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AFTERMATH OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION: A REEXAMINATION OF OFFA-ERINLE CONFLICT

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Abstract

This study delves into the intricate aftermath of the Offa-Erinle conflict, scrutinizing the consequences and outcomes of the conflict resolution process. By delving into the long-term ramifications of conflict resolution endeavors, the research strives to unveil lingering issues, unresolved tensions, and unintended consequences that have evolved as a result of the conflict resolution process. It also endeavors to evaluate the effectiveness of the conflict resolution strategies employed and their ability to address the root causes of the conflict. Demographically, most respondents in this study possess a profound understanding of the conflict, given the majority's age of 35 and above. Their narratives unveil a diverse range of experiences, offering valuable insights into the conflict's multifaceted impacts. The findings underscore the socio-economic impacts, with respondents reporting displacement, income loss, property damage, and health challenges as enduring consequences. Culturally, the study highlights the resilience of traditional ceremonies, cultural norms, and artifacts. However, inter-community relationships have undergone significant transformations. The economy has been hampered, as indicated by respondents, with inadequate government support. Additionally, the effectiveness of reconciliation efforts is a subject of contention. The study's findings underscore the urgency of enhancing post-conflict support, strengthening reconciliation endeavors, and promoting economic development. This includes preserving cultural heritage, providing mental health support, and facilitating inter-community dialogue. By implementing these recommendations, the Offa-Erinle region can embark on a journey toward healing, reconciliation, and sustainable development, ultimately transforming the legacy of conflict into a future of peace and prosperity.

Keywords: Conflict, Development, Displacement, Resolution, Socio-economic

Introduction

Background to the Study

Conflict, a fundamental aspect of human interaction, has been a recurring theme throughout history, with communities and societies grappling with disputes that frequently escalate into violent confrontations. Crost et al. (2014) argue that no low-income conflict-affected country has yet achieved the Millennium Development Goals. According to the World Bank (2011), the approximately 1.5 billion people living in conflict-affected regions are at a significantly higher risk of malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and education, and increased childhood mortality compared to those in conflict-free areas.

Regarding the connection between poverty (defined as $1.90 per day) and conflict, the World Bank (2020) indicates a positive association between poverty and past conflicts at the sub-national level, although this correlation is not exceptionally strong. Conflicts worldwide have resulted in the loss of countless lives and properties, leading to the displacement of millions of citizens who transform from nationals of their home countries into refugees elsewhere. Humanity has observed conflict as a persistent element intertwined with

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the belief that growth and development are intertwined with it. Throughout history, humans have experienced internal conflicts, conflicts within families, within societies, and between nations, spanning various aspects of human existence, including politics, religion, and culture (Orji, 2014).

Nigeria, during the period of our study, has witnessed a sharp rise in violent conflict events, especially related to Boko Haram in the northern region, as well as conflicts between herder-farmer communities and oil-related issues in other parts of the country. These events have both increased in number and intensity, resulting in higher casualties. Despite being Africa's second-largest economy, Nigeria is home to the largest number of multidimensionally poor people in Africa (Jennings and Oldiges, 2020), and the second-largest globally (Alkire, Kanagaratnam, and Suppa, 2020).

The Offa-Erinle conflict is a historical dispute with a profound impact on affected communities in Nigeria. This conflict, situated in Kwara State, has been a long-standing feud between two communities, Offa and Erinle. It revolves around issues of ethnicity, culture, and land ownership, culminating in violent clashes, displacement of residents, and substantial loss of life and property (Adebayo, 2021). These two communities have a history of tension and sporadic clashes (Zubair, 2021).

The roots of the Offa-Erinle conflict lie in competing claims over land, resources, and political power. The origins of the conflict are intricate and multifaceted, involving historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors. Over time, these disputes have escalated into violent confrontations, resulting in loss of life, community displacement, and widespread destruction (Otora, 2022).

This conflict has had a profound impact on the social fabric of the affected communities, straining inter-community relations, deepening divisions, and fostering mistrust and animosity. Economic activities have been disrupted as trade routes and markets have been affected, leading to economic hardships for the communities involved (Adebayo, 2021).

Moreover, the Offa-Erinle conflict has left a lasting cultural impact by influencing the identities and perceptions of the involved communities. It has molded their narratives and collective memories, contributing to the formation of distinct cultural identities and historical consciousness (Akinnusi et al., 2019).

