The Paradox of a World Aspiring for Peace Amidst Pervasive Conflicts

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the paradoxical nature of our global society, where aspirations for peace coexist with persistent conflicts. The analysis delves into the complex interplay of geopolitical, socio-economic, and cultural factors that contribute to this apparent contradiction. The study employed a mixed paradigm and descriptive survey design that sampled Institutions of higher learning, Government ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations and interviewed university lecturers, university students and NGO members. Data was obtained from respondents by means of interviews, questionnaires and project observation schedules. The sample consisted of two hundred respondents. Frequency, percentages, tables, graphs and pie-charts were used to analyze the quantitative and qualitative data obtained. Data was then analyzed manually in some cases and also, a combination of software MS Access and MS Excel. The findings revealed that despite the collective human desire for peace, the world continues to grapple with deep-rooted conflicts at various levels – from regional disputes to ideological clashes and this paradox highlights the challenges inherent in achieving a harmonious and conflict-free world and the study recommended that achieving global peace requires persistent effort, cooperation, and a commitment from individuals, communities, and nations around the world.

Keywords: Amidst, Aspiring, Paradox, Peace, and Pervasive Conflict.

INTRODUCTION

The prevailing global discourse on peace and the quest for a humanitarian world has been shaped by various factors and challenges. It's important to note that International efforts have been focused on resolving ongoing conflicts and preventing the outbreak of new ones. Organizations like the United Nations (UN) play a crucial role in peacekeeping missions and conflict resolution. Also, there is a growing recognition of the interconnectedness between peace and development. Humanitarian organizations work to provide aid in conflict zones and support sustainable development to address the root causes of conflicts (Hogan, 2000). On the other hand, the global discourse has expanded to include the impact of climate change on peace and security. Environmental degradation and resource scarcity can contribute to conflicts, and addressing these issues is seen as part of building a more stable world. In addition, the promotion and protection of human rights are central to the quest for a humanitarian world. Advocacy for social justice, equality, and inclusivity are key components of global efforts to create a more peaceful and humane world. Nevertheless, events like the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the need for global cooperation in addressing health challenges. Ensuring access to healthcare, vaccines, and addressing health disparities contribute to a more secure and humanitarian world (William,2009).

The role of technology in peace building and humanitarian efforts has become increasingly important. From using data for conflict analysis to leveraging digital tools for aid delivery, technology plays a significant role in shaping the discourse on peace. The importance of multilateralism in international relations is emphasized, with nations working together through diplomatic channels to address global challenges. Treaties and agreements on disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control are part of this effort. Education for peace are "two sides of the same coin" and at world level, there is a recognition of the role of education in promoting a culture of peace. Education programs that foster tolerance, understanding, and respect for diversity contribute to long-term peace building (Nkrumah,1965). Also, there is an increasing emphasis on involving youth in peace building efforts. Recognizing the potential of young people as agents of change, initiatives focus on empowering youth and providing them with opportunities for active participation in building a more peaceful world. Further, the global community is working on improving crisis response mechanisms and preparedness to address natural disasters, conflicts, and other emergencies promptly.

It is important as well to highlight the prevalence of conflicts despite the ongoing global discourse on peace, conflicts and violence persist in various parts of the world. The prevalence of conflicts can be attributed to several factors which include among others: political instability **as m**any regions experience political instability due to factors such as corruption, weak governance, and power struggles (Crumley,2009). These issues create an environment conducive to conflict as different groups vie for control. Disparities in wealth and resources often contribute to social unrest and conflict. When certain groups or individuals feel marginalized or deprived, it can lead to tensions and violence. Also, differences in ethnicity, religion, or culture can be a source of conflict. When these differences are not addressed through inclusive policies and dialogue, they can escalate into violent confrontations. Further, competition for scarce resources, such as water, land, and natural resources, can escalate into conflicts. Climate change can exacerbate these challenges, leading to increased competition for diminishing resources (VanBalleyooij,2019) The other factor is the rise of nationalism and identity politics in various parts of the world can contribute to conflicts. When political leaders exploit these sentiments for their gain, it can lead to divisions and violence.

Historical grievances are as well a factor for global instability. Lingering historical grievances and unresolved conflicts from the past can continue to fuel present-day tensions. In some cases, longstanding disputes over territory or sovereignty remain unresolved, contributing to ongoing conflicts. Arms proliferation contribute to instability as the availability of weapons and arms trade on a global scale can facilitate and intensify conflicts. Easy access to weapons makes it easier for groups to resort to violence as a means of achieving their objectives (Das,2011). Nevertheless, despite diplomatic efforts, negotiations to resolve conflicts may fail due to a lack of commitment from involved parties, unwillingness to compromise, or external interference. Regional and global power dynamics contribute to global conflicts as the competition for influence among major powers can indirectly contribute to conflicts in various regions. Proxy wars and geopolitical rivalries can escalate tensions and contribute to the perpetuation of conflicts. The world may also face security dilemma **as c**ountries and groups may engage in an arms race or adopt aggressive postures out of fear of potential threats and this security dilemma can lead to a cycle of escalation and conflict. Nonetheless, while the global discourse on peace is ongoing, addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting inclusive governance, and fostering diplomatic solutions are essential to making significant progress in reducing and preventing violence on a global scale (Hugh,2011).

