

**THE CONCEPT OF PEACE AND PANACEA TO COMMUNITY RELATION AND
CRISIS**

MANAGEMENT IN BAYELSA STATE

(A SURVEY OF EMADIKE AND EPEBU COMMUNITY)

BY

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CERTIFICATION PAGE

This is to certify that this project report by **Kalaiti Matilda Ikposuodei** with registration number **ND/MASS/22/311** has been read and approved as having met the requirements for the award of National Diploma in Mass Communication, School of Commerce and Management, Bayelsa State Polytechnic Aleibiri.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty for His guidance and protection throughout my study and also to my daughter, her father for their moral and financial support and for making it possible for me to be here and also to my siblings.

BAYELSA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ALEIBIRI

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May Almighty God bless you all in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at ascertaining the role of peace as a panacea to community relational crisis management. The conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities was the focus of this study. Although conflicts are an intrinsic part of human existence, the prevalence of conflicts in the African continent is alarming. The regular occurrence of conflicts in the African continents has been attributed to a lot of factors ranging from generalized poverty, ethnic tensions, corrupt and incompetent governments, mass unemployment, social exclusion and competition for scarce resources. The concept for the prevalence of conflicts is their destructive nature which constitutes a threat to the socio-economic development and sustainable livelihoods. In order to obtain reliable and authentic findings that would provide relevant knowledge to the field of peace and conflict studies, the survey method of research design was adopted by the research. After careful analysis of the data collected, it was observed that although conflicts cannot be completely eradicated, they can at least be reduced by putting certain structures in place and taking certain definite steps. These include the respect for life, liberty, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights, equality between men and women, appreciation of cultural diversity and a culture of dialogue, participation and cooperation. It was thus recommended that apart from putting these structures in place, that people should be encouraged to change their greedy and selfish dispositions and attitudes, and thus become more accommodating, tolerant and harmonious in their relationships and co-existence. Also, civil societies should be encouraged to preach democratic conduct, peaceful coexistence and dialogue as a means of peaceful resolution of conflict.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Over the last few decades, the various communities in the Nigerian states have been plagued with conflicts ranging from ethnic to religious clashes. To promote development in the Nigerian states, there must be peace, not just peace as defined by “the absence of war”, but an atmosphere of tolerance, harmonious, co-existence and mutual development; a situation where people not only recognize their difference but are also understanding and willing to live and work together.

The various conflicts experienced in the Nigerian polity, certainly not something to be proud of, have however sensitized state, and federal governments and their agencies in the nation not only to consciously identify the root causes of the prominent tensions in these conflicts areas but also to learn how to structurally deal with conflicts through collaborative efforts with the military, civil society, non-governmental agencies and other relevant agencies.

Religious and ethnic conflicts have occurred severally in Nigeria. From the Ijaw/Urhobo/Iteskiri conflicts in the Niger Delta, the Ife/Modakeke and O`dua People Congress (OPC)/Hausa conflict in the South-West, the Jos crisis in the Middle Belt, as the indigenes/settler conflict and the many religious conflict that blaze through the Northern parts of the country from time to time, to the numerous chieftaincy tussles and land disputes that frequently made news, it is alarming to observe the multitude of conflicts that need to be resolved in the Nigerian polity.

The question we need to ask ourselves when prolonged violence and conflicts are associated with an abundance of resource is whether this resource abundance is a curse or a blessing. This is currently becoming a phenomenon in Africa where conflicts and violence are almost always associated with resource abundance, especially among the non-renewable resources. It is often

promulgated that “natural resources have played a conspicuous role in the history of armed conflict” (Collier 2000: Ross 1999 In Billion 2005). Furthermore, non-renewable resources do not aid economic growth, therefore countries that are economically dependent on the export of primary commodities are at risk to political instability and armed conflict (Billion 2005). At present, Nigeria is the sixth largest producer of oil in the world. However, the country is still riddle with unexplainable instability and conflicts in the oil producing Niger Delta region.

Nigeria is represented by a diversity of cultural and religious practice. This diversity affects the approaches to dispute and conflict resolution in the traditional setting. However, these tradition forms of dispute and conflict resolution have now been tainted with Western alternative dispute resolution in several respects. Also these conflict resolution methods differ as one moves from dispute or level of conflict to another.

Thus, this study shall look at the current attributes of the Niger Delta that engender and contribute to regular conflict in the region. The study will conclude by advertising the concept of peace through responsible governance, adequate corporate responsibility as well as responsible national and state government as panaceas to conflict and violence in the oil-rich region.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria has become known for spates of violence and conflict that have eluded attempts at peaceful resolution. This research study traces the crisis in relation currently attributes of the region and advocates for responsible governance, which embrace corporate society responsibility, along with trustworthy national and state governance as panaceas to the entrenched cycles at violence and conflict in the Niger Delta region.

This study would also consider the use of the concept of peace as a panacea to stem the rampant occurrence of conflicts ad violence in communities in the Niger Delta region and other parts of

the Nigerian polity. Peace, which according to Ibeanu (2006) is a process involving activities that are directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict, both within and specific societies and in the wider international community, is not being properly applied to the management and resolution of crises and conflicts between and within communities in the Niger Delta region in particular and the Nigerian States in general. And as a result, crises that could have been avoided, prevented or managed, normally escalate to avoidable proportions. This is now become a serious to governments at all levels, local, state and national.

This research study would thus examine the conflict involving the Emadike ad Epebu communities in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, and identify the immediate and remote causes of the conflict, and ascertain how the concept of peace could have been a panacea that would have been used to manage or avoid the conflict. The focus on the conflict involving these two communities would help generate knowledge that would be of immense benefit in the resolution, management and prevention of communal crises in other parts of the Niger Delta and beyond.

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main aim behind this research work is to verify and make possible suggestions and recommendations to redress any shortcomings on the part of the government, military, civil society, non-governmental organizations, mass media and other relevant agencies in the promotion of peace as a panacea in the management and prevention of crises between and within communities especially in the Niger Delta and the Nigeria in general.

The study would also evaluate the activities of government, military, civil society, non-governmental organization, mass media and other relevant agencies in the promotion of peace as

a panacea in the management and prevention of crises between and within communities in the country.

In order to equitably arrive at objective answers to the questions underlying this study, the following objectives are itemized:

1. To determine if there was any recourse to the use of peace as a panacea in resolving and managing the community crisis involving the Emadike and Epebu communities in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State by the government and other relevant agencies.
2. To determine ways in which the concept of peace can actually contribute to the achievement of development in the Emadike and Epebu communities.
3. To uncover any possible shortcomings on the part of government and other relevant agencies in their contributions towards the promotion of peace as a concept towards achieving community conflict management and prevention and thus the achievement of national development
4. To make recommendations and suggestions so as to enhance the contributions of the government and other relevant agencies to the achievement of community crises management or prevention and national development.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

A research question is a formally stated question intended to provide indications about a particular variable relationship. A research question is generally used when the researcher is not sure about the nature of the question and is merely gathering preliminary data.

For the purpose of this research, these fundamental questions are addressed on this study:

1. Do the government and other agencies have any role to play in arousing the consciousness of the people towards the promotion of peace as a means of community crises management?
2. In what ways can the government and other relevant agencies actually contribute to the achievement of community crises management?
3. Are there any possible shortcomings on the part of the government and other relevant agencies in their contributions to the achievement community crises management and thus national development?
4. What would help to enhance the contributions of the government and other relevant agencies to the achievement of community crises management and national development?

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This refers to why this work is carried out and its importance to the society. Peace is a very potent instrument in the prevention, resolution and management of conflicts and crises and thus promotes development in any society, the case if Nigeria is no exception. In order that the people`s consciousness is awoken and they are moved to act positively towards the achievement of building peace and promoting peace that would create an enabling and conducting environment for developmental projects and programmes rests solely on the government and other relevant agencies like the civil society, non-governmental organizations and the mass media in Nigeria. Thus, the findings of this research would benefit the government at all levels as it would create an enabling environment that would promote development projects and programmes that have been fashioned in line with the people`s experiences and interests.

The findings of this work would also be of tremendous importance to the government as it would help them to effectively harness the potentials of peace in the area o spurring the citizenry to

accept to live peaceably with each other and thus promote national integration and even encourage participation in developmental plans, projects and programmes of the government in order to ensure effectiveness and successful implementation.

This research work would also contribute knowledge to the field of peace studies, conflict, conflict resolution studies and conflict management studies and would thus be an asset to scholars of peace and conflict studies. It would act as an interesting material for reading to students of peace studies.

This research report will also benefit to the government both at the national, state and local government level. It would also be useful to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), political associations, the business community and those engaged in commerce and industry, and of course peace and conflict practitioners and professionals. Peace and conflict studies students, the general public and those who may desire to carry out further studies and research work would find this research report a useful asset.

1.6 SCOPE OF STUDY

This research is geared towards assessing the role of peace as a panacea in community crises management in communities around the world for the purpose of promoting national development. In order to achieve this, there is a need to study crises situation and how the concept of peace was applied or not applied properly and how the concept of peace has contributed to the achievement of the resolution or management of the crises.

However, due to limited time and resources at the disposal of the researcher, this research work would be restricted to the conflict involving Emadike and Epebu community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, and how the application or non-application of the concept of peace has contributed in the achievement of the community crisis management, which would

otherwise translate to national development. The researcher would closely examine and evaluate the role of being played by government and other relevant agencies in the realization of the community crisis management in the communities that are the focus of this research study.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Difficulties were seriously encountered by the researcher which made the research work very difficult. There was the problem of locating previously related research work; scarcity of relevant literature on the subject matter was also a problem. This ministered itself in the quantity and quality of the material used by the researcher. Time and finance also were limited. However, these constraints faced by the researcher did not in any way reduce the reliability of the findings of this research work.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

A term if not properly defined can acquire various meanings for different things and to different people which probably may lead to ambiguity.

