VOL. 02 NO. 2,
DECEMBER, 2023
E-ISSN 3027-1533
P-ISSN 3026-8648

African Scholar Publications & Research International
www.africanscholarpub.com

Journal of African Innovation & Advanced Studies (JAIAS)

Promoting National Integration for Sustainable Peace in Borno, Nigeria

***Mamman Nathan Enos; & **Kefas Buba**
*Christian Religious Studies Department, Waka College of Education, Biu, Borno State. **English Language Department, Waka College of Education, Biu, Borno State.
nathanenos6@gmail.com

Abstract
This paper explores the critical role of promoting national integration in achieving sustainable peace in diverse society like Nigeria and most especially Borno State which is ravaged by insurgency (Boko Haram) which almost swallowed the whole of Borno State and its neighboring states. It argues that national integration is the process of creating a sense of shared values, identity and purpose among citizens, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic differences. The paper examines the challenges and opportunities to be considered by the Borno State government and Nigeria at large for promoting national integration in diverse societies and highlights the key strategies that can be employed to foster national unity and social cohesion. It also discusses the role of education, media and civil organizations in promoting national integration and emphasis the need for political will and leadership in a complex society like Nigeria (Borno) to drive the process of national integration. Finally, the paper concludes by emphasizing the importance of sustained efforts towards promoting national integration as a critical component of achieving sustainable peace in diverse societies.

Keywords: Promoting, National, Integration, Sustainable Peace, Borno State.

Introduction

Background of the Study

Borno state has been described as an epicenter of the dreaded terrorist known worldwide as Boko Haram. It is considered as given birth to more terrorist groups. Nigeria at large has been taken over by these terrorist groups. Nigeria has been battling with these conflicts. The more of these terrorists and bandits are dealt with, the more the conflict rises.

Peace cannot be obtain by the powers of the guns. For a sustained peace, there should be a well-coordinated integration.

For this, national integration is a critical factor for sustainable peace in any country like Nigeria and Borno state especially in this critical period. With the increasing diversity of cultures, religions and ethnicities, promoting national integration has become a major challenge for many countries. Education and inter-group contact have been identified as two essential components that can promote national integration and reduce inter-group conflicts, peace cannot be built and sustained by peace builders.

However, the nature and extent of their impact on national integration are not well understood. Therefore, this research aims to explore the role of education and intergroup contact in promoting national integration for sustainable peace.

Research Questions

In order to achieve the above objectives, the following research questions were formulated to guide this study.

1. What is the current state of national integration in the country (Borno State)?
2. How does education contribute to national integration and peace?
3. What is the role of inter-group contact in promoting national integration and peace?
4. What are the challenges and opportunities for promoting national integration through education and inter-group contact?
5. What strategies can be adopted to enhance national integration and peace through education and inter-group contact?

Methodology

This study will use a mix method approach combining both quantitative and qualitative methods. The qualitative data will be collected through a survey of a representative sample of the population to assess their attitudes towards national integration, education and inter-group contact. The qualitative data will be collected through focus group discussion and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders.

Innovation (How different is it from other earlier projects)

There have been numerous projects aimed at promoting national integration for sustainable peace in various countries and contexts over the years, so it is difficult to make broad comparism without specific examples to refer to. However, it is safe to say that each project is unique in its own way, depending on factors such as the country or region it is focused on, the historical and cultural context, the goals and objectives of the projects and the specific strategies and methods used to achieve those goals.

That being said, some of the key differences between earlier projects and current projects aimed at promoting national integration for sustainable peace may include

advances in technology and communication, changes in political and social contexts and a greater emphasis on inclusively, diversity and equity.

For example, earlier projects may have relied on traditional forms of communication such as radio and television broadcast, while current projects may leverage on social media and other digital platforms to reach a wider audience and engage with people in real time. Additionally, earlier projects may have focused primarily on promoting unity and assimilation, while current and celebration of diverse identities and cultures as a means to foster greater understanding and tolerance.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of any project aimed at promoting national integration for sustainable peace depends on a variety of factors including the specific goals and objectives, the strategies and methods employed, the level of community engagement and participation, and the overall political, social and economic context in which the projects is implemented. Including educators, policy makers and community leaders. The data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics, thematic analysis and regression analysis.

Expected Outcome

The research findings will provide insights into the current state of national integration in the country and the role of education and inter-group contact in promoting national integration and peace. The study will also identify the challenges and opportunities for promoting national integration through education and intergroup contact and provide recommendations for policy makers and educators to enhance national integration and sustainable peace in Borno State and the nation at large.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are as follows;

1. To understand the concept of national integration and its importance for sustainable peace in Nigeria (Borno State).
2. To examine the current state of national integration in the country and identify the factors that contribute to or hinder it.
3. To explore the role of education in promoting national integration and peace including the effectiveness of different educational approaches and strategies.
4. To investigate the impact of inter-group contact on national integration and peace, including the role of intercultural dialogue, social interactions and community engagements.
5. To identify the challenges and opportunities for promoting national integration and sustainable peace through education and inter-group contact.
6. To develop recommendations or policy intervention for sustainable peace, including strategies for improving education, intergroup contact and community relations.

