



Praxiological Ethics and Sense of Crisis in Risk Transformation in Handling Natural Disasters in Aceh 2025

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Pragmatic Ethics, Sense of Crisis, Natural Disasters, Aceh

Received : 27, June

Revised : 28, July

Accepted: 30, August

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the transition from risk to meaningful action in natural disaster management in Aceh Province in 2025, focusing on the role of praxeological ethics and sense of crisis within the government. Using a narrative literature review approach to synthesize relevant research, this study analyzes how the principles of praxeological ethics can guide a more effective and responsible disaster response. The results of the analysis show that serious disaster management that utilizes in-depth philosophical roots requires the integration of praxeological ethics, which emphasizes moral action in practice, as well as the development of a strong sense of crisis among policymakers and implementers. This is important to ensure preparedness, rapid response, and sustainable recovery. Thus, this study argues that the success of disaster mitigation and adaptation in Aceh depends not only on technical capacity, but also on ethical commitment and moral urgency in every step of disaster management. This insight offers a conceptual basis for the development of more effective and ethical disaster management strategies, as well as the formulation of responsive and sustainable policies in Aceh Province, particularly in integrating praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis into the disaster management framework.

INTRODUCTION

The province of Aceh, with its strategic geographical location at the western tip of Sumatra Island, is inherently vulnerable to various natural disasters, ranging from earthquakes and tsunamis to floods and landslides. The frequency and intensity of these disasters tend to increase, exacerbated by the impact of global climate change that triggers extreme weather anomalies (BNPB, 2024). This vulnerability requires comprehensive preparedness and response from all elements of government and society.

On November 26, 2025, Aceh Province faced a series of significant hydrometeorological disasters. A tropical cyclone that hit the region triggered prolonged heavy rains, causing flash floods in several low-lying and coastal areas such as North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireun, Aceh Tamiang, East Aceh, and Lhokseumawe. At the same time, waterlogged soil triggered landslides in mountainous areas, including parts of Central Aceh () and Bener Meriah, causing damage to infrastructure, mass displacement, and loss of life. This event once again highlighted the urgency and complexity of disaster management in Aceh.

In response to the disaster, the Indonesian government through the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), the Aceh government through the Aceh Disaster Management Agency (BPBA), and the affected district/city governments have mobilized various efforts. The initial response included evacuating victims, distributing emergency aid, setting up evacuation posts, and restoring infrastructure. However, even though resources and mechanisms were available, post-disaster evaluations often revealed gaps in the effectiveness and sustainability of the response (Alwan et al., 2025).

One important research gap that has been highlighted is the weak utilization of practical ethics and a deep sense of crisis in each stage of natural disaster management in Aceh Province. Aceh Province has significant historical experience in disaster management (the 2004 tsunami), but there is a lack of studies that contextually evaluate the changes (or setbacks) in the internalization of ethical values and a sense of crisis in Aceh's disaster management after the 2004 tsunami. The dynamics of ethics and crisis leadership in the past compared to current disaster management practices are interesting topics for further study. It is known that the procedures for natural disaster management in Aceh Province in 2025 are very different from those in 2004 when the tsunami struck Aceh.

This study also seeks to further reveal the gap between normative policy commitments and the realization of meaningful actions in the field due to the weak internalization of ethical values and moral urgency. Although disaster management policies are in place (BNPB, BPBA), their implementation in the field shows that there is still a slow response, weak coordination, and even an attitude of "giving up" from some regional heads. The urgent demands from the community for the declaration of a national disaster status, and even the surrender of several regional heads in regencies and cities in dealing with the impact of the disaster, highlight the important fact that there are more crucial issues than the procedures for handling the disaster itself.

Practical ethics, which emphasizes moral actions in real practice, is often reduced to mere administrative procedures without being accompanied by strong ethical commitment and awareness of urgency (Maiwan, 2018). Similarly, a sense of crisis, which should be a form of urgency and understanding of the severity of the situation, has not been fully internalized at all levels of government, sometimes resulting in reactive, slow, or less than optimally coordinated responses. This gap indicates that disaster management requires not only technical and logistical capacity, but also a solid philosophical and ethical foundation to encourage more meaningful and sustainability-oriented actions.