The present the central question we may ask ourselves is: Why, in a world that values peace, do we continue to witness wars and unrest? Nevertheless, the persistence of wars and unrest despite the widespread value placed on peace can be attributed to a complex interplay of political, social, economic, and cultural factors. Several reasons why conflicts continue to arise include political factors which include power struggles as nations and groups may compete for power and influence, leading to conflicts (Tarling,2003). Also, political

instability is another reason on political factor why conflicts continue globally because weak governance or power vacuums can create an environment conducive to conflict. Others are economic factors such as resource competition **since s**carce resources such as oil, water, and land can trigger conflicts and also, economic inequality is another factor as disparities in wealth and resources within a society can lead to social unrest. Social factors that excercebate global conflicts are ethnic and religious tensions since differences in ethnicity, religion, or culture can contribute to social divisions and conflicts. Injustice and discrimination **is** another social factor since perceived or real injustices can fuel social unrest and lead to conflicts. Historical grievances include unresolved historical issues and lingering historical grievances and unresolved conflicts can contribute to ongoing tensions (Karsh,2006).

Others are international relations as a result of geopolitical rivalries and global power dynamics and geopolitical interests can lead to conflicts between nations. Arms trade fuel conflicts as the arms industry perpetuate conflicts by providing weapons to warring parties. Human Nature due to aggression and competition **as** that aspects of human nature, such as aggression and competition, contribute to conflicts. Communication and misunderstanding bring about conflicts due to poor communication as miscommunication or the lack of effective communication can escalate tensions (Das,2011). Lack of conflict resolution mechanisms is another reason and this comes about as a result of inadequate diplomacy **since i**nsufficient diplomatic efforts or a lack of effective conflict resolution mechanisms can hinder peaceful solutions. There is fear and Insecurity among nations and fear of the "Other" as well as perceived threats from other groups or nations can contribute to a cycle of fear and aggression. Further, global systemic issues such as climate change since environmental issues can exacerbate resource scarcity and contribute to conflicts. Also, pandemics such as global health crises can strain resources and contribute to social and political instability (Burbank,2010). Nevertheless, addressing these complex issues requires a multifaceted approach that involves diplomacy, conflict resolution, addressing root causes, promoting economic development, and fostering a culture of peace. International cooperation and a commitment to resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding are essential components of building a more peaceful world.

The League of Nations and the United Nations are two international organizations that were created with the primary goal of preventing and resolving global conflicts. However, they operated in different historical contexts and faced unique challenges. A brief comparison of the two are that the League of Nations was established in 1920 after World War I and its creation was part of the Treaty of Versailles, with the aim of preventing future wars through collective security. On membership, the League's membership was initially limited, and major powers like the United States did not join but without the participation of key nations, the League's effectiveness was compromised. As regards the structure, the League had an Assembly and a Council where decisions were made (Bessel, Nicholas and Jane,2020). The Council had both permanent and non-permanent members, but key decisions required unanimity among permanent members. On effectiveness, the League struggled to enforce its decisions, and member states often pursued their interests without facing significant consequences. However, the League's failure to prevent the outbreak of World War II in 1939 highlighted its limitations.

On the other hand, the United Nations was established in 1945 after World War II and it was created with the awareness of the League's shortcomings and aimed to improve upon them. As regards membership, the UN has a more extensive membership, including major powers like the United States, China, Russia, and others and the Security Council, a key decision-making body, has five permanent members who are the sovereign states to whom the UN Charter of 1945 grants a permanent seat on the UN Security (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) with veto power (Hogan,2000). On the structure, the UN has a more robust structure, with specialized agencies and programs addressing various global issues. The Security Council is central to conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts. As regards effectiveness, the UN has been more successful than the League in certain aspects, particularly in

peacekeeping missions. However, the effectiveness of the UN is still debated, as it has faced challenges in cases where major powers have conflicting interests.