Overall, the main objectives of the research topic on promoting national integration for sustainable peace is to understand the dynamics of national integration and peace building in a particular country like Nigeria, and Borno state in particular and to provide evidence – based on recommendations for policy makers, educators and other stakeholders to promote a more cohesive and peaceful society.

Statement of the Problems

Today's world is taken over by conflicts, just as we have global warming; we also have global conflicts. The united nation is never relenting in its effort to restore peace globally.

i. Despite efforts to promote national integration in many countries, there continue to be significant divisions and conflicts along ethnic, religion or other identity – based lines.
ii. Lack of national integration in a country like Nigeria can lead to political instability, economic underperformance and social unrest.
iii. The role of education in promoting national integration and peace is not well understood, and there is a need to explore the most effective educational approaches and strategies for achieving this goal.
iv. The impact of inter-group contact on national integration and peace is also unclear, and there is a need to investigate the factors that contribute to successful inter-group interactions and dialogue.
v. There is a lack of consensus on the best practice for promoting national integration and sustainable peace, and there is a need to identify the challenges and opportunities for implementing effective policies and interventions in this direction.
vi. The existing literature on national integration and peace building tends to focus on general theories and models rather than providing context specific insights that can inform policy and practice in a particular country.

Overall, the problem statement for a research on promoting national integration for sustainable peace is to identify the factors that contribute to or hinder national integration and social cohesion in a particular country like Nigeria and develop evidence – based recommendations for promoting sustainable peace and social harmony.

Theoretical Framework

Sustainable peace through national integration is a complex and multifaceted concept that can be approached from a variety of theoretical perspectives. One possible theoretical framework for understanding this concept is social identity theory, which

suggests that individuals form their identities based on group membership and that these identities can lead to inter-group conflicts.

Social identity theory proposes that individuals tend to categorize themselves and others into distinct social groups based on shared characteristics, such as ethnicity, religion or nationality. These groups can become sources of identity and pride, but they can also lead to intergroup conflicts when individuals perceive a threat to their group's status or well-being.

To promote sustainable peace through national integration, it is therefore necessary to address the underlying social identities and intergroup dynamics that contribute to conflicts. This can be done by promoting a *sense of common identity* and share values across different groups and by reducing the salience of decisive identities.

Another theoretical framework that can be used to understand sustainable peace through national integration is *contact theory*. This theory suggest that intergroup contact can reduce prejudice and promote positive attitude and behaviours towards members of other groups.

According to *contact theory*, certain conditions must be met for contact to be effective in promoting inter-group harmony such as equal status, common goals and intergroup cooperation. By creating opportunities for individuals from different groups to interact in positive and meaningful ways, contact theory can help to breakdown stereotypes, promote empathy and understanding, and build trust and cooperated across group boundaries.

A third theoretical framework that can used to understand sustainable peace through national integration is *the theory of social capital*. Social capital refers to the resources and networks that individuals and groups can draw upon to achieve collective goals.

In the context of sustainable peace and social capital can be used to promote cooperation, trust and mutual support across different groups. This can be achieved by building social networks and institution that facilitate communication, collaboration and collective action, such as community organization, civil society groups and intergroup dialogue initiative.

Overall, these theoretical framework provide useful insights into the complex dynamics of sustainable peace through national integration and help guide the design and implementation of interventions aimed at promoting intergroup harmony, cooperation and social cohesion.

Literature Review

Sustaining peace through national integration is a complex and multifaceted concept that has been employed in an explored in a variety of academic disciplines, including political science, sociology, psychology and peace studies. The following literature

review provides an overview of some key research findings and theoretical perspectives on this topic.

Social identity theory has been used to explain the role of group identities in intergroup conflicts and the importance of promoting a share national identity for sustaining peace. In their study, Brewer and Caporael (2006) found that individuals who share national identity can reduce intergroup bias and promote positive attitude towards members of other groups.

Contact theory has also been used to examine the role of inter-groups contact in promoting sustainable peace through national integration. In their review of the literature, Pettigrew and Tropp (2008) found that the effectiveness of intergroup contacts depends on a variety of contextual factors, such as the nature of the contact, the quality of the integration, and the social norms and expectations surrounding intergroup relations.

Social capital theory has also been applied to the study of sustaining peace through national integration. In their study Woolcock and Narayan (2000) found that social capital can play a key role in promoting cooperation and trust across different groups and can help to build resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of social capital can lead to social fragment and conflict.

Several studies have also emphasize the importance of inclusive governance and participation decision-making process for sustaining peace through national integration. In their study, Gaventa and Barret (2010) found that inclusive governance can help to build trust and can promote the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

Similar Kabeer (2005) argue that participatory decision – making processes can empower marginalized groups and promote social justice and human rights.

