CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE BUILDING IN NIGERIA: ASSESSING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS (CBOS) IN JIGAWA STATE, 2011-2021

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Abstract

The article investigates the role of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in conflict management and peacebuilding in Jigawa State, from 2011-2021. The rationale behind the study is to explore whether the participation of CBOs in complementing the role of the state has contributed to the management of conflict and sustainable peacebuilding. Using the survey research method, it was established that the participation of CBOs has played a significant role in managing conflicts and improving the level of peace in the state. The study concluded that CBOs are in an advantageous position which makes it mandatory for the government to maintain proper collaboration if sustainable peace is to be maintained. It is recommended that the peace-building process needs to be all-inclusive where every member of the community will volunteer to engage in the process.

Keywords: Conflict, Conflict Management, Peace, Peace Building, CBOs

Introduction

Over the years, Nigeria has been identified as a nation confronted with various forms of conflict. Despite several efforts by the federal government to manage the carnage and build sustainable peace across

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the country, reported cases of growing violent conflicts in some areas persist. The challenges portrayed by the continued globalizing world further compound the problem towards conflict management. The modern practice of states' security monopoly of achieving peace through military capacity and threat of force makes the challenge to assume a higher momentum (Warner, 2000) which further gives little prospect for peace, stability and security.

The growing wave of violent conflict in many communities across the country proves to be devastating; affecting the structure of the economy, collapse of state institutions, mistrust in government, destruction of social relationships, psychological trauma, persistent anxiety and damage to life and properties of unarmed civilians (Haidar, 2009). In Jigawa state, aside from communal violence, most of the reported cases of conflicts that occurred degenerate from the greener posture and agrarian nature of the state which attracts Fulani nomads from across Nigeria and neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The tension that greeted the arrival of these nomads explodes into a conflict that creates disunity, disagreements and bloodshed (Garba, 2023).

The hitherto strategy of allowing state institutions alone to have a monopoly over conflict management and build a sense of lasting peace through the resolution of disputes among warring factions is yet to yield the desired result. Warner (2008) reported that even using the methods of power politics and military intervention are becoming unattractive as they record very little success in imposing peace on those who remain committed to achieving their objectives through violence, thereby leaving many communities to live in perpetual conflict.

As the quest for sustainable peace and security lingers, non-state actors become deeply involved with many international, regional and sub-regional agencies and institutions developing their peculiar strategies (Abdulrahman & Tar, 2008) to complement the effort of the state. Part of the strategies of these institutions is the engagement of people at the local level through Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). Because these institutions are locally based, run and managed by the community, their location puts them in an advantageous position

to serve as critical stakeholders who work side by side with the state institutions to identify and address challenges (Mgawanyemba, 2008) that will see to the establishment of peace that is sustainable.

Instead of the use of force as earlier championed by the state, CBOs actors generally rely on their creativity to facilitate dialogue between the primary protagonists. They also can support changes and engage people on how to respond to conflict and direct attention to the underlying causes that need to be addressed if sustainable and just peace is to emerge (Warner, 2000). Sad enough, the activities of these CBOs are yet to be brought to ample limelight. It is on this premise that this article investigates the role played by CBOs in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding in Nigeria with the Jigawa state as the focal point of the article.

In line with the foregoing, the objectives of the study are; to find out the role played by community-based organizations in conflict management and peacebuilding in Jigawa State, to evaluate the impact of the participation of CBOs in conflict management and peacebuilding in the study area and to find out the challenges experienced by CBOs in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding in the area under study.

To achieve the aforesaid objectives, the questions that guide the study are; what role do community-based organisations play toward conflict management and peacebuilding in Jigawa state? Does the participation of CBOs in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding yields the desired result? What are the major challenges experienced by the CBOs in their continuous quest for conflict management and peacebuilding in the study area?