The resolution of the Offa-Erinle conflict played a critical role in preventing further violence and fostering sustainable peace. It involved a combination of local and national initiatives, including negotiations, the deployment of security forces, and the intervention of religious and community leaders. This multi-pronged approach was vital in reducing tensions and facilitating dialogue between the conflicting parties. In this article, we will revisit the Offa-Erinle conflict, which occurred in Nigeria, and delve into its aftermath concerning conflict resolution, reconciliation, and the lessons it imparts.

Statement of Problem

This research endeavors to comprehensively evaluate the aftermath of the conflict resolution process, particularly in the context of the Offa-Erinle conflict. Its primary objective is to shed light on the repercussions and results stemming from the conflict resolution efforts. By delving into the enduring effects of these initiatives, the study seeks to uncover any persistent issues, unresolved tensions, or unintended consequences that might have arisen as a byproduct of the conflict resolution process. Furthermore, this investigation aspires to gauge the effectiveness of the strategies employed for conflict resolution and determine whether they have effectively addressed the underlying causes of the conflict. Through an in-depth analysis of the post-Offa-Erinle conflict landscape, this research aims to augment the existing reservoir of knowledge pertaining to conflict resolution while offering valuable insights for future endeavors in this field.

Objectives of the Study

The study is guided by the following objectives:

- To assess the socio-economic impacts
- To evaluate the effectiveness of conflict resolution efforts
- To examine the challenges and opportunities for reconciliation

Research Questions

The study has the following research questions:

i. What are the long-term socio-economic and cultural impacts of the Offa-Erinle conflict on the affected communities, and how have these impacts shaped the region's development and identity over time?

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Literature

Akinnusi *et al.,* (2019) conducted a survey on the Erin Ile and Offa boundary dispute, recognizing the existence of conflicting historical narratives that provide both communities with "legitimate" claims to the same land. These contestable claims did not surface until the establishment of local government authorities in the 1950s, which heightened political consciousness and fostered mutual exclusivity between the two communities.

In terms of the socio-economic impact, Akinnusi *et al.,* (2019) carried out a quantitative analysis based on government data and field research. However, they noted the absence of a qualitative analysis to determine the true cost of the conflict on the communities, the Kwara State government, local businesses, and institutions situated in the conflict area.

Elfverson (2017) examined government intervention in communal conflicts in Africa, and this assessment is relevant to the analysis of the Erin Ile and Offa crisis. The study identified political bias as a significant issue in communal conflicts in Africa.

The political advantage gained by Offa during the 1954-1956 Local Government development in Nigeria worsened the situation. Offa became the seat of the Local Government, furthering its modernization and expansionist goals. This development led to increased hierarchical awareness among both communities, with their monarchs becoming more conscious of their socio-political hierarchies and their implications. One manifestation of this awareness was the use of political power from the local government authority to grant land to Offa for the construction of Offa Modern Market in 1961 on disputed land, sparking the initial clash (Emmanuel & Jonnah 2021).

In an effort to find a resolution, the then Military Governor of Kwara State, Col. Ibrahim Taiwo, called upon a group of prominent traditional rulers, led by the Emir of Ilorin, to mediate and negotiate with the traditional chiefs of both communities. This resulted in the "KereOjomu" accord in 1975, which successfully persuaded both monarchs to cease hostilities and agree on a boundary between the communities. However, this resolution raised questions about land ownership and the role of local governments in the matter. Under customary land tenure, the monarchs are trustees, while land is typically owned by landowning families in the communities under the jurisdiction of local chiefs, who, in turn, are under the authority of local governments (Davies, 2016).

The 1975 resolution revealed that the primary actors in the conflict were the monarchs of both towns, the Olofa of Offa and the Elerin of Erin Ile. This sheds light on the mobilization patterns and dynamics of the conflict. According to Elfverson (2017), her study of mobilization patterns in violent communal crises indicates that the armed groups involved are often not as organized as state forces but are characterized by the galvanization of central actors within the communities. These central actors could include local chiefs, influential individuals capable of funding the armed groups, or political leaders who could provide weapons.

The 1975 dispute settlement committee achieved a temporary victory by establishing the "KereOjomu" boundary, equidistant from both communities. However, this success was challenged in 1982 when the state officially published KereOjomu as the boundary in the State's Official Gazette. The communities, especially Erin Ile, expressed concern about the lack of "lateral extension" in any direction, unlike the 1972 panel recommendation, which drew the boundary from the east to the west (Emmanuel & Jonnah 2021).

