

The satire of reconciliation and peaceful settlement in post ethnic conflict: Evidence received from Greater Kibaale Region, Uganda

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Abstract: *Over the last two decades there has been a growing concern on explore the satire of real reconciliation and sustainable settlement in post-ethnic conflict in greater Kibaale region Uganda. It was guided by three objectives and the study used descriptive mixed method the enabled collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. A case research design was used for in-depth and clear understanding of the variables under investigation. The samples of 248 research participants were drawn from the targeted population using purposive, stratified and simple random sampling. Survey, interview and focused group discussion were used in data collection. The collected data was strategically analyzed using SPSS and thematic content data analysis. Findings show a slow pace of real reconciliation and the significant behavior tensions indicators among citizens in the region. Exogamy was a vital influence reconciliation and sustainable settlement. Recommendations: Forming a reconciliation commission, establishing strong reconciliation commission, administrative structures, having conscious cultural leaders, providing technical support, setting clear settlement policies, and empowering local government leaders to encourage co-existence and accommodation of exogamy immigrants in the greater Kibaale region in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom in Uganda.*

KEY WORDS, *Exogamy, Reconciliation Ethnic conflicts, Sustainable settlement*

Introduction

Over the past three decades, global social and political changes have led to diverse discrimination, particularly on the African continent. These changes, sometimes attributed to the end of the Cold War, have resulted in ethnic conflicts or genocide, as seen in the 2002 conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom. These changes have led to an increasingly heterogeneous discrimination in socio-economic, cultural and political situation (Teranishi et al. 2020). At times, these social changes are explained as part of the global change due to the end of the cold war leading into ethnic conflict or genocide (Milenković 2024). In 2002 we experienced a crush of two ethnicity in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom particularly Kibaale Kitara Kingdom where Bafurki and Banyoro broke-down of the socialist block. In a certain sense, these processes fragmented organised state structures and administration or caused their structural collapse (Middleton 2020).

Since the colonial era, African countries have faced ethnic conflicts, with Sub-Saharan Africa, including Sierra-Leone, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, facing greater challenges in achieving sustainable peace and stability. These countries lack political will to maintain peace building processes, leading to armed ethnic conflict. (Gelbard et al. 2015). Alarmingly, most of these countries lack the political will to maintain previous peace building processes and thus have fallen prey to continuous armed ethnic conflict (Bank 2018). This is partly due to ineffective conflict management policies, state weak administration and inadequate reconciliation strategies to address the prevailing challenge that result into persistent conflicts in Africa.

Esman (2018) contends conflicts in these countries are mostly between ethnic groups not between states. If not checked, ethnic conflicts are contagious and can spread quickly across borders like cancer cells. Ted Gurr and Monty Marshall have written that most African conflicts are caused by the combination of poverty and weak states policies and political power desires of institutions (Sopranzetti 2018). However, it should be noted that, violent ethnic conflicts have become one of the most significant global peace threats (Nations 2021) contend that there are some many incidents that confront ethnicity and eventually escalate into violent ethnic conflicts and breaking of mutual relationships.

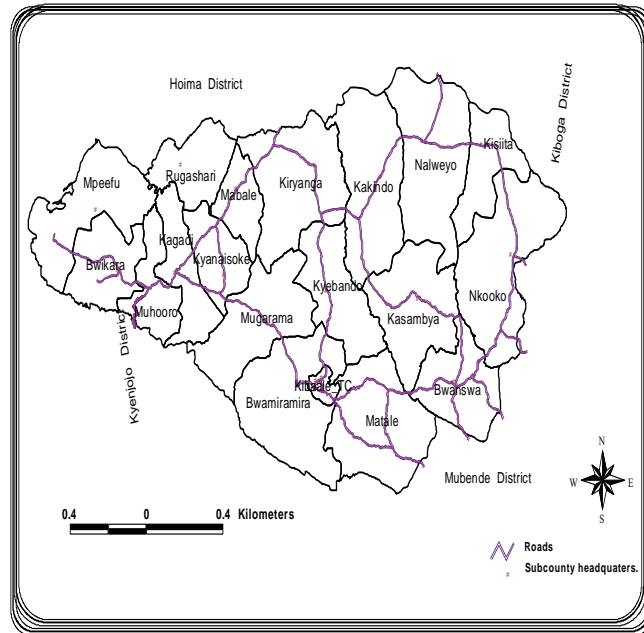
For example, countries in the Great Lakes Region alone which have fallen victim of ethnic conflicts include Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo, have experienced ethnic conflicts which have constrained the communities' social relationships and more especially people who share the same cultural values and linguistic characteristics. According to (Mwakikagile 2009) ethnicity in Africa is characterised by a myth of the common descent, culture, and territory that guides the relationship among the members of a given ethnic group in the society.