Conceptual Clarification

Concept of Conflict Management

The word 'conflict' carries negative connotations. It is often used to represent the opposite of cooperation and peace and is most commonly associated with violence, the threat of violence or disruptive disputes (Warner, 2000). Conflict occurs in the process of expression of interest

between individuals or groups which may lead to violence (Chechetto-Salles & Gayer, 2006) or threat of violence. Thus, when two or more groups or individuals pursue mutually incompatible goals, whether or not this results in destruction or violence, conflict can be said to occur According to Nnam (2013, cited in John-Eke & Akintokunbo, 2020), conflict management is a means of curtailing apprehension and the negative influence of conflicts through the application of several measures designed to create awareness as well promote an understanding of the conflict situation by various parties involved. While managing conflict, the process needs to understand the context of the issue that leads to the contention, prevent them from occurring and escalating, mitigate their impacts, and resolve them with sustainable solutions. What makes conflict management useful in today's world according to Chechetto-Salles and Geyer (2006) is its mechanism in preventing the conflict from getting worse, improvement in the level of cooperation between the parties involved, group motivation, and building of trust and consensus. At this point, it can therefore be argued that conflict management encompasses all the mechanisms put in place to prevent conflict from getting worst and ensure harmonious coexistence among different interest groups.

Concept of Peace Building

As a post-conflict endeavour, peace-building encapsulates the mechanisms geared towards the normalization of relationships or the creation of harmonious interactions between warring parties that were previously engaged in conflict (Nwaka, 2019). From the standpoint of Issifu (2017) peacebuilding has to do with not only the result of resolving conflict, but, it also encapsulates the entire process of creating the condition necessary to prevent its reoccurrence. In the same vein, Iman (2017) argues that peacebuilding encapsulates the processes that involve conflict resolution and the calm ending of some social conflict. He further added that, all other activities involved in the process of peace initiatives after conflicts are encapsulated into the fold of the concept of peacebuilding. As such, engagement in any activity that is geared towards preventing violent conflicts to achieve peaceful

coexistence, such activity or engagement can be said to fall under a peace-building initiative or process (Hanachor & Echezu, 2021).

From the foregoing renditions, it can be deduced that peacebuilding has to do with an intervention designed to prevent the start or resumption of conflict to create sustainable peace. In a situation where there is armed conflict, the process of resolution through mediation, followed by programmes of reconciliation and reconstruction used to form part or serve as building blocks of peace-building (Warner, 2000).

Concept of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Community-based organizations bear myriad connotations. They are in some cases referred to local organizations, community development associations, neighbourhood councils, and united communities among others (Biddle & Biddle, 1968, as cited in Abegunde, 2009). Whatever connotation they might have, Community-based organizations are considered major institutions involved in community development apart from the state and non-governmental organizations (Mgawanyemba, 2008). They play an important and relevant role in providing services at the local level and engage in a variety of different fields such as education, health, the rights of the disabled, security, gender issues, etc. (Chechetto-Salle & Geyer, 2006; World Bank, 2005).

As rightly implied by their name, CBOs according to Mgawanyemba (2008), are less structured institutions, who at a particular time, focused on a few critical areas that are considered to be important at the community level. As an organization that provides social services at the local level, CBOs are a non-profit organisation whose activities are based primarily on volunteer efforts and depend heavily on voluntary contributions for labour, material and financial support (Abegunde, 2009; Chechetto-Salle & Geyer, 2006). Because they are better placed at the local level than other state institutions, CBOs are said to be organisations that have intense participation of people and can easily adapt to changes (Mgawanyemba, 2008).

Although in some instances CBOs and NGOs are often used interchangeably, however, Abegunde (2009) noted that a distinction exists between the two. While CBOs represent a simple institution that covers a relatively small area with a local identity, NGOs cover a sophisticated and complex structure with a wider area and project. Abegunde (2009) further borrow from Agbola (1998) to re-emphasize that the rotary international qualifies as NGO but the rotary club of a community qualifies as CBO. Thus, community concern is the essence of CBO. As they are majorly identified with poor communities and constitute the main coping strategy for people deprived of government-led development (World Bank, 2005). They are known to have the ability to influence the ideas and actions of others and as a result of this, they are regarded as effective change agents (Adisa, 2001).

