Armed and Informed!: AN INTERACTIVE AND INFORMATIVE WEBSITE

TO CREATE AWARENESS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE MIDST OF ARMED CONFLICT

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**Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION**

**Background of the Study**

            One hundred twelve thousand nine hundred six (Armed Conflict Database, n.d.). This is the current statistics of fatalities from armed conflicts worldwide. According to Tadesse (n.d.) if people would have to include all the casualties from past warfares, battles and conflicts, starting from the pre-historic era, the number would be so huge that it could actually be the population size of an entire country or even a continent. There’s no country nor race that has been spared from any kind of conflicts – presently, people would commonly hear the Muslims involved in conflicts, but some of the biggest and longest wars occurred in history were in Europe, France, Vietnam and Japan to name a few ([Akorra,](http://akorra.com/2010/03/04/top-10-longest-wars/) n.d.) .  Even in ancient gladiator times, power was determined by the size of the army and ability to win wars.  Whether it’s a revolutionary war or insurgency, civil war, guerrilla or even cyber war, there will always be deaths, sufferings, hunger, fear, emotional and psychosocial effects in all of these conflicts.

Whittemore (n.d.) cited that since the evolution of mankind, the rise of the community and state, there has always existed a hunger and urgency in our race to prove one’s dominancy upon another, and with the emergence of gunpowder and development of technological advances, it has led to more violence and fatalities.

Hence, this paper aims to provide awareness of the effects of such events.  This paper will not attempt to resolve conflicts nor provide suggestions on how to avoid being in that situation as the issue is beyond one’s control, but it will provide insightful information on how victims can cope up from the traumatizing experience of wars.

This paper will gather in-depth understanding on a website on armed conflicts.  It will cover history of armed conflict, cause and effect and the roles of women and children.   The study will aim to produce a more understanding of armed conflicts and its effects.  The researcher aims to do an interactive and informative website that will help the readers understand and basically help the women and children affected by armed conflicts.  The researcher have based the information from online resources, online journals and academic books.

According to Smith (n.d) Armed Conflict is an open, armed clashes between two or more parties that pursue different kinds of issues. It usually occurs around random communities that is filled with civilian population and not in secluded battlefields. In a few instances during battles, the fighting can passed on to another country that is usually used as a supply run or hideout. "Most armed conflicts are fought not only by regular armies but also by militias and armed civilians with little discipline and with ill-defined chains of command. Home-grown weapons, such as machetes and spears, maim many in armed conflicts, but imported machine-guns, grenades, mortars and armoured vehicles kill many more. The weapons are acquired by warring parties, either through hard currency purchases or through what is known as “parallel financing”, which involves the sale or barter of goods, such as diamonds, oil, timber and coffee." (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 203)

To further understand armed conflict and wars, this paper will cover the causes and effects of these events - the important questions of how, what, when, who and why. This paper will show the readers through both the facts and theories of why these phenomenon has been happening throughout history. Why do wars occur and recur? Who are involved? What are the repercussions of such violence? Given the importance of the question and the wide range of answers, it is essential to have a perspective on the various sources of conflicts. This study will not just cover the common causes of war such as gaining control over a part of the country or of another country altogether, but also the ideological changes within a society, religious reasons, power imbalances, economic growth, monopoly of power and even deterioration of environment.

A study of the causes and effects will likewise be presented in this paper and in the website. The impact of armed conflicts varies and sometimes unpredictable as it depends on the situation and extent of damage. But women and children, in particular, suffer unspeakable atrocities in armed conflicts. Over millions of those killed in armed conflicts are women and children –they are seriously injured or permanently disabled, many of them maimed by landmines, and millions were psychologically scarred by violence. Many children develop problems, such as flashbacks, nightmares, social isolation, heightened aggression, anxiety, depression and diminished future orientation. These problems of mental health and psychosocial functioning persist long after the fighting has ceased. (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 205)

"Wars are no longer fought in secluded combat zones – the battlefield is in the midst of the civilian population. Civilians, not combatants, make up the largest number of casualties, and among civilians, women are particularly exposed and victimized."(Protection of women in situations of armed conflict, 2013). The women in the civilian area engage on the responsibilities of encountering with the many consequences of armed conflicts. While the men is oftentimes the breadwinner in the family, women regularly keeps track on the families survival. But when it comes to other matters it is usually unpredictable if a women will be part in the conflicts because they can use women for different ways whether it is for sexual violence or man power. "Sexual violence is used in war to shame and humiliate the enemy, as a reward to the conquering side, and as a means to spread terror and to weaken morale. It may also be used to undermine women's ability to sustain their communities during times of conflict." (Women and armed conflict, 2013).