The African history of ethnicity, traditions, and myths is influenced by cultural, biological, and physical appearance determinants. Theories attempt to explain ethnicity, focusing on instrumentalists and constructivists' actors, influencing perceptions and theories for centuries (Heizmann and Schunck 2022). Ethnic conflicts in the Great Lake Region stem from hegemony and inequality among different ethnic groups, often lacking political will to restore peace and relationships, perpetuating societal instability. (Lake and Rothchild 2020).

This is partly due to ineffective conflict prevention measures, management and sustainable settlement strategies by the leaders at different levels. For instance, peace activists use context analysis approach to get the entire overview of the affected population in

the setting of internal ethnic conflict (Stein and Harel-Shalev 2019). The instrumentalist on the contrary claims that, ethnicity is determined by politics hence ethnicity is basically a political factor because it creates customs and platform for legitimizing claims of identity in public spheres (Galpin 2017). It should be observed that a number of ethnic groups in the Great Lakes region have experienced these kinds of explosive ethnic conflicts. These ethnic conflicts mostly are among ethnic groups within the state but not between states. Through combined effort, Government, Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society and Endogenous institutions have controlled and managed to prevent the ethnic conflict in Greater Kibaale District. The delayed reconciliation and sustainable settlement of the immigrants and the indigenous people of Greater Kibaale, has raised tension of the residents and public concern (Linda and William 2018). It is against this background that, the researcher intends to explore the challenges pertaining the reconciliation process and sustainable settlement in a post-conflict area in Greater Kibaale.

The map of Uganda and Greater Kibaale Region where the study was carried out.



(Source, Bunyoro by Rulekere 2024)

Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom experienced ethnic conflicts due to land ownership, political power domination, and marginalization of Bafuruki immigrants. Roots in fundamentalism traditions stem from historical and recent dispossession of land by other tribes. (Kakuru, 2005). The Post- ethnic conflicts among the immigrants and inhabitants Banyoro that escalated on 23rd February 2002, after the Local Council leaders' election of (Mukiga) as the chair person Local Council five affirm the notion of ethnic conflict and legacy of Banyoro in Bunyoro land. Bunyoro-Kitara. The Omukama Kabalega of Bunyoro-Kitara resisted British colonial administration, leading to Kabalega's exile to the Seychelles. The war left Bunyoro under-populated and poor, with loss of life and property destruction in the ethnic conflict in the greater Kibaale region (Nations 2021).

However it should be observed that the post-election conflict sparked off the ethnic conflict which was already on agitating for about two decades in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom through land wrangles and inequality in socio-economic distribution.

Despite efforts by the Kingdom cultural leadership and Mubende-Banyoro Committee, tensions persist among the ethnic groups involved in the 2002 election conflict. Tensions persist in land disputes, political power, and social economic perspectives, affecting most Great Lakes Region countries. The bloodshed and destruction of property by different ethnic groups in Bunyoro were unique due to political ideology and institutional peace building programs.

The dream of social restorative justice and reconciliation between Bakiga and Banyoro ethnic groups has been lost since the 2002 ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom. Tensions persist in land disputes, political power, and social economic perspectives, affecting most Great Lakes Region countries. Gafabusa (2002) contends that, the bloodshed and the destruction of property by different ethnic groups of Bunyoro was unique in a sense that, it took place when it was least expected.

This phenomenon was due to the contradictions of movement's political ideology, policies and programmes of institutional peace building process geared towards prevention of ethnic based conflicts. Muhindo (1993) highlights the significant impact of ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, threatening economic and political development. Despite efforts from government, NGO, civil society, and institutions, delayed reconciliation and sustainable settlement of immigrants and indigenous people have raised tensions and public concern. The researcher aims to explore challenges in post-conflict peaceful settlement in Uganda.

