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**CONFLICTS AND CONFLICTS MANAGEMENT AMONG POLITICAL
PARTIES IN NIGERIA: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE IN ACHIEVING
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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Abstract

Achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is unattainable in an environment where political parties suffer vicarious dysfunctionality and economic depression. Nigeria as a nation is characterized with conflicts and violence of Boko-Haram insurgents, kidnapping, civil unrest, ritual murders and political intolerance. This study examines the roles of Adult education and its programmes as conflicts management strategies that can enhance in achieving MDGs in Nigeria. Descriptive research of survey type was used as design. The population for the study comprised 3.5 millions of both APC and PDP registered party's members in Lagos State. A total of four hundred (400) political parties' leaders and members were randomly selected from two political parties namely, All Progressive Congress (APC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The randomization of the party sample and parties members was done through the use of stratified sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Descriptive and inferential statistics of mean rating, standard deviation, and Chi-square and regression analysis were used to analyze the data collected. The result found out that if conflict is well managed, attaining/achieving MDGs is possible in Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that Nigeria should imbibe culture of peace through peace education, instilling the right mind and attitude to people through conscientization and shun any acts of violence. It was recommended that concerted effort should be made by political members, parties, and individual members of the society in fostering in individual the skills, attitudes, knowledge and behaviour that value human life and appreciates its country.

Key Words: Conflicts, Conflict management, Millennium Development Goals, Political parties and Social disorder

Introduction

Nigeria was one of the 189 countries that signed and adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the United Nations Millennium Summit held in New York in September, 2000. The Millennium Development Goals are multi-dimensional in nature, member countries were enjoined to muster political will and commitment to pursue policies and programmes that would tackle factors that majorly impinge on human development such as eradication of poverty, hunger, gender disparity and so on. They were also mandated to achieve the goals by 2015. The United Nations eight Millennium Goals was broadly spelt out as specified in FRN (2005) include:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

These objectives are to be accomplished by 2015. As at now 2018, three years after, the picture of achieving MDGs is mixed and I asked can the objectives be achieved in a developing economy perpetuated with challenges such as Nigeria? The answer seems to be "No". This is because the concept of development is very broad and often development from developing economies perspective is construed and discussed from economic point of view neglecting the social and political changes and the social vices (conflicts) that may be created by the changes required for such development. The process of development in Nigeria has been characterized by all manner of conflicts which require urgent management and resolution in order to attain the millennium development goals even in year 2020 which the Federal Republic of Nigeria has tactically shifted the accomplishment to.

The emphasis of this paper is management of conflicts to attain MDGs. The paper is not looking at reduction, elimination or termination of conflicts but rather it is on how to manage conflicts among political parties through Adult education and its programmes to achieve MDGs in Nigeria since conflict is inevitable, it is bound to arise in the cause of the interaction between groups and individuals that make up the social system or the institution which relates to maintain the survival of the whole system. The impact of conflict in development cannot be underestimated. As at October 21, 2016, there are forty registered political parties in Nigeria with different ideologies, manifestoes and code of conduct. The political parties are structured in such a way that nobody is endued with moral authority. Obviously, the political parties and its members are bedeviled with political strives and rancor. At national scene, the environment is full of issues of intractable corruption and security challenges such that achieving millennium development goals seems to be unattainable.

Achieving Millennium Development Goals may be unattainable in an environment that is characterized with persistent conflicts and violence. among political leaders, Niger Delta Avengers in the east, Boko-Haram insurgents in the North, domestic violence, kidnapping, civil unrest, ritual murder, armed robbery insurgency, Fulani herdsmen conflict with farmers, religion intolerance, cults clashes, constant bombing and damaging of crude oil pipes, bad roads, electricity epileptic fit, inflation in an economy where dollars are discussed and sought for as if it is their medium of exchange and unpaid salaries of the civil servants by the governors they voted for. As at the time of this study at least 29 states out of 38 states owe their workers a minimum of 7 months salaries. The lives of fellow human beings have no values and meaning. How will crisis not abound in this situation and how can the economy attain any development?

