Evaluating the Approaches in Resolving Insecurity-Related Conflicts and Promoting Peace in North East Nigeria.

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Abstract
The research examined the approaches to resolving insecurity-related conflicts and promoting peace in northeast Nigeria. The study adopted the hybrid theory as a framework. A survey method was adopted, and 400 questionnaires, calculated using the Taro Yamane formula, were distributed to the respondents. A total of 384 questionnaires were returned as valid. The study areas were restricted to Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa States in northeastern Nigeria. The research findings strongly resonate with the hybrid theory. The finding revealed several methods employed to address and resolve insecurity related conflict in the northeast region such as military force participation; negotiations between the opposing factions and government representatives; Similarly, employment of conflict and peace building specialists in addressing the issue; and organizing meetings between the conflicting parties and elders as a means of settling the insecurity related conflict in he region. The research recommends: government should do a thorough analysis of the root cause of conflicts or crises and address them in a lasting manner rather than suppressing them, as they often resurface; government should conduct an inquiry into the traditional conflict resolution approach and peace building, as it is not only more effective but also deeply ingrained in the culture; multiple measures as suggested by the theory should be adopted in resolving conflict in the northeast region.

Key words*: Conflict; Conflict Resolution; Conflict Management; Peace building; Insecurity*

I.   Introduction

The current menace to global peace is apparent in the escalating conflicts and violence worldwide, affecting both developed and developing nations. This is particularly evident in the Middle East (Iraq, Iran, Israel, Palestine, and Turkey) and Africa (Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Uganda, Niger, Algeria, and numerous others) (Maiangwa, 2017). Violent conflict is widespread, and there is an intense desire for peace. However, despite the acclaimed internal conflict resolution mechanisms proposed by proponents of democratic systems, such as Aristotle, John Stuart Mill, Rousseau, Alexis de Tocqueville, and Schumpeter, these systems and their institutions have failed to control the increasing violence and conflicts effectively. This failure raises doubts about the effectiveness of the democratic system itself (Rosato, 2003). It is a common question to ponder the flaws in the system, as highlighted by Runciman (2017) in his article titled "What has gone wrong with our democracy?" The concept of democracy proved to be highly effective in the 20th century. However, it has encountered difficulties in recent times. What measures may be taken to restore its vitality? Hence, there is a necessity to reassess the system and determine the most effective approach to rectifying it (Flinders, 2012).

Currently, the world requires alternative conflict resolution methods beyond traditional approaches, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration (Sharma, 2010). These conventional strategies have proven ineffective in achieving the desired outcome, as conflicts and crises persistently resurface shortly after being presumed resolved (Marc et al., 2015). In addition, it is crucial, now more than ever, to proactively address conflicts and violence due to their profound impact on individuals' well-being, assets, and the overall society (Ramsbotham, 2016). The field of conflict resolution is ever-evolving. The Arab Spring of 2011, although initially promising, led to a sequence of unforeseen events that had a profound impact on the Middle East, neighbouring areas, and the relationships between key powers (Wallensteen, 2018). The objective of this article is to examine the strategies employed in resolving insecurity-related conflicts and promoting peace in Northeastern Nigeria, with a special

focus on Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa States. This research is highly relevant as it aims to reassess the tactics and procedures used in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the Northeast region.

Conceptual Review
Conflict
Juneja (2019): Conflict is defined as a clash between individuals arising out of differences in thought processes, attitudes, understanding, interests, requirements, and perceptions. This definition underscores the diverse sources of conflict, including cognitive and perceptual differences.

Frère and Wilén (2015) highlighted that conflict may not necessarily be defined in terms of violence, hostility, or the use of physical force but may include incompatibility or differences in issue positions. This broadens the understanding of conflict to include non-violent disagreements stemming from differing perspectives (Magaji, Dagachi & Jafaru, 2018).

Zartman (2018) argues, on the other hand, that conflict is a deliberate and conscious decision that arises from the need to demonstrate human interdependence. Conflict, as defined by different scholars, can be perceived as either a positive or negative process (Chidi, 2018). From the foregoing definitions, conflict can be defined as a clash of interests, ideas, or understanding between two or more parties.