As a corollary to the foregoing arguments, it can be right to posit that, CBOs are localized institutions whose sphere of influence hardly goes beyond their immediate communities or neighbourhood. As local institutions, they were established with the interest of the community at heart and depend largely on their members for financial needs to execute developmental responsibilities.

At this juncture, it can equally be argued that NGOs and CBOs are not mutually exclusive. Although they may differ in nomenclature, however, in some instances, they have overlapping responsibilities in relation to different dimensions of societal progress. In other words, they strengthen the capacity of one another in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding.

The Imperatives CBOs to Conflict Management and Peace Building

Conflict management and peacebuilding require an all-encompassing cooperative strategy with local actors not as mere passive recipients but as active participants. Records from experience corroborate that the centralization of conflict management mechanisms and peace-building initiatives to state security architecture alone is yet to provide the needed result (Warner, 2000). This necessitates the adoption of a community-based approach which proves to be active in complimenting state efforts to provide survival and coping mechanisms

for conflict management and peacebuilding in areas where state structures lack the political will and capacity to safeguard the security and human rights of their population (Haidar, 2009).

Aside from the role they played in the development of conflict resolution mechanisms, CBOs are at the forefront in the engagement of the local populace to serve not as mere passive recipients, but as agents of security that will help in reducing the intensity of violent conflict and provide the basis for building peace that will be sustainable (Mgawanyemba, 2008). In times of armed conflicts, they create conducive conditions for peace talks to prevent the recurrence of violence, injustice as well as mediation, healing of war-scarred psyche and also work to ensure peace is consolidated (Warner, 2000).

Because conflicts degenerate from the local level and CBOs are locally based, run and managed by the local community, their location put them in an advantageous position to be able to identify and address local challenges than the state institutions (Mgawanyemba, 2008). Thus, adopting the community-based approach in fragile and conflict-affected societies is an effective measure necessary to transform conflicts toward sustainable peace (Haidar, 2009).

Another important strength of CBOs in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding is their capacity to support changes regarding how people respond to conflict and direct their attention to the underlying causes that need to be addressed if sustainable and just peace is to emerge. While they can facilitate dialogue between warring parties, they also have the potential to play an important role in raising awareness of the cost of continued conflicts and work to find a common ground from which they can work to establish peaceful co-existence (Warner, 2000). Thus, communities seek solace in indigenous institutions such as CBOs that undertake development programs and projects they consider as immediate needs of their communities (Adisa, 2013).

Impact of the Participation of CBOs in Conflict Management and Peace Building

Studies were conducted on the role of CBOs in conflict management and the impact of their participation in the peace-building process.

In a study by Augusty & Dizon (2020) on the role of CBOs in addressing social equity among deprived sections in the conflict-vulnerable areas in Karnataka, India, it was established that the conflict situation in the community was reduced due to the intervention of the CBOs. They promoted social change in favour of the poor, marginalized, and deprived community-based equality and social justice. In a related study by Adisa & Bamiwuye (2015) on the perceived role of CBOs in Osun State, it was discovered that the CBOs play some vital roles in the development of the community, especially in providing security.

Yahaya (2019) provides an overview of the community peace-building approach in Nigeria with the appraisal of the conflict in the North East. It was narrated that a community-based approach to peacebuilding has helped a lot in managing conflicts and the damages they caused through the active participation of the community in the process. On the part of Auwal (2014) assess the role of faith and community-based organisations in peacebuilding in Plateau State from 2001-2011, and found that as a result of the effort of the organisations, there was relative peace in the larger part of the state with cessation of violent conflict in some parts. This created a condition where people build hope and confidence in the organisations especially as it relates to promoting peace due to their holistic, participatory and all-inclusive role.

Methodology

A mixed research method was applied for this study. It is a method of research in which qualitative and quantitative techniques are mixed in conducting a particular study (Adamu, 2006). While the quantitative method provides quantifiable data through the use of a questionnaire; the qualitative method offers the study with first-hand information through interviews and Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

Jigawa state being the study area has a total population of 4,361,002 going to the 2006 population census (National Bureau for Statistics, 2007) and by 2022, it was updated to 7,499,100.

