

Lack of Governance, Collapsed Social Capital and Human Insecurity after the Sidoarjo Mudflow Disaster in East Java

東ジャワ・シドアルジョ泥流災害後のガバナンス欠落と
社会関係資本崩壊ならびに人間の安全保障問題

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【Objective】

A devastating mudflow occurred in the Sidoarjo District of Indonesia on May 29, 2006, allegedly triggered by a technical error due to oil and gas exploration. Although the mudflow happened in 2006, it continues to affect a large amount of land and many assets belonging to individuals, communities, and local governments. By law, Lapindo Brantas, Inc. (the oil and gas company involved) and the central government were required to purchase the impacted land. Several countermeasures were implemented to cope with the consequences of the mudflow. This study evaluates disaster countermeasures from the perspectives of governance, social capital, and human insecurity. The victims of the calamity had to cope with insecurity because government efforts lacked proper procedures and social capital collapsed.

Keywords: mudflow, governance, victims, social capital, human insecurity.

【Method】

Applying basic conceptual frameworks of governance, social capital and human security, the following research items were investigated. To obtain original data and documents, several times of field researches were conducted and interviews with government officials, NGOs, and victims were implemented. The research items were: (1) implemented countermeasure policy; (2) lack of governance on the disaster countermeasure; (3) victims' housing preferences and present situation under the forced-resettlement; (4) critical problems of the process of land expropriation; (5) loss of public services after the discontinuation of village administration; (6) role of financial institutions for the recovery from the disaster; (7) impacts of mudflow siltation on environmental, fishery and boundary problem among communities.

【Results】

Several serious effects resulted from the mudflow. Victims were displaced from their villages. Due to the lack of a monitoring system, the government only partially identified the victims' situation. Only about 4,000 households out of 13,000 were reportedly observed during the evacuation. There was a delay in victims receiving compensation for individual and communal land, which led them to suffer severe economic hardship, in addition to a loss of social capital. The crisis also caused an economic recession in Sidoarjo district. Village administrative services have been halted. In addition, the high viscosity of mud caused sediment to build up in the river and the estuary. The crisis led to the disruption of inland and coastal fishing activities, and also gave rise to disputes among the people due

to claims over land between communities and districts.

【Conclusion】

There are many studies on the causes, effects, and countermeasures of the Sidoarjo mudflow disaster. However, this study emphasizes the mutual connections between the lack of governance, the collapse of social capital, and human insecurity following the calamity. We identified several necessary policy implications from the field survey and analysis: (1) Government failure directly or indirectly caused the collapse of social capital and human insecurity. (2) Improper understanding of the disaster limited the government's role and reduced its ability to enforce regulations. This led to countermeasures being improperly carried out or not at all, especially in regards to monitoring victims and land, village administrative services, environmental governance, and securing human rights. (3) Improper timing of government actions caused critical problems in terms of human security and disbursing the budget for countermeasure policies. Disbursement must occur within a properly fixed period to prevent human security from worsening.