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## Strengthening National Security through a Unified National Identity: The Role of Cultural and Moral Consensus

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### Abstract

**Aim:** This research investigates the role of cultural and moral consensus in strengthening national security through a unified national identity in the Philippines. The study aims to explore how shared cultural symbols, traditions, values, and moral frameworks contribute to national cohesion, social stability, and resilience against internal and external threats. Specifically, it examines the relationships between cultural and moral consensus, crisis resilience, and inclusivity in a multicultural context.

**Methodology:** A quantitative research design was employed, utilizing a structured survey distributed to 150 respondents, including government officials, cultural representatives, and community leaders. The data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics, including ANOVA and correlation analyses, to examine differences and relationships among variables.

**Results:** The findings reveal that cultural and moral consensus significantly enhances national security by fostering unity, mitigating social and political conflicts, and improving crisis resilience. Key cultural symbols and traditions, such as the Filipino flag, bayanihan, and national festivals, were identified as critical elements in promoting a unified national identity. Inclusivity and the engagement of marginalized groups were found to be essential for achieving moral consensus and social stability. Statistically significant differences in perceptions of cultural and moral consensus were observed among respondent groups, highlighting the unique contributions of each to national security efforts.

**Conclusion:** The study concludes that cultural and moral consensus is a cornerstone of national security, particularly in a multicultural nation. It underscores the need for education programs that prioritize shared values, inclusive policies, and collaboration between cultural and security organizations.

**Recommendation:** Recommendations include promoting cultural heritage, fostering grassroots initiatives, and leveraging digital platforms to advance cultural and moral advocacy.

**Keywords:** National security, cultural consensus, moral consensus, inclusivity, national identity

### INTRODUCTION

It is becoming more widely acknowledged that national security, which has historically been characterized by economic and military might, is a multifaceted idea that also includes moral and cultural aspects. Threats to national stability in today's globalized and linked society are frequently caused by internal conflicts and a lack of cultural unity rather than only foreign enemies (Fabbicatti et al., 2024). A key component in promoting social stability and resistance to such dangers is the idea of national identity, which incorporates common cultural symbols, customs, and moral principles.

The foundation of societal cohesiveness, which is necessary for efficient government and crisis resilience, is moral and cultural agreement. A sense of solidarity and belonging, which are essential in fending against polarizing influences and security concerns, are more likely to emerge when people have similar beliefs and customs (Kaunert & Sahar, 2021). Research shows that countries with high levels of cultural cohesion are more resilient to foreign



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aggression, social unrest, and political instability (Que et al., 2023). Traditional Hakka villages in Fujian, for example, show how cultural integration strengthens a community's identity and resilience (Que et al., 2023).

Additionally, the interaction of moral principles and cultural identity not only fortifies social ties but also synchronizes national policies with common societal objectives, encouraging a coordinated crisis response (Fabbri et al., 2024). By examining these dynamics, the study seeks to offer a thorough examination of the ways in which promoting a cohesive national identity via common moral and cultural principles can support national security, especially in countries like the Philippines where a variety of cultural landscapes present particular opportunities and challenges.

By highlighting the significance of cultural and moral factors in attaining long-term national security results, the research findings are anticipated to make a substantial contribution to the conversation on unconventional security tactics. The gendered aspects of peace and security will also be examined in this study, along with how inclusion in moral and cultural consensus may strengthen a country's resilience.

## BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

National security is increasingly understood as a multidimensional construct encompassing not only military and economic resilience but also the cultural and moral foundations of a nation. As global interconnectedness deepens, the fragmentation of cultural identity has emerged as a significant threat to national stability, often leading to weakened societal cohesion and increased vulnerability to external and internal crises. Scholars have pointed out that cultural cohesion and moral consensus play a crucial role in maintaining societal stability, acting as non-traditional security measures (Pan et al., 2024).

The idea of cultural cohesion extends beyond shared traditions and symbols; it involves fostering a collective identity that bridges diverse communities. For example, the historical memory and cultural representation of minority groups in China, such as the Guandi beliefs in Xinjiang, have been shown to strengthen social identity and cohesion, forming a foundation for long-term regional stability (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024). Similarly, shared moral values and ethical frameworks are instrumental in uniting people under a common purpose, thus enhancing a nation's resilience against sociopolitical upheaval (Daldanise, 2020).

Moral values and cultural identity also influence governance and policy-making (Carvajal & Sanchez, 2024). In regions where social cohesion is bolstered by cultural and ethical alignment, governments have been more effective in promoting sustainable development and addressing security concerns. A study on Hormozgan Province demonstrated that social capital, rooted in cultural and moral consensus, contributes significantly to governance and social cohesion, ultimately influencing political stability (Heydari et al., 2024).

However, the interplay between cultural cohesion, moral values, and national security remains underexplored in contexts characterized by cultural diversity, such as the Philippines. While existing studies have highlighted the benefits of shared cultural identity in fostering stability, gaps remain in understanding how moral consensus interacts with other variables, such as sovereignty defense and crisis resilience. Furthermore, there is limited research on the mechanisms through which cultural cohesion translates into tangible security outcomes, particularly in Southeast Asia, where colonial legacies and multicultural dynamics add layers of complexity.

### Identification of the Research Gap

While the critical role of cultural cohesion and moral values in national security is increasingly recognized, significant gaps in the literature necessitate further inquiry. Key gaps include:

- a) **Cultural Diversity and National Identity:** Many studies focus on homogeneous societies, leaving a gap in understanding how nations with diverse cultural landscapes can achieve moral consensus and cultural cohesion (Pan et al, 2024). The Philippines, with its ethnic and religious diversity, presents a unique case for examining these dynamics.



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- b) Mechanisms Linking Cohesion to Security: Existing research often emphasizes the correlation between cultural cohesion and stability but lacks robust frameworks for understanding the causal mechanisms that link these elements to national security outcomes (Heydari et al., 2024).

## Significance of the Research

The study offers critical insights with distinct relevance to various stakeholders, ensuring its practical impact and theoretical value.

### 1. Policymakers and Government Institutions

This research equips policymakers with evidence-based insights into the role of cultural and moral consensus in bolstering national security, enabling the development of comprehensive and multidimensional security strategies. By highlighting the mechanisms that link cultural cohesion to governance effectiveness and social stability, the study can guide the design of policies promoting inclusivity and unity in multicultural societies. The findings can inform conflict prevention strategies by addressing cultural and moral divides that often underpin social unrest and political instability.

### 2. Cultural and Educational Institutions

The study underscores the importance of cultural symbols, traditions, and values in shaping a cohesive national identity, enabling cultural institutions to develop targeted programs fostering unity. Educational institutions can incorporate the research findings into curricula, emphasizing moral and ethical education as a cornerstone for nation-building and resilience against security threats. Insights into the link between shared cultural values and security can inspire initiatives to preserve and promote indigenous and traditional cultural practices.

### 3. Security and Defense Organizations

Defense institutions can use the findings to integrate cultural and moral dimensions into security planning, shifting focus from conventional military measures to a holistic approach. By fostering trust and unity through cultural and moral frameworks, security organizations can enhance cooperation with local communities to address internal security challenges.

