





Enhancing Security, Economy, and Education: A Policy Analysis of the Indonesia-Malaysia Border Region

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Abstract

This study explores the legal and policy dimensions influencing security, economic development, and education in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region, identifying key challenges and offering policy recommendations. Using a qualitative methodology and NVIVO 12+ software for data analysis, the research examines legislation documents, government reports, and policy frameworks to uncover significant gaps. The study reveals critical deficiencies, including underfunded educational institutions, inadequate healthcare facilities, and insufficient infrastructure, which hinder both human development and economic growth. For instance, many border villages face infrastructural deficits such as unpaved roads and unreliable electricity, limiting access to education and curbing local economic opportunities. The research also

highlights the fragmentation of legal and policy frameworks, which often prioritize national security and macroeconomic goals over local needs, exacerbating socio-economic inequalities. Inadequate security measures further undermine regional stability, facilitating transnational crimes such as human trafficking and illegal trade. The study emphasizes the interconnectedness of education, infrastructure, security, and economic development, underscoring how deficiencies in one area adversely affect the others. This paper offers novel insights into border governance, proposing an integrated policy approach that aligns legal, economic, and educational objectives to foster sustainable development, enhance security, and promote regional cooperation. The findings provide valuable implications for policymakers seeking to improve governance in border regions facing similar socio-political challenges.

KEYWORDS *Legal and Policy Dimensions, Border Security, Economic Development, Education Access, Regulatory and Policy Gaps*

Introduction

The border regions between Indonesia and Malaysia hold critical strategic importance, impacting defense, security, economic development, and social and cultural dimensions. These regions exhibit distinct socio-cultural and economic characteristics, presenting unique challenges and opportunities¹. The border areas possess significant potential to stimulate regional economic growth, increase community income, and improve employment rates.² For Indonesia, these border areas are vital for national interests, intertwining economic, political, defense, and security aspects crucial for the nation's sustainability.³

The Indonesian border regions, particularly those adjacent to Malaysia, present a multifaceted array of challenges that necessitate urgent and comprehensive policy interventions. These regions are characterized by

¹ Yusa Djuyandi, Mustabsyrotul Ummah Mustofa, and Luthfi Hamzah Husin, 'National Defense in the Resolution of Border Disputes: The Experience of Indonesia and Malaysia', *Juridicas CUC* 20, no. 1 (2024): 77–98; Michelle Viandy Huang, 'A Review of The Non-Demarcation Border Cooperation Between Indonesia and Malaysia', *Verity: Jurnal Ilmiah Hubungan Internasional (International Relations Journal)* 11, no. 22 (2020): 41–50.

² Endah Rantau Itasari, 'Border Management Between Indonesia and Malaysia In Increasing The Economy In Both Border Areas', *Jurnal Komunikasi Hukum (JKH)* 6, no. 1 (2020): 219–27.

³ Valhan Hamdiana Rachman, 'Geopolitics: Dynamics and Development of Indonesia's Maritime Axis', *Jurnal Ekonomi* 11, no. 03 (2022): 1102–8.

significant socio-economic disparities, inadequate infrastructure, and persistent security issues that collectively hinder their development. As of 2024, the poverty rate in Indonesia's border regions remains significantly higher than the national average, though it has improved in some areas. Approximately 32% of the population in these border areas lives below the poverty line, compared to the national poverty rate of 9.4% in 2023. These regions still face substantial challenges, including limited access to healthcare and education, which are essential for improving community well-being and fostering economic growth. Efforts to address these disparities continue to be a focus of development policies.⁴

Healthcare access in Indonesia's border regions remains a significant challenge as of 2024. Approximately 50.3% of villages in these areas lack health clinics equipped with qualified doctors or midwives. The uneven distribution of healthcare professionals exacerbates this issue, with 57.4% of doctors concentrated in Java and Bali, regions that serve only 37% of the country's population. In contrast, border regions and provinces in the eastern part of Indonesia often require residents to travel up to 30 kilometers or more than an hour to reach the nearest public hospital, leading to severe healthcare disparities and poorer health outcomes.⁵ Geographic isolation further exacerbates these limitations, making it difficult for residents to reach healthcare facilities, particularly in remote areas.⁶

Educational attainment in border regions remains a significant challenge in 2024. Recent data from UNESCO highlights that dropout rates in Indonesia's border areas hover around 23%, a stark contrast to the national average of 4.5%. This disparity arises due to persistent issues such as inadequate

⁴ World Bank, 'Poverty Headcount Ratio at National Poverty Lines (% of Population)', World Bank Open Data, 2024, <https://data.worldbank.org>.

⁵ ADB, 'Responsive COVID-19 Vaccines for Recovery Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility: Lapse of Validity of Loan Approval', text, 29 November 2022, Indonesia, <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/ino-54425-001-dpta>.

⁶ M. W. Ahmed S., Hasan, M. Z., MacLennan, M., Dorin, F., & Ahmed, 'Measuring the Health-Related Sustainable Development Goals in 188 Countries: A Baseline Analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015', *The Lancet* 388, no. 10053 (2021): 1813–50, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)31467-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31467-2); A. Balabanova D., McKee, M., Mills, A., Walt, G., & Haines, 'Good Health at Low Cost 25 Years on: What Makes a Successful Health System?', *The Lancet* 381, no. 9883 (2021): 738–43, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(12\)62000-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(12)62000-5).

infrastructure, insufficient teacher deployment, and limited financial support for schools in these underdeveloped regions.⁷

UNESCO's 2024 report also underscores the broader economic and social costs of such educational gaps, emphasizing that addressing these deficiencies is crucial for national and regional development. The Indonesian government and international organizations continue to explore initiatives to improve school enrollment and retention, but challenges persist, particularly in rural and remote border areas.⁸ This educational gap is primarily due to underdeveloped infrastructure, low school motivation, and insufficient funding. Limited resources and inadequate infrastructure perpetuate cycles of poverty and underdevelopment, necessitating targeted investments in educational infrastructure to address these disparities.⁹

Infrastructure deficits are a significant barrier to economic development in these regions. Only 30% of roads in border areas are paved, severely limiting connectivity and economic opportunities.¹⁰ Poor inter-regional connectivity and limited transportation networks restrict the movement of goods and services, hampering economic growth and development.¹¹ For example, in Entikong, minimal infrastructure and ineffective management of Border Crossings Surveillance Posts (PPLB) constrain economic activities and opportunities.

Security issues remain a pressing concern in Indonesian border regions. These areas serve as critical gateways to the country and are hotspots for transnational crimes such as drug trafficking and human smuggling. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2022 reports that over 60% of illegal drug seizures in Indonesia occur in border regions. This high

⁷ Irwan Boinawu and Rahmawati Hussein, 'Evaluation of Education Finance Policies In Improve Education Quality Original Papua In 2018', *Journal of Government and Civil Society* 4, no. 1 (2020): 53–71.

