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**SUSTAINABLE VIOLENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGY IN AFRICA: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES AS A VERITABLE TOOL**

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**Abstract**

This study examined violent conflict resolution strategy in Africa and the place of peace and conflict studies as a veritable tool. The objectives of peace and conflict studies with its significance and the instructional methodologies necessary for the effective delivery of the content of peace and conflict studies were laid bare. The findings of the study reveal that the urgency and seriousness that peace and conflict studies demand today in the present violent conflict ravaged world cannot by any means be compromised. Hence, there's need to prioritize the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups in peace and conflict studies and decision-making processes. This could involve creating opportunities for women, youth, and other underrepresented groups to participate in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts, such as training programs, community dialogues, and mediation initiatives. The study concludes that by prioritizing the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups in peace and conflict studies and decision-making processes, conflict resolution efforts in Africa can be more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive, leading to long-term peace and development. Additionally, efforts should be made to address the specific needs and concerns of these groups in conflict resolution strategies, such as addressing gender-based violence, promoting youth employment opportunities, and ensuring access to basic services like healthcare and education.

**Keywords:** Conflict studies, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction & sustainable development

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**Introduction**

The world from the beginning has been elusively in search of absolute peace which incidentally has defiled all efforts whether administrative, legislative, academic, political, religious, and traditional and even fraternity. Man with all of his wisdom and intelligence has not been able to chart any reasonable cause to sustainable peace in the world. In today's world, human and natural resources, technology and science that ought to be a force towards entrenching sustainable peace has been part and parcel of the major agents of conflict world over. The same applies to wealth, race, racism, apartheid, language, skin and eye colour have remained significant factors to the upsurge of conflicts all over the world. Generally speaking, the elusiveness of peace and the constant reoccurrence of violent conflicts in the world today, whether in homes, villages, cities, local Government Areas, State, Country and the World at large is largely tied to the inconsistencies in man.

Violent conflicts have been a persistent challenge in Africa, affecting many countries and regions on the continent. The reasons for these conflicts are multifaceted and often complex. Some of the root causes of conflicts in Africa include political instability, economic inequality, poverty, resource scarcity, and ethnic and religious tensions. These conflicts have resulted in humanitarian crises, which have affected millions of people across the continent. As Patey (2018) argues, addressing the root causes of these conflicts is crucial to achieving lasting peace. However, traditional methods of conflict resolution may not always be effective, which is why the use of peace and conflict studies as a veritable tool has gained importance (Mwagiru, 2015).

Over the years, various conflict resolution strategies have been implemented to mitigate the impact of violent conflicts in Africa. These strategies include negotiation, mediation, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. While these strategies have had some success in resolving conflicts, they are often not sustainable, and the continent continues to experience violent conflicts. Peace and Conflict Studies as a veritable tool for sustainable violent conflict resolution has been gaining attention among policymakers and practitioners in Africa. This field provides a multidisciplinary approach to conflict resolution, which takes into account the various factors that contribute to conflicts. It examines the root causes of conflicts and aims to develop strategies that are sustainable and effective. According to Boulden (2017), Africa has been plagued with violent conflicts for decades, and sustainable solutions to these conflicts remain elusive. Despite the efforts of international organizations and national governments, peace and stability in many African countries continue to be fragile.

The greed, selfishness; and the egoistic nature of man has remained a strong factor to the sustenance of violent conflict in the world today with the example of Nigerian Civil War which lasted from 1967 – 1970, Central African Republic, Rwanda experience, Libya, Liberia, Russia and Ukraine war, world terrorism, banditry, Boko Haram in Nigeria, herders/farmers clash, militancy in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and other conflict ravaged parts of the world, man have remained at the center of it all (this sentence is too long, please break into short and simple sentences). Nevertheless, efforts towards the attainment of world peace must continue and the guarantee is love, unity, patriotism, tolerance and education. Not just any form of education but Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies.

