

REVISITING DISPUTE RESOLUTION OPTIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF IKWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EBONYI STATE

OSMOND SUNDAY OBOKE¹
osmondsunnys@yahoo.com

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MARCELINUS OZOEMENAM NJOKU²

Department Of Political Science Ebonyi State College Of Education, IKWO ^{1 & 2}

ABSTRACT

Dispute especially on land related matters and interest on issues of concern to individuals and groups is one of the greatest challenge facing human beings in the society. This study aimed to revisit dispute options available among the people of Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State through the descriptive research design with a population of 551,414 and a sample size of 400. Adopting the qualitative research method with the use of questionnaire and in-depth oral interviews to elicit information from the research respondents, the following findings were made. Firstly, the available options of dispute resolution among the Ikwo people include negotiation, meditation, conciliation, arbitration and oath taking. Secondly, adjudication is not popular dispute resolution among the people of Ikwo. Lastly, the research respondents agree that taking the option of adjudication on dispute resolution will make the people to lose control of empathy when that becomes necessary in resolution process. The study is anchored on Aggression and Frustration theory for analytical understanding. The study finally recommended the peace building process in the area for the new generation.

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Globally, dispute is as old as the society (Nwoba, 2018). Dispute is a problem ravaging various societies, especially on land related matter, interest, power and inheritance (Olaoba, 2002; Ogban, 2005). [Magaji \(2016, p. 1\)](#) noted that “Disputes are generally inevitable and in the fast paced time conscious world”. A community is a large number of people who share the same history, ancestors, culture and interest. The cultural practices of the people is as a result of long age relationship from common identities and shared values of the people in each community (Borsche, 2013). The intermittent and incessant inter-communal, inter-village, and intra-village disputes are heavily associated with the economic and social benefits accruing from the resources or interests in the various communities. Therefore, there is the need to resolve dispute for peace to reign among the people for co-existence.

Ebonyi State is predominantly agrarian and full of peasant farmers. The value of economic resources on the land along the riverine area is the genesis of major disputes in Ikwo local government area. Apart from disputes arising from economic benefits, marriages, property inheritance, struggle for political power and religious inclinations, greed also causes broken relationship among the people of Ikwo in Ebonyi State (Nwoba, 2018). The disputes continue to breed incompatibilities and disunity and widen the ugly gap of socio-economic, political and religious relationships in the area. Therefore, confrontations arise as a result of incompatible of various interests of opposing parties (Mpangala, 2000). The cost of dispute in the area is enormous. It is noticeable that the incessant increase of dispute in the area result to destruction of many innocent lives and property worth millions of naira yearly. It is base on this backdrop that different dispute resolution mechanisms are introduced to restore the broken relationships and build permanent peace in the area under study.

Prior to the introduction of court system by colonial masters in Nigeria, Ikwo resolves dispute through the following structures; family heads, kindred heads, “*Ekwuf*” Heads, Village Heads, Council Of Elders, Chiefs, Chief Priests, “*Ozo*” title holders, “*Ogbuenya*” title holders, Elders Judicial Council, Masquerades by adopting negotiation, and mediation in a play playground etc.

These categories of stakeholders resolve disputes arising from incessant inter-community, inter-village, and intra-village disputes, families and individuals' incompatibilities on land, marriages, property inheritance, leadership and religious and other interests of various kinds between/or among parties. There were very strong dispute resolution methods in Ikwo as families, hamlets, districts, villages and communities had confidence in them (Igwe et al, 2020). The common identity and share value orientations, skills made the peace building process to restore confidence and peace as it is simple, cost effective, accessible, transparent, and mostly prevent re-occurrence, build permanent peace, reunite individuals, broken families and groups relationships.

In the face of westernisation, modernization, neo-colonisation, and globalization the trends of things are changing as transformation and reformation from traditional to modern is order of the day. The western culture becomes the yardstick to measure development and progress in the society. The introduction of court system by the British colonial Masters gave birth to litigations from customary courts to supreme courts in Nigeria. The modernisation introduces the “good” and “bad”. The emergence of urban migration, increase of standard of living turns to disrespect to elders, infiltration of traditional politics, in fact, there is a disconnect between the people of Ikwo core tradition merely because of English styles of justice delivery imported by the colonisers.

This paper is set out to investigate the dispute resolution among Ikwo people. The objective is to identified dispute resolution options among the people of Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, while the researcher tested, the hypothesis, there are dispute resolutions among Ikwo people through descriptive analysis. The paper is divided into five major headings: introduction, literature Review, methodology, data presentation and analysis, and conclusion and recommendations.

