

ABSTRACT

Tanzanian youths hold untapped Potential for global peace building through their dynamism, abilities, However, despite their potential, they are currently not actively involved in community peace-building efforts. This study therefore, investigated the engagement challenges, to community peace building among the youth in Hai District. Specific objectives of this study were to assess the social challenges, economic challenges and political challenges hindering youths from community engagement in peace building. The study, employing a cross-sectional design, utilized a mixed-method approach involving 398 youth and 30 Hai District officials. Sample selection involved simple random and purposive sampling. Primary data, gathered through questionnaires and interviews, was complemented by secondary data. Quantitative analysis employed descriptive and inferential statistics with SPSS version 25, while qualitative data from interviews underwent content analysis. Findings revealed significant social challenges, including a lack of trust between different ethnic/religious groups, fear of violence or retaliation, limited resources and opportunities, and societal stigmas against youth involvement. Also, Economic challenges, such as limited access to funding, unemployment, and unequal resource distribution were found to pose significant obstacles. The study indicated that political challenges, including limited access to decision-making, polarization, and lack of transparency hinder youths from community engagement in peace building. The study concludes that social, economic, and political challenges are significant barriers to youth engagement in community peace building. The study recommends Hai District to adopt a holistic approach encompassing social, economic, and political interventions. Future research should prioritize assessing the impact and efficacy of these interventions in overcoming the identified challenges.