

## Effect of communal conflict on economic activities in Osun State, Nigeria

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### Abstract

The study examined the effect of communal conflict on entrepreneurial activities in Osun State, Nigeria using IFE indigenes and Hausa residents in Ile-Ife, Osun state, Nigeria as a case study looking inward into the effect of entrepreneurial activities for business growth. The study examined the various factors considered in establishing an enterprise, the challenge faced by entrepreneurs as a result of communal unrest which serve as a major hindrance in carrying out their activities. The researchers made use of questionnaire as a primary source of data collection and was used to derived conclusions. The communal conflict has negative impact on Business activities. The findings showed that communal conflict has negative effect on entrepreneurial activities and causes economic damage and seriously affect entrepreneurship development in that community. The researchers hereby recommended the following; various governments at all level should make sure they organize robust formal and informal public and private seminars that related to peace and conflict resolution among their people. Also, Good comprehensive review of previous practices that lead to better peaceful coexistence between the communities should be learnt by expert and inculcate into our educational system in order to reduce future conflict in our society because economic growth and entrepreneurship development can be survive in the communities where there is peace.

**Keywords:** Conflict, Communal Conflict, Community, Entrepreneurial Activities and Peace.

### Introduction

The issue of communal conflict is one of the social problems that bestow serious security challenge and

obstruct or posed threat to the unity of the state. The outbreak of communal clashes in Nigeria, the relationship that had existed with cordiality and report seems to be suffering with untold setback with several attending

apprehension that beckons for redress. The unity of the Nigerian community can only fully enjoyed by all when the peaceful coexistence of the sub region and their means of livelihood, upkeep and sustainability become a success with the presence and existence of reasonable security of live and property from every indication, this is the main expectation of every sound-minded Nigerians. Osun State has experienced and still experiencing conflicts of grave proportions among several ethnic and religious communities across the state.

The Kruger (1993) revealed that conflicts significantly vary in dimension, progress and the groups involved. As was observed by Sen (1987) in his standard of living research said that ,some conflicts arise between same resource user group such as between one farming community and another, others occur between different user group such as between herders and farmers or between foresters and farmers. Many economic and Entrepreneurship researchers such as; Krinzer (1973); Popoola (2019); Harper (2003) and Hart (2005) have established that for any nation to thrive, they must focuses well on Economic growth and Entrepreneurship development. The importance of entrepreneurial activities to a nation's economic cannot be overemphasized. Popoola (2018) revealed that entrepreneurship practice is a catalyst for poverty reduction, unemployment reduction and increase in income of an entrepreneurs as well as boosting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy. Hart (2002) and Adekoya (2017) corroborate this assertion. They explained that any factors that may hindered the entrepreneurial activities should be seen as anti-social, uneconomical and social verse and holistically measure should be taken against it .Thus communal conflicts may hindered entrepreneurial activities and it progress ,and such community can also refer to as economic denial to the people living in such community.

### **Statement of the Problem**

ILE-IFE is an ancient town in Osun state ,south-west, Nigeria ,an historical heritage of Yoruba Kingdom and one of the economic cities in Osun state .Communal conflict between Ile-Ife indigenes and Hausa residents is one of the serious social vices and obstruct with severe threat to the unity of the Osun State, particularly Ile-Ife.

The Ile-Ife communal clashes, parties in conflict turned an avoidable clash into violent and bloody conflict, which posed threat to the survival of the people (the residents) and posed negative effects on entrepreneurial activities in Ile-Ife township .Poverty this days has been increased and this attributed to poor entrepreneurship among the populace Popoola (2018) .Conflict hindered entrepreneurial activities and this causes negative impact in human and economic development (Hozelitz 1960). World Bank (2014) in his report revealed that poverty has been increased daily in developing countries, and communal conflict can escalate it according to Baumol (1986).

### **Research Question**

- i. Does the communal conflict have influence on entrepreneurial activities over Ife residents, Osun state, Nigeria?
- ii. What are the ways to address the Ile-Ife communal violence to enhance economic activities in Ile-Ife Osun State?

### **Research Objective**

The paper has the general objective of investigating communal conflict of Ile-Ife Communities over economic activities in Osun State with following specific objectives:

- i. To observe the effect of communal conflict on entrepreneurial activities over Ife residents, Osun state, Nigeria.
- ii. To examine the ways to address the Ile-Ife communal crisis to promote the economic activities of Osun state.