Methodology

The study of this article adopted descriptive parallel mixed methodology that enabled collection of both qualitative and quantitative data (Resources 2022). A case research design used and it enabled a comprehensive and deeper understanding the variables under investigations and paradigm were used to provide rigor to the study. The design was envisaged suitable it allow the engagement of large number of respondents. This type of design is often used in studies that aim to examine the relationships between reconciliation and sustainable settlement variables. The study used different methods of data collections for instance survey that enabled collection of quantitative data and this was obtained with less biasness, allow data to be collected from many participants, and the results are also generalizable (McLevey, Scott, and Carrington 2023). There was a total population of 5670 students in the 15 secondary schools that were under consideration. Based on the Morgan and Krejcie table, a total sample of 360 students was considered. We used both proportionate and stratified sampling techniques to select the above respondents (Ahmed 2023). This process ensured that the sample size from each class was proportional to its representation in the total school population. Additionally, this approach aimed to ensure a fair distribution of students from each stratum while maintaining a focus on representation. Generally, by integrating proportionate random sampling and stratified random sampling, the study achieved a comprehensive and unbiased representation of the student population (Alfred, Robinson, and Roumell 2021).

The study adopted a mixed methodology approach in which a survey, interviews and focused group discussions were used in data collection (Resources 2022). These methods enabled collection of both primary and secondary data. The study employed the questionnaire to draw data from large number of students. Interview and focused group discussion guides were employed to some few informants who were engaged in the study. The Loneliness and Social Dissatisfaction Questionnaire, developed by Buckler & Moore, (2023) was used to evaluate students' feelings of loneliness, social adequacy or inadequacy, and subjective perceptions of peer status. The sum of the 16 core items provides an aggregate score, ranging from low 16 to high 80 loneliness, indicative of the level of loneliness and social dissatisfaction experienced by the student (Chitate 2024). The questionnaire has demonstrated good to excellent internal consistency in previous studies, with Cronbach's alpha scores ranging from 0.74 to 0.94 (Tyndale 2024) In the present study, the scale had acceptable internal consistence ($\alpha = .83$) and a content validity index of 0.71.

The Social Anxiety Scale for Adolescents was adopted for assessing social anxiety among adolescents in the present study. The SAS-A is intended for high school students and comprises 22 items, 4 of which are filler item. Respondents rate themselves on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "Not at all" to "All the time (Nations 2020). The subscales of the SAS-A are interrelated and can be used to derive a total score that represents social anxiety. Higher scores on the SAS-A indicate greater social anxiety. The SAS-A has demonstrated validity and satisfactory internal consistency in previous studies. In the present study, the scale had acceptable internal consistence ($\alpha = .78$) and a content validity index of 0.81.

The School Liking and Avoidance Scale (Nations 2020) is a self-report questionnaire used to assess students' attitudes towards school. The original version of the SLAQ, comprising 14 items, consists of two subscales: School Liking and School Avoidance. The School Liking subscale assesses students' positive feelings towards school, while the School Avoidance subscale

measures their tendency to avoid school. The SLAQ has been adopted for use with adolescents, and a 16-item version has been developed for this purpose.

This study used only the School Liking subscale, which comprises 11 items. The items are measured on a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from “Almost never” to “Almost always,” and were used to evaluate the frequency with which the statements apply to the student. A School Liking score was calculated by averaging the scores across the items. Higher scores on this subscale indicated a more favorable attitude towards school.

The validity and internal consistency of the School Liking subscale have been established in previous studies, with Cronbach's alpha values ranging from 0.83 to 0.91 (Tornberg, Barber, and Walden 2023). In the present study, the scale had acceptable internal consistence ($\alpha = .83$) and a content validity index of 0.90. The study thought for approval and permission from head teachers to conduct a research study in their respective schools. The participants were briefed by the researcher on the purpose of the study to encourage their participation. The researchers were present when the respondents were filling out the questionnaire to rectify any issues and concerns that may arise. Considerable time was given to participants to fill out the questionnaire after they were collected and screened to check for any unanswered items (Bratitsis 2023).

