WOMEN'S ROLES IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN KADUNA STATE, NGERIA

SULEIMAN BALA MOHAMMED
Department of Sociology
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
sbalamohammed@gmail.com

AHMED JIBRIN
Department of History
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
Ahmejibrin17@mail.com

&
MOHAMMED MAHMUDA KHALIFA
Department of Business Administration
Nasarawa State University, Keffi
mmalgruz@gmail.com

ABSTRACT
This study investigates the role women play in Conflict Resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study examined the roles played by women in conflict resolution; the challenges women face in playing these roles and the prospects of women participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna state, Nigeria. The Radical Feminist Theory and Karl Marx Conflict Theory served as theoretical frameworks. This study adopted a survey research design. The study population comprised of 3,593 registered members of the 17 selected women groups/associations in Kaduna State (Kaduna State Interfaith, 2022) out of which a simple size of 360 respondents was selected using Taro Yamane formulae and Convenient Sampling Technique. The study utilized questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis was employed to analyze the data collected. Findings from the study revealed that the roles played by women towards enhancing conflict resolution in Kaduna state include: facilitation of negotiation between conflicting parties, conflict sensitivity awareness campaigns and peace advocacies, mediation in intra and inter communal and ethno-religious crises. Cultural and religious differences, under-representation of women in peace processes, lack of political will to formally involve women, and inadequate conflict resolution skills are the challenges to women's role in conflict resolution identified by the study. Findings further revealed that the large population of women, increased recognition/involvement of women by government, partnership with stakeholders, increase in women/girl child education are the prospects of women's participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State; the study found that post-conflict reconstruction can consolidate, support and foster unity among the people, strengthen peace and security, increase gender equity and inclusion thereby enhancing women's role in conflict resolution in Kaduna State. The study Hypothesis revealed that there is positive and significant relationship between roles of women groups in conflict resolution. The study concludes that women have played conflict resolution role in the State despite existing challenges. The study recommends building capacity of women in conflict resolution and increased recognition and involvement of women by government.

Keywords: Conflict, Conflict Resolution, Post-conflict Reconstruction.

1. Introduction

The need for inclusion of women in Conflict Resolution has gained global acceptance because of their innate peacemaking and peacebuilding potentials. Further, women and girls are at higher risks of violence during conflicts, hence, their integration in conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction becomes imperative (Ezerum and Eren, 2014). Within the past few years, various states in Nigeria including Kaduna state has witnessed increased spate of conflict and violence. These conflicts have resulted in loss of lives and properties. In response, several conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction efforts have been embarked upon by government and other stakeholders. However, women continue to be excluded in these conflict resolution initiatives despite the fact that women are crucial stakeholders in peace building or conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction processes (Osuchukwu & Udeze, 2015).

Despite the increasing women's participation in conflict resolution globally and Nigeria to be precise, and with the UN Declaration on equal participation of women in politics, economy, social and cultural life, between 1992 and 2011, just 2 percent of chief mediators and 9 percent of negotiators in formal peace processes were women. Only 7 percent of agreements signed between 1992 and 2014 referenced gender equality or women's rights (Oluremi, 2021).

Like Men, Women are known with a number of different markers of identity, whether relating to gender, ethnicity, or class, for example. They also reflect a multitude of interests in society and take on a variety of roles throughout the spectrum of conflict: they are victims, perpetrators, peace makers, and political advocates. Despite the heterogeneity of women's experiences and their diverse roles in conflict resolution and peace building, it is widely accepted that women experience conflict differently from men (Kamau, 2016, Ochieng, 2019).

Research also shows that in addition to the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence that predominantly affects women, domestic violence against women increases when conflict breaks out and is more prevalent than conflict-related sexual violence (Olaitan, 2018).

Many women have been forced to engage in prostitution in the post conflict era, as the only available means of income. Family structures were damaged through death and trauma, resulting in women becoming heads of households and an increased incidence of domestic violence. Despite the fact that women suffer the most during the period of conflicts, formal conflict resolution mechanisms exclude women in the decision-making process. Falch (2010) underscored the above view by stating that women are often excluded from formal peace negotiations and are marginally involved in political decision-making process. However, since the passing of the United Nations Resolution 1325 in 2000 which advocates for the equal representation of women in key decision bodies, greater political space was opened for women groups to play significant roles in conflict resolution globally (Falch, 2010). While extolling the role of women organizations in the formal mechanism of conflict resolution, acknowledged that, even though the role of women has not been appreciated, women have continued to play significant roles in community peace building and have made valuable contributions to peace during and after conflict (Sisulu, 2019).

Violence against women in the home (experienced by one in three women around the world) is now understood as an indicator of broader violence in society. Gender equality, power dynamics, and security can no longer be considered as separate spheres. Just as women tend to experience conflict differently from men, their priorities for peace frequently differ at the negotiating table. Although women who are affiliated with the conflict parties often opt to toe the party line, research shows that when women have had the opportunity to influence peace processes in other ways (and in some cases even as negotiators for the belligerents), they have frequently broadened the set of issues at the negotiating table to address development and human rights as well as security.