A total of 900 respondents were selected to form the sample size. This was done based on the Morgan and Kreiche (1970) criterion that a sample of 384 and above can represent a population of more than 1,000,000.

The sampling technique adopted was a multi-stage cluster sampling technique. The rationale behind its adoption is to allow for the division of the study area into clusters for easy access to the targeted respondents. A simple random sampling technique was applied to select three local governments from each of the three senatorial zones comprising Jigawa Northeast, Jigawa Northwest and Jigawa Southwest. To make the selection more scientific, the lottery method was applied where the names of the local governments in each of the three senatorial zones were written on separate pieces of paper and folded in different containers. After shuffling the containers, three local governments were picked one after the other. In Jigawa Northeast, those selected were; Guri, Kafin Hausa, and Mallam Madori local governments. From Jigawa Northwest, Gumel, Ringim and Roni local governments were picked. While from Jigawa Southwest, only Birnin Kudu, Dutse and Gwaram local governments were sampled.

To reach individual respondents in each of the selected local governments, a purposive sampling technique was applied in each of the sampled local governments. Information from this category of respondents was obtained through the use of a questionnaire that was structured in both open and close-ended formats.

In the process of selecting informants for the interview, the purposive sampling technique was also applied to select One (1) CBO from each of the Nine (9) sampled local governments across the state. Those selected were; Guri Development Association, Kafin Hausa Initiative Forum, Lautai Youth Awareness Movement, Mallam Madori Coalition for Development, Ringim Committee of Friends, Maranda Development Circle, Birnin Kudu Concerned Citizens, Community

Awareness for Unity and Development and Citizens for Social Inclusion.

For the FGDs, victims of conflicts were identified using the snowball sampling technique to listen to their views regarding the role played by CBOs in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding in the study area.

In analysing the findings from the study, the quantitative data were presented in tabular form using simple percentage distribution with interpretation and analysis of the tables. While for the qualitative data, the information generated was used to complement the findings from the quantitative data as indicated in the tables.

Presentation of Data and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Administration and Retrieval of Questionnaires

S/N	Sampled Local Governments	Questionnaires Administered	Questionnaires Retrieved	Valid Questionnaires
	Jigawa North East			
1	Guri	100	94	92
2	Kafin Hausa	100	92	91
3	Mallam Madori	100	87	87
	Jigawa North West			
1	Gumel	100	92	91
2	Ringim	100	98	96
3	Roni	100	97	95
	Jigawa South West			
1	Birnin Kudu	100	89	89
2	Dutse	100	97	95
3	Gwaram	100	99	97
	Total	**900**	**845**	**833**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 1 revealed the total number of questionnaires distributed across the sampled local governments in the state. Out of the 900 questionnaires distributed, 845 were retrieved and only 833 were considered valid for the analysis.

Table 2: Age, Gender and Marital Status of Respondents

Sex	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**	**Age**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**	**Marital Status**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
Males	665	80	18 – 30	366	44	Married	480	58
Females	168	20	31 – 40	258	31	Single	353	42
_____	_____	_____	41– 50	186	22	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	51 and above	23	3	_____	_____	_____
Total	**833**	**100**	_____	**833**	**100**	_____	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 2 shows the age, gender and marital status of respondents. Out of the total sampled respondents, 665 (80%) are from the male category, while the remaining 20 (23%) are from the female gender. This indicated that there were more male than female respondents in the study. This may be attributed to the fact that the male gender has greater experience in matters of conflict management and peacebuilding than the female gender. Concerning age distribution, the table also revealed that 366 (44%) of the respondents fall under the age category of 18-30, 258(31%) are within the age range of 31-40 while 186(22%) of the respondents are within the age category of 41-50. The remaining 23(3%) of the

respondents are in the age range of 51 years and above. This inferred that the majority of the sampled population is youth. It can also be deduced from the table that the majority of the respondent constituting 480(58%) are married while the remaining 353 (42%) are single. Perhaps, this happens because early marriage is a common practice in the study area.

