

Research Article

Tactical Measures and the Quest for Peace: Community-Based Security in Southern Thailand

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Abstract: The ongoing unrest in Thailand's Southern Border Provinces (SBP) remains a complex socio-security issue, significantly impacting the lives, property, and inter-communal relationships of both Buddhist and Muslim populations in the region. This research endeavors to assess the efficacy of "community-level security measures" within the unique socio-political context of the SBP. The study's objectives are threefold: 1) to develop a prototype for prevention and self-conduct in the event of unrest in the SBP; 2) to establish a model area for monitoring, prevention, resolution, or appropriate self-conduct during community-level unrest; and 3) to develop a communication system for surveillance, prevention, and assistance or self-preservation during adverse events. This study employed a Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology, complemented by in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and questionnaires. The participants comprised 430 individuals, including community leaders, government officials, and residents from the three southern border provinces and certain districts of Songkhla province. The findings indicate that the development of prevention and security surveillance strategies significantly enhanced the knowledge, understanding, and coping skills of the populace in responding to unrest. Notably, Pattani and Yala provinces exhibited the highest average learning scores post-training. Furthermore, the creativity of prototype areas has fostered concrete collaborative networks between government agencies and local communities, and the "Border Peace" application was developed as a community safety innovation, designed for communication, incident reporting, and providing survival guidance during emergencies. Users have expressed high satisfaction with its accessibility, usability, and benefits to the community. This integration of security measures with the social and cultural context of the specific southern border region differentiates it from conventional security approaches. This innovative contribution is instrumental in establishing a sustainable community surveillance system and serves as a tangible model for promoting a peaceful society.

Keywords: Prevention, Surveillance, Community Safety, Southern Border Provinces, Border Peace.

1. Introduction

The Southern Border Provinces of Thailand have been experiencing a state of unrest and violent incidents since 2004, continuing to the present day. The conflict in this region extends beyond mere acts of targeted attacks on officials, bombings, ambushes, or hostage-taking. It is also a cumulative outcome of imbalanced political, economic, and social structures that have fostered conditions of "political frustration" and "feelings of injustice" among the local populace, particularly within the Malay Muslim communities. These communities perceive a diminution of their cultural and religious identity, a lack of opportunities for political participation, inequitable resource distribution, and uneven economic development, all of which have become significant factors exacerbating tensions in the area [1]. This situation profoundly influences the behavior and psychological state of the populace, potentially leading to their involvement in criminal activities or as accomplices. This can culminate in incidents that extensively impact the lives and property of citizens, resulting in numerous casualties and injuries. Residents in affected areas experience pervasive fear and a lack of confidence in their safety. Their ability to pursue livelihoods is significantly hampered, leading to diminished income and subsequent financial difficulties where expenses outweigh earnings [2]. The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC) (2025) reports that between 2004 and 2025, there were 10,051 insurgency incidents, resulting in 5,989 fatalities, 13,445 injuries, and property losses affecting 5,938 individuals. The total compensation budget

amounted to 4,493,789,415 Thai Baht. These figures underscore the profound humanitarian and macroeconomic impacts of the unrest on the southern border society. To comprehensively understand the phenomenon, this study references conceptual frameworks from Conflict Resolution Theory [3] and Peacebuilding Theory [4]. These theories focus on understanding the root causes of violence through processes of participation, trust-building, and the development of peace networks within communities. Furthermore, the research applies the concept of Human Security to broaden the scope of analysis from state protection to the protection of individuals, aiming to foster safety in life, dignity, and coexistence with respect for diversity [5].

The theoretical foundation of this research is anchored in Johan Galtung's seminal work on Conflict Resolution Theory, which distinguishes between negative peace defined as the mere absence of direct violence and positive peace, characterized by the elimination of structural violence and the transformation of underlying conflict conditions [6]. Galtung's TRANSCEND method emphasizes that sustainable peace requires creative conflict transformation rather than mere suppression of violence; this approach recognizes that addressing grievances and unmet human needs is essential to preventing the recurrence of conflict [7]. Applied to the Southern Thai context, this framework suggests that military-centric approaches alone cannot resolve the insurgency; instead, systemic reforms addressing the structural inequalities experienced by Malay Muslim communities are prerequisite for durable peace.