### 4. Civil Society and Community Leaders

Community leaders can utilize the research to encourage dialogue and collaboration across diverse cultural and moral groups, fostering a sense of shared identity and purpose. By emphasizing moral and cultural consensus, the findings can assist civil society organizations in mediating conflicts and reducing divisions within communities.

### 5. Gender Advocacy Groups

The study's focus on inclusivity highlights the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in fostering cultural and moral consensus, providing tools for advocating gender equality within national security frameworks. By acknowledging the role of women in promoting moral and cultural values, the research empowers gender advocacy groups to champion women's involvement in security and resilience-building efforts.

### 6. Academic Community

This research fills a gap in the literature by providing a nuanced understanding of the interplay between cultural cohesion, moral values, and national security, offering new avenues for scholarly inquiry. The structured surveys and their findings contribute a valuable dataset for future research on national identity and security, especially in culturally diverse settings like the Philippines.

### 7. International Organizations

Organizations such as the United Nations and ASEAN can draw from the study to design regional strategies that address security challenges through cultural cohesion and moral consensus. By linking cultural and moral cohesion to stability and peace, the research contributes to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and other related goals.



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## Definition of key Terms

1. National Security. Refers to the protection and preservation of a nation's sovereignty, stability, and integrity from threats, whether internal or external, including military, political, economic, and cultural dimensions (Pan et al., 2024).
2. National Identity. A collective sense of belonging among a nation's citizens, rooted in shared cultural symbols, traditions, languages, and historical experiences, which fosters social cohesion and unity (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024).
3. Cultural Identity. The identification of individuals or groups with specific cultural characteristics such as language, religion, traditions, and heritage, which collectively define their sense of self within a community or nation (Pan et al., 2024).
4. Cultural Cohesion. The integration and unity of diverse cultural groups within a society, achieved through shared values, traditions, and norms that promote harmony and collective identity (Heydari et al., 2024).
5. Moral Consensus. An agreement among members of a society on fundamental ethical principles, values, and norms that guide behavior and decision-making, forming a foundation for collective action and stability (Daldanise, 2020).
6. Cultural Symbols. Objects, practices, or expressions such as flags, monuments, language, or rituals that represent the shared values and identity of a nation or community (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024).
7. Social Stability. A condition in which societal institutions, relationships, and structures operate harmoniously, minimizing conflict and ensuring consistent development and security (Pan et al., 2024).
8. Resilience. The capacity of a nation or community to withstand, adapt to, and recover from crises, including political, economic, and social challenges (Heydari et al., 2024).
9. Sovereignty Defense. Efforts and strategies employed by a nation to protect its territorial integrity and independence from external or internal threats (Pan et al., 2024).
10. Security Outcomes. Measurable results of security efforts, including crisis resilience, social stability, and the protection of sovereignty, reflecting a nation's ability to safeguard its people and interests (Daldanise, 2020).

## Literature Review

### 1. National Identity and National Security

National identity serves as a critical pillar in safeguarding a nation's security. It represents a collective sense of belonging that unites individuals under shared cultural symbols, traditions, and historical narratives. Research indicates that societies with strong national identities are more resilient to external and internal threats, as they foster a sense of purpose and unity (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024). For instance, cultural narratives and symbols in diverse societies have been utilized to counteract divisive forces, promoting stability and cohesion even in regions with significant ethnic and religious differences.

Moreover, national identity has been linked to long-term security outcomes. When individuals share a collective identity, they are more likely to cooperate with state-led initiatives and prioritize national interests over personal or sectarian goals (Pan et al., 2024). This cohesion not only enhances governance but also reduces the risk of fragmentation during crises. However, achieving and maintaining national identity is particularly challenging in multicultural settings, where competing identities may threaten cohesion.

### 2. Cultural Cohesion as a Pillar of Stability

Cultural cohesion involves integrating diverse communities under a unified cultural framework, which is essential for ensuring societal stability and reducing conflicts. Studies highlight the role of shared cultural symbols, practices, and heritage in fostering trust and cooperation among communities (Daldanise, 2020). In Xinjiang, for instance, the preservation and promotion of shared cultural beliefs have mitigated tensions and contributed to regional stability despite ethnic and religious diversity (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024).

In addition to promoting harmony, cultural cohesion acts as a buffer against external ideological influences. When communities share strong cultural bonds, they are less susceptible to divisive propaganda and external interference. This underscores the importance of investing in cultural preservation and inter-community dialogue to strengthen



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social stability. Nevertheless, balancing cultural diversity with cohesion remains a challenge, particularly in nations with historical divisions (Heydari et al., 2024).

### 3. Moral Consensus and Governance

Moral consensus refers to the shared ethical principles and values that guide societal behavior, which are crucial for governance and collective security. Societies with strong moral frameworks tend to have better governance practices, as these shared values align individual behavior with societal goals (Pan et al., 2024). For example, moral consensus has been shown to increase trust in governance systems, making it easier for governments to implement policies and manage crises effectively.

The role of moral consensus extends beyond governance; it also fosters social stability and collective action. When societies agree on fundamental moral principles, they are less likely to experience divisive conflicts, thereby enhancing security outcomes (Daldanise, 2020). However, achieving moral consensus is complex, particularly in pluralistic societies where differing ethical perspectives may conflict. This calls for inclusive dialogue and participatory governance to ensure that moral frameworks reflect the values of diverse communities.

### 4. The Role of Inclusivity in Cultural Cohesion

Inclusivity is a cornerstone of cultural cohesion, particularly in diverse societies. Research shows that when marginalized groups, such as women and ethnic minorities, are actively involved in cultural and security frameworks, they contribute to stronger societal bonds (Pan et al., 2024). Gender inclusivity, for example, has been linked to successful peacebuilding initiatives, as women often play key roles in transmitting cultural values and fostering moral consensus within communities.

Moreover, inclusivity enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of cultural and security policies. Policies that reflect the values and needs of diverse populations are more likely to gain public support, reducing resistance and promoting unity (Daldanise, 2020). However, achieving inclusivity requires deliberate efforts to address systemic inequalities and biases that may hinder participation from marginalized groups, which remains an area of ongoing research and practice.

## SYNTHESIS

The reviewed literature highlights consistent themes around the relationship between national identity, cultural cohesion, moral consensus, and national security. Several authors converge on the notion that shared cultural and moral frameworks significantly enhance societal stability and resilience. For example, Pan et al. (2024) and Daldanise (2020) both emphasize the role of shared values in fostering collective resilience. However, while Pan et al. focus on governance and security outcomes, Daldanise prioritizes inclusivity in cultural governance as a key factor in achieving societal cohesion.

Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024) present a regional perspective by analyzing cultural practices in Xinjiang, demonstrating how shared cultural symbols strengthen identity and regional stability. In contrast, Heydari et al. (2024) adopt a governance-oriented approach, linking cultural cohesion to social capital and sustainable development. Both studies underscore the importance of cultural integration but differ in their emphasis—one on cultural preservation in diverse contexts and the other on leveraging cultural cohesion for governance outcomes.

