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THE ROLE OF CLERICS IN MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTIONS Of INSURGENCY IN MAIDUGURI METROPOLIS, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

***DR. HALIMA ALI BURATAI; & **AISHA MOHAMMED KUCICI**

*Department of Public Administration, Yobe State University, Damaturu. **Department of Political Science, Yobe State University, Damaturu.
halimaaliburatai@gmail.com

Abstract

The study seeks the role of clerics in the management and resolution of Insurgency in Maiduguri Metropolis. Three objectives and three research question were answered in this study. Related literature was reviewed to support this study, Survey research design was adopted. The target population for this study comprised all clerics of Both Islam and Christian which is Approximately 357, There are 186 clerics was randomly selected Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling tale. The instrument for this study was a researcher designed questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated by experts in the Publica Administration, Yobe State University, Damaturu. The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the head of Department, through the research supervisor, soliciting for permission to carry out research addressed to Clerics of both Muslim and Christian within Maiduguri Metropolis. One hundred and eighty sis (186) questionnaires were administered and retrieved immediately. [redacted]

Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation. Findings of this study revealed that religious clerics play a substantial role in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis, particularly in addressing Boko Haram-related conflicts. The study shows that respondents

Keywords: *Role of Clerics, Management, Resolutions, Insurgency*

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acknowledge the positive impact of religious clerics in managing and resolving Insurgency. The result indicates that religious leaders have played a significant role in promoting peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion in the Maiduguri Metropolis. The researcher suggests the following recommendations; Stakeholders, including local authorities, community leaders, and civil society organizations, recognize and support the crucial role that religious clerics play in conflict management and resolution. Civil society organizations should actively engage and collaborate with religious clerics in peace-building, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and civil society groups, should take the following action to support and empower religious clerics in their peace-building roles: Safety and Security Measures, Interfaith Dialogue Initiatives, Conflict Resolution Training and Community Support Networks.

Introduction

The insurgency in Maiduguri metropolis has not only posed a significant security challenge but has also tested the resilience of the local communities. Over the past decade, this extremist group has unleashed violence, destruction, and instability, leaving a profound impact on the social fabric of the region. In the midst of this turmoil, religious clerics have emerged as influential figures within the Maiduguri community. Their roles as spiritual leaders, moral guides, and community organizers position them uniquely in efforts to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict. This study embarks on an exploration of the multifaceted roles played by clerics in Maiduguri Metropolis in addressing the conflict, examining their contributions, challenges, and the implications of their involvement for peace and stability in the region Mustapha, (2016).

The insurgency in Nigeria has had far-reaching and devastating consequences, not only on the nation's security but also on its social fabric. This extremist group, which emerged in the early 2000s, has wreaked havoc through acts of violence, terrorism, and insurgency. In the face of this protracted conflict, the role of religious clerics has emerged as a crucial yet underexplored aspect of conflict management and resolution Mbah, Peter, Chikodiri & Herbert (2017).

The insurgency has been characterized by its complex origins, fueled by a combination of religious extremism, political grievances, and socioeconomic

disparities. Within this intricate web of factors contributing to the conflict, religious clerics occupy a unique position as spiritual leaders, moral guides, and community influencers. However, the extent to which they actively engage in efforts to manage and resolve the insurgency remains an underexplored area of study Mohammed & Kyari (2018).

Understanding the role of clerics in managing and resolving the insurgency is of paramount importance for several reasons. Firstly, it offers an opportunity to examine the dynamics of religious leadership in a conflict-ridden region and how it intersects with broader socio-political and economic contexts. Secondly, it provides insight into the potential for religious figures to influence peace processes and foster reconciliation in situations of religiously motivated violence. Lastly, by exploring the challenges faced by clerics in their efforts, this research can contribute to the development of more effective strategies for harnessing the positive impact of religious leaders in promoting peace and stability in Nigeria Obamamoye & Babatunde (2018).