Data analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative data was analyzed using the relevant tools for data analysis. Initially, data were screened for missing values, outliers, non-normality and multicollinearity among the variables. Missing values accounted for less than 1% of the dataset and were addressed using mean imputation. No outliers or multi-collinearity were identified, and the data followed a normal distribution (Chakrabarti, Bakar, and Chakraborti 2023). Research objectives were analyzed as follows. For the first objective, the Pearson correlation coefficients were used to establish the relationships between the study variables (Bartels and Wittmayer 2020). Descriptive statistics and t-tests and ANOVA were to establish the levels of social anxiety and loneliness based on demographics data. Multiple linear regressions were adopted to determine the extent to which loneliness and social anxiety predicts school liking among adolescent students. All analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists Version 20 as advanced by (Ellis, Buttram, and Remy 2023).

Results of the findings

The study findings of this study clearly indicated the post-traumatic stress and deviant behaviour among the people which revealed that there were several challenges that hindered effective reconciliation and sustainable settlement. The study findings demonstrated exposure of violence acts during the genocide, extended beyond the victims and perpetrators. The current psychosocial and mental health is as result of reconciliation strategies.

The study reveals post-traumatic stress and deviant behavior among people during the 2002 ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom and the Western Region of Uganda. Challenges hindered effective reconciliation and sustainable settlement, and the exposure of violence extended beyond victims and perpetrators. Decentralization's effects on ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom are also examined.

Ethnic clashes had occurred in some parts, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region of Uganda as evidenced in (Mukama's Report 2006). The politicizing of ethnicity which is not good it perpetuates hatred among the ethnic groups. Table 2.12 shows the ethnic groups that were involved.

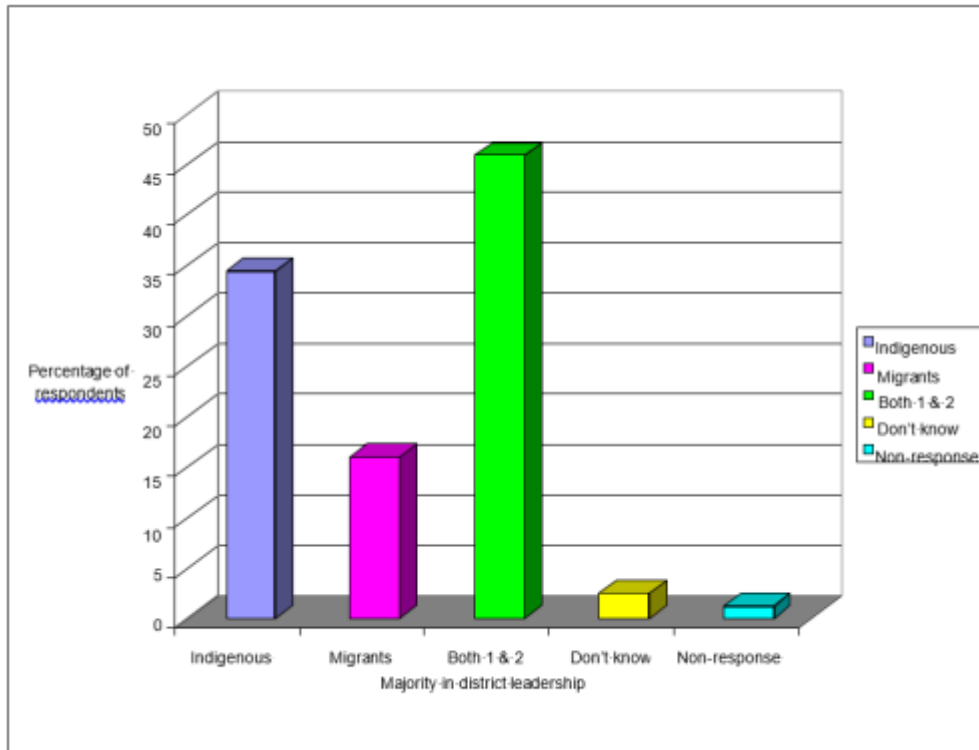
Table 2.12: Showing majority in Region leadership

Which people constitute majority in Region political leaders?	Number of frequency	Percentage (%)
Indigenous and migrants	92	46.7
Indigenous	64	32.5
Migrants	35	17.8
Don't know	4	2.0
Non-response	2	1.0
Total	197	100

(Source: *Field research, 2025*)

From Table 2.12 above, it identifies that 46.7% of the respondents show that the majority of those who occupy leadership positions in the Region were the Bunyoro and Bafuruki. This implies sharing of political leaderships in the Region while 32.5% of the respondents said that were Bunyoro and only 17.8% of the respondents were immigrants.