In addition, it may lead to issues discussed being misinterpreted and misunderstood. Meanings are in people, not in words so also do messages get their meanings from the source. For the purpose of enhancing clarity, the following terms have been defined as they have been used in this research report.

Peace: This is a process involving activities that are directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict both within and specific societies and in the wider international community.

Integration: This is the pursuit of incompatible interests and goals by different groups.

Armed conflict: This is the resort to the use of force ad armed violence in the pursuit of incompatible and particular interests and goals.

Conflict analysis: This is a critical investigation into the root, secondary and tertiary causes of conflict, highlighting the actors, structures and dynamics in conflict situation, which is important in determining intervention mechanisms and the management and resolution of conflict.

Conflict prevention: This describes the whole range of development and crises intervention efforts to reconcile parties and groups with incompatible interests and to prevent the pursuit of divergent goals from degenerating into armed violence.

Peace building: This refers to a process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent the recurrence of violence by addressing root causes and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building and political as well as economic transformation. It can also be referred to as efforts and interventions aimed at overcoming the root causes of conflict.

Security: This is the protection and preservation from fear and danger that threatens the survival of societies and peoples.

Human rights: These are inalienable rights to which all human beings are entitled, irrespective of race, nationality or membership to any particular social group.

Peace research: This is a distinctive method of inquiry and practice concerned with the understanding of the causes of violence and conditions for a peaceful world.

Development: This is a process of improving the conditions in which human beings live.

Peacekeeping: This is the use of peacekeepers to keep conflicting parties apart and keep conflicts at current low levels.

Conflict management: This describes the way we respond to and deal with conflicts.

Conflict prevention: This is used to refer to action undertaken with the express intent to anticipate a conflict or forestall the possibility of its escalation into generalized and uncontrolled violence whether between two groups or at the level of society at large.

Early warning: This refers to the set of activities that aim to collect, collate and analyze data in order to detect and identify the signs of an emerging crisis before it explodes into uncontrolled violence.

Civil society: This is the set of institutions, organizations and behavior situated between the state, the business world and the family. Specifically, this includes voluntary and non-profit organizations of many different kinds, philanthropic institutions, social and political movements, other forms of social participation and engagement and the values and cultural patterns associated with them.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter takes a survey of related documented work of different authors. Reference is therefore made to certain statements made by experts in their works that will facilitate the accomplishment of the objectives of the study. The review of related texts also provides a basis on which the whole study stands and also puts the researcher in a better standing to interpret the work perfectly.

The sources of literature for the review of this study are both theoretical and empirical. The theoretical aspect of the review deals with works on the subject of study, while the empirical aspects deals with works already carries out by experts in the field of peace and conflict studies.

A vast and extensive body of literature related to this study does exist, but were not within the immediate reach of the researcher. However, efforts have been made to gain access and to make the best use of available literature and materials.

This review is presented in such a systematic manner as it relates to the study in sections. An attempt was made to show what is known and what is to be investigated in the course of the review.

The review is organized under the following subheadings:

- (i) Peace definitions
- (ii) Peace-building
- (iii) Peacekeeping
- (iv) Conflict

- (v) Conflict resolution
- (vi) Conflict management
- (vii) Conflict analysis
- (viii) Conflict resolution as a political philosophy
- (ix) Peace: A panacea for resolving and managing crises
- (x) Crises and the Niger Delta
- (xi) Current attributes of the Niger Delta Region
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2.2 PEACE DEFINITIONS

In the field of peace and conflict studies, peace has erroneously been conceptualized as the opposite of war. Thus, the layman would simply consider peace as the absence of war, and by logical extension, conceptualize war as the absence of peace.

In the words of Ibeanu (2006), the layman's view is "tautological and circular in logic – there is no peace". This to him, does not really tell us anything about the meaning of peace. There can be peaceful interactions between countries that are engaged in active war. This is in line with the words of Nelson Mandela (1995) in his article "Quest for Peace for Africa, when he said, "...peace is more than just the absence of war."

A holistic examination of the concept of peace indicates that it a process and not a condition. Peace can be viewed more as a dynamic socio-economic process, rather than a static condition.

Howard (1987) defines peace as a concept which is “primarily concerned with the creation and maintenance of a just order in society.” It is observable from the definition by Howard that peace does not just come about, but it is a result of planned and structured efforts at enshrining fairness, justice and order in a given society.

According to Ibeanu (2006), peace is “a process involving activities that are directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict, both within and specific societies and in the wider international community”. From the definition above, peace is portrayed and presented as active and dynamic efforts geared towards to the promotion of developmental objectives and the reduction of clashes of interests within specific geographical areas.

Peace of Bowett (1972), is “freedom from fear, conflict, violence, war and civil disorder”. He went further to describe peace as “non-violent resolution of conflict and respect for collective basic values such as life, human rights, liberty, basic freedom, equity and social justice”. It observed in Bowett’s definition that certain conditions are necessary for peace to reign. These conditions include respect for human rights, liberty, basic freedom, equity and social justice. The absence of these would endanger the enthronement of peace in such a society.

Generally, peace is defined in the absence of war, fear, conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence and about coexisting peacefully. Peace is primarily about the creation and maintenance of a just order in society and the resolution of conflicts by non-violent means (Francis, 2006).

Peace as defined does not just happen, but rather has to be actively worked upon for it to be achieved and maintained. It is concept that is a prerequisite for the political, social, economic, cultural and technological development of any society. Because of man’s insatiable desire to satisfy his personal and selfish interests, conflicts are most times unavoidable; hence concepts

like peace-building, peacekeeping, peace enforcement and making have evolved with the need to maintain peaceful coexistence in societies around the world.

2.3 PEACE-BUILDING

Peace-building as a concern gained population in recent times through the widely cited publication of Boutros-Ghali (1992)? former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General entitled "An agenda for Peace". He defines peace-building as "action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict".

International Alert (1995) cited in Albert (2001) considers peace-building to be "The employment of measure foconsolidate peaceful relations and create an environment, which deters the emergence or escalation of tension which may lead to conflict".

To the British Army (1997) cited in (Albert, 2001) peace-building includes:

Action which supports political, economic, social and military measures and structures among to strengthen and solidify political settlement in order to redress the causes of conflict. These in luxe mechaniam to identify and support structures that tend to consolidate peace, advance a sense of confidence and well-being and support ecolonic deconstruction.

Peace-building in the word of France (2006) refers to "efforts and interventions aimed at overcoming the root causes of conflict. He went further to state that peace-building is "about the attempts to overcome the structure, relational and cultural contradictions which he at the root of conflict in order to underpin the processes of peacemaking and peacekeeping". Consequent upon the definition by France above, it can be observed that peacemaking and peace building are concepts that have been evolved from the principle of peaxe-building. Thus all efforts and

attempts at subduing the root cause of conflicts would be referred to as peace-building. It can then be categorically said that peace-building is very important in the maintenance of peace in any given society knowing that the occurrence of conflicts is almost inevitable.

Gunner, J. L. (1976) sees peace-building as a process that progressively enables societies to manage conflict successfully without violence in light of its root causes. "Gunner's definition presents peace-building as being a process that deals with the successful management of crises taking into consideration the root causes of such conflicts. In this view Finder sees reconciliation as heart of successful peace-building. As according to him "peace-building is about reporting human relationships".

Lederach, J. P. (1997) posit that peace-building is "a process that facilitates the establishment of durable peace and tries to prevent the reoccurrence of violence by addressing root cause and effects of conflict through reconciliation, institution building and political as well as economic transformation". From Lederach's definition, it is observed that peace-building is a very important concept that should not be hastily applied but rather should be meticulously adopted and applied if the situation warrants it. Then above definition highlighted the fact that peace-building is a process that deals with address the root causes of crisis or conflict situations.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that peace-building is not a static event but also a dynamic process that involves several stages. Peace-building, therefore means undertaking programmes designed to address the causes of conflict and the grievances of the past and to promote long term stability and justice.

Several scholars and practitioners have researched the nature of peace-building activities which can be divided into two main types: those that focus on the structural sources of a conflict (such

as governmental and economics institutions and policy) and their reformation (which tend to be more elite and policy focused); and those concerned with improving relations between group (which tend to be more community based). The majority of activities within the relational approach to peace-building concentrate on civil society and focus on improving understanding and trust between groups in conflict and facilitating interaction through community projects. The underlying basis for most of these activities is that an essential component of peace-building and trust-building involves the reconstruction or reconfiguration of relationships between parties in conflict.

Practitioners working in areas of severe conflict are often interacting in societies that have been exposed to severetrauma and have therefore become susceptible to its long-term consequences at the individual, community and national levels. They operate at the nexus of trauma and peace-building. If one of the primary goals of peace-building is to help repair and rebuild fragmented social relationships, peace-building scholars and practitioners need to be familiar with the basic concepts of trauma studies and vice-versa.

In recent years, a number of peace-building scholar and practitioners have begun to discuss the relationship between trauma and conflict. For example, Hugo van Ser Merwe and Tracy (2001) collaborated on 'Coping with Trama', an excellent overview of trauma and conflict. Of particular relevance for peace-building is their discussion of secondary victimization. They assert 'The traumatic nature if violence means that any contact with the traumatic materials - through witnessing or hearing of the event - can also have a deleterious effect'. Although the authors raise a number of important issues, the charter does not provide sufficient guidance of how to effectively conduct peace-building work in potentially traumatic situation, explore the distinction between peace-building work and therapy, or discussion in derail how to deal with secondary

trauma. In 'how will I sustain myself?', a chapter in the handbook of International Peacebuilding, the author's warn about the possible danger of secondary trauma and offer several coping strategies, including talking in a support about what is being heard and experienced, leaving one's work at work (not bringing it home), and returning to one's sanctuary.

