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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PROPOSING A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK TO INVESTIGATE CONFLICT: PERSPECTIVE OF A SCUFFLE.

Dr. Mark Kobina Sobotie, Senior Specialist and Queku, Isaac Clifford, PhD(Cand.)

1. Ankaful Psychiatric Hospital Cape Coast, Central Region-Ghana.
2. NYQ Knowledge Solution Cape Coast, Central Region-Ghana.

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Abstract

This paper proposes a theoretical framework for investigating conflict from the perspective of violence (scuffle). This framework is conceived to address the deficiencies and challenges in applying the existing theories in investigating violence. The paper employed in-depth content analysis, thematic approach and critical analysis to develop the proposed model for assessing or investigating violence (scuffle). The proposed theoretical framework and models are presented to justify that violence (scuffle) could be analysed taking into account wide range of multi-facets concepts. The framework and models in this paper were developed through an extensive literature review, comprising general conflict-based theories and violence frameworks, critiquing to identify strengths and incorporating practical realities. The proposed framework or models in this paper revealed that violence could be investigated from two main interactive variables: environmental variables to violence and Parties' propensities to violence. The environmental factors are declassified into contextual or situational factors and external influences which are assessed to be either augmenting or nullifying factors. It is also revealed in the framework or the models that the propensities could be scored based on either inner inducement or inner inhibition to violence. Employing this proposed theoretical framework, investigators, peace experts and conflict managers could identify sources and causes of violence and useful approaches for carrying on investigations into violence. It is recommended that investigators and researchers rely on the proposed models to develop quantitative instrument to assess the likelihood of violence.

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Introduction:-

Conflict is almost always unavoidable. So long as 'No man is an island entire of itself' as stated by John Donne, the 16th century poet, there would be a conflict of some sort. Conflict exists between and within societies, countries, communities, industries, firms, unions or associations, workers and individuals. Conflict has different dimensions as argued by Barnes (2006); there is conflict of war, there is also conflict in the daily lives of people and in relationships. Conflicts have negative connotation, but some conflicts are desirable as they can create desired change. Although conflict sometimes generates progress and improvement in living, experts and the world at large

Corresponding Author:- Mark Kobina Sobotie.

Address:- Ankaful Psychiatric Hospital Cape Coast, Central Region-Ghana.

have strived to develop approaches ranging from conflict management to conflict resolution due to the dangers and ill-effects that usually associate with its escalation.

Generally, there is no known universal definition of conflict. The term is often defined within a context. Some define conflict as an escalated competition at any system level between groups whose aim is to gain advantages in the area of power, resources, interests, values or needs, whereby at least one of these groups believes that the dimension of its relationship is based on certain mutually incompatible goals (Zartman & Ramussen, 2001). Some experts have placed the definition into two perspectives; narrow definition which focuses on outburst of violence and the broad definition which encompasses violence and other non-violence conflict (Douma, Van de Goor & Walraven, 2004).

Drawing from the definitions, violence escalation is one of the high alerts within the framework of conflict. Violence of any form through religious extremism, ethnicity, intra and interstate warfare etc have long been component of the international discourse (Issifu, 2016, p.141). According to Issifu (2016), it is believed that one-third of the countries worldwide have experienced violence of some sort arising from segregation, marginalisation, political activities in quest of power, ethnicity and others. Although violence appears to be ubiquitous in the world over, it is more prevalent in the African continent and Middle East as most of the countries in other part such as Western world easily resolve these challenges entirely or reduce them drastically (department for international development (DFID), 2001).

It is therefore critical to leave no stone unturned to reduce the occurrence of violence drastically or better still achieve violence free-state. Like any other challenge, violence can be effectively addressed when it is handled at the foundational levels. One of the key foundational elements of violence is scuffle. According to the Oxford Dictionary, scuffle can be defined as a shot, confused fight or struggle at close quarters. Scuffle if not properly handled can degenerate and the scale escalated into a full blown violence. Developing an approach or model to manage at least one of the roots of violence-scuffle is a step in the right direction. The foundation to this model is a theoretical framework. Although there are different theoretical frameworks for conflict prevention, resolution and management they are often too general to tackle each dimensions of conflict.

For instance, the structural conflict theory focuses broadly on society and posits that conflict arises in the society as a result of incompatible interests and competition for scarce resources (Collier, 2000). Earlier contributors specifically look at social problems such as political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation, and inequity as sources of conflict (Nnoli, 1998). Additionally, the psycho-cultural theory analyses conflict from cultural perspective. The theory contends that people's ethnic origin and the culture that is learned on the bases of that ethnic origin is one of the most important ways to explaining violent-conflict (Shedrach, 2006). The details of these theories would be discussed later in this paper. Owing to deficiencies in the existing theories and models on conflict, the present paper seeks to contribute to the general body of knowledge and research in conflict management through proposing a theoretical framework for investigating conflict from the perspective of a scuffle. This present development in the theoretical frameworks for investigating conflict is a shift from general-purpose framework to specific-based framework that assesses conflict by analysing scuffle as a typical basic unit of violence. The paper essentially analyses the basic unit of violence (scuffle) and from its outworkings, apply to conflict prevention, resolution and management.

