

Study Unit 1

Peace Building and Peace Building Communication

Study Unit 1 Outline

Peace Building and Peace
building communication

- I. Definition of peace
and peace building.
- II. Peace building
processes.
- III. Peace building
approaches.
- IV. Peace building
strategies.
- V. Communication for
peace building.

Study Unit Duration

This Study Session requires 2
hours of formal study time.

Introduction

You are welcome to your first unit of learning in this course.

By the end of the module, you will be able to understand the concepts of peace, peace building and peace building process as well as the peacebuilding approaches and strategies.

You will also have a new perspective on communication for peace building.

Learning Outcomes of Study Unit 1

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

- 1.1 Understand the concepts of peace, peacebuilding and communication.
- 1.2 Understand the components of peacebuilding processes.
- 1.3 Explain the various peacebuilding approaches
- 1.4 Appreciate the various peacebuilding strategies.
- 1.5 Understand the notion of communication for peacebuilding.

Module Description

This module will help you explore and define different concepts of peace, peace building and peace building process as well as be able to develop a clear understanding on Peace-building process, strategies and approaches.

1.1 Overview of Peace

What is Peace?

There are various definitions of what peace is in the academia. Different definitions focus on different angles when defining. Generally, peace can be defined as the “absence of wars and conflicts” (Gawerc, 2006). This definition of peace denotes the absence of any situation that can contribute or cause human suffering. For instance, if individuals or communities have a feeling of being safe and free for their daily lives, then one can argue that’s a peaceful situation. One important thing to remember is that regardless of the content and locality, any situation where there is no violent conflicts and wars can be denoted as a peaceful one.

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is any process that is aimed for peace (Schirch, 2008). This agenda includes many activities that can contribute to sustained peace. For example, efforts to reconcile specific conflicts can lead to finding a solution to a specific problem, thus contributing to the process of peace building in a specific locality. The peace building process involves different actors and processes, but one important thing to remember is that any agenda that aims for peace can be referred to as a peacebuilding process.

Peacebuilding process

Different efforts of peacebuilding have different objectives but one generic objective that can be found within any process of peace building is that of reducing conflicts and human suffering. According to (Schirch, 2008), the peace building process involves different stages including an advocacy process. The following section highlights the peace building process.

Advocating for Peace

In this stage, activists and peace advocates advocate for peace. Usually it’s the starting point of the peace building process. This stage is also a temporary face of the peacebuilding process but it opens the door for other stages of peace building that can bring durable peace.

Reducing Violence

This stage of peace building process aims to reduce direct violence so that human sufferings can be limited or totally stopped. It's this stage of peacebuilding that most of fighting parties agree to ceasefire so that direct violence can be reduced.

Transformative Relationships

This stage aims to promote better and transformative human relationship so that conflicted parties can be mediated. For this to happen, good communication and relationship is restored in very hopeful way that can reduce violence.

Capacity Building

After all the above stages and hope of peace and prosperity starts to begin, peace building agencies and individuals aims to provide extra trainings and support so that communities can be aware of ways of sustaining their peace. This process aims to educate people about peace, causes of conflict, importance of good communications skills and better ways of communication in case there is misunderstanding among communities.

Achieving Peace

There are numerous ways in which peace can be achieved. Throughout the academic and policy making world, there is no universally agreed process of achieving peace. Some scholars and policy makers may focus more of mission type of achieving peace. Examples include African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON), while other scholars and policy makers advocate more community or hybrid type for achieving peace. Whichever the case may be, any process that aims to bring peace is considered very positive because without peace human beings can't reach their full potential.

Some of the ways in which peace can be achieved include:

- Continuous peace education among the community
- Advocacy and lobby
- Diplomatic practices that can help countries
- Grassroots approaches
- Better conflict management skills and approaches
- Good capacity building programs that advocates for peace
- Empowering local initiatives peace building initiatives
- Resolving conflicts and disputes in non-violent way.