2.4 PEACEKEEPING

The peacekeeping has been used to describe a wide variety of actions targeted at putting an end to international conflicts, Peacekeeping is a technique, pioneered and developed by the United Nations (UN), which defies simple definition. The United Nations itself has no established definition of peacekeeping mission.

For the United Nations, peacekeeping is the stationing of neutral highly armed troops as an interpolation force following a cease-fire to separate combatants and promotion an encroachment suitable for conflict resolution, a prerequisite is the notion of consent based on the desire by the warring parties for peace.

Another definition of peacekeeping worth considering is the definition formulated by the International Peace Academy . The Academy states that peacekeeping is the "prevention, containment, moderation and termination of hostilities through the medium of peaceful third party international organised and directed internationally, using multinational forces of soldiers, police and civilians to restore and maintain peace". The definition is much broader and more assertive in nature.

It is generally believed that peacekeeping is done by military personnel. Peacekeeping is normally done by putting a neutral intermediary between the fighting factions to physically keep them apart.

According to the Encarta Encyclopedia (2009), peacekeeping forces play a neutral role, working to calm regional conflicts in several ways. They can go into an area of conflict as observers, making sure agreements reached between opposing sides are being followed. They can provide a buffer between warring parties by physically interposing themselves in the middle. They can negotiate with military officers on both sides, providing a channel of communication. They can also monitor ceasefires, supervise elections, and provide humanitarian aid.

Peacekeepers are lightly armed. They travel in armored vehicles with automatic rifles, but lack artillery, tanks or other heavy weapons. Their work can be hazardous, especially if one of the warring sides doubts their neutrality. They are often caught in the middle when ceasefires collapse and they sometimes have been deliberately attacked. By 2007, more than 2,300 peacekeepers had died in the line of duty (Encarta 2009).

It is worthy here to note that peacekeeping has become more complex involving a much wider range of tasks ranging from protecting territory people, and aid operations, disarming belligerents, policing demilitarized sites and monitoring demobilization, monitoring and running elections and helping to reconstruct governments, police forces and armies (Galamina, 2006)

2.5 CONFLICT

All modern societies are made up of large numbers of individuals and groups that differ in terms of their personalities, their level of socialization or education, their objectives, economic and social conditions as well as their ideological orientations towards politics and other national issues. As a result, in most modern societies, conflicts should be an endemic social fact that is almost unavoidable. Thus, conflicts are natural results of man's existence in society. Conflict is said to occur when one party perceives the action of another party as blocking the opportunity for

the attainment of a goal. For conflict to occur, two prerequisites must be satisfied, namely, perceived goal incompatibility and perceived opportunity for interference and blocking (Schmidt and Kochan, 1972).

Conflict according to Isard (1992) is "phenomenon that is an important part of human existence." It has so pervasive in human society that it has become a natural part of our daily lives (Week, 1992).

The inevitability of conflicts in human society was aptly put by C.R. MITCHELL (1989), when he said that "conflict is inevitable because it can originate in individual and group reactions to situation of scarce resources; to division of function within society; and to differentiation of power and resultant competition for limited supplies of goods, status; valued roles and power-as-an-end itself."

Conflict as a phenomenon does not have one generally acceptable definition. Several scholars in the field of peace and conflict studies have put forward definitions of the phenomenon highlighting the fact that there is no particular cause of conflict all over the world.

In his work, Funk (1968), defines conflict as "any situation or process in which two or more social entities are linked by at least one form of antagonistic psychological relation or at least one form of antagonistic interaction." He went further to explain that the psychological antagonisms such things as incompatible goals, mutually exclusive interests, emotional hostility, factual or value dissensions and traditional enmities; while antagonistic interactions "range from the most direct, violent and unregulated struggle to the most subtle, indirect and highly regulated forms of mutual interference" (Fink, 1968).

Louis Coser (1956) also defines conflict as "a struggle over values and claims to secure status, power and resources, a struggle in which the aims of opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate rivals." In Coser's definition, he attributed the cause of conflict to the quest for domination which is open to contention by other parties. He explained further that conflict emerges whenever one party receives that one or more goals or purpose or means of achieving a goal or preference is being threatened or hindered by the activities of one or more parties.

According to Burton (1993), conflict as a term, is used usually to describe "The range of arguments, tensions and violent conflicts that occur within and between states". He further to define conflicts as "The pursuit of incompatible goals or interests by different group or individuals ". This definition by implication, asserts the intrinsic and inevitable nature of conflicts in human life. That is to say all humans or groups of human have goals and interests which may be different (as is common in our experience in Nigeria) with the goals and interests of other groups (Bakut, 2006)

In the words of Cook, J. B. (1975), conflict is "a special kind of social interaction process or "interaction" relationship between parties who have mutually exclusive or incompatible values a struggle between opposing forces"

For Morton Deutsch (1973), conflict exists "whenever incompatible activities occur: an action that is incompatible with another action prevents, obstructs, interferes, injures or in some ways makes the latter less likely to be effective"

Pruitt and Rubin (1986) asserted that conflict means "perceived divergence of interest, or a belief that the parties' current aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously".

Conflict as Ross (1993) notes “occurs when parties disagree about the distribution of materials or symbolic resources and act because of the incompatibility of goals or a perceived divergence of interests”.

In all the definitions presented above, certain characteristics are common. These include the element of divergence of interests and the incompatibility of goals between two or more parties over common resources.

However, the issue of conflict being dynamic and ongoing was highlighted by Miller (1972). He presented the general conclusion, thus, conflict is a process not a static condition, and that an important element involves the change in perceptions during the course of a dispute”

From the various definitions mentioned above, it obvious that conflict can be considered as a social necessity and a normal and functional and indeed inevitable aspect of the healthy functioning if all societies. However, conflict has also been considered an obstacle to progress, political stability, economic prosperity and overall socio-economic development because of its destructive impact.

Violent conflicts are abound around the world but the case of the African continents is the major concern of this research report with particular reference to the Nigerian situation. Although, there is no consensus on the root causes of these conflicts, and despite the fact that the fact that the causes do vary from country to country, most of the conflict in African are generally believed to have been caused by either one of the factors listed below, or a combination of several factors. These factors include but are not limited to generalized poverty, ethnic tension, corrpt and incompetent governments, mass unemployment, social exclusion, population explosion and competition for scarce resources. However, wherever and whenever conflicts occur, there are a

major concern because of their destructive return which constitute a threat to the socio-economic development and sustainable livelihoods.

In further explaining the future and types of conflicts that prevalent in African societies, Ibeanu (2003) identified three types of conflicts. These according to him are:

- i. Conflicts that arise as a result of struggle for political participation or over political space.
- ii. Conflict caused by the contest for access to resource and
- iii. Conflicts caused by the struggle over identity (Ibeanu, 2003)

Conflicts are not static but dynamic and then to change over time both in terms of intensity and activity (Mutunga, 2006). Mutunga, (2006) stated that no matter the model used to depict a conflict situation, four stages of conflict are always identified. These stages according to Mutunga include:

- The latent stage which incompatible goods exist between the parties and which if not attended to could lead to open conflict.
- The escalating stage marked by open conflict where there is some confrontation and low levels of violence, which if not attended to could lead to a crisis stage.
- The crisis stage, which is marked by high levels of violence and deaths an if handled well will lead to a ceasefire:
- The post conflict stage represents a stage where the conflict has been resolved to the extent that violence has ended and normally in relations start to build up (Mutunga, 2006).

2.6 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict is an intrinsic and unavoidable components of human existence. In the words of Franics (2006), conflict resolution is “different from the general category of conflict management which

includes efforts and interventions to limit contain and regulate conflict”. Conflict resolution is widely regarded as an aspect or sub-field of peace research. Conflict resolution aims to address the causes of conflict and seeks to build a new and lasting relationship between hostile parties.

Conflict resolution is seen by Miller (2003) as “a variety of approaches aimed at terminating conflict through the constructive solving of problems, distinct from management or transformation of conflict”. It is evident from Miller`s definition that conflict resolution is distinct from conflict management or conflict transformation as it is aimed at putting at end to a conflict situation rather than just attempting to contain it.

Miall et al, (2001) indicates that by conflict resolution, it is “expected that the deep rooted sources of conflict are addressed and resolved, and behavior is no longer violent, nor are attitudes any longer, while the structure of the structure of the conflict has been changed”.

Although, Miall`s definition is not as direct as that of Miller`s, it points to the fact that conflict resolution is aimed at attending to the innate causes of conflicts and solve them.

Mitchell and Banks (1996) use conflict resolution to refer to :

- i. An outcome in which the issues in an existing conflict are satisfactorily deals with through a solution that is mutually acceptable to the parties, self-sustaining in the long-run and productive of a new positive relationship between parties that were previously hostile adversaries’ and
- ii. Any process or procedure by which such an outcome is achieved.

Some people may use the term “conflict resolution” to refer to a specialized field of study and practice as in the field of conflicts resolution.

Putting together these ideas, it can be said that in principle, conflict resolution connotes a sense of finality where the parties to a conflict are mutually satisfied with the outcome of a settlement

and the conflict resolved in a true sense. Some conflicts, especially those over resources, are permanently resolvable. From the point of view of needs, a conflict is resolved when the needs of parties have been met with necessary satisfiers, and their fears have been allayed. Others like those over values may be non-resolvable and can at best be transformed, regulated or managed.

2.7 CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

The management of conflict using peaceful, non-violent methods has been around for a long time. In nearly all African societies, there is a preference for the peaceful settlement of disputes along the lines prescribed by the institutions and values of the community. Violence is normally frowned at.