There were times when children participated in wars as soldiers but not all fought for their lives some were cooks and messengers. Regardless of what the children are assigned to do, they are still working in close combat. (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 204). All around the world there had been reports of child soldiers, good thing about today is that many people are fighting for the cause to stop it, to stop the effects of being mentally unstable and physically the children. According to Machel,G. (n.d.)

The impact of armed conflict cannot be fully understood without looking at the related effects on women, families and the community support systems that provide protection and a secure environment for development. Children's well-being is best ensured through family and community-based solutions that draw on local culture and an understanding of child development.

She also cited that "armed conflict, more than any other force, has transformed the lives of millions of children and women. Many are being targeted. Nothing is spared, held sacred or protected. It is the singular characteristic of armed conflict in our time that children suffer most."

**Significance of the Study**

At the end of this study, once the researcher have understand the effects of armed conflicts to the women and children, the study will aim to provide an interactive and informative website. This website will serve as the users and audience reference, guide and give assistance on armed conflicts to the women and children, target audience, readers, students and lastly to other researchers. Moreover, this research will provide information on the causes and effects on armed conflict so that the target audience and others will be aware on what is happening and how to surpass the effects. Not to mention, that the study shows certain points in the media that can be a learning process for everyone.

**Statement of the Problem**

The main research problem of this study is how can "Armed and Informed!" website, inform women and children the causes and effects of Armed Conflicts?

**Objective**

The main objective of this paper is to let women and children be informed from the traumatizing experience of armed conflict. The website will provide awareness to women and children about the things that they might face and give them information on the things lingering on armed conflicts.

**Chapter II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The review of related literature will present on how the website "Armed and Informed!" can be an awareness tool for women and children affected by armed conflicts. This chapter will also present the causes and effects done by armed conflicts.

In the moment, the internet has become a viral part in everybody's lives, unlike before when most people only used the internet to search for information. But now the internet can be used for different purposes, like for example, contacting and messaging someone, downloading videos and songs, and it is even used to send assignment to professors. The internet really has change over the past few decades and each year it grew and grew into something more advanced. However, it is only with the power of the internet that one can connect to a website. With the help of the internet it can accommodate instant communication to everyone in the world, it can also give information on the things people want to know about. But because of the dramatic growth of Internet usage, it has changed the lives of millions to billions of people around the world.

**Website as an Awareness Tool**

According to Rouse (n.d.) "Information technology is a term that encompasses all forms of technology used to create, store, exchange, and use information in its various forms." It is because of information technology that people can create websites that can help people be aware on different events.

There have been many awareness website on the internet and each one of them is helpful to the readers and it has proven a point to everyone.

Like for example, according to Howey (2011) an awareness or action website is that it inspires change, encourages action and bring people together. Here are examples of the top awareness websites:

* Share the Little Things
* Starved for Attention
* Little Black Dress Society

"Share the little things" is an online website for those women that has breast cancer. They encourages member to share stories about their personal triumphs and struggles. "Starved for attention" is a online campaign for the neglected and malnourish children all around the world. And lastly, "little black dress society" is an organization devoted to stop the abuse on women.

An awareness website is a good way for people to be aware to the things happening around them whether it is bad or good. It is also a way for companies to spread the word on something they want people to understand and to learn from. According to Yola (2013) a good website should be:

* Strong and clear message
* Easy navigation
* Content and more content
* Community

Consumers are looking to connect with companies more than ever, and establishing an online presence through a website, blog or social channels provides a great way to fulfil this desire. By providing a website on armed conflicts, it has driven to the point where people has to understand that every conflict there are women and children getting hurt, killed and rape. But with this website, the women and children affect to those terms might have a change to overcome those effects and for the other readers, they might be able to help those victims by understanding and helping them in any way they can.

