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MATRIC NO: 18/SMS10/001

DEPARTMENT: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

PCS 204 TEST

INSTURCTION

Answer any three (3) question of your choice. All question carries equal mark

Time allowed: 1 hour

1a. Give examples of proverbs used in Conflict Resolution among various groups in Africa

b Examine the various characteristics of traditional conflict resolution

2. How would you describe a scene of typical African Conflict Resolution look like? Bring out all the salient issues inherent in the scene

3a. what is an institution

b. what are the various indigenous institutions in African?

c. Mention the various indigenous African institutions for conflict resolution

d. How applicable are these institutions to modern development?

e. What do the institutions reveal about African cultural heritage?

5a. Identify and discuss the roles of traditional institutions of conflict resolution in one African society

b. Examine the features and functions of traditional institutions in African society

answers

1a. Proverbs is known to be a short, well known and in general a wise saying or piece of advice which are stated to guide youths in African Societies. These proverbs are also known as quotes of the wise and they could be used to aid conflict situations and help manage conflict effectively. Some examples of these proverbs used in conflict resolution among various African groups include:

1. Okun ki ho ruru ka waa ruru ( we must not sail a turbulent ocean turbulently) – this proverb simply means we should approach a difficult situation patiently.
2. Oro pele yo obi lapo ( a good word and soft words wins hard hearts while a soft answer turns away wrath) – it means one must be mindful of their utterances as it is capable of restoring tension or conflict resolution depending on how the tongue is managed. which is key to conflict resolution.
3. A gbo ejo enikan da, agba osika ni ( don’t assume until you’ve heard the story of both parties) – this is a proverb said to call a mediator to order ensuring he must be fair to both parties to provide justice and peaceful coexistence.

1b. the traditional method of conflict resolution involves the process of modern mediation except that the process is non-retributive and is aimed at a peaceful coexistence and resolution of disputes between parties involved in conflict situation. The features of traditional conflict resolution include:

There are various causes of conflict in African Traditional communities which are; fighting over property (which is the most common), cheating spouses, additional wife to the family and preferential treatment of some over others. Then causes of conflict among various communities include; over a piece of land, or degradation of others values, power struggle, etc. some ways these conflicts are resolved in Nigeria involve: inter marriage between two tribes or communities – marriage is seen as a medium of conflict resolution to ensure peace, for instance the Yoruba’s belief in togetherness therefore, when siblings or some women are in dispute, they would be given an activity to set up the occasion to resolve a conflict eg pounding yam is believed it would make the parties talk and eventually resolve the issue after working together. Some also make use of Dieties (supernatural beings) eg Obatanla, Esu, Ifa etc to resolve conflict situations.

2. A typical example of an ethnic clash

In the days of old, in Nigerian Yoruba Lands when a dispute is between two communities over stealing of farm harvest. Attempts would be made to catch the thief normally through stakeouts by the farmers. However, if the thief isn’t caught; then traditionally extra-judicial methods of conflict resolution are administered by the priests or diviners in which dieties (spiritual beings) are involved in the resolution of the problem as Africans are generally known to be very spiritual. The suspects of the crime are then nade to swear before the dieties which include: Ogun, Osun etc they they diod not commit the crime and if they did there would be adequate punishment which may lead to death. Some villagers even make the criminal if eventually revealed “concursion” or anyother agreed vow or oath.

However, there are also some African tribes who report crimes of stealing or other forms of disputes to their traditional rulers which may be they king, heads of age grade, secret cult groups etc. in some crimes that involve the traditional king, the Kings personally administer their punishment, some make the criminals work in the palace or administer community service punishment to the offenders.

In the olden days when a comflict arises between two communuities there were warriors who were trained for special occasions to help fight and protect their communities from external aggression and they would be rewarded adequately if the warriors return in triump eg marriage was also a means of rewarding the warriors for a glorious triumph over enemies.

5a. the role of traditional institutions in conflict resolution?

Traditional institution was the most relevant institution in all the Yoruba towns and villages in the pre- colonial period. It represented the central point of the people’s cultural, social, economic, political and spiritual engagement. Traditional Yoruba rulers were the trustees of the various communities and also responsible for the general well- being of their people. For most of these functions to be achieved, there was the need for laws and orders to guide the action and day to day life of the people. Traditional institutions include: age groups. The Ogboni confraternity, the traditional rulers like the Kabiesi, OBA and so on.

The institution of traditional rulers is an enduring part of our heritage. It plays a critical role as the custodian of culture and traditions. Expectedly, our traditional rulers are closely linked with the grassroots, and so understand the problems of our people intimately. In our search for peace, order and stability in our society, the institution could be a veritable instrument.

5b. the features of African traditional institutions are to provide law and order to the community and ensure that justice and sanity is upheld at all times and the rules and regulations of the land are upheld.

The traditional institutions help resolve conflict situations that arise in their lands and ensure there is peaceful coexistence between the parties involved and there families,

The traditional institutions take care of the welfare of the people and ensure that their people are protected and are in good hands able to feed themselves and take care of their wellbeing. They check up on others.

The traditional institutions also provide means of checks and balancing for the king and those in power so as to avoid them from overexerting their power and rule over the people.

The traditional rulers also intercede between the people and the gods by offering prayers and sacrifices to appease the gods on behalf of the community.