The Perceptions and Attitudes on Domestic Violence of the Social Network Members in Northeastern Thailand

Pattanaphanu Tooltham[1] and Mana Tooltham[2]

Abstract

Domestic violence is a crucial problem worldwide, including in Thailand. Community members play key roles in tackling and reducing household abuse in their communities. Thus, their perceptions and attitudes towards it are crucial for initiating community-based programs or activities. This study aims to survey the perceptions and attitudes on domestic violence among Northeastern stakeholders. A stratified random sample of 449 was selected based on the statistics of violence cases per household in the Esan provinces. Four provinces with 24 sub-districts were included to distribute questionnaires representing this region of Thailand. Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed, analyzed, and encoded using the SPSS program for Windows. The results showed that community members in Northeastern Thailand believe that psychological abuse, in particular, is more common than physical or sexual abuse, and any other forms of violence. However, they do not usually hear about it directly from victims; instead, they learn about it from neighbors and internet sources. It is interesting to note that patronage and patriarchal cultures do not seem to be the key significance (insignificantly as p >.05) but the efficiency of these networks differs from province to province. Social roles or positions and gender within the network impact how people learn about and deal with domestic abuse. Improving law enforcement among network members, addressing economic hardship on people, coping with community resource shortages, employing virtual channels for operating and raising awareness, and training targeted community members are the main recommendations to reduce and prevent violence more sustainably and effectively.

Keywords: *Social Network Members, Domestic Violence, Northeastern Thailand, Perceptions, Attitudes*

INTRODUCTION

Background and Literature Review

Domestic violence is a serious global issue affecting millions of people. A staggering report indicates that over 835 million women and children experience family violence worldwide (Klugman et al., 2014; World Bank, 2011). This widespread problem has severe consequences. It can hinder women's participation in development, weaken family structures, and threaten the safety and well-being of individuals (Department of Women's Affairs and Family Institute, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 2019).

In terms of macro aspects of how socio-economic factors can escalate domestic violence, economic hardship, rapid urbanization, and unequal development are contributing factors identified in the research (Muggah & Savage, 2012; Moser & McIlwaine, 2006). The situation worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic, as lockdowns led to a rise in family abuse apart from economic, physical, and psychological concerns (Department of Women's Affairs and Family Institute, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 2019; Henke & Hsu, 2022; Kim & Royle, 2024).

The literature review explored various approaches to address domestic violence. Many studies emphasize the importance of strong social networks as support systems (Castells, 2004; Ogbe, Jbour, Rahbari, Unnithan & Degomme, 2021) for prevention and intervention, particularly in Brazil (Netto et al., 2017; Carlos et al., 2014; Druta et al., 2013). These networks can provide important support to victims, both those affected by abuse directly and indirectly, as well as raise awareness within communities.

Research also explores the effectiveness of interventions tailored to different community settings such as Thailand (Women and Men Progress Foundation, 2020). This emphasizes the need for a nuanced understanding of the problem and context-specific solutions in local communities (Roopkhamdee, 2011),

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[1] Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy in Development Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University

[2] Assistant Professor in Social Development, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University

considering various factors beyond individual cases. A socio-ecological perspective is also vital, emphasizing the need to address cultural norms, economic conditions, legal frameworks, and political landscapes when tackling household abuse (Federici, 2018; Golu, 2017; Suriyanyong et al., 2014; Renzetti, 2009; Cosimo, 2012; Kovacs, 2018; True, 2010; Wright, 2004). Moreover, the literature mentions coping models presented by Natarajan & Rodriguez-Spahia (2019), which highlight the different ways victims might respond to violence; for instance, custody, reconciliation, therapeutic, preventive, and surveillance models.

According to violence situations both in the global and local Thai context, connecting with the importance of social networks as a supported system and analyzing the socio-ecological framework covering family abuse issues, the study of perceptions and attitudes of network members as the direct actors is important for comprehending their perspectives in holistic and interdisciplinary views. It can also employ this information to initiate interventions and propose social policy development.

Objective

The research objective is to describe and explain the perceptions and attitudes of social network members regarding domestic violence in northeastern Thailand through quantitative survey research. The gathered data is employed to depict the characteristics of social network members who have been working on domestic violence issues. This research also investigates how social network features influence perceptions and attitudes in addressing domestic violence in northeastern Thailand via using descriptive and inferential statistics.