According to the Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, the roles and contributions of women and girls to all stages of conflict resolution, peace-making, peace-building, peacekeeping and reconstruction processes can no longer be ignored or minimized; sustainable peace will not be achieved without the full and equal participation of women and men. As women and mothers, we know this is logical and true, however putting the theory into practice is much more difficult. Women's peace-building efforts

must be supported, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because any nation experiencing conflict needs the strength of its women. Women are the ones who hold their families and communities together during the worst of the conflict. They keep a measure of stability during chaos and during displacement. As the attention turns to various methods of conflict resolution those contributions must be recognized (Peng & Silva, 2018). Conflict resolution from a gender perspective, implies changing the system and power dynamics in conflict management and resolution processes to incorporate gender inclusiveness. Sustainable peace requires fully inclusion of women and all segments of society as politically viable citizens. Women's participation in resolving and preventing conflict is not an optional, but rather an essential ingredient of peace-building. Pain and suffering, fear and loss, hate and despair, rage and sadness; these are the emotions that women as well as men feel during conflict. But women also have an immense capacity to transcend their sorrow and look beyond the hatred and bitterness and to build a new and secure future for their families and communities (Aroussi, 2017). The roles of women in dispute resolution are very crucial because women are affected the most by violent conflict situations. Furthermore, most peace building exercises ignore the interest and positions of women as their outcome only satisfies the men (Kpae & Masi, 2019). It is against this background that this study seeks to examine the roles of women in conflict resolution in Kaduna state, Nigeria, prospects and challenges.

Therefore, the main objective of this study is to investigate the women's roles in conflict resolution in Kaduna state, Nigeria. To achieve this objective, the study will have the following specific objectives as guide to:
i.   Examine the roles played by women towards enhancing conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria;
ii.   Determine the challenges of women's role in conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria;
iii.   Assess the prospects of women's roles in conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria; and
iv.   Identify how post-conflict reconstruction can enhance women's role in conflict resolution in Kaduna state;

HO1: The roles played by women in conflict resolution will significantly contribute to peaceful coexistence in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

HO2: The challenges of women's roles in conflicts resolution have no significant relationship on peaceful co-existence in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

HO3: The prospects of women's participation in conflict resolution have no significant relationship on peaceful coexistence in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

2.   Literature Review
Conflict
Conflict is defined as an incompatibility of goals or values between two or more parties in a relationship, combined with attempts to control each other and antagonistic feelings toward each other (Fisher, 2014). The incompatibility or difference may exist in reality or may only be perceived by the parties involved. Nonetheless, the opposing actions and the hostile emotions are very real hallmarks of human conflict. Conflict has the potential for either a great deal of destruction or much creativity and positive social change (Katz & McNulty, 2014).

Conflict occurs between people in all kinds of human relationships and in all social settings. Because of the wide range of potential differences among people, the absence of conflict usually signals the absence of meaningful interaction. Conflict by itself is neither good nor bad. However, the manner in which conflict is handled determines whether it is constructive or destructive (Deutsch & Coleman, 2000).

Oladele (2011) and Adesina (2010), opine that conflict engenders interaction of persons or a group of people in relation to different expectations, interests and backgrounds in society. Going by the claim made by Oladele (2011) and Adesina (2010) above, conflict can be viewed as unavoidable and a normal part of a society or an organisation. Erzurum and Eren (2014) avert that conflict can be disagreement that exists between one or two parties. According to them, it creates situations where both parties perceived a situation in different directions in reaching compromise on issues of common interest. Thus, it may lead to protest, strikes and disruption of work activities.

From the examination of various definitions, this study define conflict as a misunderstanding that arises when one or two people have different views or pursue different goals in the community or an organisation. It may lead to destruction of properties, life, work and activities and destruction of the peaceful co-existence of members of the community.

Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution involves the reduction, elimination, or termination of all forms and types of conflict. In practice, when people talk about conflict resolution they tend to use terms like negotiation, bargaining, mediation, or arbitration (Osabiya, 2015).

Conflict resolution is a process of managing a conflict and negotiating a solution. It is best understood as a working model with two key elements, conflict management and negotiation. Conflict Management is a communication process for changing the negative emotional states in a conflict to emotional states that allow working out a solution to the conflict. Negotiation is a communication process for enabling disputing parties to achieve an outcome with respect to their differences (Peng & Silva, 2018).

The conflict resolution working model is a process comprised of four stages: awareness, self-preparation, conflict reduction, and negotiation as show below resolution (Katz & McNulty, 1994).

Fig. 1: **Conflict Resolution Model. Source: Katz & McNulty (1994)**

Conflict Reduction

The third stage of the model is conflict reduction. This stage involves reducing the level of emotional energy (diffusing negative emotions) and clarifying to understand the differences. This allows disputing parties to settle the conflict, that is, agree to eliminate destructive behavior as well as negative attitudes and feelings toward each other. This settlement may not be an agreement that resolves all the differences but one that enables the disputing parties to go forward with an understanding of their differences and mutual respect for one another (Li, 2012).

The process involves the parties using reflective listening to change the negative emotional states in the conflict to states that are more amenable to resolving disputes and differences. The process also allows the parties to clarify misunderstandings and facilitate movement from a focus on the past to a focus on the future. Explicit in the process is acknowledging the positive intentions of the other parties (Peng & Silva, 2018).