Erin Ile later obtained a favorable judgment from the High Court of Kwara State in 1986, invalidating the KereOjomu arrangement and upholding the 1972 Funsho Adaramola Panel of Inquiry's recommendation. This judgment resulted in a series of violent clashes between 1986 and 1996, leading to loss of lives and economic assets (Israel *et al.,* 2017).

In 1997, the military administrator of the state, Colonel Peter Ogar, launched another intervention. This effort included the establishment of a boundary settlement panel that placed the boundary in a secure area between the two communities known as "Kere-Ipinle" or a "buffer zone." The government used the Land Use Act, 1978, to acquire the entire disputed area for general and overriding public interest, particularly for industrial and commercial purposes.

However, the 1997 resolution created a problem, as it neglected the concerns of the key figures in the conflict and failed to address the core issue of land ownership. The government's legal seizure of the land did not consider the transition in government, the commitment of subsequent administrations to the acquisition, or the political influence of the conflict's main actors. This government policy gap led to further violence in 2006 as a vacuum remained unfilled (Emmanuel & Jonnah 2021).

The 2008 intervention marked one of the most significant efforts by any government to address the dispute, following the 1971 intervention. However, like previous attempts, it faced criticism from parties involved, particularly Offa, alleging bias on the part of the state government (Akinnusi et al., 2019).

From a political perspective, it might not have been strategically wise for the government to be biased in favor of either community, considering the geographical advantage of Offa, which is twice the size of Erin Ile according to the national census of 2008 and fieldwork conducted in 2016 (Alao et al., 2019). Elfverson's reports on government bias and political calculations suggest that government bias should lean towards Offa, given its political influence (Elfverson, 2017). However, two significant factors tempered this bias: the entire area was politically aligned with the state government, and Offa had experienced land disputes with neighboring communities like Ijagbo, Igosun, and Ipee ('One feared dead in Kwara communal clash, 2018).
Some believe that, contrary to Offa's claims, the government's decision in 2008 aimed to achieve a mutually beneficial resolution to appease the concerned parties and prevent further security threats. Unfortunately, the resolution was challenged by the Supreme Court's judgment in December 2018, which ruled in favor of Erin Ile, upholding its earlier judgment from 1973.
Furthermore, reports on the economic cost of the conflict between 1970 and 2016 indicate that it amounted to a total of N353,923,490.04, as documented in the Kwara State White paper reports compiled by Alao et al. (2019). It would be interesting to assess the development potential of these substantial sums. Senator Bukola Saraki alluded to this in 2013 when he visited the communities, emphasizing that continued conflict and destruction of public and private properties would hinder development and government initiatives in the area (Aliyu, 2013).

Aftermath: Lessons Learned

Sustainable Peace Requires Ongoing Efforts: Conflict resolution should not be considered a one-time event. The Offa-Erinle conflict demonstrates that maintaining peace and preventing the resurgence of hostilities requires continued engagement and commitment from all stakeholders.

Truth and Reconciliation: In the aftermath of conflict resolution, it is vital to address the underlying issues and promote truth and reconciliation. Community dialogues, cultural exchanges, and acknowledgment of past grievances can go a long way in building trust and ensuring long-term peace.

Economic Rehabilitation: The conflict had devastating economic consequences for both Offa and Erinle. Post-resolution efforts should focus on economic rehabilitation and development to help communities rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Inclusivity: Effective conflict resolution should involve the participation of all parties, including community members, civil society, and local leaders. It's important to ensure that marginalized voices are heard and taken into account.

Legal Framework: Establishing a clear legal framework for addressing land and property disputes can prevent such conflicts from escalating in the future. Legal mechanisms for conflict resolution should be accessible and fair. (Davies, 2016).

The Offa-Erinle conflict serves as a poignant example of the challenges and opportunities that emerge in the aftermath of conflict resolution. While the immediate cessation of hostilities is a crucial achievement, the journey toward sustainable peace is ongoing and complex. Reconciliation, economic recovery, and community engagement are vital elements in ensuring that conflict does not rekindle. Furthermore, the lessons learned from this conflict can inform future conflict resolution efforts, both in Nigeria and globally, highlighting the importance of comprehensive and inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

Methodology

This study utilizes a quantitative research design to investigate the long-term socio-economic and cultural impacts of the Offa-Erin Ile conflict. The research employed a cross-sectional survey methodology, which involves collecting data from a single point in time to provide insights into the current state of the affected communities. The survey method is chosen for its efficiency in gathering data from a large number of respondents and facilitating statistical analysis.

