



RESOLVING CONFLICT THROUGH NATIONAL INTEGRATION

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ABSTRACT

Integration is the process of incorporating racially, economically, politically etc. into the normal stream. It may involve empowering victims of conflict or subcultural group that were segregated upon. The aim of the program is to resolve conflict through sustainable peace building .Successful peace building will require inclusion. This lead to the discussion of inclusive integration .This process requires that the victims of conflict are directly involved in the implementation of peace –building programs. This paper also discusses some of the strategies to be adopted toward a successful and sustainable peace – building process. It is understood that when victims are directly involved in finding solution to their problems (peace-building process), it clears away perceived fear, instead it built trust and honesty in the individuals or victims of conflict. However inclusive integration should follow an established rules and constitution of the country in collaboration with international stake holders’ civil societies worthy of note is that conflict is a relative term. It is not only limited to physical conflict ,or terrorism, but also include domestic ,office ,religious ,economic and psychological conflict which often times are by product of exclusion –It might also be caused by the political elites ,traditional authorities government authorities that were expected to be fully part of the peace building process but deviated due to their personal interest . We are in a generation where majority prefers self-righteous in the eyes of the few families or relations. A generation that celebrate selfishness, greed, pride and even the suffering of others in our society, we are prepared to lose one of eyes if it will go well with our personality not minding the majority that are suffering .For our selfish reasons we avoid reconciliation. We should have a generation of willing people that can give in their best, so that peace can reign in the society and that everyone is properly integrated to the normal life stream that can lead to equal distribution of resources through trust and love for one another.

Introduction

Integration is the action of incorporating a racially, religiously politically or ethnically or sub-culturally group that once were affected by conflict or are segregated upon. For nation like Nigeria which is faced with conflict both physically and psychologically with so many of these conflicts .There is the need for balance in the distribution of the nation's economy. Distribution of resources is the major causes of conflict in Nigeria as a nation .Integration whether Religious, economic Educational or whatever, is often affected by the demography and the geography of the nation or locality. Understood, integration is the act or process of making whole or entire process of fitting into the community or the society, notably applied to minorities. The word minority is often limited to tribe but also, it may involve educational backwardness, the vulnerable group affected by conflict and the economically disadvantaged.

In another understanding of integration, it is an active search for information about facts and interest motivated by willingness and usually necessary for creating high quality settlement in conflict. Earlier stated, conflict is a relative term, by definition it is not only limited to war terrorism or other attacks. But include Educational, Economical, political and mental conflict. This in some way may include Psychological or physical disability. The victims may require rehabilitation or otherwise .Whatever type of rehabilitation it will require proper knowledge of integration .The purpose of integration, is to resolve and avoid further conflict but to build a sustained peace. Africa and Nigeria has an active or dominant conflict ranging from terrorism to political upheavals.

The political elites in Nigeria have on various occasion drawn only their own by using their offices while abusing the content of the requirement of the constitution while creating room for an extended diversity between different groups of the society. Electorate in Nigeria have become mere tools to be exploited in time of election exercise and just to be dropped soon after election. In a country like Nigeria whose most of its peace operatives are not aligned with the economic transformation. The country needs to integrate these set of people economically and its forces on fighting corruption, insurgency and insecurity in general should not be restricted certain levels .There should be no sacred cows in an effort to restore peace and normalcy in the country at large .

Nigeria is a large country and so divided by socio -cultural, linguistic, educational, religious and geographical diversity. Again Nigeria is a multi-

lingual country with more than one thousand languages, with varieties of costumes with three major regions (North, south and western regions) and are divided along three major religions (Christianity, Islam and Traditional Religions). These groups are often times thrown into conflict in Nigeria in so many forms. Though rarely, food, costumes and habits often lead to conflict. These could be avoided through proper integration into the main stream. We are expected exist as one entity, peacefully, respecting the right culture religion and the status of each and individual in the society and Nigeria at large. National integration is necessary for the society and development of this great nation. For peaceful co-existence and national development, Nigerians should understand that, national integration is a feeling that binds citizens of a country together. It is the awareness of a common identity among the citizens. It means that we belong to different economic, religious, educational and cultural states and regions, and though we speak different languages we should recognize that, we are all one. It is the identification of people with nations as a whole not with sections and identities.

On the whole, we should understand that national integration is a coinage of a two words creation (national and integration). While a nation is a country with a unified Socio-political structure. It denote a body of people who have a feeling of ones, built the basis of a common history, society and culture and values. These feeling of oneness bind the people together in a nation. In general terms, it is the feeling which is known as national integration. This kind of integration is very important in building of a strong and prosperous nation.