Finaly, some scholars have highlighted the importance of education and intergroup dialogue in promoting sustainable peace through national integration. In their study Selimovic and Kostic (2013) found that education can play a key role in promoting intercultural understanding and social cohesion.

TOWARD SUSTAINABLE PEACE

Introduction:

The aim of this paper is to explore possible methods for achieving sustainable peace and bring about development in society most especially Borno state, the north east and Nigeria at large.

Sustainable peace refers to a state of long term peace and stability that is maintained and upheld by addressing and resolving the underlying causes of conflict. It goes beyond the absence of overt violence and focuses on promoting social justice, equality and the well-being of all individuals and communities and communities involved.

Sustainable peace entails a comprehensive and holistic approach that includes political, economic, social and cultural dimensions. It involves efforts to address root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality discrimination, lack of access to resources, political grievances and historical injustices. This requires the promotion of inclusive governance, human rights, rule of law and participatory decision – making processes.

Additionally, sustainable peace involves reconciliation and healings processes, fostering a sense of coexistence and mutual understanding among different groups and communities. It emphasizes building trust, promoting dialogue and resolving conflicts through non violent means.

Furthermore, sustainable peace also considers the environmental dimension as it acknowledges the interdependence between peace and the sustainability by addressing issues such as resource scarcity climate change, and environmental degradation.

Overall, sustainability peace aims to create a society that is resilient to conflict, where individuals have equal opportunities and rights and where social, economic and environmental well-being are priotized. It requires long commitment, cooperation and active engagement from various actors, including governments civil society organization, communities and individuals to ensure lasting peace and prosperity.

With peace building increasingly interpreted as time – bound intervention in fragile or conflict affected states, sustaining peace. Sustaining peace seeks to place greater emphasis on detecting and strengthening what is already working. Even societies under stress have capacities that need to be nurtured.

Conflict is a disagreement between individuals which are often driven perpetuated by emotions such as anger, stress and frustration, whereas conflict resolution can be defined as the process of identifying, addressing and resolving disagreements or disputes among employees in a professional setting, thereby fostering a positive and productive way of existence.

Peace can be sustained through various means. National integration is one means of restoring a sustained peace. National integration is crucial for harmonious coexistence and sustainable development of any nation. In an era marked by ethnic, cultural, religions and linguistic diversity, promoting national integration becomes paramount to ensure that all members of a society feel included and have equal opportunities to thrive. The concept of national integration goes beyond mere tolerance, it requires fostering a sense of belonging, understanding and respect among the citizens of a nation, regardless of their backgrounds. This topic delves into strategies and initiatives than can be employed to promote national integration, thereby fostering sustainable peace and unity within Nigeria at large.

Therefore, for peace to be sustainable, the following should be put into consideration are briefly discussed. For sustainable peace therefore.

1. **There Should be Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Building:** In developing this goals, we should put this question in mind as how can the SDGs contribute to sustainable peace and what role can peace building play in achieving the SDGs.
2. **Secondly climate change and conflict:** The question here is, how does climate change exacerbate conflict and what sustainable solutions can be implemented to mitigate. This can be done in conjunction of the diverse nature of Nigerians with difference occupations and the prevailing conflicts between the herdsmen and farmers alike.
3. **Gender and Peace Building:** How can gender equality be integrated into peace building efforts to ensure sustainable peace? For sustainable peace, no sector of either the men, women, boys, girls of different ages should not be considered into the developments that can lead to sustainable peace.
4. **Economic Development and Peace Building:** There should be consideration as to how can sustainable economic peace building efforts to ensure sustainable peace.
5. **Human Rights and Peace Building:** In consideration to this, one should also put in man as how can human rights be projected and promoted in post conflict society so as to ensure sustainable peace.
6. **Education and Peace Building:** How can education be used as a tool for sustainable peace building particularly in conflict – affected areas like Nigeria at large.
7. Technology and peace building technology be leverage to support sustainable peace building efforts such as through the use of data analysis, communication tools and social media while putting in mind those challenges that may likely trigger conflict.
8. **Youth and Peace Building:** How can young people be integrated and engaged in sustainable peace building efforts, and what are the roles they can play in post – conflict societies.
9. **Reconciliation and Peace Building:** How can reconciliation process contribute to sustainable peace and what are some effective strategies for promoting reconciliation.
10. **Involvement of Local Owners in Peace Building:** How can local communities be empowered to take ownership of peace building efforts, and what role can external actors in supporting this process?

Goals for Sustainable Peace Building

It the desire of any to have a sustained peaceful atmosphere to enable it carry developmental activities for the benefit of its citizens at large. Development can only take place in a peaceful atmosphere.

The United Nations has identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a blue print to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. While these goals are interconnected, there are a few specific goals that directly address peace – building and sustainable peace.

Some of these goals are but a few of the many enumerated for the purpose of this paper. Out of the seventeen goals identified by the United Nations only six are enumerated below.

