YOUTH SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RADICALIZATION

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Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative and quantitative study was to describe the youth susceptibility to radicalization in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The research participants were 200 young individuals from the public and private colleges, university and madrasah of the region. The findings revealed that the amount of social, economic, political, and religious elements related to young people's susceptibility to radicalization were moderately high to high. Community-oriented policing, information advocacy against radicalization, and collaborations and coordination, all have high levels of perception among the youth as alternatives to prevention and intervention. The level of human security promotion in terms of freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom from indignity were all regarded as being highly perceived as positive alternatives. Based on the interviews that were done, it was determined that socioeconomic considerations were the main challenges. Religion-related difficulties, however, have also become factors in the reasons why young people turn to radicalization. Finally, social injustices play a role for certain young people who are recruited by the radical groups. The study implies that youths are highly vulnerable to recruitment to radicalism due to the complex situations emerging around them.

Keywords: Youth, susceptibility, radicalization, violent extremism, alternatives, prevention, intervention, human security, Cotabato City

INTRODUCTION

Radicalization is still up for debate despite the growing corpus of literature (Siegel et al., 2019) and the term has expanded to include both violent behavior and heretical attitudes (Schmidt, 2013). It is the "process of acquiring an extremist belief system, including the desire to use, promote, or facilitate violence as a way to effect societal change" (Allen, 2007). Terrorism is a direct form of violence with recurring systemic causes and cultural imperatives, but also a continuation of violence by other ways that harm, murder, and destroy, and a reaction to ongoing structural repression (Galtung, 1987).

Globally, terror attacks were carried out with the intention of achieving political, economic, religious, or social goals and with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or convey a message to a larger audience (Fishman, 2009). The U.S. Homeland Security report found evidence that at least 23 of the 42 international terrorist groups use school-age youth, though both sexes are susceptible to radicalization, but men make up the majority (European Union, 2018), and typically common among young adults (15-30 years) (Sageman, 2008). The recruitment of young people is the most significant commonality (Idris, 2018) and this has become an "increasing threat for the world community" (Siegel et al, 2019). There are around 1.2 billion young people 15 and 24 years old, or 16% of the world's population (United Nations) and projected to grow by 7% by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals).

The Philippines ranked ninth among nations most affected by terrorism, showing a very high level of threat from extremism (Global Terrorism Index, 2019). In this country, the

youth make up about 19% and particularly much higher in BARMM at 21% (PSA, 2020). Extremist groups have been active for the past 20 years mainly in Mindanao with most vulnerable young people targeted for recruitment especially in the Bangsamoro Area (AFP, 2022).

The lack of definite picture of youth at risk of radicalization must be evaluated in a wider context and broader understanding of violence (Fishman, 2009). The need to address the multifaceted issues faced by young people has grown more urgent and calls for governments' attention to understand and take proper actions (Abrahams, 2017). Ignorance of young people's lives, voices, and goals allows extreme violence to flourish (Sommers, 2019). The understanding of youth radicalization will affect the performance and response towards recruitment by radical groups (Abdulwahid, 2018). The researcher is driven to perform interdisciplinary research on youth radicalization which is essential for developing a foundation for creating a peacebuilding framework for youth involvement in nation building and effective strategies to prevent and counter radicalization.

METHODS

The researcher used a descriptive-evaluative design following a system's input-process-output model. This qualitative research was aimed to comprehensively describe a complex phenomenon of youth susceptibility and alternatives to radicalization. It involved gathering information through survey and key informant interviews. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted to understand fully the phenomenon under study. Such structure allowed the researcher to obtain a thorough overview of the phenomenon under study by collecting useful and detailed information both quantitatively and qualitatively. This type of research design was considered the best choice for gathering large volumes of data using statistical tools with key informant responses validated with the survey answers (Mc Combes, 2022).

The study was carried out in three cities of BARMM such as Cotabato, Marawi and Lamitan, which offered a more precise knowledge of the elements that contributed to young people becoming radicalized. This research was done in urban areas which revealed radicalization patterns and trends that may not be seen in other contexts. This study was conducted in urban areas where large and diverse young people reside. This assumed that metropolitan areas may have a higher risk of radicalization because more people are living in the cities that can easily be reached and influenced by radical groups' messages (Pedahzur and Ranstorp, 2001). Urban settings are characterized by social and economic inequality and are often characterized by high levels of crime and violence. Urban settings are often characterized by rapid social change which can create a sense of uncertainty and instability among young people, thereby, making them more susceptible to the messages of radical groups.

Cotabato City, also known as the City of Cotabato (Kuta nu Kutawatu in Maguindanao, Bandar a Kotawato in Iranun, and Lungsod ng Cotabato in Tagalog), is a first-class city in BARMM, Philippines. It has a population of 325,079 as of the 2020 census considered to have the highest population status. Cotabato City, which originally belonged to Region XII and served as its regional headquarters, is now a part of Bangsamoro region and acts as the BARMM region's hub and seat of the regional government. Due to its status as an independent component city, it is not governed by the Maguindanao Provincial Government, where it is physically located.

RESU
LTS AND DISCUSSIONS
<u>Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Social.</u>

Table 2 presents the level of susceptibility factors that contributed for youth radicalization in terms of social factors with a grand mean of 3.35 rated as moderately high.

Table 2. Mean Rating on the Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Social

n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1.Education propaganda and recruitment.	3.50	High
2. Parental convincing.		
3. Social media influence.	3.22	Moderately High
4. Peer or in-group pressure.	3.38	Moderately High
5. Societal influence	3.33	Moderately High
	3.34	Moderately High
OVERALL MEAN	3.35	Moderately High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

Informant 1 stated that *"socio-economic factors can contribute to grievances and frustrations that may be exploited by radical groups"*. The result affirms that there are existing situations wherein social factors have high influence on the society driving the youth to join radical groups (Bulanda and Johnson 2016).   In the study of UNDP (2017) found that factors affecting membership of youth to radical groups is related to social problems experienced by the society. The youth are often dissatisfied with social issues specially if they experience them and these make them vulnerable and easily convinced to join the radical group.

