

Study Unit 1

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT

(MODULE1)

Study Unit Outline

- I. Understanding peace and Conflict
- II. Conflict and violence
- III. Perspective on peace

Study Unit

Duration

This Study Unit requires a 2 hours of formal study time.

You may spend an additional 2-3 hours for revision

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT

INTRODUCTION

You are welcome to your first Unit of learning in this course. This unit introduces the concept of conflict, types and stages of conflict and the relation to violence and how conflict differs from violence.

You will also have new perspective on the concept of peace and the interrelation between peace and conflict.

Learning Outcomes of Study Unit

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Upon completion of this study unit, you should be able to:

- 1.1 Construct better understanding for the nature, context & dynamics of a given conflict
- 1.2 Highlight the difference between conflict & violence.
- 1.3 Explain conflict and peace and be part of peaceful society and that peace and conflict are sides of the same coin.

MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module will help you explore and define the concept of conflict, types and stages of conflict as well as differentiate

between the concepts of conflict and violence it will also help you develop a clear understanding on the concept of peace and how it relates to violence.

INTRODUCTION

UNIT ONE

1.1 UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT

Conflict

What's conflict? Is conflict argument and disagreement between people? How long should it last? This unit introduces you to the concept of conflict, its various types as well as its nature. Conflicts has been part of human existence. Throughout the history of mankind, conflicts have been happening in various shapes. From local conflicts to neighboring and international ones. There are various reasons why conflicts emerge. Some of the conflicts can emerge from resource sharing while others can emerge from disputes between regions, states and nations. One important lesson to note here is that conflicts have been part of human history and they will continue to be so. But first, let's define conflict. Conflict is "process" where an individual or "party" realizes that it's rights are being "opposed" or "negatively" affected by others (Wall Jr & Callister, 1995, p. 517).

1.1.1 NATURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CONFLICT

Conflict is a Process

Conflict is process that has multilayers. First layer is always the causes. On this stage, there are some causes or underlying reasons in which one party or parties see that their rights are being

transgressed by another party or parties. Causes layer leads to core process of the conflict, that's when results or the outcome of the conflict are produced.

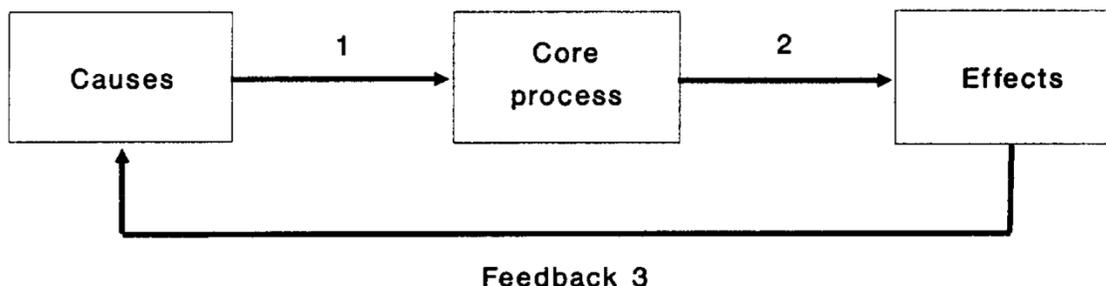


Figure 1: Conflict Process, Source, (Wall Jr & Callister, 1995)

Conflict is Inevitable:

Conflicts are inevitable in other words they are unavoidable. There are various conflicts in different parts of any environment and public spheres. These conflicts are fueled by different causes. Conflicts will keep happening as long as there is human civilization. As conflict has been part of human history it's happening is unavoidable but it is all about management and how severity of any conflicts can be minimized.

Conflict is a Normal Part of Life:

Conflicts are and have been parts of our every day livings. Conflicts do not necessarily need to be very violent ones but there are conflicts in our lives thus conflicts are part of everyday normal life. We are either arguing and disputing over resources, opportunities and any other important issues in our lives. Thus, conflicts have become part of normal life.

