

Contribution of Women in the Provision of Security Information for Sustainable Peace Development in Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examines the role of women in Kaduna State in contributing to security information for peace development within their communities. A descriptive survey design was employed, utilizing a structured questionnaire for data collection. The sample size was determined using Krejcie and Morgan's formula, and a total of 260 questionnaires were distributed, with 236 returned and deemed valid for analysis. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques. The findings indicate that the majority of respondents actively provide early warnings, security alerts, and information on security threats. Additionally, personal interaction was identified as a significant source for generating security-related information. The study further reveals that women play a vital role in post-conflict reconstruction and peace development in Kaduna State. Based on these findings, the study recommends that the government and security stakeholders incorporate women in security decision-making bodies, such as the Kaduna State Security Council, to leverage their insights and perspectives. Furthermore, training and capacity-building programs should be established to enhance women's skills in security information gathering, analysis, and dissemination. Additionally, the government should allocate resources and funding to support women-led initiatives focusing on security strategies, empowerment, and active participation to ensure their voices are heard and represented.

Keywords: Women's Contribution, Security Information, Peace Development, Community Engagement, Kaduna State

Introduction

Naturally, women as mothers are born to be leaders in every society. Bawa (2023) reported that women make up about portion of the total populace, and they assume huge part in all aspects of development in many emerging nations. And the issue of women's empowerment has piqued the interest of numerous organizations and individuals in all facets of developments. Information has become an indispensable and most desirable element of world's economies and indeed, a fundamental component of security threat for peace sustainability of a given society. Security challenges has been a devastating issue that need active participation of every concerned citizen because it is the responsibility of all, where women were not left behind in struggle to ensure that peace exist within the community. Therefore, women have significant role to play in the provision of security information against threat to the nation. This inclusive approach is in line with the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which stresses that peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and affirms the equal access and full participation of women in power structures and in all efforts geared towards peace and security (Aroussi, 2023). The need for inclusion of women in Conflict Resolution has gained global recognition because of their innate peacemaking and peace building potentials. Women are at higher risks of violence during conflicts, hence their integration in conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction becomes imperative (Ezerum and Eren, 2014).

Kaduna state have been experiencing different security challenges ranging from conflict and violence, religion crisis, banditry, cattle rustling, kidnapping among others. These resulted in loss of lives and properties. In response, several conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction efforts have been embarked upon by government and other stakeholders. However, women continue to be excluded in these conflict resolution initiatives despite the fact that women are crucial stakeholders in peace building or conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction processes (Osuchukwu & Udeze, 2015).

It is a common knowledge that in any given society for there to be meaningful development, there must be relative peace. Achieving a peaceful society necessarily requires a conscious effort from the government in guaranteeing safety and security of citizens and non-citizens within its territory. Conflict resolution is important for sustainable development. Even though the Nigerian government has employed some of the resolution process such as negotiation, arbitration, mediation, and collaboration to try to resolve conflicts, some of these processes of resolution have not been effective and efficient due to the non-involvement of women in the peacemaking efforts.

Ogoh, (2023) defined peace as the absence of war, fear conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence, and about peaceful coexistence. It is primarily concerned with creating and maintaining a just order in society and the resolution of conflict by non-violent means. Peace connotes freedom from war and violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreement. The former Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, described peace to mean access to education, health and essential services-especially girls and women; giving every young woman and man the chance to live, to choose, developing sustainably and protecting the planet's biodiversity. More than ever, it means living with others on the basis of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding (Stewart, 2010).

Security is defined as protection against law breaking, violence, enemy acts, external aggression, danger, risk, attack, want, poverty, insufficiency, unemployment, environmental degradation, illiteracy, disease, oppression, suppression, inhumanity, destruction, rebellion, natural disaster and the like (Li, 2012). Security on the other hand connotes freedom from, or elimination of threat not

only to physical existence of the State but also to the ability for self-protection and development and the enhancement of the general wellbeing of all the people (Peng, 2018). This is not to say that security of the State is not important but rather the security of the State should be geared towards the security of human persons not of the regime in place.

