

Nigeria's Future in Young Hands: Nigerian Youths at the Forefront of Building Peace, Countering Anarchy, and Restoring Normalcy

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Abstract

Nigeria's future in young hands: Nigerian youths at the forefront of building peace, countering anarchy, and restoring normalcy in the society can never be overemphasized. This study investigated the role of youths in peace building, countering anarchy, and restoring normalcy. The study became necessary to Ascertain Nigeria's future in young hands (youths) the group with the highest population in the world and are the highest losers should anything go wrong. The study was anchored on tenets of youth bulge and expectancy motivation theories. Literature modelling method was used to x-ray relevant literature with regards to the topic; data obtained were analyzed and presented. The result shows that there is paradigm change of role to a positive one; the study found that the youths must imbibe the self-motivating spirit and vigor of agile young person's to mobilize the youth force and can democratically take over power and leadership positions. Therefore youth must continue to team up and plan, budget, financed, executes, evaluate and re-evaluate its roles, the role of youths is numerous and varies from society to society depending on the rate of quality education and enlightenment of her youth bodies. It is time for the youths of every nation to form a stronger network of youth. If properly harnessed could use it large growing populations to elect vibrant youths to take over the realm of government and bring about that needed change in leadership for there to be absolute peace and prevent anarchy. The study concluded that the role youths play in a given society would either make or mar the society. The youth must form itself into a responsible organise leadership that will drive the positive role of youth to forefront and achieve great result with unity of purpose. The media, youths, religion and government must partner to set good policies for the future and collective destiny of a nation. There must be effective persuasive communication campaign to emancipate the mind of youths to key into this agenda of peace building, ensuring normalcy in the society and curbing anarchy. Government and civil societies must monitor closely youth activities and provide some level of guidance, political offices and leadership positions should be available for youth to contribute its quota to national development. A nation with educated youths will do more exploits in the committee of nations. There is need to enhance the capacity of youth to function effectively and compete favourable with other youths in develop world.

Keywords: Youths, Role, Building Peace, Anarchy and Normalcy.

Introduction

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation is on the edge. In other words, years of social chaos (Oyebade, 2020), political antagonisms and sectarian clashes have deeply squandered the foundations of its society. These challenges have a particularly severe impact on the country's more than 70% young population (National Population Commission, 2020). Yet they are equally the key to Nigeria's regeneration and future prosperity (Adebayo, 2019). The alarming rise of violent extremism, banditry, and social unrest necessitates an urgent examination of the role of youth in building peace, countering anarchy, and restoring normalcy. In the past, youths were rarely seen as constructive agent of peace due to the dysfunctional roles played by some youths. However, there is consenting efforts being put in place to change the narrative in Nigeria. Deliberate and consenting pro active measures are put in place by Nigerian youths in ensuring stability, and fostering social cohesion as essential elements of nation-building. It highlights their vital contributions to the country's progress and development. Elizabeth Ndiokho (2014) noted that 'the life wire of every society or organization is the youth. The youth has the power and might to front and fight any course they so set out to achieve'. This captures the multifaceted nature of their contributions and underscores their essential position in shaping the country's future. The youth are young people who make up half of the entire population and if harness, will trigger the socio-economic impact to the nation. Recent studies have highlighted the critical role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution (Schultz, 2019; Urdal, 2018). As noted by Schultz (2019), "young people are not just victims or perpetrators of violence; they are also active agents of change." In Nigeria, youth-led initiatives have demonstrated potential in promoting peace and stability (Ibrahim, 2020). However, these efforts are often hindered by structural barriers, including limited access to education, economic opportunities, and healthcare (Oyinlola, 2020).

