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Role of Adult Education in Conflict Resolution for Rural Development in Abia State

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ABSTRACT
Adult education is a systematic and self-educating activity which aims at gaining new forms of knowledge, skills, attitudes, or values, or any form of education (formal, informal or non-formal) given to adults based on their felt- social, economic, political and cultural needs to enable them adjust fully to life changes. From adult education perspective, conflict resolution is the process involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of disagreement and retribution among individuals which invariably leads to rural development. In Nigeria, a critical assessment of rural development shows a gross mismatch between the lines of ideal and reality in spite of numerous contributions of the government and support of organizations. Nigeria is yet to achieve the desired expectations as clamored by her citizens which is observably seen in high rate of poverty, insurgency, militancy and communal crisis. The paper examined the move towards the role of adult education in conflict resolution in achieving peace to cause rural development in Abia state as it concerns reshaping spaces in agriculture, economy, and education, fighting hunger, politics, security, health and social aspect of human endeavor. Last year, the world cost of violence was about $14.3 trillion. One can look forward to a more equal and sustainable world if there are more peaceful and inclusive societies. The researcher recommended among others that the government should engage adult education experts to design programmes that will enlighten people on the importance of peace and unity for rural development.

Keywords: Adult education, conflict resolution, rural development

INTRODUCTION

No peace, no agreement, no unity, no development. Nigeria as an under-developed country is not left out in the development struggle. Though there have been adoption of innovations and policies to proceed development such as technology, integration of entrepreneurial studies, Education for all, Sustainable development goals, etc but poverty, ignorance, illiteracy and social vices remain on top of the stories, not only in Nigeria but globally. Conflict in Nigeria in recent times has made headlines in Newspapers, Television news and talks, Social Media networks such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, Instagram, Imo, Vskit, Triller, Palmchat etc. Currently, no community can boast of peaceful living and co-existence among individuals, in families, clans, churches, communities, school and the

society at large. This is manifesting in the breakdown of law and order, killings, wars, destruction of lives and properties and more especially the deplorable situation of security in the country. At this juncture, adult education has become the cynosure and antidote to this problem that seems to override tranquilizers.

The role of Adult education in Conflict resolution for rural development in Abia state is an important issue that requires immediate attention as adult education is the center to societal activities and programs. This is because adult education covers variety of world's human programs designed to enlighten/sensitize, empower/enhance, update and promote the overall development of the adult and their society in general thereby contributing effectively in conflict resolution for rural development. Adult education is a vital instrument for the achievement of peace and resolve conflict in a society hence bring about community/rural development. (Onwuadi, 2018). In the 21st century, it has become associated with lifelong learning as it brings about changes in information, knowledge, understanding or skills appreciation and attitude which enables individual to become more useful to their society socially, economically, morally and politically. According to Mbalisi (2018) adult education as any educative and purposeful learning activities organized for adults to initiate them into a new way of life by providing them with relevant skills, competences, knowledge, information and attitudes required to excel in that aspect of life. Going by this definition, the role of adult education in conflict resolution for rural development is the lead as it engaged adults in reasonable information and knowledge capable of making them understand the need to resolve conflicts that can delay the development of their rural communities. Onwuadi (2018) opined that adult education is any educational programme designed for the adults irrespective of their previous educational attainment, social class or economic status to enable them earn education therefore, Adult education can be defined as any educational programs given to adults to enable them possess the requisite lifelong skills, knowledge and attitude with which to become updated empowered to adjust to societal challenges and problems thereby using it as a tool to resolving conflict and causing rural development. Various ramifications of adult education involves formal, informal and non-formal aspects of education.

The role of adult education in conflict resolution for rural development has no scope because adult education covers all educational programs designed to improve the living standards of adults and their society in general including conflict resolution. Therefore, the need arises for conflict resolution which is the art of conflict management and a way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them which is now a current issue in Nigeria. Considering the effect of underdevelopment in the society occasioned by crises emanating from the problem of Nigeria political instability, hunger in the land, unemployment, infertility in marriages, dry season in the Northern part of the country, insecurity that gave birth to the destruction of farm lands and other agricultural prowess of Abia state and the Nigerian nation, and domestic violence which is an obstacle to achieving sustainable rural development is an issue that needs urgent attention by all and sundry. The crises has adversely affected the social life of the people, the economy, health and in general giving rise to domestic violence, communal clashes, human trafficking, Yahooo crime (internet fraud) with over thousands of Nigerian youths arrested over cyber crime related matters. For instance, the operatives of the Uyo Zonal Office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in May 7, 2019 arrested four suspected internet fraudsters in Calabar, the Cross River State. (The Nation News Paper 2019).