NEED FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION

True humans are described by the type of differential life style of its citizens. It is so disturbing that citizens of the same nationality are living in diverse life style including economic and educational mode of existence. Conflict are likely to manifest when one sector or community or even the individuals, have the feelings that, there is rejection or segregation and suppression and even denied and deprivation of their own share of the national cake. It is a general notion that we are all equal before the creator and therefore, opportunities should not be abused. But if we find ourselves with a seeming differences in God given destiny, we should embrace it along with the less privilege. As humans we should understand that we are not all equal in our economic, educational and

even political status .The product of our struggle and success should not be shared in selfishness. There should be no denial of opportunities for a better means of livelihood to others,there should be no diversion of government or private organization's resources to private ownership to a community .It is this attitude of diversion that is giving birth to many conflicts in Nigeria. Nigeria as a nation, there is wide gap of imbalance. This imbalance has given birth to mass corruption and diversion of government resources. Therefore, Democracy in Nigeria today has succeeded in creating a government of looters and diversity. It has created competitive avenues for Politians to compete for offices with the goal of getting rich to the detriment of the electorate. At the end, if these voters are not integrated into the normal steam line, conflict will be the resultant outcome of this selfishness.

Integration means creating a mental outlook which will promote and inspire every person to place loyalty to the country above group loyalties and the welfare of the country above narrow sectarian interest. Nigeria a great nation having great diversity ,the people that inhabit this great nation belongs to different religions with varied life styles .They reside in different geographical location and speak different languages .With all these diversities, they believe in themselves as Nigerians. However, they may not be comfortable with the policies of the government and the diversities in their economic status which are often created by the politicians and the elites of the society that segregated them in their own selfish integrated programs.

A nation refers to a body of people who have feeling of oneness built on the basis of common history, society, culture and values. The feeling of oneness binds the people together in a nation in general terms. It is this feelings which is known as a nation.

National integration is essential for any nation for any national development. It is only when individuals are properly integrated into the system of the nation. National integration is also necessary also for the security and the development of our nation. Nigeria will remain united if only national integration is realized in its true sense of the term and implemented with all sincerity. A nation is living in a particular territory and develop a political form with a sense of unity and determine their political feature. For example the political form practice in Nigeria.

A nation needs to have a common official language .A compromise has to be reached so as to achieve unity. Nigeria with over one thousand tribes need to agree as it is now with one official language (English). Sentiments to introduce a second language for national communication, should not be accepted .Introduction of another language may create division which may likely call for the introduction for another language hence diversity continue to enlarge.

The need for national integration cannot be over emphasized .Integration involve psychological and educational process through which a feeling of unity and harmony develops in the hearts of the people and a sense of common citizenship or feeling of loyalty to the nation is fostered among them.

When national integration occurs, individuals have the possibilities to work together to build a system that can enhance the prosperity of a nation and its people.

National integration is a vital tool for national development and restoration of peace where conflict prevailed. It is the avoidance of divisive movement that will balance the presence of attitude in the nation and society that distinguished national and public interest from parochial interest. The concept of national integration include political, economic, social, cultural and psychological dimension and the inter-relationship between them.

Therefore, the importance of national integration can be understood as it helps to stabilized democracy, improve, economic growth, develop the national and provide all the important rights and duties to the people. In spite of the diversity of Nigeria, national integration is needful. The benefits of national integration ranges from increasing the feeling of brotherhood and oneness of purpose. It also reduces differences about religion, regional, tribe and it reduces and manage the conflicts and support development.

Integration, if properly done, it addresses many less visible cost of unaddressed conflict. It reduces loss of productivity, petty sabotage, waste, theft, intellectual property. It increases health insurance claims and reduces and avoid loss of public confidence when organizations are accused of allowing discrimination. It also reduces and avoid loss of public confidence in an organization.

Challenges of National Integration

National integration implies the avoidance of division movement that will balance the presence of attitude the nation and security that distinguish national

and public interest from parochial interest. With this in mind if properly planned, it predict high quality outcomes in conflict resolution. The diverse nature of our country, Nigeria makes national integration very difficult and near impossible until there is complete change of attitude toward one another. It is a known fact that Nigeria is divided politically, religiously and economically, hence conflict emerge from all angles of the country.

One of the greatest obstacles to national integration is religion. Religion in our society is not personalized but considered communal issues which is not good for a large country like Nigeria. It is for this reason that leaders of the religious groups in Nigeria have divided the country into regions. For instance, the north is generally accepted that it is dominated by the Muslim group while the south is dominated by the Christian group. Minorities in these zones suffers the most segregation and neglect.

It is worthy to note that often appointments and even establishment of government project that are sited based on religious sentiments. This is not good for Nigeria as a nation. It has only created a wide diversity and psychological hatred of one group against the other.

National integration cannot be successful unless religion is treated and handled to be personal relation with the Supreme Being but not to be considered public issue than we can move forward. When it comes to national integration, we should first consider national affiliation of the individuals not based on religious affiliation; individuals should face their issues.

Political parties need to be neutral in their appointments of candidates while the electorate should be encourage to be neutral in their voting process. Unfortunately, in Nigeria today, elections and appointments are done with religions or tribal inclination. This is responsible for bad governance in Nigeria, tribal and religious politics is highly promoted in Nigeria. Tribal and linguistic distinctiveness is not letting people rise above their partisan differences over languages. Some tribal groups for political post due to the fact of being minority.