Violent conflict is a significant impediment to peace, security, and development in Africa. It affects both the individual and collective levels, hindering economic growth, social development, and political stability. The past decade has witnessed an increase in violent conflicts in Africa, leading to massive loss of lives, displacement of populations, and the destruction of infrastructure. This situation has led to a growing need for sustainable violent conflict resolution strategies in the continent. The need for sustainable violent conflict resolution strategies in Africa is evident in the frequency and severity of conflicts on the continent (Boulden, 2017). The use of Peace and Conflict Studies as a veritable tool for sustainable violent conflict resolution has been gaining increasing attention among policymakers and practitioners in Africa. Peace and Conflict Studies is a multidisciplinary field that aims to understand the root causes of conflicts and develop strategies for resolving them. It brings together experts from various fields, including political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and international relations, to provide a comprehensive understanding of conflicts.

This study aims to explore the role of Peace and Conflict Studies in promoting sustainable violent conflict resolution in Africa. The study will analyze the effectiveness of current conflict resolution strategies and examine how peace and conflict studies can provide a better approach to conflict resolution.

### **Conceptual Clarifications**

#### **Peace and conflict studies**

Peace and conflict studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that focuses on the study of peace, conflict, and war. It examines the causes of conflict and violence, the processes of conflict

resolution and peacebuilding, and the challenges of creating and sustaining peace in different contexts (Boulden, 2017). Peace and conflict studies draw upon various disciplines, such as political science, sociology, psychology, and anthropology, to provide a holistic understanding of the dynamics of conflict and peace.

### **Violent conflict**

Violent conflict refers to a situation where there is a use of force or the threat of force by parties involved in a conflict. It involves physical violence, destruction of property, and loss of life. Violent conflict can arise due to various reasons, such as competition over resources, political differences, ethnic or religious tensions, and historical grievances (Patey, 2018). The impact of violent conflict can be devastating, leading to displacement, poverty, and the breakdown of social and economic systems.

### **Sustainable peace**

Sustainable peace, on the other hand, refers to a situation where peace is established and maintained in a way that is sustainable over the long term. It goes beyond the absence of violence and encompasses factors such as justice, equality, and social cohesion. Sustainable peace requires addressing the root causes of conflict and violence, building strong institutions, and promoting social and economic development (UNDP, 2018). It is essential for achieving stability, prosperity, and human development.

In the context of Africa, the need for sustainable violent conflict resolution strategies is evident given the high frequency and severity of conflicts on the continent. According to the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), Africa has been the most conflict-prone region in the world since the early 1990s (UCDP, 2020). Conflicts in Africa have led to significant human suffering, displacement, and economic losses. The high cost of conflicts underscores the urgency of developing sustainable violent conflict resolution strategies.

The use of peace and conflict studies as a veritable tool for sustainable violent conflict resolution in Africa has gained importance in recent years. Peace and conflict studies provide a theoretical framework for understanding the root causes of conflict and violence, as well as the processes and strategies for resolving conflicts and building peace. It emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to conflict resolution and peace building (Mwagiru, 2015). By applying the insights and approaches of peace and conflict studies, it is possible to develop sustainable violent conflict resolution strategies that address the root causes of conflicts and build a durable peace.

### **Conceptualizing Peace and Conflict Studies**

The need for peaceful coexistence in the world today has necessitated the introduction of peace and conflict studies into most school curriculum particularly that of the tertiary institutions around the world. The world, to state the obvious have been largely besieged and affected by violent conflicts of diverse degree with its highly attendant negative consequences, (Owo, 1999). The concept of peace and conflict studies, though yet to receive its anticipated attention according to Owo (1999) but the content has been roundly welcomed into the educational sector of most countries around the world particularly among African nations struggling to recover from the rubbles left behind by wars and violent conflicts and different types of uprising with Nigeria, Egypt, Libya, Liberia, Central African Republic, Chad, etcetera as case studies. Peace and conflict studies according to Mezieobi (1996) is a social science field that identifies and analyzes violent and nonviolent behaviours as well as the structural mechanisms attending conflicts (including social conflicts), with a view towards understanding those processes which lead to a more desirable human condition and peaceful coexistence among people, communities and nations. Peace and conflict studies has also been defined according to Henshaw (2010) as an interdisciplinary field of study aiming at the prevention, de-escalation, and solution of conflicts

by peaceful means, thereby seeking "victory" for all parties involved in the violent conflicts and even wars.