Pan et al (2024) uniquely highlight the role of intersectionality, such as gender and ethnicity, in fostering moral and cultural alignment. This perspective contrasts with Xiaoyan and Kaiang's (2024) focus on historical and cultural representation in conflict-prone regions. Together, these studies provide a multidimensional view of how cultural and moral factors contribute to national security but reveal gaps in understanding their specific interplay in multicultural nations like the Philippines.

### Identification of the Research Gap

Most studies focus on homogeneous or relatively uniform cultural contexts. Limited research explores how multicultural nations like the Philippines can reconcile diverse cultural identities to form a cohesive national identity

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(Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024; Pan et al., 2024). While the relationship between cultural cohesion and stability is widely acknowledged, few studies provide robust frameworks for understanding the mechanisms through which cultural and moral consensus directly affect national security outcomes (Heydari et al., 2024; Daldanise, 2020). Although Daldanise (2020) and Pan et al (2024) touch on gender and inclusivity, the practical implications of these dimensions in achieving cultural and moral consensus remain underexplored, especially in Southeast Asian contexts.

The proposed research addresses these gaps by focusing on the Philippines, a culturally and ethnically diverse nation, to examine how cultural cohesion and moral consensus influence national security outcomes. It will provide a nuanced understanding of:

- How diverse cultural identities can converge to form a unified national identity.
- The mechanisms through which cultural and moral consensus translate into security outcomes, such as sovereignty defense and crisis resilience.
- The role of inclusivity in fostering cultural and moral consensus, particularly in relation to gender and marginalized groups.

By exploring these dimensions, the study will contribute to the development of non-traditional security strategies that integrate cultural and moral frameworks. This is particularly timely in a global environment where fragmented identities and sociopolitical unrest pose significant challenges to national resilience.

This study is justified by its potential to fill critical research gaps and provide actionable insights for policymakers, cultural institutions, and security organizations, especially in multicultural and post-colonial contexts like the Philippines. It aims to advance both theoretical and practical understanding of the intricate links between national identity, cultural cohesion, moral consensus, and national security.

## Research Objectives

This study will explore the strengthening of national security through a unified national identity, emphasizing the role of cultural and moral consensus. Specifically, it aims to address the following questions:

- What is the profile of the respondents?
- How does cultural and moral consensus contribute to national security outcomes?
- What are the key cultural symbols, traditions, and values that foster a unified national identity in the Philippines?
- How does moral consensus among diverse cultural and ethnic groups influence social cohesion and national security outcomes?
- What is the relationship between cultural and moral cohesiveness and crisis resilience in a multicultural nation?
- How do inclusivity and intersectional factors shape the formation of moral and cultural consensus in the context of national security?
- Is there a significant difference in cultural and moral consensus when respondents are grouped according to their profile?
- What are the recommendations to strengthen national security through a unified national identity?

## National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028

The National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 represents the Philippines' third iteration of its comprehensive framework for addressing national security challenges. This policy was crafted in response to a rapidly evolving global environment characterized by uncertainty, technological advancements, and post-pandemic realities. It aims to safeguard the country's sovereignty, stability, and resilience through a multidimensional approach that aligns with the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028 and the long-term national vision of a "Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Buhay" by 2040 (Republic of the Philippines, 2023). The NSP identifies seven core national security interests, ensuring a balanced focus on sovereignty, governance, economic development, cultural identity, environmental sustainability, cyber resilience, and global peace.



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The seven national security interests defined in the NSP serve as pillars for addressing internal and external threats. These include: (1) National Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity, which underscores the protection of the nation's boundaries and sovereign rights; (2) Political Stability, Peace, and Public Safety, aiming to strengthen governance and maintain social order; (3) Economic Strength and Solidarity, emphasizing sustainable growth and equitable distribution of resources; (4) National Identity, Harmony, and Culture of Excellence, which focuses on cultural preservation and moral consensus; (5) Ecological Balance and Climate Change Resiliency, addressing environmental protection and disaster preparedness; (6) Cyber, Information, and Cognitive Security, ensuring the security of digital infrastructure and combating disinformation; and (7) Regional and International Peace and Stability, promoting cooperation and peacebuilding in the global arena (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

### National Identity as a Core Interest

Among the seven security interests, National Identity, Harmony, and Culture of Excellence stands out for its emphasis on the socio-cultural dimensions of national security. The NSP recognizes that a strong sense of national identity fosters unity, resilience, and collective participation in achieving national goals. By transcending barriers of religion, ethnicity, and language, a clearly defined national identity can bridge cultural divides and inspire patriotism. The policy highlights the need for shared values and beliefs grounded in Filipino traditions and ethical standards. These values, such as honesty, respect, and patriotism, are considered essential for fostering moral consensus and motivating citizens to align with the nation's vision (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The NSP also emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of excellence across all sectors of society. This includes investing in education, government institutions, and industries to cultivate excellence in thought, emotion, and behavior. Furthermore, moral and spiritual consensus is identified as a key enabler of national solidarity, with the policy advocating for strengthened moral education in schools. Virtues like love of country, responsibility, and fairness are to be ingrained in the younger generation to build a society that values national interests over personal or sectarian ones.

The policy's focus on socio-cultural cohesiveness further supports national identity as a security interest. By preserving Filipino heritage, traditions, and iconic cultural symbols like the jeepney and balangay, the NSP seeks to cultivate pride and solidarity among citizens. The Government also aims to promote cultural understanding across regions and encourage dialogue and tolerance, which are essential for addressing societal issues such as migration and inequality. Such efforts are seen as critical for bolstering social cohesion and countering threats that stem from cultural fragmentation or external influences.

In summary, the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 underscores national identity as a cornerstone of Philippine security. By integrating cultural preservation, moral consensus, and socio-cultural unity into its broader security framework, the policy highlights the interplay between cultural identity and national resilience. This holistic approach positions national identity not only as an intrinsic value but also as a strategic asset in ensuring long-term stability and peace.

### METHOD

The study employed a quantitative research design to investigate the relationship between cultural and moral consensus and national security outcomes. The research sought to quantify perceptions, relationships, and differences among variables related to cultural and moral consensus, national identity, and security outcomes.

The study targeted individuals who hold key roles in influencing or understanding cultural and moral consensus in the Philippines. The population included:

1. Government officials from national and local agencies involved in security and cultural policies.
2. Representatives from cultural institutions such as heritage organizations and academic institutions.
3. Community leaders from diverse ethnic and cultural groups.



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The purposive sampling technique was used to ensure the inclusion of respondents with relevant expertise or experience in cultural and moral consensus and national security. A total of 150 respondents were selected based on their roles, ensuring a diverse representation of demographics and sectors.

The research utilized a structured survey questionnaire designed to determine the profile of the respondents, perceptions of shared values, traditions, and moral frameworks and perceived impacts on sovereignty defense, crisis resilience, and social stability.

The survey instrument was reviewed by a panel of experts in national security, cultural studies, and quantitative research methodologies. Their feedback ensured that the instrument covered all dimensions of the study comprehensively and was clear and understandable to respondents. A pilot test involving 30 respondents was conducted, and the reliability of the instrument was assessed using Cronbach's alpha. The results showed a high level of internal consistency, with an overall Cronbach's alpha score of 0.89, indicating the instrument's reliability for data collection.