Types and Sources of Conflicts
Conflict, as mentioned by Hayward and O'Donnell (2010), can stem from three fundamental factors.

i.   Economics Factors: involve the allocation of limited resources among individuals or groups who want to optimise their positions.

ii.   Value Differences/Power Dynamics: Incompatible lifestyles, ideological disparities, preference for personal beliefs, and power dynamics aimed at maximising influence within a relationship. This is supported by Fisher (2000) in his research, which suggests that in many instances, disputes arise due to underlying causes. Confrontations stemming from economic considerations include the Niger Delta oil crisis, conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, and disputes over land and property (Jafaru, Aliyu, & Sule, 2025).

iii.   Ethno-religious/chieftaincy conflicts: These are also another source of conflict that stems from divergent values, while political conflicts, such as those resulting from electoral malpractices, marginalisation, and injustice, originate from power struggles (Nwankwo, 2018).

iv.   Additionally, other factors, such as environmental issues, unemployment, poverty, and communal disputes, can also generate conflict in society, as noted in various studies (Aluko & Magaji, 2020; Magaji, 2008, 2007). Alternatively, some researchers argue that other factors, in addition to the economic, value, and power sources outlined by Withey and Katz (1965), Enaberne, Musa and Magaji (2024) and Fisher et al. (2000), can also serve as causes of conflict. This refers to competition over goals and interests that neither party can share. Usurpation is the deliberate attempt by one element of a society to seize control of the goals or objectives of another element. Such occurrences may arise from conflicting objectives, an increasing yearning for autonomy and control, limited or inadequate resources, and failures in communication. This viewpoint is additionally corroborated by Fetherston (2000).

Conflicts have been categorised into four discrete classifications.

i.   Divergent conflict arises when people within a community are striving for objectives that are incompatible with the goals of the group or society. Consequently, it becomes challenging to bring together the individuals, leading to the formation of divisions within the society or group.

ii.   Symmetrical conflict arises when there is a lack of cooperation within a group, ethnic group, or civilisation. Due to the indivisibility of the group, this conflict ultimately leads to a collapse in existing relationships.

iii.   Complimentary conflicts arise when parties involved in a group misread the group's goals, even if they are supposed to collaborate to achieve a shared objective. An instance of this can be observed in the lack of trust between the Nigerian Army and the Nigerian Police Force, despite their responsibilities being intended to be mutually supportive. However, they regard each other with reciprocal distrust (Sandole & Van der Merwe, 1993).

iv.   Parallel conflict arises when competing parties assert their entitlement to a particular position within a relationship or engagement. An instance of this occurs when a labour union asserts its right to strike, while management asserts its right to safeguard company assets.

Conflict Resolution
Conflict resolution, according to Deutsch (2014), is: *"the process of resolving a dispute or conflict by meeting the needs and addressing the interests of all parties involved"*.

Ramsbotham et al (2016). Conflict resolution entails the *"processes that seek to resolve disputes by identifying underlying interests and promoting understanding"*

Conflict resolution refers to the techniques and procedures used to promote the peaceful resolution and repair of disputes (Wallensteen, 2018).

According to Wallensteen (2018), there has been a misinterpretation and misapplication of the notions of conflict resolution, transformation, prevention, and post-war peacebuilding when it comes to settling conflicts in the framework of freedom and democracy. Thus, to gain a comprehensive understanding of these concepts, it is advisable to obtain clear explanations from the beginning. He argues that there has consistently been a dichotomy within the area of conflict resolution between its focus on resolving conflicts and its emphasis on bringing about fundamental change, particularly in the international community and in the context of democracy. According to him, conflict resolution plays a crucial role in negotiating standards to ensure that the management of international disputes is based on the demands of the conflict victims, who are often excluded from traditional party structures for an extended period. Effective resolution of the most severe conflicts is only possible when undertaken within a transformative framework. Conflict resolution refers to the alternative means or mechanisms used to resolve misunderstandings between parties involved in a conflict.

Conflict Management

Conflict management theorists view disputes as an unavoidable aspect of social existence, considering them essential and indispensable elements that cannot be eliminated due to variations in values and interests among individuals and societies. According to these thinkers, resolving such conflicts is unattainable and can only be effectively handled and controlled. Conflict management, as defined by Ohlson (2008), involves the participation of various stakeholders, including politicians, mediators, diplomats, negotiators, and advocates from non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In his study, Dontigney (2014) delineated five distinct phases of conflict resolution: avoidance, collaboration, compulsion, accommodation, and compromise. There exist multiple tactics that can be utilised in conflict resolution, in addition to the ones already mentioned.

