Study of Mediation

Roberto Orellana is a current Graduate Student at Salisbury University studying Conflict Analysis Dispute Resolution. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Salisbury University in Management. Mr. Orellana’s current research interest includes the effects of mediation in civil conflict, causal effects of civil conflict, conflicts based on resource scarcity, etc. After the completion of his Masters he hopes to pursue a career for the United Nations.

**What is Conflict Analysis Dispute Resolution (CADR)?**

Conflict is an unfortunate part of today’s society. You can virtually see conflict on all levels whether it be between countries engages in violent conflict, between religious and ethnic groups, amongst organizations, and on an individual level. With conflict comes a need for a peaceful and durable solution to cease the devastating violence. Conflict resolution systems and Dispute resolution systems have garnered much attention over the past several decades as they have introduced theories, literature, and cultural practices to cease conflict. Due to the success of dispute resolution a growing need for their practices is highly desired among judicial, governmental, and private sector organizations. With the dispute resolution field growing organizations have begun to use these practices like mediation in their daily operations. With the increase of popularity more and more literature, studies, methodologies are being completed to aid with the implementation and deploying of these practices to maximize these practices, and theories efficiency and to promote peace in a world riddled with conflict.

**CADR and Civil Conflict**

Mediation is defined as a conflict resolution process in which a mutually acceptable third party who has no authority to make a binding agreement between the disputants intervenes in a conflict to assist the parties involved to improve their relationships. Mediators improve disputants' relationships by enhancing communication, using effective problem solving and negotiation procedures to reach voluntary mutually acceptable understandings of the agreement on contested issues (Moore, 2014). Mediation and third-party involvement have been an effective method in reaching an agreement in civil wars and interstate conflict. Specifically, mediators and third parties help involved in an interstate conflict to:

- Open and Improve communications between the disputing parties

- Establish and build a more respectable and productive working relationship

- Better identify, understand, consider each other’s needs, interests, and concerns.

- Propose and implement better problem-solving procedures to cease and prevent future conflicts

- Recognize and implement mutually acceptable agreements.

What is clear is that mediation is an effective method to resolve ongoing civil war and interstate conflict; it uses a tactic like persuasion and not coercion to achieve a solution that is acceptable for both parties involved. Mediation uses these conflict resolution tactics and achieves these steps through negotiations by using sense and logic and appealing to the common interest, which is hopefully ending the conflict (Svensson, Wallensteen, 2014).

**Effectiveness of Mediation and Civil Conflict**

The success of mediation cannot be dismissed and has seen an increase in its usage due to its success. A Study found that that according to data set on mediation in civil wars from 1946-2004 found that 76% of their efforts were successful (Vullers, Destradi, 2013). It shows that mediation process between conflicting parties no matter what the circumstances are power, territory, regime type can create dialogue between enemies to create a positive result. With the success of the mediation as a dispute resolution system this can bring a world rife with conflict closer to peace and the preservation of human life.

References

Moore, C. (2014). The Mediation Process (4th ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass A Wiley Brand.

Vullers, J., & Destradi, S. (2013). Speech is silver, silence is golden? the consequences of failed mediation in civil wars. Civil Wars, 15(4), 486-507. doi:10.1080/13698249.2013.853416

Wallensteen, P., & Svensson, I. (2014). Talking peace: International mediation in armed conflicts. Journal of Peace Research, 51(2), 315-327. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/24557424