Most often political crises are caused as a result of un-kept promises made by the politicians during electioneering campaigns such as, insincerity on the part of government and leaders, loss of heritage and cultural values, inequality in distributing economic resource, corruption and nepotism. The level of corruption in Nigeria has gotten to a stage that if a 3 years old child is given a token of money, he/she will not disclose the actual amount to his/her parents. Corruption is seeing, worn, drunk and eaten in Nigeria. The youths watch their leaders and families swindling and lavishing the money that belong to everybody on parties at home and abroad. Most often, these result into violence and bring despair to citizens. Recently in the country, the \$2.1 billion that was set aside and to be spent on insurgent was shared by some groups of unscrupulous government officials and political leaders referred to as "Dasuki Gate".

The Dasuki arms deals case is a national disgrace and embarrassment, in a country where majority of the graduates are unemployed and do not have any means of income, where the level of poverty is high. Looking at the United Nations indicators for measuring progress towards the MDGs, Nigeria is not on the track to achieving MDGs even in 2020 as proposed by the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Statistics show that the incidence of poverty in Nigeria using the rate of US\$1 per day increased from 28.1 percent in 1980 to 46.3% in 1985, and declined to 42.7% in 1991 and increased to 65.5% and 69.2% in 1996 and 1997 respectively (UNICEF) recently, it is 100%. Nigeria possesses a dichotomy of wealth and poverty. Although Nigeria is rich in natural resources, yet her economy cannot meet the basic needs of the people. The majority of Nigerians are poor with 71 percent of the population living on less than \$1 a day and 92 percent on less than \$2 a day (UNICEF). People are dying of hunger while the unemployment rate is closing to 80%.

So far so good, the United Nations called the MDGs the most successful anti-poverty movement in history. There are many unresolved problems that have caused a lot of damages and destruction to the country. All these and others can cause conflicts and could obstruct MDGs.

Nigeria like most developing countries seems to have failed again in achieving MDGs like the previous development programmes or plans. The major constraints that make the MDGs unattainable are unresolved conflicts among political parties, government mismanagement, corruption, bad governance, fraudulent and unpatriotic individuals and leaders among others. Thus, proper management and recognition to causes of these conflicts is important if MDGs is to be achieved.

Conceptual clarification

For adequate understanding of the intent of this paper there is need for analysis of certain concepts. The concept includes; conflict, conflict management.

Concept of conflict

Conflicts have been described by many authors as an indisputable fact of all organized life. Every aspect of human activities can breed conflicts and if not well managed, the aftermath may be undesirable. Bloisi (2007) defined conflict as a disagreement between two or more parties who perceive that they have incompatible concerns. Similarly, Rahim (2002) conceptualizes conflict as an interactive process manifested in incompatibility, disagreement or dissonance within or between social entities (individual, groups, organizations among others). Nonyelu (2009) on his own part explained conflict as all manners of disagreement or dissenting opinions or interests on issues or matters affecting two or more people. Odepitan, Saba, Abiodun and Omidiran (2009) explained the word conflict is derived from Latin word which means "to clash or involve in a fight". It means confrontation between one or more parties aspiring towards competitive means or ends. Conflict in this study can therefore be seen as disagreement, differences, quarrel and incompatibility between two or more groups as a result of injustice and human imperfection or error.

Conflict arises as a result of inequality in distributing scarce resources of the economy. Resources in this sense could be human, material, capital and liquid resources. Conflict has both positive and negative implications. If conflict is well managed, it then becomes an instrument of positive change, if otherwise; it can lead to riot, catastrophe and even war. Conflict is inevitable in a pluralistic nation like Nigeria with a diversified culture, heterogeneous groups with different languages. Often, conflicts are characterized by the inability of individuals or groups to trash out their differences and settle their grievances amicably to reach an agreement on issues of common interest.