The highest answer revealed education propaganda and recruitment with a mean of 3.50 and interpreted as high. This is affirmed by informant 3 that the *"lack of information is a major challenge"*. People who lack information may be more susceptible to extremist messaging when they are unaware of the risks associated with extremism. The International Centre for Counterterrorism published a paper in 2016 suggesting those who are uninformed of the dangers of extremism may be more easily deceived by its propaganda. The main method of persuading young people to join radical groups is typically through indoctrination (Moskalenko and McCauley, 2020).

This is followed by social media influence with a mean of 3.38 interpreted as moderately high. The campaign and information propaganda used on terrorist networks are done high tech via internet or through face-to-face interaction which recruited many youths as its members (Sageman, 2017).

The other social factors interpreted as moderately high with a mean of 3.34 and 3.33 are societal influence and peer or in group pressure respectively. Informant 5 verbalized that *"one of the challenges for some youths is that they are easily influenced by their surroundings"*. Young people who live in war-torn or conflict-ridden countries are more likely to be radicalized because they may be exposed to violence and extremism at young age (Orgeret and Layeebwa, 2016).

Informant 6 stated *"bad influence of friends, as they believe more on their friends, and out of curiosity, the youth tend to learn radicalization from them thus resulting to inclusion in the group"*. Peer or group pressure can have an impact because young people who are looking for a sense of identity or who feel outcast may be more lured to radical groups that offer young people feel like they have a purpose, a place, and sense of belonging in the world (Horgan (2008).

The lowest mean but interpreted as moderately high with a mean of 3.22 was parental convincing. This means that youths positively perceive that parents play a role on urging them to join the radical groups. According to informant 3 *"improving parenting is essential by educating them to be responsible parents"*. This agrees with the study of UNICEF (2020) that there were young soldiers recruited due to parental influence for them to join the group. This is due to the promises of many benefits for their family and son.

<u>Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Economic.</u>

Table 2 presents the level of susceptibility factors that contributed for youth radicalization in terms of economic with a grand mean of 3.42 rated as moderately high. The respondents positively perceived that the youth are easily enticed by radical groups for economic reasons. The financial situation of the youth often contributed to a reason why they are motivated to join radical groups (Klandermans & Oegema, 1987). Similarly, Eldors et al (2022) explained that many of the reasons for the involvement of the youth to join the radical groups were due to the financial situations.

This corroborates with the answers that extreme poverty which got the highest mean of 3.60 interpreted as high. This result confirms the reports of poverty as one major reason for joining of many youths to radical groups.

Informant 1 verbalized that *"the major reasons for youths to be recruited really are poverty."* Based on the 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), the poverty incidence in BARMM was 29.9% which translates to 1.71 million families in BARMM living below the poverty threshold. This answer relates with the findings of Smith (2018) who concluded that poverty leads to higher tendency of joining a radical group. The target of the radical groups is often those youth who are coming from poor family. This made it easy to convince them to join.

Table 3. Mean Rating on the Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Economic.
n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1.Extreme poverty.	3.60	High
2. Lack of livelihood opportunities or unstable source of income.	3.52	High
3.Lack of allowance sources and desire for daily financial sustenance.	3.51	High
4.Promise of employment.	3.40	Moderately High
5. Unemployment	3.41	Moderately High
6. Huge reward money for becoming/being a member.	3.46	Moderately High
OVERALL MEAN	3.42	Moderately High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

Economic factors also interpreted as high include the lack of livelihood opportunities or unstable source of income (mean of 3.52) and the lack of allowance sources and desire for

daily financial sustenance (mean of 3.51). Informant 1 expressed that *"the enticement of additional financial income becomes a major reason of easily convincing them to join radical group."*

The huge reward of money for becoming a member (mean of 3.46) and unemployment (mean of 3.41) were rated as moderately high. These are all financial and economic vulnerabilities making the youths falling prey to join the radical groups. (Horgan & Braddock, 2010).

On the other hand, the promise of employment got the lowest mean of 3.40 though interpreted as moderately high. This means that some of the recruits who joined radical groups are those who desired to be part of the group due to employment agreement. According to Llyod & Dean (2015), many of the members of the rebel groups joins the group were due to salary, compensation or allowance given to them. These are tactics that resulted to membership of youths to radical groups.

<u>Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Political.</u>

Table 3 shows the level of susceptibility factors that contributed for youth radicalization in terms of political with a grand mean of 3.40 rated as moderately high. This result reveals that the political views and principles of the youths are considerations that can encourage them to join the radical groups.

Political instability is a significant issue that requires attention according to a study (Institute for Policy Analysis and Research, 2021). The region has a lax governing structure and is a young, unstable state. The region has been plagued by violence for decades. BARMM is one if not the poorest region in the country. The unemployment rate and poverty are the two main causes of instability.

Table 4. Mean Rating on the Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Political.
n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1. Lack of youth representation in policy making.	3.32	Moderately High
2. Lack of opportunity for political participation in school	3.29	Moderately High
3. Political ideology of the leader/local government official	3.31	
4. Systemic injustice.	3.37	Moderately High
5. Inequality on access to services.	3.38	
6. Human rights violations.	3.44	
		Moderately High
		Moderately High
		Moderately High
OVERALL MEAN	3.40	Moderately High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High

2.50-3.49	Moderately High
1.50-2.49	Low
1.00-1.49	Very Low

All the six political factors were rated as moderately high which revealed human rights violations with a highest mean of 3.44. Youth are particularly vulnerable to human rights violations because they may be more likely to experience violence, exploitation, and discrimination than adults (Brockington et al., 2011). Youth are often seen as less capable of protecting themselves than adults. Youth may not have the knowledge or skills to recognize or report human rights violations.