Peng and Silva, (2018) stated that the object of conflict reduction is to achieve a constructive emotional state where all parties have a clear and mutual understanding of each other's views. If the difference involves beliefs that are intangible, success is achieved when there is a mutual understanding. If the differences are tangible (needs), success is achieved when the parties agree to negotiate and arrive at a mutually satisfying solution.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction

According to Tzifakis (2022) opined that post-conflict reconstruction aims at the consolidation of peace and security and the attainment of sustainable socio-economic development in a war-shattered country. The term 'post-conflict' does not signify the obliteration of the root causes of the outbreak of conflict in the first place. Nor does it imply a complete cessation of hostilities that often recur even after the signing of a peace agreement or the waging of elections (Hamre & Sullivan, 2012). It frequently denotes merely an abatement of hostilities, or a 'window of opportunity' for peace in a conflict that can again escalate if mismanaged (Fischer 2014). Post-conflict reconstruction is broadly understood as a complex, holistic and multidimensional process encompassing effort to simultaneously improve military (restoration of law and order), political (governance), economic (rehabilitation and development) and social conditions (justice and reconciliation) (Tzifakis, 2022). The economic dimension of post-conflict reconstruction usually involves tasks such as distribution of relief assistance, restoration of physical infrastructure and facilities, reestablishment of social services, creation of appropriate conditions for the private sector development, and implementation of essential structural reforms for macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth (McGlonn-Nilson, 2017; Nilson, 2020).

Post-conflict reconstruction transitions a society from conflict to peace by rebuilding its social, political, and economic institutions (Fischer, 2014). According to Nkengbeza (2016), post-conflict reconstruction transitions is a comprehensive set of measures that seek to: address the needs of countries emerging from conflict, including the needs of affected populations; prevent escalation of disputes; avoid relapse into violence; address the root causes of conflict; and consolidate sustainable peace. It is conceived within the vision of renewal and sustainable development and while its activities are integrated, and many must be pursued simultaneously, they are envisaged in the emergency (short-term), transition (medium-term) and development (long-term) phases (Nkengbeza, 2016). The scope of these activities encompasses six indicative elements, namely: security; humanitarian/emergency assistance; political governance and transition; socioeconomic reconstruction and development; human rights, justice and reconciliation; and women and gender. Post-conflict reintegration is an aspect of peace building that deals with the social, political and economic integration of ex-combatants and their families. It is a long-term process that provides a primary support network into civil society (Nilson, 2015).

Empirical Review
Women's Roles in Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Reconstruction
Oluremi (2021) conducted a study on women, peace and security in Nigeria: examining the domestic and international legal framework. The study considers and highlights a range of ways in which women's capacity can be developed so that their full inclusion in all peace and security developments can be achieved. The study was conceptual in nature and relied on previous literatures. The study explored the issue of women participation in peace and security in Nigeria with special focus on the challenges and prospects. The study found that there exists a gap between the gender's participation in issues relating to Peace and Security in Nigeria. The study only relied on previous literatures and did not conduct any statistical analysis. The study could have conduct statistical analysis in order to arrive on more reliable findings.

Nwankpa (2021) conducted a study on conflict and Development in Nigeria: Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism Strategies towards the Niger Delta and Boko Haram Conflicts. The study explores how the internal and external development interventions towards the Niger Delta and Boko Haram conflicts have been developed and the issues that have arisen concerning their effectiveness. The exploratory study uses a triangulation method that includes interviews, focus group, documentary analysis and observation. The study funds evidence of a paradigmatic shift towards a rights based approach to development in the internal and external interventions, but one that still yields to securitization and corruption and adversely affects sustainable development. Nonetheless, responses to the Niger Delta and Boko Haram conflicts produce ramifications that justify general as well as specifically targeted responses to individual conflicts. More so,

the study shows that the relationship between Nigeria and its external development partners seem to be less vertical. The study did not conduct any statistical analysis, as such it cannot explain the relationship between Nigeria and its external development partners.

Iloh, Okafor and Oghomitse (2019) examined the role of women in conflict resolution in Rwanda: lessons for peace building in Nigeria. The study relied on documentary evidence (secondary data). These were data sourced by extracting relevant information from other sources and previous studies. These documents were mainly publications on the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building generally, and their roles in Rwanda particularly. Thus, secondary sources such as text books, journal articles and other written works sourced from libraries were utilized. The study also made use of internet materials that contained information on the Rwandan civil war and genocide, and efforts at resolving the conflicts. These documents are already in the public domain. What the authors did was to refine, interpret, evaluate and analyze them. To analyze the data gathered for the study, content analysis, rooted on systematic logical deductions was used. The study systematically reduced the documents to logical, meaningful and coherent interpretation, and on the basis of that drew our inferences and conclusions. The study, therefore, argues that given the intractable ethno-religious conflicts and mistrust that have bedeviled Nigeria in recent times, Nigerian women have significant roles to play in peace building, taking a cue from their counterparts in Rwanda. The study only relied mainly on documentary evidence.