Economic disparity is another challenges to national integration. The minority rich takes advantage of the majority poor for exploitation and abuse over their political rights. The poor and hungry threatened becomes ready to sale out his right to solve his personal problem. The result of this type of electoral practices

is diversion of resource to the detriment of the electorate hence integration is not done well.

The poor of the disadvantaged is deprived and denied access to empowerment. The rich found lucrative offices and reserve it for their own. This is responsible for the cyclic type of government or governance we have in Nigeria today. In most case appointments are openly sold to the highest bidders.

Integration based on sentiments in Nigeria today, has made it difficult for the son of the poor man to get employed into high income earning organizations. These organizations becomes agents of envy to all. Equal opportunities is not given to all. This envy may lead to internal and external conflicts.

Another challenges to national integration is corruption and illiteracy. Corruption has eaten deep into the national that it is almost becoming a norm to ask and collect it bribe. Nigerians take pride and are hailed as heroes of their corrupt income. Our politicians are at mostly elected through corrupt means. Citizens with poor economic background cannot contest any political post unless raised by the political stalwarts toward their interest. Appointments based on sentiments do not augur well for our national development but instead it produce progressive conflicts.

Closely related to the above, is communalism. This is generated when individuals belonging to one religion, develop excessive affinity to their religion and hatred toward religious fundamentalism and fanaticism. This, proves to be dangerous for the unity and integrity of the country. This has been one of the most complex issue that Nigeria has been facing especially northern region. It is corruption and insincerity that makes this war a long existing conflict.

Nigeria from independent has gone through lot of conflict emerging from politics, ethnic and religious conflict that continue to divide this country, while inflicting pains on many of the affected citizens of this country. Closely related to communalism is regionalism. Nigeria is divided in about three regions (north, east and western regions). On many occasions, this divisions divided us even on political ideologies. It encourages people to promote regional interest politically at the cost of national interest and its priorities. One may think that raising the problems of a particular region is needed to attract the attention of the decision makers and to compel them to fulfil justified regional demands. This thinking is reasonable because such demands may be based on genuine grievances of the region and states have been doing.

Based on regional interest, some regions are denied projects economic integration while is diverted to another region, based on ideas either, political or even tribal. This difference in idealistic has created more conflicts rather than solving it.

Tribalism. This is another factor that often divides a nation. Nigeria is divided along multiple of tribes of about or even more a thousand tribes. This plural society has been taken negatively. It is a common knowledge that every country needs to have a common official language for national communication. Where the common language is acceptable without bias mind, it should be so. Personal interest based on religion and political influence should be avoided. Adopting one language against the will of the minority, should not be accepted nor enforce. Integration requires that all are involved (inclusive) with full participation.

In their effort to promote their language or tribe, some states encourage the use of common language in their region. However, this is partially accepted. Because in the state house issues are deliberated not for one tribe and therefore things should be done in the interest of all. Adoption of a major tribal language for identity, often result into conflict. Therefore national language should be adopted if proper integration is to be attained.

Extremist

This is yet another problem to national integration. Even when the government is making effort to integrate the vulnerable groups, there are group that are really prepared to destroy government policies due to their ideologies. The extremist use ideologies that are destructive to peace. Quite often extremist create fear in public life. They opposed government programs. They do that by indoctrination or threat, they cause loss of lives of public and government personal belongings including the destruction of government personnel. By doing such they create poverty and unemployment making any policy on integration a failure. In most cases the youth participate in such violence acts. There is continued take of arms by the youths. Often times the politicians empower this youth for political gains. The basic reasons for the youth to take up arms is the continued socio-economic deprivation, daily humiliation, denial of justice, human right violations and various kinds of exploitation and political marginalization.

The way Nigeria is moving today, is moving into and becoming a capitalist state. We are in a situation where the sons of the highly placed individuals divert and abuse their economic advantage or political offices for their personal and family advantage. Unless something is done, also violence will not disappear. Again, integration into a particular and improved economic status is not free. Analysis of governance in Nigeria revealed that, it is the rotation of the same set of group using the voters to be elected into political system.

Economic dependence of Nigeria is undemocratic and subsequently lead to immediate or extended conflict.

Many roam the streets in search of food and means of lively hood while opportunities are blocked or preserved for their (politicians) sons and daughters. Jobs are selected and preserved for their families while the least selected has to be paid for by the electorate who considered it as favor done to them.

This poor integration leads to hunger and breeds an angry groups that may resort to criminal activities. When inequality exist at a very wide level, conflict may be the lasting consequence.

On the whole for integration to be successful, it requires that, there is the absence of social tension. Corruption and illiteracy, diversity in languages, education and diverse issues including religion, tribe and cultural poverty.