**Armed Conflicts**

Armed Conflicts is a battle that determines the dominance of power between the presence of two parties fighting for different kinds of purposes. There have been said that the weapons they used are manmade but also they use the barter trade to get the weapons they want. The weaponry used is relatively low technology. It was said that most all of the killing is done at close range, by men and some of it done by male children. Supposedly, these battles are usually fought in populated communities that are full of people, young, old, mother, father and especially children rather than in secluded battlefields where there isn't much people in it. And within that communities there are always those people that are affected in these kinds of conflicts. And those people are mostly the women and children. The women and children have always been supposedly target victims in armed conflicts. It doesn't surprise many people that children are uniquely vulnerable to recruitments in wars. They are served as soldiers, cooks and even messengers between battle fields. While the women, they are extremely prone in being victims in conflicts because the soldiers are unpredictable when it comes into the women and some don't even know what the soldiers wants. They rely on women to serve as extra man power for the soldiers or sexual partners.

Even after decades of conflicts the number of casualties is still growing larger. There is no apparent reason on why and how armed conflicts is really happening but further down the paper, there will be some theories that will be discussed regarding armed conflicts. (Armed Conflict, n.d.)

**Armed Conflict in the Philippines**

According to the Childs Right International Network (2013) the Philippines has been the site of several ongoing armed conflicts. Historically, it started when the dissatisfaction among the Muslim population of the Philippines increased after independence from the United States in 1946, when the Government started resettling Catholic families from the northern islands to the Moro areas of the south, particularly on the island of Mindanao. Secretary General to the Security Council on Children and Armed conflict confirmed that the Government, three non­state armed groups, the MILF, Abu Sayyaf and NPA, and maybe other groups continue to recruit and use children as part of armed conflicts. In total, 11 incidents of recruitment and use of children were recorded in 2012, involving 23 boys and three girls between 12 and 17 years of age. And last January of 2015 something terrible happened, the Mamasapano Massacre. According to the Humanitarian Bulletin Philippines (2015) last

January 25, 2015 an encounter between the Philippine National Police (PNP), Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) during a government law enforcement operation in Mamasapano municipality Maguindanao, displaced some 1,300 families (6,600 people) and resulted in at least 11 civilian casualties (five civilians dead including a girl).

Cabrera (2015) reported that civilians who were wounded in the Mamasapano incident, were still trying to overcome the trauma they have faced. The clash resulted in the death of 44 Special Action Force (SAF) troopers, 18 MILF fighters, and at least 5 civilians. Residents from the municipality just said that they were hoping the wounds caused by the clash would heal in time. Apatan (2015) cited that a number of civilians residents temporarily left their houses, after learning that an unidentified number of fully armed men had moved into their area. Also The Manila Times (2015) reported that 6,620 people have been displaced, most of them struggling to find sources of income after leaving behind their livelihoods. Many families have been traumatize to the effects of the clash, many of them were even afraid to go outside because there might be some explosives going off and maybe even some gun shooting.

**Women in Armed Conflicts**

The African Union (2013) reported that both women and children have been affected by armed conflict as casualties of violence and sexual acts. Also the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (n.d) reported that by 1993, 18.2 million women and children across the world had left their homelands to escape persecution and violence. Unicef.org (n.d.) also cited that one form of violence against women is rape. It has affected women drastically in both physically and emotionally. The people that attacked the women in that sexual manner are the rapist. The rapist are mostly armed bandits that travel in groups, they are even people from the army. But also according to Smith-Spark (n.d) rape is often used in ethnic conflicts as a way for attackers to preserve their social control and gain control of boundaries. Also there are other roles for women in armed conflicts like they "Often have to travel long distances to find water, food, firewood, medicines and other necessities, thereby putting at risk their own physical safety". (Protection of women in situations of armed conflicts, 2013)

**Children in Armed Conflicts**

"Hundreds of thousands of children are used as soldiers in armed conflicts around the world. Many children are abducted and beaten into submission, others join military groups to escape poverty, to defend their communities, out of a feeling of revenge or for other reasons". (Child Recruitment, n.d.) . Children as young as 8 years old are being forced to become soldiers. And because they are young they are easily being manipulated by adults. Majority of the children are likely taken from poor families or children that are separated from their families. But children from wealthy and more educated families are left alone. Many of the roles of the children are taking part in close combats but not all children are forced to fight in up-close, there are some that were cooks, messengers and even just plain helpers to the soldiers. But the female children were the most vulnerable because most of them are used as sexual slaves to the soldiers while the boys do all the heavy lifting like carrying heavy equipments. While both boys and girls start out doing different jobs in the conflicts, it does not take long before they are place in battle, where their inexperience and lack of training makes them vulnerable. The recruitment process of the children are done in many different ways. Some were kidnapped, others are forced to join to defend their families. But in many instances, the children are arbitrarily seized from the streets and even from schools, anywhere there is armed people or police the roam the streets, kidnapping anyone they encounter. But in most cases, there were some parents that offer their own children for service because of hunger and poverty. Occasionally, most children become soldiers to survive. They might think that it is the only way to get food, clothing and medical attention. (Special Concerns, n.d.)