Nigeria has recently recorded an alarming incline in the wave of violent extremism, kidnapping, banditry and social unrest, calling to review the role of youth in peace building and countering anarchy (International Crisis Group, 2020). As Urdal (2018) puts it; "youth bulges can be a demographic dividend or a demographic disaster, depending on which way their spark is lit." The case of Nigeria: The youth bulge presents a unique opportunity for transformative change in Nigeria (Adebayo, 2019). Empowering Nigerian youths to be peaceful and stabilizing actors entail a deeper understanding of the experiences, perspectives, and degree of agency available to them

(Schultz 2019). Ibrahim (2020) opined that, "Youth-led peace initiatives can bridge the gap between local communities and national-level peace processes." This study is a modest attempt to add to the important line of work about youth-led peace building efforts and also to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on youth-led peacebuilding in Nigeria, informing policy interventions and programmatic responses.

Youths are the progressive workforce of every society and in Nigeria the youths make up a vast majority of the population. As Urdal (2018) puts it; "youth bulges can be a demographic dividend or a demographic disaster, depending on which way their spark is lit." The case of Nigeria: The youth bulge presents a unique opportunity for transformative change in Nigeria. And as such can contribute meaningfully to national development if such strength, vigour and number are properly harness positively.

Exploring the critical role of Nigerian youth in building peace, countering anarchy, and restoring normalcy becomes imperative key factors influencing youth-led peace initiatives in Nigeria: Previous studies have considered the dysfunctional roles of youths and its effect in the overall well being of the nation. But there is a paucity of record looking at Nigeria's Future in Young Hands: Nigerian Youths at the Forefront of Building Peace, Countering Anarchy, And Restoring Normalcy, Therefore, this study examines the complex relationships between youth, peace building, and stability in Nigeria, as it has emerged as an issue for empirical investigation. This study tends to find out Nigeria's Future in Young Hands: Nigerian Youths at the Forefront of Building Peace, Countering Anarchy, and Restoring Normalcy. Based on the objective above, the following research questions were formulated by the researcher.

- a. What are likelihood of Nigeria and Nigerians future in the hands of the youths
- b. How can youths counter Anarchy and restore normalcy in the society
- c. Ascertain the role of the youths in peace building

Nigeria youths would find the outcome of this study very useful in ascertaining Nigeria's Future in Young Hands: Nigerian Youths at the Forefront of Building Peace, Countering Anarchy, and Restoring Normalcy.

Nigeria government at all levels would also find the outcome of this study beneficial as it will serve as empirical evidence with data on Nigeria's Future in Young Hands: Nigerian Youths at the Forefront of Building Peace, countering Anarchy, and restoring Normalcy. The scope of this study is limited to Nigerian youths.

Conceptual Framework

Nigeria youths have emerged as a beacon of hope, driving peace building, countering anarchy, and restoring normalcy. Therefore, *the role of Nigerian youths in promoting peace, preventing anarchy and resolving conflicts in the society can never be overemphasized.* This literature review examines the following concepts; youth, Building Peace, Countering Anarchy, And Restoring Normalcy.

The Youth

Youth is indeed a complex and dynamic concept that has been extensively studied across various disciplines. The definition of youth varies significantly depending on country, cultural, social, and economic contexts. The term encompasses various facets, making it challenging to pin down a singular definition. As noted, youth can be understood as a transitional period from childhood dependency to the independence associated with adulthood. Moreover, the meaning of youth is influenced by socio-economic factors and cultural differences, leading to diverse interpretations across different societies. Ultimately, the study of youth requires an appreciation of its varied dimensions and the contextual factors that shape these experiences. Youth, comprise over 1.8 billion people worldwide (UNFPA, 2020). Recent research emphasizes youth agency, highlighting their capacity for social change and innovation (Chawla, 2020; Ginwright, 2018).