⁸ UNESCO, 'Global Education Monitoring Report 2022: Technology in Education' (UNESCO, 2022), <https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2022>.

⁹ S. Jacobs J., & Castles, *Moving out of Poverty: Making Migration Work Better for Poor People* (World Bank Publications, 2021); N. Schady, 'Parents' Education, Mothers' Vocabulary, and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood: Longitudinal Evidence from Ecuador', *American Journal of Public Health* 101, no. 2 (2020): 229–34, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2010.199703>.

¹⁰ BPS, 'Statistik Indonesia 2023' (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2023), <https://www.bps.go.id/>.

¹¹ ADB, 'Responsive COVID-19 Vaccines for Recovery Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility'; World Bank, 'Poverty Headcount Ratio at National Poverty Lines (% of Population)'.

rate of illegal activities undermines regional stability and highlights the inadequacy of current security measures and resources.¹²

The geographic proximity to neighboring countries increases the risk of transnational crime, which is exacerbated by insufficient security forces and inadequate monitoring systems. Human trafficking, a significant challenge in these regions, involves complex criminal networks that exploit informal border crossings.¹³ This issue is further complicated by the informal nature of border crossings, which hampers law enforcement efforts and necessitates improved cross-border cooperation.

Despite these challenges, the Indonesia-Malaysia border region holds substantial opportunities for trade and investment. Effective border management policies are crucial for harnessing these opportunities and addressing the socio-economic and security challenges. Border relations involve both national and local dimensions, including cross-border trade and informal economic activities¹⁴. Incidents such as illegal entries, smuggling, and drug trafficking underscore the challenges in managing border security and economic activities. These issues highlight the need for more effective border management policies and enhanced cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia.

In response to these challenges, the Indonesian government has implemented various policies aimed at improving conditions in border regions. These policies focus on establishing clear boundaries, enhancing security measures, and promoting economic development. Studies have examined the impacts of these border management policies, emphasizing the need for effective policy evaluation to understand how these measures influence economic and security issues and their implications for local communities.¹⁵ Recent research

¹² V. Felbab-Brown, *The Extinction Market: Wildlife Trafficking and How to Counter It* (Hurst Publishers, 2019).

¹³ M. Kaye, *Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians* (Inter-Parliamentary Union and United Nations, 2023); UNODC, 'Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022' (UNODC, 2022), <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>.

¹⁴ Koichi Ishikawa, 'The ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Economic Integration', *Journal of Contemporary East Asia Studies* 10, no. 1 (2 January 2021): 24–41, <https://doi.org/10.1080/24761028.2021.1891702>; Dwi Rachmatullah, Dumilah Ayuningtyas, and Raden Roro Mega Utami, 'Strategic Contribution of Health Services in the Indonesia-Malaysia Border to the National Resilience: Analysis of Implementation in the West Kalimantan Province', *Indian Journal of Public Health Research & Development* 11, no. 1 (2020): 1060–64.

¹⁵ Mochamad Rizqi Setiawan Setiawan, Erza Lasoturia Anansih Mendrofa Mendrofa, and Gede Maha Aditya Pramana Pramana, 'Border Management: Challenges and Issues at

also underscores the importance of integrated policy approaches that address multiple dimensions of border management. Combined security, economic, and educational policies can create a more holistic approach to border management.¹⁶ Effective border management requires coordination between various government agencies and local stakeholders to address the complex challenges of border areas.

This research aims to analyze the policy orientation regarding security, economic, and educational issues in the Indonesian-Malaysian border region. Effective policy responses must consider the unique conditions of border areas and involve coordination between various stakeholders. By understanding the complexities of these issues and implementing targeted strategies, it is possible to enhance the well-being of communities in the border region and improve overall border management. This paper will delve into the intricacies of these challenges and propose comprehensive policy interventions to address them, drawing from a wealth of scholarly research and empirical data.

Comprehensive National Security Concept

Juwono Sudarsono, former Indonesian Minister of Defense, proposed a comprehensive national security framework in 2007, emphasizing four core functions of government. The first function is national defense, which focuses on protecting the nation's sovereignty, integrity, and safety from external threats. The second function, national security, addresses internal threats and hazards. The third function involves public safety, which includes maintaining order, enforcing laws, and providing protection through community services. Finally, human security pertains to the government's responsibility to uphold

The Border In Indonesia', *Customs Research and Applications Journal* 2, no. 2 (2020): 84–104.

¹⁶ Cem Karadeli, *Border Security and Security Concerns in the 21st Century World* (Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT), 2023), <https://www.coedat.nato.int/publication/researches/17-BorderSecurityReport2023.pdf#page=17>; Johann Wagner, 'The European Union's Model of Integrated Border Management: Preventing Transnational Threats, Cross-Border Crime and Irregular Migration in the Context of the EU's Security Policies and Strategies', in *Patterns in Border Security* (Routledge, 2022), 76–100, <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003216926-5/european-union-model-integrated-border-management-preventing-transnational-threats-cross-border-crime-irregular-migration-context-eu-security-policies-strategies-johann-wagner>.

and protect the fundamental rights of individuals¹⁷. This framework provides a foundational perspective on how national security policies can be applied to the border region, where the balance of defense, internal stability, public safety, and human security is crucial.

Sударsono's framework emphasizes that national defense is pivotal in safeguarding a country's sovereignty against external threats. This involves military preparedness, strategic alliances, and intelligence capabilities to anticipate and counter potential aggressions. In the context of the Indonesia-Malaysia border, robust national defense mechanisms are essential to deter cross-border conflicts and protect territorial integrity.¹⁸

National security, as the second function, addresses internal threats such as terrorism, insurgency, and other forms of subversion. Effective national security strategies involve coordinated efforts among intelligence agencies, law enforcement, and military units to mitigate these risks. In border regions, this function is critical to preventing the infiltration of radical elements and managing internal threats that could destabilize the area.¹⁹

Public safety, the third function, involves maintaining law and order through effective policing, judicial processes, and community services. This function ensures that citizens can live in a safe and orderly environment. In the Indonesia-Malaysia border regions, public safety measures must be enhanced to address issues such as smuggling, human trafficking, and other illicit activities that undermine social stability.²⁰

¹⁷ Harjono Pamungkas Putro, 'Make a Prosperous State through National Security', in *International Conference on Law, Economics and Health (ICLEH 2020)* (Atlantis Press, 2020), 328–34, <https://www.atlantis-press.com/proceedings/icleh-20/125940503>.

