of the tourism sector.

Physical damage can be observed in structures such as hotels, restaurants, roads, and public facilities needed by tourists. When these facilities are damaged, tourists may hesitate to visit an area because they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. On the other hand, disasters can create fear among tourists about visiting disaster-prone areas, such as those vulnerable to earthquakes or volcanic eruptions (Çakar, 2021). Tourists may hesitate and reconsider visiting these regions due to the perception that they might be in danger. Risk-aware tourists often seek information

about the preparedness and mitigation measures in place in such areas. If they can't find information about evacuation routes and safety protocols, they may feel that the destination is not adequately prepared to handle disasters. In the long term, this can decrease the number of visitors and reduce regional income. Therefore, efforts are needed from local governments and tourism managers to educate tourists, provide adequate mitigation infrastructure, and improve the destination's preparedness.

Disaster preparedness in the tourism sector is crucial to safeguard the safety of tourists, local communities and tourism assets themselves. According to Zhuo et al., (2024) disaster preparedness is an effort to enhance the ability of individuals or groups to respond to disaster by increasing knowledge, attitudes, and appropriate behaviors related to preparedness. It primarily focuses on preparing for emergency situations to survive, protect oneself, and take quick and effective actions when disaster occur. Furthermore, good preparedness will have a positive impact on the tourism image of a region, showcasing that the destination has resilient and ready system to face potential disasters. This will also boost tourists' confidence, which is a vital factor in the sustainability of the tourism industry.

Several preparedness strategies include developing emergency response plans, providing training and education for tourism stakeholders, and constructing infrastructure that support evacuation. Additionally, collaboration between the government, private sector, and community is a key element in building effective preparedness (Waugh & Han, 2017). This approach is expected not only to reduce the risks and losses caused by disaster but also to expedite the recovery of the tourism sector post-disaster. By implementing comprehensive and sustainable disaster preparedness, the tourism sector can contribute more effectively to managing disaster risks and building resilience within local communities.

West Sumatra is one of Indonesia's provinces renowned for its natural beauty. Stunning natural tourist destinations are scattered across this region, such as the beautiful beaches in the Mentawai Islands, breathtaking lakes like Lake Maninjau and Lake Singkarak, and ranges of mountains and valleys offering extraordinary views, such as Mount Marapi and Harau Valley. Dey et al. (2020) said this natural beauty serves as the main attraction for both local and international tourists who wish to experience the charm of tropical nature blended with the unique traditional Minangkabau ambiance.

However, West Sumatera is also among the regions prone to natural disasters. Games et al. (2020) This province is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it frequently affected by tectonic and volcanic activities that can trigger earthquakes and volcanic eruptions (Chen, 2020). Additionally, West Sumatera has a high potential for tsunami threats, especially in the western coastal areas that directly border the Indian Ocean. Several disaster that have occurred in this region, such as the major earthquake in 2009 and various tsunami events in the Mentawai Islands, have caused significant impacts on the local community and the tourism industry in the area.

In addition to earthquakes and tsunamis, other disaster risks such as landslides, and flash floods also frequently occur, particularly in steep hilly and mountainous areas. These pose threats to tourists and tourism industry players, as disasters can occur suddenly, causing infrastructure damage and disrupting the operations of the tourism sector.

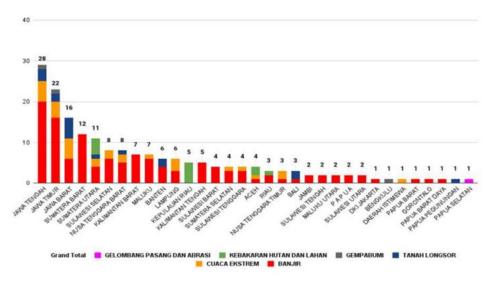


Figure 1. Disaster Event in March by Province in Indonesia Source: (BNPB, 2024)

In this image above, it is shown that West Sumatra recorded 12 natural disaster events in March 2024. Flooding is the most frequent disaster occurring in West Sumatra, especially during periods of heavy rainfall. Floods can cause damage to infrastructure, agricultural land, and residential areas, as well as disrupt community activities and tourism destinations.