**Cause of Armed Conflicts**

According to Tadesse (n.d.) people are still unable to avoid armed conflicts. It is when archaeological findings and historical records pinpointed that people have been engaged in armed conflicts since the prehistoric period. Regehr (n.d.) cited that an armed conflict can only be resolve if there is a formal ceasefire or peace agreement. "Armed conflicts can also be seen as the struggle for power by a section of the elite that has been excluded from the exercise of power in authoritarian systems of one-party rule." (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 204) "Economic decline and mismanagement are also associated with violent conflicts, not least because the politics of a shrinking economy are inherently prone to conflicts as compared to those of economic growth." (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 204-205) According to The Economist (n.d.) there is rarely only one cause of dispute that can start a conflict. And here are some causes that have been reasons in other conflicts around the world :

* Ideological Change
* Self-determination
* National control
* Resources
* Territory
* Control of part of a country
* Control of another country
* Other

**Effects of Armed Conflict**

"Women and children, in particular, suffer unspeakable atrocities in armed conflicts. In the past decade, according to one estimate, up to two million of those killed in armed conflicts were children. Three times as many have been seriously injured or permanently disabled, many of them maimed by landmines, and millions were psychologically scarred by violence". (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 205) According to the United Nation (n.d.) even though that thousands of children die from fighting, knife wounds, bullets, bombs and landmines, many more die from malnutrition and disease cause or increased by armed conflicts. "Children who experience sexual violence suffer from long-term psychological trauma, health consequences including transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS and early pregnancies". (Sexual Violence, n.d.) Conflicts can make children develop problems such as s flashbacks, nightmares, social isolation, heightened aggression, depression and diminished future orientation. (Armed Conflict, n.d., page. 205) As said before, women were also victims in armed conflict. And unicef. org (n.d.) reported that rape's damage can be very devastating because of the reaction to violation and pain on the women. Bangura (n.d.) indicate that rape is committed during war if often planned to terrorize the population, break up families and destroy the communities. But sometimes it is also used to infect women with HIV or forced sterilization.

According to Mazurana (2012) women and girls experience armed conflict in the same way the men do, they fight and kill. But they also suffer the effects of violence, that includes diseases and trauma.

**Role of the Internet in Armed Conflicts**

According to Castells (2014) the internet is the technology of the information age. Now is the time where mankind is now almost entirely connected. People, companies and institutions feel the extent of this technological change, but the speed and transformation has cause different changes in our society. It was said that internet increase increases the risk of isolation, alienation, and withdrawal from society, but some shows that the Internet neither isolates people nor reduces their sociability; it actually increases sociability, civic engagement, and the intensity of family and friendship relationships, in all cultures. Vitez (n.d.) reported that technology allows businesses to process information much faster. The internet allows many companies to set up websites or other electronic systems to sell products and generate advertisements for the company. History.com (n.d.) cited that in the time 1962, in the soviet attack, a scientist named J.C.R Licklider made a galactic network of computer that could talk to one another. Such a network would enable government leaders to communicate even if the Soviets destroyed other forms of communication. The use of the internet in armed conflicts can be a way for people to communicate to one another, the fighters can contact their families, the Generals can contact other members of the squad and get an update on a situation. It is also a way for other people to get reports of what is happening to the conflicts.

**Role of Information Technology in Armed Conflicts**

According to Vitez (n.d.) "Information technology has transformed the way companies conduct business." Because of it many hardware and software products have increasingly develop over the past decades. Ingram (n.d.) reported that information technology is a phenomenon that has dramatically change the lives of people and business throughout the world. New technologies are being invented every year. Smart phone technology have change the way business people communicate with others. People can now access a website through a smart phone from anywhere around the world. The impact of Information Technology has been big, not just for communication, but for others as well like for education and for pure entertainment. But not everything about information technology can be good, there are also some bad things. Armed Conflict can benefit through information technology by the use of the advance technology that can be made to help them. It can also be a way for them to communicate. There is also the making of a website for armed conflict, it would benefit others in knowing about armed conflict, their causes and effects and on the women and children on them.