As earlier mentioned, regionalism is a complex phenomenon across the world. However, it is multifaceted reality in Africa and Nigeria, Nigeria in particular. Nigeria is divided along the lines of geographical concentration. For all reasons Nigeria present a wide range of cases to assess the capacity or regionalism or even states and the local government.

Regionalism leads to isolationism and the consequent handling of conflict in isolation and identified as a regional issue only with to be resolved within the region. A long term plan through education and that integration at the early stage of national integration will require that, the curriculum should be re-organized in the light of the prevailing requirements and demands of the technological advancement with the goal of integrating all into the next level. During this process, the curriculum be re-organized on the basis of modern society of Nigeria. Democratic and secular values, for instance, the curriculum with the people in mind while avoiding religious, tribal, regional or ethnic differences.

At the primary level, the curriculum should reflect and attach importance to prayers, meetings, singing the national songs of unity, telling stories of great

men, folk songs, patriotic songs and social studies with the aim of studying and appreciating the various ethnic groups and their practices.

At secondary level, priority should be given to moral and ethical education in Nigeria, these subjects have been pushed to the background without emphasizing the need for commitment and the need for sacrifice to national duties. While the sciences are not presented with regard for dignity of every field being studied. It should be understood that moral and ethical lesson commits the students to his/her future aspirations while paying attention and admitting their destiny to be without biased mind. Worthy to note is that in every subject taught (either science or arts) contain moral lessons.

Everyone has the same feelings and thinking on national and sovereignty. Though Nigeria is a multilingual country with diverse culture, it has one constitution that ease the problem of integration accordingly. Nigeria is a democratic country. The elected are representatives of the people that constitute to governance. These public representatives are expected to work according to the wishes of the people that elected them into the offices.

Fundamental rights are clearly spelt out in the Nigerian constitution that should provide a means for talking of the poor elderly and the unemployed so that, there should be complete integration. Members or the citizens of the country should feel committed to honour the Nigeria constitution. While it is the duty of citizens to honour the constitution, for instance, the national flag.

Forces Promoting National Integration

It is a known fact that integration of any class or group of people, is not an easy task to be taken by any group of the people, organization or government. However, there are factors or forces that can motivate or encourage a peaceful and successful integration of groups or individuals with an effort of restoring peace and a sustainable peace building.

Successful integration into any stream both at the state and at the national level, must be backup by a constitutional provisions. As citizens are empowered with fundamental rights and their fundamental duties must be fully prescribed. It is one of the fundamental principles of Nigeria as a nation to promote equitable economic development with all fairness while avoiding discrimination and promotion of national and international peace and security.

Above all the constitution provided that, there should also be the institution of the process that has been set upward national integration.

Government initiatives should be followed. It is the founding principles that the aim of government is to provide and promote national integration where every member of the society will live a normal life style. Agencies were being created to meet up the economic and social need of the people. Few examples of these organizations include N-Power, NDDC, NDE, Microfinance Banks to offer loans, North East Commission etc. These are established to empower affected individuals in the country. But the problems faced in Nigeria is, the grossly abused purposed for which they are created. Whereas the heads of this organizations select only their own either influenced by religion or political affiliation or even tribal connections. These organizations/institutions provide suitable measures to ensure proper integration. Hence, the Nigerian government made these initiatives to ensure that there is equitable distribution of resources for the promotion of peace.

National festivals and symbols as earlier mentioned should serve as a force toward national unity and a medium of integration into the nation's economy, through commitment and often times will require sacrifice to maintain the integrity of Nigeria as a nation. The national flag brings us together as a nation, to show our productivity and the gift of nature while the national emblem reminds us, as a people with identity. For this reason, it is expected that we should show proper respect for these symbols.

National symbols and emblems represent a significant strengths and capacity of a nation while the flag preaches peace and unity, it also reflect the availability of agricultural products (resources). It is expected that if properly observed and integrated the nations will reap and experience the benefit of unity in diversity. Another force to national integration is the national anthem which dedicate the nationals to preserve and strengthen the freedom and integrity of the nation without showing differences to bribe, religion, or political affiliation.

Strategies toward a successful integration

Conflict today in Nigeria have taken over the country and has divided the attention and policies of the government. It has created poverty and hunger upon all thi,s it has created division among the societies of the country. The south no

longer trust the north, vis-à-vis. Nigeria needs more programs that will integrate the individuals into the streamlines.

As poverty ravage the nations, very few can access quality education, the economy and the corrupt nature of our universities. Jobs are out of the reach of the poor, while insecurity continue to ravage the societies from north to south and from east to west. These society have become hopeless for a restored peace. The government seems to have betrayed the confidence that prompted them to vote them into power.

Economically, the resources of this country shared among the top political elites while the populace are highly burdened from high taxation to high cost of living with high increase of fuel prices with no dividend from the sales of fuel and even loans received by the government.

In terms of employment, the society, the sons of the majority cannot access employment even when they are qualified, god “fatherism” has been the order of the day. It is often practiced officially which do not auger well for this country. It has contributed to the breeding of more conflicts.