West Sumatra, known as a region with high potential for natural disasters, must be prepared to face such events, especially in the tourism sector developing in rural areas. Tourist villages are rural areas developed into tourism destinations that utilize the natural, cultural, traditional, and local lifestyle potentials as attraction for visitors. Tourists can directly see and experience the authenticity of a place's culture and traditions and engage in learning activities about local culture, such as farming methods, cooking traditional foods, and studying local arts and culture. West Sumatra boasts tourist villages that showcase the unique natural and cultural wealth to attract visitors from various regions. These tourist villages are often located in strategic areas surrounded by mountains, rice fields, or beautiful rivers. Beyond their natural charm, these villages are also known for the rich Minangkabau cultural heritage, including traditional houses, dances, handicrafts, and authentic traditional cuisine.

Rural tourist destinations, which are often located in remote areas, face challenges in accessing adequate disaster management facilities, such as evacuation routes, emergency communication tools, and disaster response training for local communities. Limitations in providing emergency facilities and the lack of socialization regarding evacuation procedures can increase vulnerability, both for tourists and local residents, which impacts the safety and appeal of the destination.

These limitations highlight the need for attention to the local community's ability to endure, adapt, and recover from the impacts of disasters. Community resilience is key to reducing risks, maintaining socio-economic stability, and supporting the sustainability of the tourism sector. Therefore, Mastura et., al 2020, state that understanding the factors that influence community resilience, such as attachment to place and emotional solidarity, is essential to help local communities face challenges while also leveraging tourism potential sustainably.

Place attachment is also related to community identity. When individuals feel connected to their place, they tend to have a greater sense of ownership and responsibility toward the community. According to Wang & Zhai, (2023) in the context of place attachment psychology involves emotions cognition, and behaviors that develop through an individual's experiences and interactions with that place. In tourism areas, the interaction between local

communities and tourists is very strong, and place attachment can serve as a bridge to build better relationships and solidarity.

Place attachment, emotional solidarity, and tourism community resilience are closely interconnected in shaping community resilience against disasters. Place attachment refers to the strong emotional bond between individuals and a place that holds special meaning for them, such as a tourism destination. This attachment can enhance the sense of responsibility and commitment of the community towards environmental preservation and the sustainability of tourism, especially when facing disaster crises. Meanwhile, emotional solidarity reflects the mutual support among community members in strengthening their collective capacity to face challenges. In the face of disaster threats, communities with high emotional solidarity tend to be more adaptable and recover more quickly. In the context of tourism, emotional solidarity also encompasses the relationship between local communities and tourists, which influences the involvement of both parties in post-disaster recovery efforts. Therefore, understanding the interaction between these factors is not only important for enhancing community resilience against disasters but also for ensuring the sustainability of tourism as a livelihood source for local communities.

#### **METHOD**

According to Creswell (2009), research design refers to the plans and procedures for conducting research, encompassing decisions ranging from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. The research design for this study is qualitative research, which involves exploring and understanding the meaning that individuals or groups assign to a social or human problem. The research process includes emerging questions and procedures, with data typically collected in the participants' natural setting.

In this research, the researcher serve as the key instrument responsible for collecting research data through observation and interview techniques. Through the interview method, this research is expected to be able to explore the benefits of community emotional solidarity through place attachment on tourists' community resilience in preparation for welcoming visitors again.

# **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### Result

# **Perceived of Disaster by Community**

The questions asked to the informants were based on the research variables. The researcher recorded various findings or keywords that emerged from the informants' responses during the interview process, as shown below:



Figure 2. Keyword of Interview Result Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

Based on the data processing results, the keyword "assistance" was the most frequently mentioned by informants, followed by "recovery" and "support". This indicates that the community, as represented by the informants, places great emphasis on the importance and role of assistance in emergency situations, post-disaster recovery processes, and mutual support in strengthening community resilience. These three keywords also suggest that disaster preparedness in a region does not only focus on immediate disaster response but also on long-term recovery and social solidarity in building sustainable communities.

