

THE ROLE OF THE *PAWANG UTEN* IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT (PERSPECTIVES ON *ADAT GLE* MAINTENANCE IN SERBAJADI SUBDISTRICT, ACEH TIMUR REGENCY)

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the effectiveness of the role of *pawang uten* in disaster management which includes exogenous latent variables, namely the *adat gle* maintenance while the endogenous latent variable is disaster management. To analyze the relationship between these variables, this study uses an analytical tool namely SmartPLS (*Partial Least Square*). Based on the results of the analysis and discussion of the research, it can be concluded that the role of *pawang uten* in *adat gle* maintenance it is in disaster management is yet to be seen. This is because the *adat gle* maintenance in Serbajadi Subdistrict only considered symbolic by the community when it will enter or manage the forest and internal responsibility for *adat gle* maintenance absolutely given to the *pawang uten*.

Keywords: *Pawang Uten, Adat Gle Maintenance, Disaster Management*

1. INTRODUCTION

Forests are an integral part of the lives of the people who live around them. The interaction between the forest village community and the surrounding natural environment has been going on for centuries (Azwir et al., 2016; Melaponty et al., 2019; Directorate General of Sustainable Production Forest Management, 2020; Saputro et al., 2021; Ngelo et al., 2022). One of the provinces in Indonesia that has forest land is Aceh province, according to data (BPS, 2022) forests in Aceh province covering an area of 3,550,390.23 ha or 2.94% of the total forest in Indonesia covering an area of 120,495,702.96 ha. Forests apart from having the potential as an abundant resource, it turns out that forests also have a high level of vulnerability and damage, including illegal logging as the main cause, in addition to encroachment (forest encroachment), shifting cultivation, and forest fires (Azwir et al., 2016; Putra et al., 2018). The occurrence of a high level of vulnerability and damage in the forest is due to access to the presence of a road network.

The level of vulnerability and damage that is quite high in the forest is a forest fire disaster. Forest fires are a situation where forests and land are hit by fire, destroying forests and land, and causing losses both economically and environmentally (Fathun, 2016; Yusuf et al., 2019; Saputro et al., 2021). Local wisdom in Indonesia in the context of disaster mitigation is also widely found in various regions, one of which is in Serbajadi Subdistrict, Aceh Timur Regency. Preliminary observations revealed that the people in Serbajadi Subdistrict practiced land clearing by burning and clearing forests. However, in reality these activities almost never have an impact on cases of forest fires, even though the community continues to clear land in this way. Communities in

Serbajadi Subdistrict also still use forest products for their daily lives, such as taking sap and cutting down agarwood to sell. Based on the results of interviews with several people, they said that there was still routine maintenance carried out by the *pawang uten*.

Pawang uten are community representatives at the village level who are closely related to preserving the forest in their village according to their customs (Baehaki et al., 2005 in Azwir et al., 2016). According to Aceh Qanun Number 10 of 2008 Concerning Customary Institutions states that *pawang uten* or any other name is a person who leads and regulates customs relating to the management and preservation of the forest environment. Research result Aprilana, (2015) regarding Acehese customs in environmental conservation practices concludes that the tradition of wise forest management has been practiced for generations in Acehese society. This is organized through the *uten adat* institution led by the *pawang uten*. The *pawang uten* is an element of the mukim administration who is responsible to the *imum mukim*. This cultural custom is still embedded in the lives of some Acehese people as a local wisdom that still exists and must be maintained, especially in settlements whose areas are adjacent to forest areas. The role of the *pawang uten* as the main stronghold in maintaining and managing forest management by linking local cultural wisdom is one of the customs in Acehese society which is regulated under a legal umbrella in accordance with people's lives.