The study used the Krejcie and Morgan's table. 384 respondents from the affected communities of Offa and Erin Ile since the overall population is above 75,000 and below 1million. To ensure the representativeness of the sample, a stratified random sampling technique was employed, where respondents were sub-grouped based on location and randomly selected (192 from Offa and 192 from Erin Ile). This approach aims to capture a diverse range of perspectives.

A structured questionnaire served as the primary data collection instrument. The questionnaire was designed to gather information on various aspects related to the long-term socio-economic and cultural impacts of the conflict. The questions were developed based on the research objectives and included 20 items both closed-

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ended and Likert scale questions to enable quantitative analysis. Data collection was conducted in person through face-to-face contact.

To ensure data quality, the questionnaire undergone a pilot test on a small sample of respondents to identify and rectify any ambiguities or issues with the questions. The reliability of the questionnaire was assessed using Cronbach's alpha and the reliability coefficient is.788.

The collected data was analyzed using statistical software (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, was used to summarize the demographic characteristics of the respondents. For the main research questions, inferential statistical techniques, including regression analysis and chi-squared tests, was employed to examine the relationships and associations between variables.

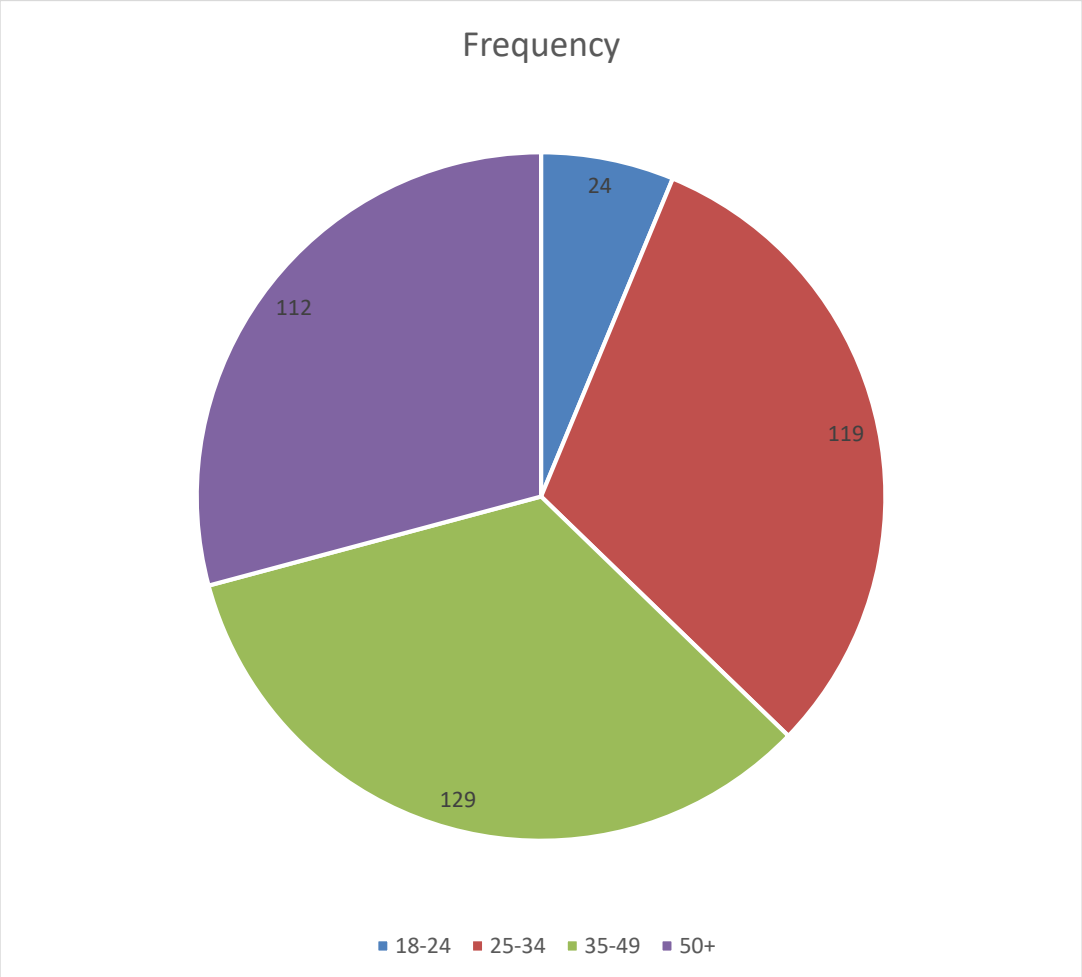
The study adheres to ethical guidelines and obtain informed consent from all participants. Confidentiality and anonymity of respondents maintained, and no personal identifiers to be linked to the data. Any potential risks to participants were minimized.