According to Odiniya et al. (2014), conflict can be effectively controlled by employing avoidance and strategic retreat strategies. Odinwa (2015) suggests that conflict can be averted not only by withdrawing from the situation but also by engaging a neutral third party to facilitate a resolution agreed upon by all parties involved.

Insecurity

Lorey (2015) identifies three dimensions of insecurity in society, which are:

Precariousness: An existential condition shared by all beings, highlighting inherent vulnerabilities.

Precarity: The unequal distribution of precariousness, leading to social hierarchies and inequalities.

Governmental Precarization: The deliberate production and regulation of insecurity by governmental policies and practices (Magaji, Gurowa & Abubakar, 2014).

Her definition posits that insecurity is not just a lack of safety in society, but a tool used in governance and Administration is used to control the population in society.

Achumba, Ighomereho, and Akpor-Robaro (2013) view insecurity as the antithesis of security, encompassing a state of vulnerability to harm, exposure to danger, hazard, and uncertainty, as well as a lack of protection, stability, and confidence. Insecurity manifests in various forms, including physical threats, economic instability, and social unrest, all of which impede human development and societal progress (Magaji & Musa, 2015; Yunasa et al, 2024). Beland (2015) offers a psychological and sociopolitical perspective, defining insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or perceived lack of protection. This condition affects individuals' sense of safety and well-being (Magaji, 2002). Therefore, Insecurity is the state of not being free from danger and threats in society (Magaji, Musa & Salisu, 2022).

Empirical Review

Abeeb (2020) in his research stated that since 2009, there has been an increasing spate of violent conflicts in the Northeastern part of Nigeria. He also observed that the crises have challenged several efforts aimed at resolving them and now require urgent attention from all stakeholders to find a lasting solution. He said different types of crises, such as the Boko Haram insurgency and other terrorists' activities, especially the Fulani Herdsmen/farmers' conflict, have resulted in a humanitarian crisis in which over 20,000 people have been killed. Approximately 2.6 million people are displaced, with property worth millions of Naira destroyed. The crises are now extending to other parts of Nigeria, and the sub-region of West Africa needs to be addressed with utmost seriousness before the situation escalates. He identified several measures adopted to bring an end to these crises, such as the use of the military, legal adjudication, the establishment of a dialogue committee, a legislative approach, and the proposed granting of amnesty to insurgents and terrorist groups.

However, none of these measures have been able to resolve the crisis. His research assessed the various strategies employed to stem the crises in the North-East, identifying the loopholes and bottlenecks that have deterred or hindered the resolution of the conflicts. A survey method was employed to collect data using a questionnaire. "Interviews were conducted to get first-hand information about the root causes of the conflicts from the people at the grassroots who are most affected by the crises. His findings revealed the urgent need to reappraise

the current counter insurgency strategies and money laundering Acts which are the major strategies employed in resolving the ongoing conflicts, "Whilst employing alternative strategies (hybridization) with more focus on political economy approach which centers on addressing the root cause of conflicts such as poverty, unemployment, inequality and with emphases on preventive methods to conflict resolution and peace building (Jafaru, Magaji & Ahmad, 2024). However, his work covers the period from 2009 to 2017 and only adopts the hybrid theory in its study, neglecting other fundamental theories.

In another study by Adewale and Adelekun (2022), they emphasised the importance of achieving sustainable development in society, particularly in post-authoritarian countries like Nigeria. They identified the importance of effective peacebuilding and conflict resolution strategies in addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties. It can also help address issues such as economic inequality, social injustice, and political corruption, while providing access to education and promoting the participation of marginalised groups in the decision-making process. They recommended laying the foundations for a more stable and prosperous future for all citizens. Their work is primarily concerned with achieving sustainable development in society.

In a further study, Lamidi (2021) evaluated the peace-building architecture of the United Nations, using Southwestern Nigeria as a reference point. Quantitative data were generated from responses to the questionnaire. In addition, the qualitative data were gathered from two sources: interview responses and theme coding of the Focus Group Discussion. The data collected were analysed using frequency, percentage, mean value, and standard deviation, as well as content analysis methods. From the descriptive statistics, he found that quick intervention, cross-examination, negotiation, and mediation of differences were evaluated as the key building strategies adopted for enhancing peaceful coexistence in local communities within Southwestern Nigeria. Despite those good remarks, the poor nature of ethnic cooperation underlines the causal reason for incessant communal conflicts in Southwestern Nigeria. It therefore concluded that peace-building strategies in Southwestern Nigeria were operationalised with observable inconsistencies from the qualitative data. However, his research was limited to the southwestern region of Nigeria and failed to recommend possible solutions to the identified problems.