Based on previous research, as has been stated, this research has the difference as a novelty, namely the forest disaster management variable has never been used by other researchers using SEM as a data analysis method. The urgency of this research is to see how the role of the *pawang uten* in carrying out efforts to prevent and control forest fires in forest disaster management in Serbajadi Subdistrict, Aceh Timur Regency can be used as a reference for forest management in other areas.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

The scope of this study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the role of the *pawang uten* in disaster management. This research was conducted in Serbajadi Subdistrict, Aceh Timur Regency. The research was carried out for 4 (four) months, from March to June 2023. The sampling technique used in this research is *purposive sampling* technique. *Purposive sampling* is sampling by determining specific characteristics that are in accordance with the research objectives. The sample used in this study was the community in 3 village in Serbajadi Subdistrict, totaling 90 people. The research sample can be seen in Table 1, and latent and manifest variables can be seen in Table 2.

Table 1. Research sample.

| Gampong | Number of Respondents |
|----------|-----------------------|
| Sembuang | 30 |
| Bunin | 30 |
| Mesir | 30 |

Table 2. Latent and manifest variables.

| Latent Variable | Manifest Variable |
|--|---|
| Adat Gle Maintenance (X ₁) (Exogenous Latent) | Pawang Uten Knowledge (X _{1.1}) Attitude of Pawang Uten (X _{1.2}) Behavior (X _{1.3}) |
| Disaster Management (Y) (Endogenous Latent) | Prevention and Mitigation (Y _{1.1}) Forest Controller Strengthening (Y _{1.2}) Forest Management Preparedness (Y _{1.3}) Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (Y _{1.4}) |

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Characteristics of Respondents

Respondent characteristics are used to determine the diversity of respondents based on gender, age, and level of education. This can provide an overview of the conditions of the respondents and their relation to the problems and research objectives. In this study, the number of samples used were 3 villages located in Serbajadi Subdistrict, Aceh Timur Regency and the number of respondents was 90 respondents.

Table 3. The characteristics of respondents

| characteristic | Percentage of respondents |
|------------------------------|--|
| The origin of the respondent | Aceh Timur Regency (100%) |
| Gender | Male (80%), Female (20%) |
| Respondent of village | Sembuang (33.33%), Bunin (33.33%), Mesir (33.33%) |
| Age | ≤20 years (4.4%), 21-30 years (24.4%), 31-40 years (25.6%), 41-50 years (21.1%), ≥51 years (24.4 %) |
| Education | Didn't finish primary school (7.8%), Primary School (17.8%), Junior High School (32.2%), Senior High School (36.7%), Diploma/Bachelor (5.6%) |

3.2. Influence of *Adat Gle* Maintenance in Disaster Management

The results of testing the hypothesis from this study indicate that *adat gle* maintenance has no effect on disaster management which states the value of T-Statistics > T-table (1.96) which is equal to 3.784. *Pawang uten* is a party that has the authority to enforce customary norms relating to entering and managing *adat gle*. *Pawang uten* give advice in managing (utilizing) the forest. The advice contains normative arrangements of what can and cannot be done in relation to managing customary forests. In this study, the role of *pawang uten* in *adat gle* maintenance it is in disaster management is yet to be seen, which can be interpreted that whether there is *adat gle* maintenance, forests must still be managed properly. In fact, the *adat gle* maintenance in Serbajadi Subdistrict is only considered symbolic by the community when they are about to enter or manage the forest and the responsibility for *adat gle* maintenance is absolutely given to the *pawang uten*.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion of the research, it can be concluded that the *adat gle* maintenance does not affect disaster management. This matter because the *adat gle* maintenance in Serbajadi Subdistrict is only considered symbolic by the community when they are about to enter or manage the forest and the responsibility for *adat gle* maintenance is absolutely given to the *pawang uten*.

Based on the results of the research that has been done, the suggestions that can be given are as follows:

1. The gampong government in Serbajadi Subdistrict should form a customary institution by legalizing the existence of traditional instruments in the gampong government structure.
2. The gampong government creates a disaster mitigation evacuation route that makes it easier for the community to save themselves in the event of a disaster.

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