Results

Demographic Data

The respondents were asked to state their age: the findings are shown in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 Distribution of the Respondents by Age



The result of the age distribution of the respondents showed that 112 respondents are 50 and above, 129 are 35-49 years, 119 are 25-34 years and only 24 respondents are 18-24 years old. This revealed that most of the respondents had lived long enough to have ideas about the conflict. (table 1).

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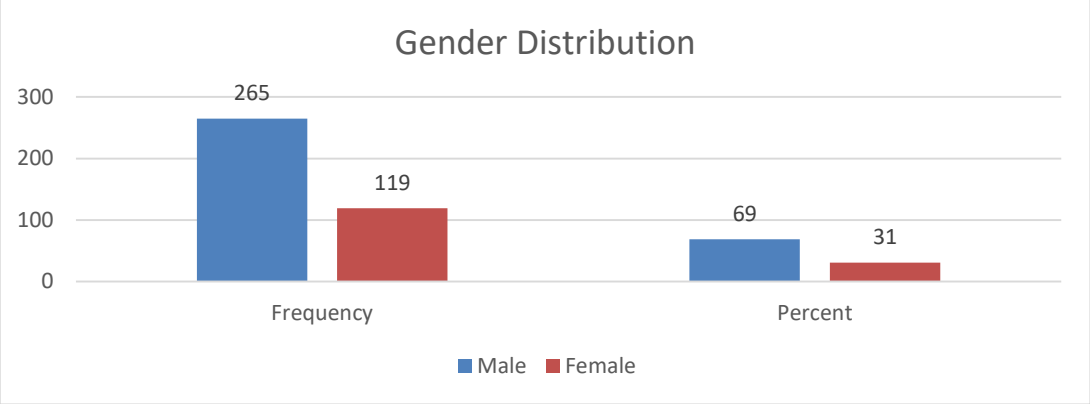
Table 2 Distribution of the respondents by gender



The result of gender distribution revealed that 69.0 % of the respondents are male and 31.0% are female. This implies that fewer women participated in the study (table 2).

Statistics

		q3	q4	q5	q6	q7	q8	q9	q10	q11	q12	q13	q14	q15	q16	q17	q18	q19	q20
N	Valid	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384	384
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Std. Deviation		0.78393	0.57347	0.50054	0.49891	0.24238	0.49983	0.38224	0.14301	0.38224	0.07422	0.52915	0.48794	0.84809	0.80035	0.299	0.4953	0.29986	0.49365
Variance		0.615	0.329	0.251	0.249	0.059	0.25	0.146	0.02	0.146	0.03	0.28	0.238	0.719	0.382	0.089	0.245	0.085	0.244
Skewness		-0.735	-0.053	0.842	0.168	3.629	0.115	-4.998	-6.736	-4.998	5.409	3.226	0.461	0.952	-0.25	2.987	-0.296	2.798	0.339
Std. Error of Skewness		0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125
Kurtosis		0.543	-0.4	-2.009	-1.982	0.228	-1.997	0.889	43.603	0.889	27.403	8.448	-1.796	0.284	-0.628	5.299	-1.922	5.862	-1.895
Std. Error of Kurtosis		0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248
Range		3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	1
Minimum		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maximum		4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	2	2

Note: q3-q20 is code representing items 3-20 from the questionnaire.