1. **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:** This one of the goals (16^{th}) set forward by the United Nations. Goal (16) focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable, and promoting the rule of law.
2. **Quality Education:** Goal (4) aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Education is the bedrock for any development when supported by a sustained peace in a given community and it plays a significant role in promoting peace preventing conflict by fostering understanding tolerance critical thinking thereby avoiding indoctrination and abuse of knowledge.
3. **Gender Equality:** This is the fifth goal of the United Nation aspiration for sustained peace. Equality is crucial for sustainable peace and empower all women and girls, which includes addressing gender based violence and discrimination, promoting women's leadership and ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities.
4. **Reduced Inequalities:** This goal (10^{th}) strives to reduce inequalities within and among countries addressing system inequalities, such as economic disparities, discrimination and social exclusion, is vital for sustainable peace.
5. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** This goal (11^{th}), focuses on creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable communities. This includes promoting peaceful and inclusive urban environment thereby improving access to the public spaces and reducing violence and crime.
6. **Partnership for the Goals (17^{th}) to achieve the SDGs:** Building partnership between governments, civil society and other stakeholders is crucial for fostering collaboration, knowledge, exchange and capacity building in peace building efforts. These goals reflect the interconnectedness of peace, justice, education, gender equality, inclusive communities and global collaboration. Achieving these goals can contribute to sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting social cohesion, and ensuring equal access to opportunities and resources for all.

Human Rights and Promotion of Sustain Peace

Human rights are the basic rights and freedom to which all individuals are entitled, just by virtue of being human. They are inherent to every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality, religion or any other characteristics.

Human rights include civil and political rights, such as the right of life, liberty and freedom of expression as well as economic, social and cultural rights includes civil and political rights such as the rights to education, health and adequate standard of living. They are protected and upheld by international conventions, treaties and to ensure the dignity and well-being of all individuals. Denials of these human means of lively-hood often results into endless conflict. They are primary means of existence of the human.

In an effort to promote and sustain peace, here are few ways which human rights can contribute to peace at large.

1. **Discrimination:** Human rights principles advocate for equal treatment and non-discrimination. When societies uphold these principles, individuals from different backgrounds and access to resources tension and conflicts based on discrimination.
2. **Rule of Law:** Human rights are closely lied to the rule of law. When governments respect and protect human right, they establish a framework that ensure justice, accountability and transparency. Thus, fosters in the legal system and reduces grievances that can lead to violence.
3. **Freedom of Expression and Assembly:** These are often areas of conflict during political rallies and religious gatherings. Human rights, such as freedom of assembly. By allowing people to voice their concerns without fear of persecution, societies can found peaceful resolutions to conflict.
4. **Access to Education:** Human rights include the rights to education. When individuals have access to quality education, they acquire knowledge critical thinking, skills and a broader understanding of different perspectives. Education promotes tolerance, empathy and peaceful coexistence, reducing the likelihood of conflicts.
5. **Gender Equality (Women's Right):** Gender equality and empowerment of women are essential for sustainable peace. Ensuring women's not only promote social justice but also contribute to conflict prevention and resolution. Women's participation in decision – making process and peace negotiation brings diverse perspectives and solutions fostering more inclusive and sustainable peace. There should be a reduced dominance of men in almost all affairs of human activities. When women's position is given adequate recognition, there will be a sustained peace in the society and even in family houses.
6. **Economic and Social Rights:** Human rights encompasses economic, social and cultural rights, such rights to healthcare, and adequate standard of living, rights creates more equitable societies, reduces inequalities, and addresses the root causes of conflicts ensuring from socio-economic disparities.

In conclusion, promoting and protecting rights is fundamental to building and sustaining peace. By upholding principles of equality, justice and dignity, societies can create an environment where conflicts are resolved peacefully, grievances are addressed and individuals can thrive together.

Sustainable peace therefore requires that individuals' rights are given at the right time. Delayed rights can lead to prolong conflicts. Deprivation of rights is the cause of many conflict in Nigeria and the entire world today. Denial of rights is responsible for many of the protests insurgency, and banditry.

Challenges to National Integration for a Sustainable Peace

In our country Nigeria today, peace is becoming unachievable, as the resolution of one conflict another conflict opens. We are facing political, religious, social, ethnic, economic and many more conflicts. Therefore resolving and sustaining peace has not been an easy task. It is faced with so many challenges some of which are enumerated below. There are several likely challenges for national integration in order to achieve sustainable peace. These challenges may vary depending on the specific community (state or country) and its unique socio-political context. Here are some common challenges.

1. **Ethno linguistic and Cultural Division**

   Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. Therefore it becomes difficult to adopt one type of peace policy to suit all. Nigeria is a heterogeneous populations with different ethnic, linguistic and cultural backgrounds. These divisions can lead to conflicts and hinder the process of national integration.