Quick Summary

In this unit you have learn about the concept of peace, peace building, peace building process as well as ways in which peace can be achieved. I hope that this has added some more understanding of things you know about peace and peace building process. it's expected and hoped that this will make change in your live and that of your lived community. In order to assess your understanding of the key concepts and process of peacebuilding, try the unit quiz provided on the LMS and interact with your peers to facilitate communications. If you have any questions, please reach out to your teacher via LMS.

1.2 Peace Building Processes

There are some important steps that involve in any peace building process. This section will highlight some of the key peace building process.

Peace making

This is one of the initial stages of peace building process. it refers to as any efforts that include both official and unofficial diplomatic ones that aim to transform the face of the conflict (i.e. from violent to non-violent one) (Waldman, 2009:6).

Peace keeping

This process of peace building includes use of mission (both military and civilian ones) to restore peace. Usually regional or international forces are sent as peace keeping operations. Relevant examples include United Nations Missions in South Sudan and Lebanon.

Peace enforcement. In this process the role is to keep peace in non-violent way. Sometimes these keeping operation aim to protect civilians from atrocities of fighting parties.

Peace Enforcement

Another peace building process is peace enforcement. Here force is used to separate fighting parties. It is also in this process that ceasefire like arrangements are made. There is always active military personnel that separates fighting parties. It's important to note that military personnel that involve peace enforcement process does not participate the war and conflict, their role is to use their power to stand in between fighting parties so that immediate ceasefire can be agreed.

Quick Summary

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1.3 Peacebuilding Approaches

There are different approaches to peace building. Different institutions take different approaches to their peace building process. Generally, three commonly discussed peacebuilding approaches are top-down, bottom-up, hybrid peacebuilding, community level, political-democracy approach.

Top-Down Approach

This approach to peacebuilding is usually from international community, institutions, and organizations. Peacebuilding process is proposed from the up. This is to say that international community proposes certain procedures to peacebuilding in specific localities. International community plays a role to mediate conflict parties. Sometime this approach includes establishment of missions. For example, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) or even United Nations Peace keeping Mission in Lebanon.

This approach stemmed from ‘liberal peace thesis’ (Campbell, 2011) and has been used by international organizations like United Nations (UN) for their state and peace building efforts. This approach has number of benefits but recently it has met different challenges from different communities. For instance, more community-based approaches are being advocated by scholars and policy makers lately. There is more discussion on bottom-up approaches to peacebuilding and these is discussed in the following sector.

Bottom-up Approach

This approach happens when peace initiatives start from local level. That’s to say when the peacebuilding process from locally conflict affected communities. Individuals and social groups promote and advocate peace on this stage. For example, local groups from different conflict or fighting parties can start community groups that advocate for peace at local level. This bottom-up approach to peace building has certain limitations. One of the limitations is the individualistic part of the process which can sometimes delay peace building process. also not all the locals would have the capacity to engage in such systems.

Hybrid Approach

This is another approach to peacebuilding using both top-down and bottom-up approaches. It’s internationally supported peace building approach where locals initiatives are respected and promoted. It’s form of peacebuilding process that goes beyond binary structures as argued by (mac

Ginty, 2010). This approach to peacebuilding is one where both international and local community come together to support peace and state building process in specific locality. Say it in other words, in this peace building process, local approaches to peacebuilding is prioritized while international community supports such process.

Community-Based Approaches

This is another important approach to peacebuilding. This approach is driven by community or group of communities that advocate for peace and security. This approach brings together different members of society and governmental as well as non-governmental organizations for common goal- building peace in specific locality. This approach of peacebuilding has more ‘participatory and representative local governance’ (Haider, 2009) systems that can make it succeed. This representative local governance prospective is unique to this approach and perhaps one of the key structures that define its success.