Conflict management

There exist a lot of literature on organizational conflict management but few literature exist on society conflict management in either, what is germane is that conflict must not necessarily be reduced, suppressed or eliminated but managed to attain peaceful co-existence of individual, group, inter or intra-group in society. Rahim (2002) pointed out that conflict management involves defining effective strategies to minimize the dysfunctions of conflict and enhancing the constructive functions of conflict in order to enhance learning and effectiveness of an organization. Odepitan et al (2009) described conflict management as the interventionist efforts towards preventing the escalation and negative effects, especially violent ones, of ongoing conflicts. Agbonna, Yusuf and Okafor (2010) on their part see conflict management as elimination of disagreement. Conflict management suggests providing solution or solving conflicts instead of reducing, eliminating, limiting, surprising but controlled to reduce negative effects of conflicts. Fapohunda and Awoberu (2014) believe that to manage conflict effectively, the analysis of the conflict resolution has to be made first. This according to them can be done by providing answers to the following questions:

- Who are those involved in the conflict? The conflict may be between individuals-groups, groups or department.
- What can be identified as the source of conflict?
- At what level is the conflict?

Strategies of adult education and its programmes in managing conflict and achieving millennium development goals

Adult education has been argued by many people in various ways. To some, it simply means any educational activity directed towards adults. To others, it means literacy education, that is, ability of adults to be able to read and write and compute basic numeracy. Some even see it as nomadic education or out of school education. Obasoro (2004) citing Prosser (1967) defined adult education as a force which by all intents and purposes can help conscientize and mobilize the society in determining its ends by bringing into focus a maximum of re-orientation and adjustment of value system, attitude and behaviour to any new and changed situation within a limited period of time. This change may be from within or outside any given society. Corroborating the view of Prosser (1967), Day (2002) views adult education as purposeful and sustained effort for the increase of knowledge, skill or appreciation by those expected to behave as adult so as to strengthen the learner's sense of competence and self-esteem and to enhance the likelihood the individual will continue to value and participate in learning activities throughout life.

The various definitions given above see adult education as education for individual, peace, community and the society at large. As a matter of fact, education, be it formal, informal or non-formal has a lot of positive effects on the lives of its recipient. Adult education makes people aware of both individual and community needs, it provides the type of learning that enables recipients to cope successfully with social and current problems thus laying the foundation of managing crisis and achieving Millennium Development Goals. Education including adult education is an instrument for excellence, for attaining national development (FRN, 2004). The sustenance of positive societal values and conscientization are the major concern of adult education. With adult education, individuals, societies and nation will attain all-round development.

The field of Adult education has unique opportunities in injecting hope into the hopelessness of any situation. These, Adult education can achieve through its various programmes such as civic education, peace education, environmental education, seminars, workshops, conferences and even providing professional development skills to political leaders and party leaders both at local and national level. Adult education programmes can take any form. For instance, the political leaders can be introduced to leadership management training and development courses on analyzing a problem, identifying applicable strategies to manage conflicts before escalating to catastrophe and war. Additionally, the political leaders can be equipped in skills necessary for resolving and managing conflicts. Such skills include equipping them with skills of solving political, socio-economic, religious, cultural and environmental problems. More so, in every political meeting, the leaders can be informed and taught on how to interact with individuals, listen to their grievances, if any, and intervene in their crisis and balancing competing interests among various groups and teams. On the other hand, political parties can equally collaborate with non-governmental organizations and partner with religious institutions to organize talks, seminars, workshops, training and even political conferences where issues relating to their disagreement, controversy, struggle, differences, grievances, competing needs and problems will be freely discussed. All these are within the ambit of Adult education. The participants will be taught and encouraged to always imbibe the culture of peace through peace education.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (2006) defined peace education as a prime requirement for progress and national integration. Imbibing peace education is not only an appropriate strategy for conflict resolution, but also a proactive means of achieving MDGs. The reason for this is that peace begins with individuals and spread to the family, to the community, to the nation and to the whole world. Thus peace education is a good strategy of conflict mediation and resolution. It focuses on causes of conflicts, analysis of conflict and on ways of resolving such conflict non-violently. Adult education and its programmes are tools of consciousness raising and means of attaining MDGs.