Perception:

There should be perception when conflicts are about to emerge or for it to emerge. Put differently, there is always perception whenever conflict emerges. An individual or member in

group perceives another individual or member of another group in negative way thus leading to conflict.

Opposition:

There are always oppositions whenever there is conflict. Usually party opposes other's rights and well-being and that is why the definition of conflict has the word 'opposed'.

Interdependence and Interaction:

Because subjects need to interact for a conflict to happen, there must be some form(s) of interaction between parties before any conflict starts.

Everyone is inflicted with Conflict:

for conflict to happen, there should be either individual(s) or group(s).

Conflict is not Unidimensional:

Conflicts are multidimensional; that is to say that conflicts can take up different dimensions and can either promote positive transformation or negative one depending on the nature of that specific conflict.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CONFLICT

POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF CONFLICT

Conflict is positive when it:

- brings positive change within the people and their communities.
- Increased participation within groups.
- Results issues to be seen differently

People realize things that they did wrong, acknowledge it and move forward as undivided community.

NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF CONFLICT

Conflict is negative when it:

- Increases discrimination, xenophobia and hate towards specific groups and individuals within the community
- Dries up energy that could be used for something productive.
- Reduces organizational and teamwork efforts
- Destroys morale of the people.

1.1.2 CAUSES AND TYPES OF CONFLICT

The following are some of the fundamental causes of conflict:

- **CONTROL OVER SCARCE RESOURCES**

When resources that are scarce are not equally shared within the community or when same resources are capitalized by specific groups, then conflicts are unavoidable. Obviously, whenever there is scarce resource different members of the community will compete and this competition can result conflicts.

- **INCOMPATIBILITY OF VALUES**

In most communities, there could be different values and if those values are not mutually respected by it can lead to conflict because one's values are not respected by others.

- **BELIEF SYSTEM**

There could be different belief systems in different communities, so those differences are not embraced by the community it can lead to conflict. Communities need to respect and embrace each other's belief systems and that's what makes community strong and united one.

- **STATUS STRUGGLE**

In every community there are different status held by different community members. When those in lower status strive for higher status certain conflicts can emerge. Those with higher status may also neglect the rights of those in lower status thus increasing the likelihood of conflict.

- **POWER INFLUENCE**

There are power influences and struggles in every community. There are people who want to serve their communities always and sometimes refuse to give chance to others or even sometimes abuse their powers. If those in power refuse power transformation within their communities, conflicts over power and ruling can emerge.

TYPES OF CONFLICT

There are different types and forms of conflict that are mostly noted within conflict studies literature. Commonly acknowledge types of conflicts are: personal, group, and “international conflict sometimes” referred to interstate conflicts (Wall Jr & Callister, 1995, p. 516). In addition to these three categories this section also includes intra-state conflict. Together with other four types of these conflicts are discussed below.

1.PERSONAL CONFLICT

This type of conflict is between individuals. This conflict arises from inter-personal issues and misunderstandings. For example, if two colleagues have misunderstandings or if one pressures other, this can result personal conflict between two individuals. Another reason why personal conflicts can emerge is when two parties do not respect each other privacy. Here one violates another person’s privacy and it can result conflict. Another way in which personal conflicts can emerge is when one’s rights are denied by another person because they don’t necessarily see that person to have same rights as they do. These are not the only reasons why interpersonal conflicts

start. There are various other ways in which personal conflicts can emerge but important take from here is that: these are conflicts that are between individuals.

2.GROUP CONFLICT

This is another type of conflict that usually involves group or groups of people. Group conflicts emerge from different group member(s) not treating each other well. Within the group conflicts, member(s) of group either see their interested opposed by others or totally ignored. This sense of feeling being left out can create group conflict. Group conflicts can either be within specific group- that's when there is conflict in specific group or among the groups- that's conflicts between groups. Resource competitions among many others are causes of conflicts between and among groups.