Complementing this theoretical orientation, John Paul Lederach's Peacebuilding Theory provides an institutional and relational architecture

for sustained peace-building efforts [8]. Lederach's framework conceptualizes peacebuilding as a comprehensive, multi-level process involving top-level leadership, mid-level stakeholders, and grassroots actors. His four cornerstones of reconciliation truth, mercy, justice, and peace establish that sustainable peace requires not only ending violence but also healing relationships, acknowledging historical wrongs, ensuring accountability, and creating conditions for social transformation [9; 10]. Critically, Lederach argues that identity conflicts, such as that in Southern Thailand, are fundamentally relationship-based and cannot be resolved through conventional top-down diplomacy; rather, they demand participatory, context-specific peacebuilding that restores mutual respect and shared understanding across divided communities [11].

This research aims to develop measures and strategies for monitoring the safety of life and property in the Southern border provinces of Thailand. These measures will align with the local social and cultural context. The research will leverage community power as a foundation for building internal security. Participation by the public, government agencies, and relevant sectors will help reduce losses, enhance daily confidence, restore psychological well-being, and promote sustainable local economic growth. These efforts aim to create a "peaceful society" and genuine "human security" in the Southern border provinces of Thailand.

2. Literature Review

Human Security, as proposed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1994, expands the scope of security from state protection to the protection of individuals [12; 13]. This concept emphasizes enabling humans to live securely in physical, economic, and social dimensions, upholding human dignity [14]. Consequently, this approach highlights the importance of 'prevention' and 'empowerment' to allow individuals to protect themselves without sole reliance on the state [15]. In the context of Thailand's Southern Border Provinces, an area experiencing prolonged unrest, building human security necessitates prioritizing public participation, respect for religious and cultural identity, and the restoration of trust between the state and its citizens to foster sustainable internal security within the framework of State-Building and Local Governance. Migdal [16] concept posits that genuine security is attainable only when state institutions possess legitimacy and are accepted by the populace, particularly in areas where citizens experience alienation from state power. Consequently, state-building is not achieved through coercive force but rather through the creation of a "state with the heart of the people," which empowers communities and local administrative organizations to participate in decision-making and manage their own security [17; 18]. This approach, therefore, emphasizes decentralization, the development of local leadership capabilities, and the establishment of cooperative mechanisms between the state and grassroots communities. In the context of conflict resolution processes, Lederach [4] concept of "Conflict Transformation" proposes that the cessation of violence alone is inadequate for establishing sustainable peace. Instead, it mandates the "transformation of the structural, relational, and cultural elements" that are foundational to the conflict, thereby cultivating shared understanding and long-term peaceful coexistence. This theoretical framework resonates with the socio-cultural landscape of Thailand's Southern Border Provinces, which comprises a multiplicity of ethnic groups, religious affiliations, and cultural practices. Consequently, the implementation of processes aimed at relationship rehabilitation and the establishment of "shared communicative spaces" is imperative to foster trust within these multicultural communities. This approach aligns with the concept of a Peaceful Community, which posits that societal power should be driven by soft power elements such as religion, arts and culture, and local wisdom [19]. These elements can serve as mechanisms to foster unity and mitigate mistrust among the populace within a given area. Concurrently, the empirical evidence explores that localized policy by the government following the violent incidents, exemplifies the concrete application of these principles [20]. The model originated from the concept of empowering communities to achieve self-reliance through collaborative efforts among civilians, police, and military personnel. The government's role is to provide financial support and equipment; however, the crucial element lies in the active participation of citizens at all levels, including community leaders, Village Security Volunteers (Chor Ror Bor), Sub-District Protection Units (Chor Kor Tor), general volunteers, and local youth [21]. The thirteen-step activities, such as emergency response drills, refresher training for village security volunteers and sub-district protection units, installation of alarm systems, establishment of peaceful villages, and the creation of sub-district communication centers, collectively reflect the process of "citizen empowerment" in alignment with the human security paradigm. In this framework, citizens are not merely recipients of policies but become "creators of security" themselves. The Ministry of Transport (2017) recommends "Table-Top Exercise, Functional Exercise, Full-Scale Exercise" as crucial tools for fostering community preparedness for emergencies. Regular drills enable citizens to comprehend their roles and