Though contentions and arguments according to Mezieobi (1996) exists among authors, teachers and researchers in the field of conflict management and resolution who sees the content of peace and conflict studies to be in contrast to military studies, which has as its aim the efficient attainment of victory in conflicts, primarily by violent means to the satisfaction of one or more, but not all, parties involved. But Mezieobi (1996) believes that, when education and knowledge about peace building processes is imbibed and deployed effectively, war becomes unnecessary. Peace and conflict studies is not a lone ranger, other disciplines involved in peace and conflict studies may include but not limited to philosophy, political science, geography, economics, psychology, criminology and security studies, communication studies, sociology, international relations, history, anthropology, religious and gender studies. Developing a robust content for peace and conflict studies and its instructional resources and independent teaching methodology and evaluation is urgently in need of concerted attention, (Danesh, 2006).

The relevance of peace and conflict studies in attaining world peace cannot according to Iwegbu (2009) be over emphasized. Iwegbu (2009) asserts that the definition of peace and conflict studies cannot be pinned down to the acquisition of knowledge of peace and conflicts alone but must encompass the modalities by which the knowledge, skill, abilities, competence acquired through peace and conflict studies instructional process can be effectively utilized in attaining world peace. It is therefore of paramount importance according to Iwegbu (2009) to see peace and conflict studies as an educational programme put together to teach and understand the rudiments of peace, conflict and the relationship that exist between them in attaining world peace and sustainable development. Mezieobi (1999) in his work "World Peace: The Victor and the Victim" quipped that peace and conflict studies is the teaching and learning of issues of peace and conflict and their relevance in the emerging world order. The relevance of peace and conflict studies according to Owo (2004) cannot be overemphasized.

Stating further, Owo (2004) asserts that the need for peace and conflict studies should not be limited to the four walls of the classroom. To him, conferences, seminars, symposia, talk show, radio and television programmes should be entrenched into the design and program for peace and conflict studies, if its full impact must be felt in Africa and the World at large. Summarily as Mezieobi (1999) quipped, Peace and conflict studies is a discipline in the field of Social Science that is designed to identify and analyze violent and non-violent behaviours as well as the structural mechanisms attending conflicts with a view towards understanding those processes which lead to a more desirable human condition. It can further be examined as efforts aiming at the prevention, de-escalation, and solution of conflicts by peaceful means, thereby seeking "victory" for all parties involved in the conflict.

The quest for peace Danesh&Danesh (2004) from ages have led researchers, scholars, teachers and administrators to go beyond proclamations, decrees and laws towards entrenching peace in the crisis ravaged world of today to theorizing on the various mechanisms of achieving world peace through the development of skills for peace and conflict resolution through classroom instructional process. According to Danesh & Danesh (2004), they opined that academics and students in the world's oldest universities have long been motivated by an interest in peace building process. American student interest in what we today think of as peace and conflict studies first appeared in the form of campus clubs at United States colleges in the years immediately following the American Civil War. Similar movements appeared in Sweden in the last years of the 19th century, as elsewhere soon after. According to Danesh&Danesh (2004) these were student-originated discussion groups, not formal courses included in college curricula. The first known peace and conflict studies course in higher education was offered at Swarthmore College in 1888, (Danesh&Danesh, 2004). This has led to arrays of theorizing for peace and conflict studies. Some of these theories according to Henshaw (2010) in his book "Balance of Power" include but not restricted to the following;

Balance of power  
Democratic peace theory  
Balance of power (international relations)  
Democratic peace theory  
Territorial peace theory  
War game  
Socialism and managed capitalism  
International organization and law.

