



PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN JALINGO, TARABA STATE

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INTRODUCTION

Taraba State is located in the north eastern part of Nigeria. It comprises diverse ethnicity such as Jukun, Mumuye, Kuteb, Jenjo, Lau-Karim, Bandawa, Panso, Kambo, Kaka, Tiv, Fulani and others. The Mumuye, Jenjo, Lau-Karim and Bandawa occupy the northern part of the state. They are mostly farmers and fishermen because of the terrain of the area. The Panso, Kambo, Kaka, Fulani live on the mountainous area which border Nigeria and Cameroun, popularly known as the 'Mambila plateau'. The southern part is occupied by the Jukuns, kuteb, Ichem, Nymuo, Ngwa and others. The major religions in the state includes Christianity, Islam, African traditional religion and others. Because of the diversity of the tribes, their culture too differs. This makes life also interesting because of the beauty in diversity.

Statement of the Problem

Taraba State as one of the states in the north eastern part of Nigeria has experienced serious cases of conflicts and violence ranging from communal clashes to tribal boundary crisis involving the Tiv and Jukun, Mumuye land disputes, Fulani/Mumuye just to mention a few. Most often these crises, because of not been properly managed, degenerates to inter – religious crisis such as the Jukun – Fulani crisis, Tiv – Fulani Crisis, the Mumuye and Fulani, Fulani Muslims and Christians in Gembu, Sardauna LGA of Taraba State. It is worthy of note that most of these crisis and violence turn out to affect children in schools as they are constantly been denied the right to education as a result of crisis and violence. A good example is the crisis that ensued between the Jukuns and the Tiv in Wukari. This resulted into serious violence and schools were affected. Students from the Tiv extractions had to be smuggled out of the NECO Examination Hall as the pandemonium could no longer be contained and students' lives were severely threatened. More so in 2019, there was inter – religious crisis in Jalingo town that affected the peace and progress of citizens in the town. Students and teachers living in Muslim – dominated areas could not leave their homes to come to school for fear of been attacked and killed. It is on this premise that this project seeks to promote peaceful co-existence among students regardless of their religious affiliations.



PREVIOUS PROJECT CONDUCTED

Promoting peaceful coexistence among students in secondary schools in Jalingo, Taraba State.

Date: 3rd February 2021 at Charles Borromeo Pastoral Centre, Mile-Six, Jalingo, Taraba State.

Sponsored by: Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

Project Outcomes/Results

The students to whom this project was meant were able to cultivate and imbibe the culture of peaceful co-existence regardless of age, tribal differences, religious affiliations and family backgrounds. The project has also commissioned participants as Ambassadors of Peace in their various schools and the Peace Club was inaugurated aimed at promoting peaceful co-existence among students which has helped to curb or reduced to the barest minimum problems associated with students' ethno-religious violence as well as community and religious crises.

Project Sustainability

The project is aimed at promoting peace among students in schools irrespective of tribe, culture and religion. The project is sustained by the Peace Club set up in each school. Each Peace Club hold meetings either weekly or forth nightly and in turn reports to the school management whom we liaise with from time to time.

Vision

- a) To help promote peaceful co – existence among students
- b) To promote interfaith dialogue among students
- c) To encourage conflict resolution skills and techniques among Peace Ambassadors /Peace Clubs in their schools.
- d) To promote understanding and tolerance among students in schools and communities.
- e) To help settle discourse among students in school without necessarily involving much parties.

Needs Assessments of the Community

1. Urgent need for peace promotion and conflict resolution skills for members of the community.
2. Need to create awareness on peaceful co-existence in the community through governmental interventions, religious and community leaders, media, concerned bodies and individuals.



**OPENING ADDRESS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF PEACE AMBASSADOR,
REV. SR. JUSTINA ADEJOH**



PICTURE SHOWING STUDENTS HAVING PEACE DRAMA



PICTURE SHOWING THE COMMISSIONING OF PEACE CLUB

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF RESOURCE PERSONS





GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH
RESOURCE PERSONS



PARTICIPANT ASKING



PARTICIPANTS AND RESOURCE PERSONS IN GROUP