Figure 4: Illustration of the majority in the Region leadership



(Source: Field research, 2025)

Reconciling the ethnic conflicts in Uganda, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region

In order to know the strategies and measures of reconciliation and sustainable settlement that had been going on, it was necessary to ask for parties that had been involved in the struggle to reconcile affected people by ethnic conflict in Uganda, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region.

Table 2.13: indicating encouraging reconciliation and settlement in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

Which parties have been involved in searching for reconciling and settling the affected persons?	Number of frequency	Percentage (%)
Of the following, whom do you think should be considered to have played greater role while reconciling and settling ethnic conflicts in Uganda, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region ?		
NGOs/ Civil Society/Opinion Leaders	74	37.6
Religious leaders	40	20.3
Politicians	37	18.8
Cultural leaders	26	13.2
Central Government	20	10.2
Total	197	100
What effects have ethnic conflicts had on the socio-economic development of the Region		
Positive	107	54.3
Negative	75	38.1
Non-response	15	7.6
Total	197	100

(Source: Field research, 2025)

From Table 2.13 above, 37.6 % of the respondents said that Non- governmental Organizations, Civil Societies and Opinion Leaders had greatly contributed towards creating sustainable peace and settlement in, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom while 20.3% of the respondents said church leaders. Furthermore, 18.8% of the respondents said local leaders had contributed towards reconciliation and sustainable settlement while only 13.2 % of the respondents said cultural leaders. This implies that the process of peace building, restoration of broken social relationship of ethnic groups, reconciliation and settlement of the people in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom was the effort of all stakeholders in the community.

The study findings indicate that the 2002 ethnic conflict had an effect on social relationship and economic development of the people in, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom. When the respondents were asked, 54.3% of the respondents indicated it had a positive effect, while 38.1% of the respondents said that it had negative impact and 7.6% were not sure. The analysis of the findings revealed that 2002 violent ethnic conflicts caused affirmative change in the Region following the interventions and measures put forward to enhance the restoration of the broken social relationship and cause sustainable settlement of the people in the Region.

Challenges for reconciliation and sustainable settlement of people in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

In this section the respondents highlighted factors that had hindered conflict resolution and strategies put in place for effective peace building and reconciliation in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region Uganda. It was deemed necessary to identify these factors for opinion leaders to know and set up appropriate interventions. This could assist in knowing their weaknesses so as to improve them or think of other alternatives for effective restoration of lost relationship and sustainable settlement of the fatalities. From findings it is clear that 62.4 % of the respondents agreed with the assertion that low education level of the local leaders, colonial politics and poor policies had affected the strategies for reconciliation of ethnic conflicts in the Region, while 20.8% of the respondents disagreed with the assertions and only 10.2% of the respondents were not sure.

The research findings from the respondents clearly disclose that 40.1 % of the respondents agreed with the statement that decentralisation and other government policies had negatively affected the strategies for reconciliation of the people in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom while 44.7% of the respondents disagreed with that statement. This implies that despite the negative connotation of decentralisation policies towards the realization of effective reconciliation it had contributed a great deal in the struggle to reconcile the affected people in ethnic conflicts.

The study indicates that 60.4% of respondents agreed that surely the stated assertions in the table above had negative effects on strategies for peace building and sustainable settlement, while 24.4% of the respondents disagreed and 8.6 % were not sure

The study results indicate that, 52.9 % of the respondents agreed that increasing population, scarcity of resources, land, political power and threat of employment factors had affected the reconciliation process, while 31.9% of respondents disagreed and 8.6 % were not sure.