Other problems are ritual killings, attempts for succession such as the independent people of Biafra (IPOB), high prices of commodities, kidnapping, youth suicide and insurgency. For instance, ACCORD (2019) has it that, Pallbearers carry coffins during the funeral service for people killed during clashes between cattle herders and farmers in Ibrahim Babangida Square in the Benue state capital, Makurdi, January 11, 2018. Violence between the mainly Muslim Fulani herdsmen and Christian farmers has claimed thousands of lives across Nigeria's central states over the past few decades. Heightened political tensions ahead of the 2019 elections in which President Muhammadu Buhari sought for re-election defined Nigeria's rights landscape in 2018. Despite notable military advances, and apparently premature proclamations of Boko Haram's defeat by government forces, the group remained a threat to security in the northeast region. Abductions, suicide bombings, and attacks on civilian targets by Boko Haram persisted. At least 1,200 people died and nearly 200,000 were displaced in the northeast in 2018. In June, at least 84 people were killed in double suicide bomb attacks attributed to Boko Haram at a mosque in Mubi, Adamawa State. Decades old communal conflict between nomadic herdsmen and farmers in the Middle Belt intensified in 2018 and further exacerbated the security situation in the country. At least 1,600 people were killed and another 300,000 displaced as a result of the violence. Civil society led campaigns against arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture exposed human rights abuses by security agencies, including by the Department of State Security Services (DSS) and the Police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

Adult education

In Abia state and Nigerian society, adulthood is ascribed to a person who has attained a certain age of 18 to 21 years above depending on the stipulations of the law which sometimes can be measured in terms of maturation, the socio-economic status and the opportunity to be initiated into an age grade/masquerade/puberty rites. The National Teachers Institute Distance Learning Course Book 1990:19) gave the characteristics of adults as those expected to show moral and emotional maturity with prudence, self-control, patience and tolerance. It opined that adults deserve to partake in decisions which affect their society at large, entitle to their freedom of lifestyle and accepts responsibilities for their actions and ought to participate in transmitting the benefits of culture and societal living to younger person's. The quest and motivation behind adult education in conflict resolution is often the desire to build up a healthy and prosperous community integration so as to bring development to the community. UNESCO (2019) defined Adult education as the process by which men and women in groups or institutional settings seek to improve themselves or their society by increasing their skills or knowledge or by sensitivity. The focus in this definition as regards to conflict resolution for community development is that it is a process by which individuals, groups or institutions try to help men and women improve their ways so as to bring about rural community's development through harmonious living and interactions.

Lowe as cited in Eya (2019), noted that adult education is seen by many developing countries as an instrument for promoting and regulating social change rather than for consumption thus adult education in those countries is meant to enable their citizens acquire skills and competences which they need to live and work in a modern society including the ability to resolve conflict for community development. Eya (2019), sees Adult education as a process whereby men and women undertake sequential and organized activities with the conscious intention of bringing about changes in information, knowledge or skills, appreciations and attitudes or for the purpose of identifying and satisfying personal or community needs. Nigeria Council For Adult Education (NCAE)

classified adult education as practically oriented, enormous and encompassing aimed at social change, development and making up for lost ground. A continuous process, hence it's perception as a functional literacy, remedial, continuing, vocational and other aspects of education not only meant for adults but the programs tend to favor adults more than those in its process but covers a wide range of part-time educational provisions such as vocational, civic, professional and general education.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria (2014) outlined in its educational blueprint on National policy on education section 7, the goals and objectives of literacy, adult and non-formal education to cover five main areas of functional literacy, functional education, remedial education, further education and in-service education which includes; to provide functional literacy and continuing education for adults and youths who have never had the advantage of formal education, provide functional and remedial education for those young people who prematurely dropped out of school system, provide education for different categories of completers of the educational system in order to improve their basic knowledge and skills, provide In-service on the job vocational and professional training for different categories of workers and professionals in order to improve their skills and to provide the adult citizens of the country necessary aesthetic cultural and civic education for public enlightenment. The objectives above as outlined in the National policy on education are meant to orient people positively, remedy problems, change behaviors, harmonize individuals and invariably develop the communities.