Kpae and Masi (2019) conducted a study on women participation in conflict management in Nigeria: a case of a rural community in the Niger Delta Area. The study examined women participation in conflict management in Omuku, bedeviling the region. The main objective of the research was to determine the extent of women participation in conflict management in Omuku community. The study relied on the Radical Feminist and Socialist Feminist theories were used as the theoretical framework. The study adopted a survey research design. In the study, a sample of 150 was drawn from a population of 283,292 using the purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The study was based mainly on primary and secondary sources. The primary data used for the study was collected with structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was close ended questions and handed directly to respondents. The secondary data was obtained from search and review of journals, books, unpublished and published articles, internet documents from international and national organizations to build the study. Two basic instruments were used for data collection in the study, questionnaire and Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The data collected for the study were analyzed using a descriptive statistics of simple percentage, the simple mean score, tables and graphs. The study found that women had very limited participation in conflict management. The study also found that women did not have any significant roles in the management of conflict in Omuku community. The sample size used for the study was two low. In addition, the study focused on only one community, therefore the findings from the study cannot be generalized.

Ochieng (2019) conducted a study role of women in peace building and post-conflict transformation Africa: A Catholic Church perspective. The study examined the place of women in the Catholic Church and the opportunities they have to engage in conflict resolution and peace building in the African context. The study argues that in many areas of conflict women play a major role in keeping the communities from disintegrating even in the breakdown of the social fabric. It further argues that the Catholic Church as a leading advocate for empowerment of women has a major role to ensure that they are allowed to play a more significant role in conflict resolution and peace building. The study concludes that that women do offer their time to promote peace, justice and reconciliation in their families, larger communities, countries and continent. The study only relied on previous studies to drawn conclusion.

Theorical Framework
Conflict Theory
Conflict Theory, developed by Karl Marx, purports that due to society's never-ending competition for finite resources, it will always be in a state of conflict. The implication of this theory is that those in possession of wealth and resources will protect and hoard those resources, while those without will do whatever they

can to obtain them. This dynamic means there is a constant struggle between the rich and the poor. Conflict theory examines any social phenomenon through the lens that there is a natural human instinct towards conflict. Marx is not saying that conflict is good or bad, but instead that it is an unavoidable aspect of human nature and helps explain why things are the way they are.

Conflict theory suggests that human behaviour in social contexts results from conflicts between competing groups. Conflict theory originated with the work of Karl Marx in the mid-1800s. This thinking also inspired Max Weber who agreed in the importance of wealth but argued that power and status were of equal importance. Both saw different groups in conflict over social scarcities.

Conflict theory emphasizes the role that a person or groups ability has to exercise influence and control over others in producing social order. It states that a society or organization functions so that each individual participant and its groups struggle to maximize their benefits, which inevitably contributes to social change such as changes in politics and revolutions. Conflict theory emphasizes the role that a person or groups ability has to exercise influence and control over others in producing social order. The struggle that occurs does not always involve physical violence; it can point to an underlying struggle for each group or individual within a society to maximize its own benefits. The moderate version of the conflict theory allows Functionalism as an equally acceptable theory, since it would accept that even negative social institutions play a part in society's self-perpetuation (Kaldor, 1999).

Conflict theory has been criticized for being too politicized by its association with Marx and its widespread use by advocates in numerous causes and movements. Critics also argue it downplays unity in society while taking a negative view of society as one filled with conflicts, tension and coercion. Despite the criticism of conflict theory, it still relate to this study in the sense that it can be used to look at wars, violence, revolutions, and forms of injustice and discrimination by explaining that there is a natural disparity in society that causes these problems.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a survey research design because the research objectives required the use of primary data. The population for this study comprised of all registered member of 17 women groups/associations in Kaduna State. As at the time of this study, these groups have a total registered members of 3,593 (See table 3.1 for the details). Women groups/associations in Kaduna State selected are Federation of Muslim Women of Nigeria, Kaduna State Branch, Jesus Agape Ministry Widows group, Women of peace development Association, Better Women Initiative Forum, Krumin Kwara development Kaduna branch, Nation Council of Women Society, Kaduna State Chapter, Association of Women with Disability in Kaduna State, Women Mobilization Forum Kaduna State, Kaduna State Women for Peace and Awareness Association, Sisters of Janna Kaduna Zone, Jaji Women Empowerment and welfare of Orphans Association, Kakuri Concern Women Association, Haske Women Development Initiative, Grass Root Vision for Women Peace and Development Initiative, Women Children Education, empowerment and promotion of Health Initiative, Sakapu National Women Wing and Women interfaith council (WIC) Kaduna state Nigeria.

The sample size determined for this study using Yamane (1967) sample size formula is Three Hundred and Sixty (360). Therefore the sample size used for this study comprised of Three Hundred and Sixty (360) registered members of 17 women groups/associations in Kaduna State.

For the purpose of this study, primary data was used. Questionnaire was employed to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire was use because it offers certain advantages such as; it allows for large number of information to be collected from a large number of people or respondents in a short time period, the results of the questionnaire can be quickly and easily quantified by the researcher, can be analyzed scientifically and when the data has been quantified, it can be used to compare and contrast other researches. The instrument used for this study was validated by expert opinions in this field. The reliability of the instrument used was calculated using Cronbach Alpha via SPSS. The Cronbach alpha values greater than 0.7 is considered appropriate for this study as suggested by Hair, et al. (2010). Therefore the study ensured that the Cronbach Alpha for all the construct is more than or equal to 0.7.

The data collected for this study was analyzed using descriptive statistical tool of table, frequency, simple percentage, mean and standard deviation and inferential statistical tool of person correlation analysis. This

method was used because of the nature of the study's variables and the need to present the study's findings in simple and easy to read and understand format. The descriptive statistics of the variables used was also computed. The analysis of this study was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21.