Furthermore, the study findings revealed that 60.9 % of the respondents agreed that failure of the central government political, inadequate support of peace building activities and insufficient sensitisation, unclear policies and inadequate facilitation of reconciliation committee activities and settlement processes had affected the progress in the reconciliation. On the other hand 32.5% of the respondents disagreed with those arguments above while 3.6 % were not sure and 3.0 % of the respondents did not give any response.

Practical measures and strategies for effective reconciliation and sustainable settlement in, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

The study findings disclosed that it is very important to devise means and strategies for effective reconciliation and settlement of the people affected by ethnic conflicts. Community participation had been considered to be a very pertinent procedure because they are aware of the root causes of the conflicts and the needs of the people who were directly affected by ethnic conflict. The respondents' suggested views were tabulated as shown in Table 2.15 below.

Table 2.15: indicating strategies for reconciliation and settlement of ethnic conflicts

Possible suggestions to effective reconciliation and sustainable settlement (list them)	Number of frequency	Percentage (%)
Land titles should be given to owners	105	53.3
Clear land and settlement policy and reconciliation commission is needed	82	41.2
Non-Government Organisation/ endogenous Organisations for lasting strategies of ethnicity.	75	38.1
Sharing political leadership with migrants should be /checked hegemony / inequality	24	12.2
Demarcation land and issuing of certificates	24	12.2
Educate masses on reconciling and formulation of Laws	22	11.2
Ensuring justice Land tribunals and guaranteeing rule of law	16	8.1
Establishing a Region Reconciliation Commission (Ministry to encourage accommodation)	11	5.7
Controlling Politicians interference and perpetuating in ethnicity.	10	5.1
Local leaders should be assisted in reconciliation activities	10	5.1
Tracking of all affected victims of ethnic conflicts	8	4.1
Free land should be given to people	7	3.6
Reduction of hegemony and discrimination of immigrants	7	3.5
Advocate for exogamy and acceptance of immigrants	6	3.1
Eliminating post-colonial attitude paradigm indigenous	5	2.5
Empower the natives / immigrants economically	5	2.5
Stop influx of immigrants /avoid scarcity of land/resources	5	2.5

Indigenous people should be the ones to distribute land	4	2.0
People should have witnesses when buying land	3	1.5
Involving victims in reconciliation / peace building activities	3	1.5
Support Inter –religious Council and Community Based NGOs in struggle of reconciliation process	5	2.5
Land that is not developed should take away from owners	2	1.0
Ethnic conflict issue should have fair hearing/ justice	1	0.5
Use of participatory Consult all stakeholders	1	0.5
Reduce bureaucracy in land office	1	0.5
Agreement between family members when land is to be sold	1	0.5
Amend constitution and some policies	1	0.5

(Source: Field research, 2025)

Note: The responses are more than the study population because of multiple responses.

The study found that 53.3% of respondents suggested granting land titles and demarcating land, while 41.2% suggested clear land policies, settlement policies, and establishing a reconciliation commission to promote peace, reconciliation, and sustainable settlement in the Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom. These strategies are crucial for resolving ethnic rivalry.

Furthermore from the table 2.15 above the results revealed that 38.1 % respondents suggested the strengthening Non-government Organisation and Cultural institutions of activities geared towards sustainable peace building. This implies that, the community engagement, participatory of the endogenous institution and local community members in conflict solutions and reconciliation process leads to restoration of social relationship and sustainable settlement.

The results of the study findings show that 12.2% of the respondents suggested that sharing of political positions, reduction leadership supremacy and inequality in economic resource distribution are strategies and measures that will enhance peaceful co-existence and sustainable settlement of the ethnic groups.

According to the study findings a number of strategies and measures were raised as reflected in the table 2.15 above, during focus group discussion and in-depth interviews and there is need for the government and other relevant leaders in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom to supportive and work jointly towards the implementation of highlighted strategies in order to achieve effective reconciliation and sustainable settlement in the Region.

