

Women's Role in Society's Peace Building

Lalita Kumari

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce,
Delhi College of Arts and Commerce,
University of Delhi, India

Abstract:

Since the beginning of time, women have battled for equality, peace, and safety. They have not been acknowledged for their involvement in any of the peace attempts. As armed conflict breaks out in more and more parts of the globe, there is an urgent need to take action to guarantee that women play an active role in the process of building peace and that their efforts are recognised and appreciated. Participation in the form of mediation and envoys is essential to attaining a durable, long-lasting, and optimistic peace with post-conflict humanities. Additionally, their comprehensive role may assist in preventing disagreements that could lead to the outbreak of war. Women have a more nuanced understanding of the variables at play in conflicts than men do. This article explores the roles that women should play in fostering peace as well as the challenges they confront in doing so. It will investigate the contributions that women have made to the process of resolving conflicts and fostering peace. This research investigates the roles that women should play in peacemaking endeavours. Let's take a closer look at the claim that including women in peace negotiations can increase both the quality and the longevity of the peace.

Keywords- Role of women, Conflict, equality, Peace building, Peace Transformation.

Introduction

Women have long been deemed weak, therefore they've faced assault, disdain, and inequality. Being treated equally is a basic right, but gender inequality persists across the world. They've faced all forms of prejudice, from being denied healthcare and education to being prevented from speaking out against injustice. It was difficult for the UN to promote equality internationally without a single leader to oversee its efforts. UN Women was formed in 2010 to combat gender injustice and empower women. "UN Member States took a historic step toward gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women was created as part of the UN reform effort to consolidate resources and missions. It unites and develops on the work of four UN sections that focused entirely on gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women prioritises gender equality and women's empowerment. It was created to promote global women's empowerment. Sustainable development requires peace, and for that, women and girls' contributions must be recognised, along with equitable involvement in all aspects of society. Thus, individuals may cooperate with government systems, lawmaking agencies, and civil societies to establish laws, policies, programmes, and services, have greater impact, and benefit equally from natural disaster avoidance, man-made conflict prevention, and humanitarian action.

Peace Building

Humanity has always suffered from wars. Conflict limits relief and communication, killing, displacing, and starving civilians. The violence has also damaged healthcare facilities and other amenities, making it difficult to serve people. Conflicts may block off entire neighbourhoods from livelihoods and services. Peace building was created to address the "underlying causes" of violent war-like circumstances wherever they are on the globe, namely conflict assessment and resolution. All eliciting elements that might have bad impacts on peaceful conditions need attention and early action to promote sustainable peace and avoid the return of the repercussions of conflict via reconciliation, institution building, and political and economic reform. In his 1975 book *"Three Approaches to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peace building,"* Johan Galtung invented the word peace building. He argued in this paper that "Peace is different from peacekeeping and ad hoc peacemaking. Peace mechanisms should be embedded into the system and used as a reservoir... Specifically, mechanisms must be established to remove war causes and give alternatives to conflict." The 18 January 2008 publication UN Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines define peace building. "Peace-building entails enhancing national skills for conflict management and creating the basis for lasting peace to reduce the danger of war relapse. It's a difficult, long-term process that addresses the structural roots of violent conflict to create good and durable peace. Peace-building measures address societal and state-level challenges. They aim to improve the state's ability to carry out its essential tasks effectively and lawfully. UN Agencies, Funds & Programs, International Financial Institutions, and NGOs all work to foster peace." Lederach says, "is more than post-accord rebuilding" and "encompasses, creates, and sustains the complete array of processes, methodologies, and phases needed to turn conflict into sustainable, peaceful partnerships." The word encompasses both pre- and post-peace deal activity. Peace is a metaphor, not a state or situation." Recent examples of conflict scenarios including:

- The conflict in Ethiopia seems to be just as complicated and drawn out as in other countries. Ethiopians have been forced to endure war after war as a result of their country's ongoing conflict with neighbouring Eritrea, internal power struggles, and the almost two-year-long, divesting civil war that has been raging in the province of Tigray.

- The Afghan people have been through a tremendous amount of anguish, including decades of civil war, foreign intervention, insurgency, a rapidly changing climate, and severe economic instability. The Afghan people have also been subjected to a variety of other challenges, such as a rapidly changing climate.
- The conflict in Ukraine is the most recent one to break out in the world. Because of this, more than one million people have been forced to depart the nation, which has led to a new humanitarian crisis in Europe.