4. Results and Discussion

The Analysis of Each of the Items in the Questionnaire and Answers to the Four Research Questions.

Research Question 1: Roles played by women towards enhancing conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percent
SD	3	1
D	10	3
UN	36	11
A	168	53
SA	101	32
Total	318	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents with respect to roles women play in resolution of inter and intra communal conflicts in Kaduna State. Findings indicate that 3 respondents constituting 1% of respondents strongly disagreed. 10 respondent constituting 3% of the respondents disagreed. 36 respondent constituting 11% of respondents are undecided. 168 respondents constituting 53% of the respondents agreed. And lastly, 101 respondents constituting 32% of the respondents strongly agreed.

From the analysis of the respondents above, the majority of the respondents agreed that women play roles in conflict resolution through their contribution to the resolution of inter and intra communal conflicts in Kaduna State.

Research Question 2: The challenges of women's role and participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percent
SD	**7**	**2**
D	**17**	**5**
UN	**76**	**24**
A	**144**	**46**
SA	**74**	**23**
Total	**318**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 7 above shows the distribution of respondents with respect to difference in the culture of people is one of the challenge of women's participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State, the result from this analysis revealed that 7 respondents constituting 2% of respondents strongly disagreed. 17 respondent constituting 5% of the respondents disagreed. 76 respondent constituting 24% of respondents are undecided. 144 respondents constituting 46% of the respondents agreed. And lastly, 74 respondents constituting 23% of the respondents strongly agreed. From the analysis of the respondents above, the majority of the respondents agreed that difference in the culture of people is one of the challenges of women's participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State. This implies that difference in the culture of people is a challenge women faced while participating in conflict resolution and conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State.

Research Question 3: Prospects of women's participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percent
SD	4	1
D	13	4
UN	45	14
A	174	55
SA	82	26
Total	318	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 11 shows the distribution of respondents with respect to women population as a prospect of their participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State. Findings indicate that 4 respondents constituting 1% of respondents strongly disagreed. 13 respondent constituting 4% of the respondents disagreed. 45 respondent constituting 14% of respondents are undecided. 175 respondents constituting 55% of the respondents agreed. And lastly, 82 respondents constituting 26% of the respondents strongly agreed. From the analysis of the respondents above, the majority of the respondents affirmed that the large population of women in the state is a prospect of their participation in conflict resolution in Kaduna State. This implies that government, donor and international organisations and other stakeholders can leverage on the large population of women in the state to enhance their participation in conflict resolution.

Research Question 4: How post-conflict reconstruction enhance women's role in conflict resolution in Kaduna state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
SD	8	2
D	38	12
UN	77	24
A	135	43
SA	60	19
Total	318	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table 16 shows the distribution of respondents with respect to post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State can consolidate, support and foster unity among people Findings from the study analysis revealed that 8 respondents constituting 2% of respondents strongly disagreed. 38 respondent constituting 12% of the respondents disagreed. 77 respondent constituting 24% of respondents are undecided. 135 respondents constituting 43% of the respondents agreed. And lastly, 60 respondents constituting 19% of the respondents strongly agreed. From the analysis of the respondents above, the majority of the respondents affirmed that due to its capacity to foster unity and consolidate peace, post-conflict reconstruction can enhance women's role in conflict resolution in Kaduna state.

Correlations Matrix of the Variables used showing the Relationship Between the Independent Variables and the Dependent Variable

		RWPCR	CWPCR	PWPCR	PCR
RWICR	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
	N	318			
CWRICR	Pearson Correlation	.765**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000			
	N	318	318		
PWRCR	Pearson Correlation	.729**	.803**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		
	N	318	318	318	
PCR	Pearson Correlation	.413**	.448**	.601**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	318	318	318	318

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
Source: author's computation, 2023 via SPSS v. 22

The table 22 shows the correlation analysis between the independents variables (roles of women's role in conflict resolution (RWICR), challenges of women's role in conflict resolution (CWRICR), prospects of women's role in conflict resolution (PWRCR)) and dependant variable (post-conflict reconstruction (PCR)). From the analysis above the result shows that there is positive and significant relationship between roles of women groups in conflicts resolution (RWPCR), challenges of women's participation in conflicts resolution (CWPCR), prospects of women's participation in conflicts resolution (PWPCR) and post-conflict reconstruction (PCR) in the study area.

H01: roles of women in conflict resolution have no significant relationship to post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Correlations Matrix showing the Relationship Between the Roles of Women in Conflict Resolution

		RWPCR	PCR
RWPCR	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	318	
PCR	Pearson Correlation	.413**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	318	318

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table 23 shows the analysis for the relationship between the roles of women in conflict resolution (RWCR) and post-conflict reconstruction (PCR) in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The result from the table above revealed that the roles of women in conflict resolution (RWCR) have positive and significant relationship with post-conflict reconstruction (PCR). This result is seen from the Pearson Correlation value of 0.413 with its corresponding Sig. value of 0.000.

H02: challenges of women's participation in conflicts resolution have no significant relationship to post-conflict reconstruction Kaduna State, Nigeria.
Source: author's computation, 2023

Correlations Matrix showing the Challenges of Women's Roles in Conflicts Resolution

		CWPCR	PCR
CWRCR	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	318	
PCR	Pearson Correlation	.448**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	318	318

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table 24 shows the analysis for the relationship between the challenges of women's roles in conflict resolution (CWRCR) in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The result from the table above revealed that challenges of women's roles in conflict resolution (CWRCR) have positive and significant relationship with post-conflict reconstruction (PCR). This result is seen from the Pearson Correlation value of 0.448 with its corresponding Sig. value of 0.000.