Free integration should be encouraged it should be the priority of our democracy. This means that integration of the citizens should be done without discrimination to religion, tribe, or political or cultural differences. On the other hand, selective integration does not promote peace.

Again, integration based on quota system promote conflict and create diversity. For this, may bring in other factors which may not be favorable to accommodate all and it prevent the selection of the most qualified and suitable individuals in contributing their quota in national development.

Proper integration requires that there should be freedom of movement of goods and services without special levies or preferences. There should be leveled taxation for both goods and services in order to promote competition and quality of goods, that is, goods produced in the country should be treated as the imported goods. This will allow competition and promote integration. The process of integration should consider services, product, environmental conditions and their impacts on business and services. Regulatory process of integration should be guided by the commissions and the national court of commissions and the national court of justice. There is likely failure in integration process when a state, organization and the like is done selectively.

It is only by pooling resources together and sharing risks and revenue in a national based integration is successful.

The concept of national integration comes up with sacrifice of giving up some entrepreneurial advantages as security that comes with national arrangements. For instance, in a national economy everyone should be connected and becomes interdependent maximization or project should be out of context, but the aim is to carry everyone along and integrating the individuals or group into the economic system.

National integration and a network of commerce has various advantages such as sharing of ideas and vital business information that may not be easy by an autonomous agent or agents.

Network of integration have been a factor behind the remarkable creativities and innovation that the nation's industries will and have achieved. National or network integration is strongly associated with freedom. The ability to interact far and wide explore new relationships and make choice without coercive.

The foundation of lasting peace is laid with strong economic activities such as trade improvement in agriculture and industry's infrastructure and provision of essential services. Along with economic activities, political and viable economic, political and viable economic activities which are vital in maintaining and sustaining peace in the society and that which will help sustaining peace and security and help transforming the society and the nation at large. In other way it soothes and heals the wounds of war and conflicts in general.

Integration should be goal directed. It should have the purpose of resolving conflict. Conflict could be manifest or psychological or social conflict. Some of the practical methodologies of integration should be based on uniformity that is through language, living and customs, rituals and worship. This is done in this way in order to avoid a situation of exclusion in other form of integration should embrace national unity. It should carry along the diverse tribes while putting the peoples way of living in mind and a given priority.

The judiciary should not be left out ,if proper integration is to take place. The judiciary is responsible for protecting democracy and the rights of the citizens. There should be a single judiciary system to enforce the laws of the nation. Where the judiciary is divided, there will be a failed integration.

For a successful implementation of integrative programs, it will require a visible leadership by senior management and work place/union leaders who communicate and implement the goals of the integrated conflict management system. It requires continues body composed of representatives from all key stakeholders.

Education is a vital tool for national integration. Whatever method to be adopted for a successive integration. It will require educational process so as to succeed. Education is needed to inform, educate and even for selection of specialist in particular area that may require special skills. Educational institutions are of vital and play a significant role in the implementation of policies and programs. Therefore, recognition should be granted only to those educational institutions which do not practice discrimination on the grounds of religion, tribe or regional differences.

Integration requires that the basis of admission into educational institutions should be the merit of the students and not claim religion or regional interest. In our post primary institutions, there should be identical uniform without superiority of material or even colour. This should include private owned schools.

Oath taking should be an annual phenomena. Students should be required to take oath at least twice to get them devoted to the service of their country and countrymen. The oath is to the effect that will make them be conscious that “Nigeria is my country and Nigerians are my brothers and sisters without regard to religion or tribe”. The concept of “I love my country and I am proud of its glorious traditions and that, I will always strive to make myself worthy of my country”. It is only when our youths are indoctrinated with such teachings and knowledge, we can then be proud of a united members of one nation of Nigeria. The national anthem should be cited in chorus at all gathering that is institutional and political gatherings. It should be cited correctly and applied to their lives. Apart from proper citation, it should be respected and honoured.

National integration requires patriotism, love and respect for the national constitution. For this reason nationals of this country are expected to respect the national flags. Out of schools at the primary and secondary levels should be taught the importance and the meaning of the colors of the flags and should be respected and be given national integrity.

Again national days should be celebrated by both the students and their teachers in cooperation with other members of the community. In Nigeria in particular, we have such days as the Independence Day, Democracy Day and special religious days. As a basic requirements for unity and for continued existence of peace, there should be respect and honour for these days. The government should not discriminate while observing these days. It is only when we show respect for the national days together, we can also respect the rights of our diverse culture and religion. Hence the promotion of peace.

National emblems play significant role for unification and the establishment of national integration. Being a diverse nation, with people practicing different types of religion without envy and relegation. All tribes should be considered equal in the hands of changing type of government. There should be no majority or minority tribe. There should be equal distribution of resources.

Meanwhile, the nation have Independence Day. A day set aside to celebrate a unified effort that brought us out of dependence on foreign powers. We have no democracy days to celebrate our democratic commitment. These days are to be observed by all citizens of the country.