In the words of Abel Tesfaye, One million dollars donated by Abel, the son of Ethiopian immigrants is equivalent to 2 million life-saving meals for the people of Ethiopia. "My heart segments for my citizens of Ethiopia as thousands of civilians range from small children to adults are being pointlessly killed and entire cities and towns are being relocated out of fear and destruction," Abel said in an interview with the World Food Program USA. "I encourage everyone who can to do so as well,"

- South Sudan's 2011 independence made it the world's newest nation. It ushered in a violent age that continues now. The South Sudanese Civil War lasted over a decade, causing bloodshed, poverty, and starvation.
- 12.4 million people, or 60% of the population, are hungry. This is the maximum number ever reported in Syria, up 57% from 2019.
- Major overland links and airports were devastated by the battle. An embargo on Yemen's coast has hindered humanitarian deliveries. 16.2 million Yemenis are vulnerable to food insecurity, and women and children have significant malnutrition rates.

These extended wars illustrate the necessity for a peace building process to alter conflicts.

Lederach describes try to adapt as a holistic, multifaceted approach to violent conflict. Change from unfavorable to good relationships, behaviour, attitudes, and structures. The integrative system to peace building must consider the complex and multidimensional human condition and rely on wide societal engagement." A lasting transformational strategy implies the key resides in the interaction of the concerned parties on emotional, spiritual, social, economic, political, and military levels." Growing ""Infrastructure for peace building" means "we're not only 'ending' something unwanted. We develop relationships that produce new structures, processes, and structures."

Obstacles in the Way of Women's Contributions to Peace-Building

As "no-gooders," women aren't regarded capable of contributing to peace-building. Several constraints hinder women's engagement in resolving conflict and peace building :

1. Insufficient resources.
2. The disregard of women's special needs in economic rehabilitation.
3. A high percentage of rape and other types of sexual violence, such as those experienced in Rwanda, Bosnia, and Kashmir.
4. A commitment to attaining gender equity within the organisation that is weak and unconvincing. The inability of the processes for reconciliation to meet the problems of women in an effective manner.
5. Societal influences against women putting themselves forward, they may not have the necessary education or training.
6. The capacity of women to engage in the process of peace building is hindered by the fact that they are more likely to have evacuated the area of violence and to have taken on responsibilities such as being the primary carers and providers for children who are reliant on them.

Role of women in Peace Building

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by war, violence, terrorism, and violent extremism. In response, women throughout the globe are leading efforts for peace and to reconstruct communities. Evidence suggests that women's engagement in peace processes leads to longer, more durable peace following violence. Women are generally invisible in peace procedures and talks. Through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The UN has advanced gender equality. UN Women's work on women, peace, and security is directed by 10 UN Security Council resolutions—1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2467, and 2493— and a variety of associated normative frameworks. The 2000 Special Session examined women's responsibilities in peace building. Resolution 1325 proposed mainstreaming a gender lens into peacekeeping missions, focusing on women's involvement at the peace table and in post-conflict peace-building and rebuilding. Inculcate gender knowledge in cultures to encourage increased female engagement in dispute resolution. Increased feelings of safety and security among the country's young people. When the United Nations Security Council voted to include young people in the formulation of plans, programmes, policies and decision-making processes related to conflict resolution, it recognised their contributions to peacebuilding. YES, PLEASE! (Youth for Peace and Security) Women like Saba Ismail, Khadeja Ramali, Magda Lopidia, Cherisse Francis have had a good influence on their communities because to UN Women's initiatives.

The facts and figures surrounding women's significant engagement in peace processes:

1. Women made for 13 percent of negotiators, 6 percent of mediators, and 6 percent of signatories in key peace processes globally between 1992 and 2019. In 7/10 peace negotiations, there were no women mediators or signatories.
2. In 2020, 28.6 percent of peace accords included gender clauses, significantly below 2015's peak of 37.1 percent.

3. Two of the four UN-led or co-led peace initiatives in 2020 were directed by women mediators, and all four consulted civil society and had gender expertise.
4. In 2020, 23 percent of warring parties' delegates in UN-supported peace processes was women, a ratio that would have been lower without UN efforts.
5. According to research, comprehensive peace accords frequently reference women, girls, or gender. None of the 2018-2020 ceasefires includes gender or sexual violence clauses.