This study offers novelty by explicitly examining how the integration of praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis can transform natural disaster management in Aceh Province from a merely reactive response to proactive, ethical, and meaningful action. This approach goes beyond the conventional disaster management framework, which often focuses solely on technical and procedural aspects. By highlighting philosophical and moral dimensions, this study aims to fill a gap in the literature that rarely directly links praxeological ethics with the urgency of disaster management, especially in highly vulnerable areas such as Aceh in 2025. The results of this research are expected to provide a new conceptual foundation for the formulation of more holistic, responsible, and sustainable disaster management policies and practices (Ritonga, 2024).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Praxiological Ethics

The concept of praxeology was first developed by the Polish philosopher Tadeusz Kotarbiński as a "theory of efficient action", which emphasizes how a social action can be designed and implemented effectively taking into account the objectives, the conditions of reality, and the means available (Kotarbiński, 1965, as cited in Encyclopedia.com, n.d.). In its development, the Polish School of Praxiology emphasized that praxiology does not stand alone as a study of efficiency, but is closely connected with ethics and practical philosophy, so that efficient action must also be morally accountable (Gasparski, 1996). This ethical dimension distinguishes praxiology from just operational management, because the efficiency of government actions must still be based on the value of justice and public responsibility.

In the context of natural disaster management, praxeological ethics is a relevant normative-practical framework to assess how local governments and disaster actors in Aceh take fast, targeted, and efficient actions without ignoring the principle of justice for the affected communities. This approach emphasizes that the effectiveness of disaster management is not measured by the speed of response alone, but also by the extent to which the action can be ethically accountable to the public (Gasparski, 1996). Thus, praxeological ethics becomes an analytical knife to evaluate the moral quality of bureaucratic efficiency in disaster crisis management.

Sense of Crisis

The concept of sense of urgency was developed by John P. Kotter in the framework of change management, which emphasizes that effective organizational change can only occur when all elements of the organization have a true urgency of the threats or opportunities faced, not just pseudo-activities that arise from panic (false urgency) (Kotter, 2008). Kotter distinguishes between a state of complacency, in which an organization tends to be comfortable with the status quo, and true urgency, which encourages conscious and directed collective action to get out of a crisis situation (Kotter, 2008).

In the context of disasters, a sense of crisis is an important prerequisite for risk transformation, because effective preparedness and response can only be built if local governments, related institutions, and the people of Aceh have a collective awareness of the real threat of disasters, not just administrative formalities (Kotter, 2008). This authentic crisis awareness encourages disaster actors to act proactively in risk mitigation and adaptation, rather than waiting for a major disaster to occur first as a trigger for policy change.

Risk Transformation

The theory of risk society developed by Ulrich Beck explains the transformation of society from a production-oriented industrial society to a society that must manage its own created risks, including environmental risks and disasters (Beck, 1992). Beck emphasizes that reflexive modernization requires societies and institutions to constantly re-evaluate the way they deal with risk, because contemporary risks are global, completely unpredictable, and have cross-border impacts (Beck, 1999).

In the realm of disaster management, risk transformation is understood as a paradigm shift from a reactive approach to an anticipatory and adaptive approach, where disaster institutions are required to build institutional capacity that is responsive to uncertainty (Beck, 1999). The application of this concept in the context of Aceh is relevant to analyze how local governments transform the experience of disaster crises into a more reflective and sustainable basis for disaster risk reduction policies, in line with the shift from conventional disaster management to more participatory and anticipatory risk governance.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a narrative literature review approach to explore how praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis interact in shaping natural disaster management in Aceh Province, particularly in 2025. A narrative review is used because it allows researchers to organize various scientific works, policy reports, and institutional documents into a coherent discussion that captures the ethical and psychological dimensions of disaster management (Negou Ernest, Nkenganyi Fonkem Marcellus, Suh Jude Abenwi, 2020). This review focuses on identifying conceptual patterns, thematic connections, and recurring challenges that emerge in various studies related to ethics in action, crisis psychology, and disaster management.

The literature was collected through extensive reading of academic journals, book chapters, publications by disaster management agencies, and

policy documents issued by local and national governments. The selection of literature was guided by its relevance to three thematic areas: the role of praxeological ethics in decision-making and action, the dynamics of the sense of crisis among policymakers and implementers, and natural disaster management practices, particularly in vulnerable areas such as Aceh (Silva et al., 2023). Priority was given to works that provided analytical insights or empirical observations related to institutional capacity, disaster governance reform, internalization of ethical values, and responses to crisis situations. Materials that merely repeat general descriptions of disasters without offering conceptual or empirical depth regarding ethics and a sense of crisis are excluded during the review process (Meline, 2016).