¹⁸ Kathleen Staudt, 'Rethinking National Security Policies and Practices in Transnational Contexts: Border Resistance', in *Security and Everyday Life* (Routledge, 2011), 111–32, <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9780203832523-12/rethinking-national-security-policies-practices-transnational-contexts-border-resistance-kathleen-staudt>.

¹⁹ Muthiah Alagappa, 'The Dynamics of International Security in Southeast Asia: Change and Continuity', *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 45, no. 1 (May 1991): 1–37, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357719108445046>; Tim Huxley, 'Internal Security, Defence and Development in Southeast Asia', *Arms Control* 8, no. 2 (September 1987): 169–94, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01440388708403866>.

²⁰ Lukmanul Hakim and Ali Maksum, 'Capital Relocation from the Perspective of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Security at the Indonesia-Malaysia Border', *International Journal of Multicultural and Multireligious Understanding* 9, no. 11 (2022): 214–24; Miana Tri Lastari, Elyta Elyta, and Ratu Zahirah Lutfie, 'Analysis of the Role of Indonesia and Malaysia Cooperation through the General Border Committee in

The fourth function, human security, underscores the government's responsibility to protect the fundamental rights and well-being of its citizens. This includes ensuring access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. In border regions, human security initiatives are vital to improving living conditions, reducing poverty, and fostering sustainable development.²¹

The interplay of national defense, national security, public safety, and human security is crucial to addressing the complex challenges faced by border communities. By strengthening defense capabilities, enhancing internal security measures, maintaining public order, and promoting human security, policymakers can create a stable and prosperous environment in these regions.²²

Economic Resource Allocation

Understanding the economic dynamics of border regions requires a comprehensive analysis of how resources are allocated amidst constraints and disparities. Robert B. Ekelund Jr. and Robert D. Tollison define economics as the study of how individuals and societies, with unlimited wants, make decisions to allocate limited resources to fulfill their needs. They argue that economics is a tool for examining how individuals and groups allocate scarce resources to meet unlimited demands. This perspective is particularly relevant for the Indonesia-Malaysia border regions, where resource constraints and economic disparities are evident. Therefore, the economic theory of resource allocation is crucial in evaluating the effectiveness of policies aimed at promoting economic development in these areas.

Handling Drug Trafficking in the Contingent in the Entikong Border', *International Journal of Business and Quality Research* 1, no. 04 (2023): 67–76.

²¹ Mely Caballero-Anthony, 'Revisioning Human Security in Southeast Asia', *Asian Perspective* 28, no. 3 (2004): 155–89; Alexander Horstmann, 'States, Peoples, and Borders in Southeast Asia', *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* 7 (2006): 1–6; Yusten Karulus and Kamarulzaman Askandar, 'Human Security and Development at the Border: The Case of Ba'kelalan, Sarawak, Malaysia', *East Asia* 37, no. 4 (December 2020): 369–80, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12140-020-09343-w>.

²² Christopher Bellavita, 'Changing Homeland Security: The Issue-Attention Cycle', *Homeland Security Affairs* 1, no. 1 (2005): 1–6; Stephen Schneider, 'Tall Tales of Danger and Security: How a Critical Human Security Approach Can Address Major Contradictions Revealed through a Critical Narrative Analysis of Dominant US Security Strategies', 2018, <https://repository.usfca.edu/thes/1110/>.

The Indonesian government's commitment to equitable development in border areas is encapsulated in President Jokowi's Nawa Cita agenda.²³ The Nawa Cita agenda underscores the necessity of targeted economic policies that address the unique challenges and opportunities in border regions. In analyzing the Indonesia-Malaysia border, it is essential to evaluate how current policies facilitate or hinder economic resource allocation and development. Economic theories highlight the importance of efficient resource allocation to maximize productivity and growth. However, in practice, border regions often suffer from inadequate infrastructure, limited access to markets, and insufficient investment, which impede economic development²⁴.

Research indicates that improving infrastructure in border regions can significantly boost economic activities by enhancing connectivity and reducing transportation costs²⁵. This improvement is crucial for facilitating trade and investment, thereby promoting economic growth. Moreover, effective policy interventions must consider the local context, addressing specific needs and leveraging local resources to ensure sustainable development.²⁶

Furthermore, international cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia is vital for optimizing resource allocation and addressing cross-border economic challenges. Collaborative efforts can enhance trade, investment, and infrastructure development, fostering a more integrated and prosperous border region.²⁷

²³ Nawa Cita, introduced by President Joko Widodo (Jokowi), outlines a nine-point agenda aimed at advancing Indonesia's development with a focus on equity, inclusivity, and sovereignty. The agenda prioritizes strengthening Indonesia's peripheries, particularly border areas, by enhancing infrastructure, public services, and economic opportunities. It seeks to reduce regional disparities and ensure national unity by integrating isolated regions into the broader national framework.

²⁴ Mo Yamin and Rudolf R. Sinkovics, 'Infrastructure or Foreign Direct Investment?: An Examination of the Implications of MNE Strategy for Economic Development', *Journal of World Business* 44, no. 2 (2009): 144–57.

²⁵ Itasari, 'Border Management Between Indonesia and Malaysia In Increasing The Economy In Both Border Areas'; Dian Anggraeny Rahim et al., 'Sustainable Development of Indonesia's Land Border Areas; Overview from an Economic Perspective', *Jurnal Ekonomi Pembangunan: Kajian Masalah Ekonomi Dan Pembangunan* 24, no. 1 (2023): 172–89.

²⁶ Mimin Sundari Nasution and Afrizal Afrizal, 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Toward Independent Villages in The Strategic Border Area', In *International Conference on Social Science Education Proceeding*, vol. 1, 2023, 185–96, <https://ppjips.ulm.ac.id/index.php/icsse/article/view/20>.

²⁷ Vasily Bilchak, 'Theoretical Aspects of Cross-Border Integration-Based Economic Cooperation', *Baltic Region*, no. 3 (21) (2014): 68–77.

Educational Equity

The Neolaka theory, as articulated at the 1990 Jomtien Conference in Thailand, underlines the importance of education from a policy perspective. The Education for All (EFA) framework asserts that meeting basic educational needs is a fundamental human right and a key investment in human resource development. This perspective is particularly relevant for analyzing educational policies in border regions, where inadequate infrastructure and services often exacerbate educational inequalities.²⁸ The Neolaka theory emphasizes that equitable access to education is essential for fostering social and economic development, making it a critical component of the policy analysis for the Indonesia-Malaysia border region.

