THE RISK FACTORS AFFECTING PEOPLE AFTER THE BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA AT THE BAAN PHUM SAROL VILLAGE, KANTHARALAK DISTRICT, SISAKET PROVINCE, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are to study 1) risk perception behavior and 2) factors affecting risk for the Baan Phum Sarol village people, Sao Thong Chai Sub-District, Kantharalak District Srisaket Province. The research methodology is a mixed method approach. Firstly, the quantitative research data were collected by employing a questionnaire which was distributed to 220 people who lived in the Baan Phum Sarol community. For data analysis, statistics with percentage, mean, standard deviation and binary logistic regression analysis were employed. Secondly, for the qualitative research in depth interviews with 15 key informants (KIs) were employed and content analysis was employed to analyze the qualitative data. The results revealed that 1) the risk perceptions of people in Ban Phum Sarol, in general, were at a high level 2) the liability factor and the knowledge and comprehension of community leaders and early warning systems were found to influence the risk perceptions of people. Moreover, it was found that the political factor was an important factor that influenced their perception of risk in this area. Therefore, related organizations should initiate policies and make agreements to allow both countries to participate in decision making in the disputed borderland area. This would help to reassure people and reduce the risks for local people in the area.

INTRODUCTION

Preah Vihear Temple was announced as a UNESCO world heritage site in the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2008 but is situated close to the Thailand-Cambodia border between Baan Srai Chrom in the Choam Khsant District of Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia and Baan Phumsarol in the Sao Thong Chai Sub-district, Kantharalak District, Si Saket Province, Thailand (See Figure 1). Preah Vihear Temple is a historical site with distinctive architecture that attracts large numbers of tourists from many countries.

Baan Phumsarol Village
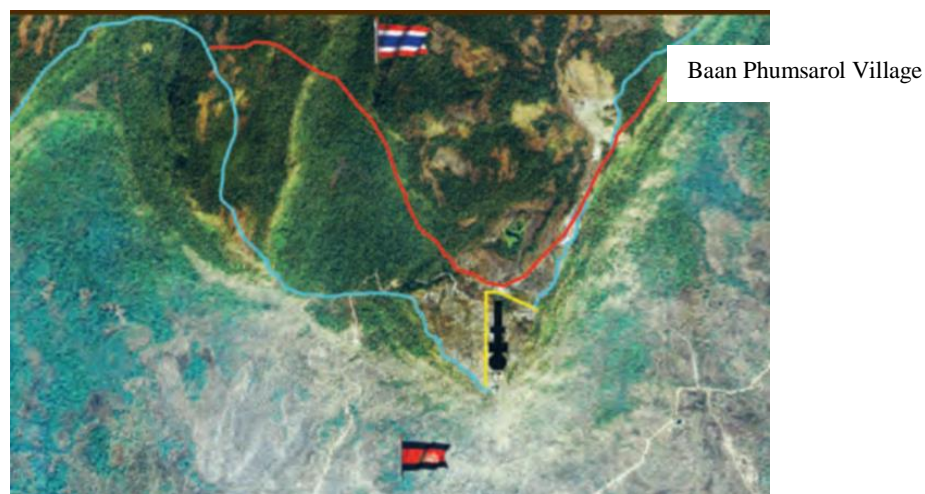
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand (2019)

Figure 1. The overlapping claims in the territorial area between Thailand-Cambodia

Due to its location on the border between Thailand and Cambodia, local food, local investment and the local tourism businesses in the surrounding area must follow the rules and regulations of the military governance of the two countries because this zone is still a dangerous area or a 'red zone' where many explosives have been abandoned. In general, most people know only about Preah Vihear Temple. In fact, the site is located on Mo-Edang Cliff, which is the area of the Baan Phumsarol people in the Kantharalak District of Si Saket Province in Thailand.