Key Differences between the League of Nations and the United Nations include among others membership and power dynamics. The inclusion of major powers in the UN, particularly through the Security Council, has given it more influence and legitimacy compared to the League of Nations. Enforcement mechanisms, the UN has had more success in deploying peacekeeping forces and implementing sanctions to address conflicts. The League faced difficulties in enforcing its decisions. On post-World War II Context, the UN was created with the lessons learned from the League's failures, and it operates in a different geopolitical landscape shaped by the aftermath of World War II. While both the League of Nations and the United Nations aimed to prevent global conflicts, the UN has had a more significant impact due to its broader membership, more robust structure, and improved mechanisms for conflict resolution. However, challenges persist, and the effectiveness of the UN remains a subject of ongoing evaluation (Delmas and Nigel,2011).

On the role of United Nations in global peace and security the United Nations (UN) plays a crucial role in maintaining global peace and security. Its role is outlined in the UN Charter, which was adopted in 1945. Some key aspects of the UN's role in global peace and security include prevention of conflict and the UN is committed to preventing the outbreak of armed conflicts between nations. It encourages dialogue and diplomacy to resolve disputes and conflicts before they escalate. Peacekeeping Operations is another role and is one of the most visible aspects of the UN's peace and security efforts is its deployment of peacekeeping forces to areas of conflict(Vansina,2010). These forces are sent to help maintain or restore peace in post-conflict areas, and they often include military, police, and civilian personnel. The UN serves as a platform for diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts. It facilitates negotiations and mediations between conflicting parties, aiming to find peaceful and sustainable solutions and also, works to promote international cooperation in arms control and disarmament. It seeks to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms, contributing to global stability. In conflict zones, the UN coordinates humanitarian aid efforts to provide assistance to those affected by violence (Short,2012). This includes delivering food, water, medical aid, and other essential services to civilians in need. In addition, the UN Security Council has the authority to impose sanctions on countries that pose a threat to international peace and security. Sanctions can include economic restrictions, arms embargoes, and travel bans.

The UN promotes and protects human rights as a fundamental aspect of global peace and security. It works to prevent and address human rights abuses and atrocities that can be precursors to conflicts. The UN also, promotes the rule of law at the international level. It has institutions such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that adjudicate legal disputes between states, contributing to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Furthermore, the UN recognizes that sustainable development is closely linked to peace and security. By addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation, the UN aims to create conditions that foster long-term global stability(Price,2008). The UN works to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons through treaties and agreements, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Moreover, the UN's role in global peace and security is multifaceted, involving diplomatic efforts, conflict prevention, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian aid, and the promotion of international law and human rights. While the UN faces challenges and limitations, it remains a central actor in addressing and mitigating global conflicts.

The creation of a truly humanitarian world is a complex and ongoing challenge that involves addressing social, economic, political, and environmental issues on a global scale. While it's difficult to predict the future with certainty, there are both optimistic and pessimistic perspectives on the possibility of achieving a more humanitarian world. On the positive side, there have been significant advancements in human rights, poverty reduction, healthcare, and education over the years. Many individuals, organizations, and governments are working towards creating a more just and equitable world. Advances in technology and

communication have also facilitated global awareness and collaboration on humanitarian issues. However, there are also persistent challenges such as inequality, conflict, environmental degradation, and political instability that continue to impede progress (Reinhard and Kate). Achieving a truly humanitarian world requires coordinated efforts from governments, international organizations, businesses, and individuals. Ultimately, the future of humanity's progress towards a more humanitarian world depends on the choices and actions taken by people and societies around the globe. It requires a collective commitment to values such as empathy, compassion, and justice, as well as concrete actions to address the root causes of suffering and injustice.

Statement of the Problem

Conflict is inevitable and occurs from place to place and individual to individual due to variety of opposite interests. From the antiquity to contemporary times, competitions and conflicts are regarded as inherent phenomena in both nature and society (Chanda,2023). In the contemporary world, there exists a paradoxical scenario where nations, organizations, and individuals ardently aspire for peace, yet the global landscape is marred by pervasive conflicts. This paradox raises critical questions about the underlying dynamics, root causes, and the efficacy of current peace-building efforts. Understanding and addressing this paradox is essential for fostering a more harmonious and stable world. Despite the widespread acknowledgment of the importance of peace, conflicts persist at various levels – ranging from local disputes to large-scale international tensions. The paradox lies in the coexistence of global aspirations for peace with the continuous emergence and escalation of conflicts. Addressing this paradox requires a multifaceted approach that considers political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. By unraveling the complexities of the coexistence of peace aspirations and conflicts, stakeholders can develop more informed and effective strategies to build a world that aligns with the shared vision of a peaceful and just global community(William,2009).

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to explore the paradoxical nature of our global society, where aspirations for peace coexist with persistent conflicts. The analysis delved into the complex interplay of geopolitical, socio-economic, and cultural factors that contribute to this apparent contradiction.