Equitable access to education is essential for fostering social and economic development, especially in border regions where educational disparities are often pronounced. Research highlights that border areas frequently suffer from insufficient educational infrastructure, limited access to quality education, and higher dropout rates compared to urban centers.²⁹ This disparity is evident in the Indonesia-Malaysia border regions, where educational attainment is significantly lower than the national average. Effective educational policies must address these disparities by improving infrastructure, providing adequate resources, and ensuring that all children have access to quality education.³⁰

The EFA framework, which advocates for universal access to education, underscores the need for targeted interventions in border regions. These interventions should focus on building and upgrading school facilities, training teachers, and providing learning materials. Studies show that improving

²⁸ Ella Yussy Dwi Astuti, Dwi Sulisworo, and Tri Wahyuningsih, 'Educational Enhancement in The Borders Area to Support The Community Development In West Kalimantan', *4th International Conference the Community Development in ASEAN*, 2017, 202–8; Endah Rantau Itasari, 'Fulfillment Of Education Rights In The Border Areas Of Indonesia And Malaysia', *Ganesha Law Review* 1, no. 1 (2019): 1–13.

²⁹ Thomas Faist, 'Cross-Border Migration and Social Inequalities', *Annual Review of Sociology* 42, no. 1 (30 July 2016): 323–46, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-081715-074302>; Safiya Skinder, Shamim Ahmad Shah, and Sajad Nabi Dar, 'Analysis of Educational Disparities in Border Areas of India: A Study of Gurez Valley', *GeoJournal* 87, no. 4 (August 2022): 2739–52, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10708-021-10398-2>.

³⁰ Itasari, 'Fulfillment of Education Rights in The Border Areas Of Indonesia And Malaysia'; Udan Kusmawan, 'Educating Diverse Teachers in a Diverse Country: An Issue of Connectivity', in *Contesting and Constructing International Perspectives in Global Education* (Brill, 2015), 63–75, <https://brill.com/downloadpdf/book/edcoll/9789462099890/BP000007.pdf>.

educational infrastructure and resources can lead to better educational outcomes, thereby contributing to the overall development of border regions.³¹ Additionally, policies should aim to reduce barriers to education, such as poverty, geographic isolation, and lack of transportation.³²

Research Framework

Integrating Sudarsono's comprehensive national security framework, Ekelund and Tollison's economic theory, and the Neolaka emphasis on educational equity provides a holistic analysis of the policies affecting the Indonesia-Malaysia border region. This integration allows for a multi-dimensional evaluation of how security, economic, and educational policies interact and impact border development.

The chart presents a legal framework for analyzing policies in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region, focusing on three critical areas: economy, national security, and education. Central to the framework is policy orientation, which emphasizes the alignment of policies with national laws, international agreements, and regional governance. Legal frameworks governing trade, customs, and investment in border areas ensure compliance with both national and international standards, fostering economic integration while preventing illegal activities. In terms of national security, border security policies are guided by legal provisions that regulate law enforcement, anti-terrorism efforts, and transnational crime prevention, ensuring sovereignty and public safety. Lastly, education policies in border regions are shaped by laws that guarantee equal access to education and aim to address infrastructure gaps and high dropout rates. This framework highlights the importance of a cohesive legal approach to managing the complex dynamics of border areas. By integrating legal dimensions across these sectors, the study provides valuable insights into how effective policies can be designed to address the unique challenges of the Indonesia-Malaysia border while promoting sustainable development and ensuring national security. The holistic approach underscores the critical role of law in fostering equitable and secure border region governance.

The comprehensive national security framework proposed by Juwono Sudarsono highlights the importance of addressing both external and internal threats to ensure national stability and development. Prof. Juwono Sudarsono proposed the concept of a comprehensive national security system based on four main functions of an ideal government: National Defense, focusing on

³¹ Setiawan, Mendrofa, and Pramana, 'Border Management'.

³² Putro, 'Make a Prosperous State through National Security'.

addressing external threats to uphold sovereignty, ensure safety, honor, and the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI); State Security, aimed at countering internal threats to maintain national stability; Public Security, involving law enforcement, protection, guidance, and public services to ensure public order and safety; and Human Security, which seeks to uphold the fundamental rights of citizens by respecting their dignity and basic needs. This approach integrates various aspects of security to achieve holistic and sustainable stability.

In the context of the Indonesia-Malaysia border, this framework emphasizes the need for robust defense mechanisms to protect sovereignty and prevent cross-border conflicts.³³ Additionally, it underscores the importance of internal security measures to manage threats such as smuggling and human trafficking, which are prevalent in border areas.³⁴

Ekelund and Tollison's economic theory provides insights into how economic policies can be designed to optimize resource allocation and promote development in resource-constrained regions. For the Indonesia-Malaysia border, effective economic policies should focus on improving infrastructure, enhancing connectivity, and promoting trade and investment³⁵. These policies can help address economic disparities and create opportunities for sustainable development in the border regions.³⁶

The Neolaka theory's emphasis on educational equity aligns with the goals of economic and national security policies by fostering human resource development. Education is a critical factor in breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting social and economic mobility.³⁷ Therefore, policies that enhance educational access and quality can contribute to the overall stability and development of border regions.

By assessing how well these policies align with national security goals, manage economic resources, and address educational needs, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of border region dynamics and policy effectiveness. The integration of these theoretical perspectives provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing the complex challenges and opportunities in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region. This holistic approach

³³ Riant Nugroho, *Rethinking National Security Policy: Indonesia Case* (Rumah Reformasi Kebijakan [Institute for Policy Reform], 2020).

³⁴ Alagappa, 'The Dynamics of International Security in Southeast Asia'.

³⁵ Yamin and Sinkovics, 'Infrastructure or Foreign Direct Investment?'

³⁶ Rahim et al., 'Sustainable Development of Indonesia's Land Border Areas; Overview from an Economic Perspective'.

³⁷ Karulus and Askandar, 'Human Security and Development at the Border'.

can inform the development of targeted policies that address the unique needs of border communities, promote sustainable development, and enhance overall security and well-being.³⁸

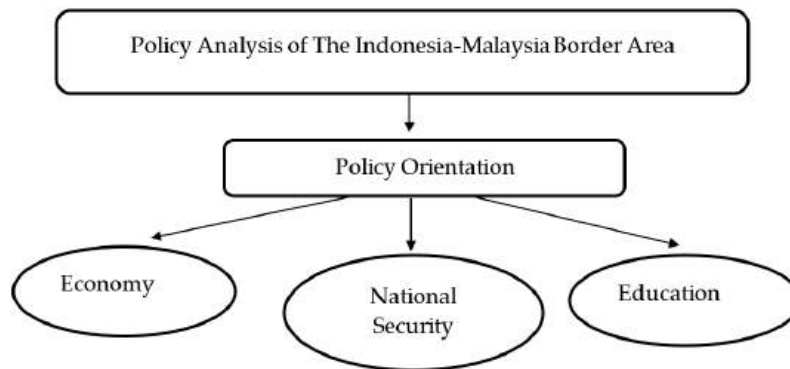


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³⁸ Itasari, 'Border Management Between Indonesia and Malaysia In Increasing The Economy In Both Border Areas'.