Adele Jinadu & Akinyemi (2017) emphasize that religious leaders have been instrumental in mitigating violence by advocating for dialogue and ceasefire agreements. The promotion of interfaith dialogue is another dimension of clerical engagement in conflict resolution. A study by Musa (2018) explores the role of religious leaders in fostering interfaith understanding and peace in Nigeria. They argue that religious leaders have the potential to bridge religious divides and reduce tensions by promoting dialogue and cooperation among different faith communities. Such efforts contribute to social cohesion and conflict prevention.

While clerical engagement holds promise, it is not without challenges. Ojo & Akinola (2017) discusses the dilemmas faced by Muslim clerics in navigating their roles amidst the Boko Haram insurgency. These clerics often face threats to their lives and struggle to balance their religious obligations with their responsibility to promote peace. Additionally, Akinola & Olabanji (2015) highlights the difficulties religious leaders encounter in countering extremist ideologies within their own faith communities, underscoring the complexity of their roles in countering radicalization. Some studies emphasize the role of clerics in mobilizing communities for peace. Felbab-Brown & Vanda (2018) examined the grassroots peace initiatives led by religious leaders in Borno State. They highlight the importance of community-level engagement in countering the influence of Boko Haram and promoting resilience Felbab-Brown & Vanda (2018).

Clerics: are individuals who hold recognized religious leadership positions within the Maiduguri Metropolis. Conflict: refers to the state of discord, violence, and insecurity within the Maiduguri Metropolis resulting from the activities of Boko Haram. Management: refers to the actions and strategies employed by clerics to address and mitigate the effects of the Boko Haram conflict. Resolutions: refers to the steps and measures taken by clerics to bring about a peaceful and sustainable end to the insurgency.

This study is significant to; Policymakers, Borno State Government, Researchers, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Clerics. Policymakers can use the study's findings to make more informed decisions about peace and security strategies in Maiduguri Metropolis. They can tailor policies and interventions to better incorporate and support the efforts of clerics in conflict management and resolution.

Statement of the Problem

Insurgency has caused immense suffering, instability, and loss of life in the area, posing a grave threat to both security and social cohesion. Within this context, the role of religious clerics emerges as a pivotal aspect that requires investigation. The insurgency is a protracted crisis with complex underlying causes, including religious extremism, political grievances, and socio-economic disparities. The involvement of clerics in this context presents an intriguing and potentially transformative dimension. Despite being community leaders and spiritual guides, the extent to which clerics actively engage in conflict management and resolution remains unclear. It is against the background that this study examines the role of Clerics in management and resolutions of insurgency conflict in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective if this study is to assess; the role of clerics in management and resolutions of insurgency in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State, Nigeria. While the specific objectives were to;

i. assess the extent of clerical involvement in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis.
ii. analyze the impact of clerical engagement in Boko haram conflict management and resolution.

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iii. identify and analyze the challenges and barriers encountered by clerics in their efforts to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict.

Research Questions

i. What is the extent of clerical involvement in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis?
ii. What are impacts of clerical engagement in Boko haram conflict management and resolution.
iii. What are the challenges and barriers encountered by clerics in their efforts to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict.

Literature Review

This study adopts human need theory resonates with the theory of 'relative deprivation' which links economic disparity with the propensity of individuals to resort to violent political action. TRT World (2018) puts it succinctly: 'misery breeds revolt.' However, the nexus between relative deprivation and the onset of conflict has been criticized as 'simplistic' because it fails to explain why some poor people or places do not participate in violence, and because it offers very little in the way of clear recommendation for policy-makers Agbiboa (2013). People can in actual fact be advantaged while experiencing group-based relative deprivation (see, for example, Leach *et al*. 2007: 191-204).