Conflict

Conflict comes from the Latin word for striking which can arise from opposing ideas of serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one. Emphasizing on perspective without looking at the effect. It is a clash of interest. The basis of conflict may vary but, it is always a part of society. Basis of conflict includes; personal, racial, class, caste, political and international but conflict in groups often follows a specific course. (United Nation 2019).

A conflict is a struggle or an opposition which is more than a mere disagreement - it is a situation in which people perceive a threat (physical, emotional, power, status.) to their well-being. (Evarts 2019). Umezulike (2003) opined that from the perspective of conflict theory by Marx 1976 that as the result of conflicted dimensions, the condition of the society is in constant change. Such change even though it is the result of continuous struggle, may be creative. The writer goes on to explain that conflict can lead to progress and can prevent stagnation of a society which is what adult education sees as paramount. Marx (1976) who is one of the best-known conflict therapists believes that there is class struggle caused by the presence of unequal distribution of reward in societies. The classes here are made up of those who have and those who do not have.

It can be said that whatever is missing in one's life is a source of conflict in the communities. On this note, Umezulike explained that this can be an analogy to rural development because community activities arise as soon as a community is capable of identifying her felt needs and refuse undesirable conditions. However, World Bank (2019) identified other conflicts as communal, inter communal and political conflicts. Communal conflict which includes the form that is perpetrated across ethnic or communal lines, the violent parties feel solidarity for their respective groups, and victims are chosen based upon group membership. It is a conflict referred to the fact that the parties use lethal violence to gain control over some disputed and perceived indivisible resource, such as a

piece of land or local political power. (Elfversson & Brosch 2019). Alongside; Inter communal relationship is a relationship which exists between two or more communities. One of the major objectives of the Government is to ensure that the Government is close to the members of the community and provide a forum where local people can defend themselves and also develop their local communities. Therefore, inter communal conflict is the term used to describe conflict that occurs between competing groups within a state. It may arise over disputes concerning access to scarce resources or political power. Though not only in Abia state, its observable that communal and intercommunal conflict exist and have been a major factor causing crises amongst people. Many count cases are on land dispute between and amongst family members, clans, communities and even nations. Marriage problems have led to violence and killings within families and communities in involved; also trafficking of one's relations in the practice of extended family system has also been a part of communal crises especially where evidences have shown untimely loss of relations for unknown reasons. Communal and inter-communal conflict have been observed to be dangerous that it claims the lives of innocent people who maybe passersby, visitors, in-laws, strangers and indigenes who are helpless and hopeless. Such conflicts may lead to violent warfare between the two or more defined communities that are involved.

Political conflict is the incompatibility between social systems with regard to the security of a population, the integrity of a territory, or the maintenance of a political, socioeconomic or cultural, and national or international order which include guerrilla warfare, insurgency, terrorism, rebellion, revolution, rioting and civil war that can be distinguished in several ways of the nature of the objectives targets of attacks; organizational structure of groups and by the repertoire of actions. There are basically social, economic, and political causes. The social causes include ethnic and religious differences as well as illiteracy and its consequences. Such political conflicts to be preserved by the activities of the Boko Haram in the North.

According to World Bank (2019) Although Boko Haram's territorial control shrank to small pockets of villages around Lake Chad as a result of sustained government military action, factions of the insurgency group continued to carry out attacks against civilians in the region. In February 2018, insurgents abducted 110 schoolgirls from Dapchi, Yobe State, in a style reminiscent of the 2014 abduction of 276 Chibok school girls. One hundred and four of the Dapchi girls were released two weeks later after negotiations with the government. Five of the remaining girls reportedly died in captivity and one girl, Leah Sharibu, continues to be held hostage allegedly for refusing to deny her Christian faith. About 100 of the Chibok schoolgirls remain unaccounted for. In September and October, Boko Haram insurgents executed Saifura Ahmed and Hauwa Liman, both aid workers with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The group kidnapped them in March. In June, twin suicide bomb attacks and grenade explosions by suspected Boko Haram fighters killed 31 people and injured 48 others during Muslim religious celebrations in Damboa, Borno State.

