



Enhancing Pramuka Saka Bahari's Role in Strengthening Indonesia's Maritime Security

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Abstract

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Purpose: To optimise the role of Pramuka Saka Bahari in enhancing maritime security by examining its potential contributions to the defence system of the world's largest archipelagic state, Indonesia, and addressing the urgency of integrating youth organisations into national maritime defence strategies.

Study Design/Methodology/Approach: A qualitative methodology applied a systematic literature review to evaluate challenges, identify influencing factors, and propose strategies to enhance Pramuka Saka Bahari's effectiveness. Data were sourced from peer-reviewed articles, policy documents, and reports published between 2010 and 2023.

Findings: Pramuka Saka Bahari contributes to maritime security by fostering maritime awareness, providing navigation training, and promoting marine environmental education. It equips youth with essential skills to address traditional and non-traditional security threats. Challenges include resource constraints, limited coordination with maritime agencies, inadequate training programmes, and low public awareness. Strategies include developing a maritime security curriculum, improving inter-agency collaboration, implementing coastal surveillance initiatives, enhancing mentor training, and increasing public awareness through targeted campaigns.

Originality/Value: Highlights the strategic importance of revitalising Pramuka Saka Bahari through integrated and innovative approaches. Recommendations aim to optimise its role in fostering a sustainable and inclusive maritime security framework, ensuring national sovereignty and resilience in the face of evolving maritime challenges.

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INTRODUCTION

The maritime domain is vital for national security, economic sustainability, and geopolitical stability, making maritime security essential for resilience. Indonesia, as the world's largest archipelagic state, encounters intricate challenges in safeguarding its vast maritime territories. Traditional threats, including territorial disputes, continue to pose substantial risks. Furthermore, the rise of non-traditional security threats, such as illegal fishing, piracy, and environmental degradation, has compounded the complexities of the maritime security landscape in the region (Bueger & Edmunds, 2017; Sukma, 2010). The extensive geographical expanse of Indonesia, with over 17,000 islands and vast exclusive economic zones, necessitates comprehensive and innovative strategies to ensure effective maritime defence (Romero, 2024).

Government initiatives to enhance maritime security have predominantly focused on formal institutions, such as the navy and coast guard. Although essential, these measures often overlook the strategic contributions of youth organisations in strengthening maritime defence (Pramukadelta.org, 2023). Pramuka Saka Bahari, a specialised unit within the Scout movement focused on maritime activities, holds significant untapped potential (Batari, 2023; Semedi, 2011). However, the organisation's limited alignment with national maritime security objectives has marginalised its role. Weak partnerships between Pramuka Saka Bahari and relevant government agencies further constrain its impact (Laksmana, 2018). In addition, the lack of public awareness about the crucial role of youth participation in maritime security significantly limits opportunities for broader involvement and engagement in maritime security sector

The limited involvement of youth organisations in national maritime strategies underscores a critical gap in safeguarding Indonesia's maritime interests. Most previous studies have centred on the formal responsibilities of state institutions, neglecting the strategic importance of non-state actors, including youth organisations. Encouraging youth participation in maritime defence policies not only addresses this gap but also fosters innovation, resilience, and inclusivity within national defence strategies. This research evaluates the role of Pramuka Saka Bahari and examines how its activities can be optimised to enhance Indonesia's maritime security framework (Sukma, 2010).

This study aims to contribute to academic discourse by proposing a framework for youth engagement that aligns with Indonesia's defence policies. Such a framework could provide a valuable reference for other archipelagic nations facing comparable challenges. The research investigates how youth organisations, particularly Pramuka Saka Bahari, can be effectively integrated into Indonesia's national maritime defence strategies to

address both traditional and non-traditional security threats while simultaneously enhancing national resilience.

Literature Review

Maritime security constitutes a fundamental pillar in safeguarding Indonesia's sovereignty, stability, and economic sustainability. Theories on maritime security emphasise the importance of adopting comprehensive strategies that integrate non-governmental actors, such as local communities, to enhance surveillance capabilities and encourage shared responsibility (Putnam and Nicotera, 2009). Youth empowerment theories underline the critical role of structured programmes, such as Pramuka Saka Bahari, in fostering leadership and civic responsibility to support national defence objectives. Collaboration theories further advocate for integrating formal institutions, such as the navy and coast guard, with non-governmental organisations to improve operational effectiveness and maritime resilience.

