

THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The research access the nature of the relationship among conflict, sustainable development and poverty and to determine the extent of the relationship among security, functioning system of law and justice, trust between social groups, corruptions and economic growth. The study will be carried out primarily through the survey method. Primary data will be collected through the use of a design questionnaire; the secondary data will be obtained from relevant texts books, journals and the internet. Questionnaires will be distributed to students, farmers, civil servants, women cooperative groups, civic societies group, business men and women, traditional and opinion leaders. Multiple regression analysis will use to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The results of our findings indicate that, conflict significantly affect economic growth and development. Presence of conflict marred economic growth and development that is there is a positive correlation between conflict and economic growth and development. At the same time if there is an economic growth and development there is a negative correlation that is conflict is minimal. Quality education can lead to economic growth and reduce conflict. Based on our findings the study recommends; Government to introduce poverty reduction programs, Provide an affordable qualitative and functional education system, Government should create an enabling environment for people especially the youth to be gainfully employed or setup their own businesses.

Keywords: Conflict, Economic Development, Poverty,

JEL Classification: O1

Introduction

Conflict is a struggle of perspective between people of opposing needs, ideas, values or goals, CIB (2004). Conflict is inevitable however, the result of conflict are not predetermined. Conflict might escalate and lead to non-productive result or be beneficial and lead to quality final product. Conflict exists wherever incompatible activities exist, Erikson and Wallenstein, (2004). Conflict may originate from a number of sources including; difference in information, believes, values, interest or desires. Conflict may be as a result of scarce resources, rivalry in which group compete with one another, Dorman, (1993).

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meets their own needs, Green and Seidman, (1968). Sustainable development mean: integration, bridge between environment and development, inter and intra generational equity, global partnership with common but differentiated responsibilities, poverty eradication, reduction and elimination of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, participation in decision making and access

to information, Hoffman, (2004). Sustainable development entails integration of objectives where possible and makes tradeoffs between objectives where integration is not possible. Peace enhances development opportunities while development can help prevent conflicts and reinforce peace and security.

Economic development is the process whereby simple, low-income national economies are transformed into modern industrial economies. Although the term is sometimes used as a synonym for economic growth, generally it is employed to describe a change in a country's economy involving qualitative as well as quantitative improvements. The theory of economic development how primitive and poor economies can evolve into sophisticated and relatively prosperous ones is of critical importance to underdeveloped countries, and it is usually in this context that the issues of economic development are discussed.

Economic development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region or local community are improved. The term has been used frequently in the 20th and 21st centuries, but the concept has existed in the West for centuries.

"Modernization", "Westernization", and especially "industrialization" are other terms often used while discussing economic development.

Whereas economic development is a policy intervention endeavor aiming to improve the well-being of people, economic growth is a phenomenon of market productivity and rise in GDP. Consequently, as economist points out, "economic growth is one aspect of the process of economic development".

When social scientists study economic development, they look at a lot of things. They want to know about the way economic development is discussed by historians. They also want to know how development is happening today. They may want to know why people invest more money in some places than in others. They also want to know why people are better at making things to sell in some countries rather than others.

Statement of the Problem

Conflict is inevitable, and there are many things that course it. It is also known that certain measures can prevent its accuracies. Nigeria witnesses a series of conflict from struggle for independence in the 60s to civil war of 67. Kano in Northwest Nigeria witness maitatsine in 1982, and the resent boko haram attack, cattle rustling, shia militant and conflict between farmers and herdsmen. All these conflict arises as a result of either an individual or group desire to have control over scarce resources. Sustainable development entails living in modesty without jeopardy to the upcoming generation. In recent past poverty is clearly seen, people are no more secured any longer, no trust among social groups, corruption is everywhere and economic growth is very slow and little. It is against this backdrop that the study seeks to assess the implications of conflict on sustainable development in Kano, northwest, Nigeria.

Research Objectives

To access the nature of the relationship among conflict, sustainable development and poverty, to ascertain the extent of the relationship among good governance, access to basic education and health care and to determine the extent of the relationship among security, functioning system of law and justice, trust between social groups, corruptions and economic growth.

