CONFLICT RESOLUTION MECHANISM AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

Perhaps 'peace' is like 'happiness', 'justice', 'health' and other human ideals, a behavior that every person and culture need to achieved, but despite all these peace cannot be achieved without focus ,determination and sacrifice . This paper has questions to ask why resolution, justice and happiness not so desirable in Nigeria conflict in particular and many other countries of the world at large, but also so intangible and elusive. But perhaps peace is different from happiness, since it seems to require social harmony and political enfranchisement, whereas happiness appears, at least in Western culture, to be largely an individual matter. This paper has alternatively, view peace as indeed something that does resemble individual happiness but implicit in our psychological make-up and intermittently explicit in our social behavior and cultural norms. For the culture of conflict resolution attitude to be rooted and sustain in Nigeria in particular and the World at large our leaders in Nigeria and other countries of the world need to be abide with the culture of effective governance with responsibility of ensuring the promotion of peace through operating transparent, productive and functional good governance in their respective countries in the world to provide policies that can fight back on political crisis, religious/ethnic conflict, terrorism and corruption in the entire global community.

Keywords: Peace, Conflict, Justice, Corruption and Inequality

Introduction

In recent time, the world has witnessed increased waves of violent extremism that have taken lives of many innocent people either based on religious, ethnic or political crisis (UNDP, 2016). In 2014 alone, the Global Terrorism Index (2015) had shown that, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, and Nigeria were the home of 78 percent of the lives lost to terrorist attacks in the globe.

Generally Speaking, scholars, practitioners and activists have underscored peace and conflict resolution with variables from the philosophical, sociological, political, economic, religious and even commonsense perspectives. From whatever perspective, peace remains an important element that continues to receive the attention of all sectors in the society. Without a doubt, Nigeria as a country need to strengthen the basic foundation for Peace strategies in its domain to drastically reduce any form of violent extremism as result of poor national economy that cannot accommodate the needs of the majority citizens as a result of higher level of insecurity, poverty, unemployment and poor conduct of governance.

Statement of Problem

However, through Peace strategies, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders need to learn how to demonstrate commitment on issues of operating good governance, conflict resolution, peace and security, peace advocacy, peace building, and conflict management and international politics (Abbas, 2015; Ramsbotham et al, 2016) Similarly, to overcome the rising level of crisis in different part of the country there is need for educating public and engaging various stakeholder in to the process of conflict resolution activities at various levels that could help in the transforming
the society in order to attain a more just and equitable local, national and international communities peaceful society. The relevance of Peace strategy need be expose Nigerian leaders and other various stakeholders to embrace an avenue for providing functional governance, peace strategies through identify the causes and prevention of conflict, as well as the nature of violence, including social oppression, discrimination and marginalization and how they could be better addressed. Although social issues have been highlighted by researchers for decades, it is often asked whether there is a really problem of insecurity in Nigeria that make the institutions incapable to conduct their responsibilities rather than moving current waves of various categories of conflicts ? The causes and various actors of conflict has become

a key question keeps lingering among scholars and practitioners in the world which led to currently a perceived disconnect between the ideas and theories of Peace strategies and the current contemporary realities of security issues on the ground. This issue often creates debates on the relevance of the Peace strategies discipline to the current security challenges facing Nigeria and the World at large . In addition, this has deepened the frustration that despite several decades of fighting insurgency and other criminal tendencies in Nigeria, it is evident that Nigeria still remains one of the most violent extremism ridden areas around the globe.

The research has the following questions to ask:
I.   What are causes of violent conflict in Nigeria?
ii. Is there any relationship linkage between the good governance and the level of insecurity in Nigeria?
iii. What are the various conflict resolution strategies the Nigerian government can use to resolve violent/non-violent conflicts

Conceptual Framework
The Concept of Peace
As simple as the word "peace" may seem, providing a clear-cut definition of it in the study of International Relations seems more demanding as historic events, ideologies and peculiar regional circumstances have shaped the meaning of peace (Richmond, 2008). But at a first glance, Galtung (1967: 12) describes it as an "umbrella concept". To him, it is a state of mind felt as a consequence of the actualization of certain stated human desires. That is, it is a feeling of internal serenity as a result of external stability.

Galtung (1967) also describes peace as touching the concept of law and order. That is, an anticipated social order achievable through the instrumentality of force and the threat of it. This concept, however, does not ignore violence; rather it erects regulations and outlines punishments to produce and maintain a state of tranquility. Also there is the idea of peace as absence of any mutually agreed hostility, otherwise known as "negative peace". It is important to note that this only rule out the existence of deliberate violence between groups or states, but considers the need for occasional revolts, protests, demonstrations, et cetera. On the other hand, a condition of order conjured by respect for human socio-cultural diversity is called "positive peace". It is a social condition where multi-culture is respected; multi-ethnic is loved; multi-idea is welcomed; multi-religion in embraced; minorities are protected; equality of rights,

equity, justice, guided liberty and freedom are guaranteed. Therefore, the characteristics of peace in International Relations could be cooperation and integration (Galtung, 1967; Scherrer, 2007). However, in the study of International Relations, there have been divergent views and debates on the right theory and practice to attain peace; especially in a world characterized by selfishness, greed, inequality, conflict, violence, war, power, exploitation, oppression, bluff, etc.

Perspectives on Peace as a Concept

Idealists are the most ambitious group in seeking international peace. Plato (1941) argued that the utopian peace is only found in an 'ideal form' just as Socrates' truth and goodness are found in an ideal form, which cannot be fully attainable. The idealists argued that man, by nature, is not violent; man is a peace lover, he will always want to keep peace with his neighbour, but in case of probable violence, social and political norms, regimes and organization could inhibit such (Richmond, 2008). In ancient political thoughts, Heraclitus, the Pythagorean philosophers, and the Greek ideal saw harmony – peace in this context – as an ultimate principle of state existence. They saw it as physical and ethical principle; a property on human nature (Sabine, 1973). That is, peace is inherent feature of human being.

Put differently, Bansikiza (2004) submits that peace is both a gift by God and an effort by the people to achieve it, individually and socially. Due to the fact that peace is not reached once and for all, it demands continuous attempt in connecting divided people, reconciling differences and removing bitterness harboured. However, the idealists' notion of a world void of war, promoting disarmament, the right of self-determination for all men, and the presence of a world government to ensure order and proper distribution of scarce resources brought about the establishment of the League of Nations and the United Nations Organization after the World War I and World War II respectively (Angell, 1916; cited in Richmond, 2008).

Contrary to the above argument, the *Realists* describe international relations as a Hobbesian "state of nature"; i.e. a "state of war" (Mapel, 1996: 55), characterized by selfishness, misdirected aggressive impulses, and stupidity (Waltz, 1993: 124). The realists argued that life is solitary, brutish, nasty and short, and life is the survival of the fittest. They asserted that since resources are scarce and unevenly distributed, man must struggle for survival. Therefore, peace, as put forward by the idealists is unattainable; chaos and man are inseparable (Morgenthau, 1949).

The *Liberalists* are a more optimistic set who beliefs that peace in international relations is attainable in situations of cooperation and shared norms rather than the quest for power and security. They are concerned with the creation of harmonious domestic political structures with the introduction of acceptable international regimes, laws, and norms that will limit the excesses of states and multilateral organisations in their polity. Even though they share in the belief that peace is not achievable, they see peace as something to be aspired for. The liberalist's belief that interdependence will engender peaceful co-existence. They see international trade as necessary instrument in promoting such interdependence. To them, state will not necessarily go to war against another state it has trade relations with. That is, mutual benefits derived from trade relations will most often discourage an interruption of war, thus promoting peaceful condition.

The *Marxists* thigh the condition of peace in the international system to the realities of the global political economy. The idea that the global economic system is divided into a class structure (the developed and the developing countries, the haves and the have-nots, the bourgeois and the proletariats, the owners of factors of production and the owners of labour) manipulating the forces of exploitation and revolution for each other's specific interest. The Marxists contend that peace is not feasible in this arrangement unless there is justice and equality in the distribution of resources (Richmond, 2008).

Conceptualizing Conflict

Conflict itself is not evil; often times it arises from the process of seeking sustainable progress and satisfaction. We quickly forget our similar positive intentions, dissipating energies on the contradictory ideas of the path to the common end. Among other things, conflict emanates as a result of misunderstanding, man's superiority complex, and failure to compromise and reconcile ideas, beliefs, cultures and interests. If harnessed, it could serve as a powerful tool for progress. Meanwhile, for the purpose of this paper, we shall be conceptualizing conflict as it relates to the field of Politics.

Conflict could be conceptualized from two approaches, namely: the objectivist approach, which suggests that conflict emanates from the social and political structure of the society; and the subjectivist approach, advancing that apparent differences and incompatibility of goals cause conflict. The definitions of conflict will be therefore categorized under these two approaches.

Objectivist Approach

To Stedman (1991: 269), conflict 'emanates from the tugs and pulls of different identities, definitions of what is right, fair, and just'. March and Simon (1958; cited in Oyeshola, 2005: 105) view conflict as a 'break-down in standard mechanism of decision making'. While Forsyth (1990) posits that conflict transpires when 'the actions of beliefs of one or more member of a group are unacceptable to and, hence are resisted by one or more groups or members'. Mitchell, (1981: 18) sees it as a result of 'miss-match between social values and social structure'. But Nwolise (2003) summarizes it as a 'clash, confrontation, battle or struggle'.

Subjectivist Approach

Stagner (1967: 16) defines conflict as a 'situation in which two or more human beings desire goals which they perceive as being obtainable by one or the other, but not both; each party is mobilizing energy to obtain a goal; and each party perceive the other as a barrier or threat to that goal'. Likewise, to Wallensteen (2002: 16), 'conflict is a social situation in which a minimum of two actors (parties) strike to acquire at the same moment in time an available set of scarce resources'. Chaplin (1979: 109) describes it as 'the simultaneous occurrence of two or more mutually antagonistic impulses or motives'. Putting it differently, Wilson and Hanna (1990: 255) refer it as the 'struggle involving ideas, values and /or limited resources'.

Conflict Resolution Processes
Mediation

Mediation is a type of Conflict Resolution methods of which purpose is to facilitate negotiation between the disputants so as to enable them resolves their disputes. It is a voluntary, non-binding private dispute resolution process in which a neutral person helps the parties to reach amicable settlement of their disputes (Mahmud, 2005). It requires the direct participation of the third party mainly to encourage the disputants resolve their differences themselves. Usually, the parties voluntarily enter into mediation and choose the mediator who proposes solution for the parties" consideration and acceptance. The opinion expressed by the mediator, no matter how well and fair it may be, does not bind the parties until they agree to accept it. The duty of the mediator is not to determine rights and wrongs but to control the process leaving the outcome to the parties since he cannot impose any decision on the parties (Bercovitch et al., 1991). Prof. M.A. Ajomo sees the mediator as "a facilitating

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intermediary-providing a non-binding adjudicatory decision" (Ajomo, 1996). Distinguishing the role of the mediator from that of the arbitrator, (Kehinde, 2005) maintained that;

"While the latter decides the dispute for the parties, the role of the skilled neutral mediator is to act as a catalyst by helping the parties in identifying and crystallizing each side's underlying interests and concerns, carry subtle messages and information between the parties, explore bases for agreement and develop co-operative and problem-solving approach. The common denominator to all these efforts by the mediator is the enhancement of communication between the parties in conflict" (Kehinde, 2005).

Though, legal rules may be relevant to mediation but not mandatory. It is just one of the factors to be considered in the process but more importance is accorded to the subsisting relationship and interest of the parties. That is why mediation is suitably adopted in the resolution of conflicts of a sensitive and confidential nature where the disputants would wish to settle them in private rather than in public as required in litigation.

Negotiation

Negotiation is the most common and familiar form of Conflict Resolution mechanism. It is a dialogue or a consensual discussion with a view to reaching a compromise without the aid of third parties. Negotiation has become an indispensable part of our daily lives as it happens in almost every transaction between two or more persons. It is a means to an end and not an end in itself, the end being a mutually beneficial dispute settlement. The Black"s Law Dictionary defined it as; 'A consensual bargaining process in which the parties attempt to reach agreement on a disputed or potentially disputed matter. Negotiation usually involves complete autonomy for the parties involved without the intervention of third parties…'

Therefore, unlike in arbitration and mediation, the parties in negotiation are in full control of both the process and the outcome either in persons or by proxy (Kehinde, 2005). Where decisions are reached through this process, the parties are bound since they are the architects of both the process and the solution. However, we have professional negotiators who are skilled in specific areas and can from time to time be

called upon to lead ignorant or inexperienced parties in their negotiations. O.G. Amokaye maintained that in order to achieve a successful negotiation, it is important for the parties to seek the services of a legal practitioner especially in the assessment and preparations of pre-negotiation terms, and if necessary for an expert to be part of any negotiation team (Kehinde, 2005).

The principles that guide successful negotiations in other areas of our lives are also applicable to the environmental disputes. The Environmental Safety Guidelines for Petroleum Industries in Nigeria, 2002, encourages oil companies to negotiate compensation payable to the host communities in settlement of pollution related cases before embarking on litigation. In any case involving environmental damage, negotiation is the next stage after the assessment of the damage.

In some cases, to ascertain the quantum of damage and the concomitant compensation, experts may be involved. Usually, negotiation starts with the company offering some compensation arrived at by expert's assessment. Problems may occur if the victims feel that what they were paid as compensation was inadequate. Where the result of negotiation is turned down, further negotiation may be made or the aggrieved party may resort to litigation as in the case of *Joel Odum and ors v. Shell B.P.and Weco Nig.Ltd.*[xix]where the plaintiffs, being victims of pollution caused by the defendants, were paid compensation by the latter following negotiation reached between the two. Being dissatisfied with the amount paid to them as compensation, the plaintiffs brought an action against the defendants claiming the sum of N6,687.33 as the minimum unpaid balance of the compensation.

This is in respect of the same subject matter already negotiated out of court but the plaintiffs then contend that the compensation is inadequate going by the provision of the Rivers State Minimum Crop Compensation Edict No. 7 of 1973. While dismissing this action, the court held that adequate compensation as provided by the Oil Pipelines Act had been paid to the plaintiffs, and that the Rivers State Minimum Crop Compensation law is inconsistent with the Oil Pipelines Act. So, the victims lost.

It is unfortunate that most oil companies in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria prefer litigation to negotiation because of the inordinate delay of cases in Nigerian courts, and the concomitant frustrations on the victims, coupled with the possibility of

striking out the cases on the ground of technicality. For instance, in *Shell Pet. Co. Nig. v. Ambah*[xx]the plaintiff went to court because the oil company has neglected, failed, and or refused to negotiate or pay reasonable or adequate compensation to the plaintiff and members of his family despite repeated demands. It is in view of this that led the judge to state that; "I shall not conclude this judgment without saying that the defendant ought not to allow this case to go to court. It is a matter they ought to have negotiated and settled out of court…".

Where negotiation is reached, the amount of compensation payable is determined. In the United States of America, for instance, a company, W.R. Grace and Co has recently agreed out of court to reimburse the federal government \$250 million for the investigation and cleanup of asbestos contamination blamed for sickening hundreds of people, some fatally, in the northwestern Montana town of Libby though subject to the approval of U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge.

Also, in a pre-litigation negotiation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently reached a \$21.8 million settlement with 95 parties to clean up the spectrum superfund site in Elkton, Maryland of hazardous chemicals caused by the parties.

Successful negotiators possess and exhibit perceptual, persuasive, analytical and other basic negotiation skills for effective conflict management. The same skills that diplomats use to negotiate international peace agreements can equally be used in the resolution of environmental conflicts.

Conciliation

Conciliation as a type of ADR is another process of settling disputes in a friendly manner outside the court. It is a practice of bringing together the parties in a dispute to an independent third party, a conciliator, who meets with the parties so as to resolve their differences.

In Nigeria, conciliation is recognized by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act as a method of conflict resolution. Section 37 of the Act provides that the parties to any agreement may seek amicable settlement of any dispute in relation to the agreement by conciliation. The process involves a neutral and disinterested persons meeting with

the disputants both separately and together and exploring how the dispute can be resolved. It involves an appointed councilor who does not intervene directly in the dispute, rather he does it indirectly by exploring the available possible avenues for settlement thereby allowing the parties do the settlement themselves (Kabir, 2011). It is advisory in nature.

The conciliation process finds its most solid and eventual success on the will of the parties to engage in a meaningful dialogue irrespective of the gravity of their differences. The conciliator usually has no authority to seek evidence or call witnesses. He neither makes a decision nor an award. He merely provides the environment for resolution of conflict. He helps them to establish communication, clarify miss-perceptions, deal with strong emotions, and build the trust necessary for cooperative problem solving. This is more imperative when the parties have little constructive communication. They see each other as enemy resulting from all they lost to the conflict. In this situation therefore, conciliation may be vital in resolving preliminary issues (Moore, 1991).

Conflict Transformation
Approach has earlier been introduced by John Paul of the School of Peace Building and later developed by some scholars like Lederach , J.P (1995) Preparing for peace: Conflict Transformation Across (New York: Syracuse University Press) . This is about building on longer standing relationships through a process of change in the perceptions and attitudes of the parties concerned. The aim of conflict transformation is to change the perception of the parties, their relationship and the conditions that created the conflict. Therefore, conflict transformation entails the coming into being of a new situation involving conflict issues, perceptions, relationships and communication patterns. As the conflict has become a permanent life threat and in most cases, have revered development in Nigeria and Africa, it should adequately underscore the need for laying an important basis for the formulation of right values, behaviours and attitudes that will promote balanced personal, social, economic and political relations. Although the use of dialogue and negotiations has to some extent been fruitful yet the Nigerian polity has not been crisis free. In view of this trend, a need for a socio economic and political reorientation of the populace cannot be overemphasized.

Conflict Management

According to Best (2007) conflict management entail the process of reducing the destructive capacity of conflict through a number of measures and approaches by engaging with the parties involved in that conflict. In most cases, conflict management is often used synonymously with "conflict regulation" which covers issues of handling conflicts at different stages. This also includes efforts made to prevent conflict through proactive measures thereby limiting, containing and litigating conflict. The usage of the term "conflict management" indicates the reality that conflict is inevitable. As it remains so, what practitioners needs do is to therefore regulate and manage it. In either case, management of conflict uses peaceful or non-violent methods which are available at individual, family, group, community and even international levels divided in to two broad categories: proactive or reactive methods.

The **proactive methods** are aimed at preventing the occurrence of conflict in the first place by taking proactive measures such as: instilling trust between or among people/communities, bridging communication gap, good governance by government delivering its responsibilities of making life more meaningful; inter party collaborations as well as promoting internal democracy within party structures. The **reactive method** becomes necessary when the conflict cannot be managed locally because it has already turned violent. To address an already violent situation, it requires third party interventions like mediation, conciliation, arbitration and litigation. However, there is agreement among scholars and practitioners that there are five basic steps in managing conflicts.

First, conflict analysis involves the initial examination of the nature of the conflict, its causes and its consequences. Second, the conflict management strategy should be determined through the identification and selection of the appropriate approach, method and strategy for the conflict management. Third, pre-negotiation that may involve the actions taken or activities carried out prior to negotiation by identifying the victims of the conflict, inviting the conflicting parties for negotiation. Fourth, a negotiation that involves actions taken for the implementation of the chosen conflict management strategy. This includes setting up a committee comprising of the delegates of the conflicting parties and other stakeholders to negotiate on how to resolve such conflict to make reasonable conclusions and recommendations and then

give a report. Fifth, post-negotiation which has to do with the actions or activities carried out after the negotiation. This includes the presentation of reports of the negotiation and the implementation of the recommendations made in the reports.

Conflict Resolution

This includes a variety of approaches aimed at terminating conflicts through the constructive solving of problems, distinct from management or transformation. By conflict resolution, the deeply rooted sources of conflict are expected to be addressed and resolved and the behaviour is no longer violent, nor are attitudes hostile any longer, while the structure of the conflict has been changed (Ramsbotham et al, 2016). Furthermore, at this level, the outcomes of the resolution are to be mutually acceptable by parties concerned for sustained peace. However, there are differences in the approach to conflict resolution depending on the culture and civilisation of the people and their society.

For instance, the African Traditional Dispute Resolution **(ATDR)** differs from the Western Alternative Dispute Resolution **(WADR)**. Although in Africa, the approaches differ from one culture to another most communities have traditional leaders known as Chiefs or Emirs and have some traditional powers conferred on them to solve disputes. On the other hand, the **WADR** promote the use of non-violent means to the conflict including grass root community- based activities through good governance, communication collaboration, negotiation, and mediation etc. It can be said that in principle conflict resolution connotes a sense of finality, where the parties are mutually satisfied with the outcome of a settlement and the conflict is resolved in a true sense. There are also other ways to resolve conflicts such as surrendering, running away, overpowering the opponent with violent acts, filing a lawsuit, etc.

Beyond the ones explained above, the current movement toward **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**, sometimes referred to simply as conflict resolution, grew out of the belief that there are better options to resolve conflict than using violence or going to court. Over the years, the terms ADR and conflict resolution are used somewhat interchangeably and refer to a wide range of processes that encourage nonviolent dispute resolution outside of the traditional court system. The idea is about the search for an application of "*non- conventional*" peaceful methods of settling the dispute and

solving conflict situation using the least expensive methods and that satisfies both parties as well as ways to preserve and protect the relationship after settlement have been reached. In most societies, this approach usually promotes peaceful coexistence after solving the conflict.

Beyond the ATDR, WADR, ADR as earlier explained, there are other forms or approaches to conflict resolution the world over. This may include **negotiation** which is a discussion among two or more people with the goal of reaching an agreement. It may also involve **mediation** seen as a voluntary and confidential process in which a neutral third-party facilitator helps people discuss difficult issues and negotiate an agreement. Basic steps in this process include gathering information, framing the issues, developing options, negotiating, and formalizing agreements. The parties in mediation create their own solutions and the mediator does not have any decision-making power over the outcome. **Arbitration** is also another option which is a process in which a third-party neutral, after reviewing evidence and listening to arguments from both sides, issues a decision to settle the case. Arbitration is often used in commercial and labor/management disputes.

A hybrid that combines as explained earlier is **Mediation-Arbitration**. In this case, prior to the session, the disputing parties agree to try mediation first, but give the neutral third party the authority to make a decision if mediation is not successful. Also of relevance is **Early Neutral Evaluation** which involves using a court-appointed attorney to review a case before it goes to trial. The attorney reviews the merits of the case and encourages the parties involved in the case to attempt resolution. If there is no final resolution, the attorney then informs the disputants about how to proceed with litigation and gives an opinion on the likely outcome if the case goes to trial.

Another approach is the **Community Conferencing** which is a form of structured conversation involving members of a community (offenders, victims, family, friends, etc) affected by a dispute or a crime. Using a script, the facilitator invites people to express how they were affected and how they wish to address the harm inflicted. Another one is the **Collaborative Law** which is a process for solving disputes in which the attorneys commit to reaching a settlement without using litigation. Also important is **Negotiated Rulemaking** considered as a collaborative process in which government agencies seek input from a variety of stakeholders before issuing a new

rule. Finally, **Peer Mediation** involves young people act as mediators to help resolve disputes among their peers. In most cases, the student mediators are trained and supervised by a teacher or other adult.

Theories of Peace and Conflict Resolution

There exist theories of Peace Strategies as advanced by scholars to study, understand and analyze peace and conflict situation. In most cases, using concrete facts, propositions and principles, these theories as explained hereunder provide several political, social, economic, psychological, environmental and biological realities that explain the causes, dynamics and impacts of conflicts in and between people s and societies.

Structural theory sees structural defects, either internally generated or externally conditioned as the main cause of conflict in society. This theory has two sub-orientations. The radical structural theory was propounded by Marx and Engel, and developed by Vladimir Lenin. The radical theorists claim that exploitative and unjust nature of human society's domination of one class by other results into political or economic discrimination, with the end result leading to crises and war. The theorists believed that economic relationship in capital societies need to change through revolution or radical transformation.

The liberal structural theory propounded by Ross, Scarborough and Galtung see conflict as a phenomenon that is built in human societies according to how they are structured and organized.

They agreed that conflict arises as a result of deep-rooted structural dysfunction such as political and economic inequality, corruption, injustice, unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, disease, overpopulation and exploitation. Johan Galtung argues that whenever economic and political discrimination and lack of tolerance in plural societies are embedded in such human social relationship, conflicts are bound to occur higher than societies where opposite social relationship is established.

Realist theorists mainly in their analysis of international politics believe that countries operate in their own self-interest and struggle for power. These theorists believe that imperfection in the globe has its roots in certain forces that are inherent in human nature, that human is selfish, individualistic and naturally conflictive. The desire to achieve such selfish and individualistic desire more often leads to conflicts.

Root Causes of Conflict and Violence in Nigeria

Why do humans clash? It may be two or more neighbors disagreeing over a river or a land. In a developing country like Nigeria, whatever a conflict's scale, the students of peace and conflict resolution seek to understand its nature and causes. Despite the fact that there are several causes of violence in our societies but for the purpose of this proposal, the most salient ones are briefly discussed.

Indigenes/Settler Spectacle

It does not matter how long one might have stayed in a place or community once the person does not belong to the ethnic group within the territory then he/she is unfortunately regarded as settler not fit to enjoy certain rights and privileges that community in Nigeria. In most Nigeria communities, the said *indigenes* usually hold sway over political structures in their areas and the so called *settlers* also who also predominantly depend on the state resources as means of livelihood are usually treated as second class citizens.

Religious Domination Crisis

Even though in spite of the fact that Nigeria is a secular country, violent and non-violent conflicts in are on the increase in Nigeria leading to ethno-religious clashes between various religious group with different belief of faith that contradict the teaching of other group that reason can easily trigger conflict in various communities in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Peace is a pre-condition for our emotional well-being, but a peaceful state of mind that is subject to cognitive disruptions and aggressive eruptions. The paper was of the view that the concept of Peace is a linchpin of social harmony, economic equity and political justice, but peace is also constantly ruptured by wars and other forms of violent conflict in Nigeria and many other countries. For society to lives in peace and harmony there is need for adopting various appropriate means of conflict resolution in addressing misunderstanding between individuals, groups and nations.

Recommendations

The paper has the following things to be observed for peace to be sustained between groups or society:

I.   The Nigeria Government needs to show commitment in addressing the level of insecurity in the country by providing all the necessary needed mechanism in ground that could help in addressing emergence of conflicts.

ii. Citizens need to explore peaceful means to resolve conflict situations rather than occurrences to violence.

iii. Government in Nigeria need to operate open, transparent and accountable system of government that would be responsive for the people's needs and aspirations

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