Theoretical Framework
Hybrid Theory
The theory originated from the fields of peace and conflict studies, law, and globalisation, drawing inspiration from various theoretical frameworks, including liberalism, realism, and constructivism in the field of international relations. The term "hybrid" refers to the blending of different systems, ideologies, or practices, often observed in societies emerging from conflict or authoritarianism into more democratic systems. The concept acknowledges that political systems, governance structures, and social practices are rarely purely one model or the other; instead, they often incorporate elements from multiple sources. The theory focuses on the following:
The theory examines how different political and social systems coexist, particularly in post-conflict societies where traditional authority systems (tribal or customary) coexist with formal state systems.
The theory emphasises the importance of legitimacy in governance. It examines how hybrid systems can reconcile local customs and informal norms with the legal frameworks established by the state or international entities.
Hybrid Theory addresses how various conflict resolution mechanisms can be integrated to cater to the diverse needs of communities, reflecting both customary practices and formal legal systems.
The theory recognises the role of participatory methods in conflict resolution, promoting inclusive dialogue framing that brings together disparate stakeholders.
However, critics argued that the concept of hybridisation is often too vague, lacking a clear definition or measurable indicators for analysis.
 Some scholars highlighted that hybrid systems may replicate existing power structures rather than genuinely addressing inequities or injustices.
Overemphasis on Local Practices: The theory's emphasis on indigenous or local practices can lead to essentialization or romanticisation of these systems, potentially undermining formal governance structures necessary for the rule of law.
Market Mechanisms: Others argue that incorporating market-based mechanisms in peacebuilding can lead to the commodification of conflict resolution, prioritising profits over social justice.
However, the theory can be applied to conflict resolution and peace-building strategies in democratic systems in the following ways:
Inclusive Approaches: By emphasising inclusivity and participation, Hybrid Theory fosters environments where multiple voices are heard, allowing for more responsive and effective conflict resolution strategies. This alignment is crucial for democratic processes that seek to engage diverse populations.
Legitimacy and Local Buy-in: Understanding and integrating local customs and legal practices can enhance the legitimacy of peacebuilding initiatives, making them more acceptable to affected communities. This respect for local knowledge fosters democratic values and practices.

Transformation over Imposition: Rather than imposing a singular democratic model, Hybrid Theory advocates for transformations that adapt global norms to local contexts, leading to more sustainable and effective governance.

Building Resilience: Hybrid systems can leverage local networks and collective identities, thereby enhancing community resilience in the face of conflict and contributing to long-term, peaceful coexistence. The study is anchored on the hybrid theory.

II.   Methodology

This work employed a survey method, which involves gathering information through essential questions from a representative sample of the population. One method that will be adopted under this survey method is a questionnaire.

The area of study in this research is northeastern Nigeria, which comprises six States (Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Yobe, and Borno States). However, due to economic challenges and other factors, the research will be narrowed to three States to represent the entire region. These States are Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa.

Bauchi State: Bauchi State is situated in the northeastern region of Nigeria. The area is located at a latitude of 10.8°N and a longitude of 9.8°E. It covers a land area of 45,893 km2 and is positioned on the northern boundary of the Jos Plateau. Kano and Jigawa states are in the northwest of Bauchi State. The state also has contiguous borders with Yobe State to the east, Kaduna to the west, and Taraba and Gombe to the south. Bauchi State is in the northern region of Nigeria and encompasses two separate vegetation zones: the Sudan savannah and the Sahel savannah. The Sudan savannah vegetation type characterises the southern region of the state. In this region, the flora gradually becomes more abundant as one moves towards the south, particularly around water sources or rivers. The population of Bauchi State was approximated to 7,540,663 in (statedirector.bauchi@ntionalpopulation.gov.ng, 2023)

Yobe State: Yobe State is also located in the northeastern region of Nigeria and was created in 1991 when it was carved out of Borno State. Borno State borders Yobe State to the northeast, Gombe State to the southeast, Bauchi State to the southwest, and Jigawa State to the northwest. Plains, with a semi-arid climate, predominantly characterise it. The capital city of Yobe State is Damaturu. The state features a mix of flat and hilly terrain, with several rivers, including the Yobe River, which flows through part of the state (Dan-Azumi, 2011).