Studies by Abimbola (2015) & Omeje (2015) have underscored the role of religious leaders, both Christian and Muslim clerics, in acting as mediators and peace advocates in the context of the insurgency. These leaders have used their positions of moral authority to facilitate dialogue and negotiation between conflicting parties, aiming to reduce violence and promote reconciliation. Interfaith dialogue and collaboration have been highlighted as crucial components of conflict resolution efforts. Adele Jinadu (2014) discusses the significance of interfaith initiatives led by clerics, emphasizing how they have fostered social cohesion and understanding among diverse religious communities in Maiduguri Metropolis. The challenges faced by clerics in conflict zones like Maiduguri are addressed by Musa (2018) & Uzodi (2017). These challenges include personal security risks, tensions within religious communities, and dilemmas related to balancing religious obligations with peace advocacy. Morgan & Matthew (2014)

also points out that some clerics have been targeted by extremist groups for their peace efforts.

Clerical engagement in conflict management and resolution has demonstrated a substantial impact in various regions and conflicts around the world. Religious leaders, due to their moral authority, influence, and community ties, often play pivotal roles in fostering peace and mitigating violence. Several studies and real-world examples attest to the significance of their involvement Olojo, Akinola (2017).

One notable aspect of clerical impact lies in their mediation and negotiation efforts. Religious leaders frequently serve as mediators between conflicting parties, leveraging their position as trusted figures in the community to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation. For instance, in South Africa, during the apartheid era, religious leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu played crucial roles in mediating disputes and advocating for non-violent resistance, contributing to the eventual transition to democracy Norton, (2017).

Strategic Religious Engagement (SRE) is a pathway to conflict transformation with post-conflict antecedents and contemporary uses. SRE is one of the combatant command's peacebuilding processes for full spectrum operations utilized by the U.S. Army Chaplaincy to attract transformative processes of conflict resolution through meetings with political-religious leaders as a way to recognize the interests and essential human needs of groups in conflict. SRE contributes to the instruments of strategic power: diplomatic power through meetings with local and national political-religious leaders; and informational power through operationally relevant religious assessments and conflict analyses. Conceived as conflict resolution strategy and aimed at peacebuilding, SRE is both complex and challenging Zaidi, Manzar (2010).

In recent time, the world has witnessed waves of violent extremism that have taken lives of many innocent people either based on religious, ethnic or political grounds (UNDP, 2016). In 2014 alone, the Global Terrorism Index (2015) had shown that, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, and Nigeria were home to 78 percent of the lives lost to terrorist attacks in the globe. The same report however showed that since 2000, only 7% of all incidents of terrorism related attacks occurred in OECD countries thus accounting for just 5%. This report therefore poses two distinct societies as one is embroiled with violent extremism that spread across geographical borders and another with a smaller number of such incidents.

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Efforts led by clerics at the community level have been documented by studies like those conducted by Mustapha (2016). They highlight the significance of community mobilization and grassroots peace initiatives organized by religious leaders, which aim to counter radicalization and promote resilience within local communities. On the policy front, scholars like Kukah (2013) & Obi (2018) have called for more structured and coordinated engagement between governments, security agencies, and religious leaders in conflict-affected regions like Maiduguri. They stress the need for recognizing and supporting the roles of clerics in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts.

Peace is regarded "as the absence of war, fear, conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence and about peaceful coexistence". Although this definition has captured elements of peace, it was criticised by scholars like Ibeanu (2006) for lacking the adequate concept of peace. To overcome this limitation, thus defined peace as a "process involving activities that are directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict, both within specific societies and in the wider international community".

According to Best (2007) insurgency management entail the process of reducing the destructive capacity of conflict through a number of measures and approaches by engaging with the parties involved in that conflict. In most cases, conflict management is often used synonymously with "conflict regulation" which covers issues of handling conflicts at different stages. This also includes efforts made to prevent conflict through proactive measures thereby limiting, containing and litigating conflict.