| Keyword       | Count | Weighted Percentage |
|---------------|-------|---------------------|
| Assistance    | 104   | 3.26%               |
| Recovery      | 98    | 3.07%               |
| Support       | 77    | 2.42%               |
| Important     | 54    | 1.69%               |
| Activities    | 53    | 1.66%               |
| Evacuation    | 43    | 1.35%               |
| Understanding | 41    | 1.29%               |
| Cooperation   | 38    | 1.19%               |
| Residents     | 34    | 1.07%               |
| Accept        | 32    | 1.00%               |
| Solidarity    | 31    | 0.97%               |
| Educational   | 28    | 0.88%               |
| Preparedness  | 25    | 0.78%               |
| Strengthen    | 24    | 0.75%               |
| Daily         | 21    | 0.66%               |
| Data          | 15    | 0.47%               |
| Comfortable   | 14    | 0.44%               |
| Kitchens      | 12    | 0.38%               |
| Training      | 12    | 0.38%               |
| Collaboration | 11    | 0.35%               |

Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

The following table presents the keywords frequently mentioned by informants, based on data interview result.

### **Disaster Management**

This section will discuss the research findings and analysis of disaster management as carried out by the informants in their daily lives in their respective residential areas. The researcher asked about the preparation, response, and recovery efforts undertaken by the informants in dealing with disaster that occur in their region.



Figure 3. Disaster Management Word Cloud Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

Based on the data processing result, the keyword "shelter" was the most frequently mentioned by informant, followed by "educated" and "kitchen". Informants were asked about

their preparedness before disaster occurred, and it was found that most areas have evacuation shelters, and the provision of communal kitchens is often carried out during the emergency phase. The word "educated" indicates that the community has already received education to enhance disaster preparedness.

| Table 2. Disaster Management Word Frequency |       |            |  |
|---|-------|------------|--|
| Word  | Count | Percentage |  |
| Shelter                                     | 9     | 1.95%      |  |
| Educated                                    | 8     | 1.74%      |  |
| Kitchen                                     | 8     | 1.74%      |  |
| Mitigation                                  | 7     | 1.52%      |  |
| Information                                 | 5     | 1.08%      |  |
| Simulations                                 | 5     | 1.08%      |  |
| Guidance                                    | 4     | 0.87%      |  |
| Infrastructure                              | 4     | 0.87%      |  |
| Regulation                                  | 4     | 0.87%      |  |
| Report                                      | 4     | 0.87%      |  |
| Updates                                     | 4     | 0.87%      |  |
| Counseling                                  | 3     | 0.65%      |  |
| Practice                                    | 3     | 0.65%      |  |

Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

2

2

2

2

2

0.65%

0.43%

0.43%

0.43%

0.43%

0.43%

0.43%

Restore

Coordinate Guideline

Logistics

Medicine

Meeting

Recover

The following table presents the keywords frequently mentioned by informants, based on data interview result. These keywords indicate that the community has a disaster management system that includes preparedness, emergency response, and community-based recovery.

### **Place Attachment**

This section will discuss the research findings and analysis of place attachment as experienced by the informants in their daily lives in their respective residential areas. The researcher asked about the contribution, relationship, and role of a place in relation to the informants.



Figure 4. Place Attachment Word Cloud Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

Based on the data processing result, the community has a strong attachment to their place as seen from the keyword "important", which is the most frequently mentioned by the

informants. This indicates that their home hold significant value for them. Additionally, the keyword "activities" suggest that their daily activities are highly dependent on that place.

**Table 3. Place Attachment Word Frequency** 

| Tuble 2.1 lace littueliment ++ of a litequency |          |            |  |
|--|----------|------------|--|
| Word   | Count    | Percentage |  |
| Important                                      | 26       | 3.75%      |  |
| Activities                                     | 18       | 2.59%      |  |
| Support  | 17       | 2.45%      |  |
| Comfortable                                    | 14       | 2.02%      |  |
| Solidarity                                     | 12       | 1.73%      |  |
| Residence                                      | 10       | 1.44%      |  |
| Business                                       | 8        | 1.15%      |  |
| Income   | 7        | 1.01%      |  |
| Protect  | 7        | 1.01%      |  |
| Safe   | 5        | 0.72%      |  |
| -  | <u> </u> |            |  |

Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

The following table presents the keywords frequently mentioned by informants, based on data interview result. These keywords indicate that the community's place attachment is not only emotional but also supported by economic, social, and security factors.