**Synthesis**

With the use of the internet, many people and companies can promote, advertise and even just to present their findings all over the entire world without being there physically. With the help of the internet and a website for armed conflicts, it can help people, especially women and children, understand and eventually overcome some of the possible severe effects of armed conflicts. A website become an essential tool for everyone, they are used to do anything we can think about. They are used to do marketing, advertising, promoting, for shopping, for school and even for awareness. Because of the information that can be brought upon by a website, it can connect to the people that what's to learn and understand any specific topic that they might find on the internet. Today in this generation, many people know for a fact that technology have been progressing much faster than some people anticipated. And many technologies have help improve our lives. Even though that technologies is growing fast, armed conflicts is also growing rapidly. Every day, there might be a new conflict happening somewhere around the world, women and children are being forced and tortured for the men and soldiers against their own will, hundreds and thousands of people getting killed and a website can truly help them. Armed conflicts might be popular in some departments, with many articles, journals, books and even some websites but it still has some disadvantages for the users to actually learn the information that they needed. The website of Armed Conflicts will be an eye opener to the users and readers because it will show how much armed conflicts can affect everyone and be able to see how can some overcome these effects. There have been some websites that specialize in armed conflicts but only some are focusing on women and children, there are some

that specialize in women and there are some for children. So technically, there were no websites that focuses on both women and children. The use of my website will focus on armed conflicts and on women and children.

**Definition of Terms**

**Armed Conflicts** - is a contested incompatibility which concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle- related deaths

**Armed Force** - use of any material in order to promote the parties’ general position in the conflict, resulting in deaths.

**25 Deaths** - a minimum of 25 battle-related deaths per year and per incompatibility.

**Internet** - is the largest computer network in the world, connecting millions of computers.

**Network** - is a group of two or more computer systems linked together.

**Website** - is a collection of web pages or documents that are accessed through the Internet.

**Webpage** - is what you see on the screen when you type in a web address, click on a link, or put a query in a search engine.

**Technology** - The application of science, especially to industrial or commercial objectives.

**Rape** - is any form of unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone.

**Sexual Slave** - a person who is forced into prostitution and held against their will.

**Ideological Change** - is a set of opinions or beliefs of a group or an individual.

**Awareness** - the state or condition of being aware on something or someone.

**Massacre -** the violent killing of many people

**Chapter III FRAMEWORK**

Theoretical Framework is about supporting this study with different theories. According to Swanson (2013)

Theoretical Framework are formulated to explain, predict and understand phenomena, in many cases to challenge and extend knowledge within a given circumstance. It is the structure that can hold or support a theory of a research study. It also introduces and describe that explains why the research problem under study exists.

**Information Theory**

The first theory that can support this study is Information Theory. According to Markowsky (2013) Information Theory founded by Claude Shannon in 1948, is a representation of conditions and parameters that affects the transmission and processing of information, it is also in line with communication theory. Communication Theory deals with the technology of transmitting information to people and machines. The elements of information theory are source, encoder, channel, noise, decoder and receiver, and each element has their own specific and unique use in this study. The source and the encoder is where the information comes from, the channel is the main component it is where the message is being transmitted. The noise is the problems the channel will be facing, and lastly the decoder and receiver is the users and the audience.

Information theory can be seen on this study for women and children on armed conflicts is informative, it gives information, details and facts on armed conflicts needed by the audience and by its users. Using this theory, it can inform the audience and users the different causes and effects on armed conflicts and not just some basic information about the subject. This website can have the informative structure the users and audience needs.

**Game Theory**

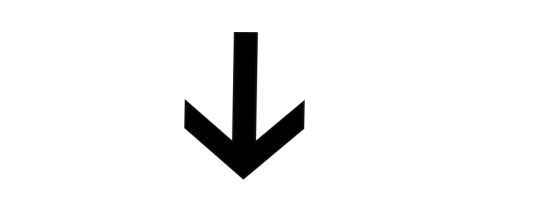
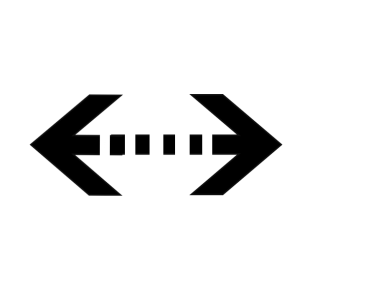
The second theory that can support this study is Game Theory. Turocy, T. L. & Stengel, B. (n.d) cited that "Game Theory is a formal study of conflict and cooperation it is also the study of strategic decision making. It centers on the concept of providing a language to formulate, structure, analyze and understand strategic scenarios."