The relationship between Thailand and Cambodia has been affected by the issue of Preah Vihear Temple for some time. The conflict between the Cambodia and Thailand started in 1958 when Cambodia claimed land ownership of the area north of Preah Vihear Temple, which is situated in Kantharalak District, Si Saket Province along the Thai-Cambodia border. Both countries have claimed to have territorial sovereignty by referring to different maps of demarcation along the Phanom Dong Rak watershed, resulting in overlapping claims to

territory (Chayanan, Ingkawat, Srison & Praprayathat, 2018). Both countries consented to arbitration at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands in 1959, which, on 15th June 1962, judged that it belonged to Cambodia by 9 votes to 3. The Thai government was very angry and felt that the world court was unfair (The Standard, 2019).

Conflict resumed on 4th February 2011 when Cambodian and Thai soldiers fought against each other and the local people were frightened. The unrest caused losses to the people of Phumsarol village both in terms of life and property, and the people wanted the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia to end so that they could live in peace. Moreover, after the incident, local people and businessmen invested in business in the Preah Vihear entrance area of Phumsarol village. This confirm that may people were more confident about a peaceful outcome. However, the soldiers of both countries are still in place either side of the border.

As mentioned above, Preah Vihear Temple area is a historic tourist attraction that overlaps the Thai-Cambodian border. However, the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia since 2011 has brought risks for local people. At present, people feel more confident about peace and many tourists are gradually returning to this area; however, the soldiers of both countries are still in position, which may increase the risk for local people. From the current situation, we cannot confirm that risk on the people in Baan Phumsarol village is safe. Hence, it is necessary to determine the risk perceptions and the impacts of such perceptions of risk on the people in Baan Phumsarol village. Data will be collected that may help related organizations, business entrepreneurs, and investors who may be more confidence in order to induce the local investors invest many businesses in the border area of the Preah Vihear Temple.

LITERATURE REVIEW
From the literature review, it is clear that the risk factors are both man-made and financial personnel (Untong, 2010; Panchai, 2012; Boonyaorana, et al., 2015). Chaiyawat (2013) stated that risk means the outcome of future events is uncertain or differs from what the person at risk expects either in terms of opportunities or the number of times such events occur. The perceptions of risk are influenced by the knowledge and comprehension of community leaders, early warning systems, community participation, attitudes of the people in the community towards the early warning system, safety training affecting the risk, and the risk to archeological sites (Panchai, 2012; Boonyaorana, et al., 2015).

Musavengane, Siakwah & Leonard (2020) explained that Sub-Saharan Africa is set to increase its tourism sector in urban risk and safe is also an indicator from the people risk. While, Bernard & Cook (2015) informed that the information on damage and loss is needed. While, the Flood early warning

systems had effective in practice. Hence, the early warning system may can be perception and participant related to the local community.

In addition, previous study indicated that perceptions of risk affect the risk directly and financial personnel factors about income and debt may also be a source of risk such as the risk of natural disasters or terrorism. The perception of the risks for people living in Baan Phumsarol village is based on the perceptions of the conflict resulting from the situation in 2011. However, there have been no studies on the impacts of such factors on risk perceptions. The conceptual framework of this research is presented in Figure 2.
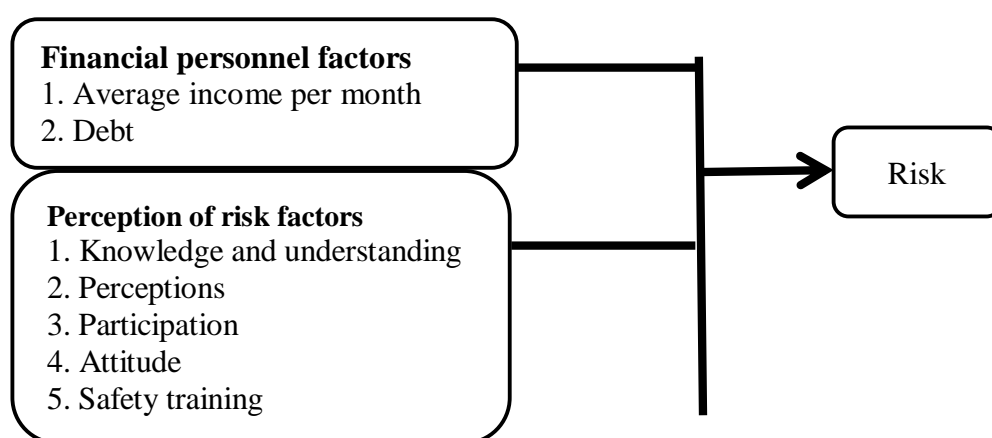
Figure 2 Conceptual Research Frameworks

