



Understanding Peace and Conflict through the Lens of Intersectionality: An Integrative Review.



Harleen Kaur¹, Sidhyendra Sisodia²

1. Doctoral Student, Department of Psychology, Banaras Hindu University, India.
2. Doctoral Student, Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, India.

10TH PEACE AND CONFLICT
RESOLUTION CONFERENCE
1ST - 3RD OF NOVEMBER 2023
BANGKOK, THAILAND

Background and Context

Intersectionality describes how multiple systems of oppression and characteristics, such as gender, racism, class, age, and sexuality, overlap to shape social systems and individual experiences. This concept offers a profound understanding not only of the various forms of violence individuals may experience but also the diverse interests, needs, agencies, and viewpoints that inform inclusive and lasting peace in conflict-affected societies. However, it should be noted that Peace studies emerged as a unique field during the Cold War, particularly in the context of nuclear threat. Peace and conflict studies have since expanded globally, adapting to geohistorical contexts and addressing both episodic and structural violence. Therefore, our research explored the concept of peace and conflict through the lens of intersectionality wherein we conducted an integrative literature review.

Methodology

We have used the integrative review method for this study. The Integrative Review Phases are as follows:

Design: Selection of relevant literature and theoretical frameworks.

Conduct: Comprehensive review of selected works.

Analysis: Identifying core thematic areas and insights.

Structuring and Writing: Synthesizing findings into a coherent narrative.

Result and Analysis

The databases searched were= 4

The final included studies were= 12

The core thematic areas in our analysis were, social inequality, power, relationality, social context, complexity and social justice.

The comprehensive narrative which we have penned from our analysis:

Social Inequality: Understanding how intersecting forms of inequality contribute to conflict and inhibit peace.

Power: Analyzing the dynamics of power structures and their impact on peace and conflict.

Relationality: Recognizing the importance of relationships, both interpersonal and systemic, in shaping peace and conflict.

Social Context: Examining how the broader social context influences peace-building efforts.

Complexity: Acknowledging the multifaceted nature of peace and conflict, requiring nuanced approaches.

Social Justice: Emphasizing the pursuit of justice as a fundamental aspect of sustainable peace.

Implications

Our review underscores the critical need for an intersectional lens in peace research and peace-building practices. Researchers, academicians, and stakeholders must consider the intersectionality of individuals' experiences and the systems of oppression they face when seeking to understand and address peace and conflict.

Conclusion

Understanding peace and conflict through the lens of intersectionality offers a holistic perspective on the multifaceted nature of these phenomena. By recognizing the interconnectedness of social systems and individual experiences, we can develop more inclusive and effective strategies for achieving lasting peace in conflict-affected societies.

For any query you may contact us at:

rj.harleen11@gmail.com;

sisodiasidhendra@gmail.com