The second highest is inequality on access to services (mean of 3.38). This means that inequality in accessing services is an important factor that makes the youth vulnerable to recruitment by radical groups. Informant 4 mentioned that *"if leaders are not able to provide adequate services, youth may harbor negative feelings to the leaders resulting for easy convincing of youths by joining radical group to oust the leaders."*

Many youths answered that systemic injustice (mean of 3.37) is a significant political factor. Systemic injustice is a term used to describe the ways in which social institutions and systems perpetuate inequality and discrimination (Jerneck, 2015). This can take many forms, such as racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. Systemic injustice can make young people more vulnerable to radicalization due to feelings of alienation, marginalization, and anger, as well as a sense of hopelessness and despair. Systemic injustice can limit opportunities for young people, making them feel like they have no future and have nothing to lose by joining a radical group.

The lack of youth representation in policy making (mean of 3.32) can be a vulnerable factor for radicalization. In the article of European Commission (2018) reported that the lack of youth voices in government system motivated them to become outspoken leaders, to speak out their rights in public, that leads to branding them as radicals. The lack of youth representation in decision and policy making process can make it difficult to address the root causes of radicalization.

The influence of political ideology of a leader or local government official (mean of 3.31) often sinks into youth who follows their footsteps. This aligns with Smith, et al (2016) who mentioned about the influence of political leaders that were imitated by youth. This even leads to being idolized, for youth to emulate them even on joining radical groups.

The same answer was rated as to the lack of opportunity for political participation in school that gained the lowest mean of 3.29 but interpreted as moderately high. The lack of youth participation can lead to feelings of alienation, marginalization, and anger, that can make young people more susceptible to the messages of radical groups that often promise to provide a sense of belonging, purpose, and identity (Hafez & Mullins, 2015). When young people are not involved in the decision-making process, it is more difficult to identify and address the factors that are pushing them towards radicalization.

Level of   Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Religious.

Table 4 shows the level of susceptibility factors that contributed for youth susceptibility to radicalization in terms of religious influences with a grand mean of 3.62 rated as moderately high. This answer confirms the report that religious teachings become one of the influences that

enshrined radical views among the youths. This was confirmed by Informant 1 who explained that sometimes youth were recruited due to teachings of their religious sect that *"it is good to express one's opinion if it is for the good of the people and community"*. Bouzar & Martin (2016) also highlighted the strong influence of religious teachings towards radical actions. Many religious beliefs stand for radical actions to attain change specially if there are oppression seen. This also agrees with United Nations (2015) who reported many of the youths that becomes members of radical groups were convinced due to religious teachings.

Table 5. Mean Rating on the Level of Susceptibility Factors that Contributed for Youth Radicalization in terms of: Religious.

n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1. Religious teachings about radicalization.	3.38	Moderately High
2. Family members influence.		
3. Tribal or religious practices that encourages radicalization.	3.34	
	3.27	Moderately High
4. Religious leaders or religious teachers influence.		
5. Nature of religious claims	3.31	Moderately High
6. Discrimination or exclusions		
	3.39	Moderately High
	3.32	
		Moderately High
		Moderately High
OVERALL MEAN	3.39	Moderately High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

All religious factors (1 to 6) were found to have significant influences on religious radicalization of the youth interpreted as moderately high. Many of the respondents gave the highest ratings on the nature of religious claims and the religious teachings about radicalization with a mean of 3.39 and 3.38 respectively. Informant 4 has verbalized that *"the religious principles and beliefs inculcated to the youth are also among the many reasons why students even coming from rich family are joining radical groups. This is more dangerous."* This result denotes that some teachings of religious groups encourage radical action if there is a due cause. This is a powerful influence on people since religion is a one of the sources of rightness of actions and deeds of people.   According to Abrahams (2017), young people can join terrorist organizations for a variety of reasons, including teachings of certain religion that guides them in their beliefs and values in life. Some of them believed that it is holy to join this group.

Many respondents identified that family members influence (mean of 3.34) is a religious factor for youth radicalization. Family members can have a big impact on how young people become religious radicals or even have a direct hand in radicalizing their offspring (Dalgaard-Nielsen, 2010). For instance, they might give them extremist literature, take them to radical religious congregations and institutions, or prod them into joining extremist organizations. In other situations, family members might not actively participate in

radicalization, but could foster a climate that encourages it. As a result, young people may experience sentiments of rage, alienation, and despair, which may make them more receptive to the messages of radical organizations.

Many also answered that discrimination and exclusion (mean of 3.32) makes the youth vulnerable to radicalization especially if they are treated unfairly and negatively because of their religion. Religious discrimination and exclusion can have a devastating impact on individuals and communities. It can lead to feelings of isolation, fear, and anger. It can also make it difficult to find employment, housing, and education. In some cases, it can even lead to violence (Pantazis & Pemberton, 2009).

According to the youths, religious leaders and teachers (mean of 3.31) can have a significant influence on radicalization of youth. It is crucial to keep in mind that religious teachers and leaders greatly affect their students and followers (Loza, 2007). Religious leaders and teachers are frequently regarded as authorities that their students and followers admire and trust them. They frequently have a strong commitment to their religion and dedicated to assisting their pupils and followers in leading a moral and fulfilling lives because they have faith in the ability of religion to transform people.