Research Methodology

The study will be carried out primarily through the survey method. Primary data will be collected through the use of a design questionnaire; the secondary data will be obtained from relevant texts books, journals and the internet. Kano state has forty four local government and three senatorial zones and four local governments will be

taken from each senatorial zone. Questionnaires will be distributed to students, farmers, civil servants, women cooperative groups, civic societies group, business men and women, traditional and opinion leaders. Multiple regression analysis will use to test the three hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance

Literature Review

There is negative peace and positive peace. The absence of war is negative peace while a state of harmony and justice is positive peace. Peace is often seen as a tranquil and uncomplicated end state. According to Bacani, (2004), peace is a dynamic social process in which justice, equity and respect for basic human rights are maximized and violence both physical and structural is minimized. Peace is concerned with the elimination of violence where violence is an act or process which impedes people from realizing their potentials. Negative peace refers to the absence of direct violence that causes physical harms and positive peace is the absence of structural violence manifested as the uneven distribution of power and resources. Said in another way, it is the presence of even distribution of power and resources, justice and good governance. Positive peace is proactive in nature. It seeks to remove the underlying structural imbalances that present risks and vulnerabilities to people in short as well as in the long term (Animasawun, 2008).

Negative peace on the other hand is reactive in nature for it only seeks the cessation of actual or impending conflict. I describe it as "Peace on gain powder". Peace can be defined from philosophical, sociological and political perspective. From the perspective of philosophy, it is the presumption state of man in society as God established it. Put in another way, it is the divine state of perfection or an earthly expression of God's kingdom that is yet uncorrupted. Here peace is related to the original inclinations and desires of human beings, but did not address the social context of peace beyond the state of nature. Peace from sociological perspective addresses the social context. While philosophy addresses what ought to be, sociological looks at a condition of social harmony in which there are no social hindrances. Peace here is defined as a condition in which there is no social conflict and individuals and groups are able to meet their needs and expectations.

To achieve this kind of state, there are two sociological responses namely structural-functionalist and dialectical materialist responses. The first response posits that for a society to survive there is need to educate its children, produce goods, govern its affairs and provide security for its members These function will necessitate a number of

structures such as schools, industries, parliaments, courts etc. peace according to this group could be achieved where existing social structures perform their functions adequately, supported by the requisite culture, norms and values. The second response called the dialectical materialism associated with Karl Marx posits that to understand society, the processes through which it produces and distributes means of its material existence and struggles should be worked on (i.e. work and reward system). A society is usually divided into two.

The dominant class does less of the work but gets much of the reward. This is seen as an exploitative relation who breeds class struggle and sometimes entails open and objective violence. From this perspective, peace may not be feasible as long as this exploitative economic relationship exist between the dominant class and the oppressed class. The imminent result is structural and revolutionary violence. From the political standpoint, peace is a political condition that makes justice possible. It entails political order or institutionalization of political structures. Institutionalization means that political structures acquire value and stability in the absence of institutionalization, there is primary of politics in that condition where every group uses its unique endowments to pursue and enforce its interest, mob riot, student's demonstration, workers strike and soldiers organize coups.

To create peace in such environment politics must be mediated by stable structures and secular culture (Faleti, 2006). However, peace can as well be seen from macro level and micro level. At macro level it describes the effort towards peace at the international, multinational or national level. While micro describes the effort towards peace at local social institutions such as schools, community centers, and hospital or religious centers within a country. Both at macro-global and micro levels there should be clarity about the terms "Peace keeping", "Peace making" and "Peace building". In the dominant of the 1992 UN Secretary-General's titled "An agenda for peace: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping" Peace building was defined as actions to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict. Macro-peace building effort centers on comprehensive rehabilitation of social, political, economic and ideological structures i.e. pro-human right orientation necessary to support and sustain both negative peace and positive peace. This is in line with the sociological structure-functionalist response. Macro-peace building initiative should build the soft infrastructure that will promote mutual understanding, trust and the diversity affirmation necessary to sustain

positive relationships among people with diverse background (Ashton, 2007).

The presence of abundant primary commodities such as valuable minerals especially in low-income countries exacerbates the risks of conflicts and if conflict does break out, the availability of the commodities tends to prolong and make conflict harder to resolve. (Collier & Hoeffler, 1998) explained that the most obvious cost of conflict could be the disruption of economic activities. This is because they drastically reduce the per capita taxable capacity of the economy since businesses are more likely to wind up because of distortions, people flee and seek refuge in other countries or end up crowded in relatively safe areas of the conflicting country.