* The importance of peace was so enormous that Bible says in book of Hebrews 12:14, to be in peace and holiness with all men in which no man can see God. Without peace no nation or individual can have development. Peace education has to do with instilling the right mind, imbibing the culture of harmony and peace and character formation in people for the sake of

society tranquility and national development. A nation without peace is characterized with violence. Violence according to Dupuy (2011) implies the direct and the structural aspects. Direct assault includes personal assault, rape, brutality, terrorism, murder, ethnic cleansing, institutional war, state sponsored terror, industrial destruction of plants and animals. Indirect violence on the other hand is characterized by sexism, racism, discrimination, poverty, lack of education and health services. Peace education is a means of protecting individual and the nation from violence and calamity of war. Oyitso and Omage (2015) identified reasons for peace education in Nigeria as:

- Peace education is necessary for promoting the culture of peace.
- It makes a nation to have a stable democracy.
- For economic growth and development.
- Respect for human right.
- For social development.
- For cultural heritage, human security and national unity and integration.

VanIjendoorn (1983) observed that education has two major dimensions in democracy, namely political and psychological. From the political perspective, VanIjendoorn claimed education aims at increasing the knowledge of the political system and to enhance democratic values, so as to protect society and the democratic order. In this vein, conscientization education can be used to sensitize and develop the right mind in people. The term conscientization was invented by a Brazilian adult educationist Paulo-Preire who described conscientization as an attack on the mind. The purpose of conscientization is to liberate man from the restraints and limitations of ignorance and dependence. Conscientization can be used to disabuse corruption in Nigeria. Individual mind can be changed on abuses of offices, cringing, and favoritism, cutting corners, budget padding and rigging of election by political leaders, thuggery and insincerity. The political leaders most in particular those in the federal upper house and lower house (Senate and Representative) who fought on every trivial issues can be conscientized to desist from shameless act of thuggery, wasting of resources and bitter politics. The rising criminality in the societies makes it imperative for conscientization. In this vein, conscientization will equip and improve the politicians in forming the vanguard of democracy.

Similarly, environmental adult education can be used to solve problems of daily living of Boko-Haram insurgent, the Fulani herdsmen and constant bombing. Gruenewald (2004) conceptualizes environmental education as learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about challenges to develop the necessary skills to address the challenges and foster attitudes, motivations and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action. Environmental adult education will create awareness in the adults and youths on the challenges that are causing conflicts and violence in the country. Through it, everybody will have knowledge and understanding about what is happening and obtaining in their environment, development of awareness and having insight on the part of individual will create a positive attitude needed for development and achieving MDGs. Finally on strategies, meaningful education cannot be ignored.

Statement of the problem

The rate of crime and violence in Nigeria is quite alarming. There are several cases of kidnapping, Boko-Haram insurgence, the Fulani cattle herdsmen and farmers clashing, Niger Delta avengers bombing, cult clashes and many other unresolved conflicts in Nigeria. The causes of the conflicts are not farfetched. The basis seems to be unfaithfulness on the part of the political leaders in fulfilling their manifestoes during election campaigns. Added to this seems to be high level of corruption and injustice on the part of the politicians who dwindled the economy. The degrees of conflicts appear to be on steady increase on daily basis and government seems to be helpless in resolving the conflicts and salvaging the economy. Conflict is inevitable and it is a pervasive element of social life, if it is not resolved, it becomes detriments to individual, society and even hinders national growth and development. Achieving MDGs in the face of current challenges in Nigeria entails that conflicts must be tactically and properly managed such that everybody including political leaders and its members need to be conscientized to have their own mind of contributing to the development of the country in order to achieve MDGs. It is against

this background that this paper seeks to propose appropriate traditional conflict management strategies in achieving MDGs through adult education and its various programmes.