Objectives of the Study

1. To explore the paradox nature of our global society where aspirations for peace co-exist with persistent conflicts.
2. To analyze the complex interplay of geographical, socio-economic and cultural factors that contribute to apparent contradictions
3. To assess the conflict resolution and prevention strategies for lasting global peace.

Theoretical Framework

The study was guided by the Peace and Conflict Resolution theory coined by Johan Galtung half in 1969 when he presented his theory "the Conflict Triangle", a framework used in the study of peace and conflict and his basic point was that peace is a relation between two or more parties and that the parties may be inside a person, a state or nation, a region or civilization, pulling indifferent directions. Hence, peace is not a property of one party alone, but a property of the relation between parties. The Conflict theory looks at conflict analysis and resolution, identifies and analyses violent and non-violent behaviors as well as structural mechanisms attending conflicts including social conflicts, with a view towards understanding those processes which lead to more desirable conditions for development, good governance, and social progress, progress (Söderberg,2019) in which the Conflict resolution theory guides the informal or formal

process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their dispute.

Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the findings of the study would be of help to all the stake holders interested in peaceful conflict resolutions in Africa. It would benefit the United Nations, the African Union, the current governments in power, opposition leaders, intellectuals and Non-Governmental Organizations in helping governments to continuously reviewing the peaceful resolution processes and programmes in order to enhance human development and placement, organize political and economic landscapes for national development and come up with appropriate interventions in order to revamp the economies of Africa. The policy makers would benefit as the study would help them modify as well as build strong governance structures and political stability so as to revamp political and economic systems and make them more relevant to national needs. The findings would also help politicians and government officials in understanding the effectiveness of efforts in achieving long-lasting peace and stability and identifying best practices for peacebuilding and conflict resolution, exploring the role of identity-based tensions in conflict and finding ways to promote tolerance and social cohesion, identifying also the ultimate problem which lies in sustainable strategies for achieving lasting peace in Africa, which not only involve ending armed conflict but also addressing the underlying causes and fostering conditions for development, good governance, and social progress as well as create favorable local policies for placement of human resource in government and private sector, strengthen legislature, executive and judicial systems so as to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in governance as well as awaken the citizens to hold leadership accountable to the electorates.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

The research design was descriptive survey with both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection in order to attain the comprehensive results. Qualitative methods were appropriate to this investigation as it produced detailed data from a small group of participants, while exploring feelings, impressions and judgments. On the other hand, quantitative method made the use of questionnaires, surveys and experiment to gather data that is revised and tabulated in numbers, which allows the data to be characterized by use of statistical analysis.

Research Sites

The study was carried out in four institutions of Government Ministries, Universities, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) offices from which respondents were also sampled.

Population, Sample and Sampling procedure

The population for the study was purposefully drawn from the Lusaka province of Zambia where all the respondents are found. Purposive sampling procedure was used to select the institutions (3) while the simple random sampling procedure was used to select the University lecturers (50); five from each institution, University students (50); five from each institution, Senior Civil Servants (50); five from each Ministry and NGO executive members (50); four from each organization. The sample size comprised of 200 respondents. Also, the primary data was complimented by the secondary data which was derived from government policy documents, ministerial reports and relevant literature on language use. In the sampling of province and institutions, the study adopted the stratified cluster random sampling technique. Sampling of the province was done on the basis of concentration of respondents and institutions were then done zone by zone. Universities and other institutions were clustered by zones. Two zones were purposively selected based on

the basis of concentration of respondents. The sampling was done at three levels: Sampling zones, universities and other institutions- level 1, Sampling University lecturers and Civil servants-level 2, Sampling NGO Executive members-level 3.