Women have since proven to be creative and courageous participants in peace processes. An example is the role women played in Bougainville in the peace settlement between the secessionists and the Papua New Guinea Government (Anwuluorah, 2020). In Columbia, women were responsible for complex network of the Pro-peace movement; in Northern Ireland, Burundi, Liberia there were female coalition across warring partners (Osabiya, 2021). The Mano River Women's peace Network (MARWOPNET) brought together women in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were important peace-making processes occurred. In South Africa, women agreed across party lines that each party should have one-third women within the negotiating team for the formal constitutional process. This resulted in important gains for women (Osuchukwu & Udeze, 2015). The South African Constitution includes a comprehensive Bill of Rights with provisions which prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender, sex, marital status or pregnancy. The roles of women in dispute resolution are very crucial because women are affected the most by violent conflict situations. Furthermore, most peace building exercises ignore the interest and positions of women as their outcome only satisfies the men (Kpae & Masi, 2019).

According to the Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, (2011), the roles and contributions of women and girls to all stages of conflict resolution, peace-making, peace-building, peacekeeping and reconstruction processes can no longer be ignored or minimized; sustainable peace will not be achieved without the full and equal participation of women and men. Women's participation in resolving and preventing conflict is not an optional, but rather an essential ingredient of peace-building. Pain and suffering, fear and loss, hate and despair, rage and sadness; these are the emotions that women as well as men feel during conflict. But women also have an immense capacity to transcend their sorrow and look beyond the hatred and bitterness and to build a new and secure future for their families and communities (Aroussi, 2023). The roles of women in dispute resolution are very crucial because women are affected the most by violent conflict situations.

Conflict occurs between people in all kinds of human relationships and in all social settings. Because of the wide range of potential differences among people, the absence of conflict usually signals the absence of meaningful interaction. Conflict by itself is neither good nor bad. However, the manner in which conflict is handled determines whether it is constructive or destructive (Deutsch & Coleman, 2000). Oladele (2011) and Adesina (2010), opine that conflict engenders interaction of persons or a group of people in relation to different expectations, interests and backgrounds in society.

Erzurum and Eren (2014) avert that conflict can be disagreement that exists between one or two parties. According to them, it creates situations where both parties perceived a situation in different directions in reaching compromise on issues of common interest. Thus, it may lead to protest, strikes and disruption of work activities.

Conflict Resolution Conflict resolution involves the reduction, elimination, or termination of all forms and types of conflict. In practice, when people talk about conflict resolution they tend to use terms like negotiation, bargaining, mediation, or arbitration (Osabiya, 2015). Conflict resolution is a process of managing a conflict and negotiating a solution. It is best understood as a working model with two key elements, conflict management and negotiation. Conflict Management is a communication process for changing the negative emotional states in a conflict to emotional states

that allow working out a solution to the conflict. Negotiation is a communication process for enabling disputing parties to achieve an outcome with respect to their differences (Peng & Silva, 2018). The conflict resolution working model is a process comprised of four stages: awareness, self-preparation, conflict reduction, and negotiation (Katz & McNulty, 1994). This stage involves reducing the level of emotional energy (diffusing negative emotions) and clarifying to understand the differences. This allows disputing parties to settle the conflict, that is, agree to eliminate destructive behavior as well as negative attitudes and feelings toward each other. This settlement may not be an agreement that resolves all the differences but one that enables the disputing parties to go forward with an understanding of their differences and mutual respect for one another (Li, 2012). The process involves the parties using reflective listening to change the negative emotional states in the conflict to states that are more amenable to resolving disputes and differences. The process also allows the parties to clarify misunderstandings and facilitate movement from a focus on the past to focus on the future.