Conceptual Review and Theoretical Framework

Explicitly linked to this study are the concepts of dispute and dispute resolution. It therefore required of this study to give the two concepts the explanatory therapy they deserve. To begin, Burton (1990) in attempt to discriminate dispute from conflict often used interchangeably,

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maintains that dispute is a short-term disagreement that can make the parties involved to resort to resolution on issue that are negotiable. It is clear from Burton's observation that dispute is highly resolvable. However, like conflict, dispute is an inevitable part of life that can set in at any time in human relationship among peoples or groups over incompatible interest on issue(s) of concern to parties involved. Dispute exists in various dimension, communal dispute, inter-communal dispute, intra-communal and boundary dispute, etc.

In other hand, dispute resolution is simply the act of resolving existing dispute between individuals or groups. It is a process because it starts at a particular stage and ends in another stage. Dispute resolution entails making concerted efforts that leads to acceptable solution on disputed issue by the parties involved.

Dispute, Hall (1969), Kilmann and Thomas (1975) etc. define, explain and interpreted it in various ways based on orientation of one's discipline. In other words, in the definition of dispute, scholars of various field of endeavour such as economic, social, cultural, political, philosophical and ideological backgrounds varied in their explanation and definition. Hence, in the view of Zartman (1991) dispute is defined as an inevitable aspect of human interaction, unavoidable commitant of choices and decisions which manifests from individual's or groups incompatibility of goals and actions. He further argues that dispute is embedded as part of human society.

But notwithstanding variations in interpretations of dispute, it all suggest strong element of disagreement among individuals or groups. Dispute therefore can exist in various dimensions – communal dispute, inter-communal dispute, intra-communal and boundary disputes, etc. Dispute undoubtedly stems from the basic fact of unavoidable human interaction and interdependency.

In a related view Alapiki (2010) contends the disputes are not uncommon and are a part of growth and development which must be contended with, in the bid to make meaningful progress in life. The author further posits that no human relation is immune from the risk of involvement in dispute. This invariably means that it can arise from diverse parties, amongst individuals, families, institutions/ organizations, different levels of government, communities etc.

Giving credence to the universality of dispute, Agba and Igbaji (2015), argue that dispute is noticeably growing in relationship amongst people and organizations, and has become almost synonymous with the existence of human society the world over. Gleaning from the above, Nlemogu, Egobueze and Nwaoburu (2022, p. 150) insightfully remarked that “this reality is somewhat paradoxical when one considered the enormous amount of energy and resources expended by organizations world-wide to prevent and or resolve conflict.” Alapiki (2010) further identified some causes of dispute among people and organizations to include but not limited to the following: a claim of ownership over a property, a violation of human right by an individual, state or political party, lack of respect to agreement, undue marginalization of a group by another etc.

It is an acknowledged fact that dispute does no good to the parties involved including the society at large particularly when allowed to escalate. Against this backdrop therefore, effort towards dispute resolution is viewed and seen as a matter of need and necessity and not as jaundiced exercise.

Accordingly, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (n.b)

Unresolved conflict and substandard and dispute resolution is socially and finally costly. The direct cost of employment dispute alone has been indicatively estimated at 440 million US dollars per annum. The full costs of all type of disputes to government, parties and society are considerable, and are a significant impediment to economic prosperity.

Maximizing the insight on the overall cost of dispute in the society will no doubt make individuals and organizations to proactively pursue effective realization of dispute resolution without cost considerations.

According to Harvard Law School (n.d), “dispute resolution is the process of resolving a dispute or conflict by meeting at least some of each side’s needs and addressing their interest.” The import of this definition finds expression on the alternative use of the words “dispute” and “conflict” in place of each other. In consonance Burton (1990) observed that “the term dispute resolution is sometimes used interchangeably with conflict resolution.

It is pertinent to note at this juncture that in some cases, the parties in dispute work together to get solution to their problem, and some other times the parties in dispute can enlist the assistance of the third party in seeking solution to their problem. Ultimately dispute resolution can be done in a variety of ways such as collaboration, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, oath-taking, etc.

Theoretical Framework

Frustration and Aggression Theory was adopted as analytical tool of this paper because of its relevance in understanding the cause of dispute in the specific context of our study area.