### **Research Hypothesis**

H1, Communal conflict does not significant effect on economic activities of Ife residents, Osun state, Nigeria.

H2, Communal Conflict in Ile-Ife communities has significant effect on economic activities of Osun state, Nigeria

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of the Study was limited to the investigation of outbreak of communal conflict between Ife indigenes and Hausa residents in Osun state, Nigeria in year 2017 and its effect on entrepreneurial activities of the people in that area. Ife indigenes and Hausa residents in Osun state, Nigeria were the main target in this study.

### **Literature Review**

From the history of the conflict, it is important for conflict analyst to understand the significant that has occurred in the past between parties in conflict, this will reveals the origin of the conflict and whether they had previous disputes

### **Overview of the Origin of Communal Conflict between Ife Indigenes and Hausa Residents**

Touching the outbreak and deadly conflict between Ife indigenes and Hausa residents according to Ogundipe which is President of club 1,an association of elites indigenes of Ile-Ife, Osun state, Nigeria, asserted that "the crisis in Ife is surprising, giving the age-long harmonious relationship between the parties in conflict, the indigenes and Hausa residents. For almost two centuries, the two had been related with one and other ,also operated like brothers and sisters with intermarriages and a lot of business relationship .The deadly clash started on 7th

March, 2017 (Tuesday) evening as a result of an argument ensued between woman trader and an Hausa man at Sabo market ,Ile-Ife .The people around them settled the clashes, unknowingly that the woman and her husband were not happy. Some miscreants in the town armed with several dangerous weapons stormed some shops said to be owned by Hausa residents and started destroying those shops as a result of conflict between a couple, matter taught had been settled same day on 7th March, 2017 because the husband to said woman trader is well known in Ile-Ife township.

As the situation degenerated the indigenes and Hausa residents both organized themselves into two formidable groups for the battle. This comprehensive reports of the conflict were revealed by all Nigeria daily newspapers indicated therein that on 7th March, 2017 (Wednesday) at about 2010 hours one Hausa man reported at Moore police station that one Yoruba man among Ife indigenes brought some hoodlums with cutlasses and other dangerous weapons to attack the Hausa residents at Sabo area, Ile-Ife .The affray which was arose from an altercation between the said couple and an Hausa man which was amicably settled on 6th March, 2017."Based on the report at Moore police station, a case of (conduct likely) to cause breach of peace was instituted against the couple ,reaching the scene of the clash, the police met two groups, Ife indigenes and Hausa residents both were riotously assembled with dangerous weapons ,and the police later restored the peace .Thus, the researchers noted that series of reports were online, but the researcher here strongly relied on the information dished out by Nigeria Police Force at Luis Edet House , Force Headquarters ,Abuja on 21st March, 2017, through Force Public Relation Officer (FPRO) Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) asserted that 46 killed and 96 others wounded during that deadly clash that erupted between the Hausa and Yoruba communities in Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria, FPRO confirmed that 38 suspects were arrested, and through an intensive investigation, only 20 of them were found culpable for directly and indirect participation in the killing of innocent people, maiming and destruction of properties of the victims worth millions of naira .While 18 suspects have been released unconditionally for lack of prima-facie evidence against them .The researcher here mainly centered this study on the report of Nigeria Police as only authority that restored the peace, particularly for the active roles played during investigation of the fracas. The ugly phenomenon led to the total closed-up of commercial activities since on 8th March, 2017, but the proactive measures by Inspector General of Police (IGP) through deployment of Police Special Intervention Forces (PSIF), which comprised of Police Mobile Force (PMF), Special Anti-Rubbery Squad, Counter-terrorism Unit, Intelligence Response Unit (SIB), EOD and both led by the Commissioner of Police in charge of PMF and the operation was successful.

Meantime, normal commercial activities resumed after the police action, doors of bank, as well as government offices, shops and private (entrepreneurial activities) which

were locked since 8th March, 2017 to 13th March, 2017 had been reopened in Ile-Ife, Osun state, Nigeria.

