

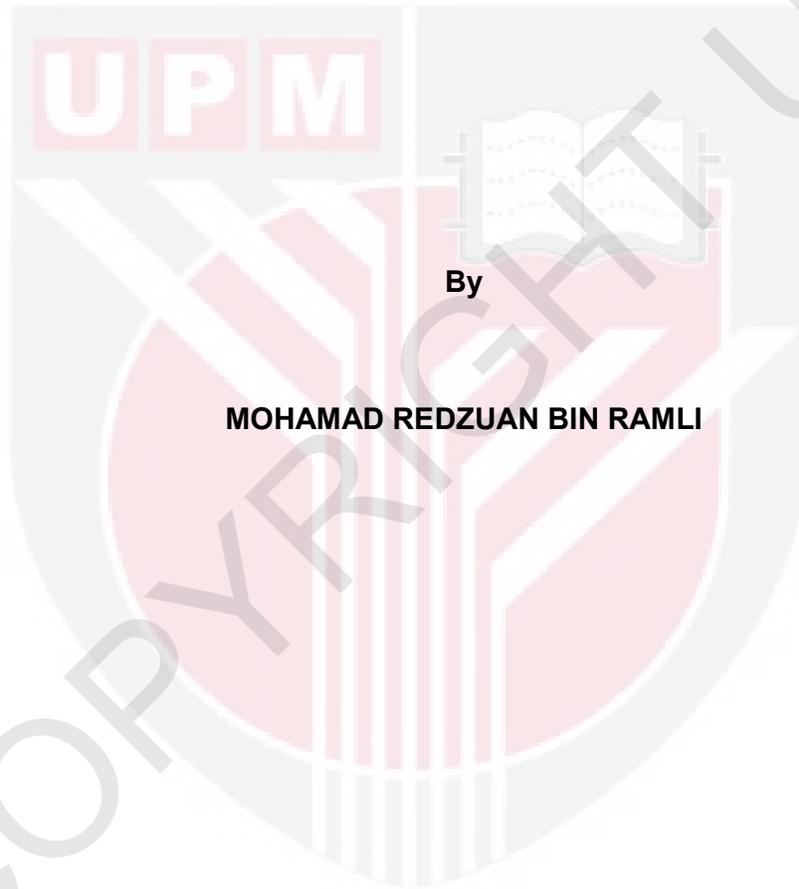


***ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF RISK AMONG HIKERS AT
GUNUNG BALING, KEDAH***

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**ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF RISK AMONG HIKERS AT
GUNUNG BALING, KEDAH**



By

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**A Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Bachelor of Parks and Recreation Science in the
Faculty of Forestry
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

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DEDICATION

For my beloved family:

Ramli bin Jusoh

Rohani binti Ahmad

Also my siblings.

To all my friends,

Interviewees and residents I had done my questionnaire.

Thank you for your encouragements supports

And the sacrifices that you have given.

Thank you for everything. May Allah Bless All of us.

ABSTRACT

Gunung Baling was rarely known to hikers or even locals. It began to be a popular mountain after it became viral on social media in 2015 because of its beautiful scenery. Since then, many hikers have visited Gunung Baling and the number of accidents reported has also increased. This is because, hikers hike Gunung Baling without notifying the Baling District Council at Gunung Baling. Thus, this study was conducted to assess the level of risk among hikers. A total of 160 questionnaires were distributed to hikers during the data collection period. The data collected includes: (1) respondents socio-demographic factors, (2) hikers visit information and (3) the perception of hikers toward risk at Gunung Baling. The results of this study showed that hikers feel safe hiking Gunung Baling ($M = 3.91$), but hikers also feel that the peak of Gunung Baling is unsafe ($M = 2.94$), this is because the surface of the area is rocky and slippery. Hikers agree that to reduce risk when hiking at Gunung Baling, it is important to inform Baling District Council and to place relevant offices at starting point of the mountain. This is because the signage is not effective in reducing risk as signages are unclear, damage and insufficient.

ABSTRAK

Gunung Baling ini kurang diketahui oleh para pendaki mahupun di kalangan penduduk setempat. Ia mula menjadi gunung yang popular selepas viral di media sosial pada tahun 2015 kerana pemandangannya yang sangat cantik. Sejak dari itu, ramai pendaki telah melawat Gunung Baling dan jumlah kemalangan yang dilaporkan juga meningkat. Ini kerana pendaki yang ingin mendaki Gunung Baling tidak memberitahu Majlis Daerah Baling terlebih dahulu. Oleh itu, kajian ini dijalankan untuk menilai tahap risiko di kalangan pendaki. Sebanyak 160 soal selidik telah diedarkan kepada pendaki semasa tempoh pengumpulan data. Dalam kajian ini, data yang dikumpulkan termasuk: (1) faktor sosio-demografi responden, (2) maklumat lawatan pendaki dan (3) persepsi pendaki terhadap risiko di Gunung Baling. Keputusan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa pendaki berasa selamat mendaki Gunung Baling ($M = 3.91$), tetapi pendaki juga merasakan puncak Gunung Baling tidak selamat ($M = 2.94$), kerana permukaan kawasan itu berbatu dan licin. Para pendaki bersetuju bahawa untuk mengurangkan risiko ketika mendaki Gunung Baling adalah penting untuk memaklumkan Majlis Daerah Baling terlebih dahulu dan menempatkan pegawai berkaitan di tempat permulaan pendakian sebelum mendaki. Ini kerana papan tanda tidak berkesan dalam mengurangkan risiko kerana papan tanda yang disediakan tidak jelas, rosak dan tidak mencukupi.

