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## **An Analytical Study on the Subject of Utilization of Conflict Resolution for Inter- religion Peaceful Co-existence**

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### **Introduction**

Religion is frequently a factor in international conflict. It is rarely the principal cause of conflict, even when the opposing groups are differentiated by religious identities, such as Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. But it is a contributing factor to conflict in places as diverse as the Middle East, the Balkans, Sudan, and Indonesia. At the same time, religion can be invaluable in promoting understanding and reconciliation, and it can provide a basis for peace building efforts. The potential for leveraging religion as a positive force in conflict prevention, management, and resolution has never been greater than in today's world, where religion plays an increasingly powerful role in shaping local and international politics, as well as public opinion. ([www.buildingpeace.org](http://www.buildingpeace.org))

The leading religions in our country such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam, are observed by them in a conventional way and from the advanced religions, a systematic etiquette causes and the permanent solutions for concluding the common posers of the human life are presented. Disruptions according to religions are against the

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expectations of the philosophers of each religion. The kindness, loving-kindness, affection and brotherhood are taught in all religions. There were wars, which distributed religions with the points of arms and various tactics and which destroyed the human lives in religious conflicts. It's a device to achieve personal expectations for the sake of the religion. The freedom for observing religions in one's desired way in the present civilized way has been accepted as an important factor in the human freedom. Therefore, predicate of religions in ironical ways have been accepted as the activities, which are against the established civilized traditions. The freedom of observing a desired religion has been mandated in the Section 18 of the Universal Declaration about the Human Rights, which was seconded on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.” (Article 18- Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

### **Religion, Violence, and Conflict Resolution**

Religion is often considered a taboo subject by polite visitors to conflict zones. It's too sensitive and it conjures too many strong feelings. It's too easy to say the wrong thing and offend someone. Many may argue that it's best to leave religion alone and stick with safer topics. But there are many case studies that demonstrate that sensitive subjects such as religion are important to tackle in seeking to prevent, manage, or resolve conflict. Tools such as facilitated dialogue can be useful in transforming contentious issues into powerful means of peacebuilding. ([www.buildingpeace.org](http://www.buildingpeace.org)).

Religion has a dual legacy in human history regarding peace and violence. Conflict resolution theory must examine more systematically the decision-making of religious actors and leaders in order for strategies of peacemaking to be effective in the relevant contexts. It is the argument here that the study of religion and conflict resolution will yield an important new field of inquiry. A series of topics need to be addressed, including the mixture of religious and pragmatic motivations in behavior, the struggle between intracommunal moral values and other traditional values that

generate conflict, multifaith dialogue and pluralism as conflict resolution strategies, the sociopolitical impact of religious leadership on conflict generation and resolution, the limited scope of religious ethics in regard to the rejection of nonbelievers and traditional outgroups, and the promising role of interpretation of sacred tradition in generating peacemaking strategies. (Peace & Change, Vol. 22).

Throughout the long era of human history, religion has been a major contributor to war, bloodshed, hatred, and intolerance. Yet religion has also developed laws and ideas that have provided civilizations with a cultural commitment to critical peace-related values. The latter include empathy, an openness to and even love for strangers, the suppression of unbridled ego and acquisitiveness, the articulation of human rights, unilateral gestures of forgiveness and humility, interpersonal repentance and the acceptance of responsibility for past errors as a means of reconciliation, and the drive for social justice.

There are two essential benefits to exploring a relationship between religion and conflict resolution theory.

First, there is a vast reservoir of information in sacred texts on peacemaking and on prosaically and antisocial values that affect conflict. This literature contains a litany of individual struggles with the inner life that have led either toward or away from a violent disposition. What has worked and failed to work in the past, and why? What can it teach us about the relationship between violence and the religious person in a particular culture? The reliability of past methods of conflict resolution or of deterring violence should be a critical concern.

Second, religion plays the central role in the inner life and social behavior of millions of human beings, many of whom are currently actively engaged in struggle. Diplomats and mediators could benefit from an in-depth understanding of the motives for either violence or coexistence. With this understanding there might be more productive interaction between religious communities and conflict resolution strategies. (Peace & Change).

Although there are legal documentations basically, the inter co-existence of religions cannot be seen in a satisfactory level in the present world. It is not a narrow factor for utilization the subject of conflict prevention in order to settle the situations of conflicts.

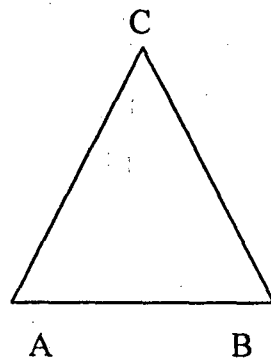
## What is a Conflict

Conflict as we understand it in everyday language is a unavoidable aspect of human life. In our encounters with fellow human beings, we may find ourselves in disagreement, dispute and quarrels as much as in unity agreement and solidarity. We often understand those unpleasant or adversarial relations as conflicts.