3.INTRA-STATE CONFLICT

This type of conflict occurs within defined state's borders (Yilmaz, 2007, p. 12). There are enormous reasons why these conflicts emerge but generally unequal resource sharing, exploitative regime and other socio-economic crises can contribute to intra-state conflict. Within intra-state conflicts, groups or communities feel that they are being left out either financially, economically and socially. This conflict emerges when regimes and governments in those states do not respond to the needs of specific groups and communities in their state territory. For instance, if region or district within country feels that it does not get necessary support from its central government then it can lead to uprising and resistance towards the central government which could result intra-state conflict to emerge. One common features within intra-state conflict is that it tends to have insurgency and guerrilla like groups resisting their governments which in turn can result intra-state conflicts.

4.INTER-STATE CONFLICT

Inter-state conflicts are unique type of conflict that happens beyond state’s defined boundary. This type of conflict involves different state, that is to say, different state or governments are involved on this conflict. This type of conflict emerges when two states or countries dispute over either resources like water especially river waters (Toset et al., 2000). This type of conflict involves resistance and sometimes fight over disputed areas and resources.

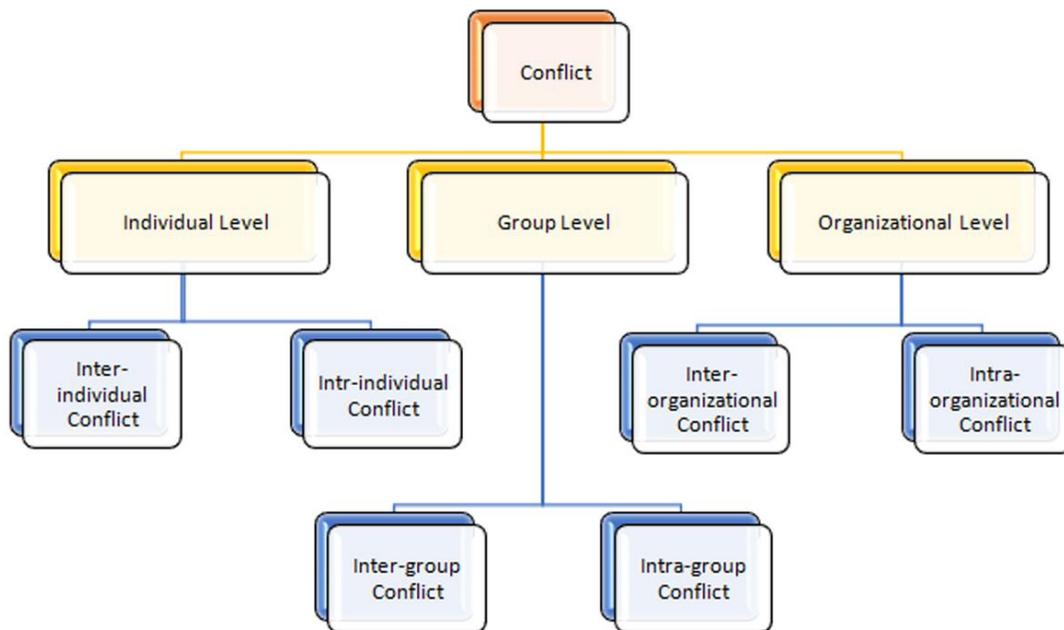


Fig 2: Levels of conflict, Source: (Analyzing Project, 2020)

1.1.3 STAGES OF CONFLICT

The literature on conflict notes various stages of conflict but mostly refers to five stages. Anthony Garant and Robin Carlson notes fives stages of conflict as: “embryonic”, “apparent”, “felt”, “patent” and “consequences” stages (Garant & Carlson, 2012, p. no page number). The following section discussion each of these five stages of conflict.

1. EMBRYONIC STAGE:

This is the first stage of the conflict. At this stage, conflict is more invisible and parties may not be aware of its existence.

2. APPARENT STAGE:

This is the second stage of conflict. Within this stage, parties are somehow aware of the tension and issue among them. Some forms of disagreements do exist within this stage. Involved parties see each other negatively or they tend to recognize that other individuals have certain negative attitudes towards them.

3. FELT STAGE:

This is third stage of the conflict. At this stage conflicts are visible and felt by different parties. It involves indirect conflict engagements, that's individuals indirectly showing negative attitudes towards others.

