

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN POST-DISASTER RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

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Abstract

Indonesia is having a lot of disaster potential sources ranging from natural hazards (biological hazards, geological hazards) and man-made hazards. Indonesia is also located at the mid of tectonic plates and volcanic arc that made Indonesia is in the Ring of Fire. On May 27th, 2006 at 05.54 local times, Yogyakarta was shaken by a destructive earthquake at 6, 4 Richter magnitude scale. It was impacted to 5,700 death toll, more than 37.000 injuries, and massive destructed buildings. Though there were many victims, the recovery effort was run quicker due to the 'hand-in-hand mechanism' (gotong royong) and other local social order that exist in society in Indonesia. Based on the above disaster recovery experiences this study is aimed at analyzing the role of civil society in post-disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. It is argued that the role of Civil Society is very significant in boosting the effort of post-disaster relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. However, only in a society where a certain social mechanism is institutionalized, the effort of post-disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction will run quicker. On the other hand, the degree of vulnerability will determine the speed of recovery of the earthquake victims. This study will employ a people-centered approach where the subject of the empowerment is the society itself; even they are the victim of the disaster

Keywords: Civil Society, Disaster Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction

Background

The civil society is playing a significant role in post-disaster recovery, apart from the disaster relief assistance from government or funding agencies. Despite strengthening the society preparedness and effective response to "Build Back Better" as formulated by United Nations International Strategy for Disaster reduction, the role of civil society is seen as a very significant that aimed at strengthening the

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local capacity to be not dependent on disaster recovery aid. Build Back Better is the UN Strategy for Disaster Reduction(WCDRR, 2015).

As yet to be noticed, that many disasters cannot be predicted when it will going to happen. Society therefore in urgent need to be given an understanding of how to have their own mechanism to reduce the disaster risk by employing local initiative, tools and empowering them to prepare for any disaster. Some of the tools that have been prepared by international organizations need to be adjusted in its implementation. Such as The Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (UNDRR, 2005), it needs to be adjusted in implementation. This Framework of Action is introducing the strategic and systematic approach to reduce vulnerabilities and risks to hazards. It underscored the need for and identified ways of, building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

The Earthquake and how people perceive a disaster

After the earthquake hit Yogyakarta in 2006, people began to realize that Yogyakarta is placing at the potential danger line of an earthquake. Many people start to notice that their area due to the fact that Java island lies on the Sunda Shelf (and the Sunda microplate) to the north of the Sunda Trench, which is in the middle of the meeting zone of the Indo-Australian Plate that is placed under the Eurasian Plate. The above zone is characterized by frequent earthquakes and a large number of active volcanoes that influence the regional geography. Therefore, Yogyakarta is the most affected area due to its location.

The earthquake that hit Yogyakarta that day happened very early in the morning. Some of the villagers in the Bantul area were already wake up as they are mostly farmers. Some may already have their domestic activities after *Subuh* (the early morning) Prayer for Muslims. Therefore, although they were many people who got killed, many got injured. Some may say that those who survive from the earthquake most possibly are those who already wake up that morning when the earthquake hit Yogyakarta. It is local perception arising during that day that in many villages where the people are already wake up and have their domestic activities, they were the most possible one to get out of the house while the earthquake hit and they can be secure from the damaged building.

Some people were trying to run to the mosque because they have learned from the previous disaster (in this case the Tsunami) that hit Aceh in 2004 (The National, 2014), that the mosque are the only building that survives. Although mostly in the surrounded area of the Baiturrahman mosque and

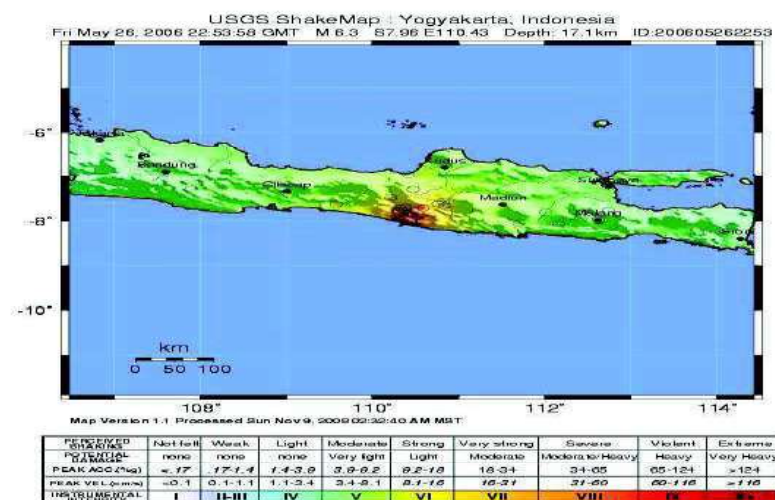
Rahmatullah mosque in Aceh devastated due to tsunami, the Baiturrahman and Rahmatullah mosque were at least two mosque that remain standing. So, those two mosque were very astonishing amidst the surrounded flat-horrible affected area by the tsunami.



