## Korespondensi Syarat Khusus <u>Pengajuan Jabatan Fungsional Lektor Kepala</u>

Sofft Skills Teacher Camp of Adventure Training to Increase Teachers Commitment in Pathani Thailand

## Bukti Submit :



## Revisi :



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# Softskills teacher camp of adventure training to increase teachers' commitment in Pathani Thailand

#### Abstract

Commitment is useful for teachers to survive in conflict areas. This is because the psychological commitment of the teacher is used to overcome various obstacles while teaching in conflict areas. his study aimed to increase teacher commitment in the Pathani conflict area, Southern Thailand, through Soft Skills Teacher Camp of Adventure Training. The soft skills training consists of motivation, stress management, creativity, teamwork, communication skills, and leadership. A quantitative approach using a quasi-experimental method was used in this study. Thirty teachers from six schools with the maximum age of 35 years were participated. The commitment scale consisting of three aspects: affective commitment, normative commitment, and continuance commitment was used to collect the data. Paired Sample *t*-test was used to analyse the data. The result highlighted a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test scores of teachers' commitment in the Pathani, Southern Thailand. These findings imply that the Soft Skills Teacher Camp of Adventure Training increase the commitment of teachers who teach in the Pathani. Southern Thailand. The implication of the results of this study is that soft skills can increase the commitment of teachers to teach in conflict areas. Commitment becomes the psychological skills of teachers to overcome obstacles during teaching in conflict areas.

Keywords: commitment, soft skills, teacher

#### Introduction

Pathani has historical roots as the land of the Malay Archipelago of the North. The Kingdom of Thailand is at the center of the spread of Islam in Southern Thailand. Since 1785 the kingdom has been ruled by the Kingdom of Siam. History showed that the Government of Thailand later controls the Kingdom of Siam. The occupation of the Thai Government, which has different beliefs with the majority of the Pathani people, has been challenged by the Pathani people (Buenae, 2017).

Research has shown that the diverse religious practices between the Pathani people and most Thai people have contributed to the dynamic of conflict in Southern Thailand (Engvall & Anderson, 2014). Other studies have noted that the differing belief between the Pathanis and general public in Thailand also causes conflict to arise (Harish, 2006). There is a resistance because the government is trying to assimilate cultures and religions that are different from the culture of the Pathani people (Pongsudhirak, 2006).

The conflict that took place in Pathani impacts the level of commitment of teachers who teach at Pathani, with teachers fearing the implication of having to teach in conflict areas. Teachers do not want to be victims of the ongoing conflict. As a result, the Pathani conflict area experienced a shortage of teachers. One of the incidents triggered teachers to leave Pathani was arson on school buildings causing damage to facilities and infrastructure, preventing it from being used for educational activities. Previous reports that highlighted that 200 teachers died as victims of violence during the conflict also resulting teachers prefer to stay at home to avoid acts of violence and to stay safe (Buenae, 2017).

Besides the unsafe situation, another factor that contribute to teachers' unwilling to teach in the Pathani conflict area is due to pressure from the government. The authorities installed Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in schools. The teacher's behavior is monitored by the CCTV, causing teachers to feel that their freedom to teach becomes constraint. Teachers are anxious of making mistakes and being recorded via CCTV. Records were used as evidence of punishing teachers for their actions when they are considered to provoke students to go against the government (Buenae, 2017).

The government's lack of appreciation for the teaching profession further strengthens the desire to leave Pathani. This can be seen by teachers not being given a fair reward. Teachers are paid in minimal amounts, not receiving additional allowances to teach in conflict areas, nor security protection (Buenae, 2017).

Commitment can be understood as individual psychological reactions to their work. A person who is highly committed to his/her work will give an emotional, psychological reaction, as shown in his/her liking or love for his/her work (Lee, Ashford, Walsh, & Mowday (2000). Commitment can also be explained as a psychological strength, self-identification, and positive feelings towards the job (Ibrahim, Ghavifekr, Ling, Siraj, & Azeez, 2013). Commitment can foster love for one's work, psychological strength, and positive feelings, further encouraging teachers to continue teaching in conflict areas. Research evidence showed that commitment could strengthen the role of individuals in their work (Park, Long, Choe, & Schallert, 2018).

Commitment to pursuing the profession as a teacher may be increased through softskills training. Soft skills are psychological abilities and competencies that are manifested through personality characteristics to be optimistic in every situation including motivation, stress management, creativity, teamwork, communication skills, and leadership (Attakorn, Tayut, Pisitthawat, & Kanokorn, 2014; Kanokorn, Pongtorn, & Sujanya, 2014; Ngang, Hashim, & Yunus, 2015; Ngang, Yie, & Shahid, 2015; Crawford, Weber, & Lee, 2020; Dubey & Tiwari, 2020).