The attack occurred in the wake of Chief of Army Staff Tukur Buratai's speech encouraging displaced people to return to their communities. Over 35,000 internally displaced people returned to northeast communities despite security concerns and lack of basic necessities, including food and shelter. Within two months of the return of 25,000 people to Gudumbali Borno State in July, suspected members of Boko Haram's Islamic State's West Africa franchise killed eight people and temporarily took control of the town. Between

October 2017 and July 2018, authorities conducted three rounds of trials of over 1,500 Boko Haram suspects in a military base in Kainji Niger State. Some defendants had been in detention since 2009 and the majority faced charges of material and non-violent support to Boko Haram. The trials were fraught with irregularities, including lack of interpreters, inadequate legal defense, lack of prosecutable evidence or witnesses and non-participation of victims. In August, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo dismissed DSS Director General Lawal Daura for the unauthorized sealing of the National Assembly. The National Human Rights Commission reported that under Daura's three-year leadership, the agency repeatedly violated rights, including carrying out unlawful arrests, prolonged detention without trial, and torture of detainees. Osinbajo took the action while he was acting president. Despite court orders, the DSS refused to release a former national security adviser, Sambo Dasuki, as well as the Shia Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) leader, Sheik Ibrahim El Zakzaky and his wife, Ibraheemat, all of whom have been in detention pending trial since 2015. Police continued their crackdown on protests by members of the Shia IMN and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) separatist group with arrests and detention. In April, 115 Shia IMN members were arrested in Abuja during a protest for the release of their leader Sheik Zazaky and his wife. Soldiers killed at least 42 more in Abuja during similar protests in October 2018.

On August 17, 112 women were arrested and prosecuted in Owerri, Imo State, for protesting the disappearance of IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kanu. They were discharged and released by a court six days later. A December 2017 social media campaign against human rights abuses by SARS, including extortion, illegal arrests, torture, and extra-judicial killing continued in 2018. In June, a typical reprisal attack began after farmers allegedly killed five herdsmen for allegedly trespassing on farms in Plateau state. In apparent retaliation, herdsmen attacked villages in the area, killing 86 and injuring hundreds, including women and children. In September, suspected herdsmen killed 51 people and abducted about 24 others in Numan, Adamawa State.

In Abia state, there are records of classes that destroyed lives and property. Okoli (2018), a bloody communal clash between the people of Isu clan in Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State and their neighbours from Utuma in Biase Local Government Area of Cross River State claimed 10 lives and scores of houses set ablaze. The bloody clash left the Abia community deserted as the people fled the community. Ikokwu (2019) opined that an indigene of Isu, a community in the Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State, identified as Okoro Ukwaa was murdered on his farm in a fresh communal clash between the community and Utuma in Biasa Local Government Area of Cross River State which started on April 18, 2018, over a disputed portion of land with large deposits of limestone. Adefaye (2011) stated that one person died at Omaegwu Ehume autonomous community in Umuahia South Local Government Area of Abia State, following a communal clash in the community due to a lingering chieftaincy dispute as houses, cars and other valuable property were burnt during the crisis when youths in the community attacked the home of Chief Chikara Ugorji, an alleged contender to the Ezeship of the community being occupied by Eze Chukwudozie Nelson Nwosu. A youth from the community, identified as Sopuluchi Nzeadighibe, was killed of gunshot wounds fired by Ugorji when the youths invaded his compound and broke into his house to attack him. Ugorji's house and shop were set ablaze by the mob. They also destroyed two vehicles, a Nissan Pathfinder marked EP 546 LND and a Mercedes Benz car with registration number DH 133 AAA, belonging to Ugorji. In Ogundipe (2018), hundreds of women and children were displaced by a violence which broke out in Urugbam, Egbor, Ipene, and Abanwan, four of the 10 communities that

make up Erei clan, which predominantly occupies the southwestern tip of Cross River near the border with Abia State as a result of sale of a parcel of land, used to cultivate palm fruits since 1973 which belonged to Urugbam and Egbor communities, but was leased out by the Egbor community to African Stone Works Ltd., allegedly without the consent of the Urugbam and other communities that have been a part of the cultivation for over 45 years. The clash between herdsmen and farmers in Ozuitem community in Bende LGA, Abia state destroyed property. (Sideshare 2017). According to (Whistle Times 2018), three persons died in a communal clash between, Isu Arochukwu LGA, Abia state and Utuma in Odukpani, Cross River State.