As earlier provided Ibeanu (2006) has attempted to provide an understanding of peace which centers on increasing sustainable development and reducing conflict, both within societies and in the wider international community. He further pointed out that despite the general knowledge of peace; there are variations its meaning especially through the lenses of philosophy, sociology and politics. According to a philosopher, peace "is a natural, God-given state of human existence without the corruptive tendencies of man". According to sociologists, peace refers to a condition of social harmony in which there are no social antagonisms among people or group in a given community. For the political scientists, peace is a political condition that makes justice possible in any given society thereby entailing political order. Similarly, cultures and civilization have

Methodology

The study seeks the role of clerics in the management and resolution of Insurgency in Maiduguri Metropolis. Three objectives and three research question were answered in this study. Related literature was reviewed to support this study, Survey research design was adopted. The target population for this study comprised all clerics of Both Islam and Christian which is Approximately 357, There are 186 clerics was randomly selected Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling tale. The instrument for this study was a researcher designed questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated by experts in the Publica Administration, Yobe State University, Damaturu. The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the head of Department, through the research supervisor, soliciting for permission to carry out research addressed to Clerics of both Muslim and Christian within Maiduguri Metropolis. One hundred and eighty sis (186) questionnaires were administered and retrieved immediately. Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation.

Data Analysis and Results

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics on Demographic Data

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	143	76.9
	Female	43	23.1
	Total	**186**	**100**
Age Range	26 -35 yeas	26	14.0
	36-55 years	56	30.1
	56 years and above	104	55.9
	Total	**186**	**100**
Religion	Islam	132	71.0
	Christian	54	29.0
	Total	**186**	**100**
Years you stayed in Maiduguri Metropolis	1-3 years	26	14.6
	4-7 years	55	29.6
	8 years and above	105	56.5
	Total	**186**	**100**

Source: *Field survey, 2024*

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Table 1 above presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents in the study. This table provides valuable insights into the composition of the survey participants, shedding light on key demographic factors such as gender, age range, religion, and the duration of their stay in Maiduguri Metropolis.

Firstly, the table reveals the gender distribution among the respondents, with 76.9% being male and 23.1% female. This gender breakdown provides an initial understanding of the gender representation in the study, which may have implications for the research findings and conclusions. It's worth noting that the male population is notably higher than the female population in this sample. Secondly, the age distribution of respondents is highlighted, showing that 14.0% fall within the 26-35 age range, 30.1% are between 36-55 years old, and the majority, 55.9%, are 56 years and above. This age distribution provides insights into the generational diversity among the participants, which can influence their perspectives and experiences related to the study's subject matter.

The table also delves into the religious affiliations of the respondents, indicating that 71.0% identify as Muslim, while 29.0% identify as Christian. This religious breakdown underscores the importance of considering religious diversity when analyzing the research results, as it may impact respondents' viewpoints and preferences. Lastly, the duration of the respondents' stay in Maiduguri Metropolis is provided, with 14.6% having stayed for 1-3 years, 29.6% for 4-7 years, and a substantial 56.5% residing in the area for 8 years and above. This data offers insights into the level of familiarity and experience that respondents have with the local context, which could influence their perceptions and responses to the study's objectives.

Results

Research Question One: What is the extent of clerical involvement in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis?

Table 2: Extent of clerical involvement in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis

S/N	Items	Frequencies						
		SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std dev.
1	Clerics (religious leaders) actively participated in conflict	89 (47.8%)	68 (36.6%)	15 (8.5%)	14 (7.5%)	**186 (100%)**	1.75	0.90

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	resolution initiatives within the Maiduguri Metropolis							
2	Boko haram activities is the only conflict that Clerics have been involved within the Maiduguri Metropolis in the past year	14 (7.5%)	30 (16.1%)	73 (39.2%)	69 (37.1%)	**186 (100%)**	3.05	0.91
3	Religious clerics are extremely active in influencing peace and stability within the Maiduguri Metropolis	52 (28.0%)	63 (33.9%)	53 (28.5%)	18 (9.7%)	**186 (100%)**	2.20	0.96
4	Religious clerics encounter various challenges when engaging in Boko Haram conflict management and resolution efforts in Maiduguri Metropolis?	53 (28.5%)	89 (47.8%)	30 (16.1%)	14 (%)75	**186 (100%)**	2.03	0.87
5	Religious clerics are universal when managing Boko Haram conflict in Maiduguri Metropolis.	20 (10.8%)	52 (28.0%)	72 (38.7%)	42 (22.6%)	**186 (100%)**	2.73	0.93
	Total mean						**2.352**	