Current State of Maritime Security in Indonesia

Indonesia's maritime security faces enduring threats that include both traditional and non-traditional challenges {Formatting Citation}. Traditional issues, such as territorial disputes in the North Natuna Sea, undermine national sovereignty and regional stability, necessitating a balanced approach involving military readiness and diplomatic engagement. Non-traditional threats, including illegal fishing, piracy, and environmental degradation, complicate the maritime defence landscape. Bueger and Edmunds, (2017) highlight the economic and social consequences of these threats, which disrupt coastal livelihoods and demand community-based, technology-driven responses. Existing strategies remain predominantly militarised, often overlooking the potential of grassroots actors like youth organisations, which could play a transformative role in fostering a more inclusive and adaptive maritime security framework.

Youth Organisations' Contribution to Maritime Security

Youth organisations hold substantial potential to address maritime security challenges through innovative, community-focused strategies. Pramuka Saka Bahari, for example, serves as a platform for maritime education, awareness campaigns, and environmental conservation. These activities align with maritime security theories that emphasise localised solutions for bolstering national resilience. By engaging in community surveillance, information gathering, and collaborative activities, youth organisations enhance situational awareness and contribute to the effective management of maritime threats. Integrating these organisations into formal defence strategies bridges

the divide between top-down policies and grassroots implementation, creating a more inclusive maritime security approach.

Challenges in Engaging Youth Organisations

Despite their potential, youth organisations face significant challenges that limit their integration into maritime defence strategies. Constraints such as inadequate funding, poor coordination, and the lack of specialised training reduce their operational effectiveness. Collaboration theories stress the importance of clear policy frameworks to facilitate coordination between formal institutions and grassroots organisations. A review of existing literature reveals substantial gaps in research on the contributions of youth organisations, such as Pramuka Saka Bahari, to national defence. Studies as exemplified Hamidah and Saefudin (2018) offer insights into the organisational culture of Saka Bahari; however, further research is needed to explore their specific contributions to maritime security. Additionally, Habsari et al., (2022) discuss professionalism in national defence but do not explore how youth movements can be mobilised to support such efforts. To overcome these challenges, targeted interventions are required to build institutional synergy and provide the necessary resources for youth organisations to participate effectively in maritime security.

Strategies to Enhance Youth Engagement

Strengthening the role of youth organisations in maritime security demands strategic interventions focusing on capacity building, awareness campaigns, and enhanced collaboration. Training in digital literacy equips youth with skills to leverage modern surveillance and reporting technologies, while public awareness initiatives underscore their contributions to national defence. Collaboration theories recommend formal partnerships between youth organisations and government agencies, incorporating shared objectives, regular capacity-building programmes, and inclusive policy-making processes. These strategies empower youth organisations and ensure their sustainable integration into national maritime security frameworks, enabling them to address traditional and non-traditional threats effectively (Pradana et al., 2024).

Gaps in Indonesia's Maritime Security Strategies

Reliance on militarisation as the primary maritime security strategy in Indonesia has created gaps in addressing broader challenges that demand community and youth engagement. Limited integration of non-traditional actors, such as youth organisations, reduces the potential for inclusive and innovative solutions. Collaboration theories emphasise the advantages of combining military efforts with community-based approaches by leveraging local knowledge and resources. A systematic review of

publications from 2017 to 2023 indicates growing interest in digital literacy and national resilience, yet few studies directly connect these themes to maritime defence strategies (Pradana et al., 2024; Sarjito, 2024). Exploring the role of Pramuka Saka Bahari as a youth-driven initiative and integrating grassroots actors into defence frameworks can foster a more resilient and sustainable maritime security strategy for Indonesia.