2. **Socio – Economic Disparities**

   Socio-economic inequalities can create divisions and deep rooted grievances. Addressing these disparities and ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens is essential for achieving national integration.

3. **Political Divisions and Polarization**

   Political division and polarizations can hinder the development of a united national identity. Despites over power political ideologies or governance structures can lead to more conflicts and instability.

4. **Historical Grievances and Unresolved Conflicts**

   Lingering historical grievances particularly related to pass conflicts, can hamper efforts to build a shared national identity. These grievances need to be addressed and reconciled for sustainable peace.

5. **Weak Institutional Capacity**

   Lack of strong and enclosure institutions such as a functioning justice system, impartial police forces, and efficient governance structures can challenge national integration efforts. Building strong institutions is crucial for fostering trust among different groups.

6. **Inadequate Communication and Dialogue**

Effective communication and dialogue are crucial for fostering understanding, building trust and resolving conflicts. Barriers to communication, such as language differences or limited media freedom can hinder integration efforts.

7. **External Interventions and Interference**

External interventions, whether through direct military involvement or indirect political influence can complicate national integration efforts. External actors may have their own agendas, leading to further fragmentation and division within the society or country at large.

8. **Lack of Enclosure Governance and Representation**

Marginalized groups often feel excluded from political decision – making process. Ensuring inclusive governance and representation of diverse communities is important for their active participation in national integration process.

9. **Resistance to Change and Identity Preservation**

Nigeria being multicultural with different religious and educational background, becomes a hindrance to peace. Some groups may resist efforts to integrate, fearing loss of their cultural or linguistic identity. Balancing the preservation of diverse identities with the need for united national identity becomes a big challenge to national peace and unity.

10. **Lack of long – Term Commitment**

National integration is a complex and should be a continuous process that requires long-term commitment from all stakeholders. Insufficient dedication, shifting political priorities or lack of sustained support can hinder progress towards sustainable peace.

Impact of Conflict on the Society

"Peace is defined as the absence of war, and by logical extension, war is the absence of peace." However, this is an inadequate definition of the term peace. By implication, peace is more than the absence of physical war.

In another definition (political definition) it is defined as a political condition that makes justice possible. In the current dispensation, peace entails political order that is institutionalize with political structures.

The successes of human endeavor, can only be counted bases on the availability of peace. Not just the structures but physical implementation of these structures, laws, resources and the gift of human rights.

When conflict steps in, the end result is devastating. It may shoot or long term effect. Conflict can have significant and far-reaching impacts of conflicts on the society. Some of these impact may include some of these or all.

1. **Loss of Life and Displacement**

   Conflicts often result in the loss of human lives, both civilian and military. They can also lead to mass displacements as people flee their homes to seek safety in other regions, countries or temporary change of location. This can disrupt the entire communities and strain resources in host areas. The case of Boko Haram, Bandits, has affected not only the affected areas, but the entire plans and policies of Nigerian nation, it has affected the political, education and social life activities of the nation.

2. **Destruction of Infrastructure and Services**

   Conflict can lead to the destruction of critical infrastructure like roads, telecommunication, electrical system. Like in the case of Maiduguri metropolitan of Borno State. The entire state capital was without electricity supply for more than two years. This is just one of the many devastating impact of Boko Haram. This can have a long lasting effect and hinder access to infrastructure and societal disruption can impeded economic recovery in the post conflict period.

3. **Economic Downturn and Poverty**

   Conflict can severely impact the economy of a society. It disrupts trade, business and agriculture leading to job losses, reduced income and increased poverty levels. The destructions of infrastructure and society disruption can impede economic recovery in the post – conflict period.

4. **Disruption of Education**

   Schools were destroyed, pupils and student were displaced, some abducted while others were killed in Borno state. For instance, Zamfara, Niger, Jos etc. were also most affected. Conflict can interrupt education system. Some of these schools were converted and occupied by the military for the purpose of an enhanced security. This deprive children and young people of the opportunity to receive an education leading to long – term consequences for future and the development of the society.

5. **Social Divisions and Mistrust**

   Conflict often deepen existing division within societies such as ethnic, religious or political tensions. These divisions can lead to increased mistrust and hostility among different groups hindering efforts for reconciliation and sustainable peace.

6. **Physical and Psychological Trauma**

   Trauma in the victims of Boko Haram banditry is a common manifestation of the impact of conflicts. Individuals and communities affected by conflict can experience physical injuries, trauma and psychological disorders, anxiety, depression and grief. These have long – lasting effects on individuals, families

and communities and require support for healing and recovery. For instance, some of the released abducted Chibok girls require a lot of psychological rehabilitation. Some completely deny their parents and even wishing to go back while others are affected in such that they no longer like schooling of any nature.

7. **Human Rights Violations**

Conflicts often involve human rights abuses such as violence, torture, sexual and gender based violence, forced displacement and recruitment of child soldiers or even forced labor. This violation not only cause immediate harm to individuals but also contribute to long term cycles of violence and revenge.