Moore (2011) sees Youth as a social category shaped by cultural, economic, and political contexts. Google define youth as the period between childhood and adult age (www. Google.com) according to Cambridge dictionary, a youth is a period of your life when you are young or the state of being young. For the African youth charter, 'youth' is a category marked by 15 to 35 years. The UN defines youth as individuals between 15 and 24 years old (UNDESA, 2020). in the same vain the World Health Organization defines youth as individuals between 10 and 19 years old (WHO, 2020). Erikson (1968) defines youth as a stage of psychosocial development characterized by identity formation and exploration. Jeffrey Arnett (2000) introduces the concept of "emerging adulthood," defining youth as a transitional phase between adolescence and adulthood (18-25 years old). Tanzania and South Africa, on the other hand, define the youth population as those between 15 and 35 years of age just as Swaziland defines it as those between 12 and 30 years; and Botswana and Mauritius define it as those between 14 and 25 years. Youth can also be seen as a young male or female adult full of life, vigor, and strength and spirited. It's important to note that youth is one with the characteristics of being young; it's an experience that all humans under goes in their various spheres of life. And at this critical stage in life as youth your action and inaction has a

way of shaping the society we live in. However, the youth age varies from place to place due to culture and life expectancy. Like in Nigeria the youth age is between 14 to 45 years. Although from 18 years Nigeria youths start having right to vote, and be voted for, it is also the age of consent, driving, drinking and age of criminally responsibility. Youth is a multifaceted concept that defies a single definition. This review highlights the diversity of perspectives on youth, underscoring the importance of contextualized understandings.

Anarchy

The word “anarchy” comes from the Greek, “an,” meaning “no” or “without,” and “archos,” meaning “ruler” or “authority.” (De cleyre, 2005, p.48). According to Wikipedia, anarchy is the state of a society being freely constituted without authorities or governing body. It may refer to society or group of people that totally rejects a set hierarchy. Anarchism employs various tactics in order to meet its ideal ends; these can be broadly separated in revolutionary and evolutionary tactics. There is significant overlap between the two legs, which are merely descriptive. Revolutionary tactics aim to bring down authority and state, and have taken a violent turn in the past. Evolutionary tactics aim to prefigure what an anarchist society would be like. Anarchist thought, criticism and praxis has played a part in diverse fields of human society. Criticism of anarchism mainly focuses on it being internally inconsistent, violent and utopian. Anarchy is rooted in the desire for a non-coercive society and the rejection of the state apparatus, grounded in the belief that human nature inherently allows humans to exist in, or progress towards, a society free from coercion

Peacebuilding:

Peace building encompasses actions that identifies and support structures promoting peace, in order to avoid a relapse into anarchy. Peacebuilding is defined as "actions to identify and support structures solidifying peace and preventing anarchy" (UNSG, 1992; Lederach). Peace building is a deliberate, planned, sustained and painstaking effort that aims at resolving injustices non-violently, transforming cultural and structural conditions that fuel deadly conflicts in order to live harmoniously. It fosters constructive relationships across: 1. Ethnic boundaries, 2. Religious divides, 3. Class differences, 4. National identities, 5. racial lines. This multidisciplinary approach addresses: Violence prevention, conflict management, conflict resolution, and transformation, Post-conflict reconciliation and trauma healing before, during, and after any given case of violence that works over the long run and at all levels of society to establish and sustain relationships among people locally and globally. Building peace is (preventive) that is Pre-conflict, (mitigative) that is during conflict and (reconstructive) that is Post-conflict. Effective peacebuilding must address the following 1. Addresses root causes of violence 2. Promotes peaceful conflict resolution 3. Stabilizes society socioeconomically and politically 4. Integrates civil society 5. Creates rule of law mechanisms 6. Reconciles opponents 7. Prevents conflict recurrence.

The Outcomes of a Successful peacebuilding are self-sustaining peace, it Reconciles opponents, Prevents conflict recurrence and Fosters socioeconomic development. Peace is a state of mind promoting Development, Unity among humans and Social cohesion

Normalcy

Normalcy refers to the state of being usual, expected, or typical, characterized by stability, predictability, and routine in individual and collective experiences (Katz, 2022). It encompasses economic, political, and social stability. It's usually characterized by predictability, routine, and absence of crisis. Normalcy is "the state of being normal, regular, or usual" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). According to sociologist Ulrich Beck (2010), normalcy implies a sense of stability and predictability in social, economic, and political systems. Normalcy is the quality or condition of being normal, encompassing the general economic, political, and social conditions of a nation. This is what Anthony Giddens (1991) refers to as stability: Predictability and routine: Stability is characterized by regular, predictable patterns of social life. Ontological security: Individuals feel secure in their daily lives, unthreatened by sudden changes. Trust and cohesion: Social relationships are built on trust, fostering cohesion and cooperation. Normalcy implies a sense of stability, security, and continuity. (Giddens, 2022). After periods of crisis or disruption, individuals and societies often strive for a return to normalcy