Source: *Field survey 3024*

Table 2 above provides valuable insights into the extent of clerical involvement in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis. This table outlines various items related to the active participation of religious clerics (leaders) in addressing conflicts, particularly those related to Boko Haram activities. Firstly, the table reveals that a substantial proportion of respondents, 47.8%, strongly agreed that religious clerics actively participate in conflict resolution initiatives within Maiduguri Metropolis. This high level of agreement suggests that religious leaders are seen as influential figures in addressing conflicts in the region, potentially playing a pivotal role in promoting peace and stability. However, item 2 indicates that there is diversity in the types of conflicts in which clerics have been involved. While 7.5% of respondents strongly agreed that Boko Haram activities were the only conflicts they engaged in during the past

year, a significant proportion of respondents (39.2%) disagreed with this statement. This diversity in responses suggests that clerics may have broader roles beyond addressing a single type of conflict.

Moreover, item 3 highlights that a considerable number of respondents, 33.9%, agreed that religious clerics are extremely active in influencing peace and stability within the Maiduguri Metropolis. This finding reinforces the perception that religious leaders are actively engaged in peace-building efforts, contributing positively to the community. Item 4 indicates that respondents recognize that religious clerics face various challenges when engaging in Boko Haram conflict management and resolution efforts. The majority, 47.8%, agreed with this statement, emphasizing the complexities and difficulties that religious leaders encounter in addressing such a complex conflict. Lastly, item 5 demonstrates that a significant proportion of respondents, 38.7%, agreed that religious clerics are universal when managing the Boko Haram conflict in Maiduguri Metropolis. This suggests that respondents perceive a broad-based and inclusive approach to conflict management, where multiple religious leaders are actively involved.

Research Question Two: What are impacts of clerical engagement in Boko haram conflict management and resolution?

Table 3: Impacts of Clerical Engagement in Boko Haram Conflict Management and Resolution

S/N	Items	Frequencies						
		SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std dev.
6	The role of clerics in Boko Haram conflict management and resolution has been instrumental in promoting peace and reconciliation.	37 (19.9%)	103 (55.4%)	32 (17.2%)	14 (7.5%)	**186 (100%)**	2.12	0.81
7	Clerics been highly effective in managing and resolving Insurgency within the Maiduguri Metropolis	18 (9.7%)	63 (33.9%)	63 (33.9%)	42 (22.6%)	**186 (100%)**	2.69	0.92

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8	I have noticed some changes in community attitudes and behaviors towards violence and extremism due to the efforts of religious clerics in conflict-affected areas	42 (22.6%)	62 (33.3%)	34 (18.3%)	48 (25.8%)	**186 (100%)**	2.47	1.10
9	I have personally participated in community initiatives led by clerics aimed at conflict management and resolution	58 (31.2%)	70 (37.6%)	44 (23.7%)	14 (7.5%)	**186 (100%)**	2.07	0.92
10	Involvement of clerics in conflict management and resolution efforts has contributed to the reduction of violence and the promotion of social cohesion in areas affected by the Boko Haram conflict	62 (33.3%)	74 (39.8%)	28 (15.1%)	22 (11.8%)	**186 (100%)**	2.05	0.98
	Total mean						**2.26**	

Source: *Field survey, 2024*

Table 3 above delves into the impacts of clerical engagement in Boko Haram conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis. The first item, number 6, indicates that 19.9% of respondents strongly agreed that the role of clerics in Boko Haram conflict management and resolution has been instrumental in promoting peace and reconciliation. This finding suggests that a significant proportion of respondents recognize the positive and pivotal role played by religious leaders in fostering peace and reconciliation in conflict-affected regions. Item 7 shows that 33.9% of respondents agreed that clerics have been highly effective in managing and resolving Insurgency within the Maiduguri Metropolis. This response highlights a favorable perception of the effectiveness of religious clerics in addressing the complex challenges posed by Boko Haram-related conflicts.