Source: Rahmatullah mosque (left), Baiturrahman Mosque (Right) after Aceh Tsunami 2004, taken from liputan6.com

Therefore, many people were trying to replicate the action by going to the mosque in our village. In my village, although the housings are most likely got 90% damages, the mosque remains. Only some of the roofs that made from terracotta that fallen. In this case, it should be noted that the housing in the village is mostly the old building, that made by no such iron/metal plate in the wall. Therefore, there is no doubt that the damage of the housings complex is about 80% to 90%.

From the earthquake point of view, the table below describes the magnitude of the earthquake that hit Yogyakarta in 2006.



From the above table, it can be seen that the potential damage is predicted very heavy due to extreme shaking (USGS, 2016).

After struggling from the debris of the earthquake-devastated area, people right away run to the open space area in order to prevent the reoccurrence of the earthquake. Since a long time ago, especially in Javanese people, there is local wisdom when there is an earthquake (*lindu*, in local Javanese language), people were told to be in an open space. In order to let other people know that there is a disaster happening, and to make other people realize that there was a disaster that massively happening, people in Yogyakarta still get used to hit continuously of the local emergency drum made from bamboo or wood which is struck to sound an alarm. Usually, people after hearing the continuous sound of the local alarm, they will get together and going to find the source of the *Kentongan* (local alarm made from bamboo) sound. In this case, when there were earthquakes happening, people directly go to open spaces such as the oval/sports field, rice field or other open space that prevent them from the rumbled building.

After a while, and when the situation is a little bit calming down, usually adult people will get together and divide themselves into some tasks that consist of gathering as many information available, searching of family members, grabbing some necessary utensils that need for emergency situation and also locking the house. People then gathered in several open spaces, creating temporary shelter for public use. Usually, they are giving priority to children, elders, and women to stay in the temporary shelters. Then, they are doing “gotong-royong” or hand in hand mechanism to create a temporary public kitchen to prepare food for them. Some of them are also creating temporary shelters in their backyard as in the below example.



Source: personal Collection

Therefore, it can be seen that victims are trying to make themselves secure from the reoccurrence of the earthquake, while at the same time, they are trying to make use of their own resources to secure themselves after the disaster.

Framework for Disaster Relief and Ways to Engage

As yet to be introduced earlier that there is The Hyogo Framework of action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, as a result of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction that was held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. This Framework of Action is introducing the strategic and systematic approach to reduce vulnerabilities and risks to hazards. From the Hyogo Framework of Action, it can be seen that people-centered approach based on Civil Society Involvement in the post-disaster recovery is actually strengthening them into some relief scheme which are (Chavda & Gupta, 2014, p. 273):

1. Enabling an accurate definition of problems as communities possess a strong understanding of their own situation and are able to express their own needs and priorities;
2. Creating greater sustainability of projects as Civil Society involvement in project design and implementation engenders a sense of project ownership;
3. Strengthening and empowering the Civil Society through recognition of their knowledge, their capacities and their ability to play an active part in improving their own lives;
4. Creating greater efficiency, as the use of local resources (intellectual and material) can reduce the pressure on external agents

From the above point of view, it can be seen that there were many approaches and frameworks in order to reduce the risk and also to enhance disaster response and save the victims. For disaster relief, usually, it is keeping in mind that they will prioritize the victim's conditions, related to their safety, their health conditions, their food security in emergency situations, their temporary shelters and their psychological relief or trauma healing (Margottini et al., 2013; Petrucci & Llasat, 2013, p. 140).

The rehabilitation process was intake after the situation is calming down and the relief process was ongoing, or it was already done. The rehabilitation process usually be started by collecting useful household items and classifying the above items into two categories: the still useful and the damaged stuffs. People in Yogyakarta have started to do this after the reoccurrence of the earthquake is less. But during that effort, they keep staying high alert towards the reoccurrence of the disasters.