Statement of the Problem

The commitments of the women, peace and security agenda provide a framework for ensuring women's meaningful participation in dialogue, negotiation and peace processes. It provides significant room to improve how we ensure that women are included in these processes, along with opportunities to design concrete tools to help in implementing the commitments more effectively. The inclusion of women in dialogue, negotiation, mediation and peace processes is important for a number of reasons. Women are differently embedded in society than men are, and they have been shown to widen the range of central topics discussed at the negotiation table. It is a common knowledge that in any given society for there to be meaningful development, there must be relative peace. Achieving a peaceful society necessarily requires a conscious effort from the government in guaranteeing safety and security of citizens and non-citizens within its territory. Conflict resolution is important for sustainable development. Even though the Nigerian government has employed some of the resolution process such as negotiation, arbitration, mediation, and collaboration to try to resolve conflicts, some of these processes resolution have not been effective and efficient due to the non-involvement of women in the peacemaking efforts. In Nigeria, women remain drastically underrepresented in peace processes. This is not entirely due to lack of capacity, but also due to lack of power and access. In most African contexts, patriarchy continues to play a key role in excluding women from formal and informal peace processes. In some contexts, peace processes have been and continue to be highly militarized, with a heavy security oriented approach, which has been considered a man's world, further discouraging women from getting more involved. Therefore, the research intend to explore how women interplay and contribute to the peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution in Kaduna state.

Research Objectives:

The following are the objectives for the study;

- 1- To find out the types of security information provided by women for the sustainable peace development in Kaduna state.
- 2- To identify the channels used by women in the provision of security information
- 3- To determine the contribution offered by women for the sustainable peace development in Kaduna state.

Methodology:

This study adopted the quantitative approach because it is able to give statistical data on issues regarding contribution of women in the provision of security information for sustainable peace development in Kaduna state. The use of survey research design was employed to obtain information from the questionnaire administered. Research advisor table using Krecie and Morgan formula was used in determine sample size of the study. A total of 260 copies of questionnaire were administered to the research sampled population but 236 copies were returned and found usable for the analysis. Descriptive statistics of frequency and percentages was used. The population for this study comprised of all registered member of 10 women groups in Kaduna State. These groups have a total registered member of 800. The selected Women includes; Sisters of Janna Kaduna Zone, Jaji, Federation of Muslim Women of Nigeria, Kaduna State Branch, Jesus Ministry Widows group, Women of peace development Association, Better Women Initiative Forum, Kaduna branch, Nation Council of Women Society, Kaduna State Chapter, Association of Women with Disability in Kaduna State, Women Mobilization Forum Kaduna State, Kaduna State Women for Peace and Awareness Association, and Women Empowerment and welfare of Orphans Association.

Findings and Discussions

This section analyzes the data collected on types of security information provided by women for the sustainable peace development in Kaduna state. The results of the survey are presented below in descriptive format, using frequency tables and percentages.

Table 1: Types of security information provided by women for peace sustainable development in Kaduna state, Nigeria.

Please, as a woman, what types of security information do you provide?

S/N	Security Information	YES	NO
1	Information on security threats	211(89.4%)	25 (10.6 %)
2	Early warning and on security alert	212(89.8%)	24 (10.2 %)
3	Human right abuses	168(71.2%)	68 (28.8%)
4	Gender based-violence	159(67.4%)	77 (32.6%)
5	Report on sexual harassment	169(71.6%)	67 (28.6%)
6	Information on resource vandalization	195(82.6%)	41 (17.4%)
7	Information on local economic activities	185(78.4)	51 (21.6%)
8	Information on harmful cultural practices	175(74.2%)	61 (25.8 %)
9	information on displacement and migration patterns	152(64.4%)	84 (35.6%)