The study observed that to attain sustainable peace, effective reconciliation and sustainable settlement of the people affected by ethnic conflict there is need for consorted effort of local government leaders and use community participatory approach of all stakeholders in the ethnic conflict. One of the key informants said:

“...the Church leaders through the inter-religious council have tried to advocate for Peace, unity and reconciliation of the ethnic groups in the area, but the community some of the community leaders are lacking commutative and distributive justice”

This implies that, there is need for having proactive leaders who are well informed about the social culture indifferences and who can equitably harmonise the diverse ethnic groups in Uganda, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region .

On the especial note Chairperson Local council five puts it that,

“...if at all we are to have everlasting peace and sustainable settlement, there is need for a strong political administrative structures and policies to reinforce the move toward the realisation of reconciliation proceedings and Transformation paradigm in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region, Uganda”.

Otherwise the ethnicity tensions, threats and conflicts in the Kitara Kingdom and the entire Region have subsided and our struggle is to maintain and sustain social relationship with other ethnic groups. For now it is close to a year, we have not heard any of Bafuruki being witch hunted and that seem to be an achievement towards sustainable peace and settlement in the Kitara Kingdom Region.

A number of issues were raised in the focus group discussions that were held in the research area. The discussants in the focus group interactions identified a strategy of guarding against illegal migrants and their encroachment on forest reserves as one of the causes of land wrangles and instability of the people in the Kitara Kingdom and Region. The discussion concluded in order to realize sustainable peace and settlement the government should active administrative structures that will enforce the rule of law and even come up with some by-laws to back the existing policies and security for sustainable settlement of the people.

The study findings from focus group discussions indicate that it was agreed upon by the discussants that there were social desperation and cultural hegemony of indigenous Bunyoro and they were not giving due respect to the Bafuruki people. A group member disclosed that, “the biggest mistakes the Bafuruki have been renaming the villages in their language. Names such as Rugashari, Kobushere, Kabale... which never existed before.” The indigenous people felt under looked and offended when they hear such things. As strategy to guard upon such circumstance and realise effective reconciliation in the society there is need to sensitize people and abolish such names in order to enhance co-existence and acceptance of immigrant (Mukama, 2006).

In the study it was discovered during the in-depth interviews in the research that land wrangles and leadership domination were the prime causes ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region Uganda,, it was mentioned that the problem of ethnicity was historical, that is from the time the British gave Baganda two counties and Bunyoro became squatters on their own land (Kattamusoke) puts it.

The problem has affected the residents of the area so much and respondents who answered questionnaires and the focus group discussions also mentioned it. They argued that there were many absentee landlords (Baganda) who were brought about by colonization. This supports the findings of Nsamba Ngaiyiya (2003) who argues that the Bunyoro are aggrieved that the historical injustices by the colonial government in giving their land to Baganda have yet to be corrected.

However, ethnic conflicts were greatly engineered by the multi- party politics of the people in research area whereby different ethnic groups are struggling for political positions. The violent conflict among Bunyoro and the Bafuruki was observed after a non-Munyoro Fred Ruremera had been elected as Region chairman in early 2002. The cultural leaders agitated against a “foreigner” leading the Region. Violence was only stopped after Ruremera had agreed to resign in favour of a compromise candidate Nyamyaka George.

Reconciliation and sustainable settlement of ethnic conflicts in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

This sub section first describes the general characteristics of the study population that includes the age of the respondents, education levels, religious affiliations, marital status, levels of education and localities. This statistical information provides background to analysis and understanding of the relationship between the respondents’ background characteristics and the rest of the quantitative and qualitative data in both ethnic groups of the immigrants and indigenous.

The Exogamy among ethnic groups in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

The researcher in the study before embarking on the strategies to address the ethnic conflict it was necessary to know the major causes of the ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom . The study findings indicated that there were several factors that caused ethnic conflicts such as social discrimination, economic, political, religious and environmental as well as psychological realms of life. The study findings are given in Table 2.9.

Strategies put in place to towards reconciliations and sustainable settlement

The study findings identified strategies put in place to contribute towards reconciliation and settlement of the people affected by ethnic conflict in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom . Among the strategies highlighted in response were, formations of inter-religious council, community based organisation, peace building village team and implementation of decentralization policies. The study observed that there were negative perceptions of the people towards the strategies and measures put in place to restore the relationship of the different ethnic groups. If at all the strategies were taken up with positive perspective, embraced them enthusiastically and they could have caused viable impact in the community reconciliation and sustainable settlement in the study area.