### **Balance of Power**

The concept of balance of power is an essential element in understanding how states interact and how conflicts are resolved. It refers to the distribution of power and military capabilities among states or groups. The balance of power theory posits that states will seek to maintain equilibrium by developing alliances and building up their own military capabilities to counter any potential threats from other states. This theory has a long history, with roots dating back to ancient times, and gained renewed attention in the 17th century, particularly in Europe, where a number of states competed for power and influence. The idea was that if one state became too powerful, it would pose a threat to others and potentially disrupt the balance of power.

The balance of power theory has been subject to criticism. One criticism is that it tends to focus too much on military capabilities and overlooks other factors such as economic power and soft power. In addition, it has been argued that the theory is too simplistic and does not account for the complexities of modern international relations. Despite these criticisms, the balance of power remains an important concept in international relations.

During the Cold War, the balance of power was a central concept in international relations. The United States and the Soviet Union were two superpowers, each with vast military capabilities and the ability to project power globally. The fear was that if one of these powers became too dominant, it would create an imbalance that could lead to conflict. To prevent this, both sides sought to build up their own power and influence, while also seeking to contain the other side.

In recent years, the balance of power has become more complex, with the rise of new powers such as China and India. The emergence of these powers has challenged the traditional balance of power, and has led to new alliances and power struggles. In addition, non-state actors such as terrorist groups and transnational corporations have also emerged as key players in global affairs, further complicating the balance of power.

The balance of power theory has been championed by classical "realists" such as Metternich, Bismarck, Hans Morgenthau, and Henry Kissinger. According to Henshaw (2010), the key to promoting order between states, and so of increasing the chances of peace, is the maintenance of a balance of power between states, a situation where no state is so dominant that it can "lay down the law to the rest". However, the idea of a balance of power has been criticized by scholars such as Walton (1989), who saw it as promoting war rather than promoting peace in a complex global climate like ours.

In conclusion, the balance of power is an important concept in international relations that has shaped the course of history. It has been subject to criticism, but remains a fundamental concept for understanding how states interact and how global affairs are shaped. The maintenance of a balance of power between states has been seen as a key element in promoting order and peace between nations, but it should be balanced with other factors such as economic power and soft power to ensure a comprehensive approach to international relations.

### **Concepts of Conflict Resolution.**

Conflict resolution is a process aimed at finding solutions to conflicts and disputes that arise between two or more parties. It involves strategies and techniques that are used to manage, prevent, and resolve conflicts in a constructive way. The process of conflict resolution seeks to

improve the relationship between the parties involved and to ensure that the issues that caused the conflict are addressed in a way that satisfies both parties.

Conflict resolution is an important process because conflicts are a natural and inevitable part of human interaction. Conflicts can arise in various settings, including families, workplaces, communities, and nations. They can be caused by differences in opinions, values, beliefs, interests, or needs. Conflicts can be destructive and harmful if not resolved properly, and they can have long-term negative effects on the parties involved and on the society as a whole.

There are various approaches to conflict resolution, and each approach has its strengths and weaknesses. One common approach is the competitive approach, which involves using power and force to resolve conflicts. This approach is often used in situations where one party is more powerful than the other and seeks to impose its will on the other party. The competitive approach can be effective in some situations, but it can also lead to further conflicts and damage the relationship between the parties.

Another approach to conflict resolution is the cooperative approach, which involves working together to find a solution that satisfies both parties. This approach requires that both parties are willing to listen to each other and to work together to find a common ground. The cooperative approach can be effective in resolving conflicts and improving relationships between the parties. However, it requires that both parties are committed to the process and are willing to compromise.

A third approach to conflict resolution is the collaborative approach, which involves working together to find a solution that benefits both parties and meets their interests. This approach requires that both parties are willing to share information and ideas and to work together to find a creative solution. The collaborative approach can be effective in resolving complex conflicts and building long-term relationships between the parties.