Method

This study employs a qualitative research methodology to explore the impact of policy orientations on economic, security, and social issues in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region. Qualitative research is particularly effective for understanding complex phenomena and social contexts through detailed narratives and interpretations. The researcher plays a central role in interpreting the unique social and situational contexts pertinent to this.³⁹

The primary aim is to analyze how policy orientations affect border economic issues, security dynamics, and local community implications. A descriptive analysis approach is utilized, supported by NVivo 12+ software. NVivo 12+ is a robust tool for qualitative data analysis, offering advanced capabilities for coding and organizing data, which enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the research process.⁴⁰

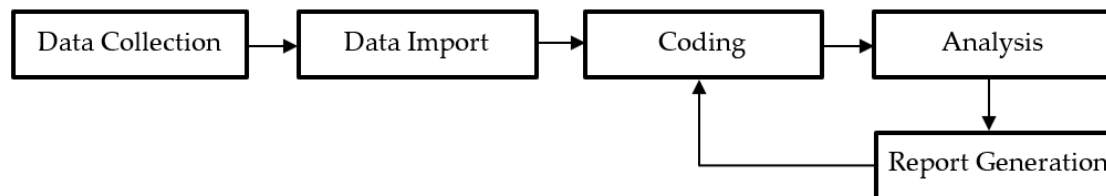


FIGURE 2. Research Stages

Data sources for this research include legislative documents, presidential regulations, ministerial decrees, presidential decisions, regional regulations, and policies relevant to the Indonesia-Malaysia border. The research process is divided into several stages:

1. *Data Collection*

³⁹ Susan R. Jones, Vasti Torres, and Jan Arminio, *Negotiating the Complexities of Qualitative Research in Higher Education: Essential Elements and Issues* (Routledge, 2021), <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781003090694/negotiating-complexities-qualitative-research-higher-education-susan-jones-vasti-torres-jan-arminio>.

⁴⁰ Md Kausar Alam, 'A Systematic Qualitative Case Study: Questions, Data Collection, NVivo Analysis and Saturation', *Qualitative Research in Organizations and Management: An International Journal* 16, no. 1 (2021): 1–31; Stanley J. Onyemechalu, 'Nvivo and Technological Innovations in Research: Trends, Approaches, Limitations, and Implications for Qualitative Research', *Nsukka Journal of the Humanities* 27, no. 1 (2019): 54–71; Tina L. Rylee and Stephen J Cavanagh, 'Using NVivoTM as a Methodological Tool for a Literature Review on Nursing Innovation: A Step-by-Step Approach', *Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology* 22, no. 4 (December 2022): 454–68, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10742-022-00270-2>.

This initial stage involves gathering policy documents, reports, and survey results related to border issues. These documents include National laws (UU), presidential regulations (PEPRES), ministerial regulations (PERMEN), presidential decisions (KEPPRES), national regulations (PBN), provincial regulations (PERGUB), and local regulations (PERDA).

2. *Data Import*

Collected data are imported into NVivo 12+ software. This software aids in the qualitative analysis by organizing and managing data for further processing.

3. *Coding*

In this stage, data are systematically categorized using coding techniques to identify patterns, themes, and specific policy elements. Coding helps to pinpoint key aspects of policies, such as objectives, involved actors, and impacts.

4. *Analysis*

The coded data are analyzed to uncover trends and significant findings. This analysis provides insights into the implications of policies on border regions and offers potential solutions or recommendations.

5. *Reporting*

The final stage involves compiling a comprehensive report that includes key findings, policy recommendations, and supporting evidence. This report serves as a foundation for decision-making and future policy planning concerning the border region.

Indonesia-Malaysia Border Policy Orientation

The Indonesian government has implemented a range of strategic policies in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region with multifaceted objectives aimed at enhancing security, fostering economic development, and improving educational quality. These initiatives encompass several key areas. Firstly, there has been a substantial investment in infrastructure and security presence to bolster regional safety and stability. This includes upgrading border infrastructure, increasing the number of security personnel, and enhancing surveillance systems. Secondly, economic empowerment efforts are being pursued through collaborative initiatives with Malaysia to stimulate local economies. These initiatives focus on creating economic opportunities, improving market access, and fostering cross-border trade.

Finally, significant resources have been allocated to the development and enhancement of educational facilities. This involves constructing new schools, upgrading existing facilities, and ensuring access to essential resources such as

electricity and sanitation. The combined effect of these policies aims to address the multifaceted challenges faced by the border regions, improving overall security, economic prospects, and educational outcomes. By targeting these critical areas, the Indonesian government seeks to create a more stable and prosperous environment in the border region, ultimately contributing to national development goals.

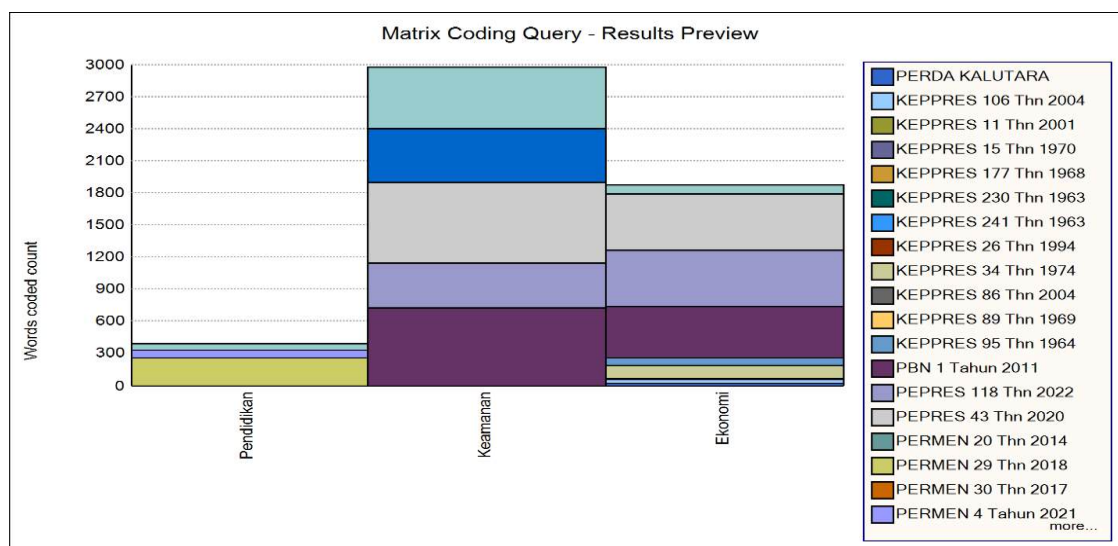


FIGURE 3. Policy Coding Results in the Indonesia-Malaysia Border Area
Source: Authors (Processed with Nvivo 12+)

In the realm of education, the number of references associated with various policies is relatively low compared to those related to the economy and security (see FIGURE 3). The data indicate that educational policies in the border regions, such as PERDA KALUTARA and other policies like KEPPRES 106 of 2004 and PERMEN 29 of 2018, aim to enhance access and quality of education. These policies include the construction of schools, provision of adequate educational facilities, and teacher training. The prioritization of other aspects or the lack of documentation related to education in the analysed sample is evident from the FIGURE. Excessive attention to security can have long-term consequences for other sectors, particularly education. As noted by⁴¹, education forms the foundation for long-term economic development and social stability. Without adequate investment in education, a country may face a future shortage of skilled labor and increased social inequality.