Understanding Theoretical Dimensions of Violence:-

Violence like any form of conflict has become an occurrence or phenomenon which has come to stay with human society due to human fallibility or imperfection. Universally, violence cannot be eliminated completely. It is even common to see children struggle among themselves and in some cases hurting one another. However, unlike general conflict (non-violence) which can be mild and may progressively improve societal living condition (Kendie, 2010; Marshall, 2006), one can infer that there is no benefit associated with violence when it is critically evaluated.

The threats of violence is neither constrained by international borders nor limited to a single ideology. According to the Loss Angeles Framework, groups and individuals are inspired by a range of religious, political and ideological beliefs to promote and engage in violence (Loss Angeles CVE,2015). Borrowing from Conerly (2004), violence can trigger at any time and in any place, originating between two individuals or groups when there is a disagreement or difference in values, attitudes, needs or expectations. The Oxford Dictionary defines scuffle as a shot, confused fight or struggle at close quarters. Like all other forms of violence, scuffle causes physical, emotional and

psychological pains on the victims. The dangers of violence require that a comprehensive theoretical framework for violence assessment is employed for effective management. However, most of the existing theories are more general and few specific ones do not have clear assumptions and variable definitions. Some of the existing theories include structural conflict theory, psycho-cultural theory, ecological model and LOS Angless framework countering violent extremism.

The structural conflict theory states that conflict in society arises from incompatible interest and competition for scarce resources. The theory has two orientations-radical structural and the liberal structural (Collier, 2000). The structural conflict theory assumes that resource is the core cause of conflict (Kriesberg, 1998). The implication is that competition for resource is the core cause of violence and scuffle. According to structuralists, social problems such as political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation and inequity which are sources of conflict emanate from inherent competition to gain control over resources (Nnoli, 1998). The control and use of natural resources is the heart of conflict over the world. Radicalists maintain that conflict occurs because of the exploitation and the unjust nature of human societies and domination of resources (Mack-Adams, 2006). The radicalists argue that capitalism is associated with violence due to the exploitative system in relation to production and division of society into proletariats and bourgeoisies which create conflict.

Although the structural conflict theory provides the basis for analysing conflict including violence, lack of resources is not always the main cause of violence. The often cited empirical cases of applicability of structural theory are in Africa. Researchers have justified the assumption of the structural conflict theory by the frequent revolution that saw overthrow of imperial rule and governments (Galtung, 2007). It is undeniable that resource inequality and deprivation contributed to these violence, still other factors as this paper would unearth are also key contributors to violence. For instance even in the western world where one can easily find billionaires and dominance of capitalism, they are not more violence prone than other part of the world such as Africa as suggested by the structuralists. The violence often reported in the western world such as ISIL attacks are ideological. This is a highlight of other factors aside resource as being key contributors to violence.

Psycho-cultural theory is another theory of conflict which has been used to explain violence. The theory posits that conflict or violence is generated from enmity created from deep-seated attitudes about human actions that are learned from early stage of growth. The theory assumes that identities based on the people's ethnic origin and the culture that is learned on the basis of that ethnic origin is the one of the most important ways to explaining violence or conflict (Shedrach, 2006). The theory though stresses ethnic and cultural identity as key, it does not frown over the consideration of basic material as a cause of violence. The theory therefore explains violence from two facets –discriminated against basic satisfaction (materials) and psychology (non-materials) needs on basis of their identity. Identity is considered by the proponents of this theory as an unshakable sense of self-worth, self-value or self-belonging which one can protect with one's life.

Critically, this theory is a sharp extension of the structuralists' view. Psycho-cultural theorists also believe the role of materialism in violence, however, they do not consider it as the anchor for violence but in favour for identity. Practice and historical events provide strong evidences to support self –identity assumption of the psycho-cultural theory. For instance, history tells about the violence between the Muslims and Christians following the adoption of the sharia criminal code in Zamfara State and establishment of the Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria (SCSN). During those periods, the Christian groups in the southern and central Nigeria reacted sharply to what they considered a threat to the very existence of their religion. According to Sackey (2010), this led to burning down of 72 villages from 2002 and 2003. The author also revealed that about 3,000 people were killed in Kano due to the violence emanating from self –identity. History has also attributed threat to identity as the case of violence against killing of Muslim in the Plateau State (Odamentey, 2007). In Ghana, the violence in the case of Kokombas and Nanombas in the Northern sector also serves practical reality of the theory.