On the other hand, the answers on tribal or religious practices that encourages radicalization got the lowest mean of 3.27 but interpreted also as moderately high. Informant 9 mentioned that *"the assumption and stereotyping about a certain group often strikes a revolt because of the lack of understanding of certain culture and group"*. When people are excluded from society or discriminated because of their tribe or religion, they may be more susceptible to the messages of radical groups (Wolfe, 2006).   When tribal or religious practices teaches their members to do radical things, it may encourage them since they are permitted by their beliefs. This can be dangerous since the youth will think it is correct to do these actions. In the study of Frazer and Nunlist (2017) it was explained that religious practices affected the actions of many people. They follow what the religious teachings tell them to do what is embedded in their belief. This includes radical actions.

Level of Prevention and Intervention Efforts in terms of Community Oriented Policing

Presented in Table 5 shows the level of prevention and intervention in terms of community-oriented policing with a grand mean of 3.56 rated as high.   This means that efforts involving community guidance to the youths were provided. The support to the youth makes them more proactive instead of being antagonist to the government. According to informant 1 *"panghati* (a local Tausug or Sama term for a reminder) *on what to do about radicalization and for youth to learn about Islamic values of peace"*. The Philippine National Police (2018) explained that community policing is a system that helps people in the community to contribute by providing guidance to the youths. This can prevent the recruitment by radical groups and crime involvement of the youth.

Table 6. Mean Rating on the Level of Prevention and Intervention Efforts in terms of Community Oriented Policing

n=200		
Community Oriented Policing	Mean	Interpretation
1. Collaborations of uniformed men with state colleges and universities.	3.60	High
2. Conduct of symposia for youth against	3.50	

Community Oriented Policing	Mean	Interpretation
radicalism.		High
3. Integration of peace education in curricula.	3.56	
4. Barangay officials monitoring of youth activities.	3.55	High
5. Sports activities for youths.		
	3.61	
		High
		High
OVERALL MEAN	3.56	High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

The highest among the answers revealed sports activities for the youth got a mean of 3.61 interpreted as high. This implies that there were efforts to divert the attention of youths through sports. As mentioned by informant 1, it is important to *"engage the youth through sports activities."* According to Burke (2021), sports activities are among the most effective way to protect youth from radical involvement. This can make them physically and mentally healthy and proven to divert them towards positive reactions about things around them. All other factors were rated as high.

Many answered that collaboration of uniformed men with state colleges and universities (mean of 3.60) was positively perceived. This can help build trust and understanding between law enforcement and schools to keep the community livable. Through collaboration with schools, uniformed men can help build a safer and more just community (Danzell & Montañez, 2016).

The responses concurred that integration of peace education in the curriculum (mean of 3.56) aids to prevent young people from becoming radicalized. Informant 5 cited that it is highly recommended to *"teach peace education to the youth and make clear what extremism is".* UNESCO defines peace education as a formal discipline that aims to impart information about a culture of peace, develop the skills required to resolve conflicts when they arise, identify prospective conflicts, and actively promote a culture of peace and non-violence. According to Reardon (2000), peace education has a more proactive approach that aims to prevent a conflict in advance and educate society for a peaceful existence based on nonviolence, tolerance, equality, respect for differences, and social justice.

Additionally, barangay officials monitoring of youth activities (mean of 3.55) is a strategy to spot and manage possible hazards of youth radicalization. It is critical to be alert on any behavioral changes in them, such as increasing their withdrawal or isolation or their interest in extremist causes (Robert-Okah, 2014).

The conduct of symposia for youth against radicalism emerged to have lowest mean of 3.50 but rated as high also. This denotes the efforts of government to provide massive information drive to answer the questions of youth about radicalism. Informant 2 said that we

need to "*engage community through outreach and partnership to deeply understand about radicalism",* and *"community campaigns for anti-terrorism and anti-radicalization among the youth are critical"* as mentioned by informant 9. These can guide them towards right choices when some people influence them to joining radical groups. According to Losel et al. (2020), symposium and forum about radicalism can enlighten the youth towards it. Often gaining the right information helps them make the right decisions when people will entice them to join radical groups.

<u>Level of Prevention and Intervention Efforts in terms of Information Advocacy Against Radicalization</u>

Presented in Table 6 shows the level of prevention and intervention in terms of information advocacy against radicalization   with a grand mean of 3.87 rated as high. This result reflects the different information drives and efforts of the government officials and partners to keep the youth informed about the negative effect of radicalization in their lives and to prevent their involvement with these groups. According to Informant 6, the *"information advocacy helped in finding out the correct idea about radical groups and their purpose. This made the youth resist the invitation of extremist group".*

Table 7. Mean Rating on the Level of Prevention and Intervention Efforts in terms of Information Advocacy Against Radicalization

n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1. Religious teachings and advocacy about peace.	3.89	High
2. Radio ads about actions against radicalism.	3.65	
3. Social media mapping for violent extremism recruitment.	3.92	High
4. Community forum about radicalism.		
5. Anti-radicalism posters and hotlines.	3.82	High
	3.95	High
		High
OVERALL MEAN	3.87	High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

All statements from 1 to 5 were rated as high with the answers on anti-radicalism posters and hotlines got the highest mean of 3.95. This affirms the presence of information campaigns done in the community. Informant 3 expressed that we should "*maximize our efforts in IEC (information, education, and communication) campaigns against radicalization".* Hotlines and posters against radicalization might be useful tools in the fight against radicalization (Hughes et al., 2002). We can contribute to the safety of our communities by informing people about the risks of radicalization and aid those who are affected by extremism.

This was followed by the answers on ssocial media mapping for violent extremism recruitment with a mean of 3.92 interpreted as high. This confirms the fact that many of the youth access information about things they wanted to know through social media. Informant 3 expressed about *"educating the youth through social media will help prevent them from violent extremism"*. This is a popular platform to reach the youth with correct information. In the study of the Lösel & Bender (2017) highlighted the role of social media in information drive to counter radicalization more effectively as many of the youths are using the platform.