The proponents of this theory are (Dollard, Dobb, Miller, Mowrer and Sears 1939). Dollard et al (1939, p.1) posit, “that the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration and, contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression.” Being frustrated means that person’s access to reinforce is being thwarted by another party. The blockage of a goal reaction causes hostile and aggressive reactions which breeds disappointment, annoyance, likelihood of hostility and aggressive reaction (Zillman and Cantor, 1976) (a) the strength of the drive that motivates aggression against the original target, (b) the strength of inhibitory response tendencies and (c) the degree of stimulus similarity between original and substituted targets.

Statement of the Problem

The occurrence of dispute among people at any level of life poses great threat to development at both individual and group existence. Dispute among people, over issues that make meaning to life no doubt stifles progress of the people involved and the entire society. In the same vein, Adegban and Adepoju (2017) admit that dispute/crisis pervades Nigeria and inhibits its development. Against this backdrop, there is therefore the need for dispute resolution among individuals and groups in order to achieve relative peace and development in the affected place. The problem of this study is to revisit the analysis of dispute resolution options available to Ikwo people of Ebonyi State that could be exploited to achieve relative peace in the area.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to analyze dispute resolution options available to the people of Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Specifically the study sought to:

1. Find out the different dispute resolution options employed by Ikwo people to achieve relative peace in the area.
2. Identify factors that affect dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area.
3. Find out the dispute resolution option which majority of Ikwo people abhor to.
4. Proffer solution to factors that affect dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area.

Significant of the Study

This study will be of immense benefit to the society as people will appreciate the need for dispute resolution in boosting peace and development. In furtherance, this study on completion will also be useful to researchers in the area of conflict and peace studies. Finally, the government at all levels will also benefit from the study because they will understand the uncompromised need to give dispute resolution the deserved attention it requires in the society.

Scope and Limitation of the Study

Although the need for dispute resolution in the whole society is obvious, this study specifically will be carried out in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. Different societies may have different dispute resolution option that yield to the demands of peace and development of their location but our area of study is Ikwo Local Government Area.

Research Questions

The research questions that guided this study are as follows:

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1. Is negotiation a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area?
2. Do people use mediation to resolve dispute in Ikwo Local government Area?
3. Is conciliation one of the processes of the dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area?
4. Do people of Ikwo Local Government Area use adjudication in resolving dispute?
5. Is oath-taking method employed in dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area?

Hypothesis

There are dispute resolutions available in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

METHOD

The research method included research design, areas of the study, population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, instrument of data collection, validation of the instrument, reliability of instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

Research Design:

Longitudinal design was adopted for this study. The study is designed to identify and analyze the dispute resolution options available to Ikwo people in dispute situation.

Area of Study:

The area of study is Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. The study will be carried out in Ikwo in the following communities; Echialike, Noyo, Enyibichiri Alike, Ndiagu Echara, Ndufu-Echara, Ndufu-Alike, Umuaka Ekpelu, Akpanwudele Igbudu, Inyimagu, Ekanwoke, Ndufu-Amagu, Ndiagu-Amagu, Ettam Okpiutmuma and Amainyima Okpiutumo. Ikwo is agrarian in nature, with population of 154, 396 as at 1991 (NPC, 1991).

Population of the Study:

The population of the study will be based on the projected population of 5551,414 from a population of 154,396 as at 1991 on projection of 2.8% of 1991, census shown below:

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Table 1: National Population Commission Locality Summary Listing in Ikwo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State of Nigeria

	FIVE PRINCIPAL COMMUNITY IN IKWO	1991 POPULATION CENSUS	MALE	FEMALE	2022 PROJECTED POPULATION
1	Echialike	5,530	2,628	2,902	
2	Noyo	6,972	3,663	3,309	
3	Enyibuchiri Alike	12,900	6,073	6,827	
4	Ndiagu Echara	17,406	8,204	9,202	
5	Ndufu-Echara	9,234	4,450	4,784	
6	Ndufu Alike	8,121	3,821	4,300	
7	Umuaka Ekpelu	6,714	3,081	3,633	
8	Akpanwudele	5,754	2,726	3,028	
9	Inyimagu	13,353	6,157	7,196	
10	Ekawoke	5,691	2,558	3,133	
11	Igbudu	13,420	6,240	7,180	
12	Ndufu Amagu	14,469	6,662	7,807	
13	Ndiagu Amagu	18,930	8,617	10,313	
14	Ettam Okpiutumo	9,107	3,961	5,146	
15	Amainyima Okpiutumo	6,795	3,031	3,764	
	Total	154,396	71,518	82,878	551,414

Source: National Population Commission (1991) Federal Republic of Nigeria Gazzet No. 2
Abuja, February 2009.