## Conflict - Definitions

Professor Chistopher Mitchel in his book *The structure of International Conflict* (1981) has defined conflict as “as a relationship between two or more parties (individual or groups) who have or think they have, incompatible goals” (Mitchel, Christoper, 1981). According to the *Dictionary of Webster*, Conflict is a Strong disagreement between people, groups, etc., those results in often angry argument. Quincy Wright has defined conflict as an “Opposition among social entities directed against one another” (Wright, Quincy.1990).

“Synthesizing the approaches to conflict as found in the literature, Conflict can be defined as ‘escalated natural competition of two or more parties who believe they have incompatible goals, and whose aim is to neutralize, injure, or gain advantage over the other party or parties.’ (Uyangoda, Jayadewa,2003).



Johan Galtung's ABC Triangle

- A - Attitude
- B - Behavior
- C - Contradiction

## **Utilization of Conflict Resolution**

### **Conflict Prevention**

The conception of conflict prevention can be utilized for prevention of conflicts among the religions. Prevention of a conflict can be compared to an extinguishing a fire. These preventions of conflicts consist with two parts such as Light Prevention and Deep Prevention and these two methods can be adopted for prevention of conflicts among the religions. In the world history, the conflicts which based on religions have converted to huge wars. Through the conflict prevention, which is one of the main conception of the conflict settlement, can be adopted for establishing the co-existence among the religions. There are number of procedures.

- Diplomatic Intervention
- Private Mediation
- Peace Conference
- Fact-Finding Commission
- Problem Solving Workshop
- Conflict Resolution Training
- Secret Communication

### **Conflict Settlement**

While this is a different procedure from Conflict Prevention, a settlement in violence of the conflict is expected herein. It is expected to minimize the intensity of the conflict paying attention to the special and normal reasons when the conflicts arise based on the religion. There are occasions in the world history, which settled conflicts specially based on the conception of this conflict settlement viz the examples of North Ireland conflict (1998) and Agreement of Understanding in Sri Lanka (2002). It's a great utilization of this conception for the settlement of conflicts among religions.

### **Conflict Management**

This conception is also a devise of manipulation. Reasons are given based on 2 major points of view mainly from this conception. Viz.

1. Conflict Management means it is a devise of limiting the development of a conflict for maintaining the conflict within a manageable limit.
2. Without solving the complete fundamental facts, which caused for a conflict, but to pay a measurable attention for them.

While an inter procedure is reflected from this access among the expectations and objectives are contradictory to each other, therefore, this can be connoted as an effective conception for establishing the religious co-existence. According to the access of Conflict Management, it can be utilized for settlement of ethnic conflicts too. These are,

- Reassure minority groups their physical and cultural security
- The establishment of confidence building measure through power sharing
- Regional Autonomy
- The promotion of rights and position of minority groups

### **Conflict Resolution**

It is expected to bring the conflict to an end through abrogating facts, which caused for conflicts herein. Under this conception, reasons for confliction are considered and having abolished the facts, which are causing to arise again and it is expected to build new relationship between antagonistic groups. This condition can be betokening as a very important utilization for the establishment of religious co-existence. While there are several procedures to follow in the Conflict Resolution and they are very important towards the religious co-existence and Conflict Resolution among the religions.

- By joint agreement by the solution satisfies the interest and needs underlying conflicts.

- The solution does not scarifies any parties important vales
- The parties will not wish to repudiate the solution even if they are in a position to do so later
- The solution meets standard of justice and fairness
- The solution is sufficiently advantages to all parties go that it become self-supporting of self enforcing

### **Conflict Transformation**

Herein are the differences and the conversion, which may arise among the parties, involved to the conflict. The objective is set through meeting the differences having learnt the lessons by conflicts. This can be utilized to settle the conflicts existing among the religions. And an inclusion in the Buddhist philosophy is "enmity is not calmed by enmity". Therefore, it means that it is an execution a conversion by understanding loss and damage through a conflict. This can be utilized to calm the crisis among religions. This utilization is at a higher level especially in the third world countries. There are several methods which are subjecting this transformation.

- Actor Transformation
- Issue Transformation
- Rule Transformation
- Structural Transformation (Wallenstein Peter,2012).

### **Conclusion**

During this era which passed the modern era and lighted onto the post era, it can be analyzed and connoted that the co-existence among the religion has been damaged worse than ever before. A dialogue among many groups especially considering globally, a condition of confliction has risen based on Islam. Especially the Islamic groups, who are spread over the world, do not try to see consciously towards the prevailing conflicts, which are based religions. Therefore, it has conciliated towards a severe influence to mature the conflicts among the religions due to that condition.

However, almost all the conceptions taught in the subject of Conflict Resolution can be utilized for the conflicts which are based on religions in the third world countries. Especially it is more important to implement the practical utility of this conception via the advices of the settlement consultants. So that it will be very important to settle the conflicts which rise in the society.

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### **Website**

- [www.buildingpeace.org](http://www.buildingpeace.org)
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