Yobe State is home to a diverse range of ethnic groups, primarily the Kanuri, who constitute one of the largest ethnic groups in the state, with a significant presence in northern Yobe. Another dominant tribe in the State is the Fulani, who are predominantly found in the state's pastoral regions. Yobe State also have a tribe called Shuwa Arab, mainly located in the northeastern part of the State. Other ethnic groups include the Ngizim, Bade, and others, reflecting a rich cultural tapestry (Abeeb, 2020)

The population of Yobe State was estimated to be approximately 2.5 million as of the last census, although figures may vary due to factors such as displacement from conflict and migration. The population density is relatively low compared to other regions in Nigeria due to the vast land area and arid conditions (NBS, 2020).

Adamawa State is in the northeastern region of Nigeria and is known for its diverse culture and rich history. Borno State borders Adamawa State to the northeast, Gombe State to the southeast, Taraba State to the south, and the Republic of Cameroon to the east. The state features a diverse landscape comprising hills, valleys, and plains. The capital city of Adamawa State is Yola. The state features mountain ranges, notably the Mandara Mountains in the northeastern part, and has several rivers, including the Benue River, which contributes to its agricultural viability (Abdul, 2015). Nnaji (2011) identified the major ethnic groups in the State, including the following tribes:

Fulani, who are predominantly found in pastoralist communities; Gwari (Gbagyi), which is also an indigenous ethnic group primarily involved in agriculture; Mbula, also found in the State; Ngwa, another local ethnic group contributing to the state's diversity, and many more smaller tribes are also found in the State.

Adamawa State's economy is based on several key sectors. The study population will comprise all individuals in the study areas (Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa States) who are eighteen years of age or older at the time of conducting this research.

The research will consist of 400 participants, and the sample size will be determined using the Taro Yamane formula as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

n= Sample Size
N= Population Size
1= is constant
E Margin of error
Sample size: 400 participants

The study will adopt both purposive and stratified sampling techniques. The purposive sampling technique was employed due to the research's purpose. In contrast, the stratified sampling technique was employed because the research participants are spread across different States and local government areas in Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa States in northeastern Nigeria.

A questionnaire is the instrument to be used for data collection in this research. It will contain two parts: the first section will contain information and personal data of the respondents.

The work will adopt both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods. The quantitative method will involve a narrative analysis of the interview without any statistical analysis. At the same time, the qualitative method will include using statistical techniques, such as descriptive statistics, straightforward percentages, and frequency tables, to analyse the quantitative data.

Data Analyses

Table 4.1: Sex Distribution of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Female	178	46.35
Male	206	53.65
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The data shown in Table 4.1 indicates that 53.65% of the respondents in the research area are male, while the remaining 46.35% are female. The data indicate a higher proportion of males in the studied area.

Table 4.2: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentages (%)
10-20	9	2.34
21-30	54	14.06
31-40	63	16.40
41-50	72	18.75
51-60	67	17.45
61-70	68	17.71
Above 70	51	13.29
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

Table 4.2 presents the distribution of respondents in the research area by age group. The findings indicate that the majority of individuals belong to the working-age cohorts of the economy, with an average age of 50.21 years. Specifically, 18.75%, 17.45%, and 16.40% of the participants fall into the age groups of 41–50 years, 51–60 years, and 31–40 years, respectively. Similarly, approximately 31.00% of the surveyed individuals fall within the age range of 61–70 years and those over 70 years. This suggests that most of the respondents are actively engaged in the workforce.

Table 4.3: Insecurity-Related Conflict Understanding

Conflict understanding	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Crisis	79	20.57
Disagreement between people	103	26.82
Non-cordial relationship	108	28.13
State of war	94	24.48
All the above	-	-
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The data presented in Table 4.3 illustrates the breakdown of participants based on their comprehension of the notion of insecurity-related conflict. Comprehending the notion of conflict is a fundamental step or initial stage in conflict management investigative research. The results indicate that the respondents' understanding of conflict follows a similar pattern. The percentages of respondents who identified crisis, dispute between individuals, non-cordial relationship, and state of war as their interpretation of conflict were 20.57%, 26.82%, 28.13%, and 24.48%, respectively. All these circumstances might be considered instances of conflict comprehension by the participants in the research areas.

