

GROUP2_PeaceTech_Assignment:

Naija PeaceTech Lab Youth Study

A. Problem Definition and Objectives

Problem Definition

The connection between youth, conflict, and technology is a big concern in Nigeria, as the nation struggles with social unrest, heightened conflict, and increased/ aggravated violence particularly among young people within the age bracket 15 to 40.

Individuals within this age bracket can make or mar a nation because they're considered to be both a source of dispute, and a potential spur for peace.

Nonetheless, their voices are often oppressed in terms of traditional/ Modern peacebuilding processes. Whereas digital technology provides or creates opportunities for these individuals to engage or participate in dialogues, to resolve and promote peaceful resolutions, and also supports their perspectives/ initiatives to develop proactive approach/ measures to conflict resolution.

Objective

The Naija PeaceTech Lab initiative aims to utilize cyber technology I. e digital tools to stimulate or encourage youth participation in conflict resolution, Also, promoting the dire need for accessible and technology - supported interventions.

Primary Research Questions:

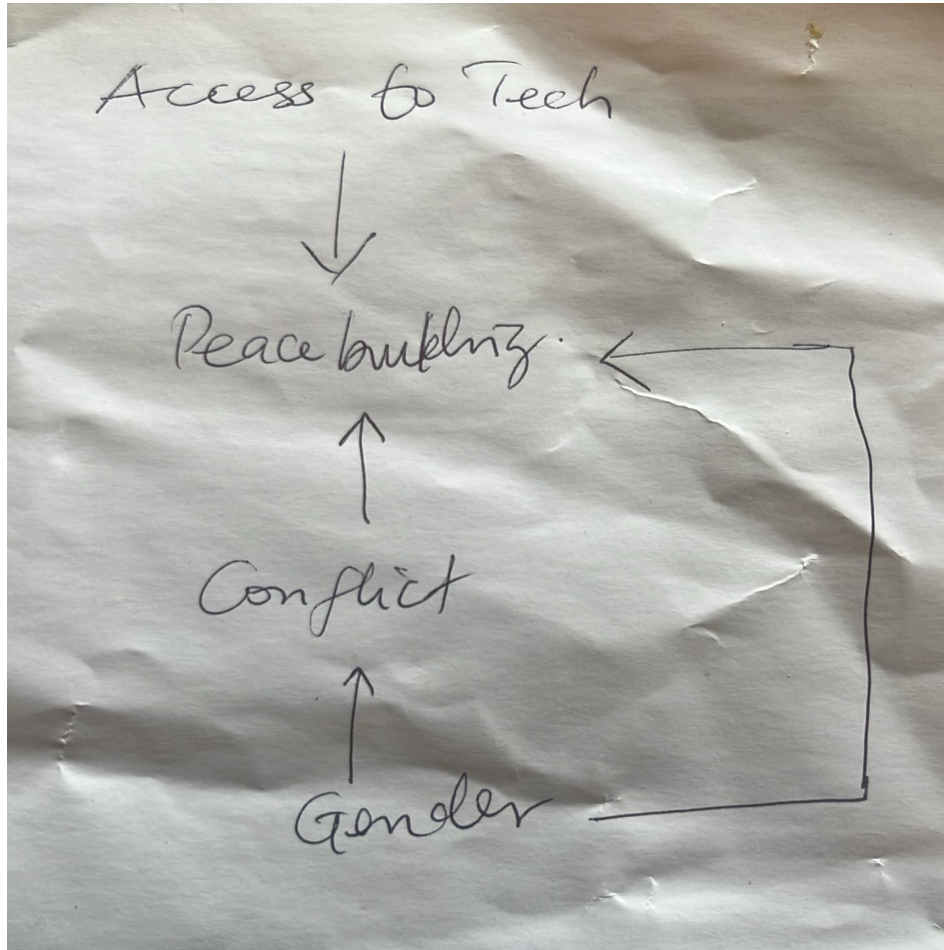
- How does access to digital technology shape youth participation in peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria?
- What types of digital risks (e.g. misinformation, harassment) do youth encounter in conflict-affected areas?
- Is there a link between seeing conflict online and how youth feel about violence?
- What are the possible challenges that Nigerians youth encounters while using technology?