H03: prospects of women's participation in conflicts resolution have no significant relationship to post-conflict reconstruction Kaduna State, Nigeria.
Table 25: Correlations Matrix showing the Prospects of Women's Roles in Conflict Resolution

		PWPCR	PCR
PWRCR	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	318	
PCR	Pearson Correlation	.601**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	318	318

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
Source: author's computation, 2023

The table 25 shows the analysis for the relationship between the prospect of women's roles in conflict resolution (PWRCR) and post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The result from the table above revealed that prospect of women's roles in conflict resolution (PWRCR) have positive and significant relationship with post-conflict reconstruction (PCR). This result is seen from the Pearson Correlation value of 0.601 with its corresponding Sig. value of 0.000.

Discussion
The objective of this study is to examine the women's roles in conflict resolution in Kaduna state, Nigeria. The descriptive statistics for questionnaire items was computed. The correlation analysis was computed for to test the hypotheses raised for the study. The general findings of the study revealed that there is positive and significant relationship between roles of women in conflict resolution (RWCR), challenges of women's roles in conflict resolution (CWRCR), prospects of women's roles in conflict resolution (PWRCR) in Kaduna State Nigeria. Specifically,
Hypothesis one: stated that roles of women in conflict resolution have no significant relationship to post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The statistical analysis conducted on this hypothesis has provided the evidence for the rejection of this hypothesis. The finding from this hypothesis therefore revealed that the roles of women in conflict resolution have positive and significant relationship with post-conflict reconstruction. This implies that women in Kaduna State play a positive and significant role in conflict resolution. This finding is in line with the finding of Iloh, Okafor and Oghomitse (2019) who examined the

role of women in conflict resolution in Rwanda: lessons for peace building in Nigeria and found that given the intractable ethno-religious conflicts and mistrust that have bedeviled Nigeria in recent times, Nigerian women have significant roles to play in peace building, taking a cue from their counterparts in Rwanda.

Hypothesis two: stated that challenges of women's role in conflict resolution have no significant relationship to post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The statistical analysis conducted on this hypothesis has provided the evidence for the rejection of this hypothesis. The finding from this hypothesis therefore revealed that challenges of women's roles in conflict resolution have positive and significant relationship on post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This implies that women groups in Kaduna State faced positive and significant challenges while participating in conflicts resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. This finding is in line with the finding of Olaitan (2018) who conducted a study on women's participation in peace processes in Nigeria; challenges and prospects and that discriminatory cultural belief are the major challenge faced by women in peace building. This finding is also in line with the finding of Kamau (2016) who examined the factors influencing women participation in the implementation of peace building strategies: A Case of Uasin Gishu County, Kenya and lack of resources among women seriously undermines their peace efforts.

Hypothesis three: stated that prospects of women's role in conflict resolution have no significant relationship to post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The statistical analysis conducted on this hypothesis has provided the evidence for the rejection of this hypothesis. The finding from this hypothesis therefore revealed that prospect of women's roles in conflict resolution have positive and significant relationship with post-conflict reconstruction in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This implies that partnership with stakeholders and groups such as NGOs have prospects of enhancing women's roles in conflict resolution in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This finding is in line with the finding of Achieng (2015) who examined the role of women in conflict management: an assessment of Naboisho Conservancy in Kenya and found the study found that women partnership with their men counterpart was great sources of information conflict resolution and also portrayers of the same through the various women groups or networks.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

Based on the findings, this study concludes that despite challenges such as cultural and religious differences, inadequate conflict resolution skills, low gender inclusion and recognition by government, women have played roles in conflict resolution in Kaduna State through their participation in negotiation and mediations in inter and intra communal and ethno-religious conflicts. Also, women have conducted conflict sensitivity awareness campaigns and peace advocacies in the State. These roles have cumulatively resulted in strengthening peace, tolerance and peaceful co-existence in Kaduna State.

Based on the findings of this study and the conclusions drawn by the study, the following recommendations are offered:

 i. Government and other stakeholders such as non-governmental organisations should increase capacity building trainings and workshops for women groups in Kaduna State on conflict resolution in order to increase and strengthen their skills and competency.
 ii. Deliberate efforts should be made by government to include women in peace processes in Kaduna State as well as recognize and harness their potentials as peace agents in their communities. In line with this, the domestication and implementation of the United Nations Resolution 1325 on Gender Peace and Security in Kaduna State as well as the Affirmative Action on Gender equity will help to enhance women's role in conflict resolution in the State.
 iii. Women should make good use of their large population and knowledge to improve on their partnership with Kaduna State Government and NGO's to fully achieve their prospect on conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction.
 iv. Women groups in Kaduna State should increase synergy among themselves and campaign for the state government and non-governmental organisations to fund projects that will advance campaigns and advocacies on the benefits of gender inclusion as well as reduce cultural and religious practices that reduce women's role in conflict resolution in Kaduna State.

REFERENCES

Adesina, A., D., O. (2010). Peace dilemma in Nigeria. A case of peace education programme for elementary school, Obafemi Awolowo University, Lle-Lfe, Nigeria.

