RESOLVING THE SHARE-TSARAGI CRISES THROUGH THE INTERNAL MECHANISMS OF RELIGION AND INTER-MARRIAGE

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Abstract

Share and Tsaragi, two neighbouring communities in Kwara State, Nigeria, have not yet imbibed the culture of peaceful co-existence. There have been about six commissions/panels on the two communities' boundary dispute between 1976 and 2015, whose recommendations have either been rejected by warring parties or never implemented by the relevant authorities. The focus of this study is to examine how religion and inter-marriage could lead to lasting solution and reconciliatory measures to foster peace in the inter-communal conflict between the two communities, which have lingered for too long. The study was both descriptive and analytical. The primary sources of data collection were questionnaires, and structural interview. The Likert Scale was used to measure the response on all dimensions of 128 respondents selected, using a convenience sampling technique. Structural interviews and confidence building workshops were conducted with/for stakeholders in the two communities. Data analysis was done using SPSS software, simple percentage and descriptive analysis, respectively. The secondary sources focused on journals, textbooks and the internet relevant to the research topic. Two-key findings of the study are: lack of readiness by the two communities to imbibe genuine spirit of give and take and the viability of religion and inter-marriage as internal mechanism to resolve the crisis. This study is anchored on the territorial theory with three approaches bordering on proximity, interaction and territoriality in explaining why communities rage and wage wars over boundary or territory related matters.

Keywords:Inter-Ethnic Crisis, Inter-marriage, Religion, Peace, Internal Mechanisms