Conflict management must be considered as a part of a larger process of ensuring that man lives in peace in an orderly way, conflict should be channeled towards positive effect in every human community. In the view of Fisher et al (2001) bringing about peace in a conflict situation is a process which involves different stages, the best and most crucial of which is conflict transformation. Conflict management aims to limit and avoid future violence by promoting positive behavioural changes in the parties involved.

Conflict management in the words of Best (2006) is “the process of reducing the negative and destructive capacity of conflict through a number of measures and by working with and through the parties involved in that conflict”. He further explained that conflict management encompasses “conflict limitation, containment and litigation”. In the words of John Burton, conflict management may include “conflict prevention” (Burton, 1990), a term he uses to connote containment of conflict through steps introduced to promote conditions in which collaborative and valued relationships control the behavior of conflict parties.

The term “conflict management” is perhaps an admission of the reality that conflict is inevitable, but that not all conflicts can always be resolved; therefore what practitioners can do is to manage and regulate them. And in the view of Imobighe (1997), “if a conflict is well managed and resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties, it could lead to some qualitative in the relationship between them”. This according to him, is particularly so if the resolution of the conflict leads the parties involved to devise problem-solving procedure to guide their future relationship, as well as change the existing climate of mutual distrust and animosity to one of mutual understanding and creative cooperation between them”. The reverse would be the case if the conflict is badly managed.

2.8 CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Research into nature and causes of conflict has come up with the need to theorise about conflict. This in effect means looking for and creating relevant frameworks for explaining the causes of conflicts and the range of methods available for the management resolution and transformation. A good understanding of the cause of conflicts would be a viable platform for the achievement of effective conflict management and resolution. A better interpretation of conflict and how it works would go a long way in facilitating effective response to conflict situations. Thus, conflict analysis is very important in conflict management and resolution.

In words of Best (2006), analysis is “the detailed study of any situation using specific frameworks paradigms and methods; or the study of a problem, which aims to bring about a patterned and systematic understanding of certain issues under focus”.

Thus, Fisher et al (2000) describes conflict analysis as “those activities that are undertaken by any persons doing anything either directly or indirectly, to know as much as possible about what is going on in a given conflict”. An analysis is important to opening up the problem being

studied and would help towards providing more clarity to both professionals and lay persons about what is happening in that particular conflict.

The assumption therefore is that, without a proper understanding of conflict, it will be difficult to proffer any solutions to it. In other words, conflict management would be in jeopardy if we are unable to carefully and correctly analyse the conflicts we deal with (Best, 2006).

According to Best (2006), "in any given conflict, conflict analysis would help to identify the various components of the conflict". These components he continued many include "the background of the conflict, or the historical context, time lines, perspectives.

Conflict analysis according to Best (2006) can be done in different ways. These include the following:

- Case Studies
- Fact finding
- Analysis meetings

Best (2006) described case studies as "detailed study of a particular conflict". He went further to say that a case study is "a specific rather than general research that is subjected to rigour, methodology, and procedure of conflict research". He said that case studies are meant to bring out the different peculiar properties of the conflict, all primary and secondary parties, the needs and other interests of the parties, and guest methods of intervention, among others.

Fact finding according to Best (2006), is "means to give quick information to intervenes to clarify areas of doubt, and to help them gain some understanding about what is happening in the conflict, the parties to the conflict, and exactly to deal with in the bid to de-escalate and transform the conflict. Each finding are normally less thorough and could be done over a shorter period of time than case study researches.

Analysis meetings are yet another technique of conflict analysis. This technique is normally used in conflict analysis workshops by non-governmental organization (NGOs) and other conflict interveners just before intervention. In the words Best (2006), analysis meetings are "used to validate case study researches in conflict fact finding reports, and to also decide on whether or not there is used for intervention, and to identify the appropriate entry points for intervention". The purpose of analysis meetings is to select which parties to work with, assess possible risks and dangers, and simulate future efforts to transform conflicts.

Whichever form conflict analysis takes, the underlying concern of every analysis is to enable either the conflict analysis or intervene with the correct and sufficient fact, as well as means to mediate in the conflict. Conflict analysis does not simply explain the conflict, but it explains the conflict with a view of transforming or resolving it.

Conflict Analysis looks out for areas where dialogue, communication and other form of non-violent and peaceful transformation could be encouraged and promoted among parties. This happens in the course of fact-finding research and interpretation of the perspectives, position, interests and needs of the parties. In looking at the areas of both agreement and disagreement between parties, a careful analyst is able to make recommendations or identify areas of further work that may enhance a peace process.

2.9 CONFLICT RESOLUTION AS A POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Conflict Analysis and resolution things evolving out of the case studies. It avoids the problem of specialization and its artificial human constructs, for it is necessary to take a holistic approach when helping parties to a conflict to make an in-depth analysis of their relationships. It is helped

also by its reliance on Needs Theory (Burton,1990)., which directs attention to the otherwise hidden ehabiural sources of conflict.

To those not familiar with the concept, (and this as yet comprises the vast majority of people), it must seem strange to refer to conflict resolution as a recent development. To the strategist, the power politician citizens of powerful nations, police and authoritarian heads of households, conflict resolution means the use of adequate force to bring about some desired result. The concept of problem solving was until a few decades ago largely a mathematical concept. Similarly, conflict prevention has meant the use of adequate threat. Even today, the distinction is made in ordinary speech between 'settlement', implying coercion and resolution, , implying problem solving. No distinction is made between 'disputes' that may in practise be settled quite acceptably by authoritative or legal processes and 'conflicts' that involve non negotiable issues such as individual human needs of identity and recognition and which can be resolved only when all parties are satisfied. In the new discipline of conflict analysis and resolution, conflict resolution means getting to the roots of problems and resolving them in ways that further the longer term goals of all concerned. Prevention does not imply threat, but policie that anticipate responses and thereby avoid conflict.

One might well say, no wonder the term Conflict resolution is not understood: it sounds so idealistic as not to be entertained seriously. Experience in the late with century, however, it demonstrating that the old power methods of dealing with conflicts are not merely costly in lives and resources, but dysfunctional, leading most usually to the outcomes that were to be prevented, such as Japanese and GeRoman Victory in peace after defeat in war, or increased social maladjustments of people punished for anti social behaviour.

Indeed, it was an appreciation of the unrealistic nature of what was described as the political realities of power politics that led to a search for an alternative after World War II, first at the international level, and then at the national. What seemed to be idealistic turns out to be the real political reality. Conflict resolution is in this sense an emerging new political reality despite thousand of years consensus support for power politics and its institution.

2.10 PEACE : A PANACEA FOR RESOLVING AND MANAGING CRISES

Peace is a rare commodity sought all over the world and more importantly Africa. Although, peace is not so most sought after, it is yet so elusive. Conflicts are prevalent at various levels the world over - between nations, states, communities and even between individuals. Armed conflicts are not only thought in some of the poorest countries in the world, but have also wreaked devastating consequences on Africa in terms of considerable loss of human life and suffering, state collapse and societal fragmentation disrupting economic and agricultural activities, the destruction of infrastructural facilities and the regionalisation of these domestic civil wars. have affected regional peace and security (Francis, 2006). Peace is therefore the most pressing challenge faced by Africa in the 21st century.

However, the pathetic situation has promised a huge demand for knowledge and capacity building in peace and conflict studies and the education for peace. According to Francis (2006), "the overwhelming demand from students academics, civil society organisations, grassroots social movements, military and securities and the media have not been matched by rigorous knowledge of the discipline of peace and conflict studies in Africa".

The concept of peace, which is the aim of conflict resolution, conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict transformation, is not new to Africa. In the words of Francis (2006):

The application of theories and methodologies of peace research and conflict resolution in Africa has largely neglected the simple fact that Africa had well developed and tested indigenous approaches and methods of conflict management, resolution, Pacific settlement of disputes and peace-building.

It can thus be deduced from the statement by Francis that conflicts were not alien to the African society, and as such they have fashioned out their own means and methods of setting, managing and resolving conflicts and crises. Thus, there is a need for peace researchers to evolve strategies of peace-building that would take cognizance of the African indigenous conflict resolution and amazement methods.

A proper management and resolution of conflict could lead to a culture of peace. However, this culture of peace is built from values, attitudes, behaviours and ways of life based on non-violence, respect for life, liberty, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights, equality between men and women, appreciation of cultural diversity, and respect for others (Gunitt, 2006).

From the above explanation, in a culture of peace, power grows not from the barrel of a gun but from participation, dialogue, and cooperation. A culture of peace rejects violence in all its forms, including war and the culture of war. A culture of peace can not be imposed from outside. It is a process that grows out of the beliefs and actions of the people themselves and develops differently in each country and region, depending upon its history, cultures, and traditions (Fish, Abdi, Ludin, Smith, Williams and Williams, 2000).

2.11 CRISES AND THE NIGER DELTA REGION

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria has become known for states of violence and conflict that have eluded attempts at peaceful resolution.

Experiences show that conflict can be driven by natural resource degradation, scarcity and by competitive control of areas where resources are abundant. In order to better understand the nature, resources of the region, as well as the geographical context, the Niger Delta will need to be defined. The Federal Government of Nigeria defined the Niger Delta region as the part of the Nigerian state:

././ situated in the Southern part of Nigeria and bordered to the South by the Atlantic Ocean and to the east by Cameroon, it occupies a surface area of about 11,100 square kilometres, and represents about 12% of Nigeria's total surface area of Nigeria having a population 28 million inhabitants, by the beginning of 2006. The region has nine of Nigeria's constituent states, Abia, Akwa -Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers.

In addition, Okon (2001) a don in one of the region 'universities said "there is enough evidence that 99% of Nigeria's proven crude oil and gas reserves are situated in the Niger Delta. Thus, this region is the richest in term of natural resources in Nigeria. Also, Nigeria's gs reserves in the region is even be lived to be greater than the national crude oil reserves, though this valuable resources has largely remained unexploited. The area has been estimated at about 124 trillion cubic great which is said to be twice as much as the nation's crude oil reserves (Ok oh, 2001).