Despite these empirical realities and sound practicalities from the assumptions of psycho-cultural theory, violence cannot always be attributed to self- identity and materiality. In addition, there are some individuals and groups who would not engage in violence despite the threat to their self-identity. These people would not sacrifice their lives for ideology. The theory, thus, ignores context and individual personalities. The context of events may either escalate or inhibit the likelihood within which violence from self –identity or materiality may occur. These are absent in this theoretical framework. This means that the dimensions within the psycho-cultural theory need to be revisited. This paper capitalizes on the strength of this theory while expanding the scope to propose its theoretical framework.

Another theory which is often cited and used in conflict (violence) management is the ecological model. The model assumes that violence occurs in a context not in a sociocultural vacuum (Stanko, 2006). The theory posits that people's experience and behaviours are understood in context where intersecting levels of an ecological system are considered to affect them (Bronfenbrenner, 1986). The ecological model views violence as multi-facets phenomenon that resides in a complex interplay between personal and social cultural factors (Heise, 1998). The ecological model contends that the qualities of the individual interaction with situation and cultural factors determine the probability of violence to occur at a specific time. Therefore, from this theoretical framework, assessment of violence requires the investigators or assessors to identify and understand multi-facets specificities within which violence occurs such as the specific stressors and cultural context (McHugh et al, 2005).

As illustrated in the theoretical framework in Figure 1, the theory places the violence factors into four levels. The framework provides insight into how complex violence phenomenon is. The theory reveals comprehensive and multi-based analysis of violence mechanisms. Simply put, the model classifies the personal and the socio-cultural factors which are assumed to be driving force of violence into four layers. However, the value of the model lies not primarily in identifying at what levels a specific risk or protective factors lies (Simmons, 2015,p.26). Rather Simmons (2015) explained that the model's value lies in illustrating how factors on the same and different levels interact and that a specific risk or protective factor can operate in multiple layers of the model. The model though comprehensive, it fails to show the risk or the likelihood of violence. Integration of specific risks to violence and/or protective factors would extend this theoretical framework to define the context of prevention.

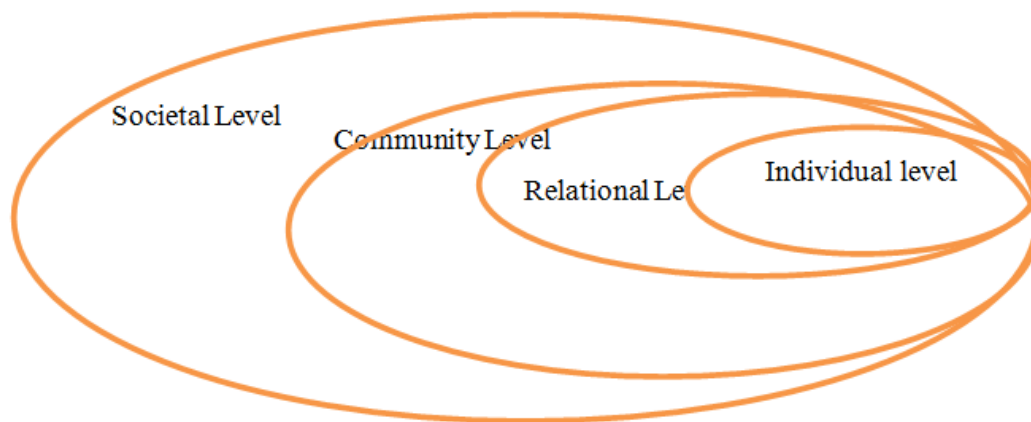


Figure 1:- Ecological Framework
Source: Bronfenbrenner, 1986; Heise, 1998

The last framework to review is the Los Angeles CVE Framework. The framework is designed to address a broad spectrum of extremist ideology that promotes violence and criminal activity (Los Angeless, 2015, p.2). A core premise upon which the Los Angeles CVE Framework was built is that healthy and resilient communities are the foundation for a strong defense against all forms of violence. The framework assumes that violence is caused by ideology and can be countered through community based engagement. The framework is a preventive and defensive framework rather than investigative or cause based. It is also limited to extremism. These make the framework narrow in scope and application limited.

Proposed Framework:-

Following the theoretical review, it is evident that the common determinants of violence are material/resource, ethnic, cultural, social, ideological, contextual and personal. These are the foundational assumptions to this framework. A scuffle is operationalised to mean a physical engagement (fight) between individuals, or parties usually small in number emanating from unresolved conflict or spontaneous from existing environmental factors and parties' propensity. It is important to note that although, the paper uses scuffle, the framework is applicable to bigger

dimensions of violence. The use of scuffle rather than violence is based on a parsimony approach to explaining complex phenomenon.

This scuffle or violence framework assumes that violence depends on two main factors, namely, the environment, the parties involved and their interactions. Like the ecological model, this theoretical framework recognises that violence can take different form: individual level, relational level, community level and societal level (Heise, 1998). The violence (scuffle) between and within each level originates from environmental factors, parties propensities and their interplay.