10	Information on disease outbreak	174(73.7%)	62 (26.3%)
11	Information on natural resource depletion	187(79.2%)	49 (20.8%)
12	Information on communal crisis	192(81.4%)	44 (18.6%)
13	Community intelligence	185(78.4%)	51 (21.6%)
14	Information on armed bandits and kidnappers	183(77.5%)	53 (22.5%)
15	Report on community tension, rumor, & fake news	182(77.1%)	54 (22.9%)

Table 1 shows the distribution of the respondents with respect to the types of security information they provide in Kaduna state. The findings indicate that 212 (89.8%) provide Early warning and on security alert, with 211(89.4%) information on security threat, while 195(82.6%) provide information on resource vandalization. The survey revealed that 192(81.4%) of the respondents provide information on communal crisis, 187(79.2%) information on natural resource depletion, where 185(78.4%) of the respondents provide information on Community intelligence and local economic activities respectively.

In summary, the study has found that, most women in Kaduna state provide security information for improving and maintaining peace sustainable development in the community. This highlights the need for stake holders to comply with submission of Bawa, (2023), who stated that women as mother are to be leaders in the society and should be part and parcel of any community development for inclusive approach.

Table 2: The channels used by women to generate security information for peace development?

Kindly indicate your agreement on the channels through which you generate information using the following keys: Strongly Agree=(SA), Agree=(A), Strongly Disagree=(SD), Disagree=(D), Undecided=(UD)

S/N	Channels of Generating Information	SA	A	UD	SD	D
1	You generate information through Women forum initiatives	112(47.5%)	47(19.1%)	17(7.2%)	9(3.8%)	51(21.6%)
2	You generate information through Event centers such as wedding and naming ceremony	112(47.5%)	63(26.7%)	15(6.4%)	10(4.2%)	36(15.3%)
3	You generate information through social media platforms such WhatsApps, face book, twitter, instagram	114(48.3%)	73(30.9%)	15(6.4%)	10(4.2%)	24(11.1%)
4	You generate information through family and friends	112(47.5%)	83(35.2%)	15(6.4%)	8(3.4%)	18(7.6%)

5	You generate information through Community meetings	116(49.2%)	86(36.4%)	16(6.8%)	5(2.1%)	13(5.5%)
6	You generate information through Radio stations	115(48.7)	88(37.7%)	16(6.8%)	4(1.7%)	13(5.5%)
7	You generate information through Community engagement	112(47.5%)	94(39.8%)	18(7.6%)	4(1.7%)	8(3.4%)
8	You generate information through Storytelling	108(45.8%)	89(37.7%)	24(10.2%)	10(4.2%)	5(2.1%)
9	You generate information through Group discussions	114(48.3%)	89(37.7%)	22(9.3%)	5(2.1%)	6(2.5%)
10	Religious institutions such mosques and churches	127(53.8%)	87(36.9%)	15(6.4%)	4(1.7%)	3(1.3%)
11	Personal interaction	130(55.1%)	80(33.9%)	16(6.8%)	8(3.4%)	2(.8%)
12	Community health workers forum	127(53.8%)	82(34.7%)	15(6.4%)	10(4.2%)	2(.8%)
13	Women farmers association	129(54.7%)	74(31.4%)	19(8.1%)	7(3.0%)	7(3.0%)

Table 2 shows the distributions of the respondents with respect to the channels used in generating security information for peace sustainable development in Kaduna state. The findings indicate that majority 130 (55.1%) of women have strongly agreed that Personal interaction as a source of generating security information, 129 (54.7%) women farmers association. However, the study revealed that 127 (53.8%) of the respondents have strongly agreed with religious institutions such mosques and churches, and Community health workers forum as channels of generating information. Also, 112 (47.5%) respondents strongly agreed that they generate information through Women forum initiatives, Event centers such as wedding and naming ceremony, family and friends and Community engagement respectively.

Table 3: The contribution offered by women for sustainable peace development in Kaduna state?

