POLICE PUBLIC TRUST IN RELATION TO PEACEFUL BEHAVIOR, FEAR OF CRIME, AND CONTEXTUAL VICTIMIZATION PERCEPTION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS

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Abstract:

This study aimed to develop the best-fit model of police public trust in the context of community leaders in Region IX. This study used a quantitative research design, employing Pearson correlation, reliability analysis using SPSS, and structural equation modeling (SEM) to evaluate the best-fit model for police public trust. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data from 435 community leaders in Region IX who participated in the study. Findings revealed that peaceful behavior and fear of crime obtained a high level, while contextual victimization perception posted a moderate level, and police public trust acquired a high level. Results also revealed that there were significant relationships between peaceful behavior and police public trust, but fear of crime and contextual victimization perception towards police public trust were discovered to be not associated. Further, Model 3 best fits the public trust of the police in the Davao Region. The regression analysis indicates a strong and increasing positive relationship between exogenous and peaceful behavior, while fear of crime can lead to less peaceful behavior and the influence of victimization perception decreases over time. Also, the covariance analysis shows a strong positive relationship between fear of crime and victimization perception, a weaker positive link between peaceful behavior and victimization perception, and a nearly significant but weak connection between peaceful behavior and fear of crime.

SDG Indicator: #16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)

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1. Introduction

The legitimacy of police regarding the low level of trust is recognized globally and brought attention to the persistent problem in the relationship between the police and the public. This significant issue has significant implications for the organization's ability to function justifiably and effectively (Schaap, 2018). Studies on the low level of police public trust are influenced by various variables, including a strong fear of crime, experiences of victimization, and non-peaceful behavior of the local community. Further, reports on victims who had been victims of crime, high levels of fear, and negative experiences from law enforcement are less likely to trust the police, which can lessen its willingness to cooperate, making it more challenging for the PNP to prevent and solve crimes, leading to the increase of crime rates (Miller *et al.*, 2004; Lim & Kwak, 2022).

Additionally, news on corruption, police abuse, planting of evidence, and extrajudicial killings with the involvement of police personnel can also contribute to the reduction of police public trust in the police. These situations undermine the credibility of PNPs in providing quality public services, lowering their satisfaction with law enforcement (Rappler, 2023; Tudor, 2023).

Research on police public trust is important to understand the complexity of an organization and its effort to become a capable, effective, and credible police service by strengthening its police-community relation. Thus, the level of police public trust directly impacts the effectiveness of law enforcement and the satisfaction of the community with the PNP. By studying the level of police public trust, law enforcement agencies and researchers can gain insights into the factors that influence trust, such as fear of crime, victimization, and peaceful behavior (Nix *et al.*, 2015). Hence, this understanding is essential to developing plans and initiatives to enhance community relations and be able to improve the operational capabilities of PNP towards public service (Jackson & Bradford, 2010).

Moreover, by conducting studies related to police public trust, researchers can recommend initiatives on PNP to enhance community relationships and ensure that trust-building initiatives are tailored to leaders' specific needs. Hough and colleagues (2010) highlight the significance of conducting police public trust to enhance the legitimacy of law enforcement and increase the police image and its relationship with the community (Sampaio & Cunha, 2019).

2. Literature Review

Recognizing the significance of public trust in police, the researcher identifies some of the potential factors that might be related to it. The public trust of the police is influenced by a number of literary value statements. For instance, the use of surveys on community perception has contributed to the success of organizational performance, including the level of police public trust. It is considered a contributing factor in shaping police services and a powerful force in police-community relations (Crowl, 2018). Furthermore, a substantial body of research has shown that perceptions of the police as a legitimate authority can be influenced by peaceful behavior (Tomz & Weeks, 2013) and victimization (Pazzona, 2020).

The relationship between the peaceful behavior of a community and police public trust is significant and reinforcing. When a community exhibits peaceful behavior, it can contribute to a positive perception of law enforcement, and increased trust in the police. Conversely, when there is a high level of trust in the police, it can foster a sense of security and cooperation within the community, which in turn can contribute to peaceful behavior (Chen, 2015).

More so, a peaceful community may be more inclined to collaborate with law enforcement in crime prevention efforts, leading to increased cooperation and partnership between the police and the community. This collaboration can further enhance trust and confidence in the police, as community members see them as allies in maintaining peace and security (UNPO, 2018). On the other side, when there is a lack of trust in the police, it can lead to feelings of alienation, fear, and resentment within the community. This can potentially result in increased tension, reduced cooperation with law enforcement, and a higher likelihood of conflict or unrest.

Furthermore, studies show that individuals who are direct victims of crime and afraid of crime undermine public trust in the criminal justice system. Research on high levels of fear of crime can decrease the level of trust in the police, while peaceful behavior and respectful interactions from law enforcement officers can positively impact police public trust (Lim, 2022). Additionally, experiences of victimization can shape perceptions of the police, potentially leading to a decrease in trust if individuals feel that the police are not effectively preventing or addressing crime.

The level of trust is significant in citizens' willingness to report criminal activity and encourages individuals to take an active role in maintaining community safety and regulating behavior such as through neighbourhood watch. Conversely, the trust displayed low, and the community may hesitate to report a crime or engage in law enforcement (Kirk & Papachristos, 2011; Roberts & Plesničar, 2015).

Accordingly (Warr, 2000), there is the feeling of anxiety and paranoia about the possibility of becoming a victim. This fear can lead to panic and exaggerated responses to perceived threats. Research by Wilk and Fibinger (2020) highlights the negative consequences of fear of crime, including a diminished sense of safety, increased aggression, decreased trust in law enforcement, social isolation, and reluctance to help

others. Other studies found a negative relationship between fear of crime and trust in the police (Singet *et al.*, 2019; Nalla and Nam, 2020; Boateng, 2015; Cakar, 2015)

For instance, a case study in Thailand revealed that police effectiveness and fairness positively influenced trust in the police. This means that when citizens perceive the police as effective and fair in their actions, their trust in law enforcement increases. On the other hand, factors like age, corruption, and fear of crime were found to affect trust negatively. For example, older individuals or those aware of corruption may have lower trust in the police, and fear of crime can create scepticism about police effectiveness, and victimization has no association with trust in the police (Kulachai & Cheurprakobkit, 2023).

Similarly, the study of Melkamu (2023) revealed that trust was not strongly associated with factors linked to personal experiences with crime, fear of crime, community perceptions of crime, or informal social control. This suggests that policing models on performance, expressive, and community engagement effectively explain police public trust in Ethiopia. The finding suggests that even if the community experienced crime, it does not necessarily lower trust in the police. Further, people might fear crime but still maintain trust in the police. This could indicate that they believe the police are working to address these fears, or they may have faith in police efforts to reduce crime overall (Nix *et al.*, 2015).

On the part of victimization, which is defined as an individual who experiences crime and witnessing a crime can still affect one's perceptions and feelings about safety, research by Corbacio *et al.* (2015) suggests that victimization can directly influence trust in law enforcement through the mediating effect of fear. Essentially, the more fearful someone becomes after experiencing or witnessing a crime, the less likely they are to trust the police to keep them safe. This suggests that victimization experiences can influence individuals' perceptions of the reliability and integrity of various institutions within their community (Pazzona, 2020).