The analysis was conducted qualitatively through interpretive reading of selected publications. Researchers examined arguments, findings, and conceptual propositions to identify how the three pillars of praxeological ethics, sense of crisis, and disaster management intersect in shaping responses to risk. This process involved grouping ideas into thematic clusters, tracing convergences and differences across sources, and evaluating how ethical and psychological factors influenced the translation of risk awareness into meaningful disaster management actions (Fukuda-Parr & McNeill, 2019). This approach enables the study to produce an integrated narrative that highlights both the structural constraints and enabling conditions faced by the government and stakeholders in Aceh as they seek to integrate ethics and crisis urgency into their disaster management systems.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From Risk to Meaningful Action: Utilizing Pragmatic Ethics and a Sense of Crisis in Natural Disaster Management in Aceh Province in 2025

The transition from simply recognizing disaster risks to meaningful and effective action in Aceh in 2025 will be greatly influenced by the extent to which praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis are internalized by stakeholders. Praxis ethics, which emphasizes moral actions manifested in real practice, is found to be the foundation for a more responsible disaster response oriented towards humanitarian- s (Maiwan, 2018). When this ethics is applied, decisions in disaster management are not only based on standard procedures, but also on deep consideration of the moral impact and welfare of the affected communities. For example, in dealing with flash floods in North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireun, Aceh Tamiang, East Aceh, Central Aceh, and Bener Meriah as areas predominantly affected by severe flooding, the use of praxeological ethics will encourage the prioritization of evacuating vulnerable groups, fair distribution of aid, and transparent communication, even if this requires adjustments to existing procedures.

In line with this, a strong sense of crisis proved to be a catalyst for urgent and effective action. The tropical cyclone that caused flash floods and landslides in North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireun, Aceh Tamiang, East Aceh, Central Aceh, and Bener Meriah in November 2025 highlighted that without a deep understanding of the severity and potential escalation of a disaster, the response tends to be slow

and uncoordinated (Alwan et al., 2025). A sense of crisis is not just about panic, but about collective awareness of threats, which triggers rapid mobilization of resources, decisive decision-making, and closer inter-agency coordination between the Indonesian government, the Aceh government, and district/city governments. The literature shows that when this sense of crisis is present, pre-disaster mitigation and preparedness efforts are also strengthened, not just post-event (Negou Ernest, Nkenganyi Fonkem Marcellus, Suh Jude Abenwi, 2020). Thus, the synergistic use of praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis enables the government and people of Aceh to move from passive risk awareness to proactive, ethical, and impactful actions in reducing disaster losses.

Natural Disaster Management Strategy Using Pragmatic Ethics and Sense of Crisis in Aceh Province in 2025

Based on a literature review, the development of a natural disaster management strategy in Aceh Province in 2025, particularly in dealing with hydrometeorological threats such as those that occurred in November 2025, needs to explicitly integrate praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis. This integration will not only improve the efficiency of the response, but also ensure sustainability and fairness in every action.

The first strategy is to strengthen the ethical framework in disaster management policies and training. This involves developing a specific code of ethics for disaster management personnel at all levels, from the national to the regional level, such as North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireun, Aceh Tamiang, East Aceh, Central Aceh, and Bener Meriah as locations that were severely affected. This code of ethics not only regulates standard operating procedures but also internalizes moral values in every action and decision-making process (Ritonga, 2024).

For example, in the context of flash floods that hit North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireuen, Aceh Tamiang, and Langsa, praxeological ethics would encourage prioritizing the evacuation of vulnerable groups, fair distribution of aid without discrimination, and transparency in resource management. Meanwhile, in mountainous areas such as Central Aceh and Bener Meriah, which are prone to landslides, this ethics will ensure that the relocation or rehabilitation process is carried out with respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and consideration for environmental sustainability. Training should include scenario-based simulations that challenge ethical dilemmas specific to each region, encourage critical reflection, and strengthen moral commitment in crisis situations. The implementation of this praxeological ethics will ensure that every decision, from resource allocation to the post-landslide rehabilitation process in Central Aceh and Bener Meriah, is based on the principles of justice, accountability, and solidarity with the victims.