Causes of conflict

In Abia state there are many causes of conflict that gave rise to the states under development. According to World Bank (2019), factors responsible to conflict in Abia state include, poverty, unemployment, injustice, favouritism, corruption, tribalism, resource control, marginalization, frustration, stress and burnout. Others are poor communication, lack of compromise, need not met, prejudice, intolerance, self-interest, ignorance, desire for power, making assumptions and lack of emparthy and the worse of all illiteracy.

It opined that poverty occasioned by the inability of individuals tap from the ingenuity of the state to be productive. For instance, Abia produces cocoa, rice, all kinds of lather, garment and metal fabrication, yet people refuse to go enterprise. Unemployed youths roam the streets as injustice and not meeting the people's need encourage them to make assumptions capable of tarnishing someone's image. A case at hand is the recent fallacy against the Abia State Governor, Dr. Ikpeazu who was said to have ran made and died. The increasing rate of tribalism and desire for power and lack of empathy cause crises in Abia state as people fight for resource control without restrictions and limitations. Corruption, self-interests, ignorance, and lack of compromise have sent many to their early graves while living people in poverty as property were destroyed as a result of crises emanating from the issues.

Effects of conflicts

The effect of conflict to rural development according to (Brussel 2019) can adversely affect agriculture in several ways. Macro-level studies emphasize the impact of conflict on growth. For example, the nine-year Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast region of Nigeria and the long spells of drought in the extreme north, have made fewer areas available for grazing, pushing the pastoral Fulani people southward in search of greener pasture and freshwater. Eleven states in the north, which account for about 35 percent of Nigeria's total land area, are grappling with dry seasons, deforestation and inappropriate agriculture. Brussels-based International Crisis Group (2018) opined that more than 1,300 died in the first half of the year 2018 due to the herdsmen and farmers conflict, claiming six times more lives than the brutal Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, which has displaced more than 2.1 million people in the country. The violence between herders and farmers has displaced at least 300,000 within the period under review, which is now the West African nation's biggest security threat.

At the Gbajimba camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in central Nigeria's Benue state, thousands of women and men stood in a queue to receive food aid from the International Committee of the Red Cross. Benue state has seen far more fighting since a controversial law banning open grazing was implemented in November 2017, forcing herdsmen to move their livestock to neighboring states. Taraba and Ekiti states have similar laws, and more states are considering the same options following the seeming

inability of the central government to address the bloody tussle. The negative effect of conflict often leads to forced migration, long-term refugee problems, and the destruction of infrastructure, socio-political and economic institutions can be permanently damaged. In Abia state, some identified conflict are domestic violence, communal clashes, kidnappings, human trafficking, insurgency, ritual killings, high cost of commodities and attempt for succession.

Bisno (2019) opined that causes of conflict are poor communication between employees in the workplace, misunderstandings, lack of planning, poor staff selection, frustration, stress and change in technology while Gosne (2018) suggested that signs of conflict are dysfunctional meetings, anger, productivity slowdown, high turn-over, loss of trust, anxiety, clique forming and repetitive agreements. Though the above areas are mentioned but it affects development of all parts of Nigeria.

The Benue state government estimates that some 102,000 children are out of school due to the conflict. For a country with about 10.5 million children out of school, the highest in the world, allowing more children to be deprived of education could be disastrous. In Plateau state, where these clashes have reportedly begun since 2002, officials say at least 750, 000 children are unable to attend school citing looming threat to security as a major factor. As of March (2018), the Benue State Emergency Management Agency reported that 175,070 internally displaced persons are housed in nine camps across the state. Of this number, 80,450 children are Ternege whose classrooms are being used as camps since the violence escalated. With 1,300 dead, the clash between farmers and semi-nomadic herdsmen mainly from the Fulani ethnic group, have displaced tens of thousands and schools have turned into migrant camps. The oil spilage in the southan part of the country destroyed economic lands of the people causes untold hardship. Not quite long that the social media exposed were cattle invaded classrooms in Delta state, chasing school children and injured some making the security of lives and property unsafe. This shows that there is no development without peace.