They were trying to make themselves survive and not in vulnerable conditions although they are the victims of the earthquake. They make the local social mechanism enacted by having a quick division of working groups. In Yogyakarta people usually are involved in community activities within the existing local community organisation called the RT (the group of households) and the RW (the group

of some residents) which actively have their social activities in daily lives. Therefore, the making division of labor work during the emergency period was not a problem. The residents can easily have the labor work for free within their division. This is something that makes the rehabilitation process is running quicker.

Below is an example of how people enacting “gotong-royong” or hand in hand in helping a member of the victim's group.



Source: personal collection

By obtaining help and support from other unaffected societies and some funding institutions, the earthquake victims in Yogyakarta create several programs, from the instant activities such as to take care of the injured people, fulfilling current emergency needs, until a program to clean from debris and rebuilding the house.

Therefore, touching upon the programmatic step for disaster response activities, the last step of the disaster response is reconstruction. Reconstruction here was done through some help from external sources, while also making use of their internal sources. The internal sources means the people utilized their own stuffs in rebuilding their house. Some external sources came from various ways, ranging from giving some assistance to help them survive after the disaster until a long assistanceship that aimed at helping the victims able to stand on their own feet. Some responses as below:



Source: personal collection

The aid is giving blocks of cement and other necessary need for helping society in building the house and schools.



Source: personal collection

The aid distributed as above example, was also aimed at helping farmers to get back to their rice field. Therefore, the aid was giving away grains and fertilizers. The logic behind this particular aid aimed at giving tools to the farmer to grow rice and help themselves in the future without depending on the delivery of external aid.

From the above point of view, there was a broad range of frameworks and models that have been developed in order to give respond to disaster. It called as Civil Society-based approaches to disaster management. At the first stage, usually saving the life of people is the focus of the action. After that, it needs a Damage Assessment of the affected area. Damage assessment is noted here in particular. It is regarded as an activity in which the participation of communities is formalized under certain rules and legislation. The motivations behind this formalization are manifold. Disaster policymakers anticipate that the allocation of responsibility for the conduct of initial Damage Assessments to affected communities will boost the efficiency of the assessment process itself, promote enhanced Civil Society self-reliance and society empowerment (Méheux et al., 2007).

In the above mechanism, the Civil Society has a responsibility to collect simple data on the extent of damage in their area. Data were transmitted to the government, where decisions on disaster response assistance are made. Training is to be made available to communities to ensure that they have the skills and capacity to provide the government with the data. Once the disaster response and subsequent rehabilitation programs are completed, communities were invited to participate in the data-collection stage of the post-disaster relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. During the initial process, it usually also employs a monitoring and evaluation exercise in a certain period of time. The role of communities is restricted to receive information through training and then provide the government with post-disaster data. Importantly, communities are excluded from decision-making on the provision of disaster response due to potentially imbalanced responses addressed to all affected areas. The

participation of communities in the damage assessment process can be defined as participation by consultation (Méheux et al., 2007).

In order to have a quick response to any disaster, it is better than the government then set up a mechanism and procedure to which any response to the disaster victims is dedicated. The government needs to state in which area the Civil Society can participate. The damage assessment at the first level may need Civil Society to participate in terms of collecting and supplying data gathered from the victims. The thorough assessment then may take years to be completed (See: Ibrahimbegovic & Zlatar, 2009).

Civil society and civil society organizations may take a significant role in the first stage after the disaster. Usually, they are distributing relief, both food/public kitchen and non food items (clothes, blankets, utensils, lamps). Temporary shelter needs to be created as this will become the first possible way to stay away from the potential reoccurrence of the disaster. People usually pay attention more to their family members, especially to elders, women, and children. In the case of Yogyakarta, once the earthquake happening, people are strongly urged to leave their homes as it has potentially fallen due to the potential reoccurrence of the disasters. People were asked to create temporary shelters made from available materials such as tents and a hut made from bamboo. They were employing 'a hand in hand' mechanism to do all the things. Therefore, especially in villages, there were many temporary shelters, tents and many 'new-crowds' in the open space.

To accord to this disaster occurrence, many of the funding came to the affected areas from local institutions and local people, and also from international agency. During the Yogyakarta earthquake, there were many international commitments to help the affected people in Yogyakarta. Some of them are as follow:

1. Japan promised US\$10 million, sent two medical teams and also announced that it will send troops to help out to the searching of victims, help in victim's relief, and reconstruction.
2. The United Kingdom offered four million pounds (US\$7,436,800)
3. Saudi Arabia promised US\$5 million, plus food, medical equipment, and tents, while the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait each pledged US\$4 million
4. The European Union offered three million euros (US\$3,800,000)
5. The United States offered \$5 million; US military joins relief effort
6. Australia offered 7.5 million Australian dollars (US\$5,675,000) in aid relief and medical teams.