Regardless of the approach used, conflict resolution requires effective communication, negotiation skills, and problem-solving skills. Effective communication involves listening to the other party and expressing oneself in a clear and respectful manner. Negotiation skills involve finding a compromise that meets the interests of both parties. Problem-solving skills involve identifying the root causes of the conflict and finding a solution that addresses those causes.

Conflict resolution can be applied in various settings, including families, workplaces, communities, and nations. In families, conflict resolution can help improve relationships between family members and prevent long-term negative effects of unresolved conflicts. In workplaces, conflict resolution can help improve teamwork, productivity, and job satisfaction. In communities, conflict resolution can help prevent violence, promote social justice, and build strong relationships between community members. In nations, conflict resolution can help prevent war, promote peace, and build strong diplomatic relationships between nations.

In conclusion, conflict resolution is an important process aimed at finding solutions to conflicts and disputes that arise between two or more parties. It involves strategies and techniques that are used to manage, prevent, and resolve conflicts in a constructive way. There are various approaches to conflict resolution, including the competitive, cooperative, and collaborative approaches. Regardless of the approach used, conflict resolution requires effective communication, negotiation skills, and problem-solving skills. Conflict resolution can be applied in various settings, including families, workplaces, communities, and nations, and it can help improve relationships, prevent violence, promote social justice, and build peace.

### **Aims and Objectives of Peace and Conflict Studies**

The daily demand of a potent and viable instrument for tackling the cancerous armed conflicts ravaging the world is the major factor that birthed Peace and Conflict Studies in Africa in particular and the World at large. This is because the use of force/arms have had limited impact hence the need for the use of knowledge based instrument/solution as the most potent instrument to achieve world peace and good neighbourliness. To have a permanent solution to

the problem of violent conflicts and the entrenchment of lasting peace in the world according to Iwegbu&Ossai (2014) education is much more required than the use of force for force. This view is equally supported by Rogers (2010) when he asserted in his work "Peace Realities and the Future of Africa" that developing effective skill, knowledge, and capabilities for the control and elimination of violent conflicts of whatever dimension through training within the four walls of the classroom is the only sure hope for enduring world peace. Therefore knowledge based solution to war and violent conflicts has become a panacea towards achieving lasting peace in Africa and the world. If this is religiously taken, it therefore suffices to state that the need for Peace and Conflict Studies is not only necessary but inexorable, (Iwegbu&Ossai, 2014).

The importance of Peace and Conflict Studies in today's world cannot be underestimated due to the rising incidences of armed conflicts and war in the world today, a clear cut example is Russia and Ukraine where the power of military might and artillery is being challenged with the will power of the people showing a clear evidence that knowledge, skill and the ability for Mediation, Arbitration and Litigation remain the most viable instruments for lasting peaceful coexistence in the world. Africa as a continent have had its own fair share of increased armed conflicts ranging from Nigerian civil war, war in Liberia, Libya, Central African Republic, Egypt civil disobedience, Boko Haram menace in Nigeria, Independent People of Biafra, herders farmers clash, communal clashes, terrorism, banditry and many forms of rising insecurity and agitations. It is a statement of fact to state the obvious that the continent of African has had her fairshare of violent conflicts, uprising of different dimension and wars for which Mezieobi (1998) asserts that peace and conflicts studies remains the only out. Mezieobi further stated that the strategies for achieving peace fall under three basic categories which includes;

#### **Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peacebuilding.**

Peacekeeping operations according to Onyekwulu (2010) has been one of the most popular military efforts geared toward maintaining and achieving peace all over the world but this Onyekwulu (2010) further argued that no remarkable record of success have been achieved through this effort with a major reference to Liberia, Somalia, Central African Republic with Nigeria not been an exception. Peacekeeping generally speaking to Onyekwulu (2010) involves police or military action and strives to achieve peace through strength and force which often times leaves communities, cities and towns devastated and in rubbles which cannot be said to be an achievement of peace. To say that military peacekeeping operations breed further crises and conflict both psychologically and emotionally is not a gainsaying. Peacemaking as quipped by Onyekwulu (2010), involves communication skills like conflict resolution and mediation strategies for interacting non-violently with others particular in areas experiencing conflict of any kind and in most cases without war. Both of these categories are reactive approaches that kick in after a violent incident has occurred. Peacebuilding, on the other hand, is a more proactive approach that uses peace studies as a means of creating a more stable and peaceful culture, thereby preventing violent incidents from occurring. Peace studies is critical to creating a culture that reduces the need for peacemaking and peacekeeping by developing a comprehensive program that teaches people how to interact with others and avoid unnecessary aggression. Let's look at the objectives typically found in peace and conflict. The importance of Peace and Conflict Studies according to Rogers (2010) is therefore summed up to include;