The study "Do Crime Victims Trust in Others?" by Friehe and Do (2023) investigates how crime victimization affects trust in interpersonal relationships. The findings reveal a strong negative correlation between trust levels and experiences of crime, such as robbery, burglary, theft, and physical violence. This indicates that being a victim can erode not just trust in the police but also trust in people more generally.

The findings highlight that the performance, expressive, and community policing models are essential for understanding police public trust in law enforcement. The performance model indicates that trust is based on police effectiveness in controlling crime; individuals may trust the police even if they feel fearful or have been victimized. The expressive model emphasizes that fair treatment and respect enhance police public trust. Finally, the community policing model shows that strong collaboration between police and community members fosters trust. Overall, perceptions of effectiveness, fairness, and community engagement are crucial in shaping police public trust in the police (Lim & Kwak, 2022; Sun *et al.*, 2013).

This research is based on three anchor theories and several propositions. The first anchor Theory on Social control suggests that individuals who show peaceful behavior in society reduce the likelihood of becoming deviant as they follow society's norms, resulting in strong police-community relations. These relationships are characterized by high police public trust and community policing. Further, when the police public trust the police and perceives them as good public servants, they may feel more secure and less fearful, as they believe that the police are capable of protecting them from potential harm and victimization (Marsman, 2007). This police public trust can contribute to a sense of safety and reduce the fear of crime within the community.

The above-mentioned theory is also supported by the first proposition relating peaceful behavior and police public trust, which states that a higher level of trust among the community will be associated with a greater likelihood of engaging in peaceful behavior (Bradford & Jackson, 2016), as measured by lower rates of interpersonal conflicts, reduced involvement in crimes, and higher adherence to societal norms (Yesberg *et al.*, 2023).

Next is the victimization theory, which suggests that direct victimization raises fear of crime, leading to non-peaceful behaviors like aggression or social withdrawal. This increased fear further reduces police public trust in police (Singer *et al.*, 2019). According to this theory, direct or indirect victimization experiences can lead to a heightened fear of crime. Such fear makes them feel vulnerable and unsafe, and they may lose public trust in the police (Cozzubo *et al.*, 2021). Similar findings found that individuals who have been directly victimized are more likely to experience higher levels of fear and lower levels of police public trust (Janssen & Koeber, 2021).

The second theory is further supported by Jones and Brown (2020), that increased trust in the police is correlated with a lower fear of crime and lower victimization as individuals who trust the police are more likely to feel less vulnerable to crime, resulting in a reduced sense of being victimized.

In turn, police public trust in police plays a significant role in shaping fear of crime and victimization perception, as people who trust the police may feel more secure and less fearful. On the other side, those who lack trust may experience fear and anxiety about crime (Farall & Gray, 2009).

Last is the Social Integration Model, which posits that higher levels of public trust in police leads to reduced fear of crime. This aligns with the findings of Hunter and Baumer (1982), who emphasized the importance of social integration in fostering feelings of safety; Alper and Chappell (2012), who found that trust in neighbors was a significant predictor of reduced fear of crime; and Gainey *et al.* (2011), which reinforced the idea that police public trust correlates with a lower fear of crime (Sargeant *et al.*, 2017).

This study examined the effectiveness of conceptual frameworks and hypothesized models in explaining police public trust among community leaders in Region XI. The research was focused on three exogenous variables namely: peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and contextual victimization - as a potential direct influence on the endogenous variable, police public trust, as supported by theories and studies. These

variables were considered "latent variables" due to their unobserved nature and were measured through a series of observable variables. The study was focused on analyzing the relationship between three independent variables and the dependent variable, specifically examining the "regression path" connecting them.

The first exogenous variable is peaceful behavior, measured by three indicators: creating peace, conflict resolution, and anti-hostility. Creating peace is an act of kindness, empathy, and understanding that builds listening and empathy. Anti-hostility is an act of calm and non-violence in the face of aggression or conflict, addressing conflicts through peaceful means.

The second exogenous variable is fear of crime, which is measured by four indicators: worry about crime, perceived likelihood of personal crime, perceived control over personal crime, and perceived consequences of personal crime. Worry about crime is described as those individuals who have been victims of crime or have had close encounters with criminal activities experience fear and anxiety. Perceived likelihood of personal crime refers to individuals' subjective assessments of the likelihood that they will become victims of crime, including close encounters with criminal activities. Perceived control over personal crime is described as the ability to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime. Perceived consequences of personal crime would assess the potential impact severity of the consequences if they were to become victims of crime. The third exogenous variable is victimization perception which is measured by four indicators, namely: labeled general contextual victimization, labeled contextual victimization in the neighborhood, labeled contextual victimization in recreational areas, and labeled contextual victimization in schools. Labeled general contextual victimization, refers to the categorization and perception of victimization within a broad or general context that involves the labeling of specific types of victimization within a larger societal or cultural framework. labeled contextual victimization in the neighborhood, refers to the perception and categorization of victimization within a specific neighborhood or community. Labeled contextual victimization in recreational areas refers to the perception and categorization of victimization within spaces designated for leisure and enjoyment, such as experiences in public spaces. Labeled contextual victimization in schools refers to the perception and categorization of victimization within the broader context of educational institutions, such as bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

This research delves into the factors influencing police public trust, utilizing a Structural Equation Model (SEM). The model visually represents both the observed and unobserved variables using rectangular shapes. It was seen in the figure that the single head arrow reflects a causal or direct connection of victimization perception towards the latent endogenous variable, police public trust, latent exogenous variables such as peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and contextual victimization perception.

Moreover, the study employed Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) which is a significant tool to determine the best model that fits the data, using the visual elements to represent the relationship between variables. Oval shapes represented the latent variables being studied. Rectangular shapes represent the measured variables that are