The other answers rated religious teachings and advocacy about peace as high with a mean of 3.89. Informant 2 expressed that "*understanding and navigating local culture and religion including social norms, traditions, and religious practices are crucial for effective prevention of radicalization"*. Religious teachings and advocacy are critical to prevent youth radicalization (UNESCO, 2017). Religious leaders can assist protect children from the messages of extremism by teaching them the value of peace and tolerance. Religious leaders can assist people to understand individuals of different faiths and backgrounds. Most religions teach peace and peaceful coexistence as core values (Stepan, 2000). Young people can learn about the perils of extremism from religious leaders, which can assist them to reject the teachings of those who want to enlist them in violent causes.

The answers rated community forum about radicalization with a mean of 3.82. Community forum is crucial for preventing radicalization because they give young people an open space to talk about their issues and difficulties while also learning about other points of view. By fostering critical thinking abilities and awareness of the risks associated with extremism, these can assist young people build their capacity for resiliency against radicalization (Alava et al., 2017). These can promote intergroup trust and collaboration as an opportunity for communities to work together and enable a more welcoming and positive atmosphere. Informant 2 stated *"historical mistrust and perceived biases have influenced perceptions and dynamics about radicalization"*. This can be countered by having *"open dialogue about other people's culture, giving voice to the youth to speak out and engage the community"* as expressed by informant 8. A *"consistent and constant follow up meetings and persuasion with the community involvement prevents youth from getting radicalized"* according to informant 7.

Nonetheless, the radio ads about actions against radicalization got the lowest mean of 3.65 but interpreted as high. It means radio channel is a good source of information to learn how to avoid and resist radical groups. In a study of Mabborang (2019), it was cited that many forms of information drives can be done to spread information about radicalization and how to combat it. Although social media is popular, radio programs also helped those who do not have access to gadgets.

Level of Prevention and Intervention Efforts in terms of Collaborations and Coordination

Presented in Table 7 shows the level of prevention and intervention in terms of collaborations and coordination with a grand mean of 3.87 rated as high. This result manifests the joint efforts of different agencies and stakeholders giving support to the youth for protection against radical group recruitment. According to UNICEF (2020) partnerships with different agencies sustain support for fighting radicalism. Informants 5, 6 and 7 said that *"programs for the youth are important and different sectors such as education, religious, community leaders and economic sectors can provide livelihood opportunities especially for out of school youth to help prevent extremism.*"

Table 8. Mean Rating on the Level of Prevention and Intervention Efforts in terms of Collaborations and Coordination
n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1. Livelihood trainings from government agencies.	3.75	High
2. Networking of Government agencies.	3.87	
3. Peacebuilding training from NGOs.		High
4. Religious support and teachings to promote peace.	4.18	
	3.82	High
5. Linkages with schools and academic institutions to intensify anti radicalism activities.		High
	3.77	High
		High
OVERALL MEAN		High
	3.88	

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

All the statements were rated high with the answers on peacebuilding training from NGOs got the highest mean of 4.18. This result shows the huge support and help from non-government agencies to protect the youth. These agencies have been long-time partners of government in providing technical assistance. They helped thousands of youths to be guided in rejecting offers of radical groups. In the study of UNDP (2017), it cited NGOs as one of the strongest links towards involving the youth for peacebuilding activities.

The answers on networking of Government agencies (mean of 3.87), the religious support and teachings to promote peace (mean of 3.82), and the linkages with schools and academic institutions to intensify anti radicalism activities (mean of 3.82) demonstrate that connections among government, religious community, educational institutions, play crucial roles in preventing young people from becoming radicalized (UNESCO, 2017). By educating young people about the many cultures and religions, government organizations, religious leaders, and academics may all work to refute extremist's narratives. Additionally, they can support the causes of tolerance and comprehension on how to combat the prejudices and stereotypes which fuel radicalization. It also creates opportunities for young people to get involved in their communities to make them feel a sense of belonging and purpose. It can also help them develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in life.

On the other hand, the livelihood trainings from government agencies got the lowest mean of 3.75 but interpreted as high. This means that there were employment opportunities available to combat poverty. This can help the youth not to be desperate to be enticed in accepting radical group offers. According to Sumpter (2017), one significant effort the government embarked on is the establishment of the national counterterrorism agency like

integration of youth development program to prevent recruitment of radical groups with NGO support.   This is done through livelihood assistance as one way to help them earn.

Level of   Human Security Promotion in terms of Freedom from Fear

Presented in Table 8 shows the level of human security promotion in terms of freedom from fear with a grand mean of 3.93 interpreted as high. This result signifies that there is a feeling of safety and protection among the youth because of the efforts done to prevent harm and coercion from radical groups. Informant 2 answered that the *"presence of armed groups especially in isolated communities hinders the delivery of preventative efforts and intervention programs to combat radicalization of the youth."* But one good effect of anti-radicalism program of the government according to informant 3 is that *"the youths are not afraid to resist radical people who invites them. They have access to seek support in times of threat for their safety."*

Table 9. Mean Rating on the Level of Human Security Promotion
in terms of Freedom From Fear
n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1. Protected from cyberbullying.	4.11	High
2. Protected from warrantless arrest.	3.85	High
3. Protected from extortion to obey and join the group.	3.82	High
4. Protected from worry of family safety.	3.89	High
5. Protected from protection of self from harm.	3.97	High
		High
OVERALL MEAN	3.93	High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

All statements are interpreted as high with the highest rating on being protected from cyberbullying (mean of 4.11). This means that the youths are aware of how to protect themselves from getting bullied. Cyberbullying occurs online via social media, text messages, emails, and gaming platforms using digital technology (Chan et al., 2019). Anywhere online sending, uploading, or disseminating unfavorable, hurtful, malicious content or obscene remarks, and embarrassing images or videos about another person can be considered cyberbullying. Victims of cyberbullying may have severe consequences and may result in depression, fearful, and lonely feelings (Olweus, 2012). It may cause issues at work, school, and in personal relationships. It has even been known to cause suicide in some circumstances. Cyberbullying is a rampant crime today to many youths (Li, 2007). In a study of UNICEF (2017) it was exposed that many youths were cyberbullied. This becomes a vulnerability for them to get involve in radical groups' activities. However, through information drives provided to them they can react to it properly.