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End of Study Unit 3

1.4 Peace Building Strategies

Peacebuilding strategies are any input that’s aimed to sustain peace. There are different definitions of strategic peacebuilding. One of the commonly used definitions of strategic peacebuilding is strategy ‘that brings together different leadership roles, ethnicities as well as religious groups’ (University of Notre Dame, 2022). This is strategic approach that leaves no one behind. All the

different parties are included. This strategy is well-known for its ‘non-violence ways of transforming conflicts’ (University of Notre Dame, 2022).

Components of Strategic Peacebuilding

These are components in which any strategic peacebuilding plan need to have in order to be very successful one. According to (USIP, 2016), seven key components of strategic peacebuilding are:

i. Long-term Violence

This is important to be recognized because no plan can resolve all societal issues that caused a conflict. So considering longer term efforts are very important part of strategic peacebuilding.

ii. Value the Locals

Another important component of strategic peacebuilding is valuing the locals. This is when the planners discuss with the local community their approach. This also shows importance of considering the local opinions for strategic peacebuilding.

iii. Conflict Transformation

This component focuses important lessons that has been learnt from other conflicts so that they can be used to transform new conflicts.

iv. Insider-Outsider Links

Here different synergies are created from best peacebuilding practices.

v. Dealing with Spoilers

Any plan or deal can have spoilers so this part of strategic plan deals with spoilers.

vi. Identification of Obstacles

The strategic peacebuilding process should be one which is aware of obstacles. Identifying them will help the plan.

vii. Evaluation

In order to make sure all the different parts of strategic peacebuilding are being implemented and met, there is need to evaluate the process so that whatever shortcomings that existed can be resolved.

Strategic Peacebuilding Paths



John Paul Lederach and Katie Mansfield, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

Figure 1: Wheels of Strategic Peacebuilding, Kroc Institute for international Peace Studies, 2022

Human Rights and Peacebuilding

Any peaceful process needs to be one that respects human rights. The ultimate goal needs to be one that respects human dignity and rights. It is what makes the peacebuilding successful because even limiting atrocities is way of respecting human rights. As human rights are universally accepted rights that all individuals are subjected to regardless of any gender, age, religion or any other societal groupings, they play vital role in any peace building process. according to (Parlevliet, 2017:337), human rights and peacebuilding efforts have interacted in numerous ways, therefore made most of peacebuilding and development programs to adopt human-rights based approach. Human rights-based approach emphasizes the importance of human rights and respecting other human's dignity in the process of peacekeeping. Nowadays, a lot of international community and organizations has adopted this process to make their peacebuilding process very successful. Any peacebuilding process needs to be one that involve rights-based approach so that everyone's dignity and live is respected regardless of stage of peacebuilding process.

Democracy and Peacebuilding

Any peacebuilding process should be one that encourages or promotes democratic system of governances. Of course there are so many challenges associated with democratic peacebuilding process including failure to achieve both democracy and peacebuilding in places like Iraq as noted by (Parlevliet, 2017) but democracy is important governance system that can sustain peace within the society. This happens in numerous ways. One way is since democratic governance promotes plurality of governance systems, everyone in the society will feel included in the system thus reducing chances of violent conflict within the society. Democratic governance also encourages everyone's participation in the local politics thus reducing grieving and discrimination in the governance system.

Both peacebuilding and democratic process are important ones. They can complement each other. For example, post-conflict society can adopt democratic system of governance to sustain their peace and prosper. Peacebuilding process can be also one which is based on democratic principles

so that locals can learn from such experiences. In short, democracy is important so as the peacebuilding process itself.

Development and Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding and development intersect and affect each other. For example, peace is very necessary for any development process. without peace means there are conflicts and wars that can hinder country's development process. Development can't happen or it will be very fragile one. Peacebuilding process is also very relevant for any development process. Strong institutions can be as result of very good peacebuilding process can result good development process. so both of the issues are cross-cutting and important for any society.

Even though some forms of development can happen without peacebuilding, there should be peace for any development process to be successful. Importance of peace for development has been acknowledged by different institutions both local and international. Therefore, efforts should be made to sustain both. Of course, after the peacebuilding that's when any development process can start, that's if that peacebuilding process was successful one.