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Population, sample, target group and key informants

Population and sample

In this study, the population in Baan Phumsarol, Sao Thong Chai Sub-district, Kantharalak District, Sisaket Province, in Unit 2, Unit 12, and Unit 13, totaling 891 households, is considered (the 'units' refer to parts of the village). According to the civil registration database of Sao Thong Chai Sub-district in 2018, the average household had five family members or a ratio of 1:5. As a consequence, the ratio of population in this study is 0.2 ($P = 0.2$), while the reliability is 95 percent ($Z = 1.96$) and the error is 5 percent ($E = 0.05$). Therefore, $n = 193$. Nevertheless, for the confirmation of reliable statistics, the size of the sample group was enlarged to more than the minimum size, resulting in higher power testing (Gravetter, & Wallnau, 2007 cited in Nonthapot, 2019). This study set the number of sample group at 220 samples, which is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Data collection proportion of the sample

Village Group	Population (Household)	Samples (Household)
Number 2	341	84
Number 12	313	77
Number 13	237	59
Total	**891**	**220**

Source: from calculation

Target group and key informants

This study focuses on qualitative data which derives from the key informants. The target group includes people living in the area of the Baan Phumsarol village who had experienced unrest as a result of the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia in 2011. The key informants in this study were as follows:

1) Village headmen   3persons
2) People aged between 20 – 40   2persons
3) People aged between 41 – 60   2persons
4) People aged 61 years and over   2persons
5) Military officers   2persons
6) Head of Khao Phra Vihear National Park 2 persons
7) Teachers   2 persons

Tools for data collection

Questionnaire

A questionnaire was employed as the data collection tool. The questions elicited the views of the people in Baan Phumsarol village in regard to risks. The questions were grouped into two sections. Section 1 was general demographic data. Section 2 was about the factors that influence the risk perceptions of the people: 1) Knowledge and understanding of community leaders towards the risks, 2) Perceptions on the early warning system, 3) Participation in the early warning system, 4) Attitude of community leaders towards the early warning system, and 5) Safety training. For section 2, a 5-point Likert scale was employed in accordance with Nonthapot, S. (2019); Nonthapot & Thomya, (2020); Nonthapot & Nasoontorn (2020).

Interview guidelines

This study conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with the KIs. The interview guidelines are as follows:

- During the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia, where did you live and how did you behave during that time?
- What problems do you face today that result from past events?
- How do they affect your perception of the risk of war and conflict between Thailand and Cambodia? How do you prepare to cope with that situation?
- Based on your opinion about the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia, do you think you still face any risks? How do you feel about this?

DATA COLLECTION

Quantitative data

The author conducted a survey with representative households of Baan Phumsarol village who had been in the village for more than 10 years, which were 30 samples. Cronbach's alpha was employed as the reliability test. The result was 0.933 (Hair et al., 2014). As a result, the tool was found to be reliable. For the validity test, the Index of Item-Objective Congruence (IOC) was employed with five experts in order to assess the test's consistency with the objectives. The result of IOC was greater than 0.80, which confirms its validity. The analysis of the data from 220 samples was then performed with simple random sampling.

In-depth interviews

For qualitative data collection, we started by making appointments. Interviews were arranged individually to collect information on the risk perceptions of the sample. Before the interviews, the research purposes were explained to the interviewees. The questions (from the interview guide) were asked in a semi-structured way. Interviews were conducted according to the guidelines using prepared questions, but there was some flexibility in the approach. The interviews were recorded and the issues that were raised were analyzed and summarized.