Agbalajobi, D. T. (2011). Womens participation and the political process in Nigeria: Problems and prospects. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 4*(2), 075-082. https://academicjournals.org/journal/AJPSIR/article-abstract/C2253A840672.

Agbalajobi, T. (2010) The role of African women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution: The case of Burundi; Redeemers University Journal Article 9

Aham-Chiabuotu, C., B. (2019). Suffering, Solidarity and Spirituality: The Lived Experiences of Internally Displaced Women in Northern Nigeria (PhD Thesis: University of Otago, Dunedin New Zealand).

Alaga, E. (2010) Challenges for women in peacebuilding in West Africa; AISA policy brief, 18(1).

Alaga, E. (2016) Challenges for women in peacebuilding in West Africa; AISA policy brief, 18(1), 1-17.

Amadi, L., & Anokwuru, G. (2017). Security, Vulnerability and Agricultural Resilience: Experience from Herdsmen and Rural Farmers' Conflict in Nigeria. *International Journal of English, Literature and Social Science* (IJELS), 2(2).

Aroussi, S. (2017). Women, peace, and security and the DRC: Time to rethink wartime sexual violence as gender-based violence? *Politics & Gender, 13*(3), 488-515. doi:10.1017/S1743923X16000489

Basini, H., & Ryan, C. (2016). National action plans as an obstacle to meaningful local ownership of UNSCR 1325 in Liberia and Sierra Leone. International Political Science Review, 37(3), 390–403.

Bell, C. & O'Rourke, C. (2010). Peace Agreements or 'Pieces of Paper. The Impact of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Peace Processes and their Agreements. International and Comparative Law Quarterly, 59(4), 941–980.

Bouta, T. & Frerks, G. (2002). Women's Roles in Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Literature Review and Institutional Analysis. Netherlands Institutional Relations Clingendael, Conflict Research Unit. 1-34.

Cochran, W., G. (1977). Sampling Techniques. (3rd ed.). New York: John Wiley & Sons

Collier, J. F. (2011) "Women in politics," in M. Z. Rosaldo and M. Z (eds.) Women, Culture and Society. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press.

Cooper, D., & Schindler, P. (2008). Business research methods (10th Ed.). New York, McGraw-

Diaz, P.C., (2010). 'Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence', 1325 +10: Women Count for Peace, New York, USA: UNIFEM

Echezona, R., I. (2017). The role of libraries in information dissemination for conflict resolution, peace promotion and reconciliation. African Journal of Library & Information Science. 17(2), 153-162

Erzurum, K., & Eren, B. (2014). Women in Peacebuilding: A criticism of Gendered solutions in Postconflict situations. Journal of Applied Security Research, 9(2), 236–256.

Fischer, M. (2014). Recovering from Violent Conflict: Regeneration and Reintegration as Elements of Peacebuilding. Berlin: Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berghof Handbook on Conflict Transformation. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-663-05642-3_18

Garba, G. (2016) Building women's capacity for peace building in Nigeria; Review of History and Political Science, 4(1) p31-46.

GIWPS (2018) Women's Peacebuilding Strategies Amidst Conflict: Lessons from Myanmar and Ukraine. Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security

Hair,J., F., Black,W. C., Babin, B. J.,& Anderson, R., E. (2010). Multivariate Data Analysis. Seventh Edition. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New jersey.

Hall, R., A., Brown, S., E, Hedström, J. & Larson. J. P. (2015). Women in Conflict and Peace. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) Strömsborg, 7(1),

Hamre, J. J., & Sullivan, G. R. (2012). Towards Post-Conflict Reconstruction. The Washington Quarterly, 25, 85-96. https://doi.org/10.1162/016366002760252554.

Hendricks, C. (2015). Women, peace and security in Africa. African Security Review, 24(4), 364–375.

Hooks, B. (2000). *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (2nd Ed.). London: Pluto Press. Hill/Irwin.

Iloh, E. C. Okafor, U. C., & Oghomitse, R., O. (2019). The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution in Rwanda: Lessons for Peace Building in Nigeria. at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339041476

Iruloh and Uche (2017) Role of Women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Niger Delta region of Nigeria; international journal of social sciences, 5(4)

Issifu, A., K. (2015). 'The Role of African Women in Post-Conflict Peace building: The Case of Rwanda',*The Journal of Pan African Studies*, 8 (9): 63-78.

Jaja, N., C. (2012). Internal Conflicts and African Development: The Nigerian Experience. IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (JHSS), 5(4), 23-33 Www.Iosrjournals.Org

Joseph, O., B. (2015). Conflict Management and Resolution in Nigeria Public Sector. Review of Public Administration and Management, 4(8),107-120,

Kamau, L., N. (2016). Factors Influencing Women Participation in The Implementation of Peace Building Strategies: A Case Of Uasin Gishu County, Kenya (Master's research project: University of Nairobi, Kenya)

Kamola, E. M. (2015). Contributions of women to peace building in Kenya: A case study of the post-election violence in Kibra constituency, Nairobi city county.

