

**Behavioral Impact of Disaster Education:  
Evidence from a Dance-Based Program in Indonesia**

Masahiro Shoji<sup>a</sup>  
Seijo University

Yoko Takafuji<sup>b</sup>  
Rikkyo University

Tetsuya Harada<sup>c</sup>  
Japan International  
Cooperation Agency

Abstract

Despite the obvious importance for policymakers, rigorous impact evaluation for disaster education is scarce. This study evaluates the impact of a newly introduced program in Indonesia on students' attitude to disaster preparation, preparation behavior, and reaction to earthquakes. The program is carefully designed based on psychological theories and anecdotal lessons, and it is easy to understand for students. Using unique panel data and the propensity score weighting estimation, we find that after earthquakes the probability of evacuating to a safe place is higher by 14.5 percentage point among program participants than the other students. It also improves their attitude and encourages preparation behavior. Counter to the prediction from previous studies, this program has even larger effects for the students without interest in science classes. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to rigorously uncover the impact of disaster education on the post-disaster reaction.

**Keywords:** disaster education, disaster risk reduction, non-formal education, Indonesia

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