The roles of youths in preventing anarchy

Youths have multi-faceted roles. Therefore, the roles of young male and female full of life, vigour, strength and spirited in preventing the state of anarchy in a society is enormous. Youths can be courageous heroes in the midst of crisis as well as victims and saviours. More so youths can as well be criminals in shanty towns and military entrepreneurs in the war zones. The young vacillate between the two extremes of ‘infantilizing’ and ‘demonizing’. On the one hand, youths are viewed as vulnerable, powerless and in need of protection. On the other, they are feared as dangerous, violent, apathetic and as threats to security. Youths are subjected to stereotypical images of being angry, drugged and violent and as threat, especially those who participated in armed conflict as combatants or those youths who belong to the anti-monial school of ethics; youths in this school of thought is basically concern

with humans acting from their caprice. They believe humans should live the way they want. This in itself calls for jungle justice (anarchy) and these were how it was before the advent of the state and law for the smooth running of the society. Urdal (2018) posit that; "youth bulges can be a demographic dividend or a demographic disaster, depending on which way their spark is lit." The case of Nigeria: The youth bulge presents a unique opportunity for transformative change in Nigeria (Adebayo, 2019).

Yet, as a category, Youths can play a very positive role aiding peace building to happen before a conflict starts or once it ends and helping societies recovering from conflict. This is so because young people have the capacity to shape their own lives and communities (Chawla, 2002). It underlines the agency perspective, and acknowledges the importance of making the connection between youth and peace building for transforming a predominantly negative discourse on the role of youths in societies recovering from conflict. Youth do not play one single role in conflict situations. As a vulnerable sector of society, they require mechanisms that are able to protect them from violent conflict, to live in safety without fear of their personal and collective safety. Beyond this, youth play a role as positive agents of change, utilise the tremendous potential of youth in creating and maintaining peaceful environments, they must be engaged with and provided opportunities to be involved in decision-making at all levels, Involving youth in decision-making processes promotes accountability and representation (World Bank, 2018). More so youth-led initiatives, such as the #NotTooYoungToRun movement, have promoted political participation and advocacy for peaceful governance (Ibrahim, 2019).

For peace negotiations, the prevention of anarchy, management and resolution of conflict, there must be synergy between the young and the old. Partnerships between youth and older generations foster knowledge sharing and social cohesion (Kwame, 2020). Research has also demonstrated that youth-led conflict resolution programs, like the Nigerian Youth Peace Corps, have reduced violence and promoted inter-ethnic understanding (Ogundiwin, 2017). Youth Empowerment is a great tool for preventing anarchy; this is true as it keeps the youth's occupied and busy taking advantage of opportunities capable of propelling the youths to the next level. Empowering young people through education, skills training, and economic opportunities enhances their capacity for peacebuilding (UNDP, 2019). Youth-driven community development projects, such as the Youth Empowerment Foundation, have improved livelihoods and reduced poverty (Afolabi, 2018). Government need put in favourable youth. Friendly policies in order to avoid Structural Barriers: over the years institutional and systemic obstacles hinder youth participation in peacebuilding (Ibrahim, 2019).