Women and Peacebuilding

Women are important for any peacebuilding process. They play active role and different communities have appreciation for women in peacebuilding process. For instance, most of peacebuilding process glorify women which is very important. Women can play major role in peacebuilding process. they are the ones that always bring together conflicting parties. Local examples can be seen from your surroundings. For instance, in African context, one can always see important role women play in conflict resolutions.

To ensure that women are included in any peacebuilding process, they should be empowered. Empowering them will give them all the tools and necessary opportunities they need to be very good peace agents in their communities. Every community should empower their women and consider them very important members for both development and peacebuilding process.

Quick Summary

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1.5 Communication for Peace Building

Communication is very important for peacebuilding process. Clearer and better communication can make peacebuilding process very successful and effective one. It's communication what makes difference in any peacebuilding process. Communication is very vital and can either play positive or negative role in any conflicts. For instance, in the age of fake news, one can easily spread misinformation about specific conflict thus can lead to more intensified conflict. Therefore, effective use of communications is very important and essential one. Communication can also be used positively for peacebuilding process. Good communication can be even used for effective policy making in the peacebuilding process argued by (Servaes & Malikhao, 2012).

Advocacy is another important process in communication. Basically, with good communication systems and skills, one or group of peace advocates can start their advocacy process. so good communications are the starting point, but what will result in action is strong advocacy skills. To have good advocacy skills, it requires good communication skills. That's why both of them are very important for peace.

Communication in Peace Education

Since we have highlighted the importance of education in the previous section, now let's talk about specific importance it has for peace education. First, let's define peace education. Peace education

is process of teaching people about peace as well as its importance(Harris, 2004:6). Peace education is very important for anyone who wants to be part of very sustained and peaceful society. But why communication is important for peace education? Since peace education is all about teaching, effective communication is very important for that education to be delivered. In other words, to education people about peace, one must have good communication skills so that no barrier(s) can stand on the path of seeking peace education.\

The way communication happens in the peace process needs to be very clear one so that everyone that seeks peace education gets clear understanding of what constitutes as peace education. Good communication is therefore necessary. Another important aspect of communication in peace education is its effectiveness of removing all the barriers and miscommunications that can lead to misunderstand thus resulting conflicts. Good communication can enhance the quality of peace education. If quality of peace education is increased that means more people will know about what peace is and what can disrupt it. This knowledge can be then implemented into their daily lives and it can improve the way their abroad peace. Communication is therefore milestone to achieving peace education.

Communication in Peace Advocacy

Advocacy communication engages strategic intervention with clear political positions, having no presence towards neutrality, and resisting hegemonic dominance in valuing social justice" (Wilkin 2014, p. 58). In liberal democratic contexts, advocacy can certainly stand for actions with clear political goals for policy change (Servaes and Malikhao 2012; Wilkin 2014); but in regimes where bottom-up political campaigns are prohibited, advocacy should be taken in a broader sense to recognize possibilities for making change. Advocacy communication can then be understood as communicative processes and strategies that disrupt dominance and hegemony and lead to transformative and systematic change.

Advocacy communication is now a key action term in development discourse. Advocates are usually issue - or programme-oriented and do not often think in terms of an ongoing process of social change in general, or peacebuilding in particular.

Quick Summary

In this unit you have learn about the concepts of communication, advocacy, and peace education. I hope that this has added some more understanding of things you know about peace and peace building process. it's expected and hoped that this will make change in your live and that of your lived community. To assess your understanding of the key concepts and process of peacebuilding, try the unit quiz provided on the LMS and interact with your peers to facilitate communications. If you have any questions, please reach out to your teacher via LMS.

Summary of Study Session 1

Throughout this study unit, we've covered topics related to peace, peace building, peacebuilding process and strategy, communication, advocacy, role of different parties in peace building process.

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