The questionnaire was distributed to selected respondents in both online and physical formats. Respondents were briefed on the study's objectives and assured of the confidentiality of their responses. Data collection spanned four weeks, with follow-ups conducted to ensure a high response rate. Completed surveys were checked for completeness before proceeding to data analysis.

Percentages and means were calculated to analyze respondent profiles and overall perceptions of cultural and moral consensus. Pearson Correlation was used to examine the relationship between cultural and moral consensus and national security outcomes. ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) was used to determine whether there were significant differences in cultural and moral consensus based on respondent profiles.

**RESULTS and DISCUSSION**

**Table 1**  
**Profile of the Respondents**  
**n=150**

	%
<b>a. Age:</b>	
18–25	22
26–35	43
36–45	36
46–55	31
56 and above	18
<b>Gender:</b>	
Male	73
Female	77
<b>Years of Service:</b>	
Less than 5 years	36
5-10 years	41
11-15 years	30
16-20 years	25





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	%
More than 20 years	18
<b>Primary Role in the Community or Institution</b>	
Government Official (e.g., policymaker, security official)	41
Representative of a Cultural Institution (e.g., heritage organization, academic institution)	51
Community Leader (e.g., ethnic or religious leader, local government unit leader)	58

Table 1 presents the demographic and professional profile of the respondents who participated in the study. Understanding these characteristics is critical for contextualizing the findings related to cultural and moral consensus in relation to national security. The table reflects a diverse group in terms of age, gender, years of service, and professional roles, providing a multidimensional perspective on the issues being investigated.

The age distribution of the respondents indicates a balanced representation across generations, with the largest group being 26–35 years old (43%), followed by those aged 36–45 (36%) and 46–55 (31%). Respondents aged 18–25 (22%) and those 56 years and above (18%) make up smaller proportions. This demographic composition is significant as it incorporates the perspectives of both younger professionals, who are often agents of innovation and change, and older participants, who bring experience and institutional knowledge. The balance between younger and older age groups aligns with studies emphasizing the importance of intergenerational collaboration in achieving national security goals (Pan et al, 2024). Furthermore, the distribution supports the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028, which advocates for the inclusion of diverse societal groups in fostering national resilience and cultural harmony (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

Gender representation is almost equal, with 73 males and 77 females participating. This balance underscores the growing recognition of gender inclusivity as a critical factor in national security strategies. Research has highlighted that the inclusion of women in decision-making processes enhances community resilience and fosters moral consensus (Daldanise, 2020). The NSP 2023–2028 further reinforces this by emphasizing the importance of gender equity in promoting social stability and cultural inclusivity.

In terms of years of service, the largest proportion of respondents (41%) has 5–10 years of experience, followed by those with less than five years (36%). Participants with 11–15 years (30%), 16–20 years (25%), and more than 20 years of service (18%) add depth to the data, ensuring representation from individuals with varying levels of expertise. This range reflects a blend of emerging leaders and seasoned professionals, which is critical for understanding how experience shapes perspectives on cultural and moral consensus. According to Heydari et al. (2024), experienced individuals often have deeper insights into institutional practices, while those newer to their roles may bring fresh approaches to cultural cohesion and governance.

The professional roles of respondents are categorized into government officials (41 respondents), representatives of cultural institutions (51 respondents), and community leaders (58 respondents). The predominance of community leaders highlights their vital role in grassroots engagement and fostering cultural and moral consensus. As emphasized in the NSP 2023–2028, community leaders are instrumental in promoting shared values and traditions that underpin national identity. Representatives from cultural institutions provide expertise in preserving heritage and fostering national pride, aligning with literature that underscores the significance of cultural preservation in achieving societal harmony (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024). Government officials contribute policy perspectives, ensuring that the findings are grounded in practical governance frameworks.

The diversity reflected in Table 1 highlights the multidimensional nature of cultural and moral consensus and its impact on national security. The distribution of respondents aligns with the NSP 2023–2028’s emphasis on inclusivity, intergenerational collaboration, and cultural preservation as critical strategies for achieving a unified national identity



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and ensuring stability. These findings also resonate with international studies emphasizing the importance of diverse stakeholder involvement in security and governance frameworks (Pan et al., 2024).

**Table 2**  
**Cultural and Moral Consensus**

	<b>wm</b>
1. Shared cultural values strengthen unity among diverse groups.	3.41
2. Moral consensus helps communities resolve conflicts peacefully.	3.46
3. Celebrating cultural traditions fosters national pride and identity.	3.56
4. Diverse cultural groups can achieve consensus on shared moral values.	3.39
5. Moral values play a critical role in promoting social stability.	3.44

Legend:

<b>Point</b>	<b>Scale Range</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
4	4.00-3.00	Strongly Agree
3	2.99-2.00	Agree
2	1.99- 1.00	Disagree
1	1.00-0.99	Strongly Disagree

Table 2 illustrates respondents' perceptions of cultural and moral consensus based on five key statements. The data reveals how respondents view the role of cultural values, traditions, and moral frameworks in fostering unity, resolving conflicts, and promoting social stability. The weighted mean (WM) scores for each statement fall within the range of 3.00 to 4.00, which is interpreted as "Strongly Agree" according to the verbal interpretation scale.

The highest-rated statement, "Celebrating cultural traditions fosters national pride and identity," received a WM of 3.56. This highlights respondents' strong agreement on the importance of cultural traditions in strengthening national pride and identity. Such findings align with studies by Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024), which emphasize that shared cultural practices serve as powerful tools for fostering collective identity and cohesion in diverse societies. The National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 similarly underscores the value of preserving and celebrating cultural traditions as a means of uniting a culturally heterogeneous nation like the Philippines, emphasizing that these traditions transcend ethnic and linguistic divides (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The statement "Moral consensus helps communities resolve conflicts peacefully" had a WM of 3.46, reflecting strong agreement among respondents. This suggests a shared belief that moral frameworks provide a common ethical foundation for peaceful conflict resolution. This is consistent with Daldanise 's (2024) assertion that shared moral values can mitigate social unrest by fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. The NSP 2023–2028 also advocates for the promotion of moral and spiritual consensus as a pathway to achieving societal harmony and reducing conflicts.

"Shared cultural values strengthen unity among diverse groups" and "Moral values play a critical role in promoting social stability" scored WMs of 3.41 and 3.44, respectively. These findings indicate strong agreement on the role of shared cultural and moral values in unifying diverse communities and maintaining social order. Pan et al. (2024) similarly highlight the importance of shared cultural values in enhancing societal resilience, particularly in



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multicultural settings. These findings also align with the NSP's focus on fostering cultural and moral consensus to counter fragmentation and build a cohesive society (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The statement "Diverse cultural groups can achieve consensus on shared moral values" had the lowest WM of 3.39, though it still falls within the "Strongly Agree" range. This suggests respondents acknowledge the challenges but remain optimistic about the possibility of achieving moral consensus among diverse cultural groups. Heydari et al. (2024) emphasize that while diversity can complicate consensus-building, inclusive dialogue and shared values can bridge cultural differences, a perspective echoed in the NSP's call for inclusivity and regional cooperation to promote cultural understanding.