## **Emotional Solidarity**

This section will discuss the research findings and analysis of emotional solidarity as experienced by the informants in their daily lives in their respective residential areas. The researcher asked about the community's attitude toward receiving assistance during disasters in the informants' area and the emotional connection between the community and the assistance volunteers who come to help.



Figure 5. Emotional Solidarity Word Cloud Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14

Based on the data processing result, the word "understand" was found to be the most frequently mentioned by the informants. This indicates that the community feels that external parties providing the assistance understand the situation and conditions experienced by those affected by the disaster. The words "accepted" and "grateful" show that the community is open to and accepts the assistance coming from the external parties.

**Table 4. Emotional Solidarity Word Frequency** 

| Table 4. Emblional Solidarity Word Frequency |       |            |  |
|--|-------|------------|--|
| Word   | Count | Percentage |  |
| Understand                                   | 16    | 8.12%      |  |
| Accepted                                     | 3     | 6.60%      |  |
| Grateful                                     | 5     | 2.54%      |  |
| Empathize                                    | 4     | 2.03%      |  |
| Depends                                      | 3     | 1.52%      |  |
| Welcome                                      | 2     | 1,02%      |  |
| Anticipated                                  | 1     | 0.51%      |  |
| Benefiting                                   | 1     | 0.51%      |  |
| Emphasized                                   | 1     | 0.51%      |  |
|  |       |            |  |

| Expectations                        | 1 | 0.51% |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|--|--|
| Source: Data Processing by NVivo 14 |   |       |  |  |

The following table presents the keywords frequently mentioned by informants, based on data interview result.

### **Discussion**

The key themes that emerged from this analysis is the significant role of place attachment in fostering emotional, particularly in communities affected by disasters. The deep connection individuals have with their place strengthens their resilience, as it nurtures a collective sense of identity, responsibility, and emotional support (J. Wang & Zhai, 2023). When people feel a strong bond with their place, they are more likely to support each other during crises, reinforcing solidarity through mutual assistance and shared recovery efforts (Kastenholz et al., 2020). This correlation enhances the community's ability to rebuild and adapt, ensuring a faster and more cohesive recovery process. The data analysis further highlights how these emotional ties influence proactive disaster risk reduction efforts, as individuals become more invested in preserving and protecting their environment, ultimately contributing to long-term community resilience.

Additionally, place attachment plays a role in the recovery of the tourism sector post-disaster. Residents who strongly identify with their place tend to work together to restore the environment, making it welcoming again for both local and tourists (Ge et al., 2022). Their collective efforts in reconstruction, infrastructure rehabilitation, and mitigation strategies reflect their commitment to sustaining the tourism sector. Moreover, the emotional closeness among community members fosters a spirit of cooperation, ensuring that everyone plays a role in the revival of tourism post-disaster.

Emotional solidarity plays a crucial role in strengthening social cohesion and enhancing community preparedness. This study identifies three key aspects of emotional solidarity: empathy, gratitude, and hope. Empathy is a major factor in post-disaster recovery, as residents support each other through both psychological and material assistance. The shared experience of hardship creates stronger bonds among community members, increasing a sense of togetherness and willingness to help one another. Additionally, gratitude is an important element that strengthens social relationships. Many residents express appreciation for the assistance they receive from neighbors, local organizations, and external parties, which fosters a culture of mutual aid and collective cooperation.

Expectations in emotional solidarity are also closely related to the assistance received by disaster victims. In this context, expectations reflect the hopes of affected communities regarding the support they will receive, whether from fellow residents, the government, or humanitarian organizations. Research findings indicate that disaster victims not only expect material assistance, such as food, shelter, and other basic necessities, but also emotional and social support to help them cope with post-disaster trauma.