It's imperative to note that youth must support democracy, and participate effectively in electioneering process of chosen a leader in order to put a legitimate government and to prevent anarchy. A Ghana maxim and proverb to throw light to the study and discuss states that "an army of sheep with is lion as a leader is far is better than an army of lions led by a sheep". Gilgamesh noted that technically speaking, the creation of any law would void a state of anarchy since by creating a law, and you have established some form of government. Law is a market good. Government creates positive law; the market creates natural law (referred to as common law in medieval England). If its legal positivism you're referring to, then yes, the creation of a law would void a state of anarchy so long as an aggressor (the state) is present to force that law upon others. Youths must be educated and persuasively encourage other to do the right thing. Constructively speaking the truth to power and youths involvement in decision-making is key to preventing anarchy. Youth should be more responsible for their action and the motive behind every action must be solely the intent, interest and responsibility of the youths. Not the other way rounds of youths perpetrating the act likely to breach peace in the interest of another group either political leaders or elderly members of the population.

The contribution / role of the Youths to Promoting National Peace (peace building)

Youths constitute the larger majority of most societies, particularly in Africa, and making up more than 50% is a clear evidence of their potentials in peace building. What if youths would be peace-builders rather than peace-killers? The answer is a resounding YES! Youths have often been stereotyped as major perpetrators of violence or victims, neglecting their significant constructive contributions to peace processes. However, research reveals that youths are highly effective in making an impact at the grassroots level (masha, 2014). In fact, many youth-led initiatives around the world show that peace can only be achieved through inclusive, participatory and sustainable peacebuilding processes (Iederach 1997). But the most visible responsibility of peace building is a religious one and it must be adhered to in all earnestness.

However, the duty of peace building among the youths is a sacred one that must be pursued with focus and sincerity of purpose. In Nigeria, the national youth act has charged Nigerian youths to build ties. Nevertheless; The Nigerian youths service corps in section one subsection two (2) provides that -
(a). The proper encouragement and development of common ties among the Nigerian youths;
(b). the promotion of national unity and

(c) The development of the Nigerian youth and Nigeria into a great and dynamic economy, be charged with the functions as pertain to the objectives of the service corps set out in subsection (3) of this section.

Governments encourage youths to involve in policy making through consultations with youth-led organizations and delegations to UN forums. UN report encourages governments and international actors "to engage youth as essential civil society, reconstruction and development partners. In areas where there is no national youth strategy, the youths are expected to come up and engage youth in developing one, as well as policies and programmes that immediately support their well-being and ownership of the political processes. Burundi, one of the countries who benefits from the peace building fund (pbf), youth as well as women are specially called on as actors to strengthen peace and social cohesion in its pbf priority plan.

However, despite all these declarations of principles, much of the potential of this empowerment agenda is yet to be realized. Peace building involves priority on activities such as encouraging reconciliation and demonstrating respect for human right, fostering political inclusiveness and promoting national unity, ensuring the safe, smooth and early repatriation and resettlement of refugees and displaced person. Reintegrating ex combatants and others into productive society; curtailing the availability of small arms, mobilising the domestic and international resources for reconstruction and economic recovery, providing for reintegration and rehabilitation programmes, and creating condition for resumed development. (unsc 2001.66).

Youth comprise of over one billion people, 600 million of whom live in violence- and conflict-affected areas. Despite the vulnerability of youth, current youth-led peace building work and their potential, there is no international framework that brings these areas together to have the strongest possible impact. So, what will a united nations Security Council (unsc) resolution on youth, peace and security do? This resolution is not in itself the answer. We believe that it is, however, a critical step forward that ensures that youth are continuously and meaningfully engaged in issues of peace and security.

The united nation would continue to provide a strong foundation for an international framework on youth, peace and security as the key international body on issues of peace and security. It is the duty of the united nation to recognise and support the various roles that youth play in conflict-affected situations. A resolution from the unsc on youth, peace and security will demonstrate the international community's recognition of youth as key actors in (post) conflict settings and the need to meaningfully engage with youths.