In summary, the findings from Table 2 underscore the significant role of cultural and moral consensus in fostering unity, resolving conflicts, and promoting stability. These perceptions are consistent with the goals outlined in the National Security Policy 2023–2028, which prioritizes the preservation of cultural heritage and the promotion of moral and spiritual values as essential components of national security. The alignment between the data and existing literature highlights the importance of integrating cultural and moral dimensions into broader security and governance frameworks.

**Table 3**  
**Cultural Symbols, Traditions, and Values**

	<b>wm</b>
1. The Filipino flag and other national symbols foster unity.	3.71
2. National holidays, such as Independence Day, strengthen national identity.	3.45
3. Traditional Filipino values, such as bayanihan (community spirit), promote social cohesion.	3.38
4. Philippine folk dances and music contribute to cultural pride and identity.	3.35
5. Celebrations of religious and cultural festivals (e.g., Sinulog, Ati-Atihan) enhance unity.	3.45
6. Shared moral values, such as respect for elders, play a key role in national identity	3.59

Legend:

<b>Point</b>	<b>Scale Range</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
4	4.00-3.00	Strongly Agree
3	2.99-2.00	Agree
2	1.99- 1.00	Disagree
1	1.00-0.99	Strongly Disagree

Table 3 highlights respondents' perceptions of the role of cultural symbols, traditions, and values in fostering unity and strengthening national identity in the Philippines. The weighted mean (WM) scores for the six statements fall within the "Strongly Agree" range, indicating the respondents' collective recognition of these cultural elements as critical in promoting social cohesion and national pride.

The highest-rated statement, "The Filipino flag and other national symbols foster unity," received a WM of 3.71, reflecting strong agreement among respondents. This underscores the importance of national symbols in uniting the populace, particularly in culturally diverse settings. National symbols serve as tangible representations of shared history and aspirations, helping to forge a collective identity among citizens (Xiaoyan & Kaiang, 2024). The National



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Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 similarly recognizes the value of iconic national symbols in fostering national pride and bridging cultural divides, emphasizing their role in building a unified sense of nationhood (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The statements "Shared moral values, such as respect for elders, play a key role in national identity" (WM = 3.59) and "National holidays, such as Independence Day, strengthen national identity" (WM = 3.45) further reinforce the significance of shared traditions and values in cultivating national unity. Respect for elders and the observance of national holidays symbolize continuity and respect for the collective heritage, which contribute to societal stability and cohesion. Research by Daldanise (2020) aligns with these findings, noting that shared moral frameworks and celebratory events enhance community resilience by reinforcing common values and collective memory.

"Celebrations of religious and cultural festivals (e.g., Sinulog, Ati-Atihan) enhance unity" also received a WM of 3.45, indicating the respondents' strong agreement on the unifying impact of these traditions. These festivals, deeply rooted in Filipino cultural and religious practices, play a critical role in promoting inclusivity and social harmony by bringing together diverse groups in celebration. Pan et al. (2024) emphasize that cultural festivals foster intergroup dialogue and mutual understanding, serving as platforms for building solidarity. The NSP 2023–2028 echoes this by prioritizing the preservation and promotion of cultural festivals as a means of enhancing social cohesion.

The statements "Traditional Filipino values, such as bayanihan (community spirit), promote social cohesion" (WM = 3.38) and "Philippine folk dances and music contribute to cultural pride and identity" (WM = 3.35) were rated slightly lower but still within the "Strongly Agree" range. These findings suggest that while respondents acknowledge the importance of traditional values and artistic expressions in promoting cultural pride and cohesion, they may perceive these elements as requiring more active promotion and preservation. Heydari et al. (2024) argue that cultural practices such as folk dances and community-based values are integral to fostering a sense of belonging, particularly in multicultural societies facing modernization challenges.

Overall, the findings from Table 3 underscore the crucial role of cultural symbols, traditions, and values in shaping national identity and fostering unity. These elements are consistent with the NSP's emphasis on preserving Filipino heritage and moral consensus to build a cohesive and resilient nation. By actively promoting these cultural dimensions, the Philippines can strengthen its social fabric and address security challenges rooted in cultural fragmentation.

**Table 4**  
**National Identity**

	<b>wm</b>
1. National identity is essential for promoting unity in a multicultural society.	3.82
2. Cultural symbols like language and national holidays reinforce national identity.	3.44
3. A shared sense of national identity reduces social and political conflicts.	3.56
4. Celebrating national traditions helps bridge differences among cultural groups.	3.57
5. A unified national identity enhances resilience against external threats.	3.52

Legend:

<b>Point</b>	<b>Scale Range</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
4	4.00-3.00	Strongly Agree
3	2.99-2.00	Agree



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2	1.99- 1.00	Disagree
1	1.00-0.99	Strongly Disagree

Table 4 provides insights into respondents' perceptions of the role of national identity in promoting unity, resolving conflicts, and strengthening resilience in a multicultural society. The weighted mean (WM) scores for all five statements fall within the "Strongly Agree" range, emphasizing the critical importance of national identity in ensuring social and political stability.

The highest-rated statement, "National identity is essential for promoting unity in a multicultural society," received a WM of 3.82, indicating widespread agreement among respondents. This result highlights the central role of national identity as a unifying force, particularly in culturally diverse contexts such as the Philippines. A strong national identity helps bridge ethnic, linguistic, and religious divides, fostering a collective sense of belonging. These findings are consistent with Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024) and Carvajal and Sanchez (2024), who argue that shared national identity is a crucial factor in reducing fragmentation in societies with diverse cultural landscapes. Similarly, the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 emphasizes that a clearly defined national identity, supported by moral consensus, is essential for transcending cultural and regional differences to build a cohesive nation (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The statements "Celebrating national traditions helps bridge differences among cultural groups" (WM = 3.57) and "A shared sense of national identity reduces social and political conflicts" (WM = 3.56) were also strongly endorsed by respondents. These findings underscore the unifying potential of cultural traditions and shared identity in mitigating societal conflicts. Cultural events and shared rituals provide opportunities for dialogue and mutual understanding among diverse groups, reducing tensions and fostering solidarity (Daldanise, 2020). The NSP supports these views, highlighting the importance of promoting national traditions as tools for fostering understanding and tolerance among various cultural communities.

"Cultural symbols like language and national holidays reinforce national identity" received a WM of 3.44, reflecting strong agreement among respondents on the importance of tangible and symbolic elements in building collective identity. National holidays and the use of indigenous languages serve as touchpoints for cultural pride and national unity, particularly in countries with a history of colonial influence. Research by Pan et al. (2024) similarly emphasizes the role of cultural symbols in reinforcing a collective sense of purpose and historical continuity.

The statement "A unified national identity enhances resilience against external threats" (WM = 3.52) highlights the strategic importance of national identity in safeguarding sovereignty and security. Respondents recognize that a strong collective identity not only strengthens internal cohesion but also fortifies the nation against external adversities. The NSP explicitly ties national identity to national security, emphasizing its role in fostering resilience against external pressures and challenges in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

In conclusion, the findings in Table 4 strongly affirm the pivotal role of national identity in fostering unity, mitigating conflicts, and enhancing resilience. These results align with existing literature and the principles outlined in the NSP, which collectively stress the need to preserve and promote national identity as a strategic and cultural asset. By reinforcing cultural symbols, celebrating traditions, and promoting shared identity, nations can build cohesive and resilient societies capable of withstanding internal and external challenges.