2.12 CURRENT ATTRIBUTES OF THE NIGER DELTA REGION

The World Commissions on Environment and Development defined a sustainable society as "one that meets the needs of the per cent without compromising their own needs". Sustainable development and sustainable peace is a nexus that cannot be separated. Further, "[...] peace and development are intermittently linked (Tschirgri 200 in Neethhling 2005)". The United Nations Development Programme human development report at 1999 also stated that underdevelopment

may not directly cause violence but the report did assert that a poor social economy, diminished environmental conditions, as well as weak political institutions may diminish the society's capacity to manage tension in a non-violent manner (NUDP 1999 In Neethling 2005). The question at hand is whether oil exploitation and exploration is meeting the needs of the region or negatively affecting the livelihoods and restricting the possibilities of the future in order to answer this crucial question a few of the current attributes of this "rich region" that is now widely known for its regular crises will be examined.

Impact of oil

In a research report conducted by Agbalino (1998) on the Niger Delta region, she classifies the impact of oil exploitation on the oil-mineral producing communities in threefold, she reiterated that it firstly leads to environmental pollution; second, it destroys the ecosystems and the ways of life of the people, and third, it further impoverished the oil-producing communities. There are more than 159 oil fields and 481 oil wells producing two million barrels of oil, all concentrated in the Niger Delta region (Nan 1999 In Akiyode et al 2008). Thus, scattered around the region, oil spills on land and in water hinders farming and fishing; the indigenous occupations of the people. Furthermore, these harmful events also produce unending gas flaring which is very detrimental to the health of the inhabitants of the region.

Education

As reported by the Niger Delta region development master plan, the adult literacy status of the Niger Delta is around 78% compared to the national average of 54%. Public sector schools that provide the main education facilities now have 82% of total pupils in the Niger Delta region to cater for. However, even with the increased number, the facilities are saddled with poor funding,

poor infrastructure, and inadequate maintained, low morals of institutions, poor teaching facilities, and overcrowding classrooms (NDDRP 2006). These statistics seem abnormal in an area that produces the economic power of the nation, but is characterized by human capital development that has been hindered at the root.

The educational levels in the Niger Delta region areas are below the average national level. Only about 30% of Niger Delta children are enrolled in primary school, compared to national average of 76% (Fubara 2008).

Unemployment

The unemployment level in the Niger Delta region is he the, especially among the youths. Furthermore, there are few developmental industries apart from oil exploration which could employ members of the local communities. "The Niger Delta Regional Development Plan" document asserts that unemployment in the region is significant. The document using data from 2000, said the national average unemployment rate stood at nearly 5%. However, in the Niger Delta, which happens to be the major source of revenue for the country, the understanding rate fell below the national average level (NDDRP 2006). Thus, it is a paradox because the wealth of the nation comes from this region.

Infrastructure Development

It is saddening that the oil rich region with one of the largest oil reserve in the whole of African has weak infrastructural development. This phenomenon could be summarized from the "NI get Delta Regional Development Plan" programme document, which expands upon a study conducted on the region. Through this study, it was realised that about 40% of the roads in the region are in poor condition, along with the region having no functional rail network. It was also

discovered that over's 36% of households in the Niger Delta states have no access to electricity. Further, the communities in this region suffer the ineffective delivery of water supply (NDDRDMP 2006).

Poverty

The impact of oil in the Niger Delta region could be associated with the untold poverty that spread throughout region. This is because:

over the years, oil has sustained Nigeria's economic growth and improved the standard of living of other non--oil producing regions at the expense of the host communities whose natural resources are being exported and metropolitan countries for importation of capital in return
(Emmanuel st al 2009).

The cause of the high level poverty in the region is believed to be the result of the adverse consequences of oil related activities (Thomas 2001). In addition, Okoh (2005) recognizes that the Niger Delta people are mainly fishermen with a small numbers of farmers. Thus, the oil spills in the waters and on land has negatively impacted the environment. Also Seismic activities in search of oil exploration have often resulted in the destruction of vegetable and wild life habitat. Thus, it has been noted that "despite its vast oil resources, exploited for the good of the country, the region remains poor and the GNP per capital is below the national average 280 dollar (Fubara 2008

Youth and Struggle

Youth unemployment, inadequate education and poverty could affect the psyche of most youth, thereby luring them to join the "struggle" without proper considerations of the militant groups

'underlining objectives. The current tactic of kidnapping and demanding of ransom by some of the militants groups has shows that there are different reasons propelling each group. Agreeing with Collier (2001 In Bridal and Malone 2001), by playing upon a sense of grievance, the organisation may therefore be able to get additional recruited more haply " when "even the rationale at the top of the organisation is essentially greed, the actual discourse may be entirely dominated by grievance". He also reiterated that "The willingness of young men to join a rebellion might be influenced by their other income-earning opportunities " when they face the option of poverty (Collier 2001 In Bridal and Malone 2001).

2.13 HUMAN RIGHTS: A FOUNDATION FOR PEACE

The concept of human rights cannot be completely separated from the concept of peace. This is because the respect for and promotion of human rights creates the durable foundation for sustainable peace (Francis, 2006). Human rights, according to Francis (2006), are "alienable rights to which all human beings are entitled, irrespective of race, nationality or membership to any particular social group".

The state of human rights in the world and Nigeria in particular has come a long way since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was made by the United Nations Organization (UNO) in 1948. During this period, a lot of factors have challenged, eroded and even questioned the very existence of these inalienable rights to which every human being is entitled the world over. This has inadvertently led to so e avoidable crises and conflict over time. The state of human rights in the Nigerian States is neither perfect not desirable as it could be (Jega 2007).

in rose for human rights to point towards the direction of peace in any society, there needs to be a conscious promotion of human rights through programmes of activities in the area of education

whether formal or informal and public enlightenment, on what human rights are and what needs to be done to guarantee and secure them for all citizens (Jega 2007). This can be done by government, quasi-government agencies or by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Also, after the creation of awareness for these human rights, there is used for effective strategies and mechanisms to be put in place to protect these fundamental human rights that are necessary for the entrenchment of sustainable peace. Douzinas (1996) in Joeng (2000) sees human rights as "universal reason and assertion of common humanity". Their application undoubtedly reflects the uniqueness of each separate situation. When rights are denied or deprived, conflict becomes likely.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 is a statement affirming the dignity and rights of all human beings. It is based on principles expressed in the U.N. Charter. The declaration is the first section of a proposed three-part international covenant or agreement on human rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights attempts to provide a basis for establishing a common of values and a common measure for social justice, regardless of culture or content (Gamut, 2006). However, it has been argued in some quarters that rights are not U universal and absolute, but must be considered in relation to culturally accepted ways of relating and acting. Nevertheless, it is pertinent to note that human rights are concerned with the dignity of the individual-level of self esteem that secures personal identity and promotes human Community.

2. 14 A BIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EMADIKE^EPEBU COMFLICT

Epebu community is a town situated in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. The Epebu community owes its existence to its founder Ogbom I. However, historical records are not clear about when exactly the Epebu community came into existence.

The leadership of the Epebu community is kingship which follows a royal family system which the oldest member if the royal family is the next in line of the kingship stool.

In the case of Emadike community which is also in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, it owes its exist end to founding efforts of Aguda. The leadership seat of Emadike community is named after its founders who was rumored to have migrated from Mbiama and settled in Emadike. There is no clear standing system of installation of the Aguda of Emadike community.

The conflict between the Emadike and Epebu communions is traced to the struggle over the ownership of an oil well located in Asamba Bush near Epebu community. The people of Emadike put up a claim for the oil well and this alleged claim was rejected by the youths of the Epebu community.

Also, the conflict was further fueled by people outside Emadike and Epebu communities, who because of their selfish interests sold both arms and mercenaries to aggravate fighting between the two villages.

The crisis between the two communities degenerated into full blown violent conflict when some Emadike youths invaded a meeting venue where elders and chiefs were discussing the issue of

the ownership of the oil well. This full-blown violence led to the destruction of properties and the loss of lives in both communities.

The Epebu/Emadike crisis could be also be traced to some other factors including political factors, the struggle for the oil sell greedy and misguided youths as well as selfish elders. It was also claimed that the Epebu/Emadike crisis claimed the lives of a pregnant woman whom was burned alive in the bush when she was apprehended on her way to fetch water. The victim was a teacher and a native of both communities.

The conflict between the two communities had a lot of effects and these include the following:

- a. Loss of human resources
- b. Loss of properties of not only natives but also strangers
- c. Injuries and deformities among survivors
- d. Economic life of the people of both communities was suspended during the course of the conflict.
- e. Victims could not visit any of the two communities
- f. Social, political and economic life of the two communities was halted.
- g. The crisis forced natives of both communities that survived the conflict to live as refugees in strange lands.

The conflict came to end when the two communities decided to take deliberate steps towards restoring peace by resolving the conflict between them. The two communities came to the realization that they needed peace to forge ahead, and also when they realized that the government was ready to intervene in the conflict promptly.

Complaints from the people of Emadike were that the people of Epebu completely sacked the people of Emadike from their abode and even exhumed graves and threw the bodies this exhumed into the river.

2.15 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Scholars have written extensively on the nature, causes and the impact of conflicts. Depending on the school of thought to which they represent, such explanations have tended to place a lot of emphasis on one particular or set of related theories, while diminishing the importance or explanatory relevance of other competing theories. These theories provide frameworks for the understanding of conflict, especially the causes of conflict, the conditions under which conflicts occurs, and sometimes the conditions for their resolution.

Every academic research exercise is guided by a theory or set of theories and this research work is no exception. In order to effectively carry out the research work, the structural conflict theory.

