

Values and Conflict Resolution

PowerPoint Presentation by Lola Akin Ojelabi School of Law La Trobe University

Slide 1

Outline

- Introduction
- Why research on values?
- Are there universally shared values?
- Which values are necessary?

Slide 2

Introduction

- The research explores the relevance of values to conflict resolution.
- Are the values of justice, freedom, peace and equality universal values? Are they relevant to the resolution of cross-cultural conflicts involving discrimination, rights violation and significant power imbalance?
- Should these values guide process design, process choice and the role of the third party in the process?
- Methodology – theoretical analysis and case studies

Slide 3

Why research on values?

- What are values?

‘lifelong goals towards which we devote our energies, abilities and possessions. Each value consists of a set of general ideas of the right acts to perform so that needs will be met and/or hurts countered with the highest possible degree of success. One value differs from another in its analysis and approach to the various needs and hurt.’ (Taylor, 1977)

‘define how the world ought to be. They are the measures by which people distinguish right from wrong and judge themselves and others.’ (Pengras, 2000)

Slide 4

Why research on values?

- Values and cross-cultural conflicts
 - Conflict as a clash of values (personal, community, national etc)
 - Interests, goals and positions are determined by values held
 - Issues in cross-cultural conflicts include
 - » Discrimination
 - » Power imbalance
 - » Violation of rights
 - » Cultural superiority
- Values and conflict resolution
 - If conflict is a clash of values, the aim of conflict resolution is to reconcile values
 - Values and conflict processes
 - Conflict resolution processes possess underlying values which may determine outcome (Baruch Bush, 1989-90)
 - Need to examine values underlying conflict processes to determine whether they meet the challenges of cross-cultural conflicts (Kriesberg, 2003, Ramsbotham et al. 2005)

Slide 5

Why research on values?

- Values 'can provide a basis from which to undertake the dialogue and collaboration now needed. But they must also be so clear-cut as to offer standards for critiquing abuses - including those perpetrated either in the name of universalist political, religious or moral doctrines or in that of ethnic, religious, political, or other diversity' (Bok, 2002).

Slide 6

Are there universal values?

- Widely acceptable values (Taylor, 1977, 1999)
- Common values - 'down to earth' and 'common place' (Bok, 2002)
 - Minimalist and maximalist approaches to values
 - Both required - they 'challenge and enrich one another' (Bok, 2002 p.41)

Slide 7

Are there universal values?

- 1) 'All human groups, first of all, and all religious, moral, and legal traditions stress some form of positive duties regarding mutual support, loyalty, and reciprocity'
- 2) 'negative duties to refrain from harmful action' and

- 3) 'norms for at least rudimentary fairness and procedural justice in cases of conflict' (Bok, 2002)

Slide 8

What values are necessary?

- Freedom
 - negative and positive freedom
 - absolute freedom
 - freedom curtailed by values of equality and justice
 - Equality
 - Equal power not guaranteed
 - Freedom from discrimination and abuse (Article 7, UDHR)
 - Obligation to treat others as equal
 - Justice
 - Justice and group survival (Bok, 2002)
 - Justice and peaceful co-existence (Rees, 2003)
 - Peace
 - Just peace
- 'an end to hostilities ... [and] fairness in social, economic and political arrangements ... characterised by equality of opportunity and by associated influences in the building of civil societies' (Rees, 2003 p.20)

Slide 9

Conclusion

- Challenges for conflict resolution:
 - 'to pursue justice in ways that respect people and to achieve restoration of relationships based on recognizing and amending injustices' (Lederach, 1996)
 - efforts should seek to develop a 'global peace culture' that refuses to endorse 'unjust and oppressive systems', but seeks out 'political and social change' (Ramsbotham et al. 2005)
 - coordinated efforts (Kriesberg, 2001)
 - Broad conception of conflict resolution (Kriesberg)
 - constructive resolution of conflicts