Table 3: Respondent response on whether they are aware of any conflict management initiatives implemented by CBOs in their community

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	474	57
No	359	43
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The data presented in Table 3 above shows that the majority of the respondents representing 474(57%) are aware of conflict management initiatives implemented by CBOs in their community while the remaining 359 are not aware of any of the initiatives. From the data interpretation in the table, we can confidently argue that the CBOs in Jigawa state are engaged in conflict management in their various communities. This can be corroborated with a submission by an interviewee who confided that, "… at the community level, we established a forum for consultation that listen and identify conflicting issues between warring parties (Interview, 2023)". An informant in one of the FGDs further narrated that, whenever there is any form of misunderstanding that may lead to breaking down of law and order in the community, the CBOs in the locality consult the parties in the dispute to resolve the matter in contention before its degeneration (Respondents, FGDs, 2023).

Table 4: Respondent's response on the type of conflict management initiative implemented by CBOs in their community

Conflict Management Initiatives	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Community policing	42	5
Public awareness and enlightenment campaigns	156	19
Community consultative forum	223	27
Inter-community marriages	18	2
Youth empowerment and Employment opportunities	48	6
Engagement with traditional and religious institutions	42	5
No response	304	36
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 shows the various conflict management initiatives that are peculiar to the sampled respondents in the study area. 42(5%) of the respondents identified community policing as the type of conflict management initiative implemented by CBOs in their community. 156 (19%) identified public awareness and enlightenment campaigns, 223(27%) chose community consultative forums, 18(2%) are aware of inter-community marriages; youth empowerment/employment opportunities and engagement with traditional/religious institutions were identified by 48(6%) and 42(5%) of the total respondents respectively. While the remaining 304(36%) of the respondents were not able to respond to the question provided. This is an indication that the community consultative forum established by the CBOs is the most

widely acknowledged conflict management strategy in the study area. As confided by an interviewee; in almost all the communities across the state, a forum is provided for prominent personalities in the locality to remain in constant engagement with the volatile age group to prevent them from indulging in conflict or violence (Interview, 2023). An informant in one of the FGDs further narrated that; when a conflicting situation emerged we get cautioned by the stakeholders in the consultative committee (Respondents, FGD, 2023). This is in line with a consensus reached in one of the FGDs that the committee of elders otherwise known as the consultative forum is the most active and effective means of managing conflict that is known to most members in various communities across the state as it involves the elderly parents, traditional/religious leaders and other respectable personalities in the community (Respondents, FGDs, 2023).

Table 5: Respondent response on whether they are aware of any peace-building initiatives implemented by CBOs in their community

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	432	52
No	401	48
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 5 shows that 432(52%) of the respondents believe that they are aware of peace-building initiatives implemented by CBOs in their community. While the remaining 401(48%) are of the view that they are not aware of any peace-building initiatives implemented by the CBOs in their community. By indication, most of the sampled respondents are acquainted with one or more strategies implemented by the CBOs that are geared towards ensuring lasting peace in their community. As a corollary to this submission, a consensus reached in one of the FGDs provided that; "…aside from the material benefits they provide, the CBOs are peace ambassadors…they complement the effort of the state by ensuring peaceful coexistence in their immediate communities (Respondents, FGDs, 2023)"

Table 6: Respondent's response on the type of peace-building initiative implemented by CBOs in their community