Thos theory according to Faleti, S. A (2006) has two main sub-orientations. According to him, “the first is the radical structural theory represented by the Marxist dialectical school with exponents like Marx and Engel, V.I Lenin etc”. The second is the liberal structuralism represented by Ross (1993), Scarborough (1998) and the famous work of Johan Galtung (1990) on structural violence.

The structural conflict theory sees incompatible interests based on competition for resources, which in most cases are assumed to be scarce, as being responsible for social conflicts (Collier, 2000).

The main argument of the structural conflict theory is that conflict is built into the particular ways societies are structured and organized. The theory looks at social problems like political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation, inequity etc., as sources of

conflict. Structuralists maintain that conflicts occur because of the exploitative and unjust nature of human societies, domination of one class by another, etc.

Liberal Structuralists like Johan Galtung, propounded the theory of negative peace and positive peace to buttress how structural conflict can occur in society. The solution to this type of conflict is that contradictions in society will end in a revolution, civil war, or some form of violence leading to the overthrow of the exploitative system. Liberal Structuralists call for the elimination of structural defects with policy reforms.

The emphasis of the structural conflict theory is thus on how the competing interests of groups tie conflict directly into the social, economic, and political organization of society as well as the nature and strength of social network within and between community groups. Ross (1993) noted for instance that, in situations where economic and political discrimination and weak kinship ties are the defining characteristics of a society, the chances that negative forms of conflict will result are higher than in situations where the conditions are the exact opposite. In other words, when social, political, economic and cultural processes are monopolized by a group, it creates the conditions that make people to adopt adversarial approaches to conflict.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The result of any research depends on the research methodology. Writing on the issue of a suitable research approach, Aster and Dey (1980) state that:

Seldom is a research project perfectly suited to a research objective. A successful choice is one that has the greatest number of strengths and the fewest weaknesses relative to the alternative research approaches. Often this is achieved by combining several research approaches to take advantage of their features and minimize the limitations.

This chapter will look into methodology used in the collection and analysis of data, as well as the instrument used in collection of data and the way(s) in which this instrument was administered. Thus, this chapter will centre on the research design, the sample area, sample size, sampling technique, instrument used, administration of instrument, content validity and method of data analysis.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Selltitz, Johoha, Deutsch and Cook (1951), “a research design is the arrangement of condition for collection and analysis of data”. This is done in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure.

Based on the purpose of this study, the design to be adopted is the survey design. The research design which is the survey method uses questionnaires and interviews. According to Nachmais (1976), this is a method through which “the researcher approaches a sample of individuals presumed to have undergone certain experiences”.

Konkwo, quoting Puerer (1978), defines the survey method as “a research instrument by which oral or written responses or information can be elicited from persons (usually sampled on statistical principles) either through focuses questions or imparted stimuli”.

For the purpose of this study, the research design suited for this research work is the survey research design which is a data collection technique in which information is gathered from individuals called respondents, by having them respond to questions. The survey method arises from the fact that the research problem had to do with people’s opinions about certain issues and their reasons towards consumption decisions. The instrument for data collection in a survey research is mostly observation, measurement, counting, administration of questionnaires and interviewing.

According to Earl Babbie (1977), survey research is probably the best method available to the social scientist who is interested in collecting original data for the purpose of describing a population too large to be observed directly. Survey research is mainly used in studies that have individuals as units of analysis.

In addition to this, the survey research studies people in their natural settings, without including any artificial conditions. Such a study like this involves the selection of a scientific sample from the population, construction and administration of a well-structured questionnaire to the sample to measure what a complete representation of the larger population will be.

The scientific method is a very important empirical method of establishing and validating facts based on observation and data collected (Osuala, 1982).

The research design of this study attempts to describe the objective of the study accurately. In order to describe the topic under study effectively, the survey research design was applied.

The research design is a sequence of activities that provide strong basis and reduce basic errors, which will enable the researcher to achieve the aim of the study.

3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

This research is geared towards assessing the role of peace as a panacea in community crises management in communities around the world for the purpose of promoting national development. In order to achieve this, there is a need to study crises situations and critically assess how the concept of peace was applied or not applied properly and how the concept of peace has contributed to the achievement of the solution or management of the crises.

However, due to limited time and resources at the disposal of the researcher, this research work would be restricted to the conflict involving Emadike and Epebu communities in Bayelsa State and how the application or non-application of the concept of peace has contributed to the achievement of the community crisis management, which would otherwise translate to national development.

3.4 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The sampling techniques adopted for the purpose of this study are the cluster sampling technique and the simple random sampling technique. This will enable the researcher to select the appropriate number of respondents from the population of the study. The cluster sampling technique was used to stratify the sample population of the study into zones, while simple random sampling technique was used to choose the required sixty (60) respondents from the various communities.

This was done to give every member of the population equal chance of being chosen to be part of the sample size. This is expected to give a more reliable result, as misinterpretation and under-representation will be reduced to the barest minimum or totally avoided.

In order to obtain a representative sample size that would enable the researcher to arrive at authentic results and findings, a sample size of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents was chosen.

The sample of one hundred and twenty (120) respondents was chosen from the two communities – sixty (60) respondents each. The sample population for the research study comprises one hundred and twenty (120) made up of sixty (60) respondents from Epebu community and sixty (60) respondents from Emadike community.

3.5 INSTRUMENT OF DATA COLLECTION

The instrument employed for the collection of data in this research is the questionnaire, which was personally undertaken by the researcher. The basic instrument for the collection of data for this study was the use of questionnaire containing twenty three (23) questions. The questionnaire was the primary source of data, while the review of literature was the secondary source of data.

A questionnaire is a device or printed document used for getting information or answers to questions, which the respondent fills by him/herself. It attempts to get the feelings, beliefs, experiences or activities of respondents. The questionnaire was the primary source of data collection. It was structured and comprised of both open and close-ended questions.

The questionnaires were structured in the close-ended questions. The questionnaires were formulated in such a way that they were easy to answer and code, as they were structured in the close-ended format, where respondents were required to answer “Yes” or “No”. While the secondary source of data were from textbooks, newspapers, journals and other articles.

3.6 VALIDITY OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The validity of the research instruments rest on the fact of their capabilities for obtaining the data required to answer the research questions put forward.

3.7 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The instrument of data collection was personally administered to the respondents by the researcher. The questionnaires were handed to the respondents at random in the two communities involved.

3.8 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The methods used in data analysis were descriptive analysis, tabulation and simple percentages. The responses were analyzed by full descriptions after which simple percentages were used to determine the population who agree or disagree with certain options.

Data obtained were analyzed in simple percentages and were presented in titled tables to quantify responses to items on the representation of numbers (respondents) in a proportion of one hundred.

Data collected for the study was analyzed using simple percentages because it is easy to understand and presented in titled tables.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The data collected from the administered questionnaires is presented in frequency tables and simple percentages. These data came from the responses gathered from respondents. They will be analyzed and presented.

In this chapter, presentation of data and analysis will be made. The findings of the data collected for the study through the questionnaires are presented in this chapter. They are presented in tabular form and analyzed in simple percentages in titled tables.

The titled tables each represent the question, response, number of respondents, percentages and total number of respondents.

4.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

For this research study, the following are the research questions addressed in this study:

1. Do the government and other relevant agencies have any role to play in arousing the consciousness of the people towards the promotion of peace as a means of community crises management?
2. In what ways can be government and other relevant agencies actually contribute to the achievement of community crises management?
3. Are there any possible shortcomings on the part of government and other relevant agencies in their contributions to the achievement community crises management and thus national development?
4. What would help to enhance the contributions of the government and other relevant agencies to the achievement of community crises management and national development?

4.3 PRESENTATION OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The twenty three (23) questions in the questionnaires were regularly answered, out of which twenty one (21) questions from the questionnaires were analyzed and presented in titled tables to provide answers to the research questions in order to resolve the problem behind the research topic. A total of one hundred and twenty (120) questionnaires were administered, out of which one hundred (100) were completed and retrieved.

The method of analysis and presentation of attributes under study will be tabularization of data in simple percentage circulation. In all, one hundred and twenty (120) questionnaires were administered and one hundred (100) were retrieved making it 83.3% retrieval rate from respondents.

Table 4:1:

Do you believe that crisis can be avoided?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	23	23%
No	77	77%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

The above table shows the response on crisis can be avoided amongst individuals or groups. In response, 23 respondents representing 23% of the total respondents indicated that crises could be avoided if definite and relevant steps are taken. The remaining 77 respondents or 77% of the total respondents disagreed and states that crises cannot be avoided, since conflict and crises are intrinsic parts of human societies.

It can thus be deduced that crises are an intrinsic part of human societies, and can thus not be completely eradicated or eliminated since it comes with man's inherent nature.

Table 4:2:

Is peace essential for growth and development?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	93	93%
No	7	7%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

The table above addressed the issue of whether peace is essential ingredient for growth and development in any society. And in response, a whopping 93 respondents representing 93% of the total respondents agreed that peace is very essential for there to be any form of growth or development. According to them, peace would present the enabling and conducive environment for developmental plans and programmes to thrive while the remaining 7 respondents or 7% of the total respondents said peace does not necessarily have to be in place for development and growth to occur. They in their response explained that if the government or other developmental bodies are serious with their projects, they can achieve development even in the face of perceived conflicts or crises. They went further to say that crises or conflicts can never be completely eradicated.

From the above, it can be observed that a peace is a catalyst for growth and development in any society, as it encourages economic, political, social and other activities that would promote positive change in that society.

Table 4:3:

Can anything positive be achieved through crisis?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	43	43%
No	57	57%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

In response to the question whether anything positive can be achieved through crises, 43 respondents representing 43% of the total respondents said that they believed that positive things can be achieved through crises. While the remaining 57 respondents representing 57% of the total respondents said that nothing positive is achievable through crises.