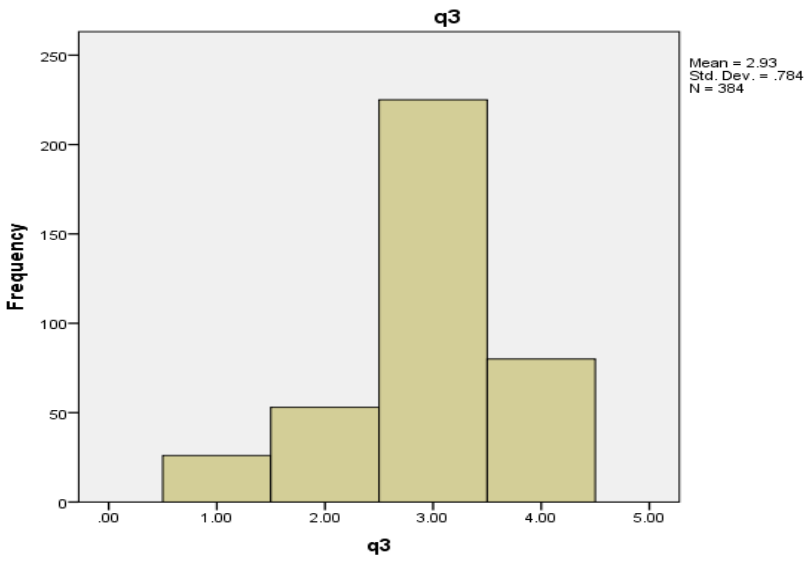


Figure q3 above present result on the highest qualification of respondents, where Code 1-5 represent (primary, secondary, tertiary and Postgraduate) respectively. The result showed that most of the respondent had graduate or Tertiary level of education.

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q4

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	28	7.3	7.3	7.3
	2.00	236	61.5	61.5	68.8
	3.00	120	31.3	31.3	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

Table q4 above presents results on year of residence in Offa-Erin lle region. The code 1-3 represents (5-10 years, 11-20 years, and Above 20 years). This implies that 61.5% of the respondents have resides in the region for 11-20 years, 31.3 % have resides for more than 20 years and 7.3% for 5-1- years.

q5

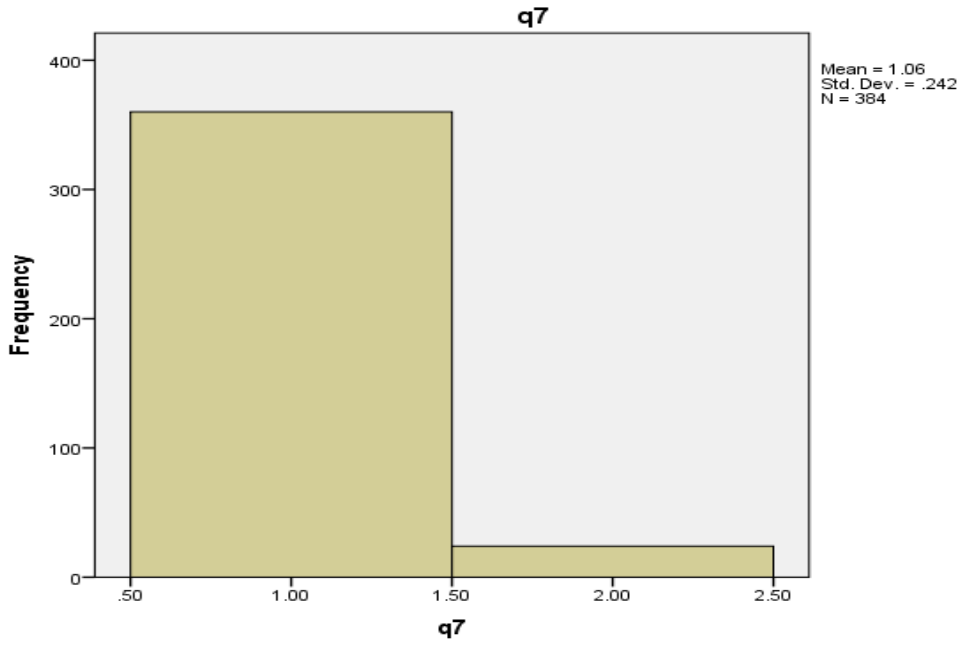
Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	196	51.0	51.0	51.0
	2.00	188	49.0	49.0	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For Table q5 above, the respondents were asked if the conflict has resulted in displacement or forced migration. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 51% responded yes and 49 % disagreed.

q6

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	208	54.2	54.2	54.2
	2.00	176	45.8	45.8	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For Table q6 above, the respondents were asked if they or their family have experienced a decline in income. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 54 % have experienced while 45% did not.