Table 4.4: Insecurity-Related Conflict Awareness

Conflict awareness	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Aware	215	55.99
Not aware	-	-
Only aware of the study area	169	44.01
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The results presented in Table 4.4 indicate that a majority (55.99%) of the respondents included in the sample are knowledgeable about the insecurity-related conflicts occurring both in their immediate surroundings and in other regions. In contrast, approximately 44.01% of the respondents are only aware of the conflict within their area. The findings indicate that the conflict observed in the study area has the potential to extend beyond national borders.

Table 4.5: Duration of Insecurity-Related Conflict

Duration of Conflict	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Over ten years	165	42.97
Seven years	78	20.31
Five years	41	10.68
Not sure of the duration	100	26.04
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The data shown in Table 4.5 unequivocally demonstrate that the conflict in the study area has persisted for more than a decade, as reported by 42.97% of the participants. Meanwhile, 20.31% and 10.68% of the participants reported conflicts that had lasted around seven years and five years, respectively. However, around 26.01% of the respondents in the sample were uncertain regarding the duration of the war in the research area. Consequently, the war has endured for an extended duration in the research areas.

Table 4.6: Causes of Insecurity-Related Conflict

Causes of conflict	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Poor economic situation	121	31.51
Marginalization	108	28.13
Religion	59	15.36
Politics	96	25.00
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The results presented in Table 4.6 above demonstrate that the conflict in the research area is primarily caused by three variables: low economic position, marginalisation, and politics. These factors account for 31.51%, 28.13%, and 25.00% of the reported causes, respectively. Similarly, a mere 15.36% of the participants in the research area reported experiencing insecurity-related conflict caused by religion.

Table 4.8: Groups Involved in Insecurity-Related Conflict

Groups involved in conflict	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Farmers and herdsmen	177	46.09
Between tribes	75	19.53
Between political parties	132	34.38
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The data shown in Table 4.8 illustrate the distribution of respondents according to the groups to which they were associated during the war. The findings revealed that 46.09% of the participants reported a common occurrence of conflict between farmers and herders, whereas 34.38% reported conflict between various political groups. Similarly, around 19.53% of respondents also indicated the occurrence of intertribal conflicts. This data suggests that the primary participants in conflicts are primarily farmers and herdsmen. This can be seen as a struggle for survival between humans and animals.

Table 4.9: Current Conflict Resolution Strategies

Current conflict resolution strategies	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Through meetings between the parties and elders	42	10.94
Through meetings between the parties and government agents	65	16.93
Intervention of military force	231	60.17
Through conflict and peace-building consultants	46	11.96

Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The results presented in Table 4.9 illustrate how respondents in the research area reported using different dispute resolution tactics. According to the findings, over 60.17% of the participants indicated that military force was employed as an intervention to address and settle the conflict. In contrast, around 16.93% reported that negotiations between the opposing factions and government representatives addressed the problem. Similarly, around 11.96% of the participants reported employing conflict and peace-building specialists to address the issue. In contrast, only 10.94% of the respondents mentioned utilising meetings between the conflicting parties and elders as a means of settling the conflict. The finding suggests that the primary tactics employed to address and resolve conflict in the research area are militia forces.

Table 4.10: Duration of Conflict Resolution

Duration of conflict resolution	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Few months	38	9.90
One year	162	42.19
Two years	135	35.16
No specific time frames	49	12.75
Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field work (2025)

The data shown in Table 4.10 indicates that conflict resolution in the research area typically spans around one year. This information was reported by 162 individuals, accounting for 42.19% of the respondents. Likewise, 35.16% of the participants reported engaging in conflict resolution for around two years, whereas 38 individuals, equivalent to 9.90%, stated that they had only been involved in conflict resolution for a few months. Nevertheless, 12.75% of the respondents, totalling 49 individuals, did not provide a particular period for historical conflict resolution in the research area. The data indicates that the process of resolving conflicts often spans a duration of one to two years within the studied region.

