



***VISITORS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS POTENTIAL NATURAL RISKS
AT SUNGAI TEKALA RECREATIONAL FOREST***

SYAZLIN ZULAIKHA BINTI SABRI

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By

SYAZLIN ZULAIKHA BINTI SABRI

**A Project Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements For The Degree
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DEDICATION

I dedicated this thesis to my mother, Nora Aza'lina Binti Ibrahim, a strong woman that keeps motivating me to strive in things I do and my father, Sabri Bin Ali that keeps supporting, cheering and never fail to ask how's my day and my work.

Lastly, to my brother, Mohd Syahiran Bin Sabri that really concerns about any hardship that I face and always helps me in any situation.



ABSTRACT

Visitors' attitudes towards natural risk is paramount in any recreational area, especially in the forest settings such as recreational forest. This research determines visitors' attitudes towards the potential natural risks at Sungai Tekala Recreational Forest. The study involved 200 respondents who were visitors to the recreational forest. Self-reported questionnaire developed based on the ABC Model of Attitude were used to determine visitors' attitude towards potential natural risks. The findings of the study showed that respondents have highest attitude mean score for the natural risks of leptospirosis, flash flood and soil erosion at recreational forest. However, visitors have low attitude mean score on the potential risk of wind. Results also show that cognitive and affective construct are positively and strongly correlated to behaviour. Thus, providing knowledge and influencing emotion can be used to influence appropriate visitors' behaviour towards the potential natural risks.

ABSTRAK

Sikap pengguna terhadap risiko semulajadi adalah penting di sesebuah kawasan rekreasi, terutamanya di persekitaran hutan seperti hutan rekreasi. Kajian ini menentukan sikap [pengunjung keatas potensi risiko alam semulajadi di Hutan Lipur Sungai Tekala. Kajian ini melibatkan 200 responden yang merupakan pengunjung ke hutan lipur ini. Borang soal selidik dibentuk berdasarkan *ABC Model of Attitude* dalam menentukan sikap pengunjung terhadap potensi alam semulajadi. Penemuan kajian menunjukkan responden mempunyai nilai min sikap yang tinggi keatas risiko kencing tikus, kepala air dan hakisan tanah di hutan lipur. Walau bagaimanapun, pengunjung mempunyai nilai min sikap yang rendah keatas risiko angin. Keputusan juga menunjukkan kognitif dan efektif konstruk mempunyai korelasi positif yang kuat terhadap tingkah laku. Oleh itu, memberikan pengetahuan dan menggunakan mesej yang emosional boleh digunakan untuk mempengaruhi tingkah laku pengunjung yang baik terhadap potensi risiko alam semulajadi.

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APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled **Visitors' Attitude towards Potential Natural Risks at Sungai Tekala Recreational Forest** by **Syazlin Zulaikha Binti Sabri** has been examined and approved as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Parks and Recreation Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Dr. Evelyn Lim Ai Lin
Faculty of Forestry,
Universiti Putra Malaysia.
(Supervisor)

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Zakaria Bin Hussin
Dean,
Faculty of Forestry,
Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Date:

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The recreational Forest in Malaysia is classified under the Permanent Reserved Forest as required under Section 10 (1) of the National Forestry Act, 1984. The recreational forests in Malaysia are managed by the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia. There are 110 recreational forests in Peninsular Malaysia with the state of Pahang owning the highest number of recreational forests. The main purpose for the establishment of recreational forests is for public use such as for recreational activities, research and education, and conservation.

Many people visit the recreational forests for recreation purposes such as to get-away from their busy lifestyle, to get close to nature, and to satisfy their personal and social needs. However, visitors are exposed to various natural risks when in the recreational forests which threatens injury, damage and loss of life.

1.2 Problem Statement

The management has taken various actions to ensure visitors are well informed of the potential natural risks while they are in the recreational forest. The most common way of keeping visitors informed are through the information board and warning signs. However, many cases of accidents and death related to natural risks at recreational forests are still being reported. For example, Ismail (2015) reported in Utusan Online that the number of visitors getting lost in recreational forests in Peninsular Malaysia have increased either in terms of the number of cases or victims. It was also reported that seven cases involving 45 victims were reported in 2012 while another seven cases involving eighty-eight victims were reported in 2013. In 2014, the cases increased to nine involving twenty-nine victims (Ismail, 2015). There are many other cases of injury, damage and loss related to natural risks as listed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Cases of Injury, Damage and Loss Reported Involving Natural Risk

Types of natural risks	Source	Injury, damages and loss
Water	Karim, 2015.	2 university students drowning
Water	Manap & Rahim, 2015.	15 infected with leptospirosis
Topography	Mohamad, 2018.	4 lost while hiking
Trees	Rahman, 2017.	1 died, 4 injured caused by fallen tree
Soil	Kawi, 2018.	1 died when soil erosion cause tree to fall

These cases show the lackadaisical attitude of visitors towards potential natural risks in recreational forest. According to the State Fire and Rescue Department of Negeri Sembilan, many visitors still get lost or miss direction in the recreational forest due to visitors' ignorance of the trail and weather conditions (Ismail, 2015). Similarly, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye stated that Malaysians still do not take drowning cases seriously as an approximate of 700 drowning cases are reported each year (Ishak, Mohamad & Abdullah, 2015). Similarly, Pahang Forestry Assistant Director of Forestry Department, Rosilan Said, was quoted stating that the authority has taken various measures to prevent accidents, but it is often ignored by visitors (Ishak, Mohamad & Abdullah, 2015). Hence, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye has stated that it is important to educate visitors so that they are more aware of the potential natural risks when doing recreation activities at recreational forest (Ishak, Mohamad & Abdullah, 2015). Therefore, it is important to understand visitors' attitude towards potential natural risks at recreational forest.

1.3 Objectives

The objective of this research is to determine visitors' attitude towards potential natural risks at recreational forest. The specific objectives are:

- a) To determine visitors' attitude towards potential natural risks at recreational forest.
- b) To determine the correlation between affective, behavioural and cognitive on visitors' attitude.

1.4 Significance of Study

The study is important to obtain information on visitors' attitude towards potential natural risks at recreation forests. It also determines the correlation between affective, behavioural and cognitive on visitors' attitude at recreational forest. The information are important to help in developing appropriate awareness and education program on natural risks in recreational forest. Similarly, the information would also assist the management to decide on an appropriate mitigation measures.

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