

## **PEACE AND CONFLICT EDUCATION AS PANACEA FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION FROM ONITSHA EDUCATION ZONE, ANAMBARA STATE NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study empirically examined the impact of peace and conflict education as panacea for national integration in Nigeria. Specifically, the study analyze the impact of Peace and conflict Education in the primary school curriculum on teacher's pupils behaviour performance in Onitsha Education Zone, impact of teaching Peace and conflict Education as a means of teaching values and traditions of different cultures Onitsha Education Zone and the impact of the inclusion of peace and conflict education as a means of enhancing reduction in violence, crime and give way for respect of human right in Onitsha Education Zone. The study used a qualitative research method with the target population of primary school teachers with a sample size of 350 teachers randomly selected from the study population, the study also used stratified random sampling technique to randomly select the target population, and structured questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. In addition, the study used descriptive statistics to analyze the data collected from the field. The study found significant impact between peace and conflict education and teachers' pupils' behaviour and performance in the study areas, it also found positive relationships between the teaching of peace and conflict education and the teaching of values and traditions of different cultures in Onitsha Education Zone, the study also found a significant negative association between the inclusion of peace and conflict education and reduction in violence, crime rate and respect for human rights in Onitsha Education Zone. Therefore, the study recommended that Training and retraining of teacher should be intensified to enable the teachers acquire the skills to enable them use the appropriate techniques and methods to effectively teach Peace and Conflict Education in Primary Schools. It also recommends that in an attempt to integrate the contents that are relevant to Peace and Conflict Education, the use of thematic approach in restructuring the Social Studies curriculum content is inevitable. This will go along way to reduce over loading the Social Studies curriculum content.

**Keywords:** Peace and conflict, education, integration, culture of peace and curriculum.