III. Discussion of Findings

Findings of this research work show that the study areas (Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa States) in northeastern Nigeria have over the last decades witnessed terrorist activities, which have resulted in the killing of a significant number of people and the displacement of several people, according to. Fulani herders and farmers' conflicts over resource control (land) for animal rearing and the cultivation of crops, which have also led to the killings and destruction of properties worth millions of naira. The most concerning aspect of the situation in the study areas, especially Bauchi, is that despite several efforts by the government, both at the state and federal levels, to resolve the conflicts, the situation appears to be worsening, as the conflict continues to claim more lives and property over time. It is on record that the government at both the state and federal levels has invested significant resources, both financial and human, worth billions of naira in resolving the conflict, but to no avail. In fact, instead of the crisis being resolved, evidence shows that the terrorist groups are not only gaining more ground but are expanding their strength and connection to international terrorist groups.

The Nigerian government has made several efforts to resolve the conflict, but a solution remains elusive. Findings revealed that the government, over the years, employed military and other paramilitary agents to fight the terrorist group in what is better known as counterinsurgency or terrorism strategy.

A significantly greater percentage of the 384 respondents to whom questionnaires were administered felt that the strategy was ineffective because it only suppresses the conflict rather than resolving it. Indeed, the majority opined that the strategy only reduced the violent nature of the crisis but did not resolve it. It is important to know that the counterinsurgency/terrorist approach came because of the increasingly violent nature of the terrorist group in the wake of 2000-2015. Thus, the government's response was a spontaneous approach to quell the escalation and violent nature of the conflict. This was why the Counter-Terrorism Act came into effect in 2004, 2011, and 2013, respectively. It is not surprising, therefore, that the strategy is not working as expected because there was no broad consultation with the people at the grassroots; it was a top-down designed approach to conflict resolution, and it has merely turned the areas into a battlefield for the military and the terrorist group. It has engulfed billions of naira, yet there is no sign that the military is winning the war, as soldiers and civilians are being killed daily by the terrorist group. During the research, it was gathered that there is ongoing underground negotiation between the terrorist group and the federal government of Nigeria on the possibility of ending the crisis, but this cannot be substantiated as the federal government has often denied the existence of such an arrangement.

IV.   Theory and Findings

As mentioned earlier in this work, the research is grounded in the Hybrid Theory, which explores how various conflict resolution mechanisms can be integrated to cater to the diverse needs of communities, encompassing both customary practices and formal legal systems. Also, the theory recognises the role of participatory methods in conflict resolution, promoting inclusive dialogue framing that brings together disparate stakeholders.

The results presented in Table 4.9 illustrated how respondents in the research area reported using different dispute resolution tactics such as military force participation; negotiations between the opposing factions and government representatives; Similarly, employment of conflict and peace building specialists in addressing the issue; and organizing meetings between the conflicting parties and elders as a means of settling the conflict. The findings revealed several methods employed to address and resolve conflicts in the northeast region. Thus, the findings have justified the hybrid theory.

V.   Conclusion

The research examined the approaches used to resolve conflicts and promote peace in north-eastern Nigeria. Hybrid Theory was adopted as a framework in the research. The research findings strongly resonate with the theory. The work provides a theoretical analysis of six primary ways of resolving conflict in the northeast region (Bauchi, Yobe, and Adamawa states) based on a total of 384 respondents. The finding revealed several methods employed to address and resolve insecurity related conflict in the northeast region such as military force participation; negotiations between the opposing factions and government representatives; Similarly, employment of conflict and peace building specialists in addressing the issue; and organizing meetings between the conflicting parties and elders as a means of settling the conflict.

VI.   Recommendations

Effective conflict resolution methods should specifically target the underlying causes of conflicts and hostilities at the local level. They should also aim to strengthen the local community's ability to effect positive change and enhance governance. Additionally, it is crucial to include both local and international environmental elements to address conflicts comprehensively. In this situation, communities and governments at both national and international levels must allocate more resources and make greater efforts towards establishing peace. Peacebuilding is a proactive approach to preventing conflicts, rather than waiting for disputes to occur before dedicating significant resources to address and resolve them. This subject is emphasised in the United Nations Charter, which explicitly addresses global peace and security. Nevertheless, governments should implement additional measures in this area through their domestic policies.

The government should conduct a thorough analysis of the root causes of conflicts or crises and address them in a lasting manner, rather than suppressing them, as they often resurface.

The government should conduct an inquiry into the traditional conflict resolution approach and peacebuilding, as it is not only more effective but also deeply ingrained in the culture.

Multiple measures, as suggested by the theory, should be adopted to resolve conflicts in the northeast region.

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