Youth are effective in building peace and preventing anarchy from the ground upwards, a unsc resolution will provide their work with policy guidance on an international scale that allows for greater cohesion and impact at all levels. Another crucial role of youths in curbing anarchy and peace building is through communication. There have been series of media production particularly radio, television and social media by youths dealing with preventing chaos, addressing peace building issues and filling the information void that most young people experience. Help youth to understand root causes of conflict. Youth are often pulled onto one side or another without understanding why there is conflict in the first place. Teach youth about their rights and how to protect those rights. In situations where young people's rights are so severely violated, it is important that they know what rights they have; help youth make good decisions in response to things that are happening to them. Young people often feel that they have no choice but to respond with violence; Spark youth to action so that they take on positive roles in their own communities; create outlets for youth voices, helping them communicate with each other and with adult decision-makers. Media programmes, which put young people's voices on the air, help them speak directly to their elders about the issues that they face. And when young people hear themselves on the radio they begin to feel that someone does care about the issues that concern them; model positive responses which youth can have to conflict, showing all listeners that youth don't have to be seen as the problem, that they can play a positive role in building peace, conflict prevention and resolution just as Solomon Adodo, the president, national youth council of Nigeria is currently doing. Youth organizations engaged on security issues is a major key to preventing anarchy. Youth organizations are also engaged in guaranteeing the security of their neighbourhood or rising awareness about small arms and violence. The role of the youths in peace building need to be stressed and critically analyzed and build upon. Youth are asserting themselves as true actors in the process. It deals with the reasons why young people should also be viewed as peace builders, the ways in which some of them are actually endorsing this role in a number of cases, and provides concrete illustrations in different areas, namely: in civil society and democratic decision-making, in media production, in conflict transformation and reconciliation programs, in psycho-social recovery, in human rights and transitional justice, on security issues, and in economic recovery. Youth can in any case, be considered as peacemakers and peace builders, or conversely, as troublemakers. They represent the future of the country; therefore, involving adolescents and young adults in peace processes and socializing them as peace builders early on is important. To achieve peace building there

must be ginger (motivation) other part of the youths to stimulate them to act, sustaining behaviour in progress and channelling such behaviour into a specified goal of peace building, Asemah (2012) noted that motivation is a process of stimulating, channelling and sustaining human behaviour, in the same vain cherry see it as a process that initiate, guides and maintain goal-oriented behaviours this involves the biological, emotional, social and cognitive forces that activate behaviour. There must be synergy among youths; in essence youths can make more impact as associations, NGOs and government. Youth and government are equal partners in peace building therefore; speaking truth to power is an essential role of the youths. The enlighten and educated youths and youth organise leadership must sustain peace building efforts by bridging the communication gap that exist through public speaking, publicity, public relations practice, press conferences and advertising of youth programmes,

The duties of youths in restoring normalcy in the society

Restoring normalcy in the society is a deliberate and collaborative effort that requires all hands to be on deck. Youths as the present and future of the society and earth must have a sense of ownership and initiate peace building programmes and activities geared towards making the society and world a better place that we met it. The youth has a role in organising self into a formidable group/s with clear motive to fight against the ills of the society. Government and relevant agencies and civil societies must carry the youths along for the betterment of the society and earth at large. However the educated and enlightened youths should always sensitize others to shun social vices and other criminal activates that are likely to jeopardize the future and the environment. Youths has a role to engage in peace supporting activities, in the words of jicho la haki (2018) a youth is any person between the age of 15 years and 30 years regardless of the gender. Unfortunately, the youth are the backbone of a society and hence they determine the future of any given society. This is because all other age groups, the kids, teenagers, middle aged and the senior citizens rely on the youth and expect a lot from them. This makes the youth to be an important age group in both today's society and the future society than other age groups. Therefore, due to the high dependence on youth in the society, we the youth have a role to play because the future of our families, communities and the country lies in our hands the role of the youth is simply to renew, refresh and maintain. Youth have a role to renew and refresh the current status of our society including leadership, innovations, and skills etc. Youth are expected to advance the current technology, education, politics, and peace of the country. On the other hand, youths have also to maintain the culture of our people, all good values in the societies. First of all, kids and teenagers need to be advised, taught and encouraged by the youth. Youth also have to be a good example to the young generation. The youth have to teach both the teenagers and kids all aspects of general life show them the way so that they grow up knowing what is right and wrong.