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Sample and Sampling Techniques:

Sample techniques to be adopted in this study are probability sampling techniques which are explanatory in nature. The sample size of the population of Ikwo, through random and stratified sampling techniques will represent the entire projected populations.

The distribution will be based on 2023 population projection of 2.8% of 1991 census. The researcher will adopt Yamane (1967:886) “provided a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes”. The estimated population of Ikwo of 551,414 will be used from 2.8% of 154,396 population census of 1991 population (NPC, 1991). Mathematically, Yamane formula is represented thus:

$$\frac{n}{N} = \frac{1}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

(equation 2)

Where:

n = Sample size

N = Population of study

I = Constant

e = Margin of error = $(0.05)^2$ or (0.0025) .

The sample size was determined thus:

$$\frac{n}{N} = \frac{1}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$551,414 (0.05)^2$$

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$$\frac{\quad}{\quad} N = 551,414$$

$$1 + 551,414 \times 0.0025$$

$$\frac{\quad}{\quad} n = 551,414$$

$$1 + 1.378535$$

$$\frac{\quad}{\quad} n = 551,414$$

$$1.378536$$

$$n = 551,414$$

$$n = \cong 400.$$

Instrument for Data Collection:

This being a survey study will use questionnaire to elicit information needed for data presentation and analysis. As well the used of documents- journals, books, magazines, periodic will be exploited.

Validation of the Instrument:

The content validity of the instrument will be ascertained with a test and measurement at which all items of the questionnaire will be matched with the research questions to find out whether or not the instrument actually measured what it supposed to measure.

Reliability of the Instrument:

Reliability of the instrument will be determined using the test-retest techniques. The instrument on the first test will be administered to 20 adult in each of the five principal autonomous <https://ebscoejer.org/>

communities in Ikwo local Government Area. After a period of one month the instrument will be re-administered to the same respondents to ascertain of according to Obasi (1999, p.127), "... to establish whether there is consistency."

Method of Data Collection:

The method of data collection to be used in this study will include; use of questionnaire and contents analysis (study of documents) relating to dispute resolution methods./ the researchers will to this end engage the services of five research assistants skilled in this purpose for direct method of questionnaire administration, one (1) for each of the five principal communities. With this arrangement, it will be easy to collate information from respondents on opinion about the research questions.

Method of Data Presentation and Analysis:

The data presentation and analysis of this study are hinged on the use of statistical techniques of simple percentage and bar graph. The descriptive techniques will also help to summarize and describe the data from presentation in understandable manner.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This section presents the result of data collected from respondents during the field survey, which were processed and analyzed using the appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical tools. The demographic characteristics which include the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were used to analyze the study. These include the respondents' sex, age, occupation and educational qualification presented as follows: The total of 10 out of 400 questionnaires, of

10.0% was not returned, 90% of the total was returned. The researcher also presented the result in histogram.

Table 1: Sex Distribution of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency (F)	Percentages (%)
Male	381	97.7%
Female	9	2.3 %
Total	390	100%

The sex distribution representation of the respondents in table 1 indicates that 381 of 97% respondents were males while 9 of 4% sample respondents were females. The result shows that there are relatively more males than females in the area of study.

Table 2: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency(F)	Percentages (%)
0-30	12	3.1%
31-40	82	21%
41-50	103	26.4%
Above 50	193	49.5%
Total	390	100

The result in above table 2 indicates that the respondents used in the study were within the age range of the following; between 0-30 of 12 representing 3.1%, 31-40 of 82 accounting for 21%, 41-50 of 103 also representing 26.4% and above 50 representing 193 accounts for 49.5%. The result shows that majority of the respondents were above 41 years of age.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Martial Status

Martial Status	Frequency (F)	Percentages (%)
Single	140	36%
Married	230	59 %
Widowed	20	5.%
Total	390	100%

The data in table 3 shows the distribution of the respondents on the marital status of the respondents. The result indicates that 140 of 36% respondents of the sampled population were single. The 230 of 59% of the respondents were married and 20 of 5% of the respondents were widowed.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

Occupation	Frequency (F)	Percentages (%)
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Farmer	300	76%
Trader	60	15%
Civil Servant	30	8%
Total	390	100%

The occupational distribution of the respondents as shown in the table 4 indicates that 300 accounting for 76% of the sampled population were engaged in the farmer activities in the area. The respondents numbering 60 representing 15% were trader in the area. The sample population for civil servant was 30 representing 8%. The majority of the sample population engages in farming activities, followed by traders and civil servants.