For figure q7 above the respondent were asked if the conflict led to damages of property. 360 respondents agreed and 24 disagreed. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No).

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q8

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	203	52.9	52.9	52.9
	2.00	181	47.1	47.1	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q8 above respondents were asked if they have experience physical and mental health challenges. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 53.9% agreed and 47.1 % disagreed.

q9

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	68	17.7	17.7	17.7
	2.00	316	82.3	82.3	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q9 above respondents were asked if traditional ceremonies were influenced by the conflict. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 82.3% disagreed and 17.7% agreed.

q10

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	8	2.1	2.1	2.1
	2.00	376	97.9	97.9	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q10 above respondents were asked if they experienced changes in cultural norms. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 97.9% disagreed and 2.1% agreed.

q11

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	68	17.7	17.7	17.7
	2.00	316	82.3	82.3	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q11 above respondents were asked if the conflict result in loss of artifacts. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 82.3% disagreed and 17.7% agreed.

q12

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	372	96.9	96.9	96.9
	2.00	12	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q12 above, respondents were asked if the conflicted impacted inter-community relationship. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 96.9% agreed and 3.1% disagreed.

q13

code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	355	92.4	92.4	92.4
	2.00	0	0	0	
	3.00	29	7.6	7.6	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q13 above, respondents were asked if the conflict has hindered or promoted regional economic development. 1-3 code represents (Hindered, Promoted and No discernible impact). 93.4 % agreed that it has hindered while 29% agreed that there is no discernible impact.

q14

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	235	61.2	61.2	61.2
	2.00	149	38.8	38.8	100.0
	3.00	0	0	0	
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q14 above, respondents were asked to assess the level of Government support in post-conflict. 1-3 code represents (inadequate, adequate, and excessive). 61.2% said it is inadequate while 38.8% said inadequate.

q15

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	44	11.5	11.5	11.5
	2.00	254	66.1	66.1	77.6
	3.00	29	7.6	7.6	85.2
	4.00	57	14.8	14.8	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q15 above, respondents were asked how satisfied they are with rate of recovery and development in the regions. 1-5 code represents (very dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, neutral, satisfied, and very satisfied) respectively. 66.1% are somewhat dissatisfied, 14.8% are satisfied, 11.5% are very dissatisfied and 7.6% are neutral.

q16

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	28	7.3	7.3	7.3
	2.00	208	54.2	54.2	61.5
	3.00	148	38.5	38.5	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For table q16 above, respondents were asked the prevailing sentiment in their community. 1-3 code represents (Positive, Negative and Neutral) respectively. 54.2% sighted negative sentiment, 38.5% sighted Neutral and 7.3% positive.

q17

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	346	90.1	90.1	90.1
	2.00	38	9.9	9.9	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For Table q17, respondents were asked if their family have actively participated in any post-conflict community development initiatives. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No). 90.1% said yes and 9.9% No.

q18

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	164	42.7	42.7	42.7
	2.00	220	57.3	57.3	100.0
	3.00	0	0	0	
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For Table q18, respondents were asked if they perceived future prospect and progress of the region. 1.3 code represent (Pessimistic, Neutral and Optimistic) respectively. 57.3% were Neutral, 42,7 were pessimistic and none was optimistic.

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q19

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	348	90.6	90.6	90.6
	2.00	36	9.4	9.4	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For Table q19, respondents were asked if there has been a systematic effort in reconciliation. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No) respectively. 90.6 % said yes there is and 9.4% disagreed.

q20

Code		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	1.00	224	58.3	58.3	58.3
	2.00	160	41.7	41.7	100.0
	Total	384	100.0	100.0	

For Table q20, respondents were asked if they believe reconciliation efforts have been effective. 1-2 code represents (Yes or No) respectively. 58.3% agreed while 41.7% said No.