Informant 4 stressed that *"victims of crime and injustice must be resolved through peaceful by tapping government and faith-based leaders for social protection".*

The other answers were on protected from self-harm with a mean of 3.97), protected from worry of family safety (mean of 3.89), and protected from warrantless arrest (mean of 3.85). There are several strategies employed to safeguard young people from self-harm and to thwart youth radicalization. It is critical to spot young individuals who could become radicalized or at danger of self-harm at an early stage. This can be achieved by offering struggling young people for mental health services like therapy and counseling. It is critical to inform young people about the risks of radicalization and self-harm. This can be accomplished through educational initiatives, neighborhood engagement initiatives, and social media efforts. As mentioned by informants 2 and 7, it's critical to establish *"support systems for young people"* by putting kids in touch with relatives, friends, teachers, and other adults who can offer them support and direction. Informant 8 cited the critical importance to *"empower the youth by informing them of their giving them chances to improve their abilities, and supporting the development of their confidence".* It's essential to encourage social inclusion by *"giving young people the chance to take part in activities and events they find enjoyable and by fostering their sense of community"*, said informant 4.

On the other hand, the lowest rating was on protected from extortion to obey and join the group with a mean of 3.82 but also interpreted as high. This was confirmed by informant 2 mentioned that a *"coercion they experience make them afraid to say no".* In the study of Lloyd Dean (2015) it was identified that coercion and fear are among the reasons why the youths joined the radical groups. The AbuSayyaf group usually target schools or other places where young people congregate and use force to persuade them to accept their cause (Manalo, 2004). They fear they will be harmed if they say no. The provision of protection from these actions helped lower recruitment by radicals. Informant 1 pointed out the *"importance of government to enforce the law"* to protect those under threat of extortion or coercion into radical activities.

<u>Level of   Human Security Promotion in terms of Freedom from Want</u>

Presented in Table 9 shows the level of human security promotion in terms of freedom from want with a grand mean of 3.85 rated as high. This finding reveals the support extended to the youths in meeting their needs and wants that can make them feel contented and not be involved with radical groups. Informant 8 articulated *"young people must be allowed to have their voices and choices heard which can help them build their own identities and self-confidence".*

One important consideration in developing anti radical strategy is the integration of intervention that addresses the needs and wants of the youths. This can help satisfy their necessities in life to resist them from joining a radical group since satisfaction to the system of government will be felt (Ramakrishna et al, 2021).

Table 10. Mean Rating on the Level of Human Security Promotion

in terms of Freedom From Want
n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
Provided with food and free from hunger.	3.97	High
2. Provided with cloths.		
3. Provided with gadget like cellular phone.	3.92	High
4. Provided with house or room to sleep at night.	3.78	High
5. Provided with money for allowance and basic needs.	3.93	High
	3.67	High
OVERALL MEAN	3.85	High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

All statements on freedom from want were rated high particularly highest on the answers on when provided with food and free from hunger which has a mean of 3.97. This means that a basic need such like food can drive people to make desperate actions. But if such basic necessity for food is met, a person will have a better judgement against involvement in a prohibited action. In a study of Subedi (2017), it was highlighted that hunger and food are two major reasons for youth to be enticed to radicalism. But today more efforts are needed to be provided not only foods and shelter but other basic needs and necessities that give them higher protection from joining radical activities and movements.

The provision of money for allowance and basic needs got the lowest mean of 3. 67 but interpreted as high. This confirms the claim of many organizations that they are giving financial support as a way of ensuring the youth not to be dragged into a compromising situation. The lack of money can be a strong driver to do wrong actions to survive. The role of society to prevent marginalization is to help find ways to sustain financial protection and security of the poorest. This can help protect them from doing criminal or illegal acts. This is vital in peace and development (Akram and Richardson, 2019).

Level of Human Security Promotion in terms of Freedom from Indignity

Presented in Table 10 shows the level of human security promotion in terms of freedom from indignity with a grand mean of 4.12 rated as high. This result implies that the efforts and interventions provided to the youth makes them feel important and dignified which can encourage them towards positive actions instead of negative reactions. Informant 4 suggested that we should *"pay attention to their grievances and protect their rights".* In the study of Smith (2017), it was explained that dignity to the youth is a foundation of their personality. Therefore, recognizing this as a vital component of self-satisfaction can enforce to increase the positive values to people on doing righteous actions.

Table 11. Mean Rating on the Level of Human Security Promotion in terms of Freedom from Indignity
n=200

Statement	Mean	Interpretation
1.Given freedom to choose their career.	4.20	High
2.Allowed to speak up their ideas.	4.18	High
3.Respected of their culture and religious beliefs.	4.23	High
4.Accepted for their physical appearance.		
5.Participates in government affairs.	4.10	High
	3.91	High
OVERALL MEAN	3.64	High

Range of Means
4.50-5.00 Very High
3.50-4.49   High
2.50-3.49   Moderately High
1.50-2.49   Low
1.00-1.49   Very Low

All items under the freedom from indignity were rated as high. The highest among the answer is the giving of freedom to choose their career with a mean of 4.20 interpreted as high. This means that autonomy for youth is vital. This can help them feel a positive regard of oneself. According to informant 8 and as shown in the study of Smith (2017), the *"freedom of the youth to make decisions makes them feel good"*. If they are well guided by the adults and leaders of society, this can make them careful in coming up with informed decisions.