used to understand the latent variables. Single-headed arrows show a direct influence when it comes from one variable to another, while the double-headed arrow suggests an influence between variables.
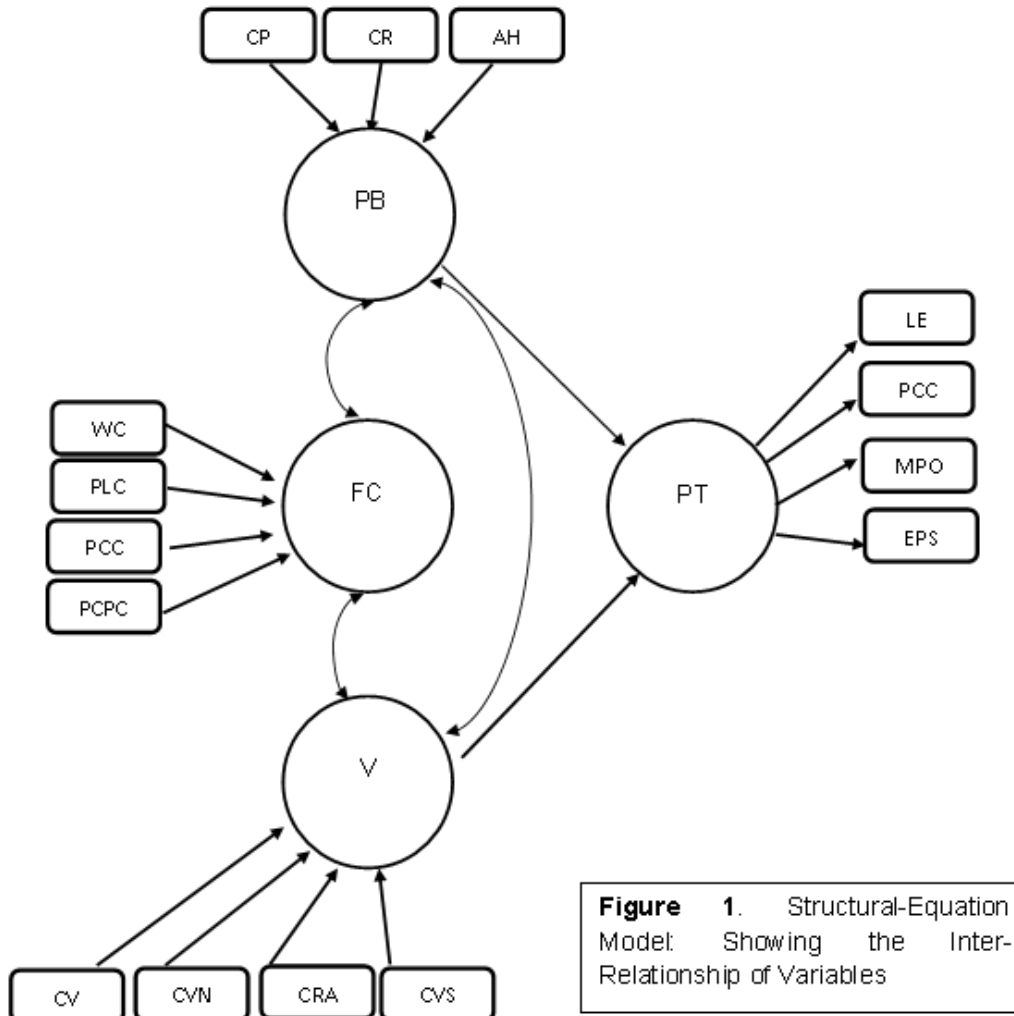
Figure 1. Structural-Equation Model: Showing the Inter-Relationship of Variables

Legend:
PT - Police Trust;
LE – Law Enforcement;
PCC= Prevention and Control of Crime;
MPO– Maintenance of Peace and Order; and
EPS- *Ensuring Public Safety and Internal Security*

Legend:
PB – *Peaceful Behavior;*
CP – *Creating Peace;*
CR – *Conflict Resolution; and*
AH – *Anti- Hostility*

Legend:
FC – *Fear of Crime;*
WC – *Worry about Crime;*
PLC- Perceived Likelihood of Personal Crime;
PCC- Perceived Control over Personal Crime; and PCPC- Perceived Consequences of personal crime of the community

Legend:
V- Victimization
CV- Contextual Victimization;
CN- Contextual Victimization in the Neighborhood;
CRA-Contextual victimization in recreational areas; and
CS-contextual victimization in school

Understanding the key factors that influence police public trust is crucial (Khusanova *et al.*, 2021). And in the local setting, no previous studies have utilized Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to explore the association between peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and contextual victimization perception in influencing police

public trust within the community leaders in Region XI. Most of the studies made on police public trust deal only with two variables. To address this gap, the researcher has chosen to focus on three key factors (latent variables) and investigate their impact on public trust in the police. The results of this research will help the local government and the Philippine National Police to design a strategy or initiatives for enhancing police public trust, which could lead to enhanced police-community relations.

This research aimed to determine the best-fit model of police public trust among the community leaders of the Davao Region. The study has the following specific objectives: First, to examine the level of peaceful behavior of the community in terms of creating peace, conflict resolution, and anti-hostility. Second, the level of the fear of crime in the community. Third, to evaluate the level of victimization perception of the community in terms of General contextual victimization, contextual victimization in the neighborhood, contextual victimization in recreational areas, and contextual victimization in school.

More so, this study examined the correlation between peaceful behavior and police public trust, fear of crime and police public trust, and contextual victimization and police public trust among community leaders in Region XI. Finally, it aimed to identify the best-fit model that predicts police public trust among community leaders. Simultaneously, the null hypotheses listed below were examined at a significance threshold of 0.05. First, there is no relationship between peaceful behavior and police public trust, fear of crime and police public trust, and contextual victimization perception and police public trust. Lastly, there is no model that best fits police public trust of community leaders.

The significance of the study is that it contributes information that will benefit law enforcement agencies. The findings could help PNP understand how trust in the police relates to peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and victimization perception among community leaders. This could inform their strategies for building trust and improving police-community relations. The findings and recommendations from this study could also assist the local government in providing valuable insights into the factors influencing community members' perceptions of safety and their trust in law enforcement. This information could be used to guide the development of policies and programs to enhance public safety and trust in the police.

Furthermore, this information will be useful to the existing body of research on police-community relations, trust, and perceptions of safety. It could also serve as a basis for further research and scholarly inquiry into these important social and criminological issues. The research would also benefit community members by shedding light on the complex relationship between police public trust, peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and victimization perception. This knowledge could empower leaders to advocate for changes that improve their sense of safety and trust in law enforcement. This study intends to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (UN SDG). SDG Indicator #16 emphasizes that police public trust in police is significant for fostering

peaceful behavior, reducing fear of crime, and shaping community perceptions of victimization, thereby contributing to more inclusive and secure societies.

3. Material and Methods

This section describes how the study was conducted, study participants or research respondents, materials/instruments, design, and procedures as applicable.

3.1 Research Respondent

Study respondents were carried out in the Davao Region, located in the southern part of Mindanao, Philippines. This geographical area is bordered by the Philippine Sea to the east and south, Bukidnon and the SOCSARGEN Region to the west, and the CARAGA Region to the north. The Davao Region comprises five provinces and one city: Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, and Davao Occidental. The study's participants were community leaders from Region XI in the areas mentioned above, and survey questionnaires were distributed. The total number of respondents was determined based on the result provided by the Rao soft sample size calculator. Based on the actual strength of community leaders in Region IX, excluding non-community leaders, with a 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence level, with a 50% response distribution to account for maximum variability.

The study respondents were selected using stratified sampling. A stratified sampling method was used to get the exact samples needed for correct prediction (Sadaiyandi *et al.*, 2023). For this study, 435 community leaders in the various provinces and cities in Region XI represented as the participants of the region. The number of respondents was based on the population of community leaders in each province. The minimum sample required for SEM is 400 in .05 significance level, following Wolf Harrington, Clark, and Miller (2015) suggestion that sample size specifications range from 30 to 460 instances are significant patterns of connection between parameters and sample size and highlights the constraints of frequently quoted rules-of-thumb in Structural Equation Modeling.

Furthermore, specific criteria were set to include in the study. The respondents must be bonafide leaders of Region XI, of legal age, either males or females, with diverse educational backgrounds, community leaders, and with various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Excluded as respondents were leaders less than 18 years of age and those considered non-leaders of the region.

3.2 Materials and Instruments

This study used specifically causal and correlation quantitative design to develop and employ phenomenon-related mathematical models, theories, and hypotheses. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was generating the best-fit model. First, it used a descriptive correlation technique. Accordingly, the descriptive correlation technique (Frontier, 2014) measures the connection between variables and variable measurement levels. It is

descriptive because it is depicted at the average level by easily describing the level of research.