7. China offered \$2 million U.S dollars
8. Canada offered two million Canadian dollars (US\$1.8 million)
9. India put forward an aid package worth \$2 million.
10. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints/LDS (Mormons) donated US\$1.6 million worth of emergency supplies to devastated areas, teaming up with Islamic Relief Worldwide who provides the transportation. In addition, local Indonesian LDS members prepared thousands of meals, hygiene kits, cots, mattresses, and blankets for those requiring medical attention.
11. The Netherlands gave 1 million euros in May 2016 and 10 million euros in June.
12. Belgium has pledged \$832,000, while Norway, France, and Italy have offered either medical teams or relief supplies.
13. The Red Cross, Red Crescent, OXFAM, Plan International, Jesuit Refugee Service alongside other NGOs and UN agencies, including WFP and UNICEF, provided plastic sheeting, tools and building materials, and cash assistance to the victims. Japan and Malaysia sent medical teams to the affected region.
14. Singapore offered humanitarian relief assistance in the form of a 35-member Armed Forces Medical Team, a 43-member Civil Defense Force Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team, as well as US\$50,000 worth of emergency supplies.
15. The United Nations World Health Organization sent medicines and communications equipment, enough emergency health kits to last 50,000 people three months, and surgical kits for as many as 600 operations.
16. Vietnam offered 1,000 tons of rice to Indonesia.
17. The Isle of Man offered £30,000 (US\$56,291) to Indonesia
18. King Abdullah II of Jordan sent humanitarian relief to alleviate the suffering of the Yogyakarta earthquake victims. The aid included blankets, medicines and other medical equipment.
19. MERCY Malaysia sent 6 Missions to Yogyakarta right away. The first mission is being sent on the 28th of May 2006. It is said that it led by Datuk Dr. Jamilah Mahmood, President of MERCY Malaysia (Mission Leader) and Saiful Nazri, Program Officer from MERCY Aceh Office. They shift two (2) tons of medical supplies contributed by the international agencies from Aceh.

The following program after the first initial saving-life program is developing village development plans with the Civil Society. An integrated, multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction should be

forced into policies, planning, and programming related to sustainable development, relief, rehabilitation, and recovery activities in post-disaster and post-conflict situations in disaster-affected areas.

A gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training (Cohen, 1982, p. 69). Cultural diversity, age, and vulnerable groups should be taken into account when planning for disaster risk reduction, as appropriate (Cohen, 1982, pp. 64–71).

Building Civil Society Capacity to Participate

Civil Society participation can be considered as a voluntary, rewarded or enforced activity (Peduzzi et al., 2009). The stipulation in legislation that communities and civil society are required to participate in Damage Assessments makes the form of participation enforced rather than voluntary. Nevertheless, the reluctance of communities to participate can still pose a challenge to successful participation, particularly if they feel they are being forced to participate against their will, or if they have concerns about the acceptance of their data by government decision-makers.

In order to understand the degree of vulnerability that led to the vulnerable condition, usually, it is argued that disaster occurs when a significant number of vulnerable people experience a hazard and suffer severe damage and/or disruption of their livelihood system in such a way that recovery is unlikely without external aid. In other words, it could simply be defined that 'Risk will be mounted from the multiply effect of vulnerability situations and hazards that have been occurred or reoccurrence". Risk component could be understood as the combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences such as chance or possibility and potential losses from some cause and period (UNISDR, 2009). The above is related much with mortality risk index (population hazard exposure x historical mortality rate) and, economic loss risk index (GDP per unit area exposure x historical economic loss rate (Dilley et al., 2005, p. 10). The vulnerability could be defined as contingencies and stressful conditions. Vulnerability also associates with difficulty in coping with them (Chambers, 1989). Therefore, the degree of vulnerability is important in determining the action taken towards vulnerable people.

Apart from the above explanation, on the alternative paradigm that considers disaster as vulnerable people experience a hazard and suffers severe damage and/or disruption of their livelihood

system, the impact of the disaster could be considered as a security issue. The development of international strategic environment which characterized by globalization, universality of human rights, and the growing complexity of threats after cold war have either directly or indirectly enforced the transformation in understanding security from traditional security issues to non-traditional security issues such as resource scarcity, human rights abuses, outbreaks of infectious disease and environmental degradation by global warming, water pollution, which much of them relates to the impact of disaster.