Peace Building Initiatives	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Reconciliation/ Dialogue	192	23
Peace advocacy campaigns	276	33
Security patrols	54	6
Distribution of relief materials	48	6
No response	263	32
Total	**833**	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 6 above shows that 192(23%) of the respondents are of the view that they are aware of reconciliation/dialogue as the type of peace-building initiative implemented by CBOs in their community. Peace advocacy campaigns and security patrol were identified by 276(33%) and 54(6%) of the respondents respectively. Only 48(6%) subscribe to the distribution of relief materials. While the remaining 263(32%) of the respondents cannot provide the answer to the question asked. From the interpretation of the table, it can be deduced that the peace advocacy campaign is the most widely acknowledged peacebuilding initiative implemented by the CBOs across the state. The reason behind its adoption as confided by interviewees is not unconnected with the fact that the initiative demands little resources with a greater outcome (Interview, 2023). An informant in one of the FGDs further narrated that; we get educated and enlightened through various media outlets on the danger of conflict and the need to maintain peace in our community (Respondents, FGDs, 2023).

Table 7: Respondent response on whether participation of CBOs contributed to conflict management and improve the level of peace in their area

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	527	63
No	306	37
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 7 shows that 527(63%) of the respondents are of the view that participation of CBOs contributed to conflict management and improve the level of peace in their community. The remaining 306(37%) believe that the participation of CBOs has not in any way contributed to conflict management and improved the level of peace in the area. The findings from the table can be corroborated by an argument by an interviewee who opined that; "…the CBOs are peace frontiers, conflict managers and agents of societal reorientation (Interview, 2023)".

Table 8: Respondent response on the extent to which participation of CBOs in conflict management contributed to peacebuilding in their community

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Greater Extent	498	60
Lesser Extent	335	40
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 8 shows the extent to which CBO's engagement in conflict management impacted the level of peace in the area under study. While the majority of the respondents constituting 498(60%) believe that participation of CBOs in conflict management has to a greater extent improve the level of peace; the remaining 335(40%) respondents believe that participation of CBOs in conflict management has to a lesser extent contributed to peacebuilding in the area under study. This is in line with a consensus reached in one of the FGDs that with the involvement of the CBOs as agents of conflict management there is greater

improvement in the level of peace enjoyed in various communities across the state (Respondents, FGDs, 2023). This is because; they put a relentless effort into identifying a particular behaviour or action that might lead to the escalation of conflict and devise solutions to sustain the peaceful atmosphere in their community (Interview, 2023).

Table 9: Respondents' response on the challenges associated with CBOs' engagement in conflict management and peacebuilding

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Limited government support	61	7
Political interference	84	10
Inadequate funding	138	17
Lack of collaboration/support from the community	228	27
Poor organisational management/ leadership crises	90	11
Lack of proper collaboration/ support from security agencies	18	2
No response	214	26
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 9 shows the respondent's views on the challenges associated with CBOs' engagement in conflict management and peacebuilding. 61(7%) of the respondents agreed that limited government support is one of the challenges CBOs are facing in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding, 84(10%) agreed with political interference as a major challenge, 228(27%) subscribe to lack of collaboration/support from the community, while 90(11%) and 18(2%) believe that poor organisational management/leadership crises and lack of proper collaboration/support

from security agencies respectively, as the major challenge faced by CBOs in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding in the study area. Nevertheless, 214(26%) of the respondents were unable to provide the answer to the question provided. Based on the interpretation of the table, it can be argued that the major challenge experienced by CBOs in the study area can be attributed to a lack of collaboration and support from the community. This finding can be corroborated with an argument by an interviewee who opined that; although our organisation is community-based, the support and recognition we received from the people of the community is not encouraging. Rather than accepting us as advocates of societal change and development, we are viewed as affiliates of political officeholders who collaborate with politicians to advance their interests (interview, 2023). An informant in one of the FGDs further narrated that the CBOs only claimed to be part of the community. However, by their action, policies and programmes they appeared to be agents of political parties in disguise, and this creates a degree of animosity between them and the community. As such, some members of the community give little attention to most of their programmes and policies (Respondent, Interview, 2023).

