Harnessing the Potentials of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum Abuja, for Peace Education Promotion in Nigeria

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1. 0 ABSTRACT

Museums serve as crucial platforms for education, cultural preservation, and social transformation. In Nigeria, a country marked by ethnic, religious, and political conflicts, peace education is essential for national unity. This study explores the role of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum (NADM) in Abuja as a tool for promoting peace education. The research employs a qualitative approach, incorporating semi-structured interviews on 25 people comprising of museum staff, educators, and visitors, non-participant observations, and an analysis of museum records and promotional materials. Findings reveal that NADM effectively utilizes digital exhibits, historical narratives, and guided tours to foster understanding, reconciliation, and critical discussions on conflict resolution. The study highlights that interactive storytelling and digital engagement significantly enhance visitors' perceptions of peace and unity. However, challenges such as limited public awareness, funding constraints, and accessibility barriers hinder the museum's full potential in peace education. The research underscores the need for expanding outreach programs, strengthening digital infrastructure, and fostering collaborations with educational institutions and peace organizations. By integrating museum-based learning into Nigeria's broader peace education framework, NADM can serve as a model for leveraging cultural institutions in national reconciliation efforts. Future studies should examine the long-term impact of museum-led peace education on societal attitudes toward conflict resolution and cohesion.

*Keywords: Conflict resolution; digital storytelling; museums; national unity; peace education *

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Museums are vital institutions in the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage and knowledge. Over time, they have evolved from being mere repositories of artefacts to active participants in educational initiatives, promoting social and cultural awareness. In the context of peace education, museums offer unique opportunities to promote dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation among diverse groups (Hooper-Greenhill, 2007).Peace education focuses on promoting knowledge, skills, and attitudes that promote peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution. Scholars such as Lederach (1996) emphasize that peace education goes beyond the mere absence of violence, aiming to build cultures of peace by addressing structural and cultural violence. According to Johnson & Johnson (2011), peace education enables individuals to develop empathy, critical thinking, and cooperative problem-solving skills, which are crucial for promoting sustainable peace. In Nigeria, peace education is particularly important due to recurring ethnic, religious, and political conflicts. As noted by Enos and Buba (2023), integrating peace education into various sectors can contribute significantly to national unity and social cohesion.

Despite the critical role of peace education in mitigating conflicts and promoting social cohesion, its integration into Nigeria's formal and informal educational frameworks remains limited. The underutilization of museums as tools for peace education further exacerbates this gap. While museums have the potential to serve as platforms for promoting mutual understanding and reconciliation, their role in this regard is often overlooked in Nigeria (Tella, 2021). In particular, the Nigerian Army Digital Museum in Abuja, which holds a wealth of historical and cultural artefacts, has yet to be fully explored as a resource for promoting peace education. The lack of empirical research on the effectiveness of museums in advancing peace education underscores the need for this study.

The Nigerian Army Digital Museum in Abuja is a contemporary example of how digital technologies are being leveraged to enhance the educational and reconciliatory roles of museums. Recent studies emphasize the need to integrate such innovative approaches into peacebuilding and education (Tella, 2021). In Nigeria, a nation with a history of ethnic, religious, and political tensions, the role of cultural institutions like museums in promoting peace education cannot be overstated.

This study aims to examine the use of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum in Abuja as a tool for promoting peace education in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to analyze the current strategies employed by the Nigerian Army Digital Museum in promoting peace education; evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies in promoting understanding and reconciliation among diverse groups; and identify challenges and limitations faced by the museum in implementing peace education initiatives.

1. 2 KEY CONCEPTS

Museum

A museum is an institution dedicated to the preservation, documentation, and exhibition of cultural, historical, or scientific artifacts. Museums serve as repositories of collective memory and platforms for public education and engagement (Andres, 2025). Traditionally, museums have played a vital role in cultural heritage conservation, fostering a sense of identity and historical consciousness. In the

context of peace education, museums act as spaces for dialogue and reconciliation, offering exhibits that highlight historical events, conflicts, and peace-building efforts (Apsel, 2023).