responsibilities, facilitating informed decision-making during crises. This approach has been consistently implemented in the "Thung Yang Daeng Model" to enhance public confidence and situational awareness. The concepts of a Peaceful Community and the prototype Peaceful Area Chanapa [22] further suggest that genuine tranquility arises from both "internal peace," referring to inner serenity among citizens, and "external peace," encompassing supportive social relationships. This aligns with the operational framework of the Thung Yang Daeng Model, which emphasizes strengthening communities from within through cultivating conscience, religious faith, and participatory self-defense without infringing upon human rights.

When integrating all concepts, it becomes evident that Lederach [4] peacebuilding theory, Sanson [3] conflict resolution theory, and the human security concept [5; 23] collectively form the academic foundation supporting the "Thung Yang Daeng Model." This model aims to foster a peaceful society where citizens are at the core, utilizing participatory processes, scenario-based training, empowerment, and inter-agency integration among governmental bodies, civil society, and local organizations. The resulting outcomes not only mitigate incidents of unrest but also establish human-centered security, enabling citizens to feel secure, maintain their dignity, and actively participate in shaping their sustainable future. The conceptual model of the Development of strategies or measures for the prevention and surveillance of life and property safety from unrest incidents towards a peaceful society in the Southern Border Provinces has been shown in Figure 1

3. Research Framework



Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Development of strategies or measures for the prevention and surveillance of life and property safety from unrest incidents towards a peaceful society in the Southern Border Provinces

3.1 Research Methodology

This research employs a mixed-methods approach, utilizing Participatory Action Research (PAR). This methodology facilitates the involvement of citizens, community leaders, and government agencies throughout all stages, from collaborative conceptualization and implementation to joint analysis of results. The primary objective is to develop a safety surveillance mechanism tailored to the context of Thailand's southern border provinces. Data collection integrates both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data, gathered through questionnaires, assesses the public's knowledge, understanding, and satisfaction with security measures. Qualitative data, obtained from in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (including brainstorming sessions), provides profound insights into the experiences, motivations, and perspectives of stakeholders. Both data types are integrated and validated using triangulation techniques to enhance the reliability and comprehensiveness of the research findings.

Population and Sample: This document outlines the population and sampling methodology employed in a study. The target population for qualitative data collection comprised 30 individuals, including leaders, community groups, and representatives from relevant government agencies such as the Internal Security Operations Command Region 4 Forward (ISOC Region 4 Forward), District Operations Centers (DOCs), Provincial Police Stations, and Local Administrative Organizations [24].

Additionally, snowball sampling was employed to identify key informants within the case study communities who possessed in-depth roles within the village-level security structure. For the quantitative component, specifically the workshop on satisfaction questionnaire responses, the population consisted of Village Security Volunteers (Chor Ror Bor), Sub-District Protection Units (Chor Kor Tor) in the Southern Border Provinces (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, and four districts of Songkhla: Chana, Na Thawi, Thepha, and Saba Yoi). This population totaled 64,095 individuals (Department of Provincial Administration, n.d.). Applying Taro Yamane's formula amane Yamane [25], a sample size of 397 individuals was determined for the quantitative study to ensure representativeness of the overall area.