These expectations play a vital role in strengthening emotional solidarity within the community. When victims feel they will receive adequate support, they are more likely to remain optimistic and participate in the collective recovery process. Conversely, if expectations are not met, this can impact the level of trust and cohesion within the community. Therefore, fulfilling these expectations through a timely and effective disaster response is a key factor in rebuilding trust, strengthening social relationships, and ensuring a more effective and sustainable recovery.

In the tourism context, emotional solidarity derived from place attachment significantly contributes to community resilience. The readiness of local communities to welcome tourists back after a disaster is greatly influenced by their level of attachment to the destination (Unurlu,

2021). Those with strong sense of place identity and dependence actively participate in recovery efforts, ensuring that essential services, attractions, and safety measures are restored. Their emotional connection also makes them more open to external support, including assistance from government, non-governmental organization, and tourism stakeholders.

Effective disaster management is a key factor in ensuring that communities can recover and rebuild after a crisis. Research findings indicate that various preparedness efforts have been implemented, including social assistance, education, communal kitchens, disaster mitigation, information dissemination, simulations, mentoring, infrastructure development, regulations, data management, training, recovery programs, coordination, guideline development, as well as meetings and discussions. These efforts not only contribute to a swift response during disasters but also help shape a long-term culture of preparedness.

One of the main aspects of disaster management identified in this study is strong coordination between community members and local stakeholders. The presence of communal kitchens and aid networks after disasters reflects the community's collective approach to crisis management. Additionally, regular simulations and training help residents understand evacuation procedures and mitigation strategies, making them better prepared for future disasters.

Infrastructure and regulations also play a crucial role in disaster risk reduction efforts. Updated recovery guidelines and plans enable a more structured and effective response. Through regular meetings and discussions, local leaders and residents can evaluate their level of preparedness and continuously improve their disaster management strategies. These proactive measures demonstrate the community's readiness not only to protect local residents but also to create a safe environment for tourists after a disaster.

Place attachment, emotional solidarity, and disaster management interact in building the resilience of tourism communities. Place attachment fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility, encouraging residents to take a more active role in disaster preparedness efforts. This, in turn, strengthens emotional bonds and solidarity within the community, ultimately improving cooperation in disaster response and recovery.

On the other hand, emotional solidarity enhances the effectiveness of disaster management strategies. Communities with high levels of empathy and social attachment are more likely to participate in preparedness training, adhere to regulations, and engage in recovery efforts. This cycle of attachment, solidarity, and preparedness creates a stronger resilience system, allowing communities to recover more quickly after disasters while remaining an attractive destination for tourists.

### **CONCLUSION**

### 1. Disaster Management

Most informant showed involvement in various aspects of disaster management.

### a. Before The Disaster Occurs

Disaster preparedness does not only depend on response but also on mitigation and community education. Disaster simulation training, socialization of warning signs, and understanding the vulnerability of their residences are essential. Many communities have already been exposed to awareness of the potential disasters in their respective areas.

# b. During The Disaster

The majority of informants emphasized the importance of the assistance they received. Evacuation is the first and most critical step, carried out quickly and in an organized manner, involving various parties such as emergency teams, volunteers, and the surrounding community. Disaster-affected communities need safe and proper temporary shelters to survive until the situation returns to normal. The establishment of communal kitchens greatly helps in

cooking and providing food for victims. Emergency posts also serve as information centers, victim data collection points, and distribution hubs for incoming assistances.

# c. Immediately After The Disaster

Psychological recovery, such as trauma healing, is crucial. Disasters can leave a deep emotional impact on victims, especially those who have lost family members, homes, or livelihoods. Disaster victims often experience trauma involving fear, anxiety, stress, and profound grief. Trauma healing plays a significant role in helping victims rise from adversity so they can rebuild their lives in a better way. Many volunteers come to provide entertainment for disaster victims suffering from trauma, most of whom are children.