According to the social network components, there are either individuals or groups; on behalf of local or provincial government organizations who work together by bringing their specialist knowledge and experiences to the operational process for coping with household abuse. Therefore, each community-based social network member has attributes that contribute to addressing their community concerns. They may also affect their ways of working according to their subjective perceptions and attitudes. Because coping and combating domestic violence rely on their experiences of phenomena directly and indirectly to design the social protection area in their communities. Learning and investigating channels precepting with violence, patterns of violence, challenges in addressing violence, expected models for coping with violence as well as structural institution responsibility on domestic violence is important in how to form and run a local-based social network systematically which can be illustrated below;

Social Network Member Attributes Violence

Perceptions and Attitudes on

Social Network Member Attributes:
-Gender
-Age
-Marital Status
-Education
-Main Occupation
-Average Salary
-Roles/Positions
-Work Experience
-Times of Activity Participation per Year

Perceptions and Attitudes on Violence:
-Channels
-Patterns of Violence
-Challenges
-Expected Models for Coping
-Structural Institution Responsibility

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A quantitative survey was used to convey and investigate local-based social network members who have been working on domestic violence issues. The questionnaire was developed to be distributed to the community-based workers in northeastern Thailand (Isan) which can be described as follows;

Sample Size

Since the total population of social networks that deal with domestic violence is not yet known, the researchers need to select a sample. The issue of sample size depends on the sampling technique, population size, sampling error, and the maximum allowable error in estimating population parameters with statistical values. In such a case, the researchers use a method to determine the sample size when the population size is unknown (Roscoe, 1969). Besides calculating the sample size, the researchers set the population proportion to under a 95% confidence level and allowed a 5% error (Wanichbancha, 2018). Therefore, the sample size should be no less than 385 people (but not more than 600 people).

Sampling Approach

The researchers used a probability-based sampling technique to ensure the representativeness of the sample. The sampling frame was constructed based on the statistics of domestic violence rates compared to the number of households in each province of the total 20 northeastern Thailand provinces, as indicated by the data of the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Institute, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, as of May 31st, 2023, before conducting data collection. The four provinces with the highest domestic violence rates were chosen including Mukdahan, Nong Khai, Maha Sarakham, and Amnat Charoen. Within each province, six sub-districts were selected, resulting in a total of 449 respondents in 24 sub-districts for preventing missing because, in reality, each sub-district (local-based community) is different and inconsistent in terms of the number of network members (Some have 15 and others have 28, apart from some members move and pass away). Stratified random sampling was then utilized to select 449 individual respondents from the provinces to the sub-districts. This involved coordinating with the Provincial Social Development and Human Security Offices to identify sub-districts with active social networks for domestic violence management/consecutively granted to operate projects/activities by the provincial bodies, either in the form of Sub-district Family Violence Prevention and Resolution Centers (SPVRCs) or Community Family Development Centers (CFDCs).

Data Collection Procedure and Administration

Obtaining Permission: The researchers obtained permission from the Provincial Social Development and Human Security Offices in the four selected provinces to collect data. The contact channels of the community members were obtained on the coordinator list in the beginning phase.

Coordinating with Local Stakeholders: The researchers coordinated with provincial and sub-district officials responsible for domestic violence programs to identify and start contacting active social networks.

Distributing Questionnaires: The questionnaires were distributed to the social network members through the sub-district coordinators via the LINE application and the postal channel. In addition, the researchers provided clear instructions and answered any questions regarding the questionnaire if they were concerned.

Setting a deadline for data collection: A specific timeline was established for data collection and the return of completed questionnaires was set around a month. The researchers either collected the questionnaires in person or obtained them through postal mail.

Encoding and analyzing data: Once the questionnaires were received, the researchers encoded and analyzed the data using SPSS software.

Data Collection Instrument

A structured questionnaire was developed to collect data. The questionnaire was divided into three sections:

General Information: This section gathered demographic data about the respondents, including their characteristics and roles within the social networks.

Perceptions and Attitudes on Domestic Violence Mechanism: This section focused on the respondents' experiences and perspectives on domestic violence management within social networks. The questions were based on the findings from the previous qualitative research phase and constructed using issues identified in the literature review.

Additional Comments and Observations: This section included open-ended questions to allow respondents to share their personal experiences and insights related to domestic violence and social network interventions.