It is crucial to mitigate and address these impact through peace building efforts, humanitarian assistance and post – conflict reconstruction and development programs. Comprehensive approaches that patronize human, social justice and sustainable development and needed to heal societies torn by conflicts and build lasting peace.

On the whole conflict can destroy an entire social fabric and cultural heritage, conflicts can erode social cohesion, disrupt community structures and damage cultural heritage sites or artifact. This loss of social fabric and cultural heritage can have long term consequences on identity, social relationships and the preservation of cultural diversity.

ROLES OF INCLUSIVE INTEGRATION FOR A SUSTAINED PEACE

Conflict is not in a static situation, as long as humans live, there is always conflict either internal or external. Conflict started right in the garden of Eden when man was created and was put to be in-charge of all that is alive in the garden.

However, these conflicts are dynamic process in which the intensity levels of conflict cycles is essential for an understanding of how, where and when to apply different strategies and measures of conflict prevention measures of conflict prevention, mediation and conflict resolution.

However, conflict prevention are designed for the early state before it becomes manifest. In an effort to restore peace and to prevent future conflict, strategies are adopted. One and most effective strategies of mediation toward sustained peace is the inclusive integration strategy.

Inclusive integration is the extents and manner in which the views and needs of victims of conflict parties and their stakeholders are represented and integrated into the process.

Successful process of inclusive integration should include inclusive mediation and peace building. Inclusive mediation rests on the assumptions that building sustainable

peace requires integrating diverse societal perspectives of those of conflicting parties and other stakeholders in the process.

Inclusive process provided, does not necessarily imply that stakeholders can participate directly in formal negotiation process is not limited, it applies to social demographic, religious and regional minority, identities as well as young people to organized civil society and professional organizations.

Again, inclusive mediation seeks to engage the participants into dialogue. It draws upon the abilities of institutions or individuals that are seen as insiders within a given context to broker differences build consensus and resolve conflict. In all effort to sustain peace, must be locally – led nationally owned regionally and anchored and internationally support.

Strategies for Inclusive Integration for Sustainable Peace

To achieve inclusive integration for sustainable peace, several strategies can be deployed. These strategies aim to address the challenges mentioned earlier and promote a sense of belonging, shared responsibility, and respect for diversity. Here are some effective strategies for inclusive and sustained peace.

1. **Promote Inclusive Policies:** Implement that priotize equal opportunities, social justice and socio-economic development for all communities. These policies should address economic disparities, ensure access to education, healthcare and basic services and promote inclusive development in marginalized areas.
2. **Foster Dialogue and Mutual Understanding:** Facilitate platforms for open and respectful dialogue among diverse groups, including government officials, community leaders and civil society organizations. These dialogues should promote understanding, empathy and trust building and work towards finding mutually acceptable solutions to conflicts.
3. **Strengthen Inclusive Institutions:** Build and strengthen institutions that are transparent, accountable and representative of all communities. This include promoting inclusive governance and structures, enhancing the capacity and impartiality of judiciary and security forces, and ensuring proper mechanisms for citizens participation and consultation.
4. **Address Historical Grievances through Transitional Justice:** Establish mechanism to address historical injustices, human rights violations and conflicts from the past, such as truth and reconciliation commissions or special courts. This helps in providing justice, acknowledging victims concerns, and facilitating healing and reconciliation.
5. **Invest in Education and Cultural Exchange Programs:** Promote inclusive education policies that emphasize diversity, tolerance and respect for different

cultures and respect for different cultures and identities. Encourage cultural exchange programs, intercultural dialogue and the teaching of shared national identity and fostering a sense of belonging.

6. **Engage Civil Society Organizations:** That work on issues to social cohesion peace building and community development, these organizations can provide valuable insight, expertise and grassroots engagement, ensuring that the voices and needs of marginalized groups are represented.
7. **Create Platforms for Community Participation:** Facilitate community – led initiatives where diverse groups can actively participate in decision – making process. This can include community forums, town hall meetings, and participatory budgeting, ensuring that all communities have a say in local development plans and policies.
8. **Encourage Media Diversity and Responsible Journalism:** Promote media freedom, access standards and promotes dialogue, understanding and respect for all communities.
9. **Combat Discrimination and Promote Social Inclusion:** Implement laws and policies that prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, gender or any other factor. Encourage social inclusion programs that combat stereotypes, prejudice and promote social cohesion.
10. **Promote Cross – Border Cooperation and Regional Integration and People-to-people Exchanges:** This helps in building trust and interdependence among countries in the region, reducing the likelihood of conflicts and enhancing sustainable peace.

On the whole, these strategies should be implemented in a context-specific manner, considering the unique challenges and dynamics of each country. Additionally, sustained political will, funding and collaboration among various stakeholders are crucial for successful implementation of these strategies.