Data Analysis

In this research, data was analyzed qualitatively as in-depth interviews, questionnaires and observation schedules were used as data collection instruments. Thematic approach was used, where data analysis started with the categorization of themes from the structured interviews, questionnaires. Charts and graphs were used to analyze data. The data gathered was analyzed according to the themes of the study and per the order of the research objectives. Data generated from the interview guide was analyzed manually and also, a combination of software MS Access, SPSS and MS Excel was used to analyze data. Analysis was mainly descriptive, that is, mean, median, mode, range, and standard deviation. Related statistics were applied where possible. Statistical testing took the form of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), correlation and regression both simple and multiple.
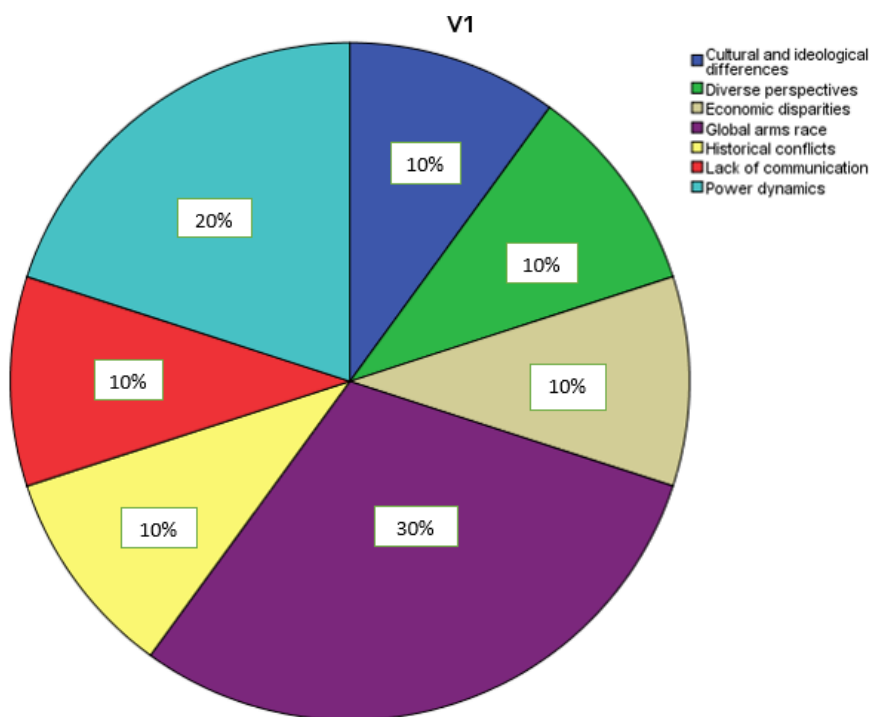
Ethical Issues

 Permission consents, and assents were obtained from respondents involved in the study and the research topic was strategically selected to ensure that there was no harm whatsoever to the research respondents. In this study, the researchers were fully conscious of the need to abide by the ethical rule of respecting the privacy of individuals taking part in the research. In the same way, all the respondents of the research were to remain unidentified to the public as all their valuable views, opinions and perceptions were only known by the researchers for use only in the research and participant's identities will forever remain hidden. The study got permission from the Vice Chancellors to interview lecturers and students, from Permanent secretaries to interview senior civil servants in the Ministries and Executive officers to interview NGO members. However, the identity of respondents was concealed in the article but for identification in the article, the fifty lecturers were allocated numbers 1 to 50, the fifty students were allocated ordinal numbers 1st to 50th, the fifty NGO members were allocated names of fifty Primary schools in Lusaka, the fifty Civil servants were allocated names of fifty secondary schools in Lusaka and Zones and institutions used pseudo names.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Paradox Nature of Our Global Society Where Aspirations for Peace Co-exist with Persistent Conflict

According to study findings, the paradoxical nature of our global society, where aspirations for peace coexist with persistent conflicts, reflects the complexity and contradictions inherent in human interactions on a global scale. The study findings reviewed that the paradoxical nature of our global society, where aspirations for peace coexist with persistent conflicts, reflects the complexity and contradictions inherent in human interactions on a global scale. The study reviewed several factors that contribute to this paradox such as diverse perspectives and interests since the global society comprises nations with diverse cultures, histories, and interests. While some nations may prioritize peace and cooperation, others may have conflicting goals or historical grievances that perpetuate tensions. Economic disparities play a role as economic inequalities among nations can lead to competition for resources, which in turn may result in conflicts (Tull,2006). The aspiration for peace often clashes with the harsh realities of economic struggles and competition for limited resources. Also, power dynamics at the international level can foster conflicts, as nations vie for influence and control. Aspirations for peace may be hindered by geopolitical rivalries and struggles for dominance. Cultural and ideological differences contribute to misunderstandings and conflicts. Aspirations for peace may be challenged when cultural or ideological clashes lead to tensions and hostilities.

Further, the study reviewed that historical baggage as a factor where lingering historical conflicts and unresolved issues can perpetuate a cycle of tension and violence. Aspirations for peace may be hampered by the weight of historical grievances that are passed down through generations. The global arms race and the presence of powerful military-industrial complexes in some countries create an environment where conflicts are sustained. The economic interests tied to the arms industry can undermine efforts for disarmament and peaceful resolution (Williams,2009). The lack of a unified and effective global governance structure can hinder the resolution of conflicts. Aspirations for peace may be impeded by the challenges of coordinating international efforts and achieving consensus on complex issues. In addition, the study revealed that in an interconnected world, communication is vital. However, misunderstandings due to cultural differences, language barriers, or misinformation can escalate conflicts even when the underlying aspiration is peace. Environmental challenges, such as competition for scarce resources or the impact of climate change, can exacerbate conflicts. As nations grapple with these issues, the aspiration for peace may be overshadowed by immediate concerns for survival and well-being. However, addressing the paradox of simultaneous aspirations for peace and persistent conflicts requires a multifaceted approach. This includes diplomatic efforts, conflict resolution mechanisms, promoting economic equality, addressing historical grievances, fostering cultural understanding, and strengthening global governance structures. It also requires recognizing the interconnectedness of issues and the need for collaborative solutions to build a more peaceful and sustainable world (Lavallee andVicard,2010).