Instrumental Reliability

To ensure the reliability and validity of the questionnaire, the following measures were taken:

Content Validity: The questionnaire was reviewed and commented on by three experts in the field of domestic violence and social work to ensure the relevance and sensibility of the questions.

Pilot Testing: The questionnaire was pilot-tested with a small sample of respondents from the target population to identify any potential issues or ambiguities in each question.

Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient: The reliability coefficient (Cronbach's alpha) was calculated for each item of the questionnaire. A reliability coefficient of 0.7 or above was considered acceptable.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) were used to summarize the quantitative data. Inferential statistics (Chi-square and ANOVA) were then employed to examine relationships between variables.

Ethical Approval

The study received ethical clearance from the Khon Kaen University's Research Ethics Committee on July 17th, 2022, with the No. HE653132.

FINDING

General Profiles of the Northeastern Community Member Samples (n=449)

General Profiles	Frequency	Percent
Gender		
Female	216	48.1
Male	223	49.7
LGBTQ+	6	1.3
Not specified	4	.9
Age		
Not Exceed 30 years old	25	5.6
31-40 years old	59	13.1
41-50 years old	126	28.1
51-60 years old	185	41.2
61 years old and above	54	12.0
Marital Status		
Single	71	15.8
Married	334	74.4
Divorce	19	4.2
Widow	21	4.7
Separated	4	.9
Education		
Elementary	56	12.5

General Profiles	Frequency	Percent
Secondary	213	47.4
Diploma	24	5.3
Bachelor	118	26.3
Graduate	37	8.2
Others	1	.2
Main Occupation		
Informal Sector Employee	17	3.8
Agriculture	206	45.9
Business/Seller	38	8.5
Private officer/ State Enterprise Officer		
Civil Servant	8	1.8
Others	172	38.3
	8	1.8
Average Salary		
Below 5,000 baht	40	8.9
5,001-10,000 baht	204	45.4
10,001-20,000 baht	107	23.8
20,001-30,000 baht	40	8.9
30,001-40,000 baht	44	9.8
40,001 baht and above	14	3.1
Role/Position in Network		
Sub-district Chief/Village Chief/Village Chief Assistant	152	33.9
Village Health Volunteer	64	14.3
Social Development Volunteer	7	1.6
Sub-district Councilor	36	8.0
Local Civil Servant	119	26.5
Holding 2 positions	52	11.6
Holding 3 positions	16	3.6
Holding 4 positions and above	3	.7
Governmental Area Unit		
Sub-district Municipality	174	38.8
Sub-district Administration	275	61.2
Work Experience		
Not exceed 2 years	28	6.2
2-5 years	110	24.5
6-10 years	128	28.5
11-15 years	86	19.2
16 years and above	97	21.6
Times of Participation in Domestic Violence Issue Activities/ Projects		
Never	47	10.5
Not exceed twice	198	44.1
3-4 times a year	129	28.7
5 times a year and above	75	16.7
Province		
Mukdahan	122	27.2
Nongkhai	133	29.6
Mahasarakham	103	22.9
Amnat Charoen	91	20.3

Items	Mean	Std. Deviation
Channels of Domestic Violence Perception		
From a direct victim	2.96	1.072
From a victim's neighbor/ people in the community	3.14	1.062
From an online platform	3.41	1.053
Patterns of Violence Perceived by Members		
Physical violence	2.03	1.054
Emotional violence	2.24	1.086
Sexual violence	1.59	.932
Negligence/ignorance	1.88	1.046