Environmental Factors to Scuffle or Violence:-

These are those prevailing factors on or before a scuffle or violence. These factors actively or intrinsically support or disarm violence (scuffle). These environmental factors can be grouped into two. Namely: contextual/situational factors and external influencers.

Contextual/Situational Factors:-

Violence or scuffle does not occur in a vacuum as argued by the ecological model (Stanko, 2006). It is assumed that infection of violence or intensity to breed violence is determined partly by the contextual factors of the environment. The mechanisms for individual or group to observe and engage in violence are mediated by contextual factors (National Academy of Science, NAS, 2013). The contextual or situational factors can also be termed **near-environmental influences**. From the NAS (2013) contagion to violence, context defines whether or not there is proximity of exposure or prone to scuffle or violence, violence or scuffle as normal response within the context, whether or not the environment in context has resource to support or counter violence and opportunity to respond without violence. Thus, contextual or situational factors encompass place, time (season) and the atmosphere within which scuffle or violence takes place. The contextual or situational factors are common to both parties to the conflict.

External Influencers (Distant Environmental Influence)

These are animate and inanimate factors which can promote or hinder violence or scuffle. These factors are too powerful that they can resurrect resolved violence. The actors include political, affiliates of the parties, opinion leader, mentors, peers and family. These forces can promote or hinder violence. They can also be termed **distant environmental influences**. Unlike the contextual or situational influences which are assumed to be common to both parties, external influences are not. It is possible for one party to have more external actors or influencers supporting the conflict or pushing for reconciliation than the other party.

Mechanism of Environmental Factors Infecting Violence or Scuffle:-

These environmental factors can either be augmenting or nullifying factors. The augmenting or nullifying factors affect the susceptibility of individual or group to violence on the bases of their prevailing net environmental influence. In any given time, there is at least some degree (intensity) of both augmenting and nullifying factors. However, the intensity of the augmenting factors or nullifying factors determines the risk of violence occurring. Violence is more likely when the net environmental influence to scuffle or infect violence is high. On the other hand, the risk of violence is low when the net environmental influence is low. The net environmental influence is measured as the sum of the net environmental intensity of party 1 and party 2. The net environmental intensity of each party to scuffle is also measured by the ratio of the party's augmenting factors to nullifying factors. The net environmental intensity can be deduced as follows:

$$NEI_{PY1_t} = \left(\frac{Af_t}{Nf_t} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Or} \quad NEI_{PY1_t} = Af_t - Nf_t \quad (2)$$

$$NEI_{PY2_t} = \left(\frac{Af_t}{Nf_t} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$\text{Or} \quad NEI_{PY2_t} = Af_t - Nf_t \quad (4)$$

Where:

NEI_PY1 and NEI_PY2 represent the net environmental intensity for party 1 and party 2 at time, t
 AF denotes the Augmenting environmental factors at time, t
 NF is the Nullifying environmental factors at time, t

The model (1) and (2) or (3) and (4) are applied to each party to the violence or scuffle so as to estimate the party's net environmental intensity. It is important to state that in the absence of external influences, the sum of the net environmental intensities would approximate the net environmental influence. The net environmental influence (NEY) is subsequently estimated from NEI of party 1 and NEI of party 2. This is expressed as:

$$NEY_t = NEI_PY1_t + NEI_PY2_t \quad (5)$$

From the NEI_PY1 and NEI_PY2 models, it is evident that the Af are contributors to violence/scuffle while the Nf factors are constraints to violence. Therefore, for the desired results of low risk of violence to prevail, stakeholders are supposed to identify the augmenting factors and convert them to building nullifying factors. These factors as discussed earlier are constituents of contextual or situational factors and external influencers. Besides the environment, the framework presented in Figure 2 also indicates parties' propensity.

Parties Propensity to Scuffle or Violence:-

Parties' propensities are the individuals' or parties inherent intensity, inclination or disposition to scuffle or violence. The framework groups the determinants of this propensity into psychological/emotional factors, health risk, need-based factors and non-negotiable factors.

Psychological/Emotional Factors:-

These are the parties' degree of subjection or exposure presently or in the past experience (or history) that results in trauma, fear, threats, anxiety, depression, stress, or any psychological or emotional disorder. Other indicators of this type of determinant include history of victimisation, history of early aggressive behaviour, drug abuse including alcohol or tobacco, attention deficits, learning disorder, exposure to family violence, exposure to authoritarian attitude, harsh, lax or inconsistent disciplinary practice, poor parental care and functioning (CDC, 2016). These psychological factors may affect one's self-control, IQ to evaluate situation properly, aggressive behaviour and create deficits in cognitive and ability to process information or message correctly.

Health Risk (Mental States):-

Health risk of parties also determine the propensity to scuffle or violent. This looks at the mental history (history of violence and disorganised behaviour etc) of the individuals or parties involved.