Table 10: Respondents' responses on what should be done to overcome the challenges

Solutions to the Challenges	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Collaboration with traditional and religious institutions	24	3
Community sensitization and collaboration	275	33
Adequate funding	84	10
Governmental interference/support	156	19
Workshops and seminars for CBOs	60	7

Credible leadership/management	48	6
No response	186	22
Total	**833**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 10 above indicates the respondent's responses on what should be done to overcome the challenges associated with CBOs' engagement in conflict management and peacebuilding. 24(3%) of the respondents believe that collaboration with traditional and religious institutions will provide the solution to the challenges. 275(33%) of the respondents agreed with community sensitization and collaboration, 84(10%) subscribe to the provision of adequate funding, 156(19%) agreed with governmental interference/support, while 60(7%) and 48 (6%) of the respondents believe that organising workshops/seminars and credible leadership/management for the CBOs respectively, will provide the solution to the challenges that prevent most CBOs from performing their expected role. The remaining 186(22%) of the respondents were not able to provide answers to the question asked. Based on the data provided, it can be argued that to address the challenges experienced by CBOs in their quest for conflict management and building lasting peace, there is a need for robust sensitization and collaboration with the members of the community where the particular CBO belongs. As Corollary to this submission, a respondent in one of the FGDs argued that; what the CBOs need is proper community collaboration. They need to engineer an elaborate strategy that will present them to be accepted and viewed as part and parcel of the community (Respondents, FGDs, 2023).

Summary of Major Findings

Three research objectives were proposed. They are to be verified in relation to the findings of the study.

The first objective seeks to find out the role of CBOs in conflict management and peacebuilding in Jigawa state. The findings of the

study seem to substantiate that the CBOs perform their expected role in the area of conflict management and peacebuilding. This can be seen in Table 3 where the majority of respondents (57%) are aware of conflict management initiatives implemented by CBOs in their community. This objective can further be substantiated by the findings in Tables 4 and 6, where the respondents were able to identify various conflict management and peace-building initiatives as implemented by the CBOs respectively.

With regard to the second objective, the findings of the study seem to agree that the participation of CBOs in conflict management and peacebuilding has to a greater extent contributed to the management of conflict and positively impacted the peacebuilding process in the study area as can be seen in table 8.

In line with the third objective which tries to find out the challenges experienced by CBOs in their quest for conflict management and peacebuilding, the findings of the study revealed that, despite their efforts as peace ambassadors (Interview, 2023), the CBOs are faced with numerous challenges as outlined in table 9. Nevertheless, the lack of proper collaboration with the host community which limits the level of support they enjoy in most of their activities has to a certain degree, hindered them from discharging their duties as expected.

Conclusion

Conflict management and peacebuilding are a phenomenon of international concern. Although it lies under the prerogative of the state, recent development compels the state to delegate and widen the scope of its responsibility by engaging non-state actors like the CBOs to complement its efforts. Due to the challenges posed by the complex and dynamic nature of conflict coupled with the need to have an all-encompassing approach to peacebuilding that is community-oriented, the participation and engagement of CBOs have to a greater extent contributed to the management of conflict and improve the level of peace in the study area. Since most conflicts are local and the process of building sustainable peace begins from the lower echelon of the society, the CBOs are at an advantage position that makes it mandatory for the

state at all levels to maintain proper collaboration if sustainable peace is to be maintained in the society.

Recommendations

In the light of the above findings, the study recommends that;

1. Given the multifaceted nature of conflict and the prominence of CBOs based on their community-based approach to peacebuilding, there is a need to build a stronger network and all-encompassing approach to conflict management and peacebuilding that will incorporate the CBOs as active participants. This can be achieved through proper legislation and regular support from the side of relevant authorities.
2. Activities and programmes of CBOs as it relates to conflict management and peacebuilding should be regular rather than occasional events. This will make the CBOs be viewed as part and parcel of the community rather than agents of political office holders. In return, conflict management and peacebuilding will have a sense of societal ownership where every member of the community will volunteer and allow himself to be involved in the process.
3. There is also a need for greater involvement of the members of the community in the design and implementation of policies on conflict management and peacebuilding at all levels. This will provide an avenue for the members of the community to make necessary inputs at the formulation stage of the policy. This will guide in the making of conflict management and peace-building initiatives that are community oriented.

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