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Items	Mean	Std. Deviation
Economic violence	1.79	.995
Factors Associated with Social Network Construction		
From the direct events	2.52	1.056
From regional government organization	2.96	1.200
From legal mechanisms	2.98	1.156
From the violence center establishment	3.11	1.163
Methods Used by the Social Network Members		
Using the community justice center	3.08	1.110
Using the informal community constitution	3.41	1.016
Using laws	2.97	1.059
Using online media and applications	3.54	1.011
Using the survey on domestic violence in the community	2.96	1.000
Using the manual/ protocol	2.92	1.038
Using media for campaigning in the community	3.01	1.062
Using human capital	3.13	.975
Using meetings for learning	3.31	1.006
Skills Employed by Social Network Members		
Employing abstaining skills on violence	3.08	1.043
Employing simulation for learning	2.92	.990
Employing assessment skills in a situation	2.97	1.058
Employing communication skills	3.28	.965
Employing observational skills for surveillance	3.29	.968
Employing therapeutic specialist skills	3.01	1.058
Employing information technologies	3.38	1.046
Employing home visits	3.24	1.057
Employing negotiation skills and artistic persuasion	3.16	1.020
Employing coordination	3.39	.990
Employing counseling skills	3.14	1.058
Employing consulting meetings	3.28	.969
Employing working with children and youths	3.30	.987
Challenges Faced by Social Network Members		
Legal enforcement/facilitation	3.60	.949
Attitudes on violence of people that violence is a private issue	3.17	1.011
Attitudes on violence of people that violence is a public issue	3.25	1.017
Scarcity of resources namely personnel, budget, knowledge, activity	3.41	.953
Learning process and sharing information on violence	3.26	.885
Discrepant information between organizations	3.20	.920
Too many roles/positions of social network members	3.05	1.116
Inefficient and ineffective therapeutic specialists on perpetrators	3.46	1.035
Expected Mechanism Models by Social Network Members		
Custody model	3.76	1.001
Negotiation/ Reconciliation model	3.61	.915
Therapeutic model	3.69	1.029
Preventive and campaign model	3.84	.881
Screening and surveillance model	3.81	.950
Attitudes on Social Structures and Institutions Associating with Violence Problems		
Directed affected family	3.38	1.044
Education	3.73	1.037
Mass media	3.95	.901
Political administration/ implementation	3.45	1.023
Religion	3.53	1.015
Cultures (esp. patriarchal and patronage culture)	3.42	1.032
Economic/ debt/ cost of living	3.88	.943
Legal design for enabling social network members	4.00	.962

Attitudes of Social Network Members in Northeast Thailand Towards Domestic Violence in the Region

The results show that, on average, communities perceive domestic violence in the five forms (including physical, mental, sexual, neglectful, and economic) to be quite low (Mean = 1.90, S.D. = .87). Moreover, social network members utilize methods and skills to moderately manage both community and domestic violence, with average scores of (Mean= 3.14, S.D. = .76) and (Mean = 3.18, S.D. = .79), correspondingly.

Taking into account the specifics of every item in the questionnaire as well as the groups of questions from every section, the following intriguing results can be explained as follows (the table was provided above for each section):

In terms of the channels through which social network members perceive domestic violence incidents, the respondents perceive violence through online communication channels and applications the most, with an average score of 3.41 (S.D. = 1.05). This is followed by perceiving violence from neighbors and the general public (Taiban), with an average score of 3.14 (S.D. = 1.06), and perceiving violence directly from victims the least, with an average score of 2.96 (S.D. = 1.07). This reflects that the awareness of the network is that victims or those affected by domestic abuse, both directly and indirectly, do not intend or are afraid to disclose the events or situations they are experiencing. It is therefore more like an indirect awareness of violence from social media and neighbors. This is also consistent across all four sample provinces.

The most common forms of domestic and community violence that social network members perceive are psychological violence, with an average score of 2.24 (S.D.= 1.08), followed by physical violence, with an average score of 2.03 (S.D. = 1.05). Neglectful violence, with an average score of 1.88 (S.D. = 1.04), is followed by economic exploitation violence, with an average score of 1.79 (S.D. = .99), and eventually sexual violence, with an average score of 1.59 (S.D. = .93), respectively. This finding is consistent with the research results of Trijuthakarn (2021), that the violence that occurs in older adults is visible in the form of psychological violence. Even psychological violence is something that may not be easily observed but can be perceived from the interactions between family members, neighbors, and networks working with the community, indicating it is a common occurrence. It also reflects the fact that it hurts the mind. While physical violence is something that can be defined and observed by the senses more easily than other forms of violence, sexual violence, which can be difficult to notice and is something that both victims and perpetrators and networks are afraid to disclose, is a complex issue because it is gender-based violence. The order of these forms or types of violence is consistent with the context of the four sample provinces.

Regarding the obstacles and challenges that social networks consider to be the most significant in dealing with violence, the first is the law enforcement related to violence, including the Violence Act, the Mental Health Act, and the Narcotics Act. The respondents perceive that the enforcement of these laws is still ineffective, with an average score of 3.60 (S.D. = .94). This is followed by the perception that the drug, psychiatric, and alcohol special treatment process is ineffective, with an average score of 3.46 (S.D. = 1.03). Furthermore, the lack of resource readiness in the area, including personnel, budget, and knowledge, is still a limitation, with an average score of 3.41 (S.D. = .95).