Data collection: The research operation involved primary data collection through semi-structured interviews, such as the potential and guidelines for preventing unrest, communication strategies for surveillance, and assistance, and focus group discussions. For example, prior to an incident; questions included "How has your community prepared for or rehearsed plans to cope with unrest? What alert or internal communication systems were in place within the village before the incident?" During an incident: When unrest occurs, what are the community's operational guidelines or response measures? How is the coordination between the community and government agencies (e.g., Village Defense Volunteers, police, military)? **Post-Incident Response:** Following the cessation of the event, what measures were implemented for psychological recovery or assistance to those affected? Which agencies played a role in post-incident remediation or coordination? Did the community convene meetings to review or revise measures after the event? to provide guidance for strategic

planning and to seek stability for the community, qualitative data will be collected through workshops and participant satisfaction questionnaires. Quantitative data will be gathered via brainstorming sessions between the public and government agencies to jointly develop approaches and select model villages. Secondary data will be obtained by studying relevant documents, policies, and research, such as the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC) security strategic plan, the Southern Master Plan, and past reports on the evaluation of peace villages.

Qualitative data analysis: analyzed using content analysis and inductive interpretation to synthesize key issues and strategic trends. The quantitative analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The interpretation of satisfaction levels was performed according to Boonchom Srisa-ard's (2010) criteria.

The selection process for the model village for monitoring and preventing unrest" initiative involves a collaborative review of criteria with representatives from three key sectors as shown in Figure 2: 1) security agencies, including the Internal Security Operations Command Region 4 Forward (ISOC Region 4 Forward) and local police stations; 2) academics from regional higher education institutions specializing in security and peace studies; and 3) personnel from government agencies active in Thailand's Southern Border Provinces. The selection prioritizes communities demonstrating self-management capabilities, effective collaboration between the community and the state, and the sustained implementation of surveillance measures.