Non-negotiable Factors

These are those factors which parties to a conflict (violence) cannot ordinarily give away or compromise and they are willing to put their last breath to protect or defend. These include self-identity, ideology, recognition, security, autonomy and bonding. These factors are influenced by individual's or group's geographical origin, socio-cultural, traditions, customs and values, ethnicity, social commitment, profession, religion, language, gender and class. These non-negotiable factors are active driving force of one's propensity to violence. These factors contribute to the strength and warmth of an individual's or group relations with other individuals, parties and groups including neighbours, members of community and society (Amartya, 2006). The strength of these factors can be seen from the current violence from Aqaeda, ISIL and Boko Haram. All these violence are strongly influenced by high propensity emanating from non-negotiable such as ideology and identity. The propensity of these groups (Aqaeda, ISIL and Boko Haram) is heightened by the non-negotiables to the extent that they put their lives on the line (Suicide bombing).

Need-based Factors:-

These encompass physical, social and spiritual needs of the parties. As argued in the structuralists view and the psycho-cultural theory, material or resource could determine one's quest for violence (Kriesberg, 1998; Shedrach, 2006). According to Ottawa (2017), human needs are universally expressed and therefore are not transmitted by culture or implanted by taught. Since these are universally known even by children, they become catalyst to violence when they are deprived. These factors are irrepresive and demand satisfaction no matter what (Ottawa, 2017, p.7).

Mechanism of Parties Propensity to Violence or Scuffle:-

Similar to the environmental factors, parties' propensity can either be inner inducement or inner inhibition. The inducers or inhibitors measure the magnitude of disposition to scuffle/engage in violence or to restrain from scuffle/engage in violence. Each party or group to a conflict/violence/ scuffle has both inducers and inhibitors. The likelihood of violence increases when the inducement exceeds inhibition of the parties and vice-versa subject to the net environmental influence. Therefore, it is the net propensities for respective parties and net environmental influence that determine the likelihood of violence. To determine the net propensity of each party, the individual's propensity (P) is estimated. The net propensity (NP) of a party or group is the sum of the individual propensities. This is expressed in the model six below:

$$NP_{PY1_t} = \sum_t^n P_i \quad (6)$$

Where, P_i is the propensity of the individuals in the group or party and it is denoted as:

$$PI_t = ID_t - IH_t \quad (7)$$

Or

$$PI_t = \left(\frac{ID_t}{IH_t} \right) \quad (8)$$

ID is inner inducement at time, t

IH is inner inhibition at time, t

Composite Analysis of the Model:-

In sum, the likelihood of violence or scuffle is therefore based on the estimates of the net determinants which can either be negative or positive. Negative estimates are favourable in conflict resolution and management whiles positive estimates are signal of risk of violence. The theoretical mechanism for applying this model in explaining violence or scuffle differs depending on the type of violence or scuffle. This paper classifies violence into *simple or spontaneous violence and complex or planned violence*.

Simple Violence:-

Simple violence occurs as unplanned. This type of violence could also be termed spontaneous because the parties to the conflict do not have prior misunderstanding or intend to have such misunderstanding. Regarding this type of conflict, there is no external influence to the conflict and each party to the conflict has the same contextual or situational influence. The external influences are absent because it is highly unlikely for either party to have consultation with the external environmental influences to prevail. The implication is that there would be only one measure for net environmental influence. Additionally, the net environmental influence is the same as the net environmental intensity or simply, contextual influence (CI). The score of the CI would be based on review from parties or groups to the violence and witnesses to the violence. Therefore model (1) to model (4) could be combined as:

$$CI_t = NEY_t = NEI_t(PY_1 + PY_2 + W) \quad (9)$$

Where:

W represents score from witnesses to the violence

Net environmental intensity (NEI) of both parties in model (9) could also be expressed in terms of augmenting and nullifying factors in simple violence as:

$$NEI_t = \left(\frac{Af_t}{Nf_t} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$\text{Or} \quad NEI_t = Af_t - Nf_t \quad (11)$$

It is important to note that although the net environmental influence would be the same for both parties, the individual parties would retain their respective net propensities. Thus, parties would still exhibit differences in their inducers and inhibitors. As the net environmental influence and net propensities of the respective parties or groups increase, the likelihood of violence becomes real. This could be expressed as:

$$LSv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} NEY_{SV_t} * NP_{PY1_t} * NP_{PY2_t} \quad (12)$$

When $\frac{dLSv_t}{dt_{max}} = 0$, then violence occurs

Where: LS_v denotes likelihood of violence (Simple type) occurring
 t_{max} is the measure of when the violence occurs