Security stands out with the highest number of coding references in the chart. Security is a primary concern in the border policy between Indonesia and

⁴¹ Philip Stevens and Martin Weale, 'Education and Economic Growth', *International Handbook on the Economics of Education* 27 (2004): 205–311.

Malaysia. Border security is fundamental to the stability and sovereignty of a nation. Key security policies include various presidential decrees (KEPPRES) implemented to bolster defense and security in border areas. For instance, KEPPRES 95 of 1964, KEPPRES 89 of 1969, and KEPPRES 86 of 2004 demonstrate the Indonesian government's consistent commitment to securing its borders. These policies involve increased border patrols, construction of security posts, and enhanced cooperation with Malaysia in intelligence sharing and joint operations. These efforts aim to prevent external threats like smuggling and other illegal activities, ensuring that citizens residing in border areas feel safe and protected. According to ⁴², countries facing high security threats tend to allocate more resources to the security sector. In Indonesia's context, issues such as terrorism and social conflict are likely key drivers behind the prioritization of security.

Economic policies, while not as prevalent as security, still have a significant number of coding references. Policies supporting economic development in border areas include KEPPRES 177 of 1968 and KEPPRES 15 of 1970, which aim to boost investment and infrastructure. Additionally, policies like PBN 1 of 2011 and PERMEN 4 of 2021 support economic development in border regions, including promoting legal and regulated cross-border trade governed by KEPPRES 34 of 1974. The presence of these documents in the analysis indicates that economic issues are crucial in the policy agenda, although they do not dominate as security issues do. The relatively balanced distribution of coding references among key documents shows that economic aspects receive considerable attention in various policies.

TABLE 1. Distribution of Policy Types and Their Contributions to Security, Education, and Economy in the Indonesia-Malaysia Border Region

Policy Type	Total Policies	Security (%)	Education (%)	Economy (%)
KEPPRES	11	16.65%	0%	12.51%
PBN	1	20.41%	0%	25%
PEPRES	2	32.65%	13.33%	45.84%
PERMEN	2	46.94%	40.67%	8.33%
UU	7	0%	0%	0%
PERGUB	5	0%	0%	0%
PERDA	1	0%	0%	4.17%

Sources: Authors, 2024

⁴² Svitlana Khalatur et al., 'Entrepreneurship Development Management in the Context of Economic Security', *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues* 9, no. 1 (2021): 558.

From the table above, it can be seen that in terms of security, the most prominent policies are the KEPPRES with a percentage of 16.65%. Presidential decrees often serve as crucial instruments in addressing national security issues. In border regions, concerns such as smuggling, human trafficking, and other illegal activities are paramount. Although its percentage is not as high as some other categories, the role of KEPPRES in security is significant due to its broad authority and direct impact on national policy.

Meanwhile, PBN (National Agency Regulations) shows a 20.41% contribution to security, while PEPRES (Presidential Regulations) also make a significant contribution with 32.65%. In the context of border security, these may include long-term plans for enhancing security infrastructure and increasing cooperation with neighbouring countries in intelligence matters. On the other hand, PERMEN (Ministerial Regulations) shows the highest contribution to security with 46.94%. The high percentage of PERMEN indicates that many technical and operational policies are issued to address border security issues.

In terms of the economy, PEPRES shows the highest percentage of 45.84%. Economic policies in border areas, KEPPRES with 12.51% and PBN with 25%, also show significant orientation towards the economy. PERMEN with 8.33% shows that related ministries also issue specific economic policies. Although its percentage is smaller compared to the security sector, the role of PERMEN remains important in ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of economic policies. Lastly, PERDA with 4.17% indicates that local governments also play a role in regulating the economy in border areas, possibly through local regulations that support local economic development and improve the welfare of the local population.

In terms of education, the largest contribution comes from PERMEN with 40.67%. PERMEN allows related ministries, such as the Ministry of Education and Culture, to issue policies that support increased access and quality of education in border areas. PEPRES with 13.33% also shows a contribution to education. Presidential policies in this regard may include national programs to improve education in border areas. Although its percentage is smaller compared to PERMEN, the role of PEPRES remains significant in setting strategic and sustainable education policy directions.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that the implemented policies tend to prioritize security and economic aspects over education. This indicates that attention to the educational aspect in government policies is still lacking. In the context of stability and security, education also plays an equally

important role. Studies by⁴³ affirm that good education can reduce crime rates and increase public legal awareness. Education also plays a crucial role in shaping national identity and culture⁴⁴. Therefore, education should receive greater attention in government policies, as it has a broad and profound impact on various aspects of life, from the economy to social and political realms. Investment in education is thus a strategic step that can provide long-term benefits for national development.

Case studies from other border regions also support this research. For example, at the border between Mexico and the United States, policies emphasizing security and economy without adequate investment in the education sector have resulted in significant disparities in the quality of life of local communities.⁴⁵ This example shows that to achieve balanced and inclusive development, it is crucial for the government to integrate education as one of the main priorities in border policies. Without quality education, other development efforts may not yield optimal and sustainable results.

In the long run, improving the quality of education in border areas will not only have a positive impact on the welfare of local communities but also strengthen national integration and stability. Therefore, investing in education in border regions is not just a moral imperative but also a smart and visionary development strategy.

Legal and Policy Network Analysis and Implications in the Indonesia-Malaysia Border Region

The Indonesia-Malaysia border region is characterized by complex dynamics involving social, economic, and security aspects that are intricately interconnected. Effective management of this region requires a synergistic approach involving various government policies. Legal and policy network analysis plays a crucial role in identifying and understanding the

⁴³ Brian Bell, Rui Costa, and Stephen Machin, 'Why Does Education Reduce Crime?', *Journal of Political Economy* 130, no. 3 (1 March 2022): 732–65, <https://doi.org/10.1086/717895>; Lance Lochner, 'Education and Crime', in *The Economics of Education* (Elsevier, 2020), 109–17, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780128153918000094>.