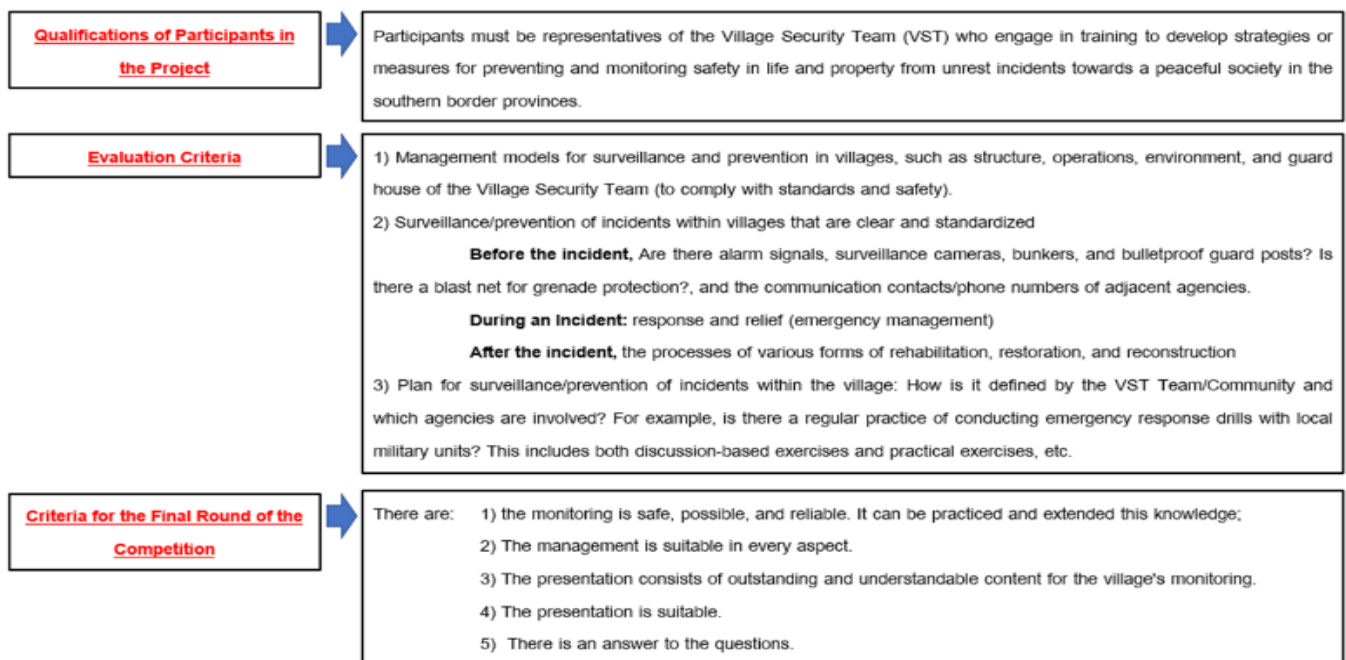


Figure 2: Criteria for Selecting a Model for Vigilant Community Protection against Unrest Events"

3.2 Research Result

Overview of the Group Discussion of the Village Security Team (VST) in the Village:

"When there is an abnormal situation in the area due to receiving a report, the Village Security Team (VST) must take responsibility for the area/location as a common practice. They are adequately prepared regarding workforce capacity to ensure safety in the area and are ready to respond to situations." The details are shown as follows:

From Table 1, the results of the group discussion indicate that before an incident occurs, it is necessary to develop an action plan for monitoring and publicizing to inform the members of the Village Security Team (VST), the community, and the public. This should include rehearsals and disseminating the plan so that everyone understands how to respond to unrest incidents, as well as closely monitoring news situations. During an incident: If unrest occurs, members must choose appropriate responses, such as fleeing for maximum safety by leaving belongings behind and using methods to escape to a safe place or hiding in secure locations by blocking entrances and remaining as quiet as possible. In necessary cases, they may also choose to fight back seriously to protect themselves and others. After an incident: Members of the VST must collaborate with relevant agencies to inspect the site, assess damages, issue certificates for victims, arrange transportation for victims back home, coordinate social welfare efforts, prepare temporary shelters, and provide health services and care for those affected. Drills and reviews of the plan should be

conducted at least once a year to ensure readiness in effectively managing unrest incidents. Training to develop strategies or measures for preventing and monitoring safety in life and property from unrest towards a peaceful society in the southern border province, the results of the pre-test and post-test of the training and operations are shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Operations in monitoring and surveillance of security situations in the area.

Items	Conversational Results
Before the incident	1. Preparation/Guidelines for Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warning System - Channels of communication such as the mosque's public address system, application systems, and Line (a messaging app) - Organization of watch shifts/security personnel - Establishment of checkpoints/routes
At the time of the incident	The operational ways for the Village Security Team (VST) volunteers to collaborate with government officials in each area can be organized by 1) VST volunteers set up the checkpoints or roadblocks with the government officials, military personnel, police, and Volunteer Defense Corps (VDC); and 2) VST volunteers collaborate the government officials to patrol their responsible areas and ensure the safety.
After the incident	The duties of the Village Security Team (VST) will be complete only when the administrative staff, police, or other officials

Items	Conversational Results
	request assistance from the VST. There are eight specific responsibilities: 1) To stand guard and maintain peace and security in the village, 2) To patrol and ensure order in the village, 3) To investigate and gather information that poses a threat to security or public order, 4) To monitor and protect important locations by setting up checkpoints to inspect individuals and vehicles entering or leaving the village, 5) To report incidents occurring in the area to superiors, 6) To search individuals or vehicles, 7) To prevent and mitigate public disasters, and 8) To perform other duties as assigned.

From Table 2, it can be observed that Pattani Province has an increase in learning and understanding of 77.66, followed by Yala Province with an increase of 73.56, Songkhla Province with an increase of 71.29, and Narathiwat Province with an increase of 61.14, respectively.

Table 2: The participant's scores in training on developing strategies or measures for preventing and monitoring safety in life and property from unrest events towards a peaceful society in the southern border provinces.