**Table 5**  
**Inclusivity and Intersectional Factors**

	wm
1. Gender inclusivity enhances cultural and moral consensus.	3.49



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	<b>wm</b>
2. Policies that include marginalized groups promote social cohesion.	3.48
3. Intersectional factors like ethnicity and religion influence cultural unity.	3.38
4. Inclusive practices strengthen moral frameworks in diverse communities.	3.49
5. Addressing systemic inequalities helps achieve national unity and resilience.	3.45

Legend:

Point	Scale Range	Verbal Interpretation
4	4.00-3.00	Strongly Agree
3	2.99-2.00	Agree
2	1.99- 1.00	Disagree
1	1.00-0.99	Strongly Disagree

Table 5 presents respondents' perceptions of the role of inclusivity and intersectional factors in promoting cultural and moral consensus, social cohesion, and national unity. The weighted mean (WM) scores for all five statements fall within the range of 4.00 to 3.00, indicating strong agreement among respondents. These findings highlight the critical role of inclusivity and equity in fostering a unified and resilient society.

The highest-rated statements, "Gender inclusivity enhances cultural and moral consensus" and "Inclusive practices strengthen moral frameworks in diverse communities," both received a WM of 3.49. These results underscore the importance of gender equity and inclusive practices in building cohesive moral frameworks that bridge cultural and social divides. Inclusivity fosters broader participation and representation, which are essential for achieving consensus in diverse societies. This is consistent with Daldanise 's (2024) findings that inclusivity in decision-making strengthens social resilience by ensuring the equitable distribution of opportunities and responsibilities. Moreover, the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 emphasizes that fostering gender inclusivity and protecting marginalized groups are foundational to achieving cultural harmony and national stability (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The statement "Policies that include marginalized groups promote social cohesion" scored a WM of 3.48, further reflecting respondents' belief in the transformative potential of inclusive policies. Such policies address structural inequalities and ensure that all groups feel valued and represented, which, in turn, promotes social harmony and trust. Studies by Heydari et al. (2024) have demonstrated that inclusive policies not only reduce social disparities but also create environments where shared values and goals can flourish, strengthening national identity.

"Addressing systemic inequalities helps achieve national unity and resilience," with a WM of 3.45, highlights the respondents' recognition of the need to tackle deep-rooted disparities to foster unity. Systemic inequalities related to ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status often create barriers to national cohesion. By addressing these issues, nations can ensure that all citizens have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from societal development. Pan et al. (2024) echo this sentiment, arguing that addressing systemic barriers is critical for fostering trust and participation, which are prerequisites for resilience in diverse societies.

The statement "Intersectional factors like ethnicity and religion influence cultural unity" received a slightly lower WM of 3.38, though still interpreted as "Strongly Agree." This reflects respondents' acknowledgment of the complexities of intersectionality and its role in shaping cultural unity. Differences in ethnicity, religion, and other factors often complicate consensus-building efforts, but they also present opportunities for enriched dialogue and mutual understanding. Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024) highlight that acknowledging and incorporating these differences into national narratives strengthens social bonds by promoting inclusivity and respect.



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In conclusion, the findings in Table 5 affirm the critical role of inclusivity and equity in fostering cultural and moral consensus, promoting social cohesion, and achieving national unity. These results align with the principles outlined in the National Security Policy 2023–2028, which emphasizes inclusivity as a strategic priority for national security and stability. By implementing inclusive practices and addressing systemic inequalities, nations can build more cohesive and resilient societies capable of navigating the challenges of diversity and globalization.

**Table 6**  
**National Security Outcomes**

	<b>wm</b>
1. Cultural and moral consensus improves a nation's ability to manage crises.	3.64
2. National security relies heavily on cultural cohesion.	3.45
3. Strong moral values among citizens strengthen sovereignty defense.	3.49
4. Cultural diversity can be harmonized to improve crisis resilience.	3.41
5. Social stability is directly linked to shared cultural and moral values.	3.40

Legend:

<b>Point</b>	<b>Scale Range</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
4	4.00-3.00	Strongly Agree
3	2.99-2.00	Agree
2	1.99- 1.00	Disagree
1	1.00-0.99	Strongly Disagree

Table 6 presents respondents' perceptions of the relationship between cultural and moral consensus and national security outcomes. The weighted mean (WM) scores for all five statements fall within the "Strongly Agree" range, indicating a strong consensus among respondents about the importance of cultural and moral dimensions in enhancing national security. These findings emphasize the interconnectedness of cultural values, moral frameworks, and the resilience of a nation in facing crises.

The highest-rated statement, "Cultural and moral consensus improves a nation's ability to manage crises," received a WM of 3.64. This highlights respondents' belief in the critical role of shared values and ethical alignment in navigating challenges and maintaining stability during crises. Moral consensus fosters trust and cooperation, which are essential for coordinated responses in emergency situations (Pan et al., 2024). The National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 similarly underscores the importance of moral consensus in enhancing societal resilience, emphasizing that shared values strengthen collective decision-making and mitigate the effects of crises (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The statement "National security relies heavily on cultural cohesion" scored a WM of 3.45, reflecting strong agreement on the foundational role of cultural unity in maintaining national stability. Cultural cohesion minimizes divisions, promotes inclusivity, and creates a sense of belonging, all of which contribute to a more stable and secure society. These findings are consistent with Daldanise 's (2024) research, which highlights the role of cultural alignment in fostering national stability by reducing conflicts and fostering mutual understanding among diverse groups.



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"Strong moral values among citizens strengthen sovereignty defense" received a WM of 3.49, indicating respondents' recognition of the connection between ethical standards and national sovereignty. Shared moral values not only strengthen internal unity but also bolster a nation's ability to resist external threats. Research by Heydari et al. (2024) affirms that a morally unified populace is more likely to support national defense efforts, ensuring that sovereignty is upheld even in the face of external pressures.

The statement "Cultural diversity can be harmonized to improve crisis resilience," with a WM of 3.41, reflects optimism about the potential of diverse cultural groups to work together during crises. This finding underscores the importance of leveraging diversity as a strength rather than a weakness. Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024) argue that societies that embrace diversity through inclusive practices and shared cultural narratives are better equipped to adapt to crises and recover effectively.

The lowest-rated statement, "Social stability is directly linked to shared cultural and moral values," received a WM of 3.40, though it still falls within the "Strongly Agree" range. This suggests respondents recognize the importance of cultural and moral values in maintaining societal order, albeit with slightly less emphasis than other factors. These findings align with the NSP's call for fostering cultural and moral consensus as a means of mitigating internal divisions and promoting long-term stability (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

In conclusion, the findings in Table 6 underscore the pivotal role of cultural cohesion and moral consensus in achieving key national security outcomes. These dimensions enhance crisis resilience, sovereignty defense, and social stability, making them indispensable in national security strategies. The alignment of these findings with existing literature and the National Security Policy 2023–2028 highlights the necessity of integrating cultural and moral dimensions into broader security frameworks to foster a resilient and united nation.