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Furthermore, item 8 underscores that a substantial proportion, 33.3%, of respondents noticed changes in community attitudes and behaviors towards violence and extremism due to the efforts of religious clerics in conflict-affected areas. This suggests that clerics' initiatives have had a notable impact on influencing community perspectives and behaviors. Item 9 reveals that a significant number of respondents, 31.2%, personally participated in community initiatives led by clerics aimed at conflict management and resolution. This indicates an active engagement of community members in the peace-building efforts facilitated by religious leaders. Lastly, item 10 demonstrates that 39.8% of respondents agreed that the involvement of clerics in conflict management and resolution efforts has contributed to the reduction of violence and the promotion of social cohesion in areas affected by the Boko Haram conflict. This response underscores the perceived positive outcomes of clerical engagement in conflict-affected regions.

Research Question Three: What are the challenges and barriers encountered by clerics in their efforts to manage and resolve the insurgency?

Table 4: Challenges and Barriers Encountered by Clerics in Their Efforts to Manage and Resolve the Boko Haram Conflict

S/N	Items	Frequencies						
		SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std dev.
11	I have encountered challenges related to interfaith relations and cooperation while working to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict	55 (92.6%)	93 (50.0%)	26 (14.0%)	12 (6.5%)	**186 (100%)**	1.97	0.83
12	My religious community faced threats as a result of my involvement in conflict resolution efforts	18 (9.7%)	22 (11.8%)	74 (39.8%)	72 (38.7%)	**186 (100%)**	3.07	0.94
13	Local communities have affected positively by the	14 (7.5%)	24 (12.9%)	92 (49.5%)	56 (30.1%)	**186 (100%)**	3.02	0.86

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	conflict perceive the involvement of clerics in conflict management and resolution							
14	I personally encountered challenges while engaging in efforts to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict	56 (30.1%)	82 (44.1%)	36 (19.4%)	12 (6.5%)	**186 (100%)**	2.02	0.87
15	I am aware of challenges and obstacles that religious clerics (leaders) face when attempting to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict	46 (24.7%)	78 (41.9%)	40 (21.5%)	22 (11.8%)	**186 (100%)**	2.20	0.95
	Total mean						**2.46**	

Table 4 presents a comprehensive overview of the challenges and barriers faced by clerics in their efforts to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict within the Maiduguri Metropolis. Item 11 reveals that an overwhelming 92.6% of respondents strongly agreed that they have encountered challenges related to interfaith relations and cooperation while working to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict. This finding highlights the complexities of interfaith dynamics and collaboration in conflict-affected areas, which can pose significant challenges to clerics' efforts. Item 12 indicates that 39.8% of respondents agreed that their religious communities faced threats as a result of their involvement in conflict resolution efforts. This alarming response underscores the personal risks and security concerns that religious leaders may encounter when actively engaging in peace-building activities.

Item 13 highlights that 49.5% of respondents agreed that local communities affected positively by the conflict perceive the involvement of clerics in conflict management and resolution. This suggests that religious leaders are perceived as having a positive impact on communities, particularly in areas affected by the conflict, which is an encouraging sign for their peace-building efforts. Item 14 shows that 44.1% of respondents agreed that they personally encountered

challenges while engaging in efforts to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict. This emphasizes the firsthand experiences of clerics in navigating the complexities and difficulties associated with conflict resolution in their communities. Lastly, item 15 demonstrates that 41.9% of respondents agreed that they are aware of challenges and obstacles that religious clerics face when attempting to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict. This indicates a broader recognition among respondents of the hurdles that religious leaders confront in their roles as peace facilitators.