Province	Pre-test)	Post-test	Percentage Increase
Narathiwat	5.09 ± 1.20	8.20 ± 0.69	61.14 ± 41.38
Pattani	4.38 ± 0.72	7.78 ± 0.90	77.66 ± 30.10
Yala	4.62 ± 1.07	8.02 ± 0.70	73.56 ± 34.66
Songkla	4.49 ± 0.92	7.69 ± 0.73	71.29 ± 40.57

Table 3 shows a satisfaction on the training to develop tactics measures to prevent and monitor the safety of life and property from unrest incidents to create a peaceful society in the southern border provinces, which consists of the evaluation items as follows: 1) Clarity of knowledge

transfer by the instructors, 2) Duration of the activity, 3) Suitability of the venue for the activity, 4) Knowledge and understanding before training, 5) Ability to apply the knowledge gained for personal and community security, and 6) Ability to disseminate and share the knowledge.

Table 3: Satisfaction Score

Province	Average Scores + Standard Deviation (overall)	Satisfaction Level
Narathiwat	4.46 ± 0.09	Good
Pattani	4.68 ± 0.08	Very good
Yala	4.74 ± 0.07	Very good
Songkla	4.67 ± 0.63	Very good

Based on Table 3, it was found that Pattani showed a high level of satisfaction regarding knowledge and understanding after the training. Narathiwat expressed satisfaction with the clarity of knowledge conveyed by the instructors, rating it as good. Yala reported a high level of satisfaction with both the clarity of knowledge provided by the instructors and the duration of the activities, rating them as very good. Songkla demonstrated a high level of satisfaction in applying the knowledge gained to enhance personal and community security, also rated as very good.

Evaluation results for the selection of exemplary model villages for monitoring and preventing unrest incidents.

According to Figure 3, the evaluation results for the selection of exemplary model villages for monitoring and preventing unrest incidents involve four provinces: Narathiwat (Rueso), Pattani (Yarang, Nong Chik), Yala (Yala City, Raman), and Songkhla (Tepa, Sabayoi, Jana). The assessment was based on three criteria: 1) the management model for surveillance and prevention within the villages, 2) the clarity and standards of surveillance and prevention measures within the villages, and 3) the plans for drills related to surveillance/prevention.

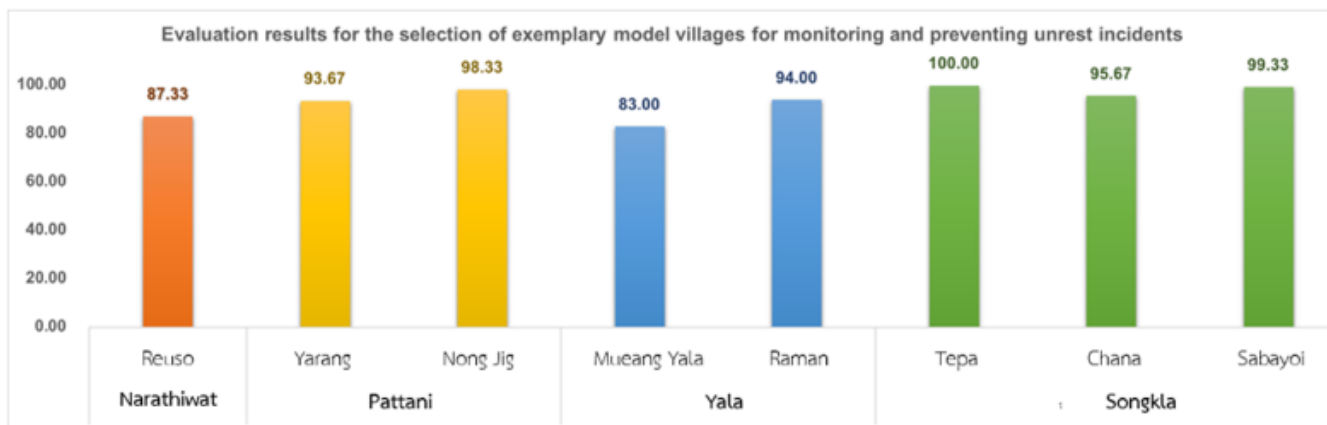


Figure 3: Evaluation results for the selection of exemplary model villages for monitoring and preventing unrest incidents.