4. PATENT STAGE:

This stage of the conflict involves clear display of negative behaviors and attitudes towards each other. In order to solve it, necessary actions must be taken. Those actions may include face-to-face, emails and phone calls efforts to minimize and perhaps resolve the conflict.

5. CONSEQUENCES STAGE

This stage of the conflict is when conflict has happened and certain consequences start to be appear. Consequences could be either negative or positive. They are positive when conflicts are resolved in peaceful manner and disputed or conflicting parties are in peaceful situation while consequences could be negative especially after conflict scales and effects both conflicts parties and their organizations' productivity.

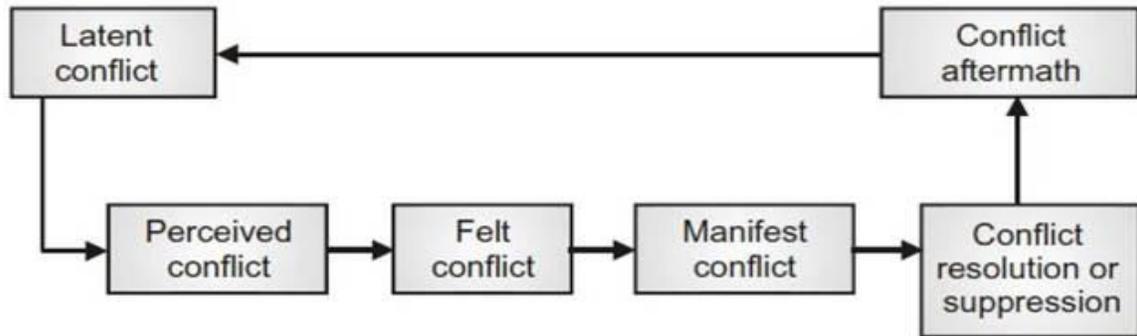


Figure 3: Stages of Conflict, Source: (Ebrary, 2012)



UNIT ONE QUIZ

1. Conflict is as old as human being
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Which one of the following is **NEGATIVE** characteristic of conflict?
 - a. It leads to discrimination and bullying
 - b. It makes people to consider new ideas
 - c. It results clarifications and reassessment
 - d. Helps build cohesiveness
3. Which one of the following can be a cause of conflict?
 - a. Fight over natural resources
 - b. when there are peaceful mechanisms
 - c. when there are legal protections

- d. when people are fully protected from atrocities
4. there are _____ types of conflict?
- a. 2 b. 3 c. 4 d. 8
5. Which one of the following is one of the stages of conflict?
- a. Intra-state conflict
- b. Inter-clan conflict
- c. Natural resource-based conflict
- d. Latent stage

UNIT TWO

1.2 CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

1.2.1 VIOLENCE

Let's discuss about what violence is. There are numerous definitions and conceptualizations of what violence is within the literature but for this study we use John Galtung's definitions of the concept. According John Galtung violence acts that people engage to harm other individuals which has different dimensions (Galtung, 1969). Violence could have different dimensions as research shows. for instance, violence could be either use of "force" (using force to harm and injure others) or "violation" which means transgress norms (Bufacchi, 2005, pp. 195-196). In general, any act that involves harming other whether physically or psychological could be considered as violence.

There are different forms of violence that the literature discusses. In this study we focus two forms of violence i.e., structural or indirect violence and direct violence. As Johan Galtung and Tord Höivik notes, structural or indirect violence is systematic ways in which violences evolve. Authors argue that it involves "slow killing" (Galtung & Höivik, 1971, p. 73) because before manifestation of direct violence, violence tend to be structural that's systematic ways in which violence is shown or displayed towards specific groups. Another form of violence is direct one. Here violence is directed towards specific groups of people or nations and it has what Galtung &

Höivik describe it as “fast killing” (Galtung, 1969, p. 73). Direct violence involves mass killings and massacre against groups and nations.