Secondary Research Questions:

- Are there gendered differences in how young people use technology during conflict?
- How significant is the role of social media in spreading versus countering misinformation?
- What ways do young people between 15-40 uses technology to express themselves?
- How effective are online platforms in amplifying youth-led peace initiatives compared to traditional peace building approaches?

B. Conceptual Framework

- **Access to Technology:** Refers to the availability and usage of digital devices and internet connectivity among youth.



- **Conflict Exposure:** Encompasses direct or indirect experience with conflict, including exposure to conflict-related information online.
- **Gender:** A demographic variable that may influence both technology access and conflict exposure, as well as peace-building behaviours.
- **Peace-building Behaviours:** Actions and attitudes adopted by youth to promote peace, potentially mediated or enhanced by technology.

C. Research Design Choice

A mixed-methods approach is ideal for the Naija PeaceTech Lab Youth Study because it captures both the scale and the depth of youth engagement with digital platforms and conflict.

Quantitative methods (e.g., surveys) will allow us to gather measurable data on exposure to online conflict, usage patterns, and demographic trends across Nigeria.

- Strength of using only quantitative methods: Allows for broad generalization of findings to a larger population due to the statistical power of large sample sizes.
- Limitation of using only quantitative methods: May lack in-depth understanding of complex social phenomena and individual experiences, potentially missing contextual nuances.

Qualitative methods (e.g., interviews or focus groups) will uncover the why behind these behaviours—exploring personal motivations, emotional responses, and cultural influences.

So, this combination not only strengthens the validity of findings through triangulation but also allows for richer, context-sensitive insights that numbers alone can't provide.

- Strength of using only qualitative methods: Provides rich, detailed insights into individual experiences, perceptions, and motivations.
- Limitation of using only qualitative methods: Findings may not be generalizable to a larger population due to smaller, often purposive, sample sizes.

In a dynamic space like digital conflict, where behaviour is shaped by perception and lived experience, a mixed approach ensures we don't miss the human element while pursuing evidence.

D. Sampling Strategy

Proposed Sampling Frame for Survey Respondents in Sokoto State, Nigeria;

Total Sample Size: 120 Respondents

1. Gender Balance:

- Male: 60 (50%)

- Female: 60 (50%)

2. Age Bands Distribution:

Age Band	Total Respondents	Male	Female
15-19	30	15	15
20-24	30	15	15
25-30	30	15	15
31-40	30	15	15
Total	120	60	60

Recruitment Plan for FGD and KII

To recruit one Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and one Key Informant Interview (KII) in the same zone, the following approach will be taken:

1. FGD Recruitment:

- Identify a diverse group of 8-10 participants from the sampling frame across different age bands and genders.
- Use community canterers, community-based organizations, schools, churches, mosques, and local networks to reach potential participants.
- Invite participants through community leaders, ensuring equitable representation across age and gender.

2. KII Recruitment:

- Select one key informant with substantial experience or knowledge in a relevant field (e.g., health, education, religion, or social services).
- Approach this individual through professional networks or local organizations, ensuring that they can provide insightful perspectives relevant to the research topic.

This plan ensures inclusivity and represents the demographic diversity within Sokoto State, facilitating comprehensive data collection.

E. Instrumentation

Survey Questions (Closed-ended):

- Which of the following digital platforms is most effective for peace messaging?
 - (a) WhatsApp
 - (b) Facebook
 - (c) Twitter/X
 - (d) Instagram
 - (e) TikTok
 - (f) Other (Please specify): _____
- What types of online content related to conflict or peacebuilding have you encountered in the past 6 months? (Select all that apply)
 - (a) News articles about local conflicts
 - (b) Social media posts discussing inter-communal tensions
 - (c) Online campaigns promoting peace and reconciliation
 - (d) Videos depicting conflict situations
 - (e) Online discussions on conflict resolution strategies
 - (f) None of the above

