

Luangdimai Citizens Forum

BAMDUAN REKI **Episode 22**

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Topic:

**METHODS OF PEACEBUILDING AMONG
THE LUANGDIMAIS IN NORTH EAST INDIA**

By

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I. Topic

METHODS OF PEACEBUILDING

AMONG

THE LUANGDIMAIS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

Introduction

- Luangdimais (Zeliangrongs) are indigenous people who live in the tri-junction of the present states of India, namely Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland.
- Luangdimais are one people because we have clear traditions of a common ancestry.
- Our traditions tell us that our ancestors spread out from Ngkuiluangdi (Makuilongdi) to our present settlements.

Introduction

- With the passage of time, regional dialects evolved, which we call today Zeme, Liangmai, Rongmei, and Inpui.
- Our people came under the British sway by the end of the 19th century.
- Although our land, Luangdiram, is a compact area, the British people placed us under three administrative units for which we continue to live under three states of India even today.

Location Map of Luangdiram



Introduction

- Peace is the default of the creator's design for human society.
- As a community, Luangdimais have conflicts of various kinds in our society today.
- So I did a research (PhD thesis) on the methods of peacebuilding among the Luangdimais in NEI.
- It is my pleasure to share the findings of my research to my dear Luangdimais tonight.

Introduction

- **Conflict:** refers to disagreement, fight, and even violence.
- **Peace:** Peace is both the absence of war and the presence of harmony in the society.
- **Peacebuilding:** A broad term that encompasses conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.

II. Research Questions

- 1) What are the major conflicts in Luangdimai society?
- 2) How do the Luangdimais build peace in society?
- 3) Why are some methods of peacebuilding more effective than others among the Luangdimais?
- 4) How to promote effective methods of peacebuilding to foster peace in Luangdimais society?

III. Research Objectives

- 1) To identify the major conflicts in Luangdimai society
- 2) To examine the various methods of peacebuilding among the Luangdimais
- 3) To analyze and determine the effective methods of peacebuilding among the Luangdimais, and
- 4) To explore strategies for promotion of effective methods of peacebuilding to foster peace in Luangdimai society

IV. Methodology

i) Area of Study

- ▶ The area of study covers the Zeliangrong Naga inhabited areas in Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland.
- ▶ Special attention is given to villages that had or have inter-village conflicts for various reasons.
- ▶ The towns like Tamenglong, Tamei in Manipur; Peren, Jalukie, Tening in Nagaland, Haflong in Assam are also included for comparison.

ii. Research Design

- ▶ I employed **qualitative critical ethnographic design** for this study.

iii. Sampling Design

- ▶ I adopted **purposive sampling method** (non-probability sampling) for collection of primary data.
- ▶ The **sampling units** of the research are:
 - The village elders from selected villages and towns
 - Retired and active civil society organization leaders
 - Retired and active civil servants and lawyers
 - Women leaders
 - Religious leaders, and some youth

iii. Sampling Design

- **Sampling size** differs as it goes with saturation.
- The sampling size of this research is 175 people (141 men & 34 women).
- Age break up:

21-34 years	- 30 participants
35-50	- 43
51-64	- 38
65 & above	- 29

Fig. 4: Gender Classification of Research Participants

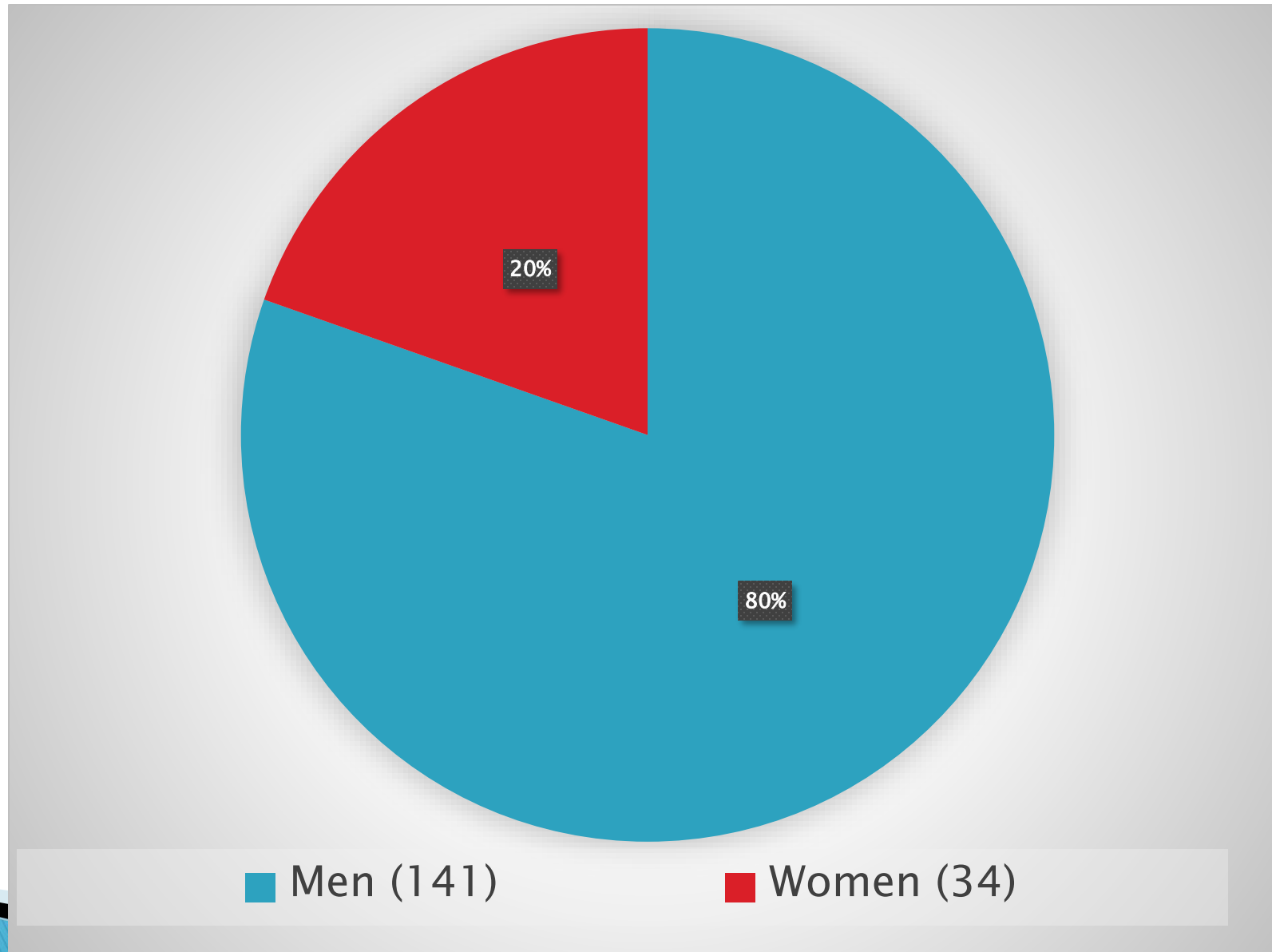
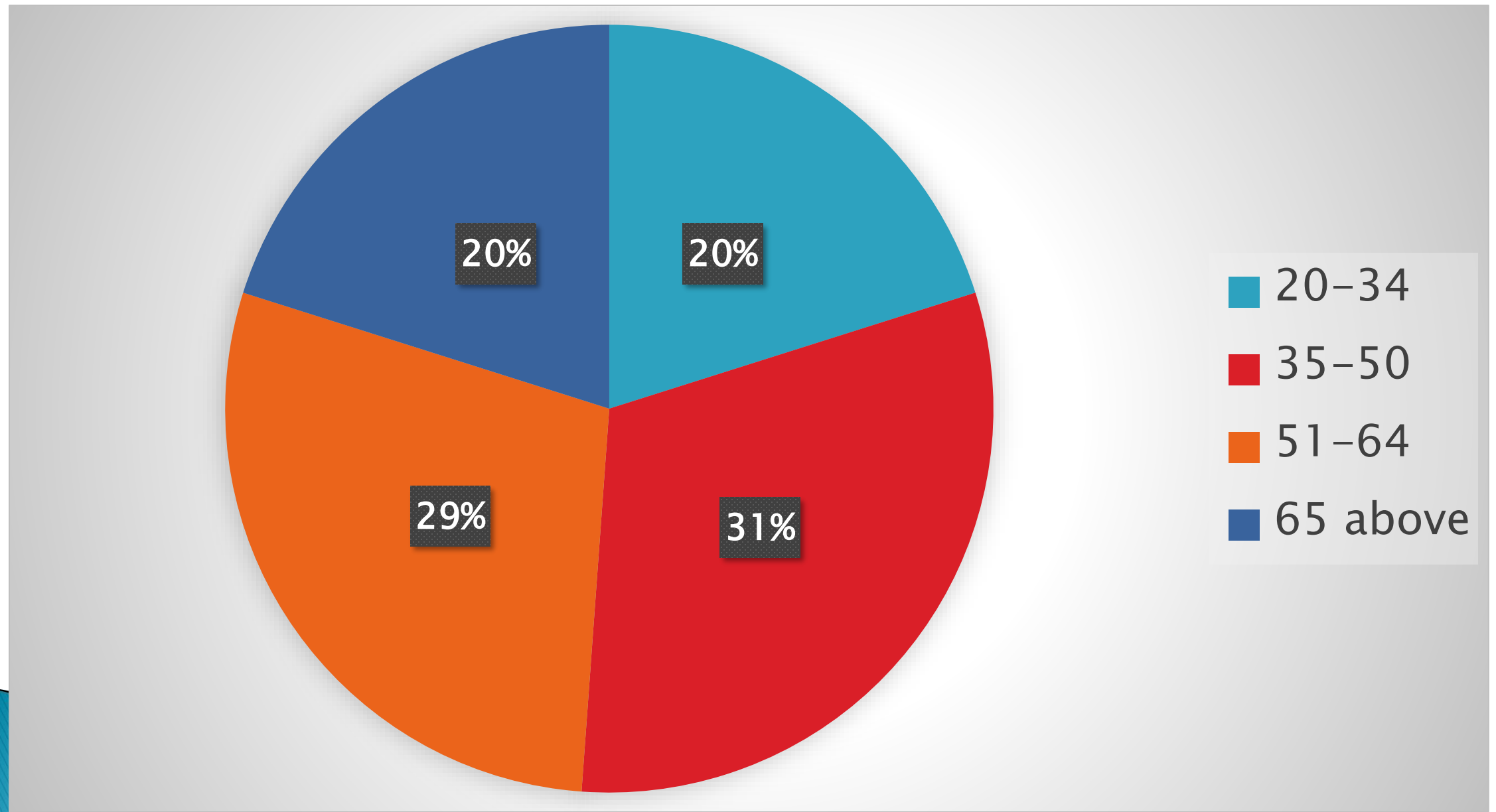


Fig. 5: Gender Classification of Research Participants



iv. Methods of Data Collection

- i) Interviews (personal and telephone interviews)
- ii) Focus Group Discussions (six FGD)
- iii) Observation

vi. Reliability and Validity

- I used the triangulation method to ensure reliability and validity of the research:
 - i. Interviews
 - ii. FGD
 - iii. Observation

4. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

RO-1: To identify the major conflicts in Luangdimai society

- The research found that the Luangdimais have multiple conflicts.
- The conflicts are classified under four categories, namely economic conflict, political conflict, socio-cultural conflict, and religious conflict.

Major Conflicts

- **EC**: land conflict, land compensation conflict, and other property conflicts.
- **PC**: Inter-state conflict, tribe recognition conflict, inter-political party conflict, and job and seat reservation conflict in Nagaland
- **SCC**: Inter-linguistic group conflict and other socio-cultural conflicts.
- **RC**: Inter-religious conflict and intra-religious conflict.

Table 1: Major Conflicts in Luangdimai Society (From 140 interviewees)

<u>Major Conflicts</u>	<u>No. of Responses</u>
Economic Conflict	123 (87%)
Political Conflict	102 (73%)
Socio-Cultural Conflict	80 (57%)
Religious Conflict	28 (20%)

Source: Data Collection (from multiple choices)

RO 2: To examine the various methods of peacebuilding among the Luangdimais

- ▶ The Luangdimais employ five different methods to resolve conflicts and build peace in their society.
- ▶ The five methods are traditional judicial system (TJS), Indian judicial system (IJS), mixed judicial system (MJS), Christian peacebuilding (CP), and Naga National Political Groups judicial system (NNPGJS).

Table 2: Methods of Peacebuilding (From 140 interviewees)

Methods of Peacebuilding	No. of Responses
Traditional Judicial System	134 (96%)
Indian Judicial System	70 (50%)
Mixed Judicial System	62 (44%)
Christian Peacebuilding	54 (39%)
Naga National Political Groups Judicial System	52 (37%)

Source: Data Collection (from multiple choices)

Traditional Peacebuilding Strategies



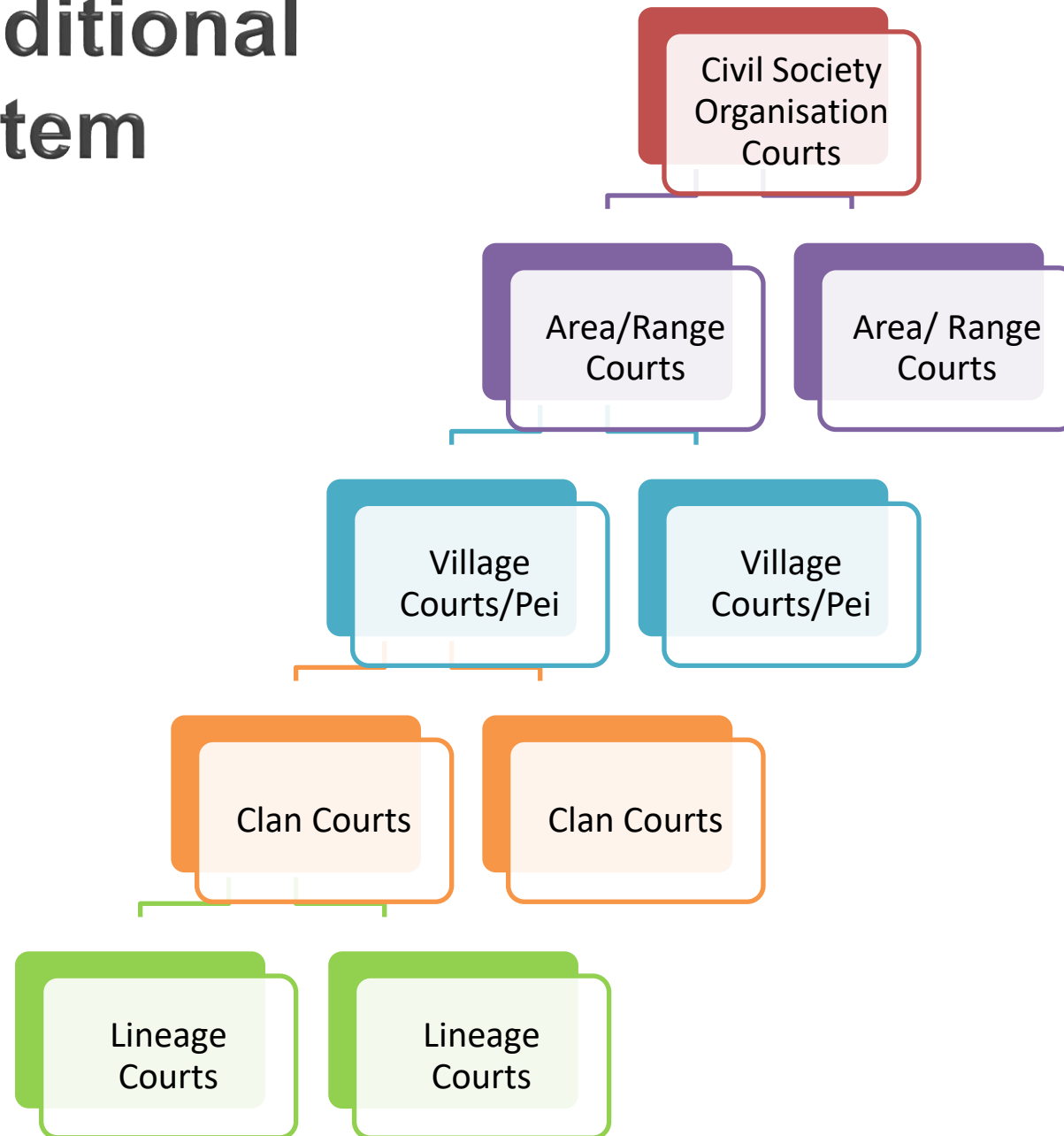
4. Oath Taking

3. Arbitration

2. Mediation

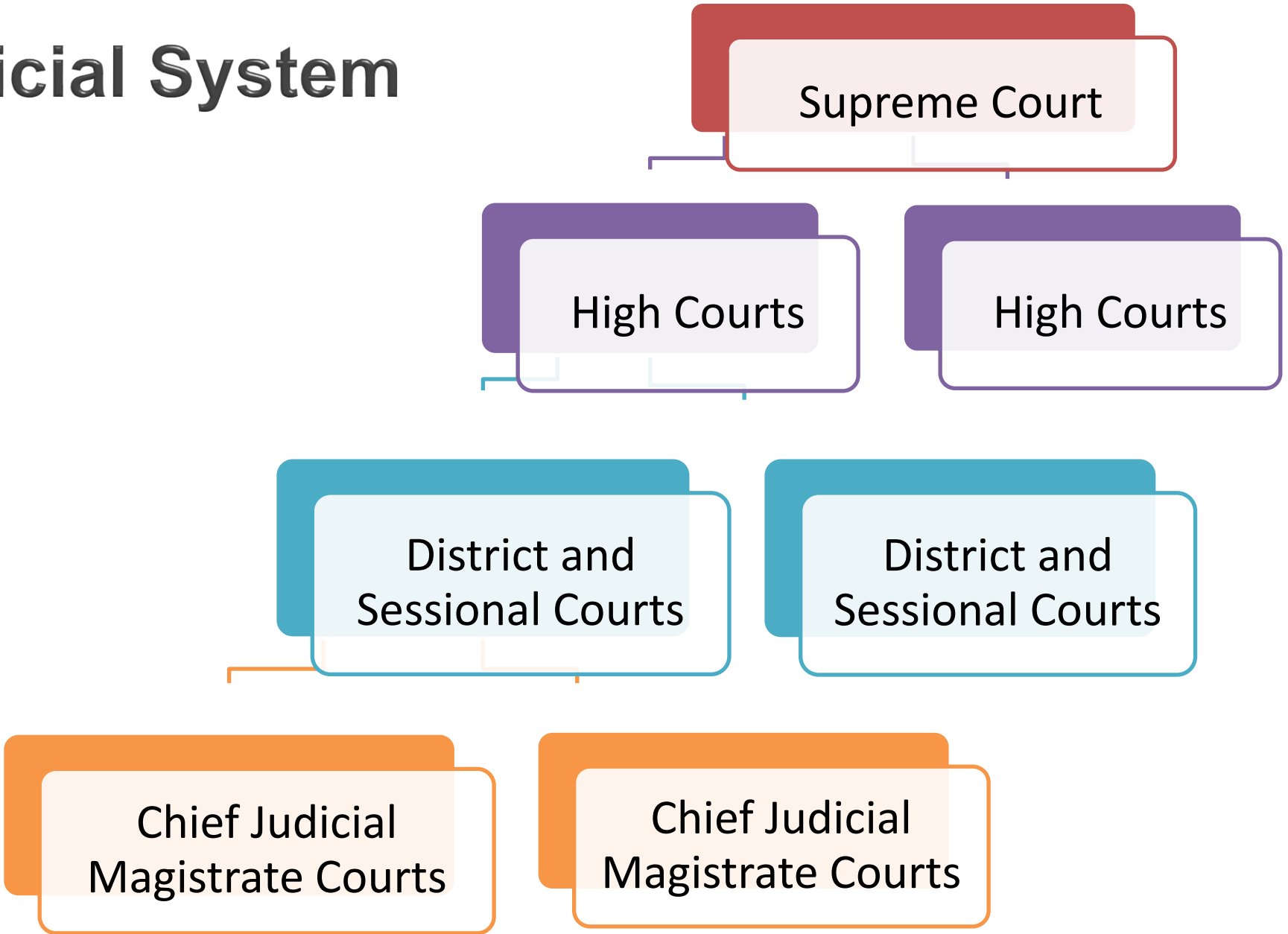
1. Negotiation

Hierarchy of Traditional Judicial System



Source: Data Collection

Indian Judicial System



Source: Data Collection (as found in Luangdiram)

RO-3: To analyze and determine effective methods of peacebuilding among the Luangdimais

- ▶ A critical analysis of the peacebuilding methods reveals that the TJS is the most effective method of peacebuilding.
- ▶ In order of effectiveness, the TJS is followed by IJS, CP, MJS, and NNPGJS.

Table 3: Effective Methods of Peacebuilding (From 140 interviewees)

Methods of Peacebuilding	No. of Responses
Traditional Judicial System	127 (91%)
Indian Judicial System	52 (37%)
Christian Peacebuilding	50 (36%)
Mixed Judicial System	40 (29%)
Naga National Political Groups Judicial System	10 (7%)

Source: Data Collection (from multiple choices)

RO 4 : To explore strategies for promotion of effective methods of peacebuilding to foster peace in Luangdimai society

- The study found that four methods of peacebuilding, namely TJS, IJS, CP, and MJS are found to be effective.
- I have proposed a few strategies for promotion of effective methods of peacebuilding to foster peace in Luangdimai society.

Strategies for Promotion of Effective Methods of Peacebuilding

➤ **Strategies to promote TJS:**

- 1) Strengthening of village administration
- 2) Codification of village customary law
- 3) Codification of common customary law
- 4) Strengthening of civil society organizations
- 5) Establishment of Luangdimai customary courts

Strategies for Promotion of Effective Methods of Peacebuilding

➤ Strategies to promote Indian Judicial System:

- 1) Organizing legal awareness programmes
- 2) Establishment of legal courts in different areas of Luangdiram

Strategies for Promotion of Effective Methods of Peacebuilding

- **Strategies to promote Christian Peacebuilding:**
 - 1) Adopting proactive approach to peacebuilding
 - 2) Training on Christian peacebuilding
 - 3) Employing trained counsellors
 - 4) Organizing Intra-religious and inter-religious dialogues

- **Strategies to promote Mixed Judicial System:**
 - 1) Professional training for dobashis
 - 2) Employing legally trained people in dobashi courts

Conclusion

- ▶ I wrestled with four leading research questions and four objectives in my study.
- ▶ The study found that the Luangdimais have economic, political, socio-cultural, and religious conflicts in society.
- ▶ The Luangdimais employ five methods of peacebuilding, namely the TJS, IJS, MJS, CP, and NNPGJS.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

- ▶ The study reveals the TJS to be the most effective methods of peacebuilding followed by IJS, CP, and MJS.
- ▶ I have proposed a few strategies for the promotion of the effective peacebuilding methods.
- ▶ The custodians of the traditional judicial system, policy makers of concerned governments, and Luangdimai churches may use the findings of this research to promote peace in Luangdimai society.

THANK YOU