Figure1: Showing Distribution of Factors that Contribute to Paradox Nature of Global Society's Quest for Peace Amidst Conflicts

Complex Interplay of Geographical, Socio-economic and Cultural Factors that Contribute to Apparent Contradictions
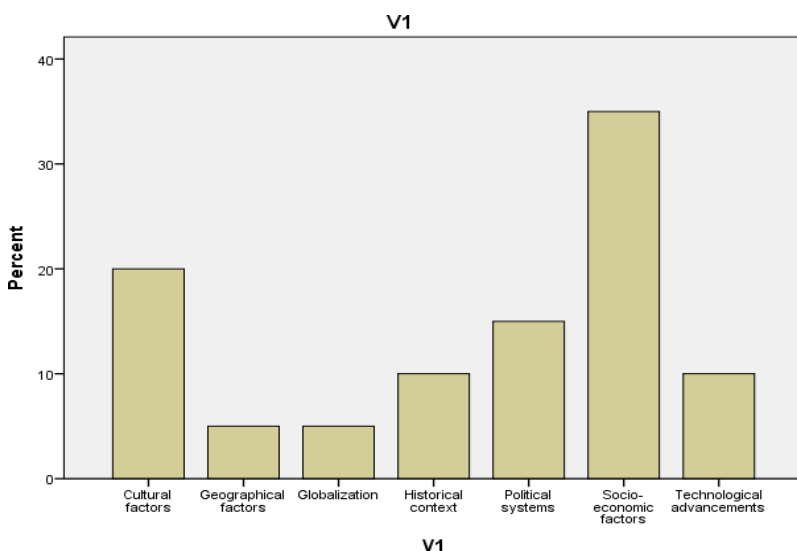
According to study results the apparent contradictions in various aspects of human life often result from the complex interplay of geographical, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Understanding these dynamics requires an exploration of how these elements intersect and influence each other. The study reviewed that the apparent contradictions in various aspects of human life often result from the complex interplay of geographical, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Understanding these dynamics requires an exploration

of how these elements intersect and influence each other: Geographical Factors are influenced by location and climate as different regions have distinct physical environments and climates, influencing available resources, economic activities, and lifestyles. Topography that is, mountains, rivers, and other geographical features can isolate or connect communities, impacting trade, communication, and cultural exchange. The Socio-economic (Head, Mayer and Ries,2010) Factors include wealth disparities, that is, economic inequalities within a society can lead to stark differences in living standards, education, and access to resources while industrialization involves the level of industrial development in a region affects employment opportunities, technology adoption, and overall economic structure.

Also, the study reviewed cultural factors which include traditions and beliefs where cultural norms and traditions shape social behaviors, influencing aspects like family structure, gender roles, and community dynamics. Language and communication is where different languages and communication styles can contribute to misunderstandings and diverse perspectives, creating apparent contradictions. Historical Context involves colonial legacy which brings about historical events, especially colonial histories, which can have a lasting impact on social structures, power dynamics, and economic disparities. On conflict and wars, that is past conflicts may leave a legacy of trauma, shaping societal attitudes, and influencing contemporary behaviors. Political systems were brought out as governance and policies which is the nature of governance and the policies implemented by authorities can either alleviate or exacerbate socio-economic and cultural tensions, while political instability, that is, unstable political environments which can hinder economic development and contribute to social unrest (Anderson,2010).