In addition, correlation is used to explore and evaluate the link between two or more factors. Second, the research used modeling of the structural equations as a means of analyzing the hypothesized interactions between factors and the best-expected variable. This is a sophisticated multivariate method to examine various variables' dependence relationships (Bhatta *et al.*, 2017; Hair *et al.*, 2017).

Moreover, the study utilized structural equation modeling (SEM) as a statistical method to estimate the relationships indicated by a logic model. SEM is well-suited for estimating the relationships between program components and the pathways from causal components to results. In SEM, observed and latent variables are represented by a circle. The study also appears to have considered center components, which serve as both causes and results, mediating the impact of inputs on longer-term outcomes.

Four instruments were employed in this study to address the research problem. The study utilized primary data to collect information, including four components: peaceful behavior, fear of crime, contextual victimization perception, and police public trust. The survey questions used in the study were obtained from various relevant research sources. The restructuring has been carried out to enhance the instrument's relevance to the present professional and contextual environment.

The validation result is that the instrument underwent validation by six internal expert validators, resulting in an overall rating of 4, indicating a high level of appropriateness and credibility. Pilot testing was undertaken following the validation process. The survey's validity was assessed using Cronbach's alpha. Bonett and Wright (2015) stated that the acceptability of a reliability value is reliant upon the specific application being considered. The Cronbach alpha of this survey instrument used is 0.962 for the endogenous variable and 0.962 average for the three other exogenous variables, indicating that the research tools are valid and reliable.

A set of altered, validated questionnaires composed of four components will be used to retrieve the information. In Part 1 of the questionnaire, a standardized instrument was downloaded from the internet and adapted from the Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research (2018) to collect information regarding the peaceful behavior of community leaders in the area. Indicators such as creating peace (14 items), conflict resolution (11 items), and anti-hostility (11 items) will be included in it.

In Part 2, the questionnaire on fear of crime was adapted from the Psychometric Analysis of Fear of Crime (2018). It comprises four indicators, namely: worry about crime (4 items), perceived likelihood of personal crime (4 items), perceived control over personal crime (4 items), and perceived consequences of personal crime (4 items).

The third set of instruments to be employed aims to measure the contextual victimization perception of the community in the region. The instrument was adapted and modified from the International Journal of Emergency Mental Health and Human Resilience (2018). There are three indicators for this variable, namely: general contextual victimization (9 items), contextual victimization in the neighborhood (6 items), contextual

victimization in recreational areas (6 items), and contextual victimization in schools (4 items). Lastly, the questionnaire on police public trust (PT) was adapted from the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology (2013). It is composed of two indicators: Procedural- Based Trust (5 items) and Outcome-Based Trust (5 items).

In this study, the variables were interpreted using a 5-level Likert's scale system, which is categorized as follows: A rating falling within the range of 4.20 to 5.00 corresponds to a "very high" level, signifying that the community leaders have a highly satisfactory trust with the police. Ratings ranging from 3.40 to 4.19 are classified as "high," indicating that the community's level of police public trust is deemed satisfactory. A rating spanning from 2.60 to 3.39 is termed "moderate," suggesting a moderate level of trust with the police for community leaders. Ratings falling between 1.80 and 2.59 fall under the category of "low," denoting an unsatisfactory level of trust with the police. Lastly, ratings ranging from 1.00 to 1.79 are labeled as "very low," signifying a highly unsatisfactory level of police public trust experienced by the community leaders.

3.3 Design and Procedure

The research employed various statistical methods to analyze and interpret the data. The mean was used to determine the level of peaceful behavior, fear of crime, contextual victimization perception, and the level of police public trust of community leaders in Region XI. Pearson r was used to examine the relationship between multivariate, as it helped to determine how strongly the independent variable was linked to the dependent variable (police public trust) (Schober, Boer & Schwarte, 2018). Lastly, Structural Equation Modeling (Maximum Likelihood), an advanced technique combining elements of regression and factor analysis was used to model the complex relationship between variables

Thakkar & Thakkar (2020) determine the best-fit model of police public trust of community leaders. In essence, the study used a combination of statistical tools to understand the factors influencing police public trust in Region XI.

The researcher gathered information through different steps. The first was to obtain a certificate from the University of Mindanao Ethics Review Committee to conduct a study. The approval was released on August 29, 2024. The distribution of survey questionnaires was facilitated from August to September. A request letter signed by the dean was sent to the city or municipal mayor. The approved letter was sent to the barangay chairman throughout Region XI. A schedule for distributing and collecting questionnaires was set, spanning from August to September 2024. The collected data was then meticulously organized, analyzed, and interpreted while maintaining strict confidentiality.

The researcher strictly observes the ethical standards in the conduct of this study. This follows the UMERC protocol no. 2024-329 of the university's research ethics committee. The researcher conforms to the following norms: Voluntary participation, where the respondents were given the choice to participate or not without any penalty. The researcher properly informs the respondents of the time they spend answering the

questionnaire, which requires their honesty. This was done by introducing the purpose and the benefits of the study to the participating police stations and offices in the Davao region. Privacy and confidentiality: since this uses a survey questionnaire, the researcher carefully retrieves the questionnaires with utmost privacy and confidentiality so that the names and the responses are not seen by other commissioned officers or colleagues. Informed consent: the researcher secured informed consent from the institution and the individual respondent to distribute the research questionnaire as a principle of respect. Risks: this study assured that it does not involve high-risk settings where the respondents may experience physical, psychological, or socio-economic concerns. Lastly, the benefits: this gives them information on the level of peaceful behavior, fear of crime, contextual victimization perception, and police public trust in the Davao region.

To determine the best model, the following indices were utilized along with their respective criteria: The fit indices for evaluating model adequacy include several key criteria. The Chi-Square statistic should be compared to the degrees of freedom, with a p-value indicating fit values between 0 and 2. A p-value greater than .05 suggests an acceptable fit. Additionally, the Normed Fit Index (NFI), Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI), Comparative Fit Index (CFI), and Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) should all exceed .95 for a strong fit. For the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), the P of Close Fit (Pclose) should be less than .05 to indicate a good model fit, while values greater than .05 indicate potential issues with fit.

4. Results and Discussion

Presented here are the statistics and results based on the responses of the study-respondents, on the peaceful behavior, fear of crime, contextual victimization and police public trust of community leaders in Region XI. The discussions are organized based on the subsequent subheadings: peaceful behavior, fear of crime, level of contextual victimization and level of police public trust; the relationship between peaceful behavior and police public trust, fear of crime and police public trust, contextual victimization and police public trust, and the best-fit model that predicts police public trust.

4.1 Peaceful Behavior
Presented in Table 1 are the data on the peaceful behavior among community leaders in Davao Region. It was measured with the following indicators. Creating Peace, Conflict-Resolution, and Anti- Hostility. The results reveal that the overall mean rating of 4.01 and a standard deviation of 0.50 for peaceful behavior among community leaders in the Davao Region is high. This means that peaceful behavior is deemed satisfactory among the respondents. It could be gleaned from the data that the indicators with the highest mean rating of 4.1 or high with a standard deviation of 0.50 are *creating peace*. In contrast, the indicator with the lowest mean rating of 3.87, though still described as high is *anti-hostility followed by conflict resolution* with 4 still described as high.