Table 5. Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Frequency (F)	Percentages %
No Formal Education	300	76%
FSLC	40	13%
WASCE/NECO	25	7%
ND,OND, HND/Bsc,Msc, PhD	25	4%
Total	390	100

The result of table 5 shows clearly the educational qualification distribution of the respondents in area of study. The respondents numbering 300 representing 76% have no formal education. The respondents that acquired first school leaving certificates (FSLC) were 40 accounting for 13%. The 25 representing 7% and 25 accounting for 4% have WASCE/NECO and ND, OND, HND/B.Sc, M,Sc, PhD respectively.

Thematic Analysis

This section deals with the analysis and presentation of the sampled respondents' views on the major theme of the subject under study. The data were generated with data reduction in line with the research question and objective of the study and results presented in histogram figures 1 – 5 as shown below.

Research Hypothesis: There are dispute resolutions in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

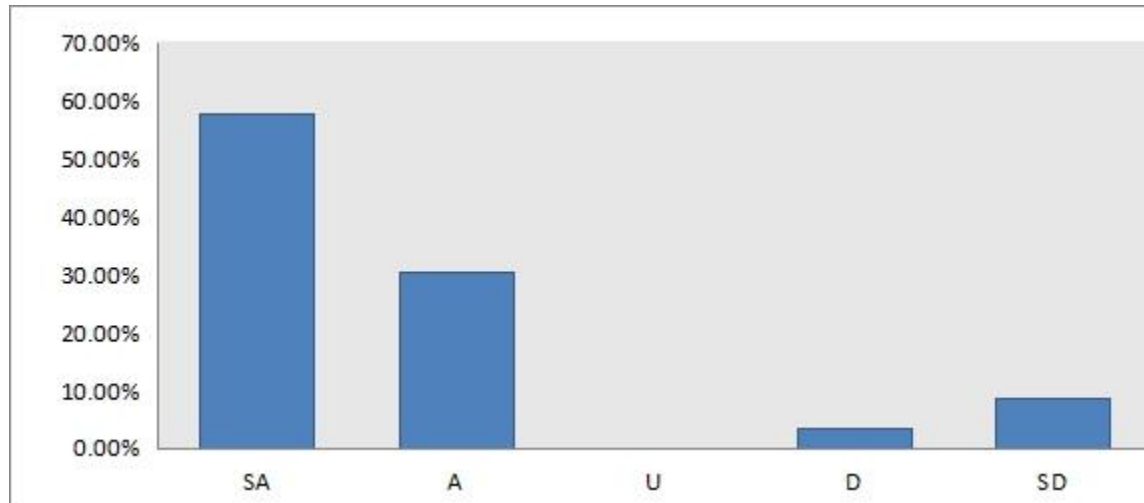


Figure 1: Respondents response on research question 1, whether negotiation is a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

Results

Figure 1, shows the analysis of the sampled respondents on the questionnaire item one that 58% of the 390 sampled of 89% respondents strongly agreed, 31% agreed. The percentage of respondents accepting the item 1 is 89%. The respondents of 13% out of which 4% disagreed and 9% strongly disagreed, rejected the item 1. The scales of 5, 4,3,2,1 follow respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents of 89%, with scale of over 4 more than 13% below 4 scale as decision rule accepted that negotiation a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

