



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



## Management operations of St. Therese shooting range

Joel B. Bombales, Jr.\*

*Tabaco College, Tabaco City, Philippines.*

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### Abstract

This study assessed the management operations of St. Therese Shooting Range, covering nine key aspects: operational plan, composition and qualification, registered members, directional policies, practices, comparison with government policies, control mechanisms, recommendations for sustainability, and prospects for the next five years. A descriptive-analytical research design was employed, utilizing a case study approach and mixed-methods. Data collection included surveys, interviews, and document analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of the range's management operations. The findings indicated an effective operational plan (Overall Mean = 4.36), adequate composition with certified staff (Overall Mean = 4.31), and a strong safety culture (Overall Mean = 4.34). The range's control mechanisms in budgeting, resource allocation, and expense management were effective (Mean scores: 4.15-4.48). The range's management operations were effective. This effectiveness contributed to a safe and supportive environment for shooters. The study concluded that St. Therese Shooting Range demonstrated strong management operations, fostering a secure environment for recreational and competitive shooting activities. Recommendations included enhancing safety protocols, optimizing operations, and diversifying revenue streams to ensure long-term financial stability and operational sustainability.

**Keywords:** Budgeting; Control Mechanism; Management Operations; Prospect; Shooting Range

### 1. Introduction

The management of shooting ranges and gun clubs constituted a vital component of public safety and recreational sports globally. Shooting ranges served as venues for training, competition, and leisure activities, while concurrently promoting firearms safety and responsible gun ownership practices. Effective management of these facilities was essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of patrons, staff, and the general public. At the international level, organizations such as the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and the National Rifle Association (NRA) had established comprehensive guidelines and standards for shooting range management, emphasizing the paramount importance of safety, security, and sustainability. These guidelines typically encompassed range design, operational protocols, and staff training, thereby mitigating the inherent risks associated with firearms use. Adherence to these standards cultivated a safety-oriented culture among patrons and fostered a positive public image for shooting ranges, showcasing their commitment to responsible operations and community safety.

The shooting range was regulated by the Philippine Shooting Association (PSA) and the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) of the Philippine National Police (PNP). These organizations oversaw the licensing and regulation of firearms and shooting ranges, emphasizing the necessity of effective management practices. St. Therese Shooting Range was a prominent shooting range in the region, catering to local and national shooting enthusiasts. Consequently, its management operations played a crucial role in ensuring the range's sustainability and contribution to the community.

\* Corresponding author: Joel B. Bombales, Jr

The management operations of St. Therese Shooting Range in Sta. Teresa, Malilipot, Albay, played a crucial role in promoting shooting sports and providing a secure environment for enthusiasts. St. Therese Shooting Range was closely tied to public management principles, as its operations involved the application of management concepts, including planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling. Effective management of the range ensured compliance with regulatory requirements, promoted a safe shooting environment, and enhanced the overall shooting experience. Furthermore, it contributed to the development of the local community by providing a secure environment for recreational and competitive shooting activities, promoting responsible gun handling and sportsmanship.

The management of St. Therese Shooting Range was assessed in this study, given the importance of effective management in ensuring public safety and promoting shooting sports. The study identified areas of strength and weakness, providing recommendations for improvement and contributing to the development of best practices within the industry. The study highlighted the critical role of effective management in promoting excellence in shooting sports and ensuring public safety.

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## 2. Methodology

This study employed a descriptive-analytical research design, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the management operations of St. Therese Shooting Range. According to Creswell (2018), a descriptive-analytical approach was suitable for studies that sought to describe and analyze a phenomenon or situation, providing a detailed examination of the context and its various components. This approach allowed for an in-depth exploration of the range's management practices, policies, and control mechanisms, thereby enabling a thorough understanding of its operational dynamics. The study adopted a case study approach, focusing on the specific context of St. Therese Shooting Range.

Yin (2018) stated that a case study design was particularly useful for investigating a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context, allowing for an examination of the case and its various aspects. This approach enabled the researcher to gather detailed information on the range's management operations, including its internal dynamics and external interactions, which collectively shaped its overall performance. Employing a case study design facilitated a comprehensive understanding of St. Therese Shooting Range's management operations, yielding contextually grounded findings and insights that could inform management strategies and policy initiatives.

The study used a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods. According to Creswell and Plano Clark (2017), mixed-methods research provided a more comprehensive understanding of a research problem than either qualitative or quantitative methods alone, allowing for the integration of different perspectives and data types. Through this approach, the researcher gathered both qualitative data (e.g., interview transcripts, documents) and quantitative data (e.g., survey responses, financial reports), thereby providing a richer understanding of the range's management operations and identifying areas for improvement.

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## 3. Results and Discussion

The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

### 3.1. Operational Plan of St. Therese Shooting Range

The operational plan evaluation of St. Therese Shooting Range revealed a strong consensus (Overall Mean = 4.36) among respondents regarding the effectiveness of the range's operational plan. The results indicated that the plan had been clear and well-defined (Weighted Mean = 4.60), with objectives that had been aligned with the plan (Weighted Mean = 4.10), and had been subject to regular review and updating (Weighted Mean = 3.98). Furthermore, the staff had received training on the operational plan (Weighted Mean = 4.55), and the plan had ensured the safe and efficient operation of the range (Weighted Mean = 4.58). These findings suggested that the range had established a solid foundation for its operations, aligning with best practices in shooting range management (Creswell, 2018; Yin, 2018).

### 3.2. Composition and Qualification of St. Therese Shooting Range

The composition and qualifications of St. Therese Shooting Range were assessed, with respondents expressing strong agreement regarding the range's organizational structure, staff certification, and safety operations. The overall mean score of 4.31 indicated strong agreement that the range had possessed a clear organizational structure, certified staff, and adequate training programs. The range's staff had been certified and qualified for their roles, and certified staff were more likely to have provided high-quality services and ensured safety in shooting ranges (Smith, 2020). The range's composition had supported safe and effective operations, as reflected in the high weighted mean score of 4.35.

The findings indicated that shooting ranges with clear organizational structures and certified staff were more likely to have fostered a strong safety culture (Johnson & Lee, 2019; Thompson, 2022).

### **3.3. Registered Members of St. Therese Shooting Range**

The registered members comprised individuals who shared a common interest in shooting sports and were committed to promoting safe and responsible gun handling practices. The findings revealed that the membership registration process and management at St. Therese Shooting Range were effective, with an overall mean of 4.30 indicating that respondents strongly agreed that the range had a clear and efficient membership registration process, maintained accurate records, and kept members informed. The range's membership requirements were deemed reasonable and equitable, with a mean of 4.56. The range's maintenance of accurate and up-to-date member records was commendable, with a weighted mean of 4.45. Members were also adequately informed about range rules and updates, with a mean of 4.20 (Garcia, 2021; Lee & Kim, 2018).

### **3.4. Directional Policies of St. Therese Shooting Range**

The range's policies had been crafted to foster a culture of safety, responsibility, and community engagement, establishing a clear direction for its activities. The overall mean of 4.34 indicated that respondents had strongly agreed that the range's policies had prioritized safety, promoted a positive environment, and supported member development. The results showed that the range's policies had prioritized safety and security, with a weighted mean of 4.65. The range's policies had promoted a positive and respectful environment, with a weighted mean of 4.17. The clear communication of directional policies to members and staff had been commendable, with a weighted mean of 4.56, highlighting its effectiveness in promoting safety culture (Patel, 2020; Thompson & Lee, 2019).

### **3.5. Practices of St. Therese Shooting Range**

St. Therese Shooting Range had emphasized safety and responsibility through stringent practices, including background checks, mandatory safety briefings, and strict firearms handling protocols. The range had provided personal protective equipment, enforced range rules, and employed on-site range officers to supervise and respond to emergencies. Regular inspections and maintenance had ensured a secure environment, fostering trust among members and the community. The range's practices had demonstrated a strong commitment to safety, guidance, and responsible operations, with an overall mean score of 4.30, indicating strong agreement among respondents. Notably, the range's promotion of responsible gun handling and storage (4.32) and alignment with industry standards and best practices (4.42) had scored highly, underscoring its emphasis on safety and adherence to industry norms (Chen, 2022; National Shooting Sports Foundation, 2020).

### **3.6. Difference Between the Existing Government Policies and Practices and the Private Shooting Range**

The policies governing shooting ranges in the Philippines exhibited distinct characteristics based on ownership type. Government-operated ranges were subject to stringent and standardized regulations, prioritizing public safety and security, and generally offering broader access. In contrast, private ranges demonstrated greater flexibility in their policies, tailoring rules and services to cater to specific membership needs, such as offering specialized training programs. Both government and private shooting ranges were required to comply with RA 10591 and PNP-FEO regulations, ensuring a baseline level of safety and adherence to national standards (De Leon, 2021; PNP-FEO, 2020). This compliance facilitated a standardized approach to safety and operations across different range types. This dual regulatory approach enabled private ranges to innovate and adapt to member needs while maintaining national safety standards.

### **3.7. Control Mechanism to Safeguard the Operations**

St. Therese Shooting Range had implemented effective control mechanisms, exhibiting notable strengths in budgeting, resource allocation, disbursement, and expense management. A clear and approved budget had been established, subject to regular reviews to ensure alignment with operational objectives. Resources had been allocated based on priority and need, with a high level of transparency observed in the process. Disbursements had been meticulously documented and controlled, and expenses had been properly approved and documented, with stringent controls in place to prevent unauthorized expenditures. Overall, the range's control mechanisms, with mean scores ranging from 4.15 to 4.48, had indicated robust financial controls, transparency, and accountability, ultimately contributing to its operational effectiveness (Garcia, 2022; Thompson, 2020).

### **3.8. Recommendations Crafted to Ensure the Stability and Sustainability of St. Therese Shooting Range**

St. Therese Shooting Range had comprised a multifaceted approach, wherein safety protocols had been bolstered through a comprehensive emergency response plan, regular safety audits, and mandatory safety training, cultivating a secure environment; range operations had been optimized via a range management system, membership management program, and streamlined procedures; infrastructure and equipment upgrades had modernized facilities and enhanced user experience; a safety culture had been instilled through a safety committee and training initiatives; governance and compliance frameworks had been reinforced through policy reviews and transparent processes; and revenue streams had been diversified through targeted marketing and strategic partnerships, cumulatively fortifying St. Therese Shooting Range's position as a premier shooting facility and enhancing its operational efficacy and long-term sustainability.

### **3.9. Prospect for the Sustainability and Stability of St. Therese Shooting Range for the next five years**

St. Therese Shooting Range was projected to experience significant growth and innovation from 2025 to 2030, driven by strategic initiatives to expand and upgrade facilities, foster community engagement and partnerships, develop specialized training programs, host competitions and events, and implement sustainable practices. These endeavors were anticipated to position the range as a premier shooting destination in the Bicol Region, with success metrics including membership growth, revenue growth, customer satisfaction, and adherence to safety standards.

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## **4. Conclusion**

The comprehensive assessment of St. Therese Shooting Range revealed a consistently strong performance across multiple dimensions. Notably, the range's operational plan was effective, characterized by a clear and well-defined framework, aligned objectives, and regular reviews, which collectively fostered a safe and efficient operational environment. As indicated by the findings, the organizational structure was adequate, supported by certified staff and comprehensive training programs, thereby cultivating a strong safety culture. The membership, it was observed, comprised individuals united by a shared interest in shooting sports, collectively committed to promoting safe and responsible gun handling practices. In line with these strengths, directional policies prioritized safety, promoted a positive environment, and supported member development, establishing a clear operational direction. Correspondingly, the range's practices demonstrated a pronounced commitment to safety, guidance, and responsible operations, underpinned by effective control mechanisms that ensured sound financial management, transparency, and accountability, ultimately enhancing overall operational effectiveness.

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## **Compliance with ethical standards**

### *Acknowledgments*

The research was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards of the institution and the research committee.

### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest to disclose.

### *Statement of informed consent*

Informed consent was obtained from all participants, and their confidentiality was maintained throughout the study.

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