The overall high response of community leaders displayed that all indicators of peaceful behavior were deemed satisfactory. This indicates that individuals who embrace peaceful behavior, avoid, prevent, and refuse any behaviors. They are aggressive, disturbing, and hostile towards others and are likely to resolve conflicts constructively. This approach emphasizes building a strong relationship for a harmonious environment (Latipun, 2018).

Table 1: Peaceful Behavior

Indicator	SD	Mean	D.E.
Creating peace	0.50	4.14	High
Conflict resolution	0.55	4.01	High
Anti-hostility	0.58	3.87	High
Overall	**0.50**	**4.01**	**High**

This finding is consistent with Bonta (2013), who states that peaceful societies avoid violence through non-resistance and choose not to retaliate against regression. This commitment can be based on cultural values with strong societal structures, clear legal frameworks, and ingrained cultural norms, which appear to be most successful in maintaining peacefulness.

Moreover, fostering positive relationships through respect, openness, and tolerance Roque-Hernandez (2022), well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, free flow of information, acceptance of the rights of others, high levels of human capital, good relations with neighbor, and low level of corruption provide a strong foundation for peace and allow the country to move towards a more peaceful state (Global Peace Index, 2020).

4.2 Fear of Crime

Presented in Table 2 are the data on the fear of crime among community leaders in Davao Region. It was measured with the following indicators: *Worry about Crime, Perceived likelihood of Personal crime, Perceived control over Personal crime, and Perceived Consequences of Personal crime.* The results reveal that the overall mean rating of 3.40 and a standard deviation of 0.98 for fear of crime among community leaders in the Davao region is high. This means that the fear of crime displayed high among the respondents. Worry about crime received the highest mean of 3.57, with a standard deviation of 1.17, falling under the high level. Perceived consequences of personal crime had a mean of 3.43 and a standard deviation of 1.07, also reflecting a high level. Both the perceived likelihood of personal crime and perceived control over personal crime displayed moderate levels. This is supported by existing literature.

Table 2: Fear of Crime

Indicators	SD	Mean	D.E.
Worry about crime	1.17	3.5741	High
Perceived likelihood of personal crime	1.14	3.3092	Moderate
Perceived control over personal crime	1.06	3.2960	Moderate
Perceived consequences of personal crime	1.06	3.4305	High
Overall	**0.98**	**3.40**	**High**

The mean rating of fear of crime is due to the following indicators: *worry about crime, perceived likelihood of personal crime, perceived control over personal crime, perceived consequences of personal crime.* The mean rating of fear of crime showed that worry about crime is satisfactory, which is evident as individuals still report heightened anxiety in areas perceived as unsafe (Pratt, 2022). The study indicated that despite policing efforts by law enforcement to somewhat reduce fear of crime, but individuals still experience significant worry.

Experiencing crimes such as robbery, harassment, and threats can lead to significant psychological impacts, including emotional stress and long-term anxiety. Even non-violent thefts, such as pick-pocketing and online scams, cause considerable emotional stress and anxiety among victims (Cornaglia *et al.*, 2014). A study conducted by Nubani *et al.* (2023) further highlights the importance of preventive strategies, personal security, and community engagement in reducing anxiety and fear related to crime.

Further, the perceived likelihood of personal crime and perceived control over personal crime is moderate, suggesting that individuals perceived this risk as neither particularly high nor low based on their experiences due to low crime rates in the area and personal security measures (Petticrew *et al.*, 2014).

This is similar to Lorenc's (2014) claim that environmental interventions, such as the installation of CCTV, aim to make individuals feel safer. Such measures are designed to influence how individuals perceive the likelihood of being targeted for crimes, potentially leading them to believe they are less likely to be victimized. Consequently, these interventions can enhance the community's sense of control over their own safety.

4.3 Contextual Victimization Perception of Community Leaders
Presented in Table 3 are the data on the perception of contextual victimization among community leaders in the Davao Region. It was measured with the following indicators. General Contextual Victimization, Contextual victimization in the neighborhood, Contextual victimization in recreational areas, and Contextual victimization in school. The results reveal that the overall mean rating of 2.70 and a standard deviation of 1.03 of contextual victimization among community leaders in the Davao Region is moderate. This means that the contextual victimization perception is deemed moderate among the respondents. It could be gleaned from the data that the indicators with the highest mean rating of 2.82 or high with a standard deviation of 1.13 are General Contextual Victimization followed by Contextual victimization in the neighborhood with a mean

rating of 2.77 with a standard deviation of 2.06 and Contextual victimization in recreational areas with a mean rating of 2.64 and standard deviation of 1.14 still described as moderate. Lastly, the lowest indicator is Contextual victimization in school, with a mean rating of 2.57 and a standard deviation of 1.08 displayed at a low level.

This finding exhibited that the community leaders' perception of contextual victimization is generally moderate, reflecting a moderate level of concern about potential victimization in various indicators. In addition, contextual victimization in neighborhood indicated a moderate perception where leaders are neither experiencing high levels of fear. For instance, the presence of community policing and neighborhood programs may affect how leaders perceive crime in the area (Stein & Griffith, 2015).

Table 3: Contextual Victimization

Indicators	SD	Mean	D.E.
General contextual victimization	1.13	2.82	Moderate
Contextual victimization in the neighborhood	1.06	2.77	Moderate
Contextual victimization in recreational areas	1.14	2.64	Moderate
Contextual victimization in school	1.08	2.57	Low
Overall	**1.03**	**2.70**	**Moderate**

In contrast, a low response regarding contextual victimization in schools indicated that leaders do not perceive frequent crime incidents at their schools. This suggests that a positive perception of school safety often correlates with effective safety programs and school environment. Cuellar (2016) supported this by emphasizing that schools in safe, well-maintained neighborhood with active community engagement are perceived as safer, and incidents of violence are less frequently reported.

4.4 Police Public Trust of Community Leaders
The police public trust is analyzed and interpreted based on the statistical results of the following indicators: procedural-based trust and outcome-based trust. It is reflected in Table 4 that police public trust had an overall mean of 3.84 or higher and a standard deviation of 0.73. Analyzing further, procedural-based trust and outcome-based trust both got a mean score of 3.84 or higher.

Table 4: Police Public Trust

Indicators	SD	Mean	D.E.
Procedural-based trust	0.75	3.84	High
Outcome-based trust	0.78	3.84	High
Overall	**0.73**	**3.84**	**High**

The overall result of 3.84, categorized as high, suggests that community's level of police public trust is deemed satisfactory across both procedural and outcome-based trust. This result is similar to the findings of Tyler (2021), which emphasizes that the perception of fairness in police procedures enhances police public trust and cooperation. For instance,

individuals perceive that they are respected and treated fairly, they are more likely to support and trust the police.

This is similar to the findings of Houghton *et al.* (2023) that police public trust is influenced by the effectiveness of police performance. It states that when police are successful in managing crime, emergencies, and traffic issues, leaders increase their trust. This aligned with the statement of Kochel *et al.* (2017) that effective policing fosters a higher level of police public trust.