METHODS

The research design is qualitative, grounded in postpositivist philosophy, and utilises inductive reasoning to develop descriptive insights. A systematic literature review methodology was chosen for its capability to synthesise a wide range of diverse sources, effectively addressing the research questions. This approach is particularly relevant for exploring the potential role of Pramuka Saka Bahari in enhancing Indonesia's maritime security, as it integrates theoretical perspectives with empirical findings (Creswell and Creswell, 2017). Data were systematically collected through document studies from various journal databases, using keywords such as "maritime security," "youth organisations," and "Indonesia's maritime defence." The review focused on publications from 2010 to 2023, excluding works in languages other than English or Indonesian and those deemed irrelevant to the research objectives (Sugiyono, 2019).

To ensure validity and reliability, thematic analysis followed Braun and Clarke, (2006) six-phase framework, encompassing familiarisation, coding, theme identification, theme review, theme naming, and report writing. Reliability was further enhanced by involving two independent researchers in the coding process, ensuring inter-coder reliability and minimising bias (Miles, 2014; Miles and Vaisey, 2014).

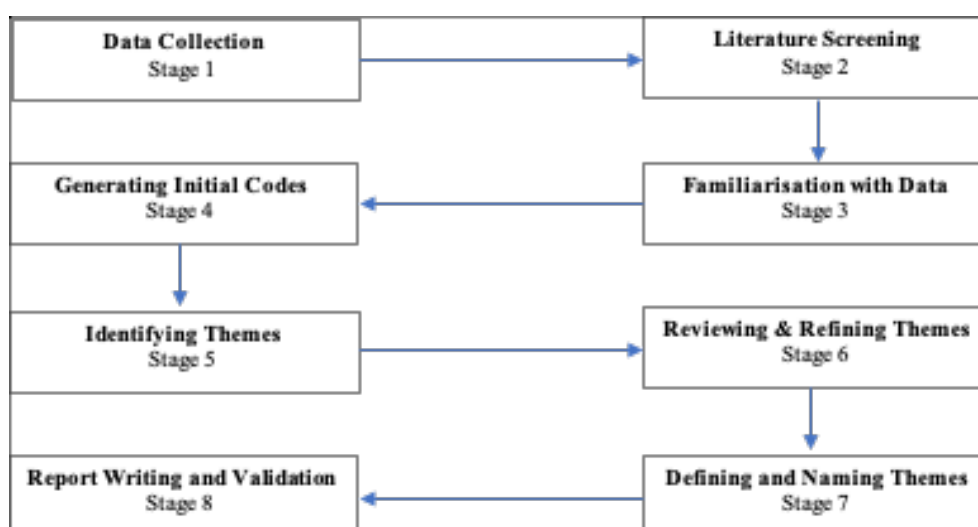


Figure 1. Methodology Stages for Systematic Literature Review

The methodological framework, as outlined in Figure 1, includes detailed stages. Data collection commenced with identifying relevant sources through precise keyword searches across established databases. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were rigorously applied during literature screening to ensure the quality and relevance of selected materials. Researchers engaged in intensive familiarisation with the materials to identify patterns, recurring themes, and gaps aligned with the research objectives. Key concepts were systematically coded and grouped into broader themes, such as leadership, collaboration, and policy gaps. These themes underwent critical review and refinement to ensure coherence and eliminate redundancies. Each theme was then defined and named to reflect its importance in addressing the research questions. Finally, findings were synthesised into a structured report, with reliability strengthened through cross-validation by multiple researchers. This comprehensive and rigorous methodological process ensures actionable insights into integrating youth organisations into maritime defence strategies.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis provides analytical insights into the role of Pramuka Saka Bahari in strengthening Indonesia maritime security by linking findings with relevant theories and literature, focus on gaps, and offering actionable strategies. These findings address the research question by demonstrating how youth organisations contribute effectively to national maritime defence strategies while aligning with Indonesia broader security objectives.

Potential of Saka Bahari in Maritime Security

Pramuka Saka Bahari enhances maritime awareness by equipping youth with essential skills and aligning its activities with national security doctrines. Structured programmes, including navigation training, marine environmental education, and maritime awareness initiatives, cultivate a maritime-oriented mindset among its members (Martiningsih, 2021). These initiatives align with Bueger and Edmunds (2017) argument that community-driven contributions play a critical role in improving maritime domain awareness. For instance, youth involvement enables early warning systems in coastal areas, addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats effectively.