Roles of the Youths in Building a Sustainable Peace

Youths are the bedrock of national development. It is certainly much easier to resolve and build a sustain peace when youths are duly involve. Their involvement becomes paramount due to the roles they play. Briefly stated below are some of the roles played by the youths toward a sustainable peace. They have the power to bring about positive change and promote peace in various ways, some of which include;

1. **Advocacy and Activism:** The youths can raise awareness about peace – related issues, advocate for peaceful resolutions, and take part in protests and movement that promote a sustained peace and justice.

2. **Education and Dialogue:** They can engage in intercultural and interfaith dialogue, promoting understanding, tolerance and empathy among diverse communities. By educating themselves and others about the importance of peace, they can help bridge divides and promote peaceful coexistence.
3. **Conflict Resolution:** The youths can learn conflict resolution skills and become mediators in their communities. By promoting dialogue and active listening and finding common growth, they can help resolve conflicts peacefully and prevent escalation. Often times they are the escalators of almost all conflict in the communities. Where they are involve in the resolution of the conflict, they can contribute a lot toward a sustained peace.
4. **Social Entrepreneurship:** They can initiate and participate in social entrepreneurship ventures that address the root courses of conflict and promote sustainable peace. By creating economic opportunities and empowering marginalized communities, they contribute to long-term peace and stability.
5. **Volunteerism and Community Engagement:** The youths can actively engage in community service and volunteer work, focusing on peace building initiatives. By collaborating with local organizations and participating in peace projects, they can demonstrate the importance of unity and cooperation.
6. **Political Engagement:** Politics in religion are the major causes of conflict in Nigeria. Where in religion is also used as a political tools often times youths, are not actively in the political process but used as political things. The youths can actively participate in politics, advocating for policies that promote peace, equality, and social justice. By voicing their concerns, voting and running for office, they can shape the future of their societies and work towards a more peaceful world.

In summary, the youths here are the potentials to be proactive agents of peace sustenance by advocating, educating, mediating, promoting economic empowerment, engaging with communities, and actively participating in politics. Their energy creativity and commitment and vital in building a peaceful and harmonious future.
The role of the youths in building a sustained peace cannot be over emphasized. They can play a crucial role in sustaining peace in various ways. In conclusion, the youths can actively engage in promoting tolerance, and dialogue, and understanding among diverse communities. By fostering empathy and respect for different perspectives, young people can contribute to peaceful coexistence. Additionally, youths can advocate for social justice, equality and human rights addressing the root causes of conflict and working towards a more just society. They can also participate in peace building initiatives, such as community projects, volunteering and advocacy campaigns, aiming to create positive change at local and global levels. Ultimately the

energy, creativity and passion of youth people can bring new perspectives and innovative solutions to building and sustaining peace.

The Roles of the Economy in Sustaining Peace

A peaceful nation is determined by the economic growth and how it is managed. When an economy of a nation is in bad shape. Shows a nation in crisis. The economy plays a crucial role in peace and building and sustaining peace. Here are some key aspects of the economy that contribute to those goals.

1. **Economic Development:**
   Promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development is essential for peace building. By creating job opportunities, reducing poverty and enhancing socio-economic conditions, economic development can address underlying factors that contribute to conflict.
2. **Good Governance:**
   Establishing transparent and accountable governance system is vital for sustained peace. A well-functioning economy requires adherence to the role of law, effective institutions and anti-corruption measures. These elements foster stability and trust in the system, reducing the risk of conflicts.
3. **Access to Resources:**
   Fair and equitable access to resources such as land, water, and natural resources, is essential in preventing conflicts caused by competition or inequalities. Effective resources management and distribution system can help mitigate potential conflicts and contribute to sustained peace.
4. **Trade and Investments:**
   Promoting regional and international trade, as well as attracting investments, can stimulate economic growth and create interdependence that discouraged conflicts. Trade can enhance cooperation among nations, facilitate dialogue and lead to mutual dependence, making peace more beneficial than confrontation.
5. **Infrastructural Development:**
   Building and maintaining infrastructure such as transportation networks, energy systems, and communication technologies, are vital for economic growth and social development. Improved infrastructure helps connects communities, promotes equal opportunities and supports peaceful interactions.
6. **Socio-economic Inclusion:**
   Ensuring socio-economic inclusiveness is essential in peace building efforts. Combating exclusion and addressing inequalities based on factors such as gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status is crucial. Inclusive policies can minimize grievances, promote social cohesion, and contribute to long-term peace.

7. **Economic Recovery and Reconstruction:**

In post – conflict situations, economic recovery and reconstruction are essential to rebuilt war-torn societies. By providing employment opportunities, restoring basic services and rehabilitating infrastructure, the economy play a vital role in stabilizing communities and paving the way for sustained peace.

These economic factors, when effectively addressed an integrated into peace building strategies, can contribute significantly to long – lasting peace and stability. By focusing on economic development, good governance, equitable resources management, trade, inclusive policies, infrastructural development and post – conflict recovery, societies can work towards peace building and sustained peace.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made possible for promoting integration for sustainable peace in Borno state and Nigeria as a nation.

