

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN MAJA VILLAGE



In April 2024, the Disaster Resilient Village (Destana) team in Maja Village participated in a training workshop focused on early warning systems, emergency first aid, and information management. The goal was to equip community members with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective disaster preparedness and response. Sri Apriyani, a 39-year-old health cadre and Destana member, shared her experiences and the impact of the training on herself and her community.

Sri described the training as an eye-opening and rewarding experience. It introduced her to practical skills she hadn't encountered before, such as evacuation procedures, first aid, and setting up temporary shelters. *"Selama saya mengikuti kegiatan Destana di Desa Maja di sini saya sangat senang bahkan menjadi pengalaman baru bagi saya di sini saya bisa mengetahui cara penyelamatan saat ada bencana yaitu seperti evakuasi pertolongan pertama cara pembuatan tenda dan siapa saja yang harus saya tolong saat ada bencana."* ("While participating in the Destana activities in Maja Village, I was very happy. It was a new experience for me, and I learned about disaster response, such as evacuation, first aid, setting up tents, and who to help during a disaster.")

She appreciated not only the knowledge she gained but also the camaraderie built among participants. The interactive and engaging methods used during the sessions made the learning process enjoyable and meaningful. *"Selama saya mengikuti pelatihan Destana di sini yang pertama saya senang mendapatkan ilmu tentang kebencanaan yang belum pernah saya tahu yang kedua di sini saya bisa mendapatkan saudara teman bisa kompak karena secara umum pemberian materinya sangat unik dan menarik."* ("During the Destana training, I was happy to gain knowledge about disaster management that I didn't know before. Secondly, I made friends and felt unity because the material was generally unique and interesting.")

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the positive experience, Sri highlighted some areas for improvement. She suggested that the training should include more disaster simulation exercises and that the duration should be extended to accommodate participants with varying educational backgrounds. *"Menurut saya untuk pelatihan Destana ini setiap pembahasan langsung ada praktik simulasi bencananya dan waktunya harus lebih diperpanjang ditambah karena dari peserta Destana ini kami berbeda dari tingkat usia dan tingkat pendidikan."* ("In my opinion, each discussion during the Destana training should include a disaster simulation practice, and the time should be extended since the participants have different ages and educational levels.")

The knowledge Sri gained during the training significantly improved her understanding of disaster preparedness. Living in a disaster-prone area, she now feels more confident in taking the necessary steps during emergencies. She shared her learning with her family and neighbors, ensuring they know what to do in case of an earthquake or tsunami. *“Di sini selama saya mengikuti kegiatan Destana saya lebih paham karena daerah saya sangat rawan bencana. Di sini saya lebih paham di saat ada terjadi bencana seperti gempa apa yang harus saya lakukan seperti saya mengetahui tentang 3B yaitu berlutut berlindung bertahan dan saat ada tsunami saya bisa melakukan evakuasi ke titik kumpul yang lebih aman dan saya juga bisa memberikan informasi kepada tetangga saya masyarakat sekitar saya di saat ada bencana apa yang harus dilakukan.”* (“Through participating in Destana activities, I better understand disaster preparedness because my area is highly disaster-prone. I now know what to do during an earthquake, like the 3B—kneeling, taking cover, and staying put. During a tsunami, I can evacuate to a safer point and inform my neighbors and community about what to do.”)

APPLICATION AND RESULTS

Sri has already applied what she learned by educating her family about emergency exit routes and moving hazardous items to safer locations within her home. She emphasizes the importance of knowing what actions to take during a disaster. *“Di sini saya akan memberitahukan kepada keluarga saya anak dan suami harus mengerti arah pintu keluar di saat terjadi bencana dan saya juga sudah menggeser barang-barang yang kira-kira berbahaya buat keluarga saya saat terjadi bencana dan apa yang harus dilakukan di saat terjadi bencana.”* (“I told my family, children, and husband to know the direction of the exit in case of a disaster, and I have moved items that could be dangerous for my family during a disaster.”)

The community’s response to Sri’s initiatives has been largely positive. People appreciated the support provided by Destana members, though some community members remain skeptical about the relevance of disaster preparedness activities. *“Tanggapan masyarakat sekeliling saya dari segi positifnya mereka sangat terbantu tentang adanya kegiatan kami dan untuk warga yang terkena bencana mereka juga sangat terbantu dengan kami langsung membantu dengan tenaga dan pikiran kami serta mungkin kami bisa membantu dengan dana. Untuk segi negatifnya masyarakat kami tidak paham akan tentang kebencanaan sehingga mereka menganggap kami kegiatan kami hanya sia-sia dan tidak bermanfaat.”* (“The response from those around me was positive; they were greatly helped by our activities. We assisted with our energy and ideas, and perhaps even financially. On the negative side, some community members don’t understand disaster preparedness and think our activities are pointless.”) To sustain these efforts, Sri believes that procuring more complete equipment and securing additional funding for future training sessions are crucial.

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