The only element on game theory is strategic decision making. Game theory can be used in this study by using different opinions or decisions that can make the study better. It's about where the users and audience think and decide on some of next decisions they have to make for the website. It can be seen on how the users choice when to click on something or not to click, it is their own choice if they want to read on some information or to not, it is about choosing and basically deciding on a particular aspect on the website.

**Network and Analysis Theory**

The third and last theory for this study is Network and Analysis Theory founded by Barnes in 1954. Network and Analysis Theory can be identified in other words like network theory and social network analysis. According to Owen-Smith (n.d.) a network theory is a concrete pattern of relationships among different subjects. It is mapping out the different decisions a user can make in this study.

Network and Analysis Theory can be connected to the study using the elements of ties and nodes. The ties are the relationship between the nodes, while the nodes are the actors. This theory can be seen on this study on a website on armed conflicts based on the connection of the website and the users and even to some of the audience. But it doesn't stop from three users because it can grow up to many users that has a valuable relationship from the past users that can make the website more popular.



3rd Receiver

-Choice

A or B

2nd Receiver

-Choice

A or B

1st Receiver

-Choice

A or B

Noise

Channel - Decoder

Source - Encoder

Figure 1: Theoretical Framework

**Theoretical Framework**

Figure 1 illustrates the foundation of a theoretical framework, it supports three different theories. They are Information Theory, Game Theory and Network and Analysis Theory. These theories are used in this study are all centered for the audience and especially for the users. They even include the elements of the theories which are some of the basic groundwork for the theories. In the diagram the arrows represent the step by step procedure on how source reaches the users and how the users can make a choice depending on a particular situation. The broken arrow represents that there is not always a noise or a problem regarding the channel or the decoder. The receivers delegate the choice whether to pick A or B.

3rd User

- Decision

Yes or No

2nd User

- Decision

Yes or No

1st User

-Decision

Yes or No

Internet Connection

Website - Browser

Developer

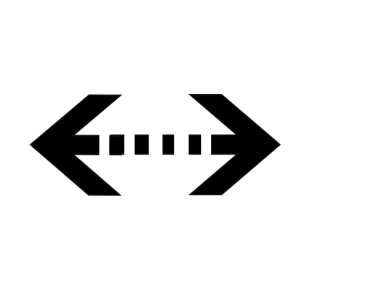
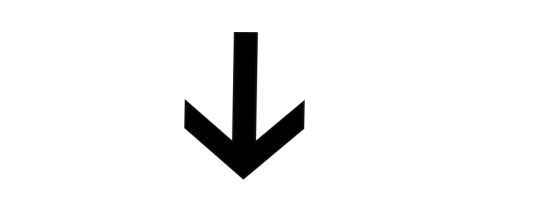
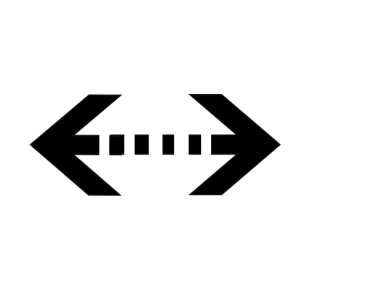
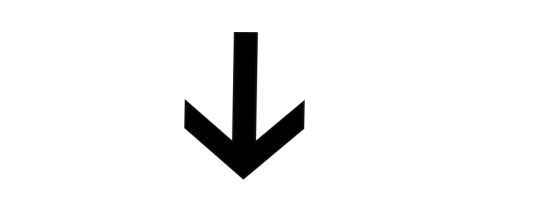


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework

**Conceptual Framework**

Figure 2 shows the perception of the second step which is the Conceptual Framework. It shows a slightly more specific framework than the theoretical framework. Although that it's slight the same with the theoretical frame work, the only difference of it is the terms used in describing the steps. It shows how the developer can connect to the website and its users. It even has a connection to the problems a website or browser can have. In the conceptual framework it will be easily to understand because it can now clearly be seen on how the steps come together. The developer will be the source of the information's, the channel is the website that the developer will make, the noise will be the internet connect and the receiver will be the users participating in this study, while the users are deciding whether on what to do next after reading a particular part on the website.



Women and Children 3

-Decision

Yes or No

Women and Children 2

-Decision

Yes or No

Women and Children 1

-Decision

Yes or No

Internet Connection

Armed and Informed!