The VST Team/community determined these criteria in collaboration with relevant agencies. The evaluation results indicated that Tepa district received the highest score of 100 points, followed by Sabayoi district with 99.33 points, Nong Chik district with 98.33 points, Jana district with 95.67 points, Raman district with 94 points, Yarang district with 93.67 points, Rueso district with 87.33 points, and Yala City with 83 points in that order.

The evaluation results and the competition for selecting model villages for

Table 4: Evaluation result and competition for selecting model villages for surveillance

Team	Scores Obtained		Total Scores
	Evaluation Round	Competition Round	
1. Ban Payor, Tasap sub-district (Mueang Yala district)	83.00	39.00	122.00
2. Tell us, we can help create happiness for our village (Raman district)	94.00	43.50	137.50
3. Adventurous (Yarang district)	93.67	42.17	135.84
4. Lion of Tapad (Tepa district)	100.00	45.08	145.08
5. Ban Wangwan, Tamorsai (Jana district)	95.67	43.42	139.09
6. Relieving suffering and promoting happiness is our duty. (Sabayoi district)	99.33	46.25	145.58

* In the competition round, there are only 6 teams participating out of 8 teams in the preliminary round.

The results from Table 4 of the assessment and competition for selecting model villages for surveillance show that the "Team for Relieving Suffering and Promoting Happiness" from Sabayoi district won the first prize. The "Team of Lions of Tapad" from Tepa district received the first runner-up award, while the "Ban Wangwan Team" from Tamorsai sub-district in Jana district was awarded the second runner-up. Lastly, the "Tell us, we can help create happiness for our village Team" from Raman district received an honourable mention.

4. Research and Conclusion and Discussion

4.1 Research Conclusion

The research findings indicate that surveillance and prevention measures for unrest in the Southern Border Provinces are critically important for enhancing community security and fostering peaceful coexistence. These measures can be categorized into three distinct phases. The pre-incident phase involves the development and widespread dissemination of operational surveillance plans to the public. Furthermore, this phase includes drills and the communication of response plans for unrest to members of the Village Defense Volunteers (Chor Ror Bor) and the general populace. Concurrently, close monitoring of news and continuous situational assessment are undertaken. During an incident, Village Defense Volunteers members must be capable of selecting appropriate response strategies based on the prevailing circumstances. This includes prioritizing personal safety through evasion, seeking secure

concealment, or, when necessary, engaging in self-defense and the protection of others, with the paramount consideration being public safety. After an incident, Village Defense Volunteers and relevant agencies are tasked with conducting site assessments, evaluating damages, issuing certifications for affected individuals, coordinating medical and social welfare services, arranging temporary shelters, and providing mental health support to facilitate the recovery and well-being of those impacted. Furthermore, annual emergency preparedness drills are mandated to ensure operational readiness.

The pre- and post-training knowledge assessment results indicated a significant increase in the level of knowledge and understanding regarding prevention and surveillance measures among participants across all provinces. The province demonstrating the most substantial learning improvement was Pattani, with an increase of 77.66%. This was followed by Yala (73.56%), Songkhla (71.29%), and Narathiwat (61.14%), respectively. Furthermore, the evaluation of training satisfaction revealed that participants expressed a high level of contentment with both the content and the knowledge transfer methodology. Yala and Pattani provinces recorded the highest average satisfaction scores, categorized as "very good," while Narathiwat and Songkhla provinces reported "good" satisfaction levels. The evaluation results for the model villages in the assessment and competition for monitoring unrest incidents across four provinces—Narathiwat, Pattani, Yala, and Songkhla—indicate the following outcomes: The 'Bambadtuk Bamrungsuk Kue Nati Khong Rao Team' from Saba Yoi District, Songkhla Province, secured the first-place award. The 'Ratchasri Tapad Team' from Thepha District was awarded the first runner-up position. The 'Ban Wang Wan Team' from Chana District received the second runner-up award. Lastly, the 'Bok Ma Rao Chuy Suk Sang Dai Peur Mu Ban Rao Team' from Raman District, Yala Province, was granted a commendation award. These assessment findings underscore the significant potential of villages in Songkhla and Yala provinces in self-managing community safety and effectively serving as models for monitoring unrest incidents.

