



COURSE CODE: GST 312

COURSE TITLE: PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

COURSE UNIT: 2 UNIT

MODULE 6: CONFLICT RESOLUTION METHODS AND AGENT

LESSON 1: Agents of Conflict Resolution

Understanding Agents of Conflict Resolution

Lesson Outcome

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Discuss the conventions and Treaties in Conflict Resolution
2. Role of International Organizations in Conflict Resolution
3. Explain Community policing

Agents of Conflict Resolution

Understanding Agents of Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution agents play a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability within societies. These agents include government institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), traditional leaders, and law enforcement agencies. Their collective efforts help to mediate disputes, enforce laws, and ensure peaceful coexistence among conflicting parties.

Key agents of conflict resolution include:

- **Government institutions** – Judiciary, law enforcement, and policy-making bodies.
- **International organizations** – United Nations (UN), African Union (AU), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** – Groups that facilitate mediation, provide humanitarian aid, and support peace processes.
- **Traditional and religious leaders** – Elders and faith-based organizations that use cultural and moral influence to resolve conflicts.



Conventions and Treaties in Conflict Resolution

1. International Legal Frameworks for Conflict Resolution

International treaties and conventions establish binding agreements among nations to prevent and resolve conflicts. These frameworks guide the actions of states and organizations involved in peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

Key international treaties include:

- **The Geneva Conventions (1949)** – Establish legal protections for war victims and regulate the conduct of armed conflicts.
- **The United Nations Charter (1945)** – Emphasizes the role of diplomacy in conflict resolution and prohibits the use of force unless authorized by the UN Security Council.
- **The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)** – Promotes human rights and peace initiatives in Africa.
- **ECOWAS Protocol on Conflict Prevention (1999)** – Guides member states in addressing political and ethnic disputes.

2. Role of International Organizations in Conflict Resolution

Organizations such as the UN, AU, and ECOWAS engage in peace missions, diplomatic negotiations, and economic sanctions to resolve conflicts. They also provide legal frameworks for post-conflict reconstruction and justice.

Examples of successful interventions include:

- **UN Peacekeeping Operations in Liberia** – Helped restore democracy after years of civil war.
- **African Union Mediation in Sudan** – Assisted in negotiations to end internal conflicts.
- **ECOWAS Conflict Resolution in The Gambia** – Ensured a peaceful transition of power in 2017.

Community Policing: Evolution and Imperatives

Definition and Evolution of Community Policing



Community policing is a collaborative strategy between law enforcement agencies and local communities to prevent crime and resolve conflicts. It emerged as an alternative to traditional policing, focusing on proactive engagement rather than reactive enforcement.

Stages in the evolution of community policing:

- **Early Law Enforcement (Pre-Colonial Era)** – Communities relied on elders and local warriors for security.
- **Colonial Policing (19th-20th Century)** – Introduced formal police structures but often used force to suppress dissent.
- **Post-Colonial Reforms (Late 20th Century-Present)** – Shifted toward community-oriented approaches emphasizing dialogue and trust-building.

Imperatives of Community Policing

Community policing is essential for modern conflict resolution as it fosters cooperation between law enforcement and citizens. Its key benefits include:

- **Crime Prevention** – Reduces violent conflicts through early intervention and intelligence gathering.
- **Trust Building** – Strengthens relationships between law enforcement and local populations.
- **Conflict Mediation** – Provides platforms for resolving disputes without resorting to violence.
- **Inclusive Security Policies** – Encourages community participation in decision-making processes.

SUMMARY

Conflict resolution methods vary, encompassing negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and diplomacy. Negotiation involves direct dialogue between parties, aiming for mutual agreement. Mediation uses a neutral third party to facilitate communication and find common ground.



Arbitration involves a neutral third party making a binding decision, while diplomacy employs communication and negotiation between states. Agents of conflict resolution include individuals, organizations, and governments.

Mediators, arbitrators, and diplomats play crucial roles, bringing expertise and impartiality. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) often engage in grassroots peace-building and mediation. Governments use diplomatic channels and international forums.

Effective conflict resolution requires understanding the conflict's dynamics, choosing appropriate methods, and engaging skilled agents. These efforts promote peaceful outcomes and prevent escalation.

EVALUATION QUESTION

1. Discuss the conventions and Treaties in Conflict Resolution
2. Role of International Organizations in Conflict Resolution
3. Explain Community policing

ANSWER

1. Discuss the conventions and Treaties in Conflict Resolution

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LESSON 2: METHODS OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

Dialogue and Arbitration

Definition and Importance of Dialogue

Dialogue is a non-confrontational approach to conflict resolution, emphasizing communication between conflicting parties to find mutually acceptable solutions. It promotes understanding, reduces tension, and fosters long-term peace.

Lesson Outcome

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Discuss Arbitration as a Conflict Resolution Method
2. Explain the Collaboration in Conflict Resolution
3. Benefit of ADR in conflict Management

Key elements of dialogue include:

- Open and honest communication.
- Mutual respect and active listening.
- Willingness to compromise and find common ground.

Arbitration as a Conflict Resolution Method

Arbitration is a formal alternative dispute resolution (ADR) method where a neutral third party, known as an arbitrator, makes a binding decision to resolve a conflict. It is commonly used in commercial, labor, and international disputes.

Advantages of arbitration:

- Faster resolution compared to litigation.
- Cost-effective compared to lengthy court processes.



- Ensures confidentiality and impartiality.

Negotiation and Collaboration

Negotiation as a Key ADR Tool

Negotiation involves discussions between conflicting parties with the goal of reaching an agreement. It is a voluntary and flexible process that allows both sides to voice their concerns and seek mutually beneficial solutions.

Types of negotiation:

- **Distributive negotiation** – Focuses on dividing resources where one party's gain is another's loss.
- **Integrative negotiation** – Aims at expanding the value for all parties involved by finding win-win solutions.
- **Interest-based negotiation** – Centers on identifying underlying interests rather than positions to foster lasting agreements.

Collaboration in Conflict Resolution

Collaboration involves cooperative efforts between conflicting parties, mediators, and stakeholders to resolve disputes through joint problem-solving.

Key benefits of collaboration:

- Encourages shared responsibility for outcomes.
- Enhances trust and long-term relationships.
- Reduces the likelihood of future conflicts by addressing root causes.

Benefits of ADR in Conflict Management

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods provide several advantages over traditional litigation in conflict resolution. Some of these benefits include:

- **Time efficiency** – ADR processes are usually faster than court trials, allowing disputes to be resolved quickly.
- **Cost-effectiveness** – It reduces the financial burden associated with prolonged legal battles.



- **Flexibility** – ADR allows for tailored solutions that best suit the parties involved.
- **Confidentiality** – Unlike public court cases, ADR proceedings are private, preserving sensitive information.
- **Preservation of relationships** – ADR fosters cooperation and maintains social and business relationships.
- **Encourages voluntary compliance** – Because agreements are reached through mutual consent, parties are more likely to abide by resolutions.

SUMMARY

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) offers alternatives to traditional litigation, providing faster, less expensive, and more flexible methods for resolving disputes. Key ADR methods include mediation, arbitration, and negotiation.

Mediation involves a neutral third party facilitating communication and helping parties reach a mutually agreeable solution. Arbitration involves a neutral third party making a binding decision, similar to a judge. Negotiation involves direct discussions between parties to find a resolution without third-party intervention.

ADR methods emphasize confidentiality, flexibility, and party control. They are widely used in commercial, labor, and community disputes. ADR promotes collaborative problem-solving, preserving relationships and reducing adversarial tensions. These methods offer efficient and effective ways to resolve conflicts, contributing to a more accessible and efficient justice system.

EVALUATION QUESTION

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2. Explain the Collaboration in Conflict Resolution
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ANSWER

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