Purpose of the study

The study examines how conflicts management will help in achieving MDGs in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Examine causes of conflict in Nigeria and most in particular among the political parties;
2. Identify strategies of managing conflicts among the political parties and its members in Nigeria;
3. Find out if persistent challenges of social disorders can hinder Nigeria in achieving MDGs;
4. Proffer solutions to resolving conflicts in order to achieve MDGs.

Research questions

1. What are the causes of conflicts among the political parties in Nigeria?
2. What are the strategies of managing conflicts among the political parties and its members in Nigeria?
3. How will persistent challenges of social disorders hinder Nigeria in achieving Millennium Development Goals?
4. What are the solutions to resolving conflicts in order to achieve MDGs in Nigeria?

Research hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between conflict management and achieving Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.
- H₀₂: The persistent challenges of social conflict disorders of Boko-Haram. Avengers, kidnapping will not significantly hinder MDGs in Nigeria.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was employed for this study. This was considered most appropriate because the process of the study concentrated on discussing events as they were, without any interference on what was observed. This is the best measure for conflict management and achieving MDGs. The target population for the study comprises all the ninety one (91) registered political parties and their members in Lagos State, Nigeria. Leaders and registered card carrier members of All Progressive Congress Party (APC) 1.7m and people Democratic Party(PDP) 1.8m, totaling 3.5miliions members in Lagos State formed the population of this study. The choice of the population and the sample was informed by the fact that these category of people when sworn in engaged in day to day activities of implementation of their party's manifestoes, government policies and system aiming at attaining millennium development goals. Secondly, some of the political parties and members have engaged in one conflict or the other either during or and after election process. Beside this, APC and PDP are the major most viable ruling parties in Nigeria. The choice of political parties and their members were used because these are the parties that produced Nigeria leaders and constitute Nigeria government. More so, a lot of conflicts ensue among these two political parties, their leaders and members. The sample size was made up of a total of 200 political leaders and members in Somolu Local Government and 200 political leaders and members in Badagry Local Government in Lagos State.

In selecting the respondents, the existing classification of local government into wards by Independent National Electoral Commission of 2015 was used. Somolu was classified into 8 political wards namely: Ward A Onipanu, B Bashau, C Ijebutedo, D Orile Alade, E Okesuna/Atise. F Balulaiye, G Igbari and H Fadeyi/Igbobi. Eight (8) political leaders representing one leader from a ward and 24 members were purposively selected using simple random technique in each ward in Somolu, making the respondents to be 200 purposively selected. Badagry consisted of 32 wards, 8 wards were purposively selected from 32 wards. In each ward, one leader and 24 members were purposively selected from each ward, using simple random

technique. In all, 400 respondents were selected using purposive sampling technique based on accessibility and convenience.

The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire which comprised items designed to elicit demographic information and data on the major issues of concern. To determine if the instrument was capable of measuring what it was designed to measure, it was face and content validated using four experts with two from Department of adult Education and two from Measurement and Evaluation all in Faculty of Education, University of Lagos. Thereafter, the instrument was pilot tested using a split-half method in order to determine its reliability. The result of the pilot study using X^2 and Regression analysis produced a reliability coefficient of 0.81 and 0.77 respectively. The instrument was administered on every political meetings day for three weeks. All the instruments were filled and returned on a spot.

In analyzing the data collected, descriptive statistics of mean rating, standard deviation, ranking order and inferential statistics of Chi-square (X^2) and regression analysis were used. All items with a mean of 2.50 and above were regarded as agreed and accepted and all items below 2.50 were regarded as disagreed and rejected. Null hypotheses are tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Mean rating and standard deviation of the causes of conflicts among political parties in Nigeria.