Crises depending on how it is handled would determine if the lessons learnt could be of benefit the parties involved in the crisis.

Table 4:4:

Has it been a common occurrence for Emadike and Epebu communities to have conflicts between themselves?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	56	56%
No	44	44%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

Table 4.4 shows that 56 respondents representing 56% of the total respondents indicated that conflicts and crises between Emadike and Epebu communities were a frequent occurrence over

time. While the remaining 44 respondents or 44% of the total respondents were of the view that conflicts and crises between Emadike and Epebu communities were a rarity.

From the above data analyzed, it is observable that as a result of daily interactions because of the geographical proximity, that the two communities have had crises from time to time. This is in line with the fact that crises in human society can hardly be avoided.

Table 4:5:

Has Emadike and Epebu been having friendly ties?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	44	44%
No	56	56%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

In response to the question whether Emadike and Epebu communities have been having friendly ties, 44 respondents representing 44% of the total respondents said that the two communities have been having friendly ties. While the remaining 56 respondents or 56% of the total respondents indicated that there have not been friendly ties between Emadike and Epebu communities.

Table 4:6:

If there have been conflicts between the two communities, how have the conflicts been handled?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Intervention of chiefs and elders	55	55%
Full blown conflicts	-	0%
The use of legal and constitutional means	-	0%

Third Party Intervention	45	45%
Others	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

In response to the question on how earlier conflicts between the two communities have been resolved, 55 respondents 55% of the total respondents indicated conflicts were resolved through intervention of chiefs and elders of the two communities. 45 respondents representing 45% of the total respondents were of the view that third party intervention was the method used in resolving conflicts between the two communities.

Table 4:7:

Did conflict between the two communities affect growth and development?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

In the table above, all the respondents representing 100% of the total respondents indicated that conflict between the two communities definitely affected growth and development in all aspects of life in the two communities. In further explanation, respondents said that economic, social and political life of the two communities was affected by the conflict between them.

Table 4:8:

What was the cause of the conflict?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	10	10%
Natural resources	70	70%

Politics	15	15%
Others	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

Table 4.8 shows that 10 respondents representing 10% of the total respondents indicated that poverty was the cause of the conflict involving the two communities. They were of the view that the tensions that finally lead to armed and violent conflict was heighten by the level of poverty experienced in the two communities. 70 respondents or 70% of the total respondents indicated that the cause of the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities was struggle for ownership of natural resources. They further explained that the crisis and eventual armed conflict between the two communities was as a result of struggle over the ownership of an oil well located near Emadike community. The remaining 15 respondents representing 15% of the total respondents indicated that the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities was politically motivated.

Table 4:9:

Was there any influence from external parties on the crisis between the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

The table above addressed the question on whether external parties influenced the conflict between the two communities. In response, all 100 respondents representing 100% indicated that parties not directly involved in the crisis influenced the crisis between the two communities. The

respondents explained that the government and oil companies were pulling strings behind the scenes to influence how things panned out in the conflict involving the two communities. Some of the respondents alleged government’s partial involvement in fueling the crises and influencing the outcome of the conflict.

Table 4:10:

Do you advocate violence as a means of resolving crises?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	-	0%
No	100	100%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

Table 4.10 shows the response of respondents to the question whether violence is an effective means of resolving conflicts. All 100 respondents representing 100% of the total respondents indicated that violence was not effective means of resolving and they would advocate for it to be used in the resolution of crises. They rather said they believe more in the use of diplomacy, dialogue and other non-violent and peaceful ways of resolving crises.

Table 4:11:

Which means of conflict resolution do you believe can be best used to resolve conflict?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Third Party Intervention	54	54%
Mediation	20	20%
Negotiation	10	10%
Arbitration	16	16%
Others	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

When asked which means of conflict resolution respondents believed can be best used in the resolution of conflicts, 54 respondents representing 54% of the total respondents said they preferred the use of third party intervention in the resolution of conflicts between two parties. 20 respondents or 20% said they preferred mediation as means of conflict resolution. Another 10 respondents or 10% said they would prefer negotiation as a means of conflict resolution. While the remaining 16 respondents or 16% of the total respondents indicated that they preferred arbitration as means of conflict resolution.

Table 4:12:

Could the conflict between Emadike and Epebu Communities been avoided?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

In the response to whether the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities could have been avoided, all the 100 respondents representing 100% of the total respondents agreed that the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities could have been avoided if necessary, steps were taken and the two communities were honest and forthright.

Depending on the nature and cause of certain crises, they can be avoided or averted. The crisis between Emadike and Epebu communities based on information gathered could have been avoided if the necessary steps were taken.

Table 4:13:

Did the government play its role effectively in the resolution of the conflict between the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	10	10%
No	90	90%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

The table above shows the response of the respondents to the question whether the government played its role effectively in the resolution of the conflict between the two communities. In response, 10 respondents representing 10% of the total respondents indicated that the government effectively played its role in the resolution of the conflict between the two communities. The remaining 90 respondents or 90% said that the government did not effectively perform its role in the resolution of the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Table 4:14:

Is there a police station or post in the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	-	0%
No	100	100%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

Table 4.14 show the response to whether there was a police station or post in either of the two communities. All 100 respondents representing 100% of the total respondents stated that there

was no police post or station in neither of the two communities – Emadike nor Epebu. According to the respondents, maybe the presence of a police post or station would have helped in averting or ameliorating the impact of the conflict on the lives of people in the two communities.

Table 4:15:

Did the conflict affect social and economic life of the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

On whether the conflict affected social and economic life of the two communities, all 100 respondents representing 100% of the total respondents indicated that the conflict between the two communities actually did affect the social and economic life of the two communities.

It is impossible for normalcy to be in place in the face of a violent or armed conflict between two parties. The case of Emadike and Epebu was no exception, as the crisis brought economic and social life to almost a halt during the period of the crises according to the response from the respondents.

Table 4:16:

Were lives and properties lost during the conflict?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

When asked if lives and properties were lost in the conflict involving the two communities, all 100 respondents indicated that lives and properties were lost in the course of the conflict involving Emadike and Epebu communities. According to respondents, the Epebu community completely sacked the people of Emadike community from their town and almost razed down all the buildings.

Table 4:17:

Did the government intervene promptly in the crisis involving the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	25	25%
No	75	75%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

On whether the government intervened promptly in the crisis involving Emadike and Epebu communities, 25 respondents representing 25% of the total respondents said in their view that the government intervened promptly in the crisis. While a staggering 75 respondents or 75% of the total respondents believed that the government did not intervene promptly in the crisis involving the two communities. According to the respondents holding this point of view, the government's lackadaisical approach to the crisis involving the two communities might not be unconnected with the fact that the government was in support of one of the sides in the conflict.

Table 4:18:

Can peaceful and friendly ties be fully restored between the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	34	34%
No	66	66%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

On whether peaceful and friendly ties can be fully restored, 34 respondents representing 34% of the total respondents believe that peaceful and friendly ties can be restored between the two communities. In their view, when parties in a conflict have fully reconciled, then there is room for the relationship to be fully restored to its former level if not better. On the other hand, 66 respondents representing 66% of the total respondents indicated that peaceful and friendly ties between the two communities can never be fully restored, because the conflict has left indelible marks that would always be an hindrance to the friendly relationship that once existed between the two communities.

Table 4:19:

Were the leaders of the two communities involved in the peace initiative and the subsequent resolution of the conflict?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

Table 4.19 addressed the question of whether the leaders of the two warring communities – Emadike and Epebu – were involved in the peace initiative and the subsequent resolution of the conflict between the two communities. All 100 respondents representing 100% of the total respondents indicated that the leaders of both communities were involved in the peace initiative and the subsequent resolution of the conflict between the two communities.

Table 4.20:

Would this conflict strengthen the relationship between the two communities?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	-	0%
No	100	100%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

On whether the conflict between the two communities would help to strengthen the relationship that has existed between the two communities, all 100 respondents representing 100% said that they did not believe that the conflict would help to strengthen the relationship between the two communities. In their view, the scars of bottle would be indelible marks that would rather hinder friendly relations rather than strengthen any friendliness between the two communities.

Table 4:21:

Are both communities adhering to the agreement reached during the resolution of the conflict?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	100	100%
No	-	0%
Total	100	100%

Source: Survey Data 2024

When asked if the two communities have been adhering to the agreements reached during the course of the resolution of the conflict, all 100 respondents or 100% of the total respondents agreed that both communities have so far been adhering to the agreements.

4.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This research work was carried out with the aim of finding out the role of peace as a panacea in managing community crises and conflicts, using the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

It was revealed in the course of this research study that crises and conflict cannot always be avoided or averted, but depending on the nature and cause of the conflict, necessary steps can be either taken to avert it or manage it. In other words, certain conflicts can be averted, while others can only be managed or controlled.

Generally, if a society has taken bold steps to put in place the necessary ingredients for peace, then it would be easier for such a society to ensure peace is sustained and peaceful means are used to resolve crises that would otherwise have taken violent dimensions.

The role of the government and other relevant agencies in the resolution and management of conflicts was also examined. It is a collective responsibility of all parties both the disputing parties, government and these relevant agencies to collaboratively work on ensuring peace as a concept is used as a panacea to community conflict management and resolution.

From the analysis done in this chapter of this research report, certain findings were made that provided answers to the research questions stated for the study.

Tables 4.13, 4.14 and 4.17 provided answers to the first research question. The data in these showed that the government and police have important roles to play in both managing and resolving conflicts in any society. It was evident from the analysis contained in these tables that

if the government does what it should do promptly, conflicts can be nipped in the bud. Rather, due to government's ineptitude a lot of avoidable and of human lives and properties.