National integration that all that are affected are involved in the process. For this it require awareness and being informative through organization of lectures of national unity through clubs and societies in our institutions of learnings from time to time. Through this process it will also help check fault lines. The programs clubs formed are aimed at promoting peace.

There should also be awareness campaign through exhibition of peace films, tours etc. the exhibition of films should depict various aspects of national development and national unity. There should also be organized tours of historical importance as should be provided by the school curriculum with lesson on history of those who strive to achieve peace and development of the nation. This is to be done to prepare students of various areas of studies. It should include organization of theatre presentation that will prepare the youth for out of school life. It should provide information on various strategies of self-employment and empowerment.

The use of integration strategically as a tool for national development requires that the co-curricular activities, knowledge of languages and social studies. At the university level, general introduction into social sciences, languages, literature, culture and arts be given to students in general. Ways and means of

national integration should be adopted. This can be done by restructuring the school curriculum. Syllabus that promote national integration and empowerment should be design to meet the need of all students and aspiring students.

There should be uniform policy of education on education across the country. Part of the school curricular should include excursion from one state to the other. This will enable students understand the culture of different people from different locations. This can promote peaceful co-existence. Celebrations of festivals of different states, posters, photographs of great men and women of different states and countries e.g. poets, authors, thinkers and champions of different areas of human development be encouraged.

There should be students exchange programs at the secondary school levels. At the tertiary institutions, states own colleges of education, polytechnics and universities should avoid differential tuition fees in the name of indigenes or non-indigenes but that all charges be the same so that there should be recognition of the integrity of all as belonging to one nation.

Awareness regarding current affairs in different states. Invitation of eminent members of different communities of different states to talk about specific cultures, customs, traditions, food, habits, their traditional music, dance, drama, folk arts and ways of worship of the various religions. There should also be sensitization of students about the suffering of people of other states at the time of natural calamities and insurgencies and communal violence and to encourage students for active participation in rescue operation and charitable activities and the recognition and practice of dress and the presentation of travel documentation of varying culture. These if all followed will develop the attitude of sharing and love for one's cultural practices and love for one's cultural practices and love for neighborhood and gradual integration into various culture and even sharing of food and love for one's religion and promotion of peace through national integration.

Inclusive Integration

Conflict is not in a static situation as long as humans live, there is always conflict either internal or external. However, these conflicts are dynamic process in which the intensity levels of conflict changes over a conflict cycle.

The notion of the conflict cycle 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 stage before it becomes manifest. In an effort to restore peace and to prevent future conflict, strategies are adopted. One and most effective inclusive mediation through inclusive integration.

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

Inclusive process provided, does not necessarily imply that all 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 organize civil society and professional organizations.

Again, inclusive mediation seeks to engage the participant 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 efforts to sustain peace, must be locally-led nationally owned, regionally anchored and internationally supported.

Why Inclusive Integration?

For a sustainable peace building, there should be a policy that is most acceptable by all the affected or vulnerable group. For this, inclusive integration is needful; while avoiding exclusive integration. Exclusive integration happens when one side or both sides are afraid that if they include the enemy into political process, they will be marginalized politically and economically, and even could be punished or defeated. It also happens when one side or the military can win the war or an election or when there is the confidence that the majority or the elites feel that they can do without the participation or inclusion of the minority. Exclusion does not allow peace building but promote possible areas of arising conflict.

Supporting inclusivity in peace building is likely going to be a particular challenge when the rival party are excluded. There should be no categorization

of a conflict group. Even though it will be difficult, sometimes to involve a conflicting group (e.g. terrorist), there should be a reliable mediator between the conflicting parties. It is worthy to note that violence and instability may be caused or aggravated by exclusion. In most cases greed and grievances play a significant role in creating the preconditions for violence to erupt. Often violence erupt when a group take up arms when they feel excluded and that they can get something done through violence. These may be political, economic, natural resources especially the group realize that they are rightly or wrongly addressed or historical governance caused by other group or groups.

Inclusivity lessens greed, when all relevant identity groups in the society feel that they are able to access the resources being provided by the government or by a given society. For this reason, provision of access and equal treatment are critical part of undermining the root causes of conflict.

Inclusive/inter-peace building is the source of positive change when it is addressed through non-violence means. Therefore in most cases, conflict is not something to be resolved, but transformed based on the endogenous capacities (originating from within) for peace that are found in the society.

Lack of inclusivity in peace building results in a relapse into conflict (Conflict could be rejuvenated) When a pre-determined framework (a frame work that may only favor one side), and external resources into local setting without a sufficient understanding of the historical social context and local dynamics, this is considered as exclusion. This will not give out sustainable peace.

Inclusion takes trust and trust, takes time, hence a sustained peace. Inclusion has to happen on an equal footing and we need to recognize our blind spot and work within our peace building community. It requires that policy makers during inclusion process should work tirelessly to nurture peace and their structures to the community in reality without suspicion of diversion or showing sectional interest.