⁴⁴ Dian Arief Pradana et al., 'Nationalism: Character Education Orientation in Learning Development', *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal) Volume 3* (2020): 4026–34.

⁴⁵ Peter Andreas, *Border Games: The Politics of Policing the US-Mexico Divide* (Cornell University Press, 2022).

Figure 4, generated from NVivo 12+ data processing, illustrates a policy network clustered based on word similarity, depicting the interconnections among various policies. This network is presented in a circular format with lines connecting policies sharing significant common terms. Such clustering indicates recurring themes or concepts within the policies, reflecting similar focuses or complementary aspects among them. This thematic similarity reveals a deep connection where policies from different government agencies demonstrate synergy and coordination in their implementation.

Policies within this network encompass various dimensions, such as defense and security, education, and socio-economic welfare. For instance, the Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 30 of 2017 aligns with other policies focused on social welfare and economic development, indicating a concerted effort to address poverty and enhance welfare in the border region. Enhanced social and economic welfare can contribute to stability and security in border areas.⁴⁶ This interconnectedness underscores that social and economic policies cannot be separated from security and defense policies within the border context.

In terms of defense and security, policies such as KEPPRES No. 26 of 1994 and KEPPRES No. 34 of 1974 exhibit word similarities that indicate a close relationship in border security strategies. These policies focus on preventing and addressing cross-border threats, such as smuggling and illegal immigration. Consequently, these policies support each other in creating a secure and controlled environment at the border, which in turn supports economic and social activities in the region.⁴⁷ This highlights that border security is fundamental to sustainable economic and social development.

The security of the border region is indeed one of the top priorities in Indonesia's governmental policies, particularly in relation to monitoring threats such as terrorism, smuggling, human trafficking, and the protection of natural resources.⁴⁸ The legal framework governing these policies involves a range of legal instruments, including:

- a. Law No. 3 of 2002 on National Defense
- b. Law No. 34 of 2004 on the Indonesian National Army (TNI)

⁴⁶ Wasyl Bilczak and Michał Bilczak, 'Social Security of Population as a Basis for Stable Growth of Border Regions', *Olsztyn Economic Journal* 11, no. 4 (2016): 331–42.

⁴⁷ Georgios Glouftisios, 'Governing Border Security Infrastructures: Maintaining Large-Scale Information Systems', *Security Dialogue* 52, no. 5 (October 2021): 452–70, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010620957230>.

⁴⁸ Alban Sciascia, 'Monitoring the Border: Indonesian Port Security and the Role of Private Actors', *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 2013, 163–87.

- c. Law No. 9 of 1995 on Immigration
- d. Presidential Regulation No. 5 of 2017 on the National Medium-Term Development Plan which includes strengthening defense and security.

From the perspective of Indonesian positive law, the policy focusing on border security is clearly regulated by various laws and government regulations. However, an overemphasis on security policies often leads to limited resources being allocated to other sectors, including education.⁴⁹

Legally, this can be seen as an imbalance in the application of the welfare state principles, which should ensure not only security but also the social welfare of its citizens.⁵⁰ In this case, injustice arises when policies more focused on physical security come at the expense of other equally important sectors, such as education, which plays a crucial role in building long-term resilience and improving the quality of life for border communities. The lack of a balanced approach between security, education, and economic development can undermine the broader goals of social well-being, potentially leading to marginalization of the communities at the border.⁵¹

While security remains a crucial component of border management, it is essential for the Indonesian government to strike a balance between safeguarding national interests and promoting the well-being of its citizens, particularly those living in the border areas. By aligning the policies with the broader principles of justice, equality, and human rights, it is possible to create a more comprehensive and sustainable border governance system.⁵²

In the context of economic policies for the border regions, Indonesia has introduced various initiatives aimed at boosting the local economy, such as Presidential Decree No. 177 of 1968, which regulates the development of border economies, and Presidential Decree No. 15 of 1970, which emphasizes the importance of cross-border trade development. These policies are designed to improve the economic conditions of border areas, particularly by facilitating

⁴⁹ Ariza Fuadi, 'Negara Kesejahteraan (Welfare State) Dalam Pandangan Islam Dan Kapitalisme', *JESI (Jurnal Ekonomi Syariah Indonesia)* 5, no. 1 (2016): 13–32.

⁵⁰ Claus Offe, *Contradictions of the Welfare State* (Routledge, 2018).

⁵¹ Robert RM Verchick, 'Disaster Justice: The Geography of Human Capability', *Duke Envtl. L. & Pol'y F.* 23 (2012): 23.

⁵² Katarzyna Czerniecka and John Heathershaw, 'Security Assistance and Border Management', in *The European Union and Central Asia* (Routledge, 2010), 95–119, <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9780203864418-16/security-assistance-border-management-katarzyna-czerniecka-john-heathershaw>.

trade and infrastructure development.⁵³ However, in practice, economic priorities often focus more on infrastructure and investments geared toward short-term profits, such as the construction of highways, ports, and industrial zones. While these efforts have positively impacted accessibility and supported cross-border trade, from a positive law perspective, there are several issues that require analysis:

a. Overlapping Cross-Border Trade Regulations

In border areas, informal trade is common, yet there is no single, clear legal framework governing this trade comprehensively. As a result, this informal trade is prone to abuse and creates injustices for local entrepreneurs, who lack adequate legal protection. Without a cohesive set of regulations for informal trade, border economies are exposed to various risks, including exploitation, market distortion, and unequal access to economic opportunities.⁵⁴

b. Inadequate Legal Framework for Worker Protection

Many workers in border regions, including migrant workers and those in the informal sector, lack sufficient legal protections. This includes the lack of clarity in labor laws, which fail to adequately accommodate the informal sector, and weaknesses in enforcing workers' rights in border areas. The absence of a comprehensive legal framework to address the unique labor conditions in border regions can lead to exploitation, poor working conditions, and a lack of social security for workers who form a significant part of the border economy.⁵⁵

Given these challenges, there is a pressing need for a more inclusive and integrated legal framework for economic development in border regions. Such a framework should not only prioritize economic growth but also ensure the protection of workers' rights and the interests of local businesses, particularly in the informal sector. By creating a more balanced approach, Indonesia could promote sustainable economic development in border areas while also safeguarding the social welfare of the people living there. This would ensure that

⁵³ NIRA Hariyatie, 'The Role of Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) Indonesia-Malaysia On Regional Development In West Kalimantan Region', 2009, <https://etd.uum.edu.my/4734/1/s90835.pdf>.