Among the answers, the lowest was on giving chances for the youth to participate in government affairs which got a mean of 3.91 but rated as high. This means that there was a good effect on the efforts of the government in the provision of chances for the youth to take part in government affairs. According to United Nations (2015), the youths' participation in nation building develops them to be persons with integrity. This is a good program since it can build morally upright youths who will advocate for the right track of support instead of radical actions.

Summary of Findings

The susceptibility factors that contributed for youth radicalization in terms of social has a grand mean of 3.35 rated as moderately high. Peer or in-group pressure, social media influence, societal influence, all rated as moderately high, while education propaganda and recruitment were even rated high among social factors. All of these are impacting young people's propensity to join radical organizations. Young people in war-torn or conflict-ridden areas are more prone to be radicalized because they are exposed to violence and extremism at a young age.

Economic factors were rated as moderately high with a grand mean of 3.42. The enormous financial rewards for joining or becoming a member, unemployment, and the promise of employment are all rated moderately high influencing financial and economic vulnerabilities that increase the likelihood for young people to join radical organizations. In fact, extreme poverty particularly among the impoverished youths, lack of livelihood opportunities, and lack of allowance sources and the desire for daily financial sustenance were even rated as high as susceptibility factors.

Political factors have a grand mean of 3.40 and rated as moderately high because of their political beliefs and values. All key factors were rated as moderately high include violations of human rights, unequal access to services, and systemic injustice are crucial political elements that might increase young people's susceptibility to radicalization due to sentiments of exclusion,

resentment, and despair. Addressing the underlying causes of radicalization that drive people to radicalization may be challenging when the youths are underrepresented in policy-making and decision process. Lack of political engagement opportunities in schools can cause feeling of alienation making young people more receptive to the rhetoric of radical organizations.

As to religious factors which have a grand mean of 3.62 were rated as moderately high. All individual religious factors were rated as moderately high. Religious instruction and the character of religious claims can help young people adopt radical viewpoints. Family members' influence can have a significant impact on how young people become religious radicals. Religious exclusion and prejudice may have a terrible effect on people and communities, causing emotions of anxiety and resentment. Religious leaders and teachers can also have a big impact on how young people become radicalized. Tribal or religious practices can foster radicalization, which can be risky because young people may believe that doing so is morally right.

On the prevention and intervention efforts in terms of community-oriented policing which has a grand mean of 3.62 was rated as high. The youth perceived positively about the benefits as whole on helping the youth to have guidance from the community. Youth can be effectively shielded from radicalization by participating in sports. Communities can be made safer and more just by working together with uniformed men and state institutions and universities. Peace education can help people learn about peaceful cultures, acquire conflict-resolution skills, spot potential problems, and actively support peaceful and nonviolent societies. Monitoring of youth activities by barangay officials is another crucial element for early prevention of youth radicalization. Symposia for young people to oppose radicalism are also thought to be beneficial since they offer vast knowledge on how to counter radical narratives.

The prevention and intervention efforts in terms of information advocacy against radicalization was rated high with a grand mean of 3.87. The hotlines and posters are helpful tools, while social media mapping demonstrates the importance of online platforms in the dissemination of accurate information to combat radicalism. Religious instruction and peace activism are essential to preventing youth radicalization. Community fora on violent extremism can offer open spaces for youth to discuss and learn about alternative viewpoints. The youth can learn how to avoid and reject radical groups from radio advertisements promoting actions against radicalism.

The prevention and intervention efforts related to collaboration and coordination was rated high with a grand mean of 3.87. The NGOs were identified as the strongest link towards involving the youth in peacebuilding that can help them reject offers of radical groups. Networking with government agencies, religious support, and linkages with schools and academic institutions are all important measures to prevent youth radicalization. Livelihood trainings from government agencies can provide employment opportunities to combat poverty and prevent the youth from being recruited into radical groups.

On human security promotion in terms of freedom from fear, it has a grand mean of 3.93 and interpreted as high. The result signifies that there is a feeling of safety and protection among the youth due to the efforts done to prevent harm and coercion by radical groups. The respondents gave the highest rating on how to protect themselves from cyberbullying. The other answers were all rated as high were on protected from self-harm, protected from warrantless arrest, and protected from extortion to obey and join the radical group. Coercion and fear are among the reasons for youth to join radical groups. The provision of protection from these actions helped lower the risks of recruitment by radical group.

On human security promotion in terms of freedom from want with a grand mean of 3.85 was rated as high. The finding reveals the availability of support extended to the youths to meet their needs and wants that can make them feel contented and not be involved to radical groups. Food and free from hunger are major concerns while issues about money for allowance and basic needs confirmed that providing financial support to youth prevents them from falling into a trap into a compromised situation. The role of society to prevent marginalization is to help find means to sustain financial protection and security of the poorest, which can help protect them from doing criminal or illegal acts.

On human security promotion in terms of freedom from indignity, has a grand mean of 4.12 rated as high. The interventions and efforts provided to the youth to make them feel important and dignified can encourage positive actions instead of negative reactions. This includes by giving them the freedom to choose their career and giving them the chances to participate in government affairs. These may consequently build morally upright youths who will advocate the right track not to support radicalism.

The challenges encountered by key informants revealed the economic issues were the major factors particularly among the poor. However, issues like religious factors emerged as other issue affecting the reasons for the youth to get engaged in radicalization especially those who belong to affluent family. Finally, issues on social disparities and political aspects become factors across the youth to be lured and recruited by the radical groups.