4.5 Correlation between Peaceful Behavior and Police Public Trust

In Table 5 is presented the findings regarding the correlations between peaceful behavior and police public trust. The combined statistics yielded an overall r-value of 0.628, with a p-value below 0.05, indicating statistical significance. Thus, refuting the null hypothesis that there is no significant association. Articulating the details of the data, creating peace is correlated to: procedural- based trust with r-value of and p-value of .096 (non-significant); and outcome-based trust with r-value of .235 and p-value of .210 (non-significant).

Likewise, conflict resolution is correlated to: procedural-based trust with r-value of .439 and p-value < 0.05 (significant) and outcome-based trust with r-value of .587 and p-value- <0 .05 (significant). The same with anti-hostility is correlated to: procedural - based trust with r-value of .587 and p-value of < 0.05 (significant) and outcome-based trust with r r-value of .652 and p-value of < 0.05, which indicates statistical significance with a p-value of less than 0.05. This further suggests that the peaceful behavior of community leaders has something to do with police public trust. However, the correlation between creating peace and procedural-based trust is not significant. This implies that efforts to create peace do not have a substantial impact on how community members perceive the effectiveness of law enforcement or their perceptions of fairness and respect in interactions with law enforcement.

The results of the study confirmed the anchor theory of social control, suggesting that individuals who exhibit peaceful behavior in society are characterized by high police public trust, as they may feel more secure. This also supports the statements of (Yesberg *et al.*, 2023), which indicate that a higher level of trust is associated with a greater likelihood of engaging in peaceful behavior, as evidenced by lower rates of interpersonal conflicts, reduced involvement in crimes, and followers to societal norms.

Table 5: Significance of the Relationship between Peaceful Behavior and Police Public Trust

Peaceful Behavior	Police Public Trust		
	Procedural-based Trust	Outcome-based Trust	Overall
Creating Peace	.309 (.096)	.235 (.210)	.300 (0.107)
Conflict Resolution	.439* (0.015)	.587** (.001)	.554** (0.001)
Anti hostility	.587** (.001)	.652** (.000)	.673** (0.000)
Overall	.542** (.002)	.613** (.000)	.628** (0.000)

*Significant at 0.05 significance level.

4.6 Correlation between Fear of Crime and Police Public Trust

Table 6 presents the findings on the correlations between fear of crime and police public trust. The tests achieved an overall r-value of 0.27, with a p-value of .888, indicating non-significance. As a result, the null hypothesis of no significant association is accepted.

Articulating the details of the data, worry about crime is not significantly correlated to: procedural-based trust with r-value of .030 and p-value of .875; and outcome-based trust with r-value of -.081 with p-value f .670. Likewise, the perceived likelihood of personal crime is not significantly correlated to: procedural-based trust with r-value of .062 and a p-value of .745; and outcome-based trust with an r-value of -.033 and a p-value of .864. The same with perceived control of personal crime is not significantly correlated to: procedural - based trust with r-value of .125 and p-value of .512; and outcome-based trust with r-value of .076 and p-value of .691, and perceived consequences of personal crime, which indicates statistically non-significance with a p-value of greater than 0.05.

Table 6: Significance of the Relationship between Fear of Crime and Police Trust

Fear of Crime	Police Public Trust		
	Procedural-based Trust	Outcome-based Trust	Overall
Worry about crime	.030 (0.875)	-.081 (0.670)	-.024 (0.901)
Perceived likelihood of personal crime	.062 (0.745)	-.033 (0.864)	.019 (0.920)
Perceived control of personal crime	.125 (0.512)	.076 (0.691)	.111 (0.561)
Perceived consequences of personal crime	-.041 (0.830)	.041 (0.830)	-.004 (0.985)
Overall	.049 (0.796)	-.003 (0.988)	.027 (0.888)

*Significant at 0.05 significance level.

The analysis of the relationship between fear of crime and police public trust demonstrated a non-significant correlation, leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis. This finding contrasts with theories on victimization and social integration that increased trust in the police should correlated with a lower fear of crime, as individuals who trust the police are expected to feel more secure and less anxious about crime.

However, the result of this study is similar to the findings of Lim & Kwak (2022), who also found that fear of crime was not significantly associated with police public trust in the police. Similarly, Singer *et al.* (2019) concluded that fear of crime alone might not be a strong predictor of police public trust. Their research emphasized the influence of how fear shapes perceptions of fairness and effectiveness rather than by fear alone. These results suggest that performance, expressive, and community policing models effectively explain police public trust in law enforcement (Sun *et al.*, 2023; Nix *et al.*, 2015).

4.7 Correlation between Contextual Victimization Perception and Police Public Trust

Table 7 displays the findings about the lack of significant correlations between contextual victimization perception and police public trust. The combined measures resulted in an overall r-value of 0.337, which is statistically non-significant with a p-value of greater than 0.05. As a result, the null hypothesis, which suggests no significant relationship, was accepted.

Articulating the details of the data, general contextual victimization is not significantly correlated with procedural-based trust, showing an r-value of .194 and a p-value of .303, nor with outcome-based trust, which has an r-value of .176 and a p-value of .352.

In contrast, contextual victimization in the neighborhood is correlated with procedural-based trust, with an r-value of .430* and a p-value of .018 (significant), but it is not correlated with outcome-based trust, which has an r-value of .069 and a p-value of .716 (non-significant).

Furthermore, contextual victimization in recreational areas is correlated with procedural-based trust, showing an r-value of .486** and a p-value of .006 (significant), and outcome-based trust, which has an r-value of .033 and a p-value of .863 (non-significant). Overall, there is a significant correlation with police public trust, indicated by a p-value of .014.

Table 7: Significance of the Relationship between
Contextual Victimization Perception and Police Public Trust

Contextual Victimization Perception	Police Public Trust		
	Procedural-Based Trust	Outcome-Based Trust	Overall
General contextual victimization	.194 (0.303)	.176 (0.352)	.202 (0.284)
Contextual victimization in the neighborhood	.430* (0.018)	.069 (0.716)	.286 (0.126)
Contextual victimization in recreational areas	.486** (0.006)	.317 (0.087)	.445* (0.014)
Contextual victimization in school	.362* (0.049)	.033 (0.863)	.227 (0.227)
Overall	.427* (0.018)	.173 (0.362)	.337 (0.069)

*Significant at 0.05 significance level.

Lastly, contextual victimization in schools is correlated with procedural-based trust, with an r-value of .362* and a p-value of .049 (significant), but it is not significantly correlated with outcome-based trust, as indicated by a p-value greater than 0.05, overall, suggesting a statistically non-significant relationship.

The analysis of the relationship between the contextual victimization perception and police public trust demonstrated a non-significant correlation, leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis. This finding contrasts the theoretical framework. It also contradicts the assertion by Jones and Brown (2020) that increased trust in the police should correlate with lower levels of perceived victimization, as individuals who trust the police are more likely to feel less vulnerable to crime.

However, this study aligns with the findings of Kulachai and Cheurprakobkit (2023), who found that victimization had no association with trust in the police. They emphasize that law enforcement should prioritize improving the efficiency and effectiveness of police officers, as well as ensuring that individuals are treated equally and fairly. Additionally, addressing crime effectively is crucial for providing the community with peace of mind and fostering greater trust in the police.