The findings indicates that, strategies for co-existence 67.5% of respondents agreed they have played a vital role in restoration of peace and settling the affected people, while on 23.4% disagreed with that assertion and 1.0 % were not sure whether it was those particular strategies which contribute to reconciliation process. This implies that, the decentralisation policies, church, cultural and other leaders from Non-Governmental played a vital role in advocacy for peace and reconciliation in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom and whole Western Region ethnic conflict.

The study findings from the table 2.10 above further show that 56.9 % of the respondents agreed that the low level education of the leaders affected reconciliation and sustainable settlement strategies in, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom , while 21.8% disagreed with that statement and 7.6 % only said they were not sure. This means that, the level of education of leaders contribute greatly towards their performance in peace building and causing stability in the community.

Furthermore, the research findings from the response clearly show 54.9 % of respondents agreed with statement that decentralisation and other government policies had contributed greatly towards harmonising the people in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom while 15.7% of the respondents disagreed with that statement claiming the local government had not done much in the straggle to reconcile the affected people in ethnic conflict and 26.9 of the respondents were not sure. This implies that there are other factors responsible for reconciliation and sustainable settlement of the people in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom besides decentralisation and government policies.

The strategies that had greatly contributed to reconciliation and sustainable settlement in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom

The findings of this research reveal that a number of strategies and measures were employed in the struggle to reconcile the affected people by ethnic conflict. These were discovered during focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with key informants enumerated various strategies they thought had contributed a great deal towards peace building of the ethnic groups affected by the conflict s and caused sustainable settlement in the community.

The study findings revealed that, the Region local government had put forward some interventions and policies in the attempt to create peaceful atmosphere and settlement of the people in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom . These administrative structures and massive sensitisation approaches contributed 34.5 % towards stability of the affected people as observed by the respondents.

The study reveals that 27.4% of respondents believe conflict resolution committees, peace building village teams, and inter-religious councils have played a crucial role in reconciling ethnic conflict-affected people. Social services, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, and

Western Region Kagadi Community Radio also contributed to peace restoration. Security and rule of law also played a significant role in stability. Non-Government Organizations were identified as key strategies for co-existence and sustainable settlement.

Conclusion

The reconciliation commission and sustainable settlement in post-aftermath strategies had insignificant contributions towards realise total reconciliation and sustainable settlement of ethnic conflicts in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom Western Region of Uganda.

Exogamy was place but not effectively supported the elders and local leadership to rebuild peacefully relationship for total reconciliation and sustainable settlement of ethnicity. Psychosocial activities were in place nevertheless little was done breakdown the hearts of traumatised victims and proprietors to ensure there is acceptance perpetrators among the thousands of saviours. The study highlights the challenges in achieving reconciliation and sustainable settlement in the Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, Uganda, due to the lack of support from elders and local leadership, psychosocial activities, and the reconciliation commissioner. To achieve total reconciliation, community participatory approaches, commutative and distributive justice, and land wrangles must be employed. The study also emphasizes the need for political leadership and sharing of powers to restore mutual relationships between the Bunyoro and Bufuruki people. Restructuring administrative positions, policies, and enhancing the rule of law can promote peace-building and stability. However, the lack of clear settlement policies, multi-party politics, and a reconciliation commission further hinders progress.

Recommendations

Basing on the discussion and conclusions of the key findings the study is deduced to recommend:

The Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom cultural and local leadership should adopt a proactive policies, strong practices leading to real reconciliation and sustainable settlement commission strategy to rebuild the hearts of people affected by ethnic groups in Rwanda's Eastern Province Region.

The Bunyoro-Mubende Committee leaders and local leadership should encourage reconciliation strategies like exogamy strategy to enhance acceptance of immigrants and co-existence of diverse ethnic groups within the study areas and beyond the region.

The central government Uganda and political leaders should enforce reconciliation strategies and laws, discourage negative perceptions and hegemony among ethnic groups, and establish clear indigenous organizations to support sustainable settlement procedures.

Local government leaders should be proactive, sensitize community leaders, and utilize community-level actors and peace-building teams with financial and technical resources.

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