In recent times in the Eastern part of Nigeria including Abia state, it is no longer news that cattle rearers attack communities in their farm lands thereby destroying their economic trees and prowels. These often leads to fighting and killing of innocent citizens. The case of Arochukwu in Abia state killing people and injured many while many livestock were destroyed thereby causing he hardship as a result of inflation, high cost of commodities as some now sleep with one eye open for fear of being killed. Ministry of information, Abia state (2018). According to Eric of Vanguard Newspaper (2019), a suspected cattle rearer in Aba attacked a middle-aged woman and cut her four fingers as the woman was trying to stop cattle that invaded her shop not to destroy her goods at number 10 People's road Ikot-Ekpene road, Ogbor hill Aba. The lady is still in the hospital even though some government top functionaries and NGO's including the wife of the Abia state government, Deaconess Nkechi Ikpeazu who gave her some relief materials. This act has led to abandoning of family responsibilities as a wife, mother, community members and personal needs. Invariably, the absence of the woman in the home can lead to poverty, mischievousness on the part of the abandoned children, extra marital affair when the husband is sexually starved, decaying of un-harvested crops in the farms and finally death.

Rural Development

A rural area or countryside is a geographic area that is located outside towns and cities with a population size of human settlements - towns, villages etc. Official definitions often

refer to settlements with less than 5000 people as being rural, whilst those with more than 5000 are considered urban. However, this threshold varies from one country to another, due in part to differences in the overall population density. UNESCO (2019) defined rural area as an open swath of land that has few homes or other buildings, and not very many people. It's population density is very low and their homes and businesses are located very close to one another. For instance is the case of Ekeakpara, Osisioma local government area of Abia state were the people witness the influx of people only during festive periods and the case of Alaska, Texas, California, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, and Oregon all in the United States of America with the largest amount of land area classified as rural by America. It is estimated that 76 percent of the developing world's poor live in rural areas, well above the overall population share living in rural areas, which is only 58 percent.

Umezulike (2019), the concept of development in reality implies a change from abject poverty and need to satisfaction and fulfillment in provision of human centered development that connotes the overall social and economic progress among the people. Developments include access to good things of life and provision of those services that promote better living. This can be seen as systematic manifestation of characteristics which enable the individual to function at a progressively higher level. It leads to understanding good living condition, critical thinking, healthy lifestyle etc.

Development is the transformation of a people socially, economically, religiously, politically and otherwise which enables to them participate and enjoy economic and social well-being as their counterparts. It is the process of developing or being developed. According to UNESCO (2019) within their given environment Economic development is the process by which a nation improves the economic, political, and social well-being of its people. Anyanwu (Ed)(2019), development is the aim, the design, the hope, the dream, and the ultimate objective of nations and governments. He also argued that the core of any definition of development, there must be the presence of the concept of modernization which connotes higher levels of production and consumption goods and services. According to United Nation (1981), two words, rural and development when put together will bring about the phrase rural development which is a process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas, often relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Rural development has traditionally centered on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry.

Rural development is a process by which the effects of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities to integrate those communities into the life of the nation and to enable them contribute fully to traditional progress. Ugwu, (2019). It surpasses to say that the meaning of rural development is encompassing with wide range activities to include all change strategies necessary for the enhancement of the living standard of the rural dwellers which the act or process of positively changing the lives of a people living in the hinterlands or the grassroots through the provision of social amenities such as clean water, security, education, good health and fighting hunger and humanity. It is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas, often relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. According to Nwokocha (2019), rural development is an all-embracing phenomenon and nebulous concept that has defied a consensus definition. It involves a wide spectrum of activities ranging from agricultural, health, housing and home economics to other conscious efforts towards the establishment

of cooperatives, rural industries, public amenities and recreational facilities all of which seek the improvement of living condition within the rural communities concerned.