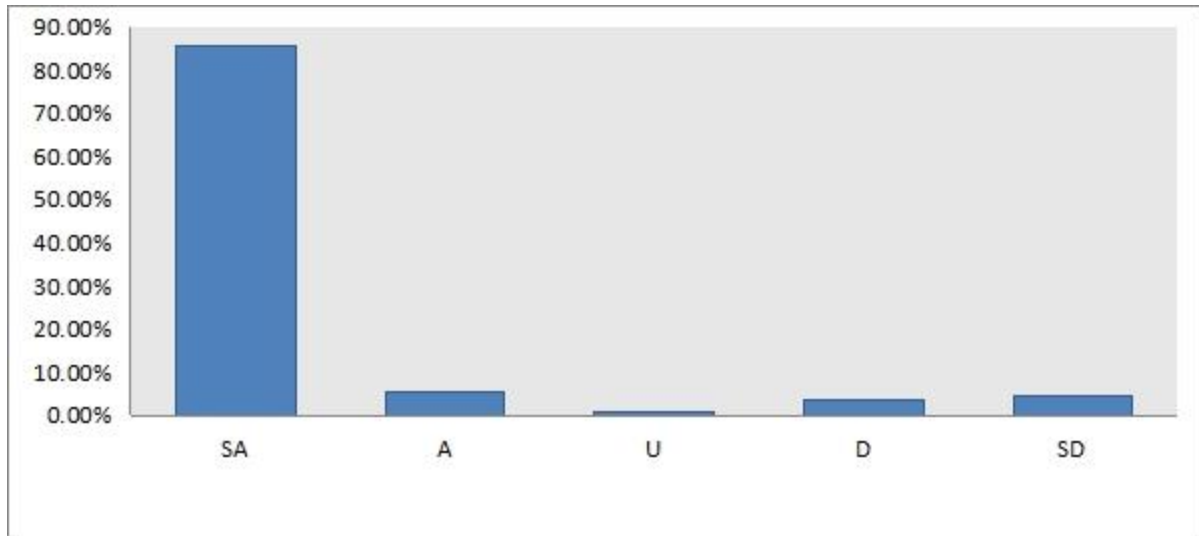


Figure 2: Respondents response on research question 2, whether Ikwo people use mediation and arbitration to resolve dispute in Ikwo Government Area.

However, result in figure 2 indicates that 86%, of the 390 of sampled respondents strongly agreed, 6% agreed. The percentage of respondents accepting the item 2 is 92% and undecided 0.3%. The respondents of 9% out of which 3% disagreed and 4.2% strongly disagreed, rejected the item 2. The scales of 5, 4,3,2,1 follow respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents of 92%, more than 4 scales less than 8.5% and 0.3% accepted. This shows that the sampled respondents accepted that Ikwo people use mediation and arbitration to resolve dispute in Ikwo Government Area.

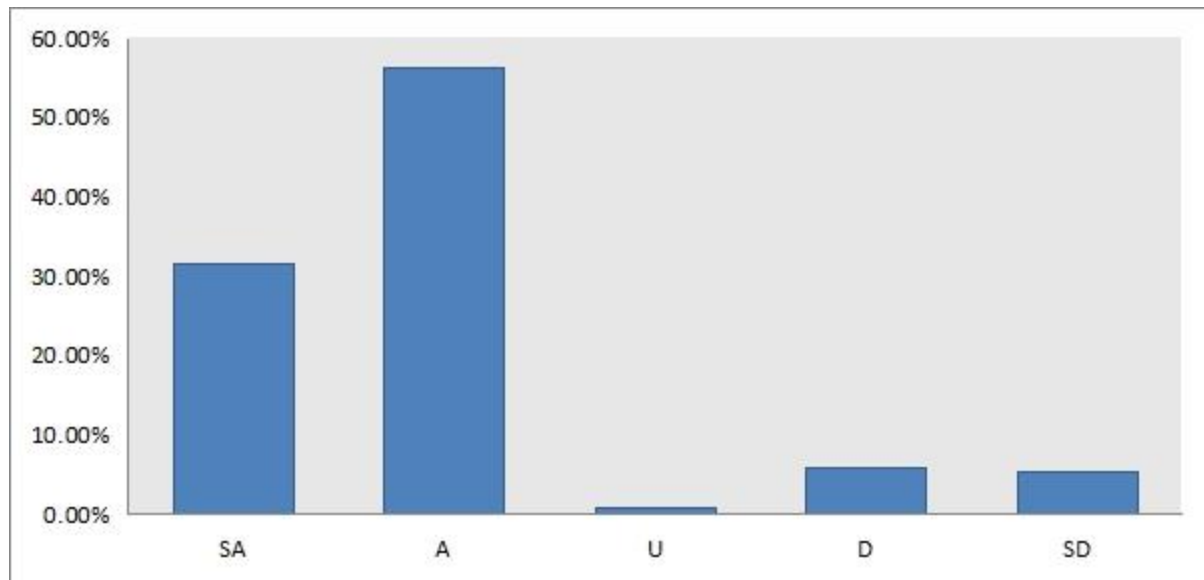


Figure 3: Respondents responses on research question 3, whether conciliation is one of the processes of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