### **Causes of Conflict**

Peter, Oki and Ikepe (2007) revealed that Conflict is inevitable, it can occurring in every individual life, either at home, at work, at social outings or even when we sleep in our bedroom without interacting with anyone. Hence, we are identity some inexhaustible things that cause conflicts, but in this context, researcher considered only two namely:

- a. **Conflict over Psychological Needs:** This can be refer to as conflict that cannot be seen but affect the psyche of the individual and group self-actualization, need for individual and group respect, attempt to project one's group to be better than the others. Reference to Maslow's theory ,he pointed out that when an individual psychological need is achieved or satisfied, such an individual became dominated by a drive for the other unsatisfied needs through a process he called "Fulfillment Progression"
- b. **Conflict Involving Values:** Contradicting values system such as religious beliefs, ideological positions and general worldview is another factor responsible for social conflicting among the interacting parties. Conflict involving values are the most difficult to understand and resolve because most time people could die for what they believe in. Weaver asserted and links culture to an iceberg, he explained "internal culture" as implicitly learned and difficult to change. That is part of culture that is below the waterline in the iceberg analogy. This includes some of our beliefs, our values, and thought patterns, attitudes, nonverbal communication and perception.

### **Types of Conflict**

There are various kinds of conflict, but researcher only considered inter-personal conflict, intra-group conflicts and inter-group conflicts. The investigator identified these three kinds of conflicts because we encounter each or any of them in our day to day affairs.

1. Inter-personal conflict: This kind of conflict occurred between two or more individuals over an issue.
2. Intra-Group Conflicts: This is a conflict that occurred between individuals or faction within a group.
3. Inter-Group Conflicts: This refer to as conflicts between groups such as club versus club, class versus class, family versus family etc.

## **Conceptual Review**

**Community:** Is a concentration of people whose major social and economic needs are satisfied primarily within the area where they reside through a network of relationships and organizations using available resources.

**Conflict:** According to SQuicy Wright (1990) while explained conflict as opposition among social entities directed against one another. Also distinguished it from competition, defined it as opposition among social enmities independently striving for something of which the supply is inadequate to satisfy all. Competitors may not be aware of one another, while the parties to conflict according to Durojaye, Anifowose & Yesufu (2014) and Timmons (1994).

**Peace:** According to Peter, Oki & Ikepe (2017) asserted that peace is often defined in the negative as freedom from war, peace; development and democracy form an interactive triangle.

**Ethnic:** Many researchers has explained that ethnic means nation or race. Also viewed ethnicity as a group setting associated with the idea of nationhood.

## **Theoretical Review**

### *Psychological Perspective of Conflict Theory of Abraham Maslow*

The propounder proposes an interesting theory concerning human needs and their effect upon human behavior. He asserted that human needs may be classified into five different groups or classes, such as psychological needs, safety needs, social needs, esteem needs and the needs for self-actualization. Hence in this context, researcher considered safety needs and social needs which mostly related to the conflict between Ife indigenes and Hausa residents.

1. **Safety Needs:** Maslow referring to the needs of a person for a generally ordered existence in a stable environment which is relatively free of threats to the safety of the person's existence.
2. **Social Needs:** These refers to those needs for affectionate relation with other individual and needs for one to have a recognized place as a group member the need to be accepted by one's peers .The important thing about Maslow's theory is the hierarchy of needs structure. That is, it proceeds from basic needs to cluster social needs.

According to Porter (1961) that researched on Maslow's model and defined need fulfillment as the difference between how much there should be, and how much that is now connected with management positions.

### *Conflict Theory from Sociological Perspective of Assumption on Ethnicity and Conflict*

The word "ethnic" was derived via Latin from Greek word ethnos, which means nation or race. According to Yusuf, Anifowose & Durojaye (2014), the problem with this theory despite the fact that it contains some validity, it almost ignores completely the core motives and elements in ethnic conflicts such as the roles of fear and group psychology and importance of symbolic controversies which are often less comprehensible to the "outsider". According to Popoola (2019) explained an ethnic group as "a community of people who have the conviction that they have a common identity and common fate based on issue of origin, kinship, ties, traditions, cultural uniqueness, a shared history and possibly a shared Language" He explained further by adding a sense of people hood held by members of a group sharing a common culture and history within a society.

Finally, Kruger (1993) asserted that "mere differences in values or regional development, or between ethnic groups for that matter, do not as such promote ethnicity and ethnic conflict.