Sustainable peace building should not segregate, but that there should be inclusion with the ex-combatant, terrorist, bandit etc. There should be openness of mind with the various conflicting parties. There should be no difficult issues that should not be open up or kept undisclosed.

Integration or inclusion describes a setting up a frame of programs or activities that a group will experience. An integration model ,assume there is something wrong that must be fixed right in order to fit into the prevailing or present system. Therefore, inclusive integration talks about helping everyone programs of integration will be directed toward everyone involved. Inclusion is about building relationships in order to assist victims of conflict. Relationship must be built. There must be good relationship between the government organization and the victims of conflict inclusion may be very long process. It should benefit

all and change the individuals for an improved conditions of living and conflict free society.

Inclusive integration is a vital means of peace building. It is a peaceful means of developing friendship, relationship and mutual respect and equality between the stakeholders and the society in general. It requires the readiness of both side to participate in peace process. Inclusion is often not by compulsion but by conviction that there is the need to restore peace and empowerment. Inclusive integration is intended to make every member of the society a place where all can participate in peace process.

There should be a shift from mere dialogue of understanding to inclusive integration or inclusive national ownership of peace building policy. Peace building policies should not come from outside but internally motivated. Worthy to note, also is that there is growing call for inclusive national ownership of peace building policies to strengthen the capacities of national and local actors in its design, with an emphasis on including those who may be marginalized within the society.

To sustain peace in challenging contexts, international peace builders must establish close partnership needs. Peace deals alone do not address the root causes of conflict, instead it matters at the table.

Peace deals made among men who were self-named representatives of those who took up arms in the conflict. Those deals, where they are just made in closed of chambers among a small group of conflict actors are unlikely to be sustained. The process that are more inclusive that bring in those affected by conflict are much more durable.

Strategies for Effective Inclusive Integration

We are living in a world of conflict. Violent conflict can arise from a wide variety of socio-political problems. It is always required that. There should be a sustainable peace which is essential at all levels of the society and the society comes together in resolving them.

Unfortunately however, protracted conflict violence, marginalization and exclusion all erode bonds of trust and deepen social divisions meaning that they often deepen social divisions meaning they often they create diversity among local communities, civil societies and political elites seek to address these challenges, independent of each other, hence integration do not succeed 'External factors too can only foster real change if their works are rooted in local realities and underpinned by trust within a given society. Because of this, strengthening the links between the different levels of the society should be the foremost priority for peace building.

For inclusive integration to be sustainable peace, it will require that there should be effective and strong lines of communication and building trust and providing spaces for dialogue where previously it is previously lacking, these may have been weak or completely absent. Inclusive integration require the adoption of at least key factors. These should include;

1. Political elites and decision makers both at the national and the international levels.
2. Civil societies and local government, influencers think tanks, private sectors and researchers.
3. Local communities and individuals with the broader population.
4. Inclusive integration should be participatory and genuinely evidence based and participative to embrace the affected. It should be a strategy that is founded on universal norms (democracy, human rights and rule of law). It must embody through recognition of the equality of human dignity of every diverse individual within the society or present within a given territory.

Neutrality

There should be the excursion of equality and non-discrimination as a fundamental pillar of democratic conditions and can allow the effective enforcement of human and fundamental rights. There must be a legal and administrative structure quarantining equality before the law and freedom from discrimination and intolerance in all arenas, including impartial treatment by public services buttressed by diversification of their workforce to act as mirror of the society.

Gender equality should be given high recognition and be given centrality in regard and as a positive resources for the pursuit of integration, with its potentiality for communality of experience among women of host and newcomers backgrounds.

Empowering local actors in the process of social change

The process social transformation are not just straight forward issues but require a deep understanding of the social and political context to identify the right moments and opportunities for encouraging change. This should include the programs of empowering the local communities to participate in the process. This will in-turn increase the likelihood that top-down policies will meet the changing needs of the public, thereby increasing their legitimacy and stability. Exclusivity should be avoided. It results to visible expression of violence, institution fragility and lack of educational and economic opportunities.

Successful integration into any stream either at state or federal levels, must be backed up by a constitutional provisions. As citizens are empowered with fundamental rights. Their fundamental rights must be fully prescribed. It is the principles of Nigeria as a nation to promote equitable economic development with all fairness while avoiding discrimination while promoting national and international peace and security. Above the constitution, there should also be the institution of the process that has been set toward national integration. Government initiative should be followed. The following are worthy to note for sustainable peace. These include inclusively, accountable government and state capacity and sustainable social service. When all these four of these conditions are available, the result is a sustainable system. When none of the pillars is available the result is a serious challenge.