Further, the study reviewed that globalization involves cultural exchange. Globalization facilitates the exchange of ideas, values, and practices, contributing to both cultural diversity and homogenization. Globalization is a process by which the people of the world are unified into a single society (Mubemba and Chanda, 2023). Globalization also involves economic integration where the global economic forces can impact local economies, leading to both opportunities and challenges. Technological advancements as access to technology and disparities in technological access can widen socio-economic gaps and influence cultural practices. Technological advancements also, brings about information flow, that is, the rapid spread of information through technology can challenge traditional beliefs and practices, leading to cultural tensions. Moreover, understanding and navigating these complex interactions is crucial for addressing apparent contradictions and fostering sustainable development, social harmony, and cultural understanding. It requires interdisciplinary approaches that consider the interconnected nature of geographical, socio-economic, and cultural factors (van Balleyyooij,2019).
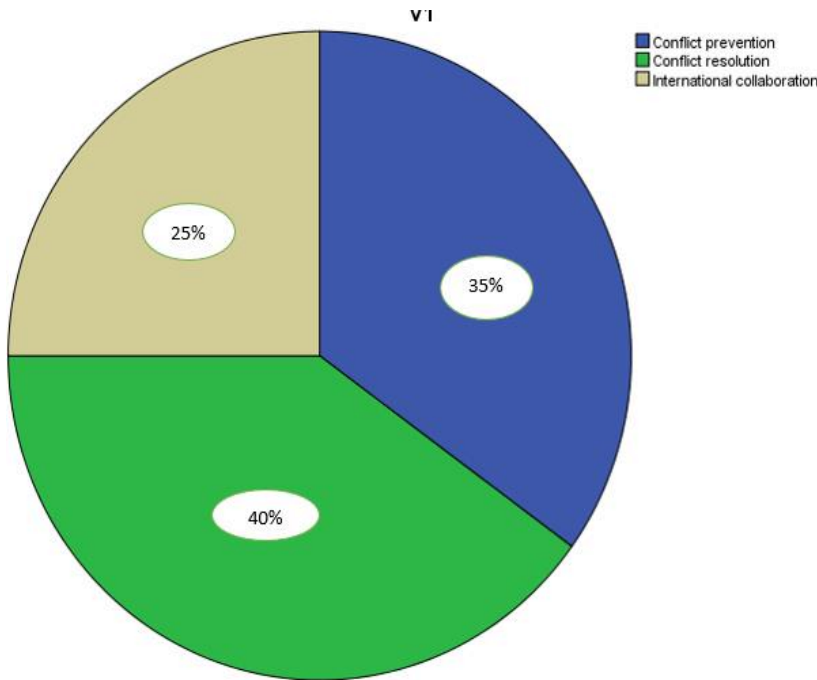

Figure2: Showing Distribution of Complex Interplay that Contribute to Apparent Contradictions Conflict Resolution and Prevention for Lasting Global Peace

According to study results, achieving lasting global peace requires a multifaceted approach that involves both conflict resolution and prevention strategies. The study agrees with the UN (2006) report which reviewed that achieving lasting global peace requires a multifaceted approach that involves both conflict resolution and prevention strategies. Some key principles and strategies that can contribute to this goal include conflict resolution, conflict prevention and international collaboration. On conflict resolution, the study reviewed that dialogue and diplomacy as one of the key principles to conflict resolution where countries and organizations should encourage open communication and diplomatic dialogue between conflicting parties as well as facilitate mediation by neutral third parties, such as international organizations or respected individuals. They should promote negotiation as a means to find common ground and achieve mutually acceptable solutions and also, emphasize the importance of compromise to address the interests and concerns of all parties involved. Should focus on transforming the underlying causes and dynamics of conflicts, rather than just addressing the symptoms and encourage the development of shared values and goals to foster reconciliation (Carles, Miller and Rosato,2012). The reviewed that as regards International Law and Institutions, countries and global organizations should strengthen international legal frameworks and institutions to address and resolve disputes. Should also support the role of organizations like the United Nations in mediating and resolving conflicts. Countries and global organizations should invest in long-term peacebuilding efforts that address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and social injustice as well as promote the inclusion of local communities in the peacebuilding process.

The study reviewed conflict prevention as diplomacy and early warning systems which involves strengthening diplomatic efforts to address potential conflicts before they escalate and developing and utilize early warning systems to identify and respond to emerging threats. Human rights protection, that is, advocate for the protection of human rights as a means to prevent conflict and promote social justice and support international mechanisms for monitoring and addressing human rights abuses. Should promote education and awareness programs that foster tolerance, understanding, and respect for diversity and combat misinformation and propaganda that can contribute to the escalation of conflicts (Fukuyama,2013). As regards conflict-sensitive development, nations and global organizations should integrate conflict-sensitive approaches into development projects to prevent exacerbating existing tensions as well as address economic disparities and promote inclusive development. On disarmament and arms control, the study reviewed that, all should work towards global disarmament and arms control agreements to reduce the likelihood of armed conflicts and help control the spread of weapons and promote peaceful resolution of disputes. As regards crisis management and capacity building all should enhance crisis management capabilities at national and international levels and build the capacity of governments and communities to manage and resolve conflicts peacefully. Regional cooperation: is very important and all meaningful global citizens should encourage regional cooperation and collaboration to address common challenges and prevent cross-border conflicts and should support regional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution efforts (UN,2017).