The result in figure 3 shows that 32%, of the sampled respondents strongly agreed, 57% agreed. The percentage of respondents accepting the item 3 is 89% and undecided 0.9%. The respondents of 12% out of which 6% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed, rejected the item 3. The scales of 5, 4,3,2,1 follow respectively. This implies that majority of the respondents of 87.6% more than 11.3% and 0.9% accepted that conciliation is one of process of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

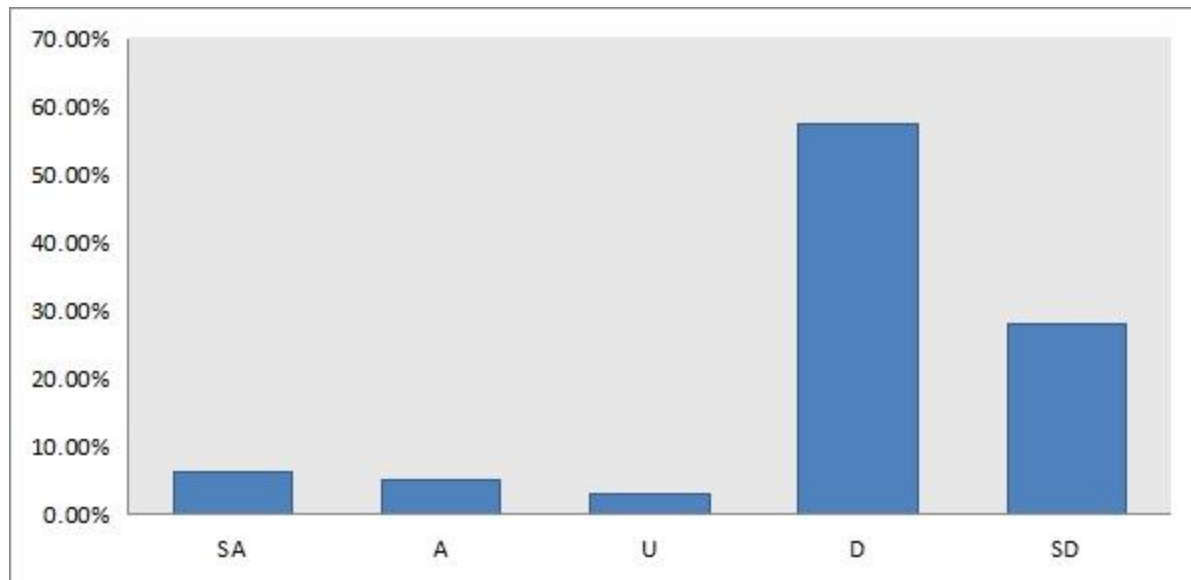


Figure 4: Responses on research question 4, whether the people of Ikwo use adjudication in resolving dispute.

The result in figure 4 shows that, 32%, of the sampled respondents strongly agreed, 6% agreed. The percentage of respondents accepting is 38% and undecided 3.1%. The respondents of 86% out of which 58% disagreed and 38% strongly disagreed, rejected the item 4. This implies that majority of the respondents of 86%, more than 38% rejected the item 4. The scales of 5, 4,3,2,1 follow respectively. The result indicates that people of Ikwo do not use arbitration in resolving dispute.