Infrastructures are, consequently, destroyed leading to less economic growth. This concurs with the present case of northern Nigeria where the boko haram insurgency has made a lot of people flee to other parts of the country and this in turn has reduced economic activities in the northern region of the country. Supporting the above Collier (1998) rightly pointed out that conflict leads to the diversion of public expenditure away from output enhancing activities. He continued to show that the most obvious way in which conflict damages the economy is through the destruction of some resources.

Finally, in response to the deterioration in the economic environment, private agents will engage in portfolio substitution; that is, shifting their assets out of the country. According to Taeb (2004), conflicts tend to affect food security by creating food shortages, which disrupt both upstream input markets and downstream output markets, thus deterring food production, commercialization and stock management. Depending on the location of the fights in a country, crops cannot be planted, weeded or harvested, decreasing dramatically the levels of agricultural production. In conflict situations, food producing regions experience seizing or destroying of food stocks, livestock and other assets, interrupting marketed supplies of food not only in these regions but also in neighboring regions. These predatory activities diminish food availability and food access directly, because both militias and regular armies in the field tend to subsist by extorting the unarmed populations for food and any other productive resources. Any food that the militias and armies cannot use immediately in the contested areas will be destroyed to prevent their adversaries from accessing it.

Brian (2009) argued that corruption, particularly political corruption directly undermines democracy and governance by destroying the trust relationship between the people and the state. An indispensable obligation of the state is to provide the basic needs of its people and

also to ensure the safety of its citizens. When the state fails to fulfil this obligation, or provides for some groups, but not for others, or worse when the leaders are corrupt, the people effectively reclaim their right to use force (conflict) in the resolution of disputes, often with disastrous consequences, such as a rise in crime and stunted development. He concluded that political corruption causes or worsens poverty which often leads to an increase in conflict, and in turn leads to the stunting of Development. Also, he strongly argued that political corruption is the major and most pervasive causal factor and the human needs theory most relevant to resolving conflict in Africa.

Collier and Hoeffler (2000) found out that each percentage point off the growth rate of per capita income raises the risk of conflict by around one percentage point. They observed that in urban areas, conflicts are more likely to last longer and to be more deadly. Also, conflicts are more likely to arise in countries with fast growing population. They found that the level of ethnic fractionalization equally contributes to the risk of conflict. Ethnic fractionalization is measured by the ethno-linguistic fractionalization index, which measures the probability that two randomly selected individuals from a given country do not speak the same language.

Murdoch and Sandler (2002) reported that there is a new wave of empirical evidence on the effects of conflicts on neighboring countries; conflicts are not only devastating for the countries in which they are fought, but they also generate international spill over. They found that conflict substantially reduces the growth in the conflict torn country and that of its neighbor. This reduction can be attributed to multiple factors, such as the disruption to trade, heightened risk perception by investors, a reduction of input supply and resources spent on the assistance to refugees.

Stages of Conflict

Dispute stage is where there is a bitter argument, that is disagreement between parties and it does not reach a stand. Conflict situation exist but no conflict yet recognized. Polarization stage at this stage all the parties perceive to be on the right path. Bitter conflict will go on and fixed position will start to manifest. At this stage conflict is recognized. Segregation stage, at this stage the disputant have now put their position that can be compromise and are ready to fight in order to maintain their stand. Destructive stage here the disputant take steps which are usually violent in order to maintain their positions (Nathan, 2003).

Sustainable Development Goals

Economic Development

This refers to the well being of the people and the eradication of poverty.

Social Equity

This means access to basic needs such as health, education, human security and right, gender equity and access to resources across the society.

Environmental Conservation

Concern for the conservation of natural resources and minimizing impacts on physical and biological resources, WB, (2006)

Factors that Causes Conflicting in Africa: Modernization, Democratization and Colonization

Scholars have emerged with different theoretical explanations for the causes of conflict in Africa. In the face of present crises in Africa, the flaws underlying both modernization and democratization theories and the theory of colonialism are being exposed. The long held notion that modernity would result in smooth transition from authoritarian system to democratic system, with gradual elimination of conflict has failed woefully in Africa (Irobi, 2005). Again, the view that the end of colonialism (1960 onwards) – the theory that the end of social, political and economic control of the developing countries by the advanced capitalist nations, particularly the colonialists, would lead to peaceful African states did not stand, as Africa has been besieged with plethora of conflicts since the end of Colonialism.