Appropriating intellectual and emotional development of the individuals;

Developing a sense of social responsibility and solidarity;

Observing the principles of equality and fraternity towards all;

Enabling the individual to acquire a critical understanding of Peace and its relevance for the survival of man and humanity in general

Peace and Conflict Studies educators help to promote a hopeful optimism by showing students that it is possible to affect the future based on what we do today.

### **Instructional Methodologies for Peace and Conflict Studies**

Peace and Conflict Studies (PCS) is a relatively new field that has gained popularity in recent years. As a result, instructional methodologies in this field have been evolving and expanding to meet the growing demand for effective teaching and learning methods. PCS is an interdisciplinary field that encompasses a wide range of subject areas, including political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and history. Therefore, instructional methodologies in PCS need to be flexible and dynamic to cater to the diverse needs of students from different backgrounds.

One of the most effective instructional methodologies in PCS is experiential learning. Experiential learning is a process that involves active engagement in the learning process. This methodology emphasizes hands-on experience and allows students to apply theoretical concepts in real-life situations. In PCS, experiential learning can take many forms, including simulations, role-plays, and case studies. For instance, a role-play exercise can simulate a conflict situation, where students take on different roles and work towards resolving the conflict. Through this process, students gain practical experience in conflict resolution skills and develop a better understanding of the complexities of conflicts.

Another effective instructional methodology in PCS is critical thinking. Critical thinking encourages students to analyze and evaluate information from different perspectives. This methodology emphasizes the importance of questioning assumptions and challenging conventional wisdom. In PCS, critical thinking can be applied to various topics, including the causes and consequences of conflicts, the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives, and the ethical dilemmas faced by peace practitioners. Through critical thinking exercises, students learn to evaluate evidence, identify biases, and develop informed opinions on complex issues.

Collaborative learning is also an effective instructional methodology in PCS. Collaborative learning emphasizes the importance of working together in a group to achieve common goals. This methodology encourages students to share their knowledge and experiences and learn from each other. In PCS, collaborative learning can take many forms, including group projects, case studies, and team-building exercises. For instance, a group project can involve students working together to develop a peacebuilding initiative for a particular conflict situation. Through this process, students learn to appreciate different perspectives and develop teamwork skills.

The use of technology is also becoming increasingly important in instructional methodologies in PCS. Technology can provide students with access to a wide range of resources and tools that can enhance their learning experience. For instance, online resources, such as e-books, videos, and podcasts, can provide students with additional information on conflict resolution theories and practices. Moreover, social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, can be used to facilitate online discussions and promote collaborative learning.

Finally, interdisciplinary teaching is an important instructional methodology in PCS. Interdisciplinary teaching emphasizes the importance of integrating different subject areas to provide a comprehensive understanding of a particular topic. In PCS, interdisciplinary teaching can involve the integration of political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and history to provide a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of conflicts. Through interdisciplinary teaching, students learn to appreciate the complexity of conflicts and develop a multidisciplinary approach to conflict resolution.

In conclusion, instructional methodologies in PCS are diverse and flexible to cater to the diverse needs of students. Effective instructional methodologies in PCS include experiential learning, critical thinking, collaborative learning, the use of technology, and interdisciplinary teaching. Through the application of these methodologies, students can gain practical experience in conflict resolution skills, develop a comprehensive understanding of conflicts, and develop the teamwork and critical thinking skills needed to become effective peace practitioners.