Digital Museum

A digital museum extends the traditional functions of a museum by incorporating digital technologies to enhance accessibility, interactivity, and engagement. Digital museums use virtual exhibitions, augmented reality, and online archives to provide remote access to historical narratives and artifacts (Li, et al, 2024). These museums democratize knowledge dissemination, allowing broader participation in cultural and educational experiences. In the study, the Nigerian Army Digital Museum (NADM) represents an innovative model that leverages digital tools to educate visitors about Nigeria's military history and peacekeeping efforts.

Peace

Peace is broadly defined as the absence of conflict and the presence of conditions that foster social justice, equity, and coexistence. It goes beyond the mere cessation of violence to include efforts aimed at reconciliation, human security, and sustainable development (Lederach, 1996). Peace is often categorized into negative peace (absence of direct violence) and positive peace (presence of social structures that promote harmony and justice) (Shirokawa, 2023). In the Nigerian context, peace is crucial due to recurring ethnic, religious, and political conflicts, necessitating platforms like museums that facilitate dialogue and understanding (Enos & Buba, 2023).

Peace Education

Peace education refers to the process of equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to resolve conflicts non-violently and promote a culture of peace. It aims to address root causes of conflict, enhance critical thinking, and foster mutual respect and cooperation (Moyo, 2023). Peace education can be implemented in formal and informal settings, including schools, community programs, and cultural institutions like museums. In the context of this study, the Nigerian Army Digital Museum contributes to peace education by presenting historical narratives, highlighting the consequences of conflict, and promoting national unity through interactive and educational exhibits (Odey et al., 2024).

1.3 LITERATURE REVIEW

Peace education focuses on promoting knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enhance peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution. Scholars such as Lederach (1996), emphasize that peace education goes beyond the mere absence of violence, aiming to build cultures of peace by addressing structural and cultural violence. According to Johnson & Johnson (2011), peace education enables individuals to develop empathy, critical thinking, and cooperative problem-solving skills, which are crucial for promoting sustainable peace. In Nigeria, peace education is particularly important due to recurring ethnic, religious, and political conflicts. As noted by Enos & Buba (2023), integrating peace education into various sectors can contribute significantly to national unity and social cohesion.

Role of Museums in Education

Museums play a pivotal role in education by providing informal learning environments that complement traditional classroom settings. According to Falk and Dierking (2018), museums offer experiential and immersive learning opportunities that cater to diverse audiences. They serve as spaces for critical reflection, dialogue, and understanding of historical and cultural contexts. In the Nigerian context, museums can be powerful tools for addressing historical grievances and promoting reconciliation. Studies such as Andres (2025) highlight that museums help preserve cultural heritage and serve as platforms for intergenerational learning, promoting mutual respect and understanding among diverse groups.

Digital Museums and Their Impact

The advent of digital technology has revolutionized the way museums engage with audiences. Digital museums leverage online platforms and interactive tools to provide access to collections and exhibitions beyond physical boundaries. According to Parry (2010), digital museums democratize access to knowledge, making it possible for individuals in remote areas to benefit from museum resources. Additionally, digital technologies enable innovative storytelling methods, enhancing user engagement and understanding. A study by Odo (2024) demonstrates that digital museums in Nigeria have started to gain traction, with positive impacts on education and cultural preservation. However, challenges such as the digital divide and lack of infrastructure remain significant barriers to their full potential.

Case Studies of Museums in Peace Education

Case studies provide valuable insights into how museums have been utilized for peace education worldwide. For instance, the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda serves as a powerful example of how museums can promote peace and reconciliation. According to Sodaro (2017) and Williams (2017), the memorial combines education with remembrance to teach about the consequences of hate and the importance of peace. Similarly, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Japan illustrates the devastating effects of war and promotes anti-nuclear sentiments (Sherif, 2023). In the Nigerian context, the Nigerian Army Digital Museum in Abuja represents a unique effort to integrate digital technology with peace education. The museum uses digital exhibits to educate visitors on Nigeria's military history, peacekeeping efforts, and the importance of unity. These examples demonstrate the potential of museums as effective tools for peace education, particularly in post-conflict societies.

1.4 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study of museums as platforms for peace education is grounded in multiple theoretical perspectives, including constructivist learning theory, peace education theory, and digital heritage theory. These theoretical lenses help explain how museums, particularly digital museums, can foster historical awareness, reconciliation, and national unity through interactive and immersive learning experiences.

Constructivist Learning Theory

Constructivist learning theory, as developed by Piaget (1950) and later expