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Peace Building: a Means of Sustaining National Development

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Abstract
Development is a multifaceted concept, combining economic and socio cultural progress. This study therefore is carried out to observe how post conflict peace building could lead to a sustainable development. Post conflict peace building usually follow the process of peace keeping while focusing on demobilization and reintegration programme as well as reconstruction needs. One major conclusion is that peace building involves addressing the root cause of the conflict and creating long-term for sustainable actions for peace and harmony between the parties involved. It was therefore recommended among other things that there should be Good governance and responsive leadership in order to have a lasting peace that could bring about sustainable development. The study is a desk research and therefore relied on secondary data only.

Keywords: Development, Reconciliation, Reconstruction, Reintegration.

Introduction
Peace building consist of a wide range of activities associated with capacity building, reconciliation and societal transformation which is a long time process that occurs after a violent conflict has subsided or ended. It is that peace process that follows the exhaustation of peace making and peace keeping.
Several international agencies and organizations including non governmental organizations (NGO's) as well as community based organiations

(CBO's) partake in peace building activities which is an umbrella concept that plays a critical role in the aftermath of peace making and peace keeping. According to Albert (2001), it goes beyond separating the disputants or setting the disputes but also build opportunity-base that heals the wounds and promotes more friendly relationship among the ex_combatants as well as creates institutions and sociopolitical facilities aimed at assisting the former disputants to respect their mutual needs and interests for a peaceful society where meaningful development can take place.

Peace building therefore plays important role in the Promotion of peace and the resolution of conflicts by focusing more on the ways through which agreements are implemented and opportunities network are built in the reconstruction of social, economic and political structure to allow for the creation of sustainable capacity for peace and long term conflict transformation Regehr (1995). Peace building is one of the United Nations' cardinal models of peace processes which was made popular by Boutros Ghali in his work"An agenda for peace"(1992).

It is therefore against this background that this study is set out to observe the role played by post conflict peace building in achieving sustainable development.

CONCEPTUAL EXPLORATION AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptuaul exploration;

Some of the concepts involved in peace building as identified by Doyle, Michael and Nicholas (1991), include the followings:-

Reconciliation;This is the creation of an avenue for the old combatants and the displaced population to express their pains and agonies, address the root causes of the conflict in order to promote mutual co-operation through justice, truth, mercy and forgiveness. It remains a difficult task in peace building because in most cases the parties will need to see some prospects in the whole reconciliatory exercise before they could consent.

-Reconciliation as a concept in peace building,refers to a process through which a disputing party seeks to establish structures and procedures capable of facilitating an enduring peace and mutual understanding with the old enemy in the post conflict environment. It is not simply about apologizing for the past but also recognizing that there is a valid claim on the part of the offended whose interest is trampled upon by the offender.

Reconciliation is therefore not only a peace building process but also a viable mechanism that enhances dynamic social system and creates opportunities for social energies and directions.

- **Apology and forgiveness:** These according to them, are very important elements in reconciliation and peace building as the two concepts reflect the feelings and convictions which characterize the conflict transformation

initiatives and the relationships between the disputing parties. This enables the former disputants to appreciate the pains and agonies of each other. Therefore tendering of sincere apologies and the courageous granting of forgiveness, forms the bedrock of any long term conflict resolution and proactive efforts in peace build**ing.**

- **Disarmament:** This refers the retrieval of all arms and weapons from the former disputants. It is one of the most important elements of reconciliation which ensures lasting peace and stabilizes the peace building proce**ss.**
- **Reconstruction**: This phase of post conflict enables the society to have another opportunity through rebuilding of infrastructures that were destroyed as a result of the conflict which goes a long way in creating a lively post conflict environment.
- **Rehabilitation:** This phase is a process that affords the ex combatants, the displaced population and refugees the opportunity to demobilize and re integrate through the provision of some strategic peace building measures such as employment opportunities, creativity and vocational skills development, trauma healing advice and support among others.
- **Dimensions of peace building:** This includes;
    - The structural dimension which according to Adekanye and Bayo (2003) focuses on the social conditions which promoted the violent conflicts. It is widely acknowledged that sustainable peace is a product of social, economic and political opportunities on equal terms which takes care of the needs of the entire people. It is also noteworthy that most of the armed conflict situations are hinged on systematic roots that are somehow complex and may include skewed land distribution, Environmental degradation, and unequal political representation. Meanwhile there can never be sustainable and positive peace if the root causes are not Attendo to. Efforts should considerably be put therefore, to analyze the structural causes of the conflict and setup structural social change in order to rebuild and strengthen the civil socie**ty.**
    - **Relational dimension:** They described the second dimension as the relational dimension which limits the effects of post conflict related hostility through the repair and transformation of damaged relationship. It focuses mainly on reconciliation, forgiveness, trust building and future imagination which reduces poor communication and increases mutual understanding.
    - **Personal dimension:** This focuses on desired changes at the individual level that serves as a trauma healing technique which if not enjoyed by individuals,may lead to greater political and economic

consequences.This technique is geared towards treating mental, psychological and spiritual problems that may follow armed conflict. Through this, the victims can start a better life all over.

- **The difference between peace making and peace building:** In peace and conflict environment, the concepts of peace keeping, peace making and peace building are used interchangeably and many are confused because of the interrelated nature of the three concepts. Grooves and Denis (2000) are of the view that peace keeping is basically interested in imposing order and barriers in the resolution the conflict. It is not sufficient in the facilitation of enduring peace. While peace making on the other hand, brings the parties involved to Dialogue and diplomatic negotiations purposely to reconcile them, which will culminate in the signing of peace agreement by the parties. And peace building is quite necessary after the two affore mentioned processes in order to put in place the conflict transformation measures that will create trust building opportunities and improve communication network among the parties in order to adopt strategies for re-integration, rehabilitation, reconstruction and healing. Peace building also involves addressing the root causes of the conflict and creating long-term actions for sustainable peace and harmony.
- **Tasks of peace building:** Peace building usually attracts a lot of disperate tasks which are undertaken purposely to lmplement peace agreements, revive the dislocated relationship and communication as well as address the collapsed economies, the fragile political structures as well as repatriation and settlement of the refugees and the internally displaced population (IDP's). There is also the empowerment and the encouragement of the involvement of the civil society in the post conflict peace processes, particularly in training and education of the displaced persons that are already traumatized. This will make them see the need to accept a true reconciliation.

The first task in post conflict peace building according to Lederack (1995), is to disarm the excombatants though this is not an easy task because in most cases, the excombatants usually have the problem of suspicion in mutual terms which often make them think Indepthly before they surrender their arms. This is for fear of reprisal attack from the enemy camps as they might be caught unawares and armless. It therefore calls for trust promotions on the part of the peace managers.

Other tasks in peace building, include

REBUILDING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF PEACE AGREEMENTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW,TRUST BUILDING AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF NGO'S AND THE MEDIA.

PEACE BUILDING AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Development as a concept is multi dimensional and elusive with different views from different scholars for instance: Rodney (1974), described it as a many sided process which at individual level, lmplies increased skills & capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self discipline, responsibility and material well being.While at societal level, it implies increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. Rogers (1969), defined it as a type of social change in which new ideas are introduced into the system in order to have a high per Capita income and standard of living through modern production methods and improved social organization.

The concept of development is therefore used to refer to the total transformation of a system thus:- when used to describe a Nation's development,it implies the transformation of the various aspects of the life of the Nation which indicates a progression from a low and undesirable state to a high and preferred one.

It can therefore be described as the co- incidence of structural change and the liberation of man from exploitative and oppressive tendencies. Now all these activities that are involved in National development, take place in an environment that requires peace and harmony that could be achieved through peace building in a post- conflict situations.

This is because the post- conflict environment consist of economic, political and socio-cultural spheres that all need peace and tranquility before any sustainable development could be achieve

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study was guided by the following theories;-

i. The Conflict Transformation Model**:**

- This model focuses on transforming conflicts into opportunities for positive change.
- It involves addressing the root causes of conflict, promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and transforming relationships.
- Key elements include: inclusive participation, non-violence, respect for human rights, and social justice.

ii. Integrated Peacebuilding Approach**:**

- This approach recognizes that peacebuilding requires a comprehensive approach involving multiple sectors and actors.

- It highlights the need to work on various dimensions simultaneously, such as political, social, economic, and cultural.
- Key elements include: inclusive governance, equitable development, social cohesion, and intercultural understanding.

iii. Conflict Sensitivity Framework:

- This framework focuses on understanding the context and dynamics of conflicts to sharp interventions.
- It aims to prevent exacerbating tensions and negative impacts unintentionally.
- Key elements include: conflict analysis, stakeholder engagement, adaptive programming, and monitoring and evaluation.

iv. Positive Peace Theory:

- This theory emphasizes proactive measures to build peace rather than merely addressing violence.
- It looks beyond the absence of conflict and focuses on the presence of societal conditions that promote peace.
- Key elements include: good governance, social justice, equality, su stainable development, and respect for human rights.

v. Local Ownership and Empowerment**:**

- This principle recognizes the importance of involving local communities and empowering them in peacebuilding efforts.
- It emphasizes building capacities and creating opportunities for affected communities to take ownership of the peacebuilding process.
- Key elements include: local participation, community-led initiatives, bottom-up approaches, and inclusive decision-making.

Remember that these are just theoretical frameworks, and successful peacebuilding requires adapting strategies to specific contexts and situations.

THE RELEVANCE OF THESE THEORIES

.The relevance of all the theories largely depends on the thrust of the respective theories thus;-

The main thrust of the first theory is transforming conflict into opportunity for positive change. The second theory focuses on the integration of all stakeholders in the process of peace building. The third one advocates understanding the context and dynamics of the conflict for a successful intervention and the fourth emphasizes proactive measures rather than just address violence while the fifth theory dwells on empowerment and the participation of local government in building a lasting peace and consequently a sustainable development.

CONCLUSIONS

The study concluded that for a sustainable development to be achieved, there must be an atmosphere that is mainly dominated by peace, tranquility and harmony which could be achieved through peace building so as to pave way for economic, political, structural and socio-cultural progress and are all indices of National development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the aforementioned conclusions, the following recommendations were made;

1. Governments should always ensure that there is socio-economic as well as political equity.
2. There should also be participatory and constitutional democracy.
3. Independent and responsible judiciary should be put in place.
4. There should be Good governance and responsive leadership.
5. Civic and peace education should be advocated.
6. There should also be effective Separation of power and efficient checks and balances.
7. There should be public accountability.
8. There should be prompt and adequate administration of justice.
9. NGO'S and CBO'S should be strengthened.

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