Motivation as one of the softskills is the driving force, energy, enthusiasm, and passion for doing work in challenging situations, that can foster teacher commitment to work in challenging areas such as conflict areas (Fernet, Trepanier, Austin, & Cote, 2016; Altintas, Karaca, Moustafa, & Haj, 2020). Stress management is the part of soft skills that developed commitment by understanding of stresses, events, overload, and daily problems related to the work, so that can be managed properly. Good stress management will grow a commitment to remain devoted to the work (Ly, Asplund, & Andersson, 2014; Smyth, Healy, & Lydon, 2015). Creativity is a mental process of developing ideas or solutions when facing problems, by producing various alternative concepts to obtain answers and problem-solving strategies. Creativity builds the commitment of by develop ideas, find alternative solutions to problems, and find answers to problems to become educators (Mukherjee, Singh, & Mehrotra, 2016). While teamwork influences the commitment as an effort to involve individuals to contribute to the group producing optimal performance (Neininger, Lehmann-Willenbrock, & Henschel, 2010; Le Blanc & González-Romá, 2012). Communication skills are important to develop commitment as it fosters open interaction, mutual understanding, and friendship. Communication is useful for relations with students, peers, and leaders who love and strengthen each other in interpersonal relationships (Park, Lee, Lee, & Truex, 2012; Raina & Roebuck, 2016). Leadership also contributes to forming teacher commitment through the responsibility of influencing others to achieve common goals (Kim, Magnusen, Andrew, & Stoll, 2012; Jackson, Meyer, & Wang, 2013; Steffens, Fonseca, Ryan, Stoker, & Pieterse, 2018; Liu & Werblow, 2019).

Previous studies showed that soft skills training is effective in influencing the quality of teachers in carrying out their profession (Gillies, 2004; Cimermanova, 2015; Ngang & Chan, 2015; Ngang, Yunus, & Hashim, 2015; Colella, Bisanzo, Farquhar, Nambaziira, Carter,

Gimbel, & O'Malley, 2019). Previous research showed soft skills training with TCA increased the commitment of remote area teachers in Indragiri Hilir, Riau, Indonesia (Amiruddin, 2017). Based on this finding, the TCA model soft skills training was able to increase teachers' commitment in remote areas, which was subsequently applied to strengthen teacher commitment in Pathani, Thailand. Therefore this study focus on soft skills training to increase teacher commitment in Pathani through Teacher Camp of Adventure Training (TCA).

#### Method

#### Research Design

This study used a quasi-experimental design with experiments with a one-group pretestposttest design (Chu, Lin, Tung, & Clinciu, 2020).. Teacher Camp of Adventure is an outdoor training specifically designed to increase the commitment of teachers through experiential learning. The Teacher Camp of Adventure training was modified from previous research conducted by Amiruddin (2017).

#### Participants

Thirty teachers from Six Schools in the Pathani, Thailand with maximum age 35 years old participated in this study. Demographics participants consisted of 24 women and 6 men. The background of the participants was experienced teaching for at least 1 year, being a classroom teacher, and a teacher in the field of study. The teacher has the status of a non-permanent teacher, foundation teacher, and government teacher.

#### Data Collection

The teacher commitment scale was used to collect the data collection in the pretest and posttest stages. This scale consists of 27 items in three aspects: affective commitment, normative commitment, and continuance commitment (Allen, & Meyer, 1996; Meyer, Stanley, Herscovitch, & Topolnytsky, 2002). An example of an affective commitment item is "Continue to teach in conflict areas despite emotional distress." An example of the normative commitment aspect is "Even though I teach in conflict areas, I feel guilty when I am unable to grow students' character." An example of the item of continuance commitment is "Despite the limited rewards of teaching in conflict areas, I still try to educate students as well as possible." The scale had an alpha reliability coefficient ( $\alpha$ ) of 0.873 with a range of item discrimination index between 0.379 - 0.873.

#### **Research Procedure**

First, participants filled the teacher commitment scale as pretest. Pre test is given 2 days before giving treatment.Following by the implementation of the Teacher Camp of Adventure training. Participants were asked to work on the learning contracts before the first session of training that was communication skills through the game "Finding Missing Families". Based on the game, participants were taught about effective communication skills for teachers. Second session of training was motivation skills using the game "Who Am I?" follow by a debrief about having motivation as a useful soft skill for teachers in conflict areas. Third session of training was stress management that delivered through the game "Self Reflection" to develop stress management as a psychological force on persisting to teach in conflict areas. The fourth session was leadership skills conducted by the game "Train Ball" with an explanation the importance of leadership and carrying out the task as a teacher. The game "Moving Boom" was used to teach about teamwork in fifth session of the training follow by debrief about how teamwork could support teachers' performance. The last session was creativity deliver through the game "Speed and Creative" to show the importance of creativity for teachers. After the

treatment was given, participants were then asked to complete the posttest.Post test was given 6 days after giving treatment.

#### **Data Analysis**

Data were analyzed using Paired Sample *t*-test with the Statistics Product and Service Solution (SPSS) program in Version 20.

Results

The result shows that there is a significant differences in the pretest and post-est scores of teacher commitment (t = -7.794; p <0.01) The mean of posttest is significantly higher than the mean of pretest. Based on the result soft skills training through Teacher Camp of Adventure (TCA) training incrase the commitment of teachers in Pathani. Table 1 shows mean, std. deviasi, t, and sig, Graph 1 shows mean pretest and posttest, and Graph. 2 shows compare score pretest and posttest graph.