Youths have to advise and encourage teenagers and help them to solve social, educational, psychological, emotional and various problems the teenagers encounter in life. Youth have the role of teaching teenagers and the young. As the middle aged and the senior citizens grow older, many employment posts remain vacant; these vacant positions have to be filled by none other than the youths. This will enhance economic well-being as well as the social life of the citizens they serve. Youths have to bring in new innovations, new skills in the job industry for more productivity at a lower cost

According to Sam Ajufoh (2015:50) the church has a duty of organising programmes for young people in the area of sport, spiritual edification, and strategizing means of helping youths to fight poverty and in this regards the youths can become doers of good works, the church has a role in preoccupying the mind of youths by teaching and practicing good virtues. Partnerships between youth and older generations foster knowledge sharing and social cohesion (Kwame, 2020).

Theoretical frame work

In this study the researcher adopts youth bulge theory and expectancy motivation theory. These theories were considered useful because their basic assumes were fundamental to the understanding of the subject under review.

Youth bulge theory blames human aggression or war situation on the disparity between the numbers of well educated, well fed, angry fighting age young adults and the number of positions available to them in the society. The members of this school of thought contend that war is not is not basically a function of disproportion in population outburst and available scarce resources per se, but the inability of parents to provide necessary training, guidance, direction and inculcate good morals for children who are of fighting age, huntington (2001), goldstone (2001.95) braungart (1984), feuer (1969), goldstone (1999) proposed that youth cohort may develop a generational consciousness and especially out of awareness of belonging to the generation of an extra ordinary size and strength enabling them to act collectively. Literature employing youth bulge theory in Africa is immense. Helgeson (2002; 3.4) noted that sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where youth bulge are not expected to decrease in the next two decades, Its stated that “the inability of the state to adequately integrate youths population is likely to

perpetuate revolution, political instability and anti- government activities. The youth bulge theory relates to this study in the sense that Youth population is a factor and the ability of youths to be included in government in order to run the affairs of the nation is essential to the nation's well being. This is true because as a category that is most likely to suffer more should anything go wrong. Nigeria youths are the future of Nigeria.

Expectancy motivation theory was propounded by victor vroom, of the Yale school of management in 1964. Vroom's theory stresses and focuses on the outcomes and not on needs. The theory states that the intensity of a tendency to perform in a particular manner is dependent on the intensity of an expectation that the performance will be followed by a definite outcome and the appeal of the outcome to an individual. (Management study guide, 2013.). This theory provides an explanation to why an individual or group chooses to act out a specific behaviour as oppose to another. This cognitive process evaluates the motivational force of the different behavioural options based on the individuals own perception of the probability of attaining his desired goal or outcome.

Methodology

This study adopted the literature-modelling method. This method enabled the researcher to synthesise previous studies that have been conducted that are related to the topic. The study relied on published materials like books, news papers magazines, official and non-official records. This implies that Nigerian youths have a role to play in making Nigeria a better country. It emphasizes their leadership in driving this transformation and underlines their significance in the nation's progress.

Empirical Studies:

The kosovan youth documentary, entitled "in the hands of youth," "which broke taboos on speaking publicly about the possession, use, and effects of arms" and has been used in police training curriculum. the UNDP's "illicit small arms control (isac) project" in kosovo.⁶⁴ the project had three regional "youth awareness projects," and involved 38 youth groups and 18,000 young people. To mobilize youth against illicit small arms and violence, the project members were involved directly in implementing and participating in coordinated campaign events using radio, television, public demonstrations, concerts, community forums, sporting tournaments, art and photography exhibitions, concerts, and dramatic presentations. . A decisive factor in peace building programs engaged with children and young people (youths) as with any other group of the population is the need for a safe environment; this has to take into consideration specific risks that children and youth may face, in particular when they are former combatants.

Inclusive Governance: Involving youth in decision-making processes promotes accountability and representation (World Bank, 2018).