In any society, there is an obvious agreement that civil society is willing to participate in damage assessments after disasters. While communities stated they were willing to participate, there is a strong sense that their interpretation of 'participation' involves a partnership between communities and government. Rather than communities collecting data independently of government, Civil Society participants in this study commonly suggested that the optimum assessment team would have both Civil Society and government members.

As security challenges become more complex and the impact of the disaster could have been bigger, the focus of security has broadened from state security to human security (Commission on Human Security, 2003). Human Security is defined as safety from constant threats of hunger, disease, crime, and depression in the pattern of our daily lives – whether in our homes, in our jobs, in our communities or in our environment (UNDRR, 1994).

In this case, the existence of Civil Society placed importance on collaboration between government officers and communities in having a better assessment of the rehabilitation of the victims. This collaboration is also aimed at maintaining a balanced view of the damage assessment so that people will get benefit from the above action. The collaboration as above mentioned is also aimed at ensuring the government and other policymakers thought about the result of the assessment. In the distribution of disaster response, the only firm institution is the government.

Civil Society Challenges to Participate

A further challenge to the successful establishment of Civil Society participation in damage assessment is the availability of the members. Members of civil society will go to ask 'how much time they have' and that 'not all will be willing', as they may have to spend time repairing their own property or plantations. Other communities highlighted the importance of salvaging crops in the first few days after a disaster. Residents may need to devote time to this activity to ensure food security in the coming weeks. Similarly, residents described the damage to or destruction of their homes and the need to

construct temporary shelters quickly. Addressing immediate needs such as these may take priority over conducting a damage assessment and supplying the government with appropriate data (Chen et al., 2006, p. 37).

Communities must evaluate whether they feel it is more beneficial to participate in a damage assessment or to begin making temporary repairs to their property and salvaging crops from plantations. If they choose the latter, notification to the government of the extent of the damage may be delayed and the timeliness of the response affected.

Furthermore, the government may interpret silence as evidence of impacts so significant that a Civil Society is unable to respond and is in need of urgent assistance. Hence, assistance may be inappropriately delivered to communities that do not require it. Equally, there is a danger that the government could interpret silence as a signal that communities are unaffected and therefore require no assistance (when in fact they may need significant assistance).

Civil Society Capability to Participate

The ability of Civil Society members to participate in damage assessments represents a further challenge. A number of disaster management practitioners expressed a high degree of confidence in Civil Society members possessing the necessary basic skills to conduct damage assessments, such as good literacy and numeracy, familiarity with completing forms, and leadership and organizational skills.

Beyond their confidence in the basic skills of Civil Society members, both disaster management practitioners and Civil Society members felt there was a need for specialized training in damage assessments, particularly in relation to ensuring the application of a consistent damage scale. One may argue that Civil Society can do damage assessment if they have been trained to do so. Civil Society members can express their desire to do the training, filling up the data-collection forms to guide their assessments. However, their participation is subject to their availability. But it again they got some constraints when they have to secure their immediate shelter and considering their own food security. Although it is believed that Civil Society members have their own generic skills necessary to conduct damage assessments (such as literacy, numeracy, and familiarity with completing forms), specific training is needed in order to keep the data collection and assessment valid.

Another significant issue on the delivery of disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programs is when it is dealing with politicians or political parties. Some may say that they are trying to make use of the disaster aid event as their political vehicle to make the constituent indebted to them, and

later on during the election, they may choose them. Therefore, some people getting sensitive in receiving this disaster aid delivery. In order to deal with this, they can make use having cooperation with local government or cooperation with the Civil Society Organization. The message of disaster aid delivery will be different if it is delivered by the civil servant of the local government. The victims will feel that the government although at the local level, thinking about them. Therefore, the local and central government is functioned as the coordinator for the post-disaster assistance programs. It is, on one hand, perpetuate the mentality and culture of dependence towards aid but on the other hand, the government wants the victims to become more self-reliant and less dependent.

Generous government assistance programs can reduce the incentive for communities to prepare themselves adequately for disasters and to take action to recover from the impact of a disaster. Disaster response is often influenced by political imperatives, such that government assistance is now seen to perpetuate dependency among the public. The issues noted above demonstrate the ways in which political motivations can convert the disaster assistance program into their own goal.