Discussion of Findings

The demographic data of the respondents indicates that most of them have lived long enough to have a good understanding of the Offa-Erinle conflict. Specifically, 112 respondents are 50 and above, 129 fall in the age range of 35-49 years, 119 are between 25-34 years, and there are 24 respondents who are 18-24 years old. This distribution reveals the diversity in age groups within the study's participants. Regarding the duration of residence in the Offa-Erinle region, 61.5% of respondents reported residing in the region for 11-20 years, indicating a substantial connection to the area. This data underscores the importance of their perspectives in understanding the conflict's impacts. When asked about displacement or forced migration due to the conflict, 51% of respondents answered affirmatively, while 49% disagreed. This finding highlights the extent to which the conflict has affected the communities. The survey reveals that 54.2% of respondents experienced a decline in income, further indicating the socio-economic impacts of the conflict on the affected population. Moreover, it's evident that the conflict resulted in property damage, as 360 respondents agreed with this statement, while 24 respondents disagreed. This finding highlights the physical impact of the conflict on the region. In evaluating the effectiveness of conflict resolution efforts, the study finds that 52.9% of respondents reported experiencing physical and mental health challenges as a result of the conflict, emphasizing the need for effective resolution and recovery strategies. In terms of traditional ceremonies, 82.3% of respondents disagreed that they were influenced by the conflict, suggesting that cultural aspects remained relatively resilient. A majority of respondents, 97.9%, disagreed with the notion that cultural norms underwent significant changes due to the conflict, indicating cultural continuity. The study found that 82.3% of respondents disagreed with the loss of artifacts due to the conflict, reflecting the preservation of cultural heritage. n assessing inter-community relationships, a significant 96.9% of respondents agreed that the conflict had impacted these relationships, underscoring its social consequences. Concerning regional economic development, 93.4% of respondents reported that the conflict hindered such development, highlighting the economic implications of the conflict. In terms of government support in the post-conflict period, 61.2% of respondents perceived it as inadequate, which raises questions about the effectiveness of post-conflict governance. Regarding satisfaction with the rate of recovery and development in the region, 66.1% of respondents expressed some level of dissatisfaction, and 14.8% reported satisfaction, reflecting varying sentiments within the community. The study found that a negative prevailing sentiment was reported by 54.2% of respondents, while 7.3% reported a positive sentiment within their community. The data indicates that 90.1% of respondents' families actively participated in post-conflict community development initiatives, demonstrating community engagement in recovery efforts. About the region's future prospects, 57.3% of respondents were neutral, and 42.7% were pessimistic, suggesting mixed opinions on the region's trajectory.

In terms of systematic efforts in reconciliation, 90.6% of respondents believed they were in place, highlighting the community's perception of reconciliation activities. When it comes to the effectiveness of reconciliation efforts, 58.3% of respondents agreed that they have been effective, while 41.7% disagreed, revealing a divided perspective on the outcome of reconciliation efforts. These findings collectively provide insight into the socio-economic impacts of the Offa-Erinle conflict and the challenges and opportunities for reconciliation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Offa-Erinle conflict has left lasting socio-economic impacts on the affected communities. While cultural elements have shown resilience, inter-community relationships have been significantly affected. The region faces challenges in terms of economic development, government support, and community sentiment. Reconciliation efforts are evident but remain a matter of debate in terms of their effectiveness. The findings of this study provide essential insights for policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders working toward the region's recovery and reconciliation. Further analysis and targeted actions are required to address the lingering issues and promote sustainable peace and development in the aftermath of the conflict.

Recommendation

Enhance Post-Conflict Support: Government and non-governmental organizations should focus on providing increased support to the affected communities, addressing their immediate needs, and facilitating the process of recovery. This includes rebuilding infrastructure and providing economic aid to those impacted by the conflict.

Strengthen Reconciliation Efforts: Stakeholders should invest in reconciliation initiatives that actively engage communities, fostering dialogue, understanding, and trust among various groups. These efforts should be continuous and involve community members, leaders, and organizations working together.

Promote Economic Development: Economic revitalization should be a priority, with initiatives aimed at stimulating local economies. Investment in job creation, vocational training, and entrepreneurial opportunities can help residents regain economic stability.

Improve Government Responsiveness: Government institutions should enhance their responsiveness to the needs of the affected communities. This includes providing more transparent and accountable governance, as well as effective service delivery in areas such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Preserve Cultural Heritage: Efforts should be made to protect and promote the region's cultural heritage. This includes the preservation of traditional ceremonies, art, and artifacts. Cultural programs and initiatives can help maintain a sense of identity and pride among the local population.

Facilitate Inter-Community Dialogue: Initiatives that facilitate dialogue and collaboration among communities can help rebuild trust and social cohesion. Conflict resolution workshops and forums can be organized to address the underlying tensions and disputes.

Community-Led Initiatives: Empower local communities to take the lead in their own recovery and reconciliation processes. Encourage community-led initiatives that draw on local knowledge and traditions.

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