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May Allah S.W.T. bless all of you. Thank you.

APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research project report entitled “**Assessing the Level of Risk among Hikers at Gunung Baling, Kedah**” by Mohamad Redzuan Bin Ramli has been examined and approved as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Parks and Recreation Science in the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GB	Gunung Baling
GP	Gunung Pulai
MDB	Majlis Daerah Baling
UniMAP	Universiti Malaysia Perlis
JPAM	Jabatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The risk of something we do exceeds our expectations. Risks are divided into two different angles which can cause a person's life to be in a dangerous state and may also be a very enjoyable risk. The risk is necessary but must be in the amount that can be controlled. Risk can be changed from harm to something that has a positive impact on someone. Besides that, risk is an issue that can be avoided or alleviated where the issue is a potential problem that needs to be resolved right now. Risks are described qualitatively and quantitatively. Risk is often defined as a situation that can bring harm or bad consequences. Qualitatively, the risk is proportional to the expected loss that may arise from an event and also the occasion of its occurrence. The greater the loss and the probability of the event, the greater the overall risk.

Therefore, this study is carried out to assess the level of risk among hikers at Gunung Baling, Kedah. This is important to ensure the level of awareness of hikers from those involved in risk when hike. In addition, to find out what the danger level is at the mountain.

1.2 Problem Statement

Gunung Baling is located at the edge of the town of Baling, Kedah. Gunung Baling only has a height of 546 meter above sea level, while Gunung Pulai is 610 meter. However, hikers are more focused on Gunung Baling. This is because the hiking track is easier than Gunung Pulai (GP). According to the Utusan Online, (2016) since the beauty of the two mountains became viral on Facebook by 2015 and the numbers of hikers is increasing on weekends, because of that, the number of hikers can reach over 500 people in one day.

Majlis Daerah Baling (MDB) has improved the facilities available in the mount area to accommodate the capacity of the hikers to arrive. The facilities at the starting point of the mountain are parking, public toilets, directions, and resting places. Among the facilities provided on the route, are signboard, stairs, ropes, gazebos and lamp post.

However, accidents still happen at Gunung Baling. For example, Berita Harian Online has reported that four teenagers were lost at Gunung Baling in 2015. Operation Commander, Fire and Rescue Station Assistant Superintendent, Mohd Sufian Alias received an emergency call from a misguided victim while climbing on the mountain. The four teenagers were found safe about 3 kilometers from the starting point of Gunung Baling. Possibly the hikers was lost because they did not inform the Fire and Rescue Department and Baling

District Council before hike. In addition, the risks that always occur to hikers are always mistaken for paths and stray. Many cases have been reported as frequent loss of hikers. This is because there is no guiding service to bring them to hike Gunung Baling. According to Badrol Hisham, Penghulu Mukim Pulai said all these guide it from local people who were proficient in the path to the peak of Gunung Baling.

The Berita Harian (2017), reported a group of UniMAP students were lost at the peak of Gunung Baling. One of them slipped the mountain and injured on the left legs. The rescue operation took three hours to bring them down to the starting point of Gunung Baling. This accident clearly looks at the surface of the route to the very slippery and rocky peaks. Similarly, Berita Harian, (2016) reported a fire at the top of Gunung Baling. Fire and Rescue Department operations involve 24 firefighters and civilians. The fire at the top of the 400 meter tall Gunung Baling is believed to be due to the negligence of the climber who fires up to spread to other areas. Pegawai Daerah Baling, Dzohir Md. Zain said that the area to be closed to the public for safety reasons.

Based on the report by Utusan online (2017), a group of hikers are stranded at the peak of Gunung Baling because it is believed to have shortness of breath and sprained legs. The incident took place after they had gone down the mountain. A total of 23 Fire and Rescue, the *Jabatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (JPAM)*, Search and Rescue of Kedah and Malim Gunung were

mobilized for the search for victims. In this case, hikers hike in the rain and various things we cannot avoid. Such as, the risk of fallen trees, landslides, slippery surfaces and so on.

1.3 Objectives

The main objective of this study is to assess the level of risk among hikers at Gunung Baling, Kedah. The specific objectives of the study are listed as below:-

- a. To identify the socio-demographic of the hikers at Gunung Baling.
- b. To evaluate the perceptions of hikers about their risk while hiking at Gunung Baling.

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