CULTURAL VIOLENCE

Another form of violence that is increasingly discussed in the literature is cultural violence. This form of violence targets are usually driven by cultural and ideological efforts. Cultural violence can be defined as any form and acts of “religion” “ideology” and “science” that justify or direct use of structural violence (Galtung, 1990, p. 291). Cultural violence include all those acts used by those in power or other community members or even scientists to justify violence acts against groups and nations. For instance, Nazi Germans intellectuals have used their ideological powers to justify killings of many people in Europe because they were seen as inferior to the Germans. Similarly, mass killings and genocides committed by European colonies had ideological motives that saw Africans and other people in global south as inferior to them.

1.2.2 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

VIOLENCE	CONFLICT
physical force used to injure, damage, or kill someone.	a heated debate or disagreement
Violent act is intended to be negative and destructive.	Conflict can be both positive and negative
is the use of force to attain a certain intent or goal?	Conflict is the result of unresolved issues or problems between two parties, which, if not handled properly, can lead to violence.

Table 1: Difference between violence and conflict, Authors, 2021

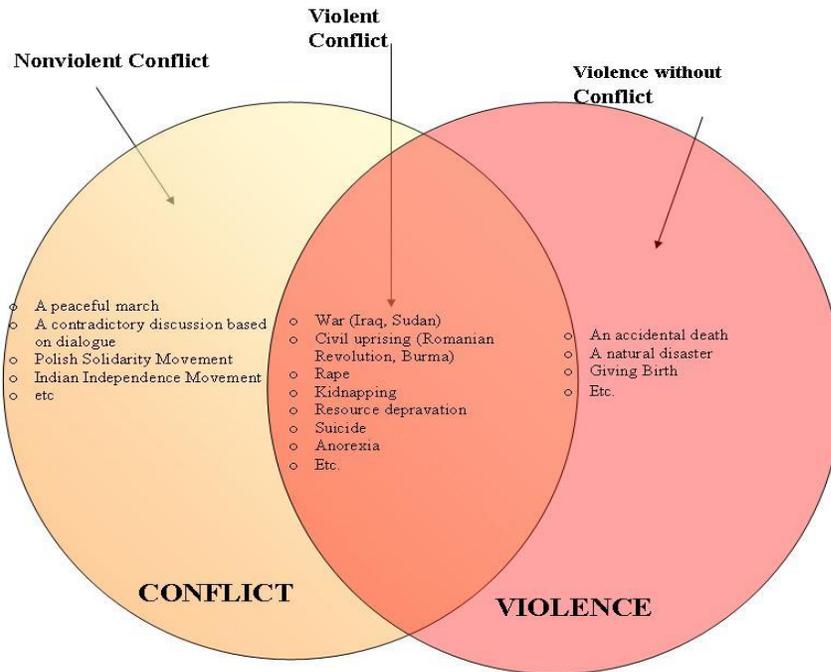


Figure 2: disparities between violence and conflict, Source: Author's own elaboration using John Galtung, 1969



UNIT TWO QUIZ

1. Violence is:
 - a. When someone's saved from danger
 - b. Means a behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something
 - c. When there is no conflict
 - d. When people mutually agree to give up on conflicts.
2. Non-violent conflict is when the conflict does not involve any form of violent actions and activities
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Violent and conflict are same
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. Violent conflict leads to
 - a. Death
 - b. Peaceful existence
 - c. Respectful life
 - d. Peaceful co-existence

UNIT THREE

1.3 UNDERSTANDING PEACE

PEACE

There are enormous definitions and conceptualization of the term peace from both academic and policy spheres. Different scholars conceptualize it while looking at different components. One of the conceptualizations used is state in which there are no violence (Galtung, 1969, p. 167).

Therefore, peace devotes to any situation where there is active and visible forms of violence.

Since peace and violence are such interrelated concepts and issues, absence of one means presence of another.

1.3.1 TYPES OF PEACE

There are different types of peace but commonly discussed forms are positive and negative peace. Each of these concepts are further conceptualized and defined by different scholars. Negative peace denotes to any situation in which there are no “large-scale” physical violence and destructions while positive peace is absence of all different forms of violence (Dugan & Carey, 1996, pp. 80-81).