	Items	X	SD	Dec.	Rank
1	Unpatriotic attitude of political leaders and members of the parties.	3.55	0.58	Agree	3 rd
2	Intolerance among people and political parties.	3.60	0.63	Agree	2 nd
3	Incompatibility of the people that formed the parties.	3.80	0.78	Agree	1 st
4	Dissonance within the parties and social entities.	3.20	0.56	Agree	4 th
5	Differences in opinion.	3.18	0.55	Agree	5 th

Table 1 presents the mean ratings and ranking of the respondents on causes of conflicts among the political parties in Nigeria. The table shows that all the items are rated high above the criterion mean of 2.50 on the four point Likert rating scale. This means that all the items are significant in what causes conflicts among the political parties and their members.

Table 2: Mean rating and standard deviation on the adult education programmes and strategies in managing conflict among political parties in Nigeria

	Items	X	SD	Dec.	Rank
1	Imbibing culture of peace through peace education	3.84	0.70	Agree	1 st
2	Conscientization of individual's mind.	2.66	0.50	Agree	5 th
3	Frequently organizing talks, seminars, workshops, political conferences etc.	3.41	0.63	Agree	3 rd
4	Equipping the parties' members' skills for resolving and managing conflicts.	3.17	0.60	Agree	4 th
5	Meaningful education to resolve and manage conflict to be given to individuals that make up the parties and the public.	3.60	0.68	Agree	2 nd

Table 2 reveals that peace education, conscientization of mind, seminars, workshops, political conferences, meaningful education to resolve conflicts are good strategies of managing conflicts. The result of the mean score is high above 2.50 which was the criterion set for agreed. All the respondents agreed to the strategies identified as being adequate in managing conflicts in Nigeria.

Table 3: Mean rating and standard deviation of the influence of persistent challenges of social disorder on achieving Millennium Development Goals

	Items	X	SD	Dec.	Rank
1	Extreme poverty and hunger are a major causes that will hinder MDGs.	3.73	0.72	Agree	1 st
2	Neglecting social vices such as kidnapping, raping, domestic violence, insurgence, etc. will hinder MDGs.	3.60	0.68	Agree	2 nd
3	Corruption is a major factor hindering MDGs	3.42	0.61	Agree	3 rd
4	Confrontation, clashes, thuggery among political parties will hinder MDGs.	3.24	0.56	Agree	4 th
5	Inequality in income and position distribution of those in power will hinder achievement of MDGs.	2.16	0.29	Disagree	5 th

Table 3 explains the result of persistent challenges of social disorders on achieving millennium development goals. The result emanating from the table shows high scores in mean rating with the exception of inequality in income which was rated 2.16, this was below the criterion mean of 2.50. This shows that inequality in income cannot cause violence or war among the political parties and its members in Nigeria.

Table 4: Mean rating and standard deviation of solutions to resolving conflicts and achieving MDGs

	Items	X	SD	Dec.	Rank
1	Vigorous public enlightenment through mass media e.g. television, radio, newspapers.	3.20	0.58	Agreed	3 rd
2	The educational qualifications of political office holders should be reviewed to a minimum of first degree certificate.	2.12	0.27	Disagree	4 th
3	Crisis should be well managed by those in authority since it is unavoidable.	3.39	0.65	Agree	2 nd
4	Different pressure groups in the country should give room for crisis intervention and mediation.	3.58	0.82	Agree	1 st
5	Sharing available resources such as money equally.	1.69	0.42	Disagree	5 th

Note: Any mean (X) that is not up to 2.5 is rejected.

Table 4 shows the result on solutions to resolving conflicts and achieving MDGs. Item on giving room for pressure groups for intervention and mediation was ranked 1st, managing conflict by those in authority came 2nd, rigorous public enlightenment came 3rd, while educational qualifications of political office holders and sharing of available resources came 4th and 5th with a mean rating of 2.12 and 1.69 respectively.

Test of hypotheses

Ho: There is no significant relationship between conflict management and achieving Millennium Development Goals.