Moreover, contextual victimization in the neighborhood is correlated with procedural-based trust, indicating that leaders' perceptions of police fairness and their experiences with victimization directly impact this form of trust. This suggests that when leaders experience higher levels of crime, their perceptions of the fairness of police interactions may be negatively affected. Conversely, when individuals perceive those police handle incidents fairly—being polite, patient and providing opportunities for citizens to explain their situations—trust in law enforcement may be positively influenced (Melkamu, 2023).

However, contextual victimization in the neighborhood is not correlated with outcome-based trust, which suggests that leaders' view on victimization do not significantly influence their views on the overall effectiveness of police in anti-crime

measures, handling public emergencies and service calls, and traffic enforcement. This indicates that public trust in police may remain high regardless of individual experiences with crime. Instead, police public trust could be influenced by other mediating factors such as police fairness and positive police-community relations (Brown & Hobbs, 2023).

Further, the correlation of contextual victimization in recreational areas shows significance to police public trust, particularly emphasizing procedural-based trust over outcome-based trust. This suggests that leaders' perceptions of procedural - based—such as fairness, politeness, being friendly, being patient, and openness—are more influential in shaping their trust than their views on police performance metrics, like crime rates or response times (outcome-based trust).

4.8 Best Fit Model on Police Public Trust

Table 8 presents the summary of the goodness of fit measures of the three generated models. The best-fit model was identified based on the criterion that all indices must consistently fall within the acceptable ranges. The P-value should be greater than 0.05, and the Chi-square/degrees of freedom (CMIN/DF) is greater than zero but less than 2. Further, the goodness of fit index (GFI), comparative fit index (CFI), normed fit Index, and tucker-Lewis Index should be greater than 0.95. The root-mean-square error (RMSEA) must be less than 0.05, and its corresponding P-close value must be greater than 0.05.

As seen in Model 2 when compared to Model 1, such as: CMIN/DF, from 6.959 to 6.724 but are still above the ideal range. GFI from .870 to .876 but neither meets the acceptable threshold of >0.95. CFI from 0.920 to .926, indicating a slightly better fit, but still did not achieve the acceptable value. NFI from .909 to .915, TLI from .900 to .904 and RMSEA from .117 to .0115 but were deemed not fit. Therefore, both Model 1 and Model 2 exhibit similar fit indices, with most values falling within the acceptable range. However, the RMSEA values for both models are slightly above the recommended threshold of 0.05, indicating a less-than-ideal fit.

Table 8: Summary of Goodness of Fit Measures of the Three Generated Models

Model	P-value (>0.05)	CMIN / DF (0<value<2)	GFI (>0.95)	CFI (>0.95)	NFI (>0.95)	TLI (>0.95)	RMSEA (<0.05)	P-close (>0.05)
1	.000	6.959	.870	.920	.909	.900	.117	.000
2	.000	6.724	.876	.926	.915	.904	.115	.000
3	.068	1.665	.989	.996	.990	.990	.039	.695

Legend: CMIN/DF - Chi Square/Degrees of Freedom; NFI - Normed Fit Index; GFI - Goodness of Fit Index; TLI - Tucker-Lewis Index; RMSEA - Root Mean Square of Error Approximation; CFI - Comparative Fit Index

However, Model 3, exhibited in Figure 2 shows the interrelationships of the exogenous variables: *peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and contextual victimization perception.* Furthermore, the substantial improvement among indexes was manifested in Model 3 when compared to Model 2, such as: P-Close, from .000 to .695; CMIN/DF, from 6.724 to

1.665; P-value, .000 to .065; GFI, from .876 to .989; CFI form .926 to .996; NFI, from .915 to .990; TLI, from 904 to .990 RMSEA .115 to .039 which fall within the acceptable ranges.

Figure 2: Structural Model 3 in Standardized Solution. The Interrelationship among Peaceful Behavior, Fear of Crime and Contextual Victimization Perception and their Direct Causal Relationship towards police public trust with their final remaining indicators
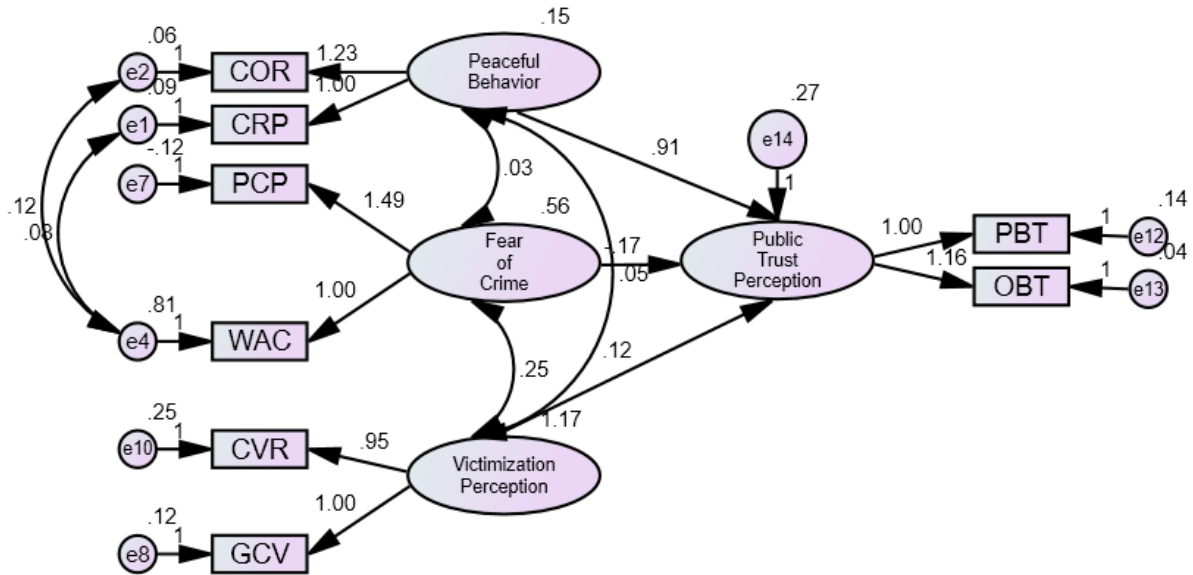
Legend: CRP - Creating Peace; GCV- General Contextual Victimization; COR – Conflict Resolution; CVN - Contextual Victimization in the Neighborhood; ANH – Anti-hostility; CVR - Contextual Victimization in Recreational Areas; Peaceful Behavior CVS - Contextual Victimization in School; Victimization Perception; WAC - Worry about Crime; PBT - Procedural-based Trust; PPC - Perceived Likelihood of Personal Crime; OBT - Outcome-based Trust; POC - Perceived Control of Personal Crime Police Public Trust; Perception PCP - Perceived Consequences of Personal Crime.

The structural modifications revealed that police public trust was well- defined by its two indicators, namely: *procedural- based trust* and *outcome- based trust*. On the other hand, peaceful behavior was pronounced by its domains: *creating peace* and conflict *resolution*, while fear of crime was determined by its remaining domain: *worry about crime and perceived consequences of personal crime*. Finally, contextual victimization perception was determined by its retained domains, namely: *general contextual victimization* and *contextual victimization in recreational areas*. Model 3 was found to have indices that consistently direct a very good fit to the data because all the indices presented fall within each criterion, as shown in Table 9. Hence, there was no necessity to seek an alternative model for testing as it had already been determined to be the best fit among all the models that were evaluated. Thus, the null hypothesis that there is no best-fit model was rejected.