## **Empirical Review**

According to Anthonia and Johnson (2014) in the study titled; ethno-communal conflict and the Local Government System in Nigeria, a desideratum of peace building, descriptive analysis was used, findings showed that Nigeria Local Government System failed to mobilized for citizenship training, reduce poverty, social discrimination and build peace and security, concluded and recommended that peace education should be conducted in the community.

## **Gaps in Literature**

Existing researchers silent on communal conflict between Ife indigenes and Hausa Residents. This study only covers the study of effect of communal conflict between Ife indigenes and Hausa residents in Osun state, Nigeria and gave comprehensive review of the incident with workable solutions.

## **Methodology**

### **Research Design**

Being descriptive in nature, it has been drawn from most contemporary documents in the field of social research both locally and internationally. According to Popoola (2014), data is the collection of facts and figures relating to the population of the study. In this study, researcher considered parties in conflict and other residents as the sampling frame from which 120 respondents from Ile-Ife people were selected via enumeration and stratified sampling technique and questions was specifically



designed to accomplish the stated objective of this study. Taro Yamane formula were used to determined population sample size.

In this research, both primary and secondary data was utilized. The primary data was obtained through questionnaires collected from respondents. Secondary data were drawn mainly from current newspaper publications and related reputable journals. These data were used to complement the facts and figures obtained in field work through the questionnaires administered. Descriptive analysis method was adopted in this research. Descriptive Statistical Analysis Techniques used includes the value of frequency distribution, the maximum and the minimum value, the percentage Value of each variable, the value average mean and indicators research. Also Partial

Least Square (PLS) is used to determine the effect of communal conflict on entrepreneurial Activities as Akanmu (2019) asserted.

## Results and Discussion of Findings

Model testing was conducted by looking at the value of the part coefficient between variable influence of independent variable (IV), communal conflict and dependent variable, entrepreneurial activities was summarize here. Based on PLS mode putouts, model testing is done by looking at the part coefficient estimated value, and the value of the critical point (t-statistic) were significant at a 0.05. The analysis of the result is shown in table 1 below.

**Table 1:** Coefficient Independent Communal Conflict on Economic Activities

Effect between variable	Path co-efficient	t-statistic	t-critical	Result
Cc(x)EA(Y)	0.049	2.800	0.009	Significant

Descriptions

CC=Communal Conflict

EA=Economic Activities

More so,

Communal Conflict is an independent Variable (X), while Economic Activities is Dependent Variable (Y).

X=Y

According to table 1 indicated aboveground, it can be observed that communal conflict has negative and highly significant effect on entrepreneurial activities in Ile-Ife people, Osun State, Nigeria. This evidence by the t-test statistics=2.800=t-critical, namely 0.009with part coefficient of 0.049.

Descriptive results indicate that almost 70% of respondents entrepreneurial lack adequate peace education. In addition, over 90% of respondents among Ife indigenes have less or no access to adequate information about peace seminars and trainings.

## Discussion

The results of this research found that communal conflict has negative effects on entrepreneurial activities. Most of respondents revealed that the crisis affect them negatively because the Osun state Governor, Mr. Abdul Rouf Aregbesola declared curfew in Ile-Ife after the deadly clashed from on 8th March, 2017 to 11th March, 2017. This was revealed through Guardian online news, stated further that state government declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Ile-Ife after the clashes in the city claimed lives and led to

severe destruction of properties worth millions of naira. Hence, entrepreneurial activities were in jeopardy during and after the curfew, because of fear of unknown. Till now, the trauma caused as a result of the deadly act still ring like a bell in the minds of people in the Sabo area, Ile-Ife, known as Hausa community in Ile-Ife.

Findings shows that commercial activities was totally shutdown, such as the banks, government offices, shops and private offices (entrepreneurial activities). Thus, a lot of entrepreneurs in that area was counting their loss daily, hence, this shows that communal conflict has negative effects on entrepreneurial activities.

## Conclusion

According to the result of the finding of this research, it was indicated that communal conflict has negative effect on entrepreneurial activities of people in Ile-Ife, Osun state, Nigeria.

## Recommendation

- Having carefully embarked on this research, it is recommended that government at various levels should organize formal and informal seminars and public lecture related to peace education to general public in Ile-Ife communities and businessmen in particular.
- Government at all levels to conduct comprehensive review of previous practice that enhance peaceful coexistence between the parties in conflict and trace back for adoption into educational curriculum.

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