Further, the study, reviewed international collaboration as a conflict prevention strategy which involves multilateral diplomacy: all governments and organizations should emphasize the importance of multilateral diplomacy in addressing global challenges and strengthen alliances and international partnerships to collectively address conflicts. Should also, implement conflict-sensitive foreign policies that consider the potential impact on regional and global stability and promote diplomatic solutions over military interventions (Preestley,2018). All should advocate for effective global governance structures that can address issues that transcend national borders and enhance the role of international institutions in maintaining peace and security. In addition, the study reviewed that there should be promotion of cultural and interfaith dialogue to foster understanding and harmony among diverse communities and encouragement of the appreciation of cultural diversity as a foundation for global cooperation. Should also, recognize and address the links between environmental issues, resource scarcity, and conflicts as well as work towards sustainable development and climate change mitigation to prevent conflicts over scarce

resources. Moreover, achieving lasting global peace is a complex and ongoing process that requires sustained commitment from the international community. It involves addressing the root causes of conflicts, promoting understanding and cooperation, and building resilient societies that can peacefully navigate challenges (Porter,2016).

Figure3: Showing Distribution of Conflict Prevention Principles and Strategies

CONCLUSION

The paradox of a world aspiring for peace amidst pervasive conflicts reflects the complex and multifaceted nature of global dynamics. Despite the collective human desire for peace, the world continues to grapple with deep-rooted conflicts at various levels – from regional disputes to ideological clashes. This paradox highlights the challenges inherent in achieving a harmonious and conflict-free world. Several factors contribute to this paradox. Geopolitical interests, historical grievances, economic disparities, and cultural differences often fuel tensions and create obstacles to lasting peace. Additionally, the pursuit of peace is hindered by the presence of non-state actors, terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons, which further complicate efforts to establish stability. While international institutions and diplomatic initiatives aim to address conflicts and promote peace, their effectiveness is often hampered by power struggles, competing interests, and a lack of consensus among nations. Moreover, the rapid pace of global change and emerging issues, such as climate change and pandemics, add new dimensions to the challenges of achieving a peaceful world. Furthermore, the paradox of a world aspiring for peace amidst pervasive conflicts underscores the need for sustained and collective efforts. Achieving global peace requires a commitment to addressing root causes, fostering understanding among diverse communities, and building inclusive and just societies. It necessitates a reevaluation of international structures and the promotion of diplomacy over confrontation. Ultimately, the resolution of this paradox requires a shared commitment from individuals, communities, and nations to prioritize peace and work collaboratively towards a more stable and harmonious world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Achieving peace in a world marked by pervasive conflicts is undoubtedly a complex challenge. The paradox of a global aspiration for peace amid ongoing tensions requires a multifaceted approach. Here are some recommendations:

1. Promote Dialogue and Understanding:
    - Encourage open communication and constructive dialogue between conflicting parties.
      Understanding each other's perspectives can be a crucial step toward resolution.
2. Conflict Resolution and Mediation:
    - Invest in diplomatic efforts and third-party mediation to resolve conflicts. International organizations and neutral nations can play a key role in facilitating dialogue and negotiations.
3. Education for Peace:
    - Promote education that fosters tolerance, understanding, and empathy. By addressing root causes and promoting a culture of peace, future generations can contribute to breaking the cycle of violence.
4. Address Economic Disparities:
    - Many conflicts arise from economic disparities. Working to reduce poverty and promoting economic development can contribute to stability and reduce the likelihood of conflict.
5. International Cooperation:
    - Strengthen international cooperation and collaboration. Global issues such as climate change, public health, and economic stability require joint efforts to address, which can build mutual trust and understanding.
6. Human Rights Protection:
    - Advocate for the protection of human rights worldwide. Addressing human rights abuses can help in preventing conflicts and fostering a culture of respect for individuals and communities.
7. Media Responsibility:
    - Encourage responsible reporting and media coverage. Biased or sensationalized reporting can escalate tensions, while responsible journalism can contribute to a more informed and balanced public opinion.
8. Promote Social Justice:
    - Address social injustices that often contribute to conflicts. Working to eliminate discrimination and inequality can help create a more just and peaceful world.
9. Disarmament and Arms Control:
    - Support international efforts for disarmament and arms control. Reducing the availability of weapons can contribute to a safer global environment.
10. Civic Engagement and Grassroots Movements:
    - Support grassroots movements and civil society organizations working towards peace. Grassroots efforts often have a significant impact on building sustainable peace from the ground up.
11. Political Will:
    - Encourage political leaders to prioritize peace and diplomacy. Political will at the national and international levels is essential for implementing effective peace-building measures.
12. Technology for Peace:
    - Leverage technology for peace-building efforts, such as using social media for positive campaigns, fostering online dialogues, and employing digital tools for conflict resolution.

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Citations:

Chitondo, L, Chanda, C. T, Mwila, M, G, and Madoda, D. (2024). "The Paradox of a World Aspiring for Peace Amidst Pervasive Conflicts".**Copyright:**