Economic

The proponents of economic theory contend that the propensity to indulge in violent conflict is higher for low income or less educated people (Ehrlick, 1973). A corollary of this position is that poor economic conditions and low quality of life could serve as a breeding ground for conflict. However, for the fact that poor economic conditions might result from different problems be devilling Africa, economic factors could not fully explain conflicts in Africa. Political leaders often encourage individuals and groups to engage in violence conflict in order to promote and project their parochial and egocentric interests.

Militarization

Militarization has also been employed to explain the cause of conflict in Africa. The exponents of this theory argue that violent conflict in Africa could be understood in the series of military weapons that have been employed in devastating and disintegrating many developing countries, particularly in Africa. Mohammed, (1999) argues that the intensity and frequency of civil

wars in developing countries have increased unabated throughout the 1990s. Omitoogun (2004) argues that in associating militarization and conflict, caution needs to be taken because rather than the proliferation of arms in the society, it is the welfare-reducing effects of militarization that causes violence. Besides, when it is appreciated that developed countries with more sophisticated arms than Africa are not in conflict like the later, militarization as an explanation becomes weak.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity is another crucial explanatory tool to the continent's plethora of conflicts. Theorists believe that ethnicity underlies virtually all conflicts in Africa, since ethnic groups in their bid to compete for scarce resources such as property rights, jobs, education, and social amenities engage in violence. Nnoli, (1980) associated conflict to ethnic problems. Collier (1997) argues that Africa is not inherently prone to war as a result of ethnic disparities, but the continent's experiences of many wars, is fundamentally because it is poor and poverty is both the cause and consequence of Africa's wars.

Population

Population is another important factor to African conflicts. It is argued that there has been tremendous increase in the population of developing countries, which has superseded economic growth. UNODC, (2005), between 1980 and 2002, the population of Sub-Saharan Africa has grown from 383 to 689 million people, which is an increase of 80 percent. In contrast, in much of Africa, very little economic growth has occurred over the past fifty years. For example, no other region of the world more urgently needs economic growth. However, instead of the desperately needed economic growth, Sub-Saharan Africa as a region has seen a decline in per capita GDP from \$575 in 1980 to \$524 in 2003 (World Bank, 2005, Schaefer 2005). Some countries are even poorer today than they were thirty years ago. Sub-Saharan Africa has had the lowest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for decades (Marke, 2007). Supporters of this explanatory tool therefore argue that high population growth has made things difficult in developing countries, as people have to scramble for available resources, which results to conflicts.

Political Corruption

Trends of events in the past three decades reveal that political corruption is the 'root' cause of conflict in Africa. The contention here is that political corruption by sapping the economy of Africa renders the continent poor or worsens its poverty situation. And this renders most of the states in the continent incapable of providing the basic needs of the people. Burton's (1979, 1997) human

needs theory on conflict and conflict management recognizes the indispensability

of these needs, by pointing out that wherever such non-negotiable needs are not met, conflict is inevitable. Since political corruption is perpetrated by leaders entrusted with a nation's coffers, the masses normally react by engaging in violence. (Fapohunda, 2002), United Nations Human Development Report, sixty percent of Africans live in abject poverty. The problem of poverty is compounded by the issue of corruption of the state resources, 37% of Africa's assets are held abroad, the highest for any region in the world. Egbo (2002), public money siphoned overseas by corrupt political and military rulers for their personal use, the problem of poverty and breakdown among most third world countries has its root in the illegitimate and arbitrary methods of these men... the growth of the society becomes stunted'.

Consequences of Conflict:

Africa could be said to have witnessed four major types of conflicts, these include secessions, civil wars, regional conflicts, and internal crises. Secession is a situation whereby a particular region, community or enclave strives to separate or withdraw from a state's control or authority; that is an attempt to withdraw from a state's sovereignty and organize its own government and separate institutions. Biafra's dogged efforts to secede from Nigeria (1967), the notorious Katanga rebellion in Congo (now DRC 1970s), are notable examples. Usually, the seceding entities pursue autonomy, instead of formal or total independence.