1. **Education and Awareness**

   Emphasize and the importance of cultural diversity, inclusivity and peaceful coexistence through educational programmes and institutions to teach tolerance, empathy, and respects for different cultures and perspectives.

2. **Community Engagement**

   Foster dialogue and interaction between different communities through community events, cultural exchanges and awareness campaigns. Encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds to actively participate in community activities, promoting understanding and collaboration.

3. **Social and Economic Equality**

   Address socio-economic disparities and promote equal opportunities for all. Implement policies that ensure fair access to education, healthcare, employment, and social services, irrespective of one's cultural or ethnic background. Eliminating inequalities leads to a more cohesive and peaceful society.

4. **Conflict Resolution and Mediation**

   Develop effective conflict resolution mechanism to address intergroup tensions and disputes. Encourage, mediation, and negotiation as peaceful means to resolve conflicts, promoting understanding and reconciliation.

5. **Inclusive Governance**

   Promote diverse representative and participation in decision process at all levels of governance. Ensure that marginalized communities have a voice and are involved in shaping policies and programmes that affect them directly. Inclusive governance fosters trust and social cohesion.

6. **Intercultural Exchange and cooperation**

Encourage cross-cultural exchanges, partnerships and collaborations between different communities, both domestically and international. Promote cultural events, festivals and initiatives that celebrate diversity and encourage intercultural understanding.

7. **Anti-Discrimination Laws and Policies**

Implement and enforce robust anti-discrimination laws to protect individuals from discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, religion or cultural background, ensure that legal framework guarantee equality and prohibit hate speech, xenophobia or any form of prejudice.

8. **Media Representation**

Encourage media outlets to promote balanced and inclusive narratives that portray diverse communities positively. Support media initiatives that highlight success stories of integration and showcase the benefits of diverse societies.

9. **International Cooperation**

Foster international cooperation and exchange best practices among countries that have succeeded in promoting integration for sustainable peace. Learn from their experiences, share knowledge and collaborate in implementing effective strategies.

10. **Long-Term Commitment**

Recognize that promoting integration for sustainable peace is an ongoing process that requires long-term commitment from governments, civil society and individuals alike. Sustained efforts continuous evaluation of policies and programs are necessary to ensure lasting peace and harmony.

Conclusion

In conclusion, fostering integration is crucial in achieving sustainable peace. By promoting inclusivity, understanding and collaboration among diverse communities, we can build strong foundations for peace integration allows for harmonious coexistence of different cultures, religions, economic development, equal opportunities and social justice that are fundamental for long-lasting peace. Embracing integration as a core principle can pave the way for a more peaceful and prosperous future. Fostering national integration is crucial for maintaining long-term peace within Nigeria and its environs. By encouraging unity and inclusivity among diverse social, cultural and ethnic groups, a nation can build a strong foundation for sustainable peace and development. This can be achieved through educational initiatives, promoting equal opportunities for all citizens, emphasizing dialogue and understanding and addressing any systematic inequalities or discrimination that may exist. It is essential

to recognize that national integration is continuous process that requires ongoing efforts from all sectors of the society to ensure a harmonious and peace coexistence.

References

Adama Bah: Civil Conflicts and Regional Integration Outcomes in Africa. JEL Classification UCNDP/PRW Armed Conflict. (Accessed on 15/07/2020).

Abramson, N.M: Managing Cultural Differences, Global Leadership for the 21st Century. Taylor and Kindle Francis, Kindle Edition. (Access on 15/07/2020).

John Gultury (1990). Cultural Violence Journal of Research.

John Umo (2007). The Impact of Economic Integration with the European Union as Factor in Transformation and Peace Building. Portland State University.

Kabeer N (2005). Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Scientific Research Publishing, https://scripts.org.

Lorenzo Fion: Regional Integration and Conflict Resolution in West Africa. Accessed on 20/12/2020).

M. Brewer and Caporael L.R (2006). An Evolutionary Perspective on Social Identity, https://psynetapa.org.

Nye Joseph Peace Parts (1971). Integrated and Conflict in Regional Organization. Boston Little Brown. Accessed on 22/12/2020).

Roland Kostic and Selimovic (2013). Traditional Justice and Reconciliation in Bosnia Herzegovenia. https://www.academia.edu.

Shedrack Gaya Best (2007). Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa, Safari Books.

Tasfel and Turner (1979). Integrative Theory of Intergroup Conflict. https://scholar.google.com/scholarcluster.

Pramila Ahuja, G.C Ahuja and Amuta Ahuja (2011). How to Resolve Conflict. Sterling Publishers, New Delhi.

Wool Cock and Narayan (2000). Social Capital Implication for Development Theory Research and Policy. academic.oap.com. The World Bank Observer.

Wunhua (2018). Strategies for Managing Cultural Conflict. Model review and their applications in Business and Technical Writing and Communication.