POSITIVE PEACE

Peace is positive when:

- All forms of violence are absent.
- There is state of full stability.
- Countries and communities can progress and prosper.
- Community builds resilience against instabilities and violence
- Both formal and informal peace mechanism are present and co-operating together to form state of maximum stability and calmness.
- Communities can achieve their developmental, societal and economic goals.

NEGATIVE PEACE

Peace is negative when:

- Some forms of violence are present in the society especially structural ones.
- Communities are somehow divided into sects and groups.
- States do not necessary offer state of full stability.
- There are institutions that only serve and support specific groups within the countries and communities.

- Countries and communities can not progress because of internal tensions that somehow hinders country's stability and prosperity progress.
- There are gaps in developmental, economical and societal goals of the countries thus making the country unable to achieve state of maximum development.

1.3.2 HOW ARE CONFLICT AND PEACE RELATED

Conflict and peace are interrelated. As indicated earlier, absence of conflict means that there is relatively enjoyable forms of stability and peace while in conflict situation there is absence of peace. Within peace and conflict studies literature, there are enormous arguments and discussions on how peace and conflict are interrelated situations and concepts. But let's discuss some of these points. Peace and conflict are interrelated because in conflict situation, there are abuses and human sufferings while in peace situation usually there are no large-scale human suffering or very visible forms of abuses.

1.3.3 PEACE AS ABSENCE OF STRUCTURAL AND CULTURAL VIOLENCE

Peace could be a situation in which there are no structural and cultural violence. When there are no systematic violence, we can say that there is state of peace. Opposite is also true. That means when there are some structural violence there is absence of peace. Thus, making both situations to be interrelated. Peace is also situation in which there are no cultural violence. In other words, when no one uses ideology or scientific grounds to violently engage others, we could say that there is absolute state of peace.