⁵⁴ Sonny Sudiar, 'Pembangunan Wilayah Perbatasan Negara: Gambaran Tentang Strategi Pengelolaan Kawasan Perbatasan Darat Di Provinsi Kalimantan Utara', *Jurnal Administrative Reform* 3, no. 4 (2017): 489–500.

⁵⁵ Dewi Anggraeni and K. Sabrina, 'Penggunaan Model Nota Kesepahaman Sebagai Bentuk Perlindungan Hak Konstitusional Buruh Migran', *Indonesian Constitutional Law Journal* 2, no. 1 (2018), <https://repository.unpam.ac.id/10704/1/11528-32664-1-PB.pdf>.

economic policies are not implemented in isolation but are aligned with broader social goals, including justice, equity, and human rights protections for all stakeholders involved.

Regarding education, the Ministry of Education and Culture Regulation No. 25 of 2020 reveals connections with other policies aimed at improving access to and quality of education in border areas. This regulation is likely linked with other social welfare policies, considering that quality education enhances living standards and economic opportunities for border communities. Moreover, adequate education plays a crucial role in raising awareness about security and stability in border regions.⁵⁶ This illustrates how education can be a vital tool for building resilient and self-reliant communities.

From the perspective of Indonesian positive law, the education sector should be a primary focus, especially in border areas that are often neglected. Despite education being a fundamental right outlined in the 1945 Constitution, Article 31, which states that every citizen is entitled to education, the reality is that educational policies in border regions do not receive the same attention as those for security and economic development.⁵⁷ In addition, several key regulations govern the education sector in Indonesia. These include Law No. 20 of 2003 on the National Education System, which provides the foundational framework for the organization and implementation of education in the country, and Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government, which outlines the authority and responsibilities of local governments in managing and overseeing education within their respective regions.

However, the implementation of these laws is often hindered by budget limitations, inadequate infrastructure, and unequal distribution of educational resources. Data shows that many children in border areas, particularly those living in more remote regions, struggle to access quality education.⁵⁸

Based on positive law standpoint, this constitutes a violation of children's rights to receive quality education, which should be guaranteed by the state. The educational disparity in border regions has the potential to worsen social

⁵⁶ Yunita Sari, 'Cross-Border Cooperation in the Socio-Economic Malindo Cooperation Between Indonesia and Malaysia: A Case Study of North Kalimantan And Sabah In 2022' (PhD Thesis, Universitas Islam Indonesia, 2024), <https://dspace.uui.ac.id/handle/123456789/49010>.

⁵⁷ Miksan Ansori, *Dimensi HAM Dalam Undang-Undang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional Nomor 20 Tahun 2003* (Iaifa Press, 2020).

⁵⁸ Najda Thalib and Umiyati Haris, 'Implementasi Kebijakan Pendidikan Di Kabupaten Merauke (Analisis Undang-Undang Nomor 20 Tahun 2003 Tentang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional)', *Jurnal Administrasi Karya Dharma* 2, no. 1 (2023): 76–84.

and economic inequalities between border areas and other regions, hindering the development of human resources in the future. Therefore, there is a need to adjust educational policies to prioritize equal and quality education access in border areas, ensuring that children in these regions are not left behind and are provided with the same opportunities to succeed as their counterparts in other parts of Indonesia.⁵⁹

The policy network (*see* Figure 4) demonstrates a strong synergy among various government policies in addressing issues in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region. This interconnectedness is crucial for creating a holistic and integrated approach to public policy. Understanding and identifying these relationships allow policymakers to design more effective and efficient strategies to tackle existing challenges and leverage opportunities for improving the welfare and security of border communities.⁶⁰

Managing the Indonesia-Malaysia border region requires a nuanced and integrated approach rooted in legal and policy frameworks that prioritize human rights, inclusivity, and sustainable development. The government must reassess its policy priorities by embedding education as a central pillar in border development strategies. Education, as a fundamental right under the 1945 Constitution, not only enhances the quality of life for border residents but also fortifies economic resilience and security foundations in the long term.

From the perspective of Indonesian positive law, current border policies necessitate reforms that balance the priorities of security, economic growth, and social welfare. These reforms should aim for policy integration that harmonizes efforts across sectors, ensuring that the safeguarding of national security does not overshadow the rights of border communities to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Additionally, strengthening the legal framework for cross-border trade is essential to address informal economic activities, protect workers' rights, and ensure equitable participation of local stakeholders in economic growth.

⁵⁹ Mustika Mega Wijaya, 'Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Hak Anak Dibawah Umur Untuk Mendapatkan Pendidikan', *PALAR (Pakuan Law Review)* 2, no. 2 (2016), <https://journal.unpak.ac.id/index.php/palar/article/view/938>.

⁶⁰ Christophe Sohn and Rudolf Giffinger, 'A Policy Network Approach to Cross-Border Metropolitan Governance: The Cases of Vienna and Bratislava', *European Planning Studies* 23, no. 6 (3 June 2015): 1187–1208, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2014.994089>; Olivier Walther and Bernard Reitel, 'Cross-Border Policy Networks in the Trinational Region of Basel', *CEPS/INSTEAD Working Paper*, no. 2012–26 (2012), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2084177.

At the same time, educational development must be prioritized through increased investment in infrastructure, equitable access, and quality improvements to empower future generations and mitigate socio-economic disparities. A comprehensive and rights-based governance approach, which balances security imperatives with social welfare, is crucial to fostering a stable, prosperous, and equitable border region. To achieve more comprehensive and sustainable development goals, it is imperative for the government to reassess its policy priorities by integrating the education sector as a core component of border development strategies. This approach will not only enhance the quality of life for border residents but also strengthen the long-term economic and security foundations.⁶¹

Conclusion

The Indonesia-Malaysia border region presents a complex interplay of socio-economic and security challenges that necessitate comprehensive and coordinated policy approaches. This study underscores the critical importance of integrating security, economic, and educational policies to enhance the overall stability and prosperity of border communities. The analysis reveals that while significant efforts have been made to bolster security and stimulate economic development, there remains a pressing need to prioritize education as a foundational element for sustainable growth. By aligning policies across different sectors and fostering cross-border collaboration, both Indonesia and Malaysia can effectively address the multifaceted issues that characterize their shared border. Future policy interventions should emphasize the development of human capital, infrastructure, and social welfare to ensure a balanced approach to regional development. Such strategies not only contribute to national security but also improve the quality of life for residents in these areas, thereby fostering a more resilient and harmonious border environment.

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⁶¹ Diane Lek, 'Cross Border Higher Education in ASEAN: Structures, Policies, Development and Integration', *ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership Working Paper Series* 4 (2014): 1–26.

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Pax optima rerum.
*Peace is the greatest of
all things.*

Cicero

*This is often linked to justice as peace is seen as a
product of justice*

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