In answering the second research question, Tables 4.12, 4.13, 4.17 and 4.21 provided relevant information. The government could have reacted promptly by observing the early warning signs of a possible conflict and that could have averted the conflict between two communities and a lot of similar conflicts nationwide. However, this has unfortunately not been the case, a government shows little or no interests in the affairs of its citizens but rather takes sides with big multinational oil companies and promote divide and rule amongst its citizens thereby promoting crises and conflicts in its policy.

In response to the third research question, it is observed from the responses from respondents that the government did not intervene promptly in the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities. In oral responses explaining some of their answers, some respondents said that even when the government and its agencies respond to crises situations, they do so with biased and partisan intents thereby not playing their role as an impartial arbiter.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this research study was to find out the concept of peace could be applied as a panacea to the management of community crises using the conflict between Emadike and Epebu Communities as a reference point. The study also made efforts to ascertain if the government, civil society, mass media and other relevant agencies played their roles in the process of resolving the conflict.

From the analysis in the previous chapter, it was revealed that a lot still needs to be done by the government and other relevant agencies in projecting peace and playing their roles effectively in the management and resolution of crises between communities. That is to say, the government should sit up and try to intervene in crises situation without being biased in their intervention; this will ensure goodwill, understanding among the people of the state, reduce youth restiveness and promote good developmental ideas.

This study also revealed that the peace is a necessary ingredient for growth and development in any society. That although, crises may not completely eradicated in any given society, but the level of resolution or management of crises when they occur can be determined by the level of commitment by the government, relevant agencies and the disputing parties.

5.2 IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

It can thus be implicitly deduced that since peace is conversely related to conflict or crisis, adopting peace as a panacea to conflict management inadvertently means the application of conflict management techniques with the aim of achieving peace in a given crisis situation.

However, the psychological and emotional scars of violent conflicts are inestimable and are bound to take long to heal. The total costs of the material and human resources lost in times of conflicts are profound and impose a heavy burden on any country, even a country like Nigeria with its resilience and resources.

It was also deduced from the findings of this research that no matter how positive a conflict is made to look, it has the capacity to severely constrain development endeavours by destroying infrastructure, interrupting the production process and diverting resources away from production uses.

Ibeanu (2001) aptly summed up what the findings of this research indicated as being the cause of most conflicts in the Niger Delta Region when he said;

“The recurrent patterns of violence and local responses point to the willingness of the various communities to be incorporated into the agenda of domination and exploitation fostered by the alliance between the state and the petro-business, it does point to direct state involvement or inducement for communal conflicts. Even then, it is a willingness that is driven by class and material interests of individuals in response to the deepening crisis of material reproduction. The activities of “local chiefs and notables” on the payrolls of oil companies in “return for cultivating favourable public opinion on behalf of oil companies”.

Also, from the findings of this research study, it could lend credence to the words of Boulding (1977), which says that what is important about a conflict is “not its occurrence as such, but how the parties attempt to deal with”. As observed in the conflict between Epebu and Emadike communities, the way and manner the communities conduct themselves according to the

agreements of their settlement would be critical to if any positives can be attained from aftermath of their conflict.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the research carried out to ascertain the role played by peace as a panacea to community crises.

1. The two communities should jointly set up a standing intervention peace committee comprising persons whose descent and from both communities.
2. The communities should be contented with what belongs to them and not to be interested in argument of what does not belong to her. As in the case where Emadike was interested in the oil well discovered in Epebu area leading to dispute. Whereas when the oil well was first discovered and drilled in Emadike bush, Epebu was very silent over it was if nothing was even happening.
3. If a dispute is arising between the two communities, the intervention peace committee set up by the two communities should be called in to mediate and handle the matter with a view settling it amicably.
4. They should also forward their disagreements and pending disputes to the office of the Obanobhan of Ogbia/Paramount Ruler of Ogbia's office or Ogbia Brotherhood to handle.
5. They should also seek redress or refer the matters to customary court, magistrate court, high court as well as police and Ogbia Local Government Council.
6. The company agents or officials deployed to carry out field operations in the host communities bushes should be honest and truthful in their official dealings with the host

communities. They should stop being partial and biased against any one community in order to avoid unnecessary disputes.

7. There should be an entrenchment of the rule of law, and improvement of the character, conduct and efficiency of the machinery for the delivery and administration of justice, especially the judiciary and the law enforcement agencies, so that might would no longer be right, and the guilty would get punished, no matter how highly placed. This would encourage citizens to take their grievances and disputes to the appropriate courts of jurisprudence for settlement.
8. People should be encouraged to change their greedy and selfish dispositions and attitudes, and thus become more accommodating, tolerant and harmonious in their relationships and coexistence.
9. Civil societies should be encouraged, who will preach democratic conduct, peaceful coexistence and dialogue as a means of peaceful resolution of conflicts.
10. Leaders need to guard their utterances. They need to inspire confidence and placate fears by their actions. And, they need to be transparent and be above triviality and narrow-mindedness in the performance of their job. Leaders should be national in their viewpoint, and dispassionate and impersonal in carrying out their roles.
11. A requirement for tackling crises and conflicts is considerable diminution of the current level of poverty in the country, especially in the Niger Delta Region.
12. Lastly, governments at all levels need to only to be fair, but to also be seen to be fair.

5.4 SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDY

The study of peace and conflict has become so important because the two relate to the provisions that describe and influence human existence and well-being in our society. For a long time, we in

this side of the world have faced different forms of conflicts, but peace education and research have languished behind. Thus, conflicts in our societies have been studied by foreign scholars with foreign academic and theoretical lenses that does not fit or appreciate the African experience. And as such, resources and institutions for conflict management and resolution have remained underdeveloped, thus putting us in a poor position to respond to our own conflict and peace challenges.

From the literature reviewed, it is observed that crises is an intrinsic part of human existence and as such can be regarded as an integral part of human society. Thus this researcher would suggest that since this study would not extensively cover all issues related to the resolution and management of conflicts, other researchers can as well look at other areas of conflict prevention and resolution. Additional information into the area of conflict prevention would help to point early warning signs to government and other relevant agencies to identify and avert conflicts and crises in society before they occur, and thus further studies by researchers into topics bordering on conflict prevention would be desirable.

5.5 CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

In violent conflicts over resources, identity, and power, parties often resort to severe methods to achieve their goals. groups can be subjected to traumatic incidents that can have long-term negative psychological effects. Peace-builders need to devote more attention to developing trauma-sensitive approaches to their work. It is possible that some may be doing harm by not fully integrating a trauma-sensitive approach into our work. Many individuals in the field are confronted by the challenges of secondary trauma, which can have long-term detrimental impacts on health and emotional wellbeing. Although, most practitioners do deceive informal

support from their colleagues, there exists a responsibility to systemize learning and practice in this area. This is particularly relevant in training future generations of practitioners, to help ensure that they are aware of this challenge and able to respond to it. There is also a responsibility to ensure that local practitioners are provided the support and training they need, particularly because they often do not have the luxury of leaving conflicted areas.

Conflict resolution practitioners can also benefit from expanding their cooperation with colleagues from other sectors who are working on trauma related issues. Working in partnership with psychologists and other mental health professionals directly in conflict regions can facilitate valuable learning and linkages. Peace-builders need to develop better tools and practices to recognize trauma among populations and also to develop clearer ethical guidelines for the field.

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APPENDIX

Department of Mass Communication
Bayelsa State Polytechnic, Aleibiri,
Yenagoa.

Dear Respondent,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

I am a National Diploma student of the Department of Mass Communication of the Bayelsa State Polytechnic, Aleibiri.

I am conducting a research study on the topic “The Concept of Peace as Panacea to Community Relations and Crisis Management in Bayelsa State: A Survey of Emadike and Epebu Community”. Your contributions would help to achieve the aims of this research study.

I shall be honoured if you sincerely fill in the questionnaire which is for the purpose of this research. It is purely an academic exercise and it is guaranteed that all information supplied will be treated with utmost confidence. Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

(Researcher)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please tick (✓) against your answer.

1. Sex:

Male Female

2. Do you believe that crisis can be avoided?

Yes No

3. Is peace essential for growth and development?

Yes No

4. Can anything positive be achieved through crises?

Yes No

5. Has it been a common occurrence for Emadike and Epebu Communities to have conflicts between themselves?

Yes No

6. Has Emadike and Epebu been having friendly ties?

Yes No

7. If there have been conflicts between the two communities, how have these conflicts been handled?

Intervention of chiefs and elders

Full blown armed conflicts

The use of legal and constitutional means

Third Party Intervention

8. Did the conflict between the two communities affect growth and development?

Yes No

9. What was the cause of the conflict?

Poverty

Natural resources

Politics

Others, please specify:

10. Was there any influence from external party on the crises between the two communities?

Yes No

11. Do you advocate violence as a means of resolving crisis?

Yes No

12. Which means of conflict resolution do you believe can be best used to resolve conflict?

Third Party Intervention

Mediation

Negotiation

Arbitration

Others, please specify:

13. Could the conflict between Emadike and Epebu communities been avoided?

Yes No

14. Did the government play its role effectively in the resolution of the conflict between the two communities?

Yes No

15. Is there a police station or post in any of the two communities?

Yes No

16. If yes, did the police play their role effectively in the management of the crisis?

Yes No

17. Did the conflict affect social and economic life in the two communities?

Yes No

18. Were lives and properties lost during the conflict?

Yes No

19. Did the government intervene promptly in the crisis involving the two communities?

Yes No

20. Can peaceful ties be fully restored between the two communities?

Yes No

21. Were the leaders of the two communities involved in the peace initiative and the subsequent resolution of the conflict?

Yes No

22. Would this conflict strengthen the relationship between the two communities?

Yes No

23. Are both communities adhering to the agreement reached during the resolution of the conflict?

Yes No