Please indicate your agreement on the types of contribution you offer for peace development using the following keys: Strongly Agree=(SA), Agree=(A), Strongly Disagree=(SD), Disagree=(D), Undecided=(UD)

S/S	Contribution of Women	SA	A	UD	SD	D
1	I contribute to post conflict reconstruction & peace development	138(58.8%)	79(33.5%)	8(3.4%)	4(1.7%)	6(2.5%)
2	I contribute in the Promotion of justice and human right	131(55.5%)	87(36.9%)	8(3.4%)	6(2.5%)	4(1.7%)
3	Advocate for rights and needs for affected communities	131(55.5%)	81(34.3%)	15(6.4%)	5(2.1%)	4(1.7%)
4	Mobilization of communities to support peace initiatives	128(54.2%)	79(33.5%)	18(7.6%)	9(3.8%)	2(.8%)

5	Promote understanding among conflict parties	127(53.8%)	78(33.1%)	17(7.2%)	10(4.2%)	4(1.7%)
6	Women facilitate dialogue and reconciliation process	131(55.5%)	80(33.9%)	16(6.8%)	5(2.1%)	4(1.7%)
7	Women address past injustice and promote forgiveness	131(55.5%)	76(32.2%)	15(6.4%)	9(3.8%)	5(2.1%)
8	Women enhance economic recovery	127(53.8%)	74(31.4%)	20(8.5%)	9(3.8%)	6(2.5%)
9	Raise awareness about security issues	129(54.7%)	70(29.7%)	20(8.5%)	8(3.4%)	9(3.8%)
10	Lobby for resources and funding to support community programs	121(51.3%)	75(31.8%)	19(8.1%)	11(4.7%)	10(4.2%)

Table 3 shows the distributions of the respondents with respect to their contribution improving and maintaining peaceful coexistence in Kaduna state. The study found that majority 138(58.8%) of the respondents strongly agree that they contribute to post conflict reconstruction and peace development. Moreover, the study revealed, 131(55.5%) respondents have strongly agreed that they contribute in the Promotion of justice and human right, advocate for rights and needs for affected communities, facilitating dialogue and reconciliation process, addressing past injustice and promote forgiveness respectively. However, 129(54.7%) contribute in raising awareness about security issues, with 128(54.2%) mobilization of communities to support peace initiatives.

This buttressed the call of the Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, (2011), stated that, the roles and contributions of women and girls to all stages of conflict resolution, peace-making, peace-building, peacekeeping and reconstruction processes can no longer be ignored or minimized; sustainable peace will not be achieved without the full and equal participation of women and men. Women’s participation in resolving and preventing conflict is not an optional, but rather an essential ingredient of peace-building. Pain and suffering, fear and loss, hate and despair, rage and sadness; these are the emotions that women as well as men feel during conflict. Also, Aroussi (2023), believed that women have an immense capacity to transcend their sorrow and look beyond the hatred and bitterness and to build a new and secure future for their families and communities. Therefore, this study suggest that women should be given equal opportunity by complying with inclusive approach to realize their full potentialities when it comes to community development.

Conclusion

Women play a crucial role in providing security information for peace development in Kaduna state. Despite challenges, women have proved their resilient contributions in facilitating dialogue and reconciliation process, addressing past injustice and promote forgiveness. They contribute in raising awareness about security issues, advocate for rights and needs for affected communities. Their contributions have improved security, enhanced community cohesion, increase women’ participation and built sustainable peace in the state. By recognizing and empowering women’ contributions, Kaduna state as a nation can foster a more peaceful and secure environment for all.

Recommendations

- 1- Government and other security stake holders should incorporate women in security decision making, like Kaduna state Security Council, to provide valuable insights and perspectives.
- 2- The government of Kaduna state should provide training and capacity building programs for women on security information gathering, analysis, and dissemination to support and enhance their skills and confidence.
- 3- The government of Kaduna state should offer resources and funding to support women-led initiatives and projects that focus on security information strategies, women empowerment, and women participation to ensure that their voices are heard and represented.

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