4.2 Research Discussion

The research findings indicate that measures and strategies for monitoring and preventing unrest implemented in Thailand's Southern Border Provinces effectively enhance public knowledge, understanding, and skills in responding to incidents of unrest. This is particularly evident among the Village Defense Volunteers (Chor Ror Bor) and Sub-district Protection Units (Chor Kor Tor), who demonstrate readiness for operational execution across three phases. Prior to an incident, planning for surveillance and public dissemination of information are undertaken, alongside drills for responding to unrest. During an incident, appropriate response strategies can be selected, such as evasion, concealment, or self-defense. Following an incident, coordination with relevant agencies occurs, damage is assessed, and medical and psychosocial services are provided. This research reflects the community's potential for self-management and the strengthening of internal security, representing a sustainable development approach within the context of Thailand's Southern Border Provinces. This aligns with several theoretical frameworks underpinning the study. Specifically, Lederach [4] Peacebuilding Theory, which emphasizes participatory processes for fostering trust and peace at the grassroots level, is concretely applied through the establishment of model surveillance communities resulting from collaboration between government and citizens. Furthermore, Sanson [3] Conflict Resolution Theory, which focuses on understanding the root causes of violence and developing participatory problem-solving approaches involving all sectors, demonstrates that training and plan drills enhance communities' skills and understanding in consciously responding to incidents and minimizing losses, and the concept of human security, as articulated by the [23] and further elaborated by [4]. This framework expands the traditional scope of security from state protection to the protection of individuals, emphasizing the safety of life, dignity, and quality of human life. In this context, community members play a crucial role in monitoring and preventing threats to their own lives and property.

The pretest-posttest results indicated a statistically significant increase in knowledge, understanding, and skills related to responding to unrest among trainees from all provinces. Notably, Pattani and Yala provinces exhibited the highest rates of improvement, underscoring enhanced community-level awareness of "human security." This signifies the acquisition of knowledge, preparedness, and capacity to safeguard one's life and dignity during crises. Furthermore, participant satisfaction evaluations were consistently rated as "very good" across all provinces, particularly concerning knowledge transfer and practical application within communities. This aligns with the perspective of unaworapanya and Chotanachote [26; 27], who posited that community-participatory training fosters long-term behavioral attitudinal changes and this satisfaction is particularly evident in the knowledge gained and the benefits derived for deployment. The selection of model surveillance villages, such as those in

Saba Yoi and Thepha districts, which received the highest evaluation scores, demonstrates the communities' self-management capabilities in security matters and the establishment of collaborative networks among the populace, government, and private sectors [2]. This collaborative approach is central to "human security" as defined by the United Nations Development Programme [23; 28; 29; 30]

In summary, this research underscores that "human security" is central to the development of security in Thailand's Southern Border Provinces. This approach necessitates leveraging the power of the populace as a central force. Enhancing knowledge, skills, and community networks not only helps reduce unrest but also serves as a process for fostering sustainable peace and shared trust between the state and its citizens. This aligns directly with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which aims to build "peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Recommendations

Recommendations include that government agencies should establish sub-district level surveillance centers, develop annual standard drill plans, and improve the welfare of the Village Defense Volunteers (Chor Ror Bor) and Sub-district Protection Units (Chor Kor Tor) groups to boost morale and operational efficiency. Concurrently, community organizations should form village-level peace teams and encourage youth participation in peacebuilding efforts. The private sector can support security technology and community economic development. Educational institutions, for their part, should develop curricula and research networks in security to drive sustainable peacebuilding in the Southern Border Provinces.

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