Organize a nationwide dialogue

There should be emphasis on ensuring a broad and inclusive national process that involves all regions of the country and it should go across all the levels of these society. Using such an approach can help to both ensure transparency and accountability in the state and national government and reinforce the capacities of the citizens to resolve their conflicts peacefully through greater agencies and strong relationship of trust. There should be an organized stakeholders' dialogue so as to safeguard sustainable peace. As a process for sustained peace, there should be grass root consultations, informed participatory research process and inclusive dialogue spaces. This process foster both vertical and horizontal links. There should be negotiation with the civil society and the wider population. This will provide an evidence base dialogue and policy making through participatory polling and the use of social and reconciliation media.

Transforming Public institutions

Inclusive peace building believes that supporting public institutions and existing society's efforts towards peace, will increase social and efforts towards peace will increase social and institutional capacities to transform conflict non-violently. This should include the affected, in identifying their problems. The institution perception of the conflict be sought and their aspirations to the role they can play in the implementation of the peace agreement. This implementation of the peace agreement will allow better informed decision making.

Citizenship and active Participation

A cohesive society depends on a common sense of individual citizenship and on a personal sense of belonging so that individuals do feel as fellow citizens.

Inclusive integration requires a frame work for equal rights, responsibility and opportunities for all as policies to foster inter-cultural interaction, understanding and participation on the ground. For inclusive integration to happened, both governance levels must cooperate more effectively to succeed

Another strategy is the whole society approach. Inclusive integration is a two way process and the strategy should be addressed to the whole population, activities, local authorities, civil society organization and individuals across the board, not just minority individuals, groups and organizations. Even though it is conceived to address specific needs, the strategy should be able to produce tangible advantage for the whole society. Particular attention should be paid to the mutual perceptions and relationships between members of the society and new comers. The members of the society should be enriched by the diversity, advantage which accrues where the facts of demographic diversity is damaged by a well-governed process of integration.

The integration should not only aim to encourage few of public discourse which underlines the values of diversity, but also to support innovation by connecting economic and industrial policies to the potentials offered by diverse inclusion.

Social inclusion

The cultural vibrancy and dynamism of an open society depend on a shared not segregated public sphere. All children should be able to attend good local public school where they can be taught by a diverse profession of teachers rather than divided by ethnicity exacerbated by class. Social housing should also be of high quality and accessible for all rather than ghettoized and stigmatized. All areas including those with lower income and vulnerable resident should offer high quality public service and opportunities for rich community and supporting especially inter-cultural provisions.

A cohesive society depends on a common sense of individual citizenship and on a personal sense of belonging so that individuals do feel as fellow citizens of a shared community values. It is a notable fact that nationality is a condition for full citizenship rights. Therefore facilitating minorities access to nationality.

Conclusion

It is paramount to adopt resilience in everything we do, inclusion strengthen collaboration, trust and inclusion at the grassroot, civil society or state levels. Inclusive peace process contribute to the transformation of deep rooted conflict dynamics. Inclusive peace process contribute to the transformation of deep rooted conflict dynamics. Inclusive peace initiative should include political leaders, peace building and peace making practitioners, civil society, representatives and scholars to host the principles for peace initiatives.

In Nigeria, conflicts manifest itself in so many faces. Some of which includes religious, ethnic, political and economic violence

It is a general notion that we are all equal before the creator, but here we find ourselves with a seeming differences in God given destiny as we struggle for survival. Successful integration into any stream (both at state and the federal level) must be backed up by a constitutional provision where integration fails the product will be hunger, increase violence and likely emergence of criminal activities.

There should be a shift from mere dialogue of understanding to inclusive integration or inclusive national ownership of peaceful inclusive policies. Again there should be credible mediator to ascertain participation that is inclusive of all conflict parties to the process.

Sustainable peace requires an integration that is free of sentiment and free of personal interest. It should be inclusive as oppose to exclusive integration.

Recommendations

It is through the structural transformation of the nations economy and the development of sustainable form of regional governance based on inter-tribal, political, religious and many more. That, Nigeria can build a long term sustainable peace using the right parameter to eliminate discrimination between the economic and non-economic units that belong to the different sectors of government and individual organizations and industries.

However, it involves decision to co-operation and unity and the effectiveness. It requires no implementation of laws or decrees but unity of purpose and sacrifice. That the nation or even a state must implement specific political and economic progress, guarantee the effectiveness of the integration. The country must measure in order to achieve the gradual elimination of various forms of discrimination. Set of such should include willingness to give up the attitude of embezzlement and greed but love for peace and unity and desire for equal distribution of resources, pulling in mind the economically disadvantaged citizens. Such should include sale of shares and lowering the cost of product of goods and services.

For states or even local government authorities, each step of the economic integration process compress for its members benefits but also cost. The distribution of costs and benefits determines national interest and incentives likely to lead countries to implement or not the signed. Note that the difficulty of bearing the costs associated with progress of integration might explain lack of political commitment of national leaders to implement the agreement made by the governors or the federal government (Adama, 2020) as a major constrain to the performances of Nigeria as a nation.

The states or the federal government should offset the cost that is likely associated with integration process.

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