Table 1				
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#### Graph 1 Mean Pretest and posttest graph







#### Discussion

Softskills training consists of motivation, stress management, creativity, teamwork, communication skills, and leadership increase the teacher commitment. This findings confirm the previous research on the importance of softskills for teachers (Fleischmann, 2013; Pachauri, & Yadav, 2014; Somprach, Popoonsak, & Sombatteera, 2014). Each of softskills component that have been delivered though the Teacher Camp of Adventure training contribute to the increasing of commitment among teachers.

Communication skills increase the commitment aspects of normative commitment and affective commitment (Matin, Jandaghi, Karimi, & Hamidizadeh, 2010). The development of teachers' communication skills into more positive, flexible, and open that will effect the teachers' self-adjusted, passionate attitudes, and also the skills to manage interactions with leaders, fellow teachers, students, and stakeholders (Mohd Yusof & Halim, 2014; Yeşil, 2010). Soft skills were able to foster normative commitment, namely positive attitude, openness, self-adjustment, and the skill to manage interactions to form a moral obligation to serve the profession (Meyer & Parfyonova, 2010). Communication skills also affected the increase in affective commitment, namely the flexibility of interaction and passion for working to build value in maintaining the quality of education (Ghouri, Akhtar, Shahbaz, & Shabbir, 2019; Tang & Vandenberghe, 2020).

Motivational skills that contained several indicators that are responsible, open to new challenges, wanting better achievements, and trying to obtain optimal results (Brandstätter, Schüler, Puca, & Lozo, 2018; Han & Yin, 2016). Motivation skills increase teachers' commitment by enhancing the continuance commitment that is to continue to carry out their duties and the affective commitment to affirm values in self as teachers to educate students (Canrinus, Helms-Lorenz, Beijaard, Buitink, & Hofman, 2012).

. Stress management as the ability to self-identify stress is an essential when individuals experience pressure to carry out tasks by doing positive coping strategies to adequately overcome stress (Jamal, Zahra, Yaseen, & Nasreen, 2017; Herman, Reinke, & Eddy, 2020). Stress management skills made individuals persistent on duty indicating continuance commitment (Sarwar & Sarfraz, 2016). Skills in managing stress can strengthen teacher's values (affective commitment) when experiencing problems regarding work in conflict areas (Dharmanegara, Yogiarta, & Komang, 2018). Therefore stress management increase commitment, specifically continuance commitment and affective commitment

With leadership, teachers have high responsibility, carrying out activities that have a positive role in the environment, a strong influence on colleagues, and having an advantage in influencing others (Aydin, Sarier, & Uysal, 2013). The leadership skill strengthens

commitment in terms of developing discipline, responsibility, fostering enthusiasm, building self-confidence, and being able to be a role model to others. These indicators contributed to the forming of commitment, specifically affective and normative commitment (Ross, Lutfi, & Hope, 2016; Liu, Loi, & Ngo, 2018).

Teamwork skills were also given at the TCA training aiming at increasing teacher commitment. With teamwork skills, teachers have an awareness of doing the task as a shared responsibility, contributing to each other in solving problems, maximizing the potential, and willingness to share with the group (Shen & Bai, 2019). These indicators could increase teacher commitment (Moses, Berry, Saab, & Admiraal, 2017). Ability to work as a team was able to foster teacher commitment due to the ability to handle various problems on duty. Teachers were able to solve problems because the problems they faced were shared responsibilities, in which each one on them contributed to the solution of the problem. Such dynamics shaped the commitment of teachers to continue teaching.

Creativity was the last delivered in TCA soft skills training. Individuals with good creativity were able to carry out thought processes in looking for alternative to solve problems, exhibit more problem-solving ideas, have new ideas, and carried out evaluations of problem-solving decisions (Jónsdóttir, 2017; Paek & Sumners, 2019). Such abilities may increase commitment. The ability to find various ways to overcome the problem, achieve adequate knowledge when facing problems, find solutions to obstacles, and provide evaluation aimed at making improvements to previous decisions enabled teachers to solve problems regarding work. Such dynamics explained why teachers who are highly committed overcome various problems experienced while teaching.

Limitation in this study is the absence of a control group. Another limitation is that the implementation of pretest and post test is less than ideal. This is because the time spent in research is short with safety considerations. Future research is suggested to further deepen teacher commitment to organizations and countries. Another thing that needs to be added in research is hardiness personality, well being, resilience, and coping. This variable is useful as a psychological skill to persist in teaching in conflict areas.

#### Conclusion

The commitment of teachers who teach in the Pathani, Southern Thailand was increased by involving the Soft Skills Teacher Camp of Adventure Training. The soft skills training consists of motivation, stress management, creativity, teamwork, communication skills, and leadership has been proven escalate the commitment of teachers. Therefore the Teacher Camp of Adventure Training can be use as a way to enhance the commitment among workers, especially teacher.

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