The study found that youth inclusiveness in governance lead to Improved policy relevance and effectiveness, Enhanced accountability and transparency, Increased civic engagement and participation, Better representation of diverse perspectives, More responsive and inclusive governance which ensures that youth perspectives are considered in policy-making.

Strategies for Inclusive Governance:

Establish youth-led organizations and networks, Provide education and capacity-building programs, Ensure representation in decision-making bodies, Foster intergenerational dialogue and collaboration and Leverage technology for inclusive participation. Involving youth in decision-making processes is critical for inclusive governance, accountability, and representation. Addressing challenges and implementing strategies can ensure meaningful youth participation and more effective governance. the following recommendations where giving

1. Governments: Implement policies and programs promoting youth involvement
2. Civil Society Organizations: Support youth-led initiatives and advocacy
3. Private Sector: Provide resources and opportunities for youth engagement
4. International Organizations: Mainstream youth inclusion in development agendas

Findings Kaplan (1996) asserts that Nigeria and other African youths are on the verge of igniting. And i submit by saying that as intellectuals , civil societies and government, and the world at large must take frantic and calculated steps and campaign strategies to help the youths whose teaming population keep increasing to understand the key of re-evaluating roles . And usher in a drastic and needed dramatic positive role. This roles are in the areas of peace building, preventing anarchy, returning to a state of normalscy, embrase research and tecchnology. The mind of a youth is creative, therefore its not good for youths to be idle. Therefore empowering young people through education, skills training, and economic opportunities enhances their capacity for peacebuilding

Youths must be guided to accept positive challenge.like sports and academic researches. Its important that the mind of children and youths who are the subject of discus swich role from it already know and studied anti social

roles too numerous to mention that has brought bad reputation and notoriety to the body of youths in the country, continent and the world to a positive one that will mitigate the suffering of man kind, bring about responsible leadership, good health care, new technologies to ease ways of doing things with speed and real time, preserve our collective cultural heritage, promote indigenous technologies and above all, it is time for the youths of every nation especially Nigeria to form a stronger network of youth, thereby using its large populations to elect vibrant youths to take over the realm of government and bring about that needed change in leadership for them to be absolute peace and inspiring leadership.

Conclusion:

Nigerian youth are critical agents of change, driving peace building, countering anarchy, and restoring normalcy. Empowering young people through inclusive governance, education, and economic opportunities is crucial for sustainable peace and development in Nigeria.

Recommendations

There must be effective persuasive communication campaigns to emancipate the mind of youths to key into this agenda of peace building, ensuring normalcy in the society and curbing anarchy. This persuasive communication campaign must be carried out by youth bodies, non-governmental organisations and the media in the collective interest of the nation in order to ensure all round development. Government and civil societies must monitor closely youth activities and provide some level of guidance, more so the United Nations should give legal framework for the operation and social inclusion of youths in world affairs. Political offices and leadership positions should be available for youth to contribute their quota to national development.

The youth must form itself into a responsible leadership that will drive the positive role of youth to forefront and achieve great results with unity of purpose. Government should ensure youths are not idle. All youths should be engaged in one work or the other. The youthful age is for creativity and as such youths should not be allowed to waste away, for an idle mind is the devil's workshop. There should be compulsory education of youths' world over in both formal education and acquisition of lifelong meaningful skills just as enunciated in the constitution and charter of demand of national association of Nigerian students. Education is a right and not a privilege. A nation with educated youths will do more exploits in the committee of nations. There is need to enhance the capacity of youth in order to function effectively and compete favourably with other youths in developed world in terms of information communication technology, health care industrialization, knowledge economy, robotics and artificial intelligence. The youth should use the race model or formula which is research, action, communication and evaluation to work effectively in its operational environment.

Future Research Directions:

1. Youth-Led Peacebuilding Models: Investigate effective models for youth-led peacebuilding initiatives.
2. Impact Evaluation: Assess the impact of youth-led peace initiatives on community cohesion and conflict reduction.
3. Digital Peacebuilding: Explore the potential of digital technologies in promoting youth-led peacebuilding.

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