Conflict Resolution

Conflict Resolution no doubt is the method and process involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict and retribution among rural dwellers who are made up of a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristics, common or having the same attitude or interest. (Alpher, Temesgen etal 2019). Writers opined that there are good reasons for negotiation which include, to understand people's ideas, beliefs, and backgrounds, ensure that the relationships with opponents continue and grow and to find peaceful solutions to difficult situations. Conflict resolution is a way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them. The disagreement may be personal, financial, political, or emotional. AMA (2019), adding that when a dispute arises, the best course of action is negotiation to resolve the disagreement.

Naggy (2019) identified goals of negotiation to providing solutions all parties can agree to work as quickly as possible to find solution to improve, not hurt, the relationship between the groups in resolving conflict through negotiation. According to writers, some conflict resolution skills are ability to manage stress quickly while remaining alert and calm, control emotions and behavior, pay attention to the feelings being expressed as well as the spoken words of others, respect differences and get involve with any of the participatory strategies of either passive, consultation, collaboration or empowerment participation depending on investigation. It can be interred that steps to resolving conflict are clarify what the disagreement is, establish a common goal for both parties, discuss ways to meet the common goal, agree on the best way to the conflict as suggested by parties, set ground rules having in mind of destructive conflict, stop conflict when it happens, get the whole story, meet for resolution, discuss both sides of a perspective and make compromise a goal. The American Management Association (2019) cited other steps for resolving conflict as identifying the source of the conflict, look beyond the incident, request solutions, identify solutions both disputants can support and agreement that mediator needs to get the two parties to shake hands and agree to one of the alternatives identified.

Role of adult education in conflict resolution to cause rural development

Adult Educators through their flexible and wide range of experience design programs to meet people in different places, churches, mosque, town unions, market square, and hospitals where people are spoken to through their dialects. Adult education through its forms of education can cause a change in communities and making peace among the dwellers. Some of such are the prison education that is designed to help inmates employable and improve their skills while reducing stigmatization. The traditional birth attendant education is used to reach out to traditional midwives by skilled health personnel to check maternal child mortality in rural communities, the In-service Training form of adult education brings peace and fill the gap between professionals on the job and their skills as it is aimed at developing their skills and for upgrades. The nomadic education that is characterized by the absence of fixed domicile including, pastoralists (herdsmen), hunters (foragers) and good gatherers who wonder about in search of games, edible plants and water. Others are the community development Education which promotes learning and social development work with individuals using a range of formal and informal methods to build communities based on justice, equity and mutual respect. It is involved with changing the relationship between ordinary people and people in positions of power so that everyone can take part in issues that affect their peace and

tranquility. The vocational adult education prepare people to work as technicians or in various jobs such as trade and craft fighting unemployment and bringing peace. Peace education as an aspect of adult education helps in acquiring values, knowledge, developing attitude, skills and behavior. Adult Education provides such education to prevent conflict, resolve conflict peacefully and create social condition conducive environment for peace and unity of the country.

In rural development, people are taught how to revolt existing bad conditions and the perpetrations by being involved in improving their own economic and social conditions. Ideally, rural development aims at developing a stable, responsive, self-reliant citizenry capable of mobilizing their local resources in order to satisfy their own needs thereby attaining a decent and wholesome life. Adult education promotes a democratic society that needs self-reliant citizens who are always willing to make personal sacrifices for the general good of the society.in this regard, rural development is a process of increasing people's satisfaction through the provision of adult education by helping them to satisfy their existing wants or learn new wants and ways of satisfying them or to make more satisfying choices widening ranges of possible alternatives. Human beings are the initiators of development, it is increasingly realized that capital, technology, unity of the country, etc are inert without knowledge and effort. These assertions are buttressed by experience on the Nigerian scene, where infrastructures provided in rural areas through the costly effort of government and some based development agencies are being vandalized by the very people whom they are meant to sieve.