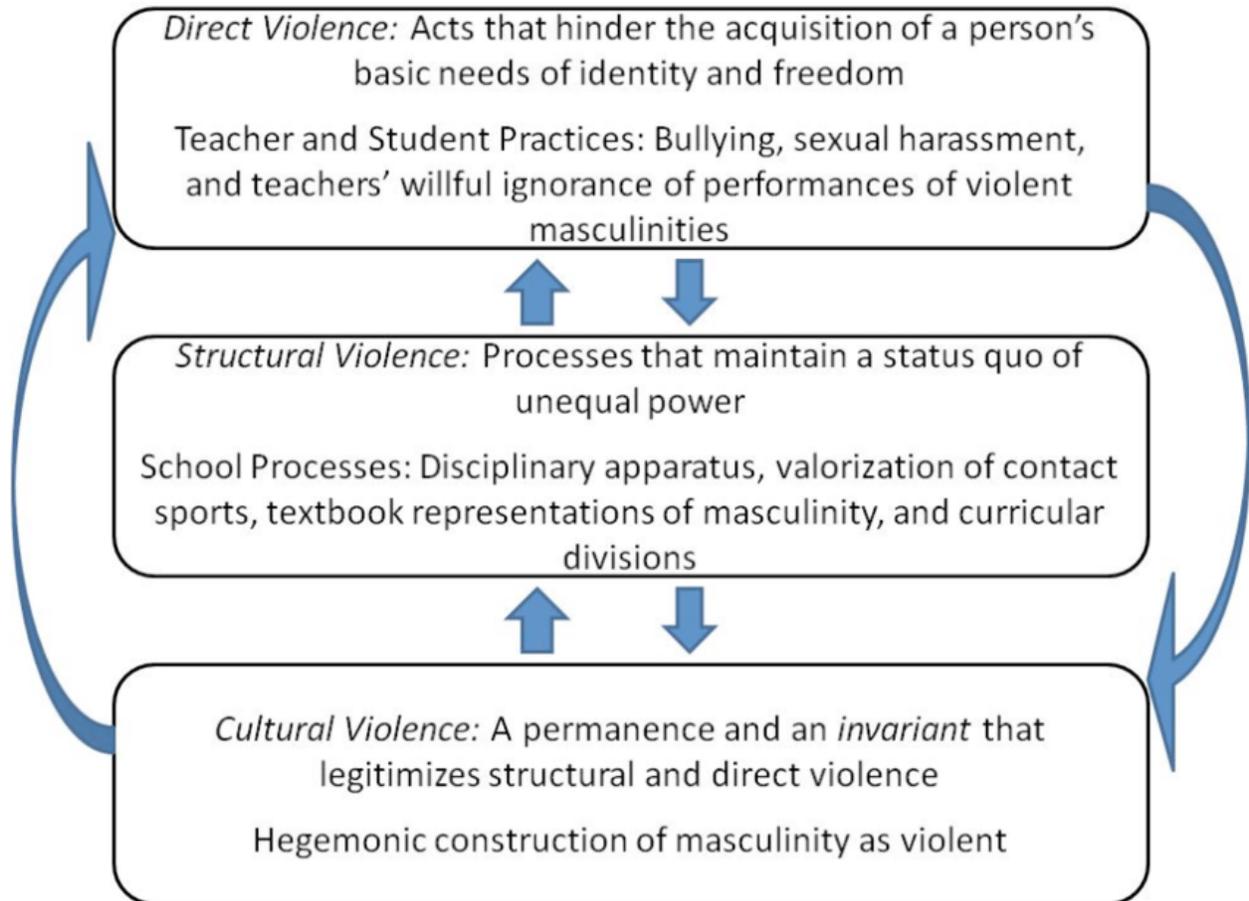


Figure 3: Different types of conflict, Source: (Khoja-Moolji, 2012)

1.3.4 PEACE AS ABSENCE OF DIRECT VIOLENCE

Peace is also state in which there are no direct violence. This means, no one is killing another person or there are no crimes against humanity. In situations where there are direct violence, i.e., no physical violence, we could say that there is peace. For country or community to be peaceful,

there should be an absence of all different forms of violence.