Website

Developer

Figure 3: Operational Framework

**Operational Framework**

Figure 3 shows a diagram of the final framework which is the operational framework. It is the final stage in the framework where all the elements are in place and have the most specific way the study can present. It demonstrates how the developer can connect to the website and can also have the different connections to the users and make a decision based on the outcome of the website. But more importantly it is the final representation on how the users can access the website "Armed and Informed!" that will inform them about the women and children on armed conflicts and the causes and effects on them. It can also be seen on how the noise of internet connect can affect the website. And how the website can be access to many users, but the users can decide on what they will do next in the website.

All these diagram shows on how to analyze all the different aspects of this website on armed conflicts. The Information theory informs the users and audience of the website, the information that they need. It will inform them the causes and effects of armed conflict on women and children. While, Game Theory will help them in making a decision based on the things on the website, whether they will continue reading and learning about armed conflict on women and children or logout. And lastly, the Network and Analysis Theory will provide the tie and nodes on all of the users of the website. Each theory is a valuable asset to this study because each has its own element that shows how to develop and understand the study more.

**Chapter IV METHODOLOGY**

**A. Research Methodology**

**Research Design and Methods**

The method that will be used in this study is the Quantitative Method. This approach would be done through conducting surveys with participants based on their expertise and relation on this study. Questionnaires will be used to obtain data from women and children but also from other people that has been affected by armed conflicts. Using this method it would determine the validity, reliability and accurate information of data used in this project. Because the users for this study are women and children, the researcher will collect data from people from the police or the army, whether they are active or not.

**Variables and Measures**

The researcher will be developing a website called "Armed and Informed!", since it is designed specifically for women and children it can also be designed for other people. The respondents are going to be women or children who experienced armed conflict or people who has experienced military or police work. There are no specific age requirement for the respondents. The website would be web-based and can only be accessible through the internet.

**Research Instruments**

For this study, the researcher will be using the Quantitative method, using surveys. The researcher believes that this is the best way to obtain information from the audience. Copies of survey questionnaire will be given to women or children and to others who has either experience armed conflict or has experienced military or police work. The researcher constructed a series of questions for the survey regarding armed conflict, it's effects and on women and children. There are no right or wrong answers because either way, the information shared by the respondents would serve useful for the researcher.

**Units of Analysis and Sampling**

The researcher will need any person who knows someone who has any experience with military work or police work, whether it is women or children or others . The survey will be focused on women, children and other people who experience military work or police work. But since it is hard for children to take part in a survey, the researcher would just give the survey to the parents or to other family members. Since the study will be focusing on women and children, the others will not only be people who took part in police or military work but they will also be people who only saw but didn't take any part of it. This will allow the researcher to gain more information about the study. The researcher would also use the Snowball sampling method to get the information that she needed from the respondents.

**Data Gathering**

This survey will be conducted from June to July of 2015. The questionnaires will be distributed to the respondents and will be retrieved in two weeks. The researcher will contact people who have experience armed conflict or took part in military or police work. But also be contacting people who know others who also have experienced the same conflict and work. The survey will be given to the respondents personally, through a friend and through email.

**Data Analysis**

Since the researcher will be using the Quantitative method, the answers from the respondents will be analyze individually and will be summarize over all. The researcher will be using the descriptive statistics. The survey will be summarize through counts and percentages and will be shown using the pie chart or the bar chart.

**Scope and Limitations**

This study will be focusing on a informative and interactive website about armed conflicts. The target users that will be used in this study are women and children however, the website will also be available for others who takes part in military or police work. But also for other people who will want to know more about armed conflicts. The website will only cover basic information, cause and effects, and the roles of women and children in armed conflict. The number of respondents in this study is only 10 or less respondents because of unavailability and lack of contact. Also this website will not be for people who doesn't have internet connection.

**B. Project Development Methodology**

In order to achieve and deliver an ideal output for this study, the researcher must possess the following creativity and logic. Creativity to create attractive layouts and design for the website and logic so that through programming the researcher can make, test and debug the program so that the functions will work properly. The researcher will be using the assistance of different software such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Dreamweaver and Adobe Illustrator. As for hardware the researcher will using a pen tablet for easy access in drawing and designing the layout for the website. The website will not only have text but it will also have images and videos so that it would be more appealing for the users. Also the website would be the type where all the audience will understand the content.

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