- To what extent do you agree with the following statement: “Digital technology has helped me understand different perspectives on conflict in my community.”
 - (a) Strongly Disagree
 - (b) Disagree
 - (c) Neutral
 - (d) Agree
 - (e) Strongly Agree
- Have you ever participated in an online initiative or group aimed at promoting peace or countering hate speech?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
- How effective do you believe digital platforms are in mobilizing youth for peacebuilding activities?
 - (a) Very Ineffective
 - (b) Ineffective
 - (c) Neutral
 - (d) Effective
 - (e) Very Effective

FGD Guide Questions (Open-ended – focused on technology access and conflict):

- How do you or others in your community use social media during conflict or tension?
- What stops some youth, especially girls, from using tech for conflict resolution work?
- If you had the chance, how would you use technology differently to promote peace building?
- Could you share an example of a time when a message or post online increased tension in your community?

F. Data Collection Logistics

Devices/Platforms

- i. Urban Setting with 4G:
 1. Smartphones: For communication, data collection, and access to research apps.
 2. Tablets: For in-field data entry and accessing online resources.
 3. Laptops: For data analysis, document preparation, and presentations.
 4. Cloud Platforms: Tools like Google Drive or Dropbox for storing and sharing documents and data.
 5. Survey Apps: Platforms like Kobo collect, Google Forms, survey platforms etc.
- ii. Rural Setting with No Internet:
 1. Paper Surveys: Traditional printed surveys for data collection in person.

2. Voice Recorders: For recording interviews or focus groups when internet is unavailable.
3. Notebooks: For manual data entry during field observations and interviews.
4. Mobile Phones (Offline): For communication and taking notes, voice recording, utilizing SMS when necessary.
5. Camera: for video recordings.

Quality-Control Measures

1. Enumerator Training and Pilot Testing: Thorough training for all data collectors on the research instruments, ethical guidelines, and data collection protocols. This includes pilot testing survey questions and FGD guides with a small group of respondents to identify any ambiguities or issues before full-scale deployment.
2. Standardized Protocols: Establishing clear guidelines for data collection, data privacy, processes, such as standardized interview and survey questions, ensures consistency and reduces variability in responses.
3. Daily Data Review and Back-checks: Field supervisors will conduct daily reviews of completed surveys and interview transcripts to check for completeness, consistency, and adherence to instructions. Random back-checks (e.g., calling a percentage of surveyed respondents to verify participation) will be performed to ensure data accuracy and prevent fraudulent data collection.

G. Data Management and Cleaning

numbered step-by-step plan for cleaning a survey dataset using Excel (or similar software like Google Sheets, SPSS, or Python).

The plan also includes one common error typically corrected during data cleaning.

Survey Data Cleaning Plan (Excel-based)

1. Import and Backup Raw Data

Open the original dataset in Excel.

Save a copy as a backup before making changes ('File > Save As').

2. Check for and Remove Duplicates

Use 'Data > Remove Duplicates' to identify and delete duplicate survey entries.

Ensure each respondent ID is unique.

3. Handle Missing Data

Use 'Filter' or conditional formatting to find blank cells.

Decide how to treat missing values: leave blank, replace with "N/A," mean, or remove the row/column.

4. Standardize Data Formats

Ensure dates, numbers, and text entries are in consistent formats.

Use 'Text to Columns', 'DATEVALUE', or 'VALUE' functions if needed.

5. Correct Inconsistent Entries

Look for spelling variations or inconsistent capitalization in responses (e.g., "Male", "male", "MALE").

Use 'Find & Replace' or 'LOWER()/PROPER()' functions.

6. Validate Data Ranges and Logic

Use data validation to check if numeric values fall within expected ranges (e.g., age 0–120).

Flag responses that violate logical rules (e.g., someone under 18 being employed full-time).