DATA ANALYSIS

Quantitative analysis

To obtain data on the perceptions of the risks of the people in Baan Phumsarol village, the questionnaire data from section 2 were analyzed and the opinions of people were processed as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 The range of opinions and meaning

Interval score	Meaning
4.21 – 5.00	Significant Perception
3.41 – 4.20	Perception
2.61 – 3.40	Moderate Perception
1.81 – 2.60	Slight perception
1.00 – 1.80	No Perception

In order to determine the factors affecting the perceptions of risk in the quantitative analysis for the people in Baan Phumsarol village, binary choice with the binary logit model were employed as follows:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Inc_i + \beta_2 Debt_i + \beta_3 X_{1i} + \beta_4 X_{2i} + \beta_5 X_{3i} + \beta_6 X_{4i} + \beta_7 X_{5i} + \varepsilon_i$$
(1)

Where

Y = Risk (1 = has risk, 0 = has no risk)

Inc = Average income per month (Thai Baht)

$Debt$ = Debt burden (1,000 Thai Baht)

X_1 = Community leaders' knowledge and understanding on risk

X_2 = Perception on the early warning system

X_3 = Participation in the early warning system

X_4 = Attitude of the community towards the early warning system

X_5 = Safety training

$(X_1 - X_5)$ = factor unit is opinion level from 1-5

ε = error term

β_1-β_7 = coefficients

β_0 = constant

i = order of samples

Qualitative analysis

The qualitative data were collected from in-depth interviews. The researcher then divided the information according to topic in order to expand quantitative data analysis. Content analysis was the employed, and the data obtained from the interview were synthesized. In order to ensure the reliability of the qualitative data from the in-depth interviews, a triangulation method was employed.

RESULTS

Quantitative analysis results

Most of the respondents were females between 31 and 40 years of age and were mostly married. Most were educated at the elementary level and most worked in agriculture. They had an average monthly income of 5,001 - 10,000 Thai Baht with an average debt burden of 5,001 - 25,000 Thai Baht. Most of them had lived in the community for 31-40 years on average. Most people lived in cement houses and most of the people did not experience damage when the conflict occurred.

Risk Perceptions of People in Phum Sarol Village

Overall, people in the village had an average risk perception after the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia of 3.62, which was a high level. When considering the risk perceptions of the people on particular factors, it was found that their risk perceptions were influenced by 'knowledge and understanding of community leaders on the early warning system' at an average of 3.85, which is a high level. This was followed by 'Participation in the early warning system' with an average of 3.65, which was also at a high level. 'Perceptions on the early warning system' were also at a high level with a mean of 3.61. 'The safety practice of the people in villages' had the lowest level with a mean value of 3.48, but was also at a high level. All the perception results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Risk Perceptions of People in Phum Sarol Village

Risk Perception	Mean ($\bar{x}$)	Standard Deviation (S.D.)	Meaning
1. Knowledge and understanding of community leaders towards the risks	3.85	0.92	Perception
2. Perceptions on the early warning system	3.61	0.95	Perception
3. Participation in the early warning system	3.65	0.93	Perception
4. Attitude of community leaders towards the early warning system	3.53	0.97	Perception
5. Safety training	3.48	1.07	Perception
Average	**3.62**	**0.97**	Perception

Source: From calculation

Factors affecting risk for the baan phum sarol village people resulting from the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia

The results of the analysis to determine the variables to be included in the model revealed that there were two independent variables that could be entered into the model. 'The debt burden' and 'the knowledge and understanding of community leaders towards the risks factors' were included in the estimation result. The estimated results of the analysis explained the independent variables that can describe the dependent variable in Table 4. The Cox & Snell R square statistic was found to be 0.18 while the Nagelkerke R Square statistic was 0.21. This indicates that it was able to explain the risks perceived by the people of Phum Sarol at 21 percent.

Table 4 Model summary

Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
2	255.58	0.18	0.21

Source: from Calculation

From Table 5 presents the results on the factors affecting risk for the Baan Phum Sarol village people from the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia as follows: 1) The debt burden factor affected the risks of people in Phum Saron village. When considering the odd ratio of Exp (B), it was found that people with an increased debt burden of 1,000 Thai Baht had increased risk perception at 1.00 times at the 1 percent level of significance (95% C.I.: 1.00 - 1.00); 2) The community leaders' knowledge and understanding of the early warning system also affected the risk perceptions of people in Baan Phum Saron village. When considering the odd ratio of Exp (B), it was found that when the knowledge and understanding of community leaders on the early warning system increased by 1 unit, there was a 1.43 times greater chance of feeling at risk at the 1 percent level of significance (95% CI. : 1.04-- 1.98).