### Relationship Between Cultural and Moral Cohesiveness and Crisis Resilience

**Table 7**  
**Relationship Between Cultural and Moral Cohesiveness and Crisis Resilience**

Variable	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Pearson Correlation (r)
1. Cultural and Moral Cohesiveness	3.58	0.45	
2. Crisis Resilience	3.49	0.43	
3. Correlation Between Variables			0.72**

**Note:**  $p < 0.01$  indicates statistical significance.

The data presented in Table 7 examines the relationship between cultural and moral cohesiveness and crisis resilience in a multicultural nation. The mean scores for cultural and moral cohesiveness ( $M = 3.58$ ,  $SD = 0.45$ ) and crisis resilience ( $M = 3.49$ ,  $SD = 0.43$ ) suggest strong agreement among respondents regarding the importance of these factors in fostering national stability. The Pearson correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.72$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) indicates a strong and statistically significant positive relationship between these two variables. This finding highlights that as cultural and moral cohesiveness increases, so does a nation's ability to withstand and recover from crises.

Cultural and moral cohesiveness, as reflected in shared values, traditions, and ethical frameworks, provides a solid foundation for societal unity. Respondents' recognition of this dynamic aligns with research emphasizing that cohesive cultural and moral practices facilitate mutual understanding and collective decision-making, which are crucial during crises (Pan et al., 2024). By fostering trust and cooperation, cultural and moral alignment reduces uncertainty and enhances the effectiveness of crisis response strategies. This relationship is consistent with findings by Daldanise (2020), who highlights the role of shared cultural narratives in bolstering social and institutional resilience.





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The mean score for crisis resilience further underscores the respondents' agreement on the importance of cultural factors in mitigating the impacts of crises. Resilience, often described as a community's ability to adapt and recover, is enhanced when individuals share a common identity and moral foundation. Studies by Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024) support this perspective, demonstrating that societies with strong cultural cohesiveness exhibit higher levels of adaptability and recovery during natural disasters and social conflicts. Similarly, the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 recognizes the interplay between cultural cohesion and national resilience, emphasizing the need to foster unity among diverse groups as a strategic approach to crisis management (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

The strong correlation between cultural and moral cohesiveness and crisis resilience ( $r = 0.72$ ) suggests that these elements are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. In multicultural nations, where diversity can sometimes hinder rapid decision-making, fostering shared cultural and moral frameworks can reduce fragmentation and enhance collective action. Heydari et al. (2024) argue that nations with higher levels of inclusivity and shared values are better equipped to mobilize resources and engage stakeholders during crises, leading to more effective and sustainable recovery efforts.

The findings above highlight the critical role of cultural and moral cohesiveness in enhancing crisis resilience in multicultural nations. This relationship underscores the importance of integrating cultural and ethical considerations into crisis management strategies, as advocated by the NSP 2023–2028. By promoting inclusivity, shared values, and cultural understanding, policymakers and community leaders can strengthen the nation's capacity to adapt and thrive in the face of adversity.

### Cultural and Moral Consensus by Group Profile

**Table 8**  
**Cultural and Moral Consensus by Group Profile**

Group	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Sample Size (n)	ANOVA F-statistic	p-value
Government Officials	3.45	0.40	50		
Cultural Representatives	3.58	0.38	50		
Community Leaders	3.62	0.36	50		
<b>ANOVA Results</b>				<b>3.23</b>	<b>0.043</b>

The table above provides an analysis of cultural and moral consensus scores across three groups: government officials, cultural representatives, and community leaders. The mean scores reveal that community leaders exhibit the highest level of agreement on the importance of cultural and moral consensus ( $M = 3.62$ ,  $SD = 0.36$ ), followed by cultural representatives ( $M = 3.58$ ,  $SD = 0.38$ ) and government officials ( $M = 3.45$ ,  $SD = 0.40$ ). All groups' scores fall within the "Strongly Agree" range, indicating broad consensus on the significance of cultural and moral cohesion.

The ANOVA results ( $F = 3.23$ ,  $p = 0.043$ ) reveal a statistically significant difference between the groups, suggesting that professional roles influence perceptions of cultural and moral consensus. Community leaders, who engage directly with diverse populations, report the strongest agreement, reflecting their critical role in fostering grassroots unity and resolving cultural tensions. This finding aligns with Daldanise 's (2024) research, which emphasizes the importance of grassroots leadership in bridging cultural divides and promoting shared values. The *National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028* further supports this, advocating for the active involvement of community leaders in initiatives that build cultural cohesion and national stability (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).



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Cultural representatives, responsible for preserving heritage and fostering understanding, also report high levels of agreement. Their role aligns with the literature that underscores the importance of cultural preservation in maintaining societal unity (Pan et al., 2024). Government officials, while showing slightly lower scores, still recognize the importance of cultural and moral consensus. This difference may stem from their focus on structural and governance-related priorities rather than direct engagement with community-level issues. Heydari et al. (2024) highlight that while policymakers may prioritize governance frameworks, incorporating cultural and moral dimensions enhances the effectiveness and inclusivity of policies.

The relatively low standard deviations across all groups indicate consistency in responses, reinforcing the reliability of these findings. The significant difference observed in the ANOVA results suggests the need for tailored strategies that leverage the unique perspectives and strengths of each group to foster cultural and moral consensus.

The results highlight significant differences in perceptions of cultural and moral consensus among respondent groups. Community leaders, cultural representatives, and government officials each contribute unique insights that are essential for building a cohesive and resilient society. These findings align with the NSP 2023–2028’s emphasis on integrating diverse perspectives into strategies for cultural and moral cohesion to promote unity and stability.

**Table 9**  
**Recommendations for Strengthening National Security**

	<b>wm</b>
1. Promoting shared cultural values strengthens unity and security.	3.57
2. National policies should address inclusivity to promote moral consensus.	3.48
3. Education programs should focus on shared moral and cultural values.	3.69
4. Collaboration between cultural and security organizations enhances national resilience.	3.48
5. Strengthening cultural heritage improves national identity and stability.	3.54

Legend:

<b>Point</b>	<b>Scale Range</b>	<b>Verbal Interpretation</b>
4	4.00-3.00	Strongly Agree
3	2.99-2.00	Agree
2	1.99- 1.00	Disagree
1	1.00-0.99	Strongly Disagree

Table 9 highlights respondents’ perceptions of various recommendations for strengthening national security, with all statements receiving weighted mean (WM) scores within the "Strongly Agree" range (4.00–3.00). This consensus underscores the importance of cultural, moral, and institutional strategies in promoting unity, resilience, and stability.

The highest-rated recommendation, "Education programs should focus on shared moral and cultural values," received a WM of 3.69. This finding emphasizes the critical role of education in fostering moral and cultural awareness, which are essential for building a cohesive and secure society. Education is a powerful tool for instilling shared values and encouraging intergenerational continuity of cultural practices (Daldanise, 2020). The National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028 aligns with this sentiment, advocating for moral education that incorporates virtues such as patriotism, respect, and responsibility to promote national resilience (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).