Conclusion

The study concludes that the multiple interconnected factors that affect the youth vulnerability to radicalization. According to the study's findings, radicalization is a complex process given the variety of factors influencing young people's susceptibility to radicalization. The social, economic, political, and religious circumstances surrounding them frequently swayed their involvement to falling prey and recruited by radical groups. It's crucial to remember that not all young people who encounter these things end up radicalized. But these interdependent elements can make it more likely that a young person may be open to radicalization. Understanding these elements that predispose youth to radicalization can offer alternatives by creating preventative and intervention plans that are regarded to be more successful. We can protect young people and reduce the likelihood of radicalization by using a comprehensive preventative plan.

There are effective prevention tactics, including community policing, advocacy campaigns, and stakeholder collaborations. Youth are liberated from fear, want, and humiliation as a result. The attainment of the goals of anti-radicalization strategies enhances the feeling of satisfaction to self and the society which can counter the desire to be involved in radicalization.

A holistic approach known as human security promotion places focus on the defense of human rights, the encouragement of human development, and the avoidance of conflict. It is a strategy that recognizes implication on security issues as more than just a lack of conflict, but requires the existence of justice, peace, and well-being. When young people feel safe and secure, they are more likely to grow up and contribute to peace and development in a society.

Recommendations

A comprehensive strategy that takes care of the underlying causes of the issue and a holistic approach that will aid those who are most susceptible must be given priority. Here are

some recommendations for a successful intervention and alternatives to prevent youth radicalization:

1. Strengthen program on early intervention. This is essential for preventing radicalization of young people. This strategy entails spotting young individuals who might be on the verge of radicalization before they get involved in violent actions. Programs for community outreach, counseling, and mentorship are examples of early interventions. Young people might be kept from joining extremist organizations and beliefs by getting involved early.
2. Expand poverty alleviation program to address the socio-economic inequality to prevent youth radicalization such as access to quality education and employment opportunities. These can help reduce the sense of hopelessness and alienation among the youth, making them less likely to be drawn to enticement of radical groups.
    a. Advocate to the members of the Bangsamoro Parliament and the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education for the institutionalization of Peace Education into the school curricula. This can be an efficient long-term strategy to stop young people from being radicalized in the future. The program must be developed to encourage tolerance and respect for diversity. It can also impart proper knowledge about other cultures, faiths, and political ideas to young people. Young people can recognize and reject extremist narratives by being educated about the risks of extremist ideologies through development of their analytical and critical thinking skills through peace education.
    b. Advocate to the members of Bangsamoro Parliament to legislate measures to strengthen life skills training program particularly intended for out of school youth. This includes short-term courses, diploma courses, and apprenticeship. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is a government agency responsible for technical and vocational education and training. It can play a vital role in the provision of comprehensive support designed to help young people develop the skills that they need to get a job or start their own business. It can help create a skilled workforce that can contribute to the economic growth of the region, thus reducing poverty and unemployment in the region.
3. Encourage the Ministry of Interior and Local Government, Bangsamoro Youth Commission and Regional Darul Ifta in collaboration with private sector and youth-based community organizations to expand peace awareness program to intensify information drives against radicalism for the youth. Integrate anti-radicalization topics during symposia, fora, and or seminars formally in school campuses for junior and senior high school, college, university, and madrasah students and informally for out of school youths in the community.
    a. Exposing young people to right information about radical ideology and violence can help counter the false promises and propaganda that extremist groups use to recruit members.
    b. Fostering communication and mutual understanding between various youth groups by promoting critical thinking skills and media literacy. This includes giving them the guides and tools they need to fend off radical propaganda and create a a well guided future for themselves.
4. Encourage the non-government and civil society organizations to sustain efforts and scale up peace initiatives and youth development programs by enhancing the ability of the youth sector including Sangguniang Kabataan and school or community-based youth leaders or groups on Peacebuilding programs and advocacy projects against radicalism and violent extremism.

    a. It is important to engage young people and listen to their concerns. This can help build trust and rapport and make it more appealing to the young people who come for help if they are feeling vulnerable or radicalized.

    b. Providing young people with a sense of community and belonging can help to reduce their sense of isolation and alienation, making them less likely to be drawn to radical groups or activities.

5. Lobby to the Ministry of Health to strengthen youth and adolescent health programs specifically on mental health intervention which is crucial in preventing youth radicalization. Many young individuals who are prone to radicalization struggle with mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. Giving young people access to psychosocial risk screening and counseling services or treatments can aid them in managing their mental health and lower the likelihood of depression, apprehension, suicidal tendencies, including aggressive compulsive behaviors.

6. Advocate to the BARMM regional and local governments to ensure efficient mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of existing programs. This can help to ensure that approaches and interventions are effective and transformative in nature. This will make development programs implemented in ways that are empowering, respectful, and dignifying to them.

    a. Develop, scale up or redesign alternatives through culture sensitive programming carefully tailored to the needs of young people based on research and backed up by evidence.

    b. Expand research into other elements focusing on structure violence during post-conflict situations that influence radicalization of young people. Further studies to focus on systemic issues should be carried out in several settings.

    c. Advocate to government agencies to increase funding resources to sustain sports and alternative activities for the youth as this can be a good way to make them more pro-active and productive instead of joining the radical groups.

7. Sustain community and multisectoral collaboration and coordination through a whole of government approach to intensify surveillance against youth recruitment by outlawed radical organizations, to increase protection and promotion of human security for the youths.

8. Advocate to regional and local governments and agencies to improve human security intervention for the youth to:

    a. Improve access to quality education, health and social services that can help the youth build resilience, opportunities for education, employment, and social inclusion. These can help them develop a sense of purpose and belonging.

    b. Promote tolerance and understanding of different cultures and religions through education, public awareness campaigns, and interfaith dialogue.

    c. Address the root causes of radicalization such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination through economic development, social justice, and human rights promotion.

    d. Engage civil society and community-based organizations who can play a vital role in preventing radicalization. They can provide young people with alternative sources of information and support and can help build networks and linkages to bridge different communities and cultures.

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