Summary of Findings

i. The study revealed that religious clerics play a substantial role in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis, particularly in addressing insurgency.
ii. The study shows that respondents acknowledge the positive impact of religious clerics in managing and resolving Insurgency.
iii. The study also revealed that there was multifaceted challenges and barriers faced by clerics in their endeavors to manage and resolve the insurgency within Maiduguri metropolis.

Discussion

The study focused on the role of clerics in management and resolutions of insurgency in Maiduguri metropolis, Borno state, Nigeria. Base on the objectives of this study, the findings revealed that religious clerics play a substantial role in conflict management and resolution within the Maiduguri Metropolis, particularly in addressing insurgency. This is similar to study conducted by Peace Direct (2016) this can be seen in the various interfaith engagements between Christians and Muslims in promoting peace through the organization of peace concerts, sports, and other recreational activities that are not only aimed at promoting and strengthening peace, but also addressing the various negative aspects of mistrust being promoted by those who wish to fuel the embers of violence and terror in society. The findings of this study shows that respondents acknowledge the positive impact of religious clerics in managing and resolving Insurgency. The data indicates that religious leaders have played a significant role in promoting peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion in the Maiduguri Metropolis. This is in line with study conducted by Rahim (2019) Managing organizational conflict /A non-

traditional Approach. The studies findings revealed that organizational conflict cam be manges by the law makers and administrators with the organization. To do this there must be changes in leadership, culture, and design of an organization. The study also revealed that there was multifaceted challenges and barriers faced by clerics in their endeavors to manage and resolve the Boko Haram conflict. These challenges include interfaith relations, personal security threats, and navigating complex community dynamics. This is similar to research conducted by (UNHCR 2020). "Nigeria emergency".

Summary

The study on the role of clerics in the management and resolution of the insurgency in Maiduguri Metropolis delves into the important but often overlooked contributions of religious leaders in addressing one of Nigeria's most pressing security challenges. Against the backdrop of the long-standing insurgency, this research aims to shed light on the numerous roles played by clerics within the Maiduguri Metropolis. These roles encompass spiritual guidance, moral leadership, and community organizing. Through a comprehensive analysis, the study seeks to assess the extent to which clerics engage in conflict management activities and their effectiveness in fostering peace and reconciliation.

One key dimension of this research is to examine the impact of clerics' engagement in conflict resolution. It explores how their influence shapes community perspectives and behaviors, as well as their role in promoting interfaith dialogue and collaboration. This study contributes to both academic discourse and practical efforts to manage and resolve the insurgency in Maiduguri Metropolis.

Conclusion

The study on the role of clerics in the management and resolution of insurgency in Maiduguri Metropolis illuminates the significant contributions of religious leaders in a context marked by violence, insecurity, and social upheaval. Through a comprehensive examination of their roles, activities, impact, and challenges, it becomes evident that clerics play a vital and multifaceted role in addressing this complex conflict. Their influence extends beyond religious and spiritual guidance to encompass active engagement in peace-building initiatives, interfaith

dialogues, and community-based interventions aimed at fostering reconciliation and social cohesion.

Ultimately, this research serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of religious leaders in the face of adversity. It reinforces the idea that in conflict-ridden regions, the involvement of clerics should not be underestimated, and their contributions should be acknowledged, supported, and integrated into broader peace and security strategies. The study's insights have the potential to inform policies and initiatives that not only address the immediate challenges posed by Boko Haram but also lay the foundation for lasting peace, social cohesion, and reconciliation within the Maiduguri Metropolis.

Recommendations

i. Stakeholders, including local authorities, community leaders, and civil society organizations, recognize and support the crucial role that religious clerics play in conflict management and resolution, particularly in addressing insurgency within Maiduguri Metropolis.
ii. Local authorities, government agencies, and civil society organizations actively engage and collaborate with religious clerics in peace-building and community development initiatives
iii. Government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society groups should take the following action to support and empower religious clerics in their peace-building roles: Safety and Security Measures, Interfaith Dialogue Initiatives, Conflict Resolution Training and Community Support Networks.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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