Katz, N. & McNulty, K. (1994). Conflict Management in the Workplace: Contemporary Approach, https://www.academia.edu/15966203/

Kpae, G. & Masi, J. (2019). Women Participation in Conflict Management in Nigeria: A Case of a Rural Community in the Niger Delta Area. American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, 4(1): 38-55. DOI: 10.20448/801.41.38.55

Li, Y.T. (2012). The study of conflict management strategies based on Chinese cultural context. Journal of Foshan University (Social Science Edition), 1(30): 35-43.

McGlonn-Nilson, K. (2017) Looking Outward: Exploring the Intersections of Sociocultural Theory and Gifted Education. The Journal of Secondary Gifted Education, 17, 48-55. https://doi.org/10.4219/jsge-2005-391.

McWilliams, M., & Kilmurray, A. (2015). From the global to the local: Grounding UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in post conflict policy making. Women"s Studies International Forum, 51, 128–135.

Mwangi, L., N. (2015). The Role Of Women In Conflict Management: A Case Study Of The Tana River Region Of Kenya. (Master's Dissertation; University Of Nairobi, Kenya).

Nilson, A. (2020). Reintegrating Ex-Combatants in Post-Conflict Societies. Stockholm: Swedish International Development Agency. *Open Journal of Political Science*, 10(4), 24-42.

Nkengbeza, D. (2016). School Leadership Role in a Conflict and Post-Conflict Environment School Reconstruction as a Professional Learning Community. Open Journal of Social Sciences, *4(8), 47-62. DOI: 10.4236/jss.2016.48009*

Nwankpa, M., O. (2021). Conflict and Development in Nigeria: Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism Strategies towards the Niger Delta and Boko Haram Conflicts (PhD Thesis: University of Roehampton)

O'Reilly, M., Súilleabháin, A., O. & Paffenholz, T. (2015). Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes, New York: International Peace Institute

Ochieng, M. (2019). Role of Women in Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Transformation Africa: A Catholic Church Perspective. International Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 1(2), 1-12. http://www.finessejournals.com

Oladele, A., A. (2011). Management conflict in secondary school, Obafemi Awolowo University Press, Ile-Ife.

Olaitan, Z. M. (2018). Women's Participation in Peace Processes in Nigeria; Challenges and Prospects. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328216329

Oluremi, S. (2021). Women, Peace and Security in Nigeria: Examining the Domestic and International Legal Framework. NAUJILJ 12 (1), 46-59.

Ombati, M. (2015). Women transcending Boundaries in indigenous Peace building in Kenya Sotik/Borabu border conflict. Multidisciplinary Journal of Gender Studies, 4(1), 637–661.

Omisore, B.O., & Abiodun, A.R. (2014). Organizational conflicts: Causes, effects and remedies. International Journal of Academic Research in Economics and Management Sciences, 3(6): 118-137.

Onyewere, J. (2017) Women and governance case study of Nigerian women; Research thesis Talinn University of Technology.

Osuchukwu, N. and Udeze, N. (2015). Promoting Women's Participation In Conflict Resolution In Nigeria: Information Accessibility. International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research,3(4), 431-439. Available at: www.researchpublish.com.

PeaceWomen, (2015) Security Council Resolution 1325. http://www.peacewomen.org/SCR- 1325

Peng, Q. & Silva, M. G. (2018). Research on conflict management: a case study about small work groups in China. In XXVIII Jornadas Luso-Espanholas de Gestão Científica. Guarda: Instituto Politécnico da Guarda.

Randall, V. (1987) Women and Politics: An International Perspective. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Scanlon, H. (2016) Gender and the Politics of Reconciliation. Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

Sekaran, U. & Bougie, R. (2010). Research Methods for Business: A Skill Building Approach (5th edition). New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons.

Shepherd, C., K. (2015). The Role of Women in International Conflict Resolution. Hamline University's School of Law's Journal of Public Law and Policy, 36(2), 52-67. http://digitalcommons.hamline.edu/jplp.

Sisulu, L. (2019). 'Women should be at Centre of Conflict Resolution, Says South African Minister'. Available athttp://en.rfi.fr/africa/20190308-women-should-be-centreconflict-resolution-says-south-african-minister.

Sørensen, B. (2014) Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Issues and Sources. WSP Occasional Paper, 3(1).

Takarinda, K., C., Harries, A., D., Shiraishi, R., W., Mutasa-Apollo, T., Abdul-Quader, A. & Mugurungi, O. (2015). Gender-related differences in outcomes and attrition on antiretroviral treatment among an HIV-infected patient cohort in Zimbabwe: 2007–2010. International Journal of Infectious Diseases, 30: 98-105.Available at: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2014.11.009

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Association of the United States Army (2012) published a comprehensive framework of activities essential for successful post-conflict reconstruction

Tzifakis, N. (2022). Post-conflict reconstruction: The Princeton Encyclopedia of Self-Determination. The Trustees of Princeton University. Available at: https://pesd.princeton.edu/node/586

Wallensteen, P. & Svensson, I. (2014). Talking Peace: International mediation in Armed Conflicts. Journal of Peace Research, 51(2), 318-331.

Yu, J.J., Jiang, S.F., & Zhao, S.M. (2015). A study on the relationship between the effects of the conflict management behavior and team learning behavior on employees' innovative behavior. Science & Technology Progress and Policy, 32(11): 143-148.

Zhang, Q., & Zhang, JB. (2012). Conflict types, resolution, and relational satisfaction: a U.S.-China investigation. Intercultural Communication Studies, 3: 41-52.