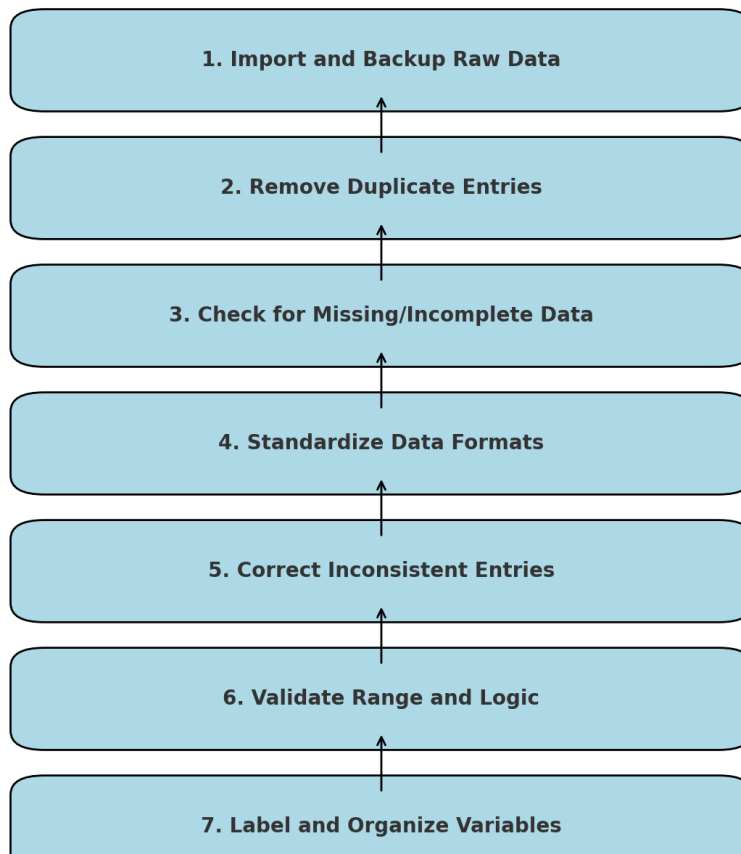
7. Label and Organize Columns Clearly

Rename column headers to be clear and standardized (e.g., "Q1_Age" → "Age").

Ensure consistent coding (e.g., 1 = Yes, 2 = No).

Common Error Expected

Inconsistent categorical responses (e.g., different spellings or formats for the same response: "Yes", "yes", "YES", or "y").



H. Basic Analysis Plan

Descriptive Statistics:

- Frequency Distribution: Calculate the frequency and percentage of respondents for each category of digital platform usage (e.g., percentage of youth using WhatsApp most frequently).
- Mean and Standard Deviation: Determine the average age of respondents and the spread of their ages.

Simple Cross-tab:

- A cross-tabulation between “Gender” and “Participation in online peacebuilding initiatives” to see if there’s a difference in participation rates between males and females.

Thematic-coding strategy for FGD data:

- A deductive thematic coding approach will be used. Initial codes will be developed based on the research questions and the conceptual framework (e.g., codes for “technology access

barriers,” “online conflict exposure,” “peacebuilding through social media”). As data is reviewed, an inductive approach will also be applied to identify emergent themes not initially anticipated, allowing for a richer understanding of participants’ experiences. The codes will then be grouped into broader themes representing key insights.

I. Ethics and Safeguarding

Risk-mitigation Table

Ethical Risk	Description	Mitigation Action
Informed Consent	Participants may not fully understand their rights or the purpose of the study.	Provide clear, simple-language consent forms and verbal explanations; allow questions.
Data Privacy	Personal or sensitive data may be exposed, misused, or accessed without permission.	Use secure data storage; anonymize personal data; restrict access to authorized staff.
Do-No-Harm Principle	Participation may cause emotional, psychological, or social harm.	Conduct risk assessments; avoid sensitive topics; provide counseling or referral services.

J. Reflection

The most challenging part of designing this mini-study was developing a sampling strategy that effectively balances the need for representativeness across diverse demographics (age, gender, geopolitical zone) with the practical constraints of a limited sample size (n=120) and the requirement for both quantitative and qualitative components. Ensuring 50% gender balance and adherence to four age bands while still recruiting effectively for FGDs and KIIs within a single geopolitical zone presented a significant logistical puzzle. This challenge highlights the constant negotiation in research design between methodological rigor and pragmatic feasibility, especially when aiming for nuanced insights from a population as diverse as Nigerian youth.

Group Members

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