On the accord to make victims more self-reliant and independent are driven by the fact that residents wrongly believed that the government was legally obliged to provide replacement of housing if their home destroyed by a natural disaster. The misconception had developed following previous disasters after political leaders made a decision to provide a significant number of replacement houses. For example, in Fiji during the disaster of 2005, two-thirds of the housing in some villages had been provided freely by the central government as part of post-tropical cyclone relief programs (Méheux et al., 2007). This has contributed to the establishment of a belief among Civil Society members that free replacement housing is the government's responsibility following the occurrence of the disaster.

The contrasting focus of politicians and disaster management practitioners was exemplified by attitudes towards the 2006 review of disaster management policy. A consultant involved in the review described how gaining political support for it relied strongly on marketing the enhancements that would be made to the disaster response rather than the preventative benefits of improved mitigation and preparedness. An environment exists in Indonesia in which political leaders are focused on highly visible disaster response that is exploited for political gain. The strong desire of political leaders to be seen to be assisting disaster-affected communities undermines the self-reliance of communities and supports of Civil Society's dependence on government. Furthermore, it is inconsistent with the message presented by the idealistic view on disaster management practitioners that communities should

participate in and accept more responsibility for their own disaster preparedness and recovery. The inconsistency of messages from political leaders and bureaucrats weakens the capacity to facilitate Civil Society participation at all levels of government.

Government's Perception towards Community's Engagement

There is a general belief among disaster management practitioners in Indonesia that communities are capable of participating in damage assessments. Yet, government officers have often expressed concerns about the ability of Civil Society members to provide accurate damage assessment data. These worries are based on two key perceptions:

1. Civil Society members in the affected area are villagers and are thus less capable of administrative tasks. In Yogyakarta, the earthquake hit Bantul regency, thus it has a little bit false association that those who live there are common villagers.
2. Civil Society members are less trustworthy than external government officers and are likely to increase the level of reported damage in order to receive additional assistance from the government. This is due to the pre assumption that civil society, especially in the affected area, is less likely working for the shake of objective manner.

Such concerns are particularly important as a government's commitment to participation is essential if it is to be effective. So it has basically become the integrated actions conducted by quite many actors (Chen et al., 2006). Although senior disaster management practitioners believe that communities are capable of participating in damage assessments, they acknowledge that not all government officers may share this opinion. They suggested that some operational government officers might perceive Civil Society members as lacking the skills necessary to conduct damage assessments. Such concerns have been noted in a development context, with administrative officers doubting the capability of rural communities to take responsibility for administrative matters(Home, 2007).

Government officers are usually questioned the objectivity of Civil Society members conducting damage assessments; recognize the potential for communities to add on the degree of damage to gain additional assistance. Some officers may not trust Civil Society participation in damage assessments due to the perception that Civil Society using the fake number of damages on the ground'. This is a kind of trend shown in so many disaster response aid programs includes the relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction programs. Many people believe that they thought that this could be a way of receiving more'. Indeed, despite the above assertion that government officers are obliged to be accurate in their

assessment. One may say that exaggeration of data on damage was a shortcoming in their own assessments. In Civil Society role in post-disaster damage assessments would compound such inaccuracies. It said that this is a common view as they are the victim of disaster themselves, and they are demanded to also think about their family situation.

However, the role of the Civil Society in the post-disaster situation is harvesting a culture of dependence. This is an important point to note. While Civil Society participation has the potential to lead to decreased dependence through an increased sense of ownership and empowerment, participatory initiatives may struggle to get off the ground and are unlikely to be maintained if underlying institutional cultures of dependence are not given sufficient consideration and or there was the politicization of the action (Venton & Hansford, 2006). While the data presented here are situated in the context of post-disaster damage assessments, it is reasonable to suggest that the findings are equally applicable to Civil Society participation in a range of disaster risk reduction initiatives. In a climate of increasing focus on engaging communities in disaster processes, it is important that practical experiences of participatory disaster management to take into account that challenges are identified and that strategies are developed to address these challenges to ensure that the rising number of participatory and Civil Society-based disaster initiatives have the best chance of success.

Conclusion

There is a significant role played by Civil Society during the time of post-disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction as explained above. Although there are quite a number of misperception towards the existence of Civil Society activity with the victims of disaster, in this case, the earthquake disaster, but the growing involvement of civil society in the post-disaster recovery programs (relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction) has approved that the civil society can contribute to enhancing the effort done by government and funding agencies in the implementation of the disaster relief programs ranging from relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Although external aid also giving significant progress in helping the victim of disaster can help themselves to stand up in their own feet, the involvement of Civil Society was remarkably important in responding to disaster and speed up the recovery process.

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