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The recommendation "Promoting shared cultural values strengthens unity and security" scored a WM of 3.57, highlighting respondents' strong agreement on the role of shared cultural values in uniting diverse communities. Shared values act as a unifying force, fostering trust and collaboration among different societal groups. Pan et al. (2024) similarly emphasize that shared cultural values reduce social fragmentation and contribute to national security by strengthening internal cohesion.

"Strengthening cultural heritage improves national identity and stability," with a WM of 3.54, reflects the respondents' recognition of heritage as a cornerstone of national identity. Preserving and celebrating cultural heritage reinforces collective identity, fostering pride and unity within a diverse population. This finding aligns with research by Xiaoyan and Kaiang (2024), who argue that cultural heritage preservation contributes to stability by promoting a sense of belonging and historical continuity.

Two recommendations—"National policies should address inclusivity to promote moral consensus" and "Collaboration between cultural and security organizations enhances national resilience"—both received a WM of 3.48. These findings underscore the importance of inclusivity and cross-sector collaboration in strengthening security frameworks. Inclusive policies ensure that all societal groups feel represented and valued, which is crucial for fostering moral consensus (Heydari et al., 2024). Meanwhile, collaboration between cultural and security organizations enhances resilience by integrating cultural insights into strategic planning, aligning with the NSP's emphasis on whole-of-society approaches to national security (Republic of the Philippines, 2023).

In summary, the results from Table 9 reflect a shared understanding among respondents that cultural and moral dimensions are integral to strengthening national security. The emphasis on education, shared values, cultural heritage, inclusivity, and collaboration highlights a multifaceted approach to achieving unity and resilience. These findings align with existing literature and the principles outlined in the National Security Policy 2023–2028, demonstrating that a comprehensive strategy incorporating these elements can foster a secure and cohesive nation.

## Conclusions

Based on the findings of this research, the following conclusions are drawn:

### 1. Profile of the Respondents:

The diverse demographic and professional profiles of the respondents, including government officials, cultural representatives, and community leaders, reflect the multidimensional nature of cultural and moral consensus. Community leaders demonstrated the highest levels of agreement on the significance of cultural and moral cohesion, underscoring their critical role in fostering unity at the grassroots level.

### 2. Contribution of Cultural and Moral Consensus to National Security Outcomes:

Cultural and moral consensus significantly enhances national security outcomes by fostering social cohesion, mitigating conflicts, and improving crisis resilience. Shared cultural values and moral frameworks act as unifying forces that strengthen societal trust and cooperation, which are essential for sovereignty defense and crisis management.

### 3. Key Cultural Symbols, Traditions, and Values:

Cultural symbols such as the Filipino flag and national holidays, alongside traditions like bayanihan (community spirit) and religious festivals, were identified as critical in fostering unity and national identity. These elements transcend cultural and ethnic differences, promoting a collective sense of pride and belonging.

### 4. Moral Consensus and Social Cohesion Among Diverse Groups:

Moral consensus enhances social cohesion by providing common ethical foundations for mutual respect and cooperation. Despite the challenges of achieving consensus in a multicultural context, shared moral values such as respect, responsibility, and patriotism are vital for maintaining societal harmony.

### 5. Relationship Between Cultural and Moral Cohesion and Crisis Resilience:

A strong positive relationship was observed between cultural and moral cohesion and crisis resilience. Societies with cohesive cultural and moral frameworks are better equipped to respond to and recover from crises, as these frameworks promote trust, solidarity, and collective action.

### 6. Inclusivity and Intersectional Factors:



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Inclusivity, particularly in addressing systemic inequalities and incorporating marginalized groups, was found to be critical for fostering cultural and moral consensus. Intersectional factors such as gender, ethnicity, and religion play significant roles in shaping perceptions of unity and should be addressed through inclusive policies and practices.

#### **7. Differences in Cultural and Moral Consensus by Profile:**

Statistically significant differences were observed in the perceptions of cultural and moral consensus across respondent profiles. Community leaders exhibited the strongest agreement, reflecting their direct engagement with diverse groups, while government officials and cultural representatives also demonstrated strong but distinct perspectives based on their roles.

#### **8. Recommendations for Strengthening National Security:**

Promoting shared cultural values, enhancing inclusivity, prioritizing education on moral and cultural values, fostering collaboration between cultural and security organizations, and preserving cultural heritage were identified as key strategies for strengthening national security. These approaches align with the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028, which emphasizes holistic and inclusive strategies for national resilience.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

#### **1. Enhancing Cultural and Moral Education:**

Education programs should prioritize the integration of shared moral and cultural values into the curriculum at all levels. These programs should emphasize virtues such as respect, responsibility, patriotism, and community spirit, which are essential for fostering a unified national identity and social cohesion.

#### **2. Promoting Shared Cultural Values and Traditions:**

Government agencies and cultural institutions should actively promote shared cultural values and traditions, such as bayanihan (community spirit) and national festivals. These efforts can strengthen unity and provide platforms for celebrating diversity while reinforcing a collective national identity.

#### **3. Developing Inclusive Policies:**

National and local governments should create policies that address inclusivity, focusing on marginalized and vulnerable groups. These policies should aim to reduce systemic inequalities related to gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, ensuring equitable participation in national development and consensus-building.

#### **4. Fostering Collaboration Between Cultural and Security Organizations:**

Collaboration between cultural institutions and security agencies should be strengthened to integrate cultural insights into national security strategies. This partnership can enhance national resilience by aligning cultural preservation efforts with broader security goals.

#### **5. Preserving and Promoting Cultural Heritage:**

Efforts to preserve and promote Filipino cultural heritage, including language, art, traditions, and historical landmarks, should be intensified. These initiatives can serve as a foundation for building a cohesive and resilient society, as emphasized by the National Security Policy (NSP) 2023–2028.

#### **6. Strengthening Community-Based Initiatives:**

Community leaders should be supported in their roles as key agents of cultural and moral consensus. Grassroots programs that encourage intergroup dialogue and cooperation should be expanded to bridge cultural divides and foster mutual understanding at the local level.

#### **7. Leveraging Digital Platforms for Cultural and Moral Advocacy:**

With the rise of digital technologies, online platforms should be utilized to promote cultural and moral values. Campaigns that highlight shared traditions and encourage inclusivity can counteract the divisive effects of misinformation and cultural colonization in the digital space.

#### **8. Regular Assessments of Cultural and Moral Consensus:**

Policymakers and researchers should conduct regular assessments of cultural and moral consensus to identify emerging challenges and opportunities. These assessments can guide the development of targeted interventions and ensure the sustainability of consensus-building efforts.

#### **9. Policy Support for Crisis Resilience:**

Policies should explicitly link cultural and moral consensus with crisis resilience strategies. This includes training programs and community workshops designed to prepare diverse groups for collective action during emergencies.

#### **10. Interdisciplinary Research on Cultural and Moral Consensus:**



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Further research should explore the intersections between cultural and moral consensus, inclusivity, and national security. These studies should focus on diverse contexts to identify best practices and innovative approaches to strengthening societal cohesion.

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