Table 5: Chi-square test showing the relationship between conflict management and MDGs

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig (2 sided)
Pearson Chi-square	89.367	2	0.005
Likelihood ratio	11.28	2	0.01
Linear-by-linear association	8.271	1	0.003
N of valid cases	297		
P = 0.05, df = 3			

Table 5 above shows that $X^2_{cal} = 89.367$ while the critical value was 7.815. In view of this data the X^2 calculated value of 89.367 is greater than X^2_{table} value of 7.815. This shows there is a significant relationship between conflict management and achieving MDGs. Therefore, the null

hypothesis was rejected. The result suggests if conflicts are well managed, then Nigeria will achieve MDGs.

Ho2: The persistent challenges of social conflict disorders will not significantly hinder MDGs.

Table 6: Regression analysis on persistent social disorders and achieving Millennium Development Goals

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	
(Constant)	54.293	0.780		69.569	0.000
Social conflict disorders	1.866	0.268	0.273	6.951	0.000

$P < 0.05$

Multiple R = 0.273
 Multiple R² = 0.075
 Adjusted R² = 0.073
 F = 48.319
 Probability = $P < 0.05$

The following regression can be derived from table 6 $Y = a + bx$

Where X = Social conflict disorders
 b = Regression Weight coefficient
 a = Constant (variables other than X)

The regression equation of relationship between the dependent and independent variables can therefore be given as follows: $Y = 54.293 + 1.866X$.

Table 6 shows persistent social disorders conflicts will significantly hinder MDGs. ($F_{1.598} = 47.319$, $P < 0.05$). The null hypothesis is therefore rejected. The result revealed that there is a significant positive but low multiple correlation between the predictor variables (social disorders conflicts) and achieving MDGs ($F = 0.273$, $P < 0.05$). This implies that the predictor variable provide a significant explanation for the variation in achieving MDGs in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

Nigeria faces myriad of challenges hindering her achieving MDGs. This study revealed that if conflicts are well managed, achieving MGDs is attainable. As found out in this study, internal crises are the major causes of conflicts among the parties and her members in. All the respondents agreed that unpatriotic of political leaders, intolerance, incompatibility, dissonance and differences in opinions are the major causes of conflicts. This result was in support of Rahim (2002) who explained that conflicts arise as a result of incompatibility, disagreement within or between social entities.

The second research finding of the study showed that the mean score of all the items are above 2.50 of the mean criterion. This implies that the respondents that are involved in this study agreed that adult education has programmes that can resolve conflicts and if well utilized can lead to attainment of MDGs. This research finding is in agreement with Oytso and Omage (2015) and Day (2002). They viewed adult education as purposive education for development of youths, adults, society and the nation at large.

Furthermore, findings of the study show that conflictsmismanagement, social disorders and violence can hinder achievement of MDGs. This agrees with the findings of Agbonna, Yusuf and Okafor (2010) that conflicts should be controlled to reduce negative effect of conflicts in escalating to violence and war that can hinder development.

Conclusion

It is possible to imagine a society without conflicts. Nigeria as a nation has been caught in the web of numerous conflicts. Conflict if well managed could have positive impact on people

and the society and if it is not well managed, could be detrimental and have negative impact on people and the society.

This paper has discussed extensively the challenges hindering the achievement of MDGs in Nigeria.

All the country needs to do is to imbibe conflict management strategies that will move the country forward. Such strategies include imbibing the culture of peace through peace education, instilling the right mind and attitude to the people through conscientization and sensitize people to leave in peace and shun any act of violence. Without these, achieving any development be it social, political, human and even MDGs is unattainable in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, this paper recommends as follows:

- Achieving MDGs is possible if adult education and its programmes are seen as holistic education for individual and national development.
- Concerted efforts should be made by parties and individual in fostering individual with skills, attitude and knowledge that value human life and appreciate its country.
- Nigeria must imbibe culture of peace, tolerance and patience.
- Regular and consistent training, seminars, workshops, conferences and talk must be frequently organized for political leaders, party members and individuals on how to live in harmony, have respect for human and properties and to shun act of violence that can disrupt and hinder national development.
- Since there is a strong correlation between conflicts management and MDGs, the strategies identified in the study such as conscientization, sensitization must be strictly adhered to in order to achieve Millennium Development Goals.

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