Another form of conflict is civil wars (wars between government state army and the armed forces of a rebel government); these usually start as minor internal crises, but develop to fully fledged war, which are fought with conventional weapons. Although, it is extremely difficult to draw a line between civil war and regional or international wars, many civil wars have been connected with regional or inter-state conflicts. Countries in Africa, particularly those in the Horn of Africa, and for example Democratic Republic of Congo (1998-03), Somalia (1998), Sudan (since 2003), Angola (1975-02), Rwanda (1990-94), Kenya (1991/92, 1997), and others have all involved in civil wars (Wayande, 1997). Salih (1999) observes that: The states and peoples of the Horn of Africa have duly been compelled to choose between total collapse through civil wars or political survival with an uncertain future.

Conflict has destabilized most African countries; Wanyande (1997) discloses that the costs of conflicts in Africa in terms of loss of human life and property, and

the destruction of social infrastructure are enormous: Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in many of the countries in which the conflicts occur. Many others have also suffered and continue to suffer untold psychological trauma associated with conflicts... once conflicts occur, scarce resources are inevitably diverted to the purchase of military equipment at the expense of socio-economic development. The Report of the Commission for Africa also notes that conflict causes as many deaths in Africa each year as epidemic diseases and is responsible for more deaths and displacements than famine or flood. When people are forced to flee their homes, poverty associated ailments such as malnutrition and diseases follow. Those who suffer most from conflicts are the poor and vulnerable, including children and women. Statistics reveal that there are 13 million displaced people in Africa, particularly due to conflicts and 3.5 million refugees (WB, 2005). Example includes Northern Uganda (2005), Kenya (1991/92), Rwanda (1994), Nigeria (since 2014) and others. Making brief reference to the report of the commission of Africa

The costs of conflicts are horrific, and in many cases conflicts wiped out the achievements of decades of economic and social development. Armed conflicts, in particular, involve complete economic paralysis, immense social costs and trauma, political quagmire and

Results and Discussion

Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis is used to explain the strength and direction of linear relationship between two variables (Pallant, 2001). Pearson correlation was employed to

disintegration, as well as serious environmental degradation and dilapidation, the typical boko haram experience.

There are countless smaller conflicts, such as those between herdsmen and farmers, that are to be found in many parts of Africa, which are no less vicious'. Violence from these smaller conflicts also causes as many deaths in Africa as do diseases. For example, the human cost resulting from localized conflicts is devastating, since many are even sent to a 'state of limbo': Millions of lives have been lost... As a result of 'localized' conflict in Nigeria, for example, at least 10,000 people lost their lives between 1999 and 2003, and an estimated 800,000 were internally displaced. More people have been forced to flee their homes in Africa than anywhere else in the world; many ending up in the slums of already – over crowded cities and towns. Malnutrition and disease increase. And those who suffer most are the poor and the vulnerable. A Warand conflict does not only harm people. It destroys roads, bridges, farming equipments, and telecommunications, as well as water and sanitation systems. It shuts down hospitals and schools. It slows trade and economic life, sometimes to a halt. The very fabric of society is torn asunder (CA, 2005).

assess the inter relation between the study variables. Table 1 present the inter relationship between the study variables. According to Pallant (2011) a correlation of 0 indicated no relationship at all; a correlation of 1.0 show positive correlation and -1 indicate a perfect negative correlation. Cohen (1988) suggested that r between 0.10-0.29 is small, 0.30-0.49 as medium and 0.5-1.0 as large.

Table 1: Correlation Matrix

	Conflict	Sustainability	Economic Development
Conflict	1		
Sustainability	.197**	1	
Economic Development	.591**	.374**	1

Source: Generated from SPSS Version, 21

Based on the Table 1, conflict is significantly and positively correlated with economic development at one percent significant level ($r = 0.197$, $p < 0.01$), similarly, sustainability is also significantly and positively correlated with economic development at one percent significant level ($r = 0.591$, $p < 0.01$) economic development at one percent significant level.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The results of our findings indicate that, conflict significantly affect economic growth and development. Presence of conflict marred economic growth and development that is there is a positive correlation between conflict and economic growth and development. At the same time if there is an economic growth and development there is a negative correlation that is conflict is minimal. Quality education can lead to economic growth and reduce conflict.

Based on the above, the study recommends that;

- Government to introduce poverty reduction programs
- Provision of affordable qualitative and functional education system

- Government should create an enabling environment for people especially the youth to be gainfully employed or setup their own businesses.

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