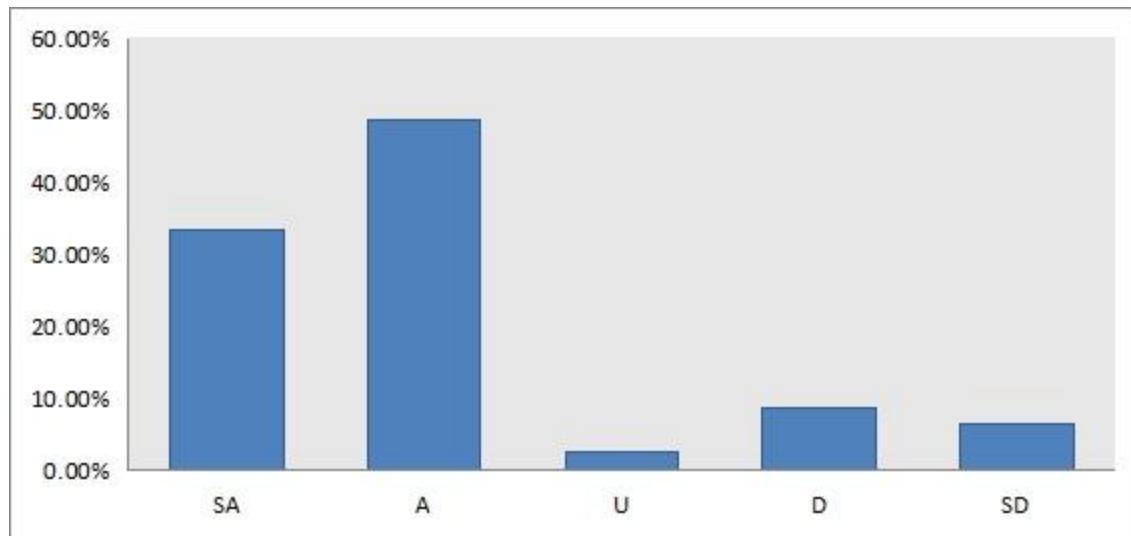


Figure 5: The response of respondents on research question 5, whether oath-taking is a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

Figure 5 shows 34%, of the sampled respondents strongly agreed, 49% agreed. The total percentage of respondents accepting the item 4 is 83% and undecided 2.6%. The respondents of 16% out of which 9% disagreed and 7% strongly disagreed, rejected the item 5. This indicates that majority of the respondents of 83%, more than 16% accepted that oath taking is a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

Summary of Major Findings

Based on the strength of data collected for this study, the researchers discovered that Ikwo people use various mechanisms to resolve dispute among affected individuals or groups in their area. Essentially, the accepted dispute resolution options available to Ikwo include negotiation, meditation, conciliation and oath taking.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

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This section discussed the results, drew its conclusion and offered recommendation.

Discussion of Findings

Research question 1 aimed to find out whether negotiation is used to resolve dispute in Ikwo. From figure 1 the researchers discovered that majority of the respondents of 89%, with scale of over 4 more than 13% below 4 scale as decision rule accepted that negotiation is a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area.

Research question 2 sought also to know whether Ikwo people use mediation and arbitration to resolve dispute in their area. It was observed that majority of the respondents of 92%, more than 4 scales less than 8.5% and 0.3% accepted. This shows that the sampled respondents accepted that Ikwo people use mediation to resolve dispute in Ikwo Government Area. This result to a great extent proves that meditation and arbitration are popular options for dispute resolution among Ikwo people. Figure 2 result clearly lay credence to this proof.

Research question 3 also sought to know whether conciliation is one of the processes of dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area. The result implies that majority of the respondents of 87.6%, more than 11.3% and 0.9% accepted that conciliation is one of the processes of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area. This is evidenced in figure 3.

Research question 4 was to give out whether the people of Ikwo use adjudication in resolving dispute. Unarguably, figure 4 result indicates that people of Ikwo do not use arbitration in resolving dispute. As majority of the respondents of 86%, more than 38% rejected the item 4. The researchers oral interview reveals that the “we” feeling spirit among the people limits them from taking their matters to where they will lose control of empathy when need arise.

The last research question sought to know whether oath taking is a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area. The result of the study indicates that majority of the respondents of 83%, more than 16% accepted that oath taking is a method of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area. This shows that tradition mechanisms are very relevance in Igbo community in dispute resolution (Nwolise, 2005, Nworah, **2007**).

Conclusion

Communities in Ikwo local government area like other Igbo communities resolve disputes in their various villages and communities in different forms both inter-communal, inter- intra-village and individual disputes. From the response of the respondents, the study discovered that before the colonial rule, Ikwo people predominantly farmers with good arable land resolve disputes mostly through negotiation and mediation.

The study through collection of data through descriptive (questionnaire) and inferential statistics by use of table, percentage, histogram unveiled different ways Ikwo people resolve their dispute in the contemporary society. These ways of dispute resolutions in Ikwo include; negotiation, mediation, conciliation and oath taking, etc by their family heads, kindred heads, “*Ekwuf*” Heads, Village Heads, Council of Elders, Chiefs, Chief Priests, “*Ozo*” title holders, “*Ogbuenya*” title holders, elders Judicial Council etc on land, marriages, property inheritance, leadership tussle, religious, greed etc. The study also discovered from the respondents that the people prefer traditional mechanisms to litigation/adjudication in resolving disputes in the area.

Recommendations

After the analysis, the study discovered that negotiation, mediation, conciliation, oath-taking, etc are methods of dispute resolution in Ikwo Government Area. The study recommends the documentation of the peace building process in the area for the new generation.

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