In model (12), it is assumed that the net environmental influence on the net propensities of both parties and groups are the same. However, if the change in the net environmental influence impacts differently on the respective net propensities of the parties or groups, then the likelihood of violence (simple type) occurring may be derived based on the product of the Net Environmental Influence (NEY) and the square average of net propensities of the two parties. This is expressed as:

$$LSv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} [(NEY_{SV_t} * (\frac{NP_{PY1_t} + NP_{PY2_t}}{2})^2)] \quad (13)$$

Complex Violence:-

The complex violence is considered as planned and may be a resurrection of previous conflict which was either resolved completely or not. Unlike the simple or spontaneous conflict, this type of conflict has both contextual influences and external influences. It is complex because external influences are identifiable. The investigator would have to assess these external influences on relevant parties or groups to the conflict (violence). Thus, unlike simple violence where net environmental influence (NEY) is estimated from only contextual or situational influence, the net environmental influence of a complex violence is measured from both contextual influence and external influences (EI) of each party or group to the conflict. This type of conflict or violence would require model 5 for the environmental influences. This may be expressed as:

$$NEY_{CV_t} = CI_t + EI_t \quad (14)$$

Where: NEY_{CV} is the net environmental influence for complex violence

$$EI_t = E_x PY1 + E_y PY2 \quad (15)$$

Where: E_x and E_y are the intensity of the augmenting and nullifying factors of party 1 and 2 respectively due also to their respective external influences. It is important to note that the external factors influencing the parties may differ. Thus, party 1 may have X-factors as external influences whiles party 2 may or may not have X-factors but rather Y-factors.

By substituting model (9) and model (15) into model (14), the net environmental influence in complex violence can be derived as:

$$NEY_{CV_t} = NEI_t(PY_1 + PY_2 + w) + E_x PY1 + E_y PY2 \quad (16)$$

In either type of violence (simple or complex), when the propensity of at least both parties are heightened enough by the prevailing circumstance (net environmental influence) then a fight could actually occur. Thus, when the net propensity (net inner inducement over inhibition) to fight of the parties are high in an environment which highly augments these propensities, then the tendency to scuffle or violence is high and the likelihood of a scuffle occurring is real. The model estimating the likelihood of violence (complex type) occurring may be seen as:

$$LCv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} NEY_{CV_t} * NP_{PY1_t} * NP_{PY2_t} \quad (17)$$

When $\frac{dLCv_t}{dt_{max}} = 0$, then violence occurs

Where: LC_v denotes likelihood of violence (Complex type) occurring

By expansion, the theoretical model for estimating the likelihood of violence (Complex type) occurring may be derived as:

$$LCv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} [((NEI_t(PY_1 + PY_2 + w) + E_xPY_1 + E_yPY_2)) * NP_{PY1_t} * NP_{PY2_t}] \quad (18)$$

Like the simple violence model (12), the model (17) and (18) of the complex violence also assume that the net environmental influence on the net propensities of both parties and groups are the same. If however the change in the net environmental influence impacts differently on the respective net propensities of the parties or groups, then the likelihood of violence (complex type) occurring may be derived as:

$$LCv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} [(NEY_{CV_t} * (\frac{NP_{PY1_t} + NP_{PY2_t}}{2})^2)] \quad (19)$$

The grand model for the theoretical framework is therefore expressed as:

For the Simple Violence:

With assumed same impact of net environmental influence on net propensities of respective parties or groups,

$$LSv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} NEY_{SV_t} * NP_{PY1_t} * NP_{PY2_t} \quad (12)$$

When $\frac{dLSv_t}{dt_{max}} = 0$, then violence occurs

With assumed different impact of net environmental influence on net propensities of respective parties or groups,

$$LSv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} [(NEY_{SV_t} * (\frac{NP_{PY1_t} + NP_{PY2_t}}{2})^2)] \quad (13)$$

For the Complex Violence:

With assumed same impact of net environmental influence on net propensities of respective parties or groups,

$$LCv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} [((NEI_t(PY_1 + PY_2 + w) + E_xPY_1 + E_yPY_2)) * NP_{PY1_t} * NP_{PY2_t}] \quad (18)$$

When $\frac{dLCv_t}{dt_{max}} = 0$, then violence occurs

With assumed different impact of net environmental influence on net propensities of respective parties or groups,

$$LCv_t = \int_{t_0}^{t_{max}} [(NEY_{CV_t} * (\frac{NP_{PY1_t} + NP_{PY2_t}}{2})^2)] \quad (19)$$

Following the models, the theoretical framework is presented in Figure 2

Theoretical Framework:-

For an individual/party or group to physically engage (fight) the other, there should be net inner inducement over inhibition to fight the other in an environment that augments rather than nullifies this propensity. A scuffle or violence ensues when the net propensity of the parties is heightened enough by the prevailing net environmental influence as shown in Figure 2.