Observably, the existing conflicts have led to destruction of human lives, displacement of human settlements, destruction of live stocks, farm crops, etc which have been such difficulties for citizens. The woeful condition of things is a clear pointer to the soundness of the human centered approach to rural development which adult education upholds. Once enlightened and conscientized, the communities will display the appreciation of the benefits of living in harmony, co-operation, multi-ethnicity, tolerance and respect for one another. Human centered rural development by the means of conflict resolution requires the use of professionals from different fields to sensitize and upgrade the skills of rural dwellers. The presence of ignorance and low mentality in rural dwellers has to be fought through appropriate professionals in functional literacy, extension, education whether in the area of agriculture or healthy living, media experts, community leaders and other facilitators to fight against hate speeches, upholding rumours, misinterpretations of news, poverty, and misconceptions. Adult education with the sole aim of developing mankind and his environment adopts andragogical rather than pedagogical education approach which centres on the adults who are the cause-agent of conflict. Conscientization, creation of awareness, sensitization, rural animation and group learning have been identified as appropriate to improving the attitudes, values, skills and perspectives of rural dwellers. Furthermore, adult educators change people's mindsets and attitude by using good professional communication qualities to address people's emotional attachment to what they believe in and let people take responsibility for their thoughts and actions.

Again, adult educators can use their friendliness and good approach to keep people moving forward without remembering hurts. Then their strong work ethics and ability to build communities have helped in the area of people figuring out what exactly needs to be changed and change the way people look at situations that most times trigger crises in communities.

The importance of conflict resolution for rural development in Abia state, Nigeria and around the globe can never be over-emphasized especially in the area of education, skills acquisition, health, agriculture and socio-economic empowerment, security and inter-state marriages and inter-ethnic marriage amongst others. It is argued that conflict resolution will improve the standard of living of Abia state population through sustainable development strategies, work for food security and poverty alleviation among the population through the provision of agricultural and rural development programs, it will end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture as well as increase investment, through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, plant and livestock gene banks, make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning. However, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is at the centre of sustainable rural development which is vital to the economic, social and environmental viability of nations that is essential for poverty eradication since global poverty is overwhelmingly rural.

The manifestation of poverty goes beyond the urban-rural divide, it has sub regional and regional contexts. It is therefore critical, and there is great value to be gained, by coordinating rural development initiatives that contribute to sustainable livelihoods through efforts at the global, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate. Strategies to deal with rural development should take into consideration the remoteness and potentials in rural areas and provide targeted differentiated approaches. This is because Umezulike (2019) opined that a healthy and dynamic agricultural sector is an important foundation for rural development, generating strong linkages to other economic sectors. Rural livelihoods are enhanced through effective participation of rural people and rural communities in the management of their own social, economic and environmental objectives by empowering people in rural areas, particularly women and youths through organizations such as local cooperatives, close economic integration of rural areas with neighbouring urban areas and the creation of rural off-farm employment can narrow rural-urban disparities, expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people

UNESCO (2019) opined that the role of adult education in conflict resolution for rural development is enormous and they include, help to understand the conflict, to communicate with the opposition, to brainstorm possible resolutions, to choose the best resolution and help in using a third part mediator. It also help to explore alternatives and to cope with stressful situations and pressure tactics.

However, adult education create climate for development as a service provider by planning all negotiable with the two parties involved in a conflict and settling the issues, help in reaching mutual agreement with the parties involved in conflict and they cultivate friendly and trustful relationship with both parties that brought about peace that invariably lead to community development.

CONCLUSION

In handling conflict resolution for rural development in Abia state, Nigeria society and the world in general, the best way is the solution that is best for both sides (the injured and the opposition) which can only be achieved through adult education without killing

innocent individuals/citizens while adult educators and other experts should take up their position in the rural areas and the country in general.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Government must make hast to involve experts in tackling the problem of climate change resulting to long spells of draught in extreme Northern side of the country for grazing. This will go a long way in in reducing the problem of pastoral Fulani's migrating to other cultures in search of greener pastures.
2. There should be a well-established law against open grazing using conscientization of Paulo Freire. This will encourage open-mindedness, help avoid the tendency towards group think and serve as a catalyst and help build self-esteem
3. The federal government should place a monthly salary for those involved in inter-ethnic marriages which is a powerful tool in conflict resolution.
4. Government should create a ministry of conflict resolution were adult educators/facilitators will be engaged to use their skills and expertise to accomplish goals and strengthening relationships. This is because conflict resolution is an important life skill which is inevitable part of life as people don't always get along and agree.

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