The integration of local fishermen as intelligence contributors strengthens maritime security strategies. A case study in Kendari waters highlights how targeted training empowers fishermen to identify and report illegal activities such as illegal fishing and trafficking Seputro and Soelistiyanto, (2021). The collaboration between Saka Bahari and

local fishing communities exemplifies a successful model of shared responsibility that reinforces state defence capabilities. By combining youth engagement and community participation, Indonesia establishes a resilient maritime security framework that integrates non-traditional actors in protecting its waters and resources.

Challenges in Optimising Saka Bahari's Role

Pramuka Saka Bahari demonstrates substantial potential to contribute meaningfully to Indonesia's maritime security by promoting youth engagement, enhancing maritime awareness, and equipping its members with essential skills. This potential arises from its strategic position as a youth organisation capable of mobilising grassroots efforts and supporting national defence initiatives. However, Saka Bahari faces numerous challenges that hinder its ability to fully optimise this potential.

Limited financial and human resources constrain its operational capacity, which is a common challenge faced by youth-led initiatives. Without adequate funding and manpower, the organisation struggles to implement comprehensive programmes and expand its reach. Additionally, weak integration with key maritime security agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy and BAKAMLA (Indonesian Maritime Security Agency), further undermines its ability to coordinate effectively and achieve operational Synergy. As Germond and Mazaris (2019) highlight, institutional collaboration is essential for strengthening maritime security. Nevertheless, this aspect remains underdeveloped in the case of Saka Bahari, which limits its full contribution to national defence strategies.

Furthermore, the absence of specialised training modules tailored to maritime security prevents Saka Bahari from aligning its activities with national strategic objectives (Martiningsih, 2021). Public awareness campaigns frequently overlook the strategic importance of youth contributions to maritime security. This oversight limits societal recognition and support, resulting in insufficient resource allocation for Saka Bahari's initiatives (Prasetyo and Suseto, 2023).

Factors Affecting Saka Bahari's Effectiveness

Several factors influence Saka Bahari's contribution to maritime security. Although Indonesia's Law No. 40 of 2009 on Youth provides a framework for youth engagement, specific policies addressing maritime security remain insufficient. Collaborative partnerships with state institutions play a pivotal role in strengthening Saka Bahari's capacity, enabling integrated surveillance and communication to enhance operational effectiveness.

Strategies for Optimisation

To maximise Saka Bahari's contributions, it is crucial to develop specialised maritime security training modules that enhance practical skills and address knowledge gaps. Strengthened partnerships with institutions such as the Indonesian Navy and Bakamla, combined with the integration of advanced surveillance technologies, can significantly improve maritime domain awareness (Chintoan-uta and Silva, 2016; Chintoan-Uta and Silva, 2017). Public awareness campaigns and mentor capacity-building initiatives are equally important to ensure programme sustainability and alignment with national security objectives (Rahman et al., 2021). By optimising knowledge and skills through these strategies, Saka Bahari can overcome challenges and play a tangible role in enhancing Indonesia's maritime security.

CONCLUSION

The analysis highlights the vital role of Pramuka Saka Bahari in strengthening Indonesia's maritime security through active youth engagement. By fostering maritime awareness and equipping youth with practical skills, Saka Bahari contributes significantly to the nation's security framework and the development of a maritime-oriented national identity. Despite challenges such as limited resources and weak integration with key maritime agencies, it underscores the importance of youth organisations and maritime education as strategic measures to address both traditional and non-traditional maritime threats. The findings reinforce the need to empower youth as critical contributors to Indonesia's maritime resilience while supporting national defence objectives.

To build upon these findings, it recommends developing comprehensive frameworks to enhance coordination between Pramuka Saka Bahari and formal maritime institutions, including the Indonesian Navy and Bakamla. Establishing targeted policies to institutionalise youth involvement in maritime defence is equally crucial. Future research should explore the long-term impacts of Saka Bahari's initiatives on youth career trajectories and their contributions to the maritime sector. Comparative studies with successful youth maritime programmes in other countries could offer valuable insights for improving Indonesia's maritime defence strategies. Additionally, raising public awareness of the strategic role of youth in maritime security and ensuring sustained investment in capacity-building initiatives will further strengthen Indonesia's maritime security framework.

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