SECTION 1   LESSON 4
CONFLICT ANALYSIS
It is a clear known fact that conflict exist at all levels of human interaction either at interpersonal, intra-group, inter group or at communal, national and international levels. Therefore, it has become imperative for a conflict management practitioner, intervener or a peace studies and conflict resolution student to acquire necessary knowledge and skills required to enable such a person gain an insight into the hidden issues in conflict. The issues ranging from the causes of the conflict, stages/phases of conflict, the stakeholders (parties in conflict), and the conflict analytical tools and techniques necessary for proper understanding of conflict analysis in view of proffering sustainable solution to the conflict. Analysis is usually accompanied by "conflict mapping" and "tracking" both of which are very important at giving the conflict management practitioner a clear picture of what is happening, what is at stake and what could be done to manage the "difficult" situation.

Meaning/Definition of Conflict Analysis
Conflict analysis is a critical review, interpretation and explanation of what is observed and recorded about the conflict situation. Alternatively, conflict analysis can be defined as a process by which the root causes, dynamics, issues, and – other – fundamentals of conflict are examined, reviewed and unraveled through the use of various mechanisms for proper and better – understanding of the conflict from several perspectives.

Conflict analysis avails peace experts intervening in a conflict the opportunity of gathering necessary data or information that will facilitate bringing together of parties in dispute and reveal a dependable, reliable and effective direction on the choice of strategies and action to be adopted for a successful intervention and termination of conflict.

Categories of Stakeholders
A stakeholder is defined as those men and women, group or parties who are directly or indirectly involved in the conflict and have a significant stake in the outcome.

a.   Primary Stakeholders
They are those whose goals are, or are perceived by them to be incompatible and who interact directly in pursuit of their respective goals. They are the direct investors in the conflict.

b.   Secondary Stakeholders
These categories are affected directly by the outcome of the conflict but do not feel to be directly involved. As the conflict progresses, they may become primary and primary may become secondary.

c.   Interested Stakeholders
These parties have an interest in the conflict. They stand to benefit from the outcomes whether peaceful or conflictual. The difference between interested and

secondary stakeholders is that the interested stakeholders suffer no direct impact of the conflict in the short and medium term.

Criteria for Determining Primary Stakeholders

Determining where stakeholders should be put is both political and fluid. The following often determines the decisions of interveners in selecting the stakeholders to engage.

i. Functional

This suggests those who directly wage the conflict. Their legitimacy on the negotiating table is their capacity and ability to perpetuate the conflict. They are the embodiment of the conflict. Observers believe they have the power to end the conflict.

ii. Representativity

This is political aspect of stakeholders' categorisation. Stakeholders are primary because they represent a large number of people who are directly affected by the conflict. These people also have the means to wage conflict or build peace.

iii. Moral Authority

Primary stakeholders can also be determined because their moral authority carries the vision of post-conflict society. These include religious leaders, civil society organisations including women's organisations and traditional leaders among others. Earlier, this category was only confined to the secondary level.

Five Elements Required to Structure Analysis of Stakeholders

i. **Relationsh**ip -What is the interaction between the stakeholders?
ii. **Agenda/Power** -What are the agendas of key stakeholders for conflict and for peace?
iii. **Needs** - What are the needs of the different stakeholders? Which needs are opposing and overlapping?
iv. **Action** -What actions are the different stakeholders undertaking to promote peace or conflict?
v. What is the cumulative power of actions for peace or conflict?

REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

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