### **The Future of Peace and Conflict Studies in Africa**

Peace and conflict studies have gained significant attention in Africa due to the prevalence of violent conflicts on the continent. The study of peace and conflict has evolved over the years, with a growing focus on understanding the root causes of conflict and developing effective strategies for conflict prevention, management, and resolution. This has led to the development of various approaches, models, and frameworks for peace and conflict studies, as well as the adoption of different instructional methodologies. The future of peace and conflict studies in Africa is promising, as the continent continues to face numerous conflicts, ranging from inter-state conflicts, civil wars, terrorism, and communal violence. The demand for skilled professionals in the field of peace and conflict studies is expected to rise, given the need for sustainable and effective strategies for conflict resolution. To meet this demand, there is a need for innovative instructional methodologies that can equip students with the necessary skills, knowledge, and competencies to address complex conflict issues in Africa.

One instructional methodology for peace and conflict studies is the experiential learning approach. This approach involves practical and hands-on learning, where students engage in real-life situations that simulate conflict scenarios. Experiential learning provides a unique opportunity for students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, learn from their mistakes, and develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills. This approach is particularly useful for students seeking to work in conflict-prone regions, as it helps them develop a deep understanding of the complexities of conflict and the strategies for conflict resolution.

Another instructional methodology for peace and conflict studies is the interdisciplinary approach. This approach involves drawing knowledge and perspectives from different fields, such as sociology, psychology, history, law, and politics, to gain a holistic understanding of conflict dynamics. The interdisciplinary approach enables students to develop a broad perspective on conflict issues and understand the interplay between various factors that contribute to conflict. This approach is particularly useful for students seeking to work in multidisciplinary teams, as it helps them communicate effectively with professionals from different fields.

The use of technology is also becoming increasingly important in peace and conflict studies. The use of online platforms for learning, virtual simulations, and social media for conflict monitoring and reporting has enhanced the effectiveness of peace and conflict studies. Online learning platforms provide flexibility and accessibility for students, enabling them to learn at their own pace and time. Virtual simulations provide a safe and controlled environment for students to experiment with different conflict resolution strategies, while social media has provided a new avenue for conflict reporting and monitoring.

### **Peace and Conflict Studies are Veritable Tools for Sustainable Violent Conflict Resolution in Africa**

Peace and Conflict Studies provide veritable tools for sustainable violent conflict resolution in Africa. Africa has been plagued by conflicts, violence, and instability, which have impeded its development and hindered efforts towards achieving peace and sustainable development. Peace and Conflict Studies offer a multidisciplinary approach that provides an in-depth understanding of the root causes of conflicts and the strategies required to resolve them.

Peace and Conflict Studies emphasize the importance of conflict prevention and management, rather than simply responding to conflicts after they occur. Through conflict analysis, peace and conflict studies provide a comprehensive understanding of the drivers and dynamics of conflicts. It also provides a framework for addressing the structural and systemic causes of conflicts. This approach enables the development of sustainable solutions that address the root causes of conflicts, rather than just treating the symptoms.

One key tool in Peace and Conflict Studies is the use of dialogue and negotiation as a means of conflict resolution. Dialogue and negotiation are effective tools in promoting understanding,

building trust, and finding common ground among conflicting parties. The use of these tools has been successful in resolving conflicts in Africa, such as the negotiation that led to the end of the civil war in Sierra Leone and the negotiation that led to the peaceful transition of power in South Africa.

Another tool in Peace and Conflict Studies is the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. The protection and promotion of human rights is essential in preventing conflicts and promoting sustainable peace. Human rights violations often contribute to the escalation of conflicts and hinder efforts towards peaceful resolution. Through promoting human rights and the rule of law, Peace and Conflict Studies contribute to creating an environment where conflicts are less likely to occur, and if they do occur, they can be resolved through legal and peaceful means.