The second strategy focuses on cultivating and maintaining a sense of crisis throughout all levels of government and society in the entire province of Aceh. This can be achieved through intensive public education campaigns tailored to the specific disaster risks in each region. For example, campaigns on the dangers of flooding and safe evacuation methods will be more relevant in North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireuen, and Aceh Tamiang, while information on the early signs of

landslides and emergency evacuation routes will be the focus in Central Aceh and Bener Meriah. In addition, large-scale preparedness exercises involving various stakeholders, from local governments to local communities, must be conducted regularly to test and strengthen response capacities. An early warning system that is not only accurate but also easily accessible and understandable to communities throughout Aceh is also crucial to trigger a rapid and coordinated response (Greenhalgh et al., 2018). Strong and consistent leadership in communicating the urgency of disaster threats and their potential impact on lives and livelihoods in each district/city is also essential to maintain a sense of crisis that does not fade over time. Thus, this strategy will encourage local and central governments to not only react to disasters such as flash floods in coastal areas or landslides in highlands, but also to be proactive in mitigation and adaptation, and to ensure that every response action is based on a deep awareness of the impact and urgency of the situation. The integration of these two strategies is expected to create a more resilient, responsive, and sustainability-oriented disaster management system in Aceh for the entire community.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This review shows that natural disaster management in Aceh Province in 2025, particularly in responding to incidents such as flash floods and landslides, is highly dependent on the quality of internalization of praxeological ethics and a sense of crisis within its public administration. Formal commitments to effective disaster management, both from the Indonesian Government and the Aceh Provincial Government as well as regencies/cities, provide important direction. However, the influence of these commitments is significantly mediated by the capacity and coherence of the administrative system in interpreting and realizing ethical values and the urgency of crises in actual practice.

The literature indicates that when pragmatic ethics are internalized, disaster management decisions do not merely follow standard procedures, but are also based on deep moral considerations regarding the welfare of victims and fairness in resource allocation. Conversely, when a sense of crisis has not yet been fully established, responses to threats such as tropical cyclones that caused disasters in North Aceh, Pidie Jaya, Bireuen, Aceh Tamiang, East Aceh, Central Aceh, and Bener Meriah tend to be slow and poorly coordinated. This creates a significant gap between the formal commitment to protect the community and the actual results in the field, a gap that is difficult to overcome without a strong ethical foundation and moral urgency.

These findings clearly show that strengthening the practical ethical dimension and sense of crisis are important requirements for Aceh Province to transform disaster management from a mere reactive response to meaningful and proactive action. Improved ethics-based coordination, coherence in policies that reflect urgency, and disaster management practices oriented towards humanitarian- s can help narrow the gap between aspirations and implementation. This review also demonstrates the value of using insights from applied ethics, crisis psychology, and disaster management theory to understand how domestic institutions in Aceh can respond more effectively to disaster

threats. Although disaster management is a global and national issue, its realization depends on institutional work within the province of Aceh. Future research could benefit from examining how specific administrative reforms, particularly in terms of ethics training and crisis awareness programs, affect the long-term outcomes of disaster management in the context of different development contexts in Aceh.

FURTHER STUDY

This research has limitations related to the complexity of how local governments and disaster management actors internalize praxiological ethics and cultivate a collective sense of crisis in transforming risk perception into concrete, actionable disaster handling practices, without triggering public panic or social unrest, while still ensuring justice, transparency, and protection for communities residing in disaster prone areas of Aceh. Consequently, the process of embedding this ethical and crisis awareness framework into disaster management policy and practice takes considerable time to be thoroughly evaluated. Therefore, further research is recommended to examine in more depth the long term impact of praxiological ethics-based risk transformation strategies on the disaster resilience and preparedness culture of affected communities, including evaluation of the effectiveness of early-warning and cross sector crisis-response coordination mechanisms, and the institutional sustainability of collaboration among local government, BPBD (Regional Disaster Management Agency), and community based organizations in managing disaster risk in Aceh.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author expresses his gratitude to the leadership and the entire academic community of the Doctoral Program in Public Administration, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, for guidance, academic direction, and constructive suggestions during the preparation of this article. Gratitude was also conveyed to the Aceh Provincial Disaster Management Agency (BPBD Aceh), and all research informants for their willingness and cooperation in the data collection process.

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