# d. Recovery Preparation

In disaster response, coordination and collaboration among various parties are the key to ensuring a fast, effective, and well-targeted response. Without proper coordination, assistance may be delayed, unevenly distributed, or even mismatched with the actual needs of the affected community. The local community usually has a good understanding of their area's conditions. They can provide essential information and recommendations to volunteers delivering emergency assistance, helping to reduce the number of disaster casualties.

# e. Infrastructure and Supporting Facilities

The development and restoration of infrastructure are essential in strengthening community resilience against disasters. Efforts include rebuilding damaged structures with disaster-resistant designs for increased future safety. Additionally, the provision of warning signs, such as evacuation routes and disaster-prone area information boards, is an effective step in enhancing community preparedness. With stronger infrastructure and a well-established mitigation system, communities can be better prepared for disasters and accelerate the post-disaster recovery process.

### 2. Place Attachment

### a. Economic Factors as a Source of Income

Most informants stated that their current area serves as a place to live, work, and earn a livelihood. Some mentioned that they generate income from agriculture, local trade, or the service sector. The presence of tourism in the area significantly contributes to the economic growth of the local community. Due to its economic importance, people feel attached to the area not only as their home but also as a place for business and growth. This encourages them to maintain their environment and ensure that their area remains attractive to tourists.

### b. Sense of Comfort and Security

Informants expressed that their place of residence provides them with a sense of comfort and security. This feeling is further strengthened by the solidarity and preparedness of the community in facing disasters. Many residents have lived in the area for years, and they have developed a deep familiarity with it, along with a sense of responsibility for their surroundings.

# c. Emotional Attachment and Social Solidarity

The majority of informants stated that they have a deep emotional attachment to their place of residence. Some mentioned their strong connection with the community and surrounding environment, which motivates them to stay despite experiencing disasters. Social solidarity also plays a crucial role in strengthening this attachment, as people support one another in difficult times and work together on recovery efforts to restore normalcy, allowing them to resume their daily activities.

### 3. Emotional Solidarity

### a. Acceptance of The Situation

The research findings indicate that the community is highly accepting and grateful for the assistance they received during the disaster. They felt greatly helped by the support, whether in physical, moral, or social forms, demonstrating the strong solidarity within their community. The cooperation and adaptability shown by the community highlight their resilience in facing disasters, allowing them not only to endure but also to continue developing despite the recurring risks of disasters.

# b. Social Support and Togetherness

Emotional solidarity is evident in the sense of togetherness between the community and external parties who come to assist in evacuation and recovery efforts. This unity is reflected in mutual cooperation during emergencies and reconstruction efforts. A strong community and good relationships with external aid providers make it easier for the people to recover, as they do not feel alone and realize that many others care about and want to help them.

## c. Expectations

Regarding the acceptance of external assistance, some informants expressed confusion and frustration when the assistance they received did not meet their expectations or was not aligned with their immediate needs during the disaster. In some cases, unclear information and difficult coordination between affected victims and external aid providers led to challenges. The high expectations of the community regarding external assistance indicate their continued dependence on outside support while they manage the recovery process internally.

This study confirms that place attachment and emotional solidarity are fundamental elements in community resilience and post-disaster recovery. The findings indicate that fostering strong emotional connections among residents, developing community-based disaster management initiatives, and ensuring active participation in preparedness programs can significantly enhance the sustainability of both the community and the tourism sector. By integrating these three elements, communities can not only recover more effectively from disasters but also create a safer and more welcoming environment for tourists in the future.

The community has a fairly good level of preparedness but still requires support and improvements in certain aspects. According to the research findings, the community has a strong attachment to their place of residence, a high sense of solidarity, and an understanding of the importance of disaster management. Some informants showed an open and welcoming attitude toward tourists, especially since the tourism sector is one of their main sources of income.

However, there is also a hope that disaster mitigation, infrastructure, and preparedness education will continue to be strengthened to ensure the safety of both tourists and local residents. With strong collaboration between the government, the community, and the tourism sector, people believe that tourism can coexist with disaster preparedness and provide a sense of security for visitors coming to their region.

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