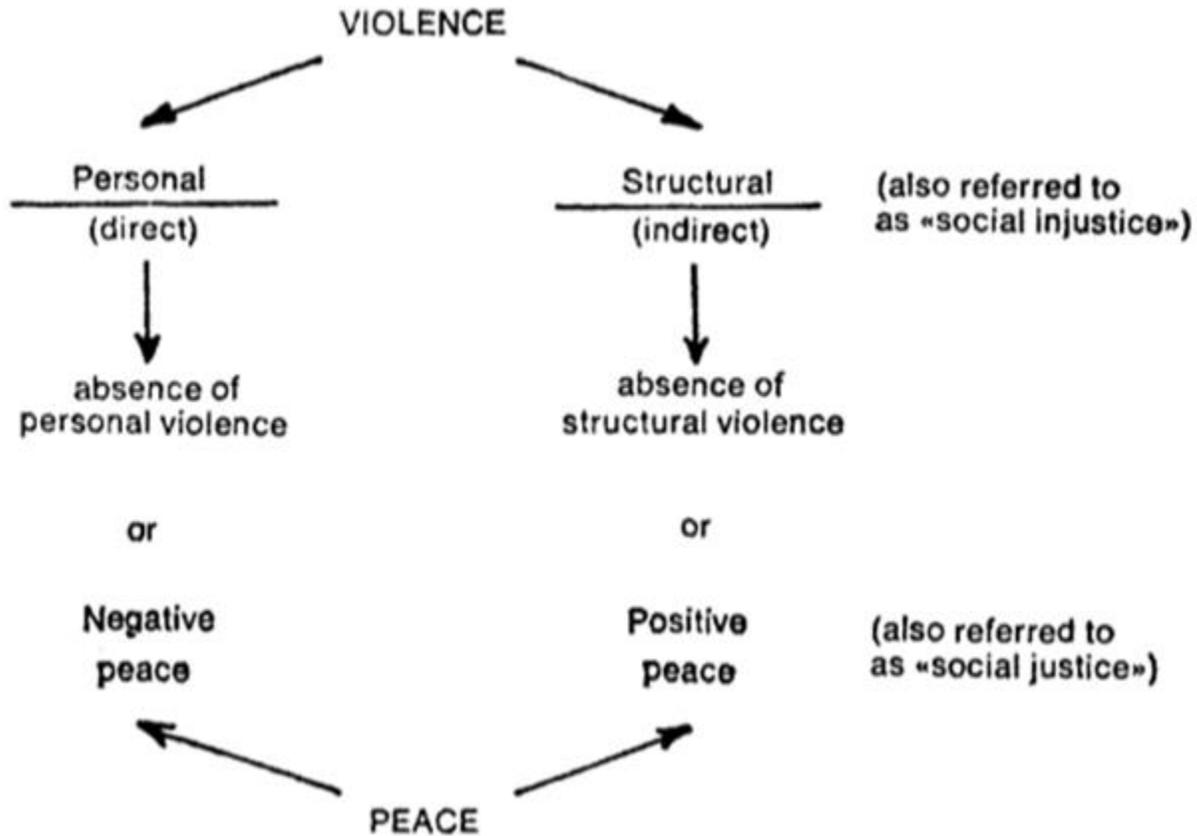


Figure 4: Violence V Peace, Source: (Musarurwa, 2019)

1.3.5 CULTURE OF PEACE VS CULTURE OF VIOLENCE

CULTURE OF PEACE

Culture of peace could be any situation where peace is either restored, maintained, or sustained. Culture of peace do exist among different communities. Different communities have different cultures of peace. Some communities have traditionally embedded culture of peace while others could have religiously embedded culture of peace. Culture of peace is found within communities. Culture of peace have been used by different communities worldwide to solve and mediate their conflicts. Culture of peace could have either organic forms of conflict resolutions or modern

ones. When we say organic forms of conflict resolution we mean, traditional forms of conflict resolution while modern forms constitute efforts and practices from international peace culture.

It is important to note that peace culture and civil society are not same. Peace culture is norms that are embedded to specific society while civil society could be one of agents that advocate for peace culture.



Figure 5 : Promoting culture of peace, Source : (Navarro-Castro & Nario-Galace, 2010)

VIOLENCE CULTURE

Culture of violence is any part of specific culture within communities that can promote violence. Some cultures can have violence practices thus making them to be in state of violence either with members of same community or others from other communities. Recognizing parts of the culture that can contribute or promote violence is important step that can help communities realize and

sustain peace.

Culture of violence	Culture of peace
Belief in power that involves the use of force	Belief in dialogue to resolve conflict
Having enemies	Tolerance, solidarity, understanding
Authoritarian governance	Democratic participation
Secrecy and propaganda	Free flow of information
Armament	Disarmament
Exploitation of people	Human rights
Exploitation of nature	Sustainable development

Figure 6: Culture of violence and peace, Source: (Irene, 2018)

***Learning activity: A workshop on (Conflict dynamics at the different areas)**

UNIT THREE QUIZ

1. There are two main types of peace
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Negative peace refers to situations in which violence has stopped but the underlying issues are still unresolved
 - a. False
 - b. True
3. Peace is _____ of conflict.
 - a. Peace
 - b. Conflict
 - c. Absence
 - d. Present

4. Culture of peace and culture of conflict are same?
 - a. None
 - b. Yes
 - c. No
 - d. All of the above
5. Which one of the following can be ONE of the cultures of peace?
 - a. Democratic participation
 - b. Having enemies
 - c. Exploitations
 - d. All of the above mentioned

A SUMMARY

In this study session, you have learnt that:

In general, the concepts of conflict, peace, and peacebuilding. You have also learned the different types of conflicts and their causes, in addition to that, you have learned the differences between conflict and violence as well as the concept of peace.

A Summative Test.

1. Define the concept of conflict?
2. List any four natures of conflict?
3. Mention some characteristics of conflict?
4. Mention the types of conflict?
5. Outline the causes of conflict?
6. Discuss the stages of conflict?
7. Define the concept of violence?
8. Define the concepts of direct violence, structural violence and cultural violence?
9. Differentiate between Violence and Conflict?
10. Define the concept of peace?
11. Differentiate between positive peace and negative peace?
12. Discuss the concepts of culture of peace and culture of violence?

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