It could be specified that Model 3 is a best-fit model that predicts the police public trust among community leaders in the region. The model undoubtedly demonstrates the vitality of peaceful behavior, fear of crime, and contextual victimization perception as predictors of police public trust.

The results of this study reinforce the findings that police public trust is predicted by peaceful behavior. Among the different domains of community leaders' peaceful behavior, only two—creating peace and conflict resolution—were found to significantly affect police public trust. Additionally, the findings indicate that communities characterized by high levels of peaceful interactions tend to exhibit stronger police public trust.

This aligns with the anchor theory of social control, which suggests that individuals who engage in peaceful behavior are less likely to deviate from societal norms, resulting in stronger relationships between the community and law enforcement. These relationships are characterized by high police public trust and effective community policing (Widowaty, 2019).

Furthermore, this supports the first proposition relating peaceful behavior to police public trust, which states that a higher level of trust within the community is associated with a greater likelihood of engaging in peaceful behavior. This is evidenced by lower rates of interpersonal conflicts, reduced involvement in crimes, and higher adherence to societal norms (Yesber *et al.*, 2021).

Subsequently, just two of the four measures of fear of crime namely: worry about crime and perceived consequences of personal crime, remain as predictors of police public trust. This is congruent with the findings of Sampiao (2019) that leaders who are worried about crime can negatively affect police public trust. Meaning, that when individuals are concerned about crime, they may perceive their community as unsafe, leading to public distrust. Hence, the result suggests that as worry about crime increases, police public trust is likely to decrease. Similarly, when individuals perceive that the consequences of personal crime are severe- such as potential harm to themselves or their families- they may feel more vulnerable and distrust police (Crowl & Battin, 2016).

Further, two of the four indicators of contextual victimization perception namely: general contextual victimization and contextual victimization in recreational areas, remain as predictors of police public trust. This suggests that when leaders perceive high levels of general contextual victimization, it may result in public distrust, as individuals may believe that police are ineffective in crime prevention and solution and public safety (Nix *et al.*, 2014). Conversely, if leaders perceive a safe environment with a low level of victimization, police public trust is likely to be stronger (Shahbazov *et al.*, 2023).

The findings regarding contextual victimization in recreational areas indicate that the perceived safety of these spaces directly influences police public trust. Specifically, when leaders perceive a high number of crimes in parks or public areas, their trust in the police may be adversely affected (Makinde, 2020).

4.9 Regression Weights of the 3 Generated Model

Displayed in Table 10.1 are the results of three regression models examining the factors that influence the endogenous variable. In Model 3, the weight for three exogenous variables continues to increase. This model highlights the strongest positive impact of peaceful behavior on police public trust, while fear of crime and contextual victimization

perception still have impacts on endogenous variable but might be weaker than in the other models.

Table 10.1: Regression Weights of the 3 Generated Models

Model	Exogenous Variables to Endogenous Variable		
	Peaceful Behavior	Fear of Crime	Victimization Perception
1	.879***	-.151***	.140***
2	.888***	-.161***	.144***
3	.909***	-.169***	.122***

* $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$, *** $p=0.000$

Presented in Table 10.2 is the covariances from the best-fit model for Group number 1-Best Fit Model. The covariance between fear of crime and victimization perception is estimated at .247 (S.E. = .061), indicating a statistically significant relationship ($p < .001$). This implies that higher levels of fear of crime are strongly associated with increased perceptions of victimization. The covariance between peaceful behavior and victimization perception is .048 (S.E. = .023, $p = .037$), showing a positive association; as perceptions of victimization increase, there is a slight increase in peaceful behavior. In contrast, the covariance between peaceful behavior and fear of crime is .027 (S.E. = .016, $p = .081$), suggesting a weaker relationship that is close to being statistically significant.

Overall, the significant covariance between fear of crime and contextual victimization perception suggests that individuals who perceive themselves as being more victimized are also more likely to fear crime.

Table 10.2: Covariances: (Group number 1 – Best Fit Model)

Variables			Estimates	S.E.	P-value
Fear of Crime	<-->	Victimization Perception	.247	.061	***
Peaceful Behavior	<-->	Victimization Perception	.048	.023	.037
Peaceful Behavior	<-->	Fear of Crime	.027	.016	.081

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn: the results of this study suggest that the community leaders demonstrate a high level of peaceful behavior It is recommended that law enforcement agencies enhance programs focused on creating peace, conflict resolution, and anti-hostility as part of their community-building activities to foster trust, understanding, and cooperation such as "barangay check-in", which is a proactive initiative where police may conduct regular visits to barangays, leveraging online platforms to interact with residents, participate in community activities, and collaborate with local leaders to address issues.

Also, PNP may recognize design training, specifically for those personnel assigned in barangays, to include training on conflict resolution, effective communication, and community engagement to cover areas of cultural competency and awareness that focus on understanding community demographics.

The result showed that fear of crime got higher level with worry about crime being the highest. To reduce fear of crime, the PNP and local government may conduct community surveys and meetings with community leaders to identify specific causes of fear. Whether informal (like neighbourly relationships) or formal (like police presence), social control can significantly impact fear of crime. Strengthening neighborhood watch programs and fostering community relationships can enhance informal social control while ensuring police presence and responsiveness can reinforce formal social control.

Further, the result on the level of contextual victimization displayed a moderate level response. To address contextual victimization, PNP may include community awareness campaigns that educate leaders about crime prevention and safety measures, as well as hosting community forums to discuss concerns and solutions.

Also, the result showed a high level of public trust in the police. To enhance the level from satisfactory to very satisfactory, PNP may continue to enhance community connections that are expected to increase community engagement and cooperation in crime prevention, strengthen relationships between leaders and the PNP, and enhance perceptions of safety, ultimately leading to a reduction in fear of crime and victimization. Moreover, findings revealed a correlation between peaceful behavior and police public trust. Further, fear of crime and police public trust were discovered to be not associated. Finally, a non-correlation between contextual victimization and police public trust was observed. Further, Model 3 best fits the public trust of the police in the Davao Region. The regression analysis indicates a strong and increasing positive relationship between exogenous and peaceful behavior, while fear of crime can lead to less peaceful behavior and the influence of victimization perception decreases over time. Also, the covariance analysis shows a strong positive relationship between fear of crime and victimization perception, a weaker positive link between peaceful behavior and victimization perception, and a nearly significant but weak connection between peaceful behavior and fear of crime.

Thus, this suggests that the local government and PNP may focus on community-based conflict resolution programs, improving public safety measures, and providing support services to the victim and community. The findings of the study provide compelling support to the anchor theory of social control (Yesber, Brunton-Smith, and Bradford, 2023), but the findings do not support the theories on victimization and social integration, which posits that increased trust in the police should correlate with lower levels of fear and perceived victimization.

Lastly, it is also recommended that researchers validate the results of this study with a broader scope of respondents or settings. They may also explore other variables, methods, and tools to increase social understanding of the undercurrents and mechanisms of police public trust, which will become the strong basis for the development of community strategies and initiatives that foster trust.

Conflict of Interest Statement

No conflict of Interest of the part of the researcher was hidden, except that the main motive of the study is to augment the educational attainment of the researcher to continue serving the people more effectively.

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