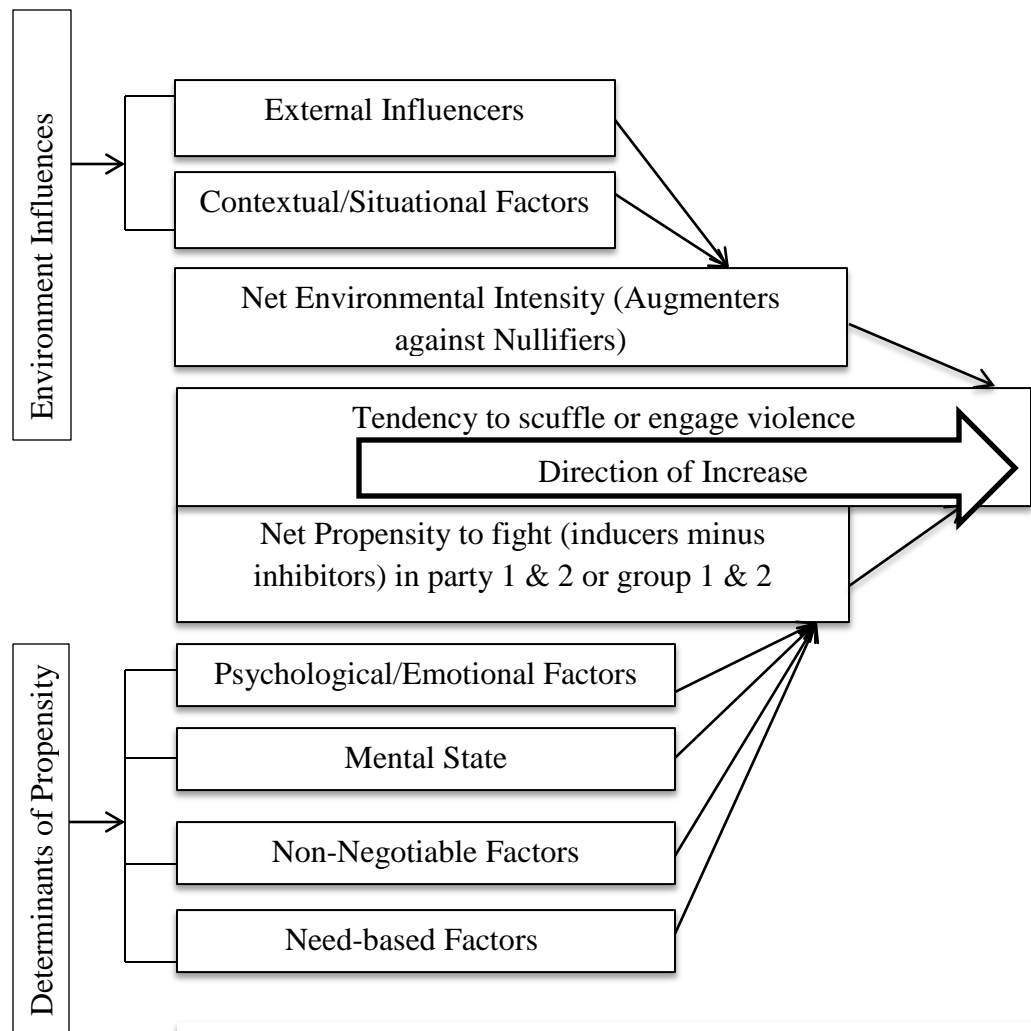


Figure 2: Multifacet Theoretical Approach to Violence/Scuffle

Sobotie & Queku construct (2017)

Even though both parties may have high net inner inducement to scuffle, this propensity may dwindle in an environment where the intensity of the nullifying factors overrides that of the augmenting factors. In this situation the resultant tendency to scuffle or to engage in violence falls and the likelihood of a scuffle or violence occurring diminishes. These analyses are summarised in Figure 3:

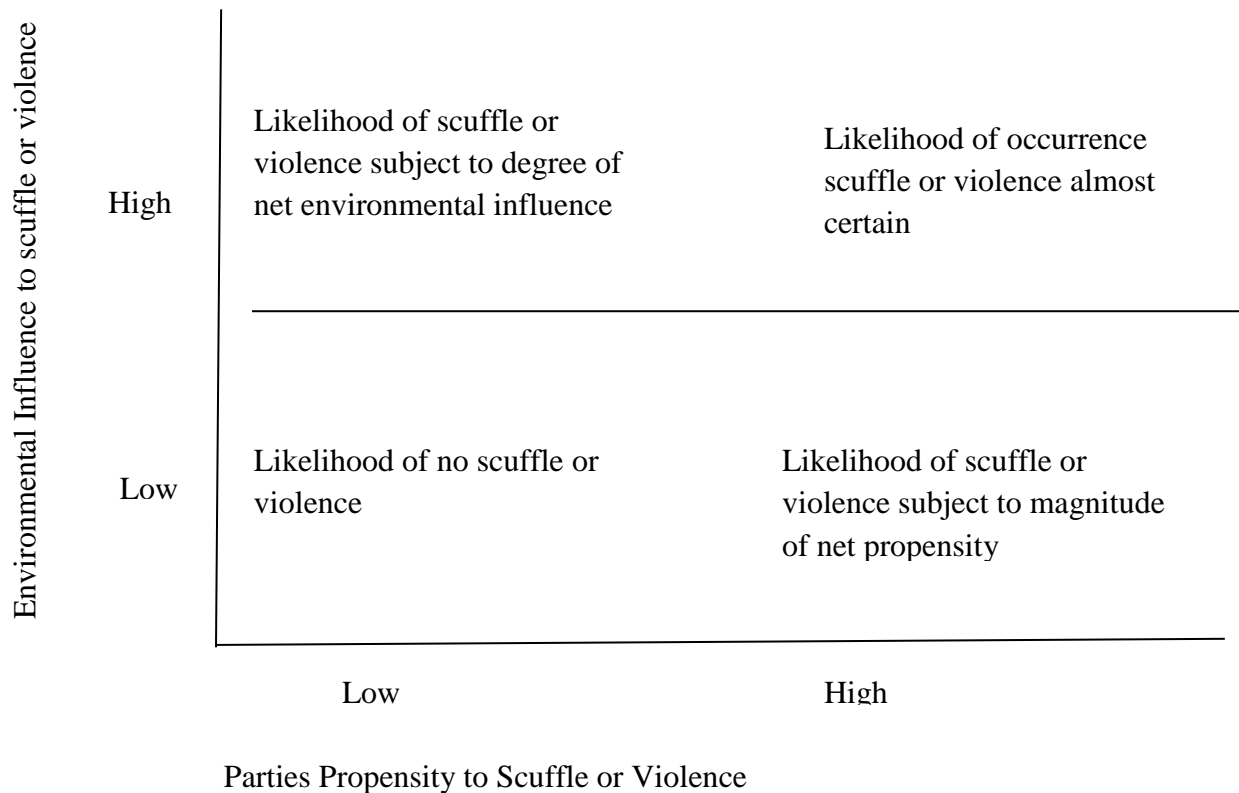


Figure 3: Empirical framework for Multifacet Approach to Violence/Scuffle

Queku & Sobotie Construct (2017)

It can be observed from Figure 3 that the first (1st) and the third (3rd) quadrants exhibit probability approximating 1 or near certainty for violence occurrence and no violence respectively. In the 1st quadrant there is high net propensity to scuffle or violence as against high net environmental influence, hence, it is more likely or near certain that scuffle or violence would occur. However, the 3rd quadrant shows low net propensity and low net environmental influence. This implies that it is most unlikely that scuffle or violence would occur. The second (2nd) and the fourth (4th) show some probability of scuffle or violence. In the 2nd quadrant the parties' net propensities to violence are high in an environment with low net environmental influence. The implication is that the likelihood of any scuffle or violence occurring depends primarily on the parties own propensities. Therefore, the parties' net propensities need to be worked down whiles sustaining the low net environmental influence. Contrary to the 2nd quadrant, the 4th quadrant reveals high level of net environmental influence with low parties' net propensity to scuffle or violence. This implies that the likelihood of violence or scuffle occurring depends mainly on the net environmental influence. Thus, the environmental intensities should be worked on whiles sustaining the parties own net propensity so as to reduce the likelihood of violence or scuffle.

Conclusion and Recommendation:-

The paper focused on developing theoretical framework for investigating violence to equip for its prevention, resolution and management. This paper has presented a literature review on general conflict and violence. In so doing, it presented the relevant existing theories on conflict and violence and critiques their applications in determining how and why violence may occur. A comprehensive theoretical framework and models were proposed by analysing scuffle and its likelihood of occurrence. It was concluded that violence (scuffle) could occur from the interplay of environmental factors and parties own propensities to violence.

It was further concluded that these environmental factors may be contextual/situational and may have external influences. The proposed framework demonstrated that violence may be either a simple violence or complex violence. It revealed that there are different models for assessing simple violence and complex violence. The proposed theoretical framework showed that the likelihood for environmental factors to cause violence may be assessed from net environmental intensity which was derived from the augmenting factors and nullifying factors.

The paper demonstrated that parties' respective net propensities to scuffle or violence (which could be assessed as inner inducement over inner inhibition) are also required to assess the likelihood of violence. Thus, the likelihood of violence is determined by the product of the net environmental influence and net respective propensities of the parties. It is recommended from the proposed theoretical framework and the models that investigators to violence or peace experts should assess their violence parameters from both the perspective of the environment and the parties own propensities. It is also suggested that violence investigators should go beyond the immediate environment of violence (contextual environment) to analyse the external influences especially when it meets the criteria of complex violence. Recommendation is made to future researchers to extend this theoretical framework or models by translating the content into quantitative estimations. This could provide detailed practical application of the framework or the models in addressing violence.

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