Table 5 Results of factors affecting the risk perceptions of the Baan Phum Sarol Village people

Variables in the Equation		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp (B)	95% C.I.for EXP(B)	
								Lower	Upper
Step 2	Debt burden (*Debt*)	0.01	0.00	6.50	1	0.01	1.00	1.00	1.00
	Knowledge	0.36	0.16	4.76	1	0.0	1.4	1.04	1.98

and understanding of community leaders on the early warning system (X_1)					3	3		
Constant	-0.86	0.66	1.72	1	0.19	0.42		

Source: from Calculation

Qualitative results

The qualitative research results from the in-depth interviews with representatives of the public revealed factors that affected the risk perceptions of people in the border area as a result of the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia. The 15 KIs were people who were affected by the unrest. The results revealed that the factor that affected the risk perceptions of people in Baan Phum Sarol, Sao Thongchai Sub-district, Kantharalak District Sisaket Province was the international relations factor. Based on the opinions of people and government officials of Khao Phra Wihan National Park, the main problem was international relations. Both border soldiers and middle-aged people said that the conflict was more likely to be political, with more government intervention while the key informants from the school said that the unrest was because of international politics and that political matters were the cause. These results therefore suggest that people in Baan Phum Saron village considered international politics to be the main factor.

DISCUSSIONS

The risk perceptions of the people of the in Baan Phum Saron village were at a medium to high level of perception. The highest perception level was for the knowledge and understanding of community leaders on the early warning system, followed by participation in the early warning system and the perception of people about the early warning system while safety training had the lowest level. This suggests that an alarm system and public surveillance in this area by detecting incidents in a timely manner are necessary. It was also revealed that information needs to be systematically linked. The existence of an early warning system is critical, and planners and people in the community should have an understanding of the early warning system in order to coordinate with neighbors in the community and to participate in the community.

The study of important factors affecting the risk perceptions of people at Baan Phum Sarol village revealed that the 1) debt burden factor and 2) knowledge and understanding factors of community leaders on the early warning system positively affected the risk perceptions of people, which is consistent with the study of the National Statistical Office (2012) which studied the impacts of agricultural household debt and found that the groups at risk of debt problems were low-income agricultural households. They had a high probability of carrying a debt burden greater than their ability to pay off the debt, which may have a positively significant impact. In addition, the risk after the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia was largely dependent on international politics. This suggests that both governments have to work together seriously and work in the same direction.

CONCLUSIONS

The objectives of this study are to study 1) risk perception behavior and 2) factors affecting risk for the Baan Phum Sarol village people, Sao Thong Chai Sub-District, Srisaket Province, Thailand. The research methodology employed mixed method approach. The results revealed that 1) the risk perceptions of people in Ban Phum Sarol, in general, were at a high level 2) the liability factor and the knowledge and comprehension of community leaders and early warning systems were found to influence the risk perceptions of people. Moreover, it was found that the political factor was an important factor that influenced their perception of risk in this area.

Based on the findings of this research are as follows; 1) Government agencies should educate community leaders about, and provide training on, early warning systems. This involves the surveillance of various risks and the provision of information to villagers; 2) Government agencies and stakeholders should encourage communities to participate in problem solving in order to help themselves before the various agencies can reach out to them, which is also good for people in the community; secondly, there should be plans to prevent and to deal with conflict in the area and thirdly, people should be prepared and that every sector can see the importance of preparation, which includes the consequences if there is no preparation 3) The relevant agencies should coordinate cooperation. This may help to reduce household debt problems in the Phum Sarol village and provide financial management skills and knowledge to people in the community in terms according to the principles of the sufficiency economy and 4) Policymakers should work together to improve the alarm system in accordance with current government policy. In addition, Thai and Cambodian representatives should develop better relations with cooperation in matters of stability and security. This may help to reduce conflict and reduce the risks that may arise in the future.

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