Furthermore, Peace and Conflict Studies promote the importance of inclusive and participatory approaches to conflict resolution. It recognizes the importance of involving all stakeholders, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, in the process of conflict resolution. This approach ensures that the voices of all parties are heard and that the solutions developed are sustainable, equitable, and acceptable to all parties involved.

Peace and Conflict Studies also emphasize the importance of building resilient societies that are capable of preventing and managing conflicts. This approach recognizes the need to invest in the social, economic, and political development of communities, which can help address the underlying causes of conflicts. This approach is critical in promoting sustainable peace and preventing the recurrence of conflicts in the long run.

In conclusion, Peace and Conflict Studies provide veritable tools for sustainable violent conflict resolution in Africa. The multidisciplinary approach, emphasis on conflict prevention and management, use of dialogue and negotiation, promotion of human rights and the rule of law, and inclusive and participatory approaches are key tools that have been successful in resolving conflicts in Africa. By investing in these tools, Africa can promote sustainable peace, stability, and development.

In conclusion, the future of peace and conflict studies in Africa is promising, and there is a need for innovative instructional methodologies to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to address complex conflict issues. The experiential learning approach, interdisciplinary approach, and the use of technology are some of the instructional methodologies that can enhance the effectiveness of peace and conflict studies. With the adoption of these methodologies, peace and conflict studies can become a critical tool for conflict prevention, management, and resolution in Africa.

### **Conclusion**

The urgency and the seriousness that peace and conflict studies require today in the present violent conflict ravaged world cannot by any means be over emphasized. Its pride of place must be given all the attention it deserves and with every commitment required by all and sundry if peaceful, harmonious coexistence and sustainable development must be achieved and sustained. It is obvious that no development can occur in an atmosphere of rancor and violent conflict that the world have seen going by the negative effects of violent conflict ravaging the world today. There is therefore an urgent need for curricula improvement and review if the aims and objectives of peace and conflict studies must be holistically achieved. The need for this review is necessitated by the obvious fact that most academics in the field of peace and conflict studies argue that the accusations that peace studies approaches are not objective, and are derived from mainly leftist or inexperienced sources is an outright condemnation of the limitations and weakness of the curriculum and her poor implementation and instructional process. The field of peace and conflict studies recognizes that conflict is inherent in human behavior and therefore seeks to harness conflict management skill through the teaching and learning of peace and conflict studies.

### Recommendations

Based on the discussions presented in this study on "Sustainable Violent Conflict Resolution Strategy in Africa: Peace and Conflict Studies as a Veritable Tool", the following recommendations are made:

Encourage the study and practice of peace and conflict studies: Governments, civil society organizations, and educational institutions should prioritize the study and practice of peace and conflict studies to build a culture of peace and reduce violence in Africa. This can be achieved by increasing funding for research, developing relevant curricula, and establishing peace and conflict studies programs in tertiary institutions.

Promote the use of mediation and dialogue in conflict resolution: Mediation and dialogue should be promoted as effective tools for resolving conflicts in Africa. Governments, civil society organizations, and religious bodies should prioritize mediation and dialogue as an alternative to violent conflict resolution methods.

Build the capacity of peace and conflict practitioners: Training and capacity building programs should be organized for peace and conflict practitioners to enhance their skills and competencies. This will enable them to effectively engage in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and reconciliation efforts.

Promote regional cooperation and integration: Regional cooperation and integration should be promoted in Africa to build a sense of community and address common challenges. Regional organizations such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should play a more active role in promoting peace and security in the region.

Address root causes of conflicts: Efforts should be made to address the root causes of conflicts in Africa, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to resources. Addressing these issues will help to prevent conflicts from arising in the first place.

Encourage participation of women and youth in peacebuilding: Women and youth should be encouraged to participate in peacebuilding efforts as they often bear the brunt of violent conflicts. Governments, civil society organizations, and educational institutions should create opportunities for women and youth to participate in peacebuilding activities.

In conclusion, the recommendations presented in this study highlight the need for concerted efforts towards sustainable violent conflict resolution in Africa. The adoption of these recommendations will go a long way in promoting peace, security, and development on the continent.

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