Long-term peace-building success requires women's participation. Women were politicians, militants, victims, and peacemakers (Aisha, 2005).

The achievement of peace requires taking into account all elements of women's rights, particularly their position in society, politics, and the economy. To lessen or eliminate violent behaviour, individual and communal responsibility must be taken, and efforts must be made toward reconciliation. It offers assistance to females, males, girls, and males in promoting nonviolence, equality, liberty, and rights inside their very own culture(s), creating democratic institutions, and preserving the natural (Mazurana & McKay, 1999: 9).

Women Roles in International Peace initiatives, including:

1. Collaborative peacemaking enhances long-term stability and reduces state failure, war, and poverty. Honesty.
2. Women's honesty as mediators can promote peace.
3. Women's groups have successfully held large actions and galvanised public opinion campaigns to support peace negotiations. Women's groups have planned more peace campaign actions than any other group.
4. Women are expected to allocate post-conflict resources into rebuilding public institutions and providing long-term stability services, such as schools, healthcare, clean water, and judicial systems.
5. Because women have distinct social roles and duties than males, they possess access to knowledge and social ties that can influence negotiation positions and regions of agreement.
6. Women are more likely to address social topics in discussions, which speeds up reconciliation.

Conclusion:

There is a wide range of meanings attached to the term "peace." An endless cycle of war and its subsequent devastation. There are many conflicts that may be resolved peacefully across the world. We talked about the role of women in peace building... Only by integrating women from all walks of life into conflict prevention initiatives will violence be averted. Recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration, and continuing activities are all made easier as a result of these initiatives. There can be no enduring peace without women's participation in mediation. Women have a key role in bringing peace to their communities, and a dispute resolution system that involves women may assist in bringing about economic recovery, social harmony, and political support. When women participate in mediation, it's easier to get to the source of the problem and come up with comprehensive solutions. If we work together to construct national frameworks for gender equality and peace building, bridge gaps in information and knowledge, support research and interdisciplinary partnerships on strategic goals relevant to women, and keep up our efforts for gender equality, this is possible. Because of their honesty, trustworthiness, sensitivity, empathy, forgiveness, and supporting nature, women's discretion may be an asset when it comes to settling conflicts. To be peacemakers, all they really need is support, acknowledgement for their efforts, and education.

References:

1. *About UN Women*. (n.d.). UN Women – Headquarters. Retrieved June 24, 2022, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>
2. Current Conflicts in the World Today and Their Effects on Global Hunger. (n.d.). *World Food Program USA*. Retrieved June 25, 2022, from <https://www.wfpusa.org/articles/current-conflicts-world-today-their-effects-global-hunger/>
3. *Facts and figures: Women, peace, and security*. (n.d.). UN Women – Headquarters. Retrieved June 26, 2022, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>
4. Gorospe, A. E., & Ringma, C. R. (2019). *How Long, O Lord?: The Challenge and Promise of Reconciliation and Peace*. Langham Publishing.
5. Government of Canada, P. S. and P. C. (2002, July 1). *Women & peacebuilding / by Dyan E. Mazurana and Susan R. McKay.*: E83-1/8E - Government of Canada Publications - Canada.ca. <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/84870/publication.html>
6. Höberg, S. (2019). *Women and Peacebuilding in Rwanda and Sierra Leone: A comparative study of the impacts of United Nations Resolution 1325*. <http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:sh:diva-38255>
7. *Including Women at the Peace Table Produces Better Outcomes*. (n.d.). Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved June 24, 2022, from <https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes>
8. Krause, J., Krause, W., & Bränfors, P. (2018). Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace. *International Interactions*, 44(6), 985–1016. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386>

9. *Peace Building Initiative—History*. (n.d.). Retrieved June 24, 2022, from <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index34ac.html>
10. *The power of women peacebuilders*. (n.d.). UN Women – Headquarters. Retrieved June 24, 2022, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/10/compilation-the-power-of-women-peacebuilders>
11. *The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding*. (n.d.). GSDRC. Retrieved June 24, 2022, from <https://gsdrc.org/document-library/the-role-of-women-in-conflict-resolution-and-peacebuilding/>
12. *Why It Matters | CFR Interactives*. (n.d.). Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved June 25, 2022, from <https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes>