In terms of the opinions of social networks in the Northeast on the model of violence management that should be implemented, the respondents believe that preventive work should be the top priority, with an average score of 3.84 (S.D. = .88). This is followed by the attitude that screening should be conducted in the area, with an average score of 3.81 (S.D. = .95), and that perpetrators of violence should be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law immediately, with an average score of 3.76 (S.D. = 1.00). These opinions reflect the idealistic goals of network operations. They believe that violence, regardless of where it occurs or in which family, is an undesirable situation because it has a multi-faceted impact on victims, families, and the community. They also do not want to work in a remedial manner, as if a cow has been lost and the corral has been closed. Instead, if they can prevent crime and be aware of the warning signs of potential abuse, they can nip it in the bud to reduce conflict and build peace in the community. This may be the goal of the network and the idealistic goal of society as well.

Moreover, the social institutions that social network members think should play the most vital role in addressing violence structurally are as follows:

Laws and law enforcement should be given top priority, with an average score of 4.00 (S.D. = .96).

The media should play a role in dealing with violence, with an average score of 3.95 (S.D. = .90).

Economic hardship is also important in contributing to domestic abuse, with an average score of 3.88 (S.D. = .94).

The role of educational institutions, with an average score of 3.73 (S.D. = 1.03).

Furthermore, in comparison to other concerns, the opinions on violence regarding patronage culture, patriarchal culture, and the responsibility of the family experiencing the incident to manage violence are moderate to lowest (i.e., with an average of M = 3.38, S.D. = 1.04). This illustrates the paradox that domestic abuse is a public issue from the network's point of view. It is not a viable option to place all the blame on the family that is having the issue. To solve the issue, collaboration between different sectors and other social entities is required to create harmony within the neighborhood. This could be both the network's and society's idealistic objective. This point could argue against Suriyanyong et al. (2014) on the use of policies in Songkhla province to address domestic violence issues. The following are the conclusions regarding problems with policy implementation, which should be addressed: the fundamental issues are social and cultural, public relations and communication, and personnel development, respectively.

In actuality, though, cultural factors—particularly patriarchal and patronage cultures—do not rank among the most pressing issues in stopping this violence. Utilizing local wisdom is one of the positive characteristics of rural civilizations' cultures that can be used to combat domestic abuse. According to the ritual of Heet Sib Song Khong Sib Si (Northeastern Social Norms), for instance, there is an ethical culture in the Northeast that emphasizes values such as respecting elders or ancestors and avoiding family arguments (Wannapaiboon, 2014).

Chi-square Test

Province and Role in Social Network

At a statistical significance level (p < .05), the association between the sample's

position in the social network and the province where the data was obtained (p = .012) indicates that every province or location creates a unique social network that addresses violence. A lot of variables also affect how many committees or network actors there are. In contrast to other regions, the whole network member of the Pho Tak Sub-district Administration Organization, Pho Tak District, Nong Khai Province, is made up of women's groups. In each region, the importance of the network leader's function differs as well. With a CC value of .280, the correlation between the province where the data was gathered and the sample's position/role in the social network is, nevertheless, rather weak.

Province and Experience of Social Networks in the Area, every location and
province has a unique experience when it comes to working on violence issues, as evidenced by the association between the province where the data was gathered and the work experience of social networks in the area (p = .001) at a statistical significance level (p < .05). This suggests that there is a relationship between the implementation of projects and activities at the regional to local levels that is distinct because of the transmission of work policies. There are variations in the level of intensity, coordination, and structure of programs and activities of domestic violence. With a CC value of .267, this association is likewise rather weak.

ANOVA

Province and Awareness of Violence

The relationship between the province where data was collected and the awareness of violent events from direct victims (p = .000) at a statistical significance level (p < .05) reflects that the trust of the public and victims in community leaders and volunteers in each area is different, as well as the public's confidence in the networks

in the area. When considering the pairwise differences using the Scheffe method, it was found that there were two differences: between Nong Khai and Maha Sarakham provinces, and between Maha Sarakham and Amnat Charoen provinces. Similarly, the test found that the provinces where data was collected were aware of violence through different channels, such as from neighbors and community members (Taibans) (p = .006) at a statistical significance level (p < .05), with one difference between Nong Khai and Maha Sarakham provinces. This reflects that the work of the relationship between community leaders (including volunteer groups) and the public and victims in each area is different, resulting in different methods and skills being employed, depending on several factors such as experience, network learning mechanisms, and the characteristics of the victims and perpetrators on a case-by-case basis.

Province and Methods for Dealing with Domestic Abuse

The provinces where data was collected used different methods and skills to deal with domestic violence (p = .000 and p = .026) at a statistical significance level (p < .05), with three pairs of differences according to the Scheffe method: Nong Khai and Maha Sarakham provinces, Amnat Charoen and Nong Khai provinces, and Mukdahan and Maha Sarakham provinces. This reflects that the implementation of policies from the central and regional levels to the local level in a top-down approach may mean that some areas have different platforms, channels, or opportunities for learning about violence issues, with some areas having more than others in comparison, while some areas may not have the chance to learn or may not have the same opportunities, as the networks of working groups of the operational centers and community family development centers in each community have varied strengths and intensities of activities.

Gender and De-escalation Skills

The different genders of sample groups used different de-escalation skills to prevent violence (p = .000) at a statistical significance level (p < .05), with one pair of differences found using the Scheffe method: female and male. Regarding the need to be careful when accessing incidents for lessening, there may be risks to oneself due to the presence of weapons in the household or incidents that could cause harm to life and property. This may require the assistance of law enforcement officials or police officers who have been trained or have the tactics to manage and diminish initial incidents. The different genders may be at different levels of risk of serious harm, making it necessary to rely on the role of law enforcement officials, as well as volunteer assistants, on a case-by-case basis.

Role and Awareness of Domestic Violence

The different roles or positions of social network sample groups were aware of domestic abuse events differently through direct verbal communication from victims (p = .004) at a statistical significance level (p < .05). In the understanding of victims or even neighbors, the general public who have suffered from or been indirectly affected by violence will interact with different groups or networks in the community. They will assess whom they can rely on or who can be a bridge to finding solutions to their problems. This will typically be community leaders and village health volunteers who are closest to the community and households. Similarly, the test found that the different roles or positions of social network sample groups were aware of domestic violence events through different channels such as the neighboring network or the general public (p = .000) at a statistical significance level (p < .05), with two pairs of differences found using the Scheffe method: between the role of community leader and the role of village health volunteer (VHV), and between the role of village health volunteer and the role of dual-position holder. This issue is also linked to the reliance on the power and responsibility of social networks in the community among community leaders, neighbors, and households affected by violence, in terms of how much of a supportive relationship exists. How much trust do the victims and households affected by violence have in the network? This is linked to the intensity of network operations, both formal and informal, in terms of how much there is.

Role and Methods for Dealing with Domestic Violence

The different roles of sample groups chose different methods and tools to cope with domestic violence (p = .044) at a statistical significance level (p < .05), as well as different skills to deal with domestic violence (p = .000) at a statistical significance level (p < .05). Four pairs of differences were found when using the Scheffe

method: community leaders and village health volunteers (VHVs), community leaders and local state servants, VHVs and dual-role holders, and local state servants and dual-role holders. This issue is linked to participation in network activities and projects, knowledge exchange, training, seminars, or other activities, which allows individuals to apply their experiential knowledge to specific problem situations. Each person will select different methods, tools, and skills, which may depend on the appropriateness of the situation or the specific case study, reflecting the complexity of problem-solving. This is because the opportunities to participate in training, seminars, or network activities related to the issue vary, making each participation, both within and outside the community, uneven, as it may not be the key function of the network, as well as wearing multiple hats (holding many positions) concerning existing primary responsibilities.

In summary of the results, Chi-square and ANOVA tests can be shown in these tables;

Chi-square Test
Correlation among the Study Variables

Provinces and roles/positions in the network
Provinces and work experiences in the network

Variables	Roles/Positions	Experiences
Provinces	.012	.001

*Note. * p < .05. ***

ANOVA
Compare Means among the Study Variables

Provinces and perceptive channels
Provinces and methods dealing with violence
Genders and de-escalation skills
Roles/positions in the network and perceptive channels
Roles/positions in the network and methods dealing with violence
Roles/positions in the network and de-escalation skills

Variables	Perceptive Channels	Methods Dealing with Violence	De-escalation Skills			
Provinces	.000, .006	.000,.026				
Genders			.000			
Roles/Positions	.004, .000	.044	.000			

*Note. * p < .05. ***

DISCUSSION

Family institutions, educational institutions, mass media, political and religious institutions, culture, and social measures like laws are vital tools for managing violence at the local level. The eco-sociological framework identifies family and educational institutions as crucial players in addressing domestic abuse (Tantawiwong & Wonganan, 2018; Golu, 2017). The effectiveness of these institutions depends on local social capital, case complexity, and community support.

Cultural obstacles, such as patronage and patriarchal norms, pose significant barriers to intervention. However, the study found that these cultural factors do not significantly impact perceptions of violence (p > .05), suggesting a shift from viewing violence as a private issue to recognizing it as a public concern. This contrasts with findings by Suyiyanyong et al. (2014), which highlighted social and cultural factors, communication, and human resource development as major issues in implementing legislation.

Structural management of domestic violence involves strict laws, public awareness through media, and addressing macro-social issues like economic stress and mental health. Educational institutions play a crucial role in raising awareness. Village health volunteers use non-fixed criteria to assess household abuse risk, making it difficult to determine if domestic violence will be prioritized on the community agenda. Effective communication and interpretation are essential for the network's perception mechanism (Lam et al., 2020).

The lack of a reliable screening system for domestic violence in Thailand hinders effective management. Perceptions of violence vary widely, influenced by individual traits and experiences. For example, different provinces have varied perceptions of violence involving direct victims and neighbors ($p < .05$). The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated these perceptions.

Social networks in Northeastern Thailand face challenges in addressing domestic violence due to financial constraints and workload issues (Campbell, 2020) in running relevant programs. Many network members hold multiple roles, reflecting the volunteer nature of these networks. This dual role can create opportunities for learning and sharing but also complicates project management and prioritization becoming a double sword.

Social network samples reveal diverse approaches to managing domestic violence, influenced by available resources, local context, and the type of violence. Joseph et al. (2020) identify four operational models: protection, screening and surveillance, treatment of survivors, and managing perpetrators. Implementing these models simultaneously presents challenges, particularly in rehabilitating offenders and reintegrating them into community and society.

The most significant goals for network operations are managing domestic violence through screening and surveillance (Mean = 3.81, S.D. = .95) and protective work (Mean = 3.84, S.D. = .88). Despite these goals, network operations still rely on laws, surveys, and standard practice guidelines. Effective management requires standardized procedures and a shared operational philosophy (Rhodes, 2012).

In addition, technological advancements and communication tools are essential for creating effective violence intervention networks. Sample attitudes indicate that domestic violence is primarily perceived through online channels (Mean = 3.54, S.D. = 1.01). Online toolkits and virtual media are necessary for efficient violence coordination (Mean = 3.41, S.D. = 1.05). These tools must be used ethically to protect the rights of victims and offenders, creating a trustworthy violence database for better management and reduced impact on families and communities (Goodman et al., 2018).

Suggestions

Increase awareness: Social network members reported a lower awareness of domestic violence incidents directly reported by victims. Campaigns and educational programs can be implemented to encourage victims and neighbors to come out and seek help.

Prioritize prevention: The study suggests that social network members prioritize preventive measures. Programs and resources can be focused on the early identification of potential abusers and at-risk families, especially the role of the village chief and village health volunteer.

Improve legal enforcement: Social network members identified legal enforcement as a key challenge. Collaboration between social networks and law enforcement agencies can be strengthened to ensure the effective implementation of relevant legal mechanisms.

Address resource scarcity: A lack of resources like personnel, budget, and knowledge was an identified challenge. The government can provide training and funding to strengthen the local-based or sub-district capabilities.

Utilize online platforms: Because virtual channels were reported as a major source of information, these platforms can be leveraged for awareness campaigns and information dissemination among healthcare bodies, education as well as social development parts.

Target specific forms of violence in locality: This research suggests psychological abuse is the most prevalent form. Programs can be tailored to cope with this specific issue.

Targeted training: This survey implies that different social network roles have varying levels of awareness and utilize different methods. Therefore, training programs can be designed to address the specific needs of each role within the network towards the common goal.

The study provides valuable insights into the perceptions and attitudes of social networks in managing domestic violence in Northeastern Thailand. The findings highlight the need for an interdisciplinary approach that addresses law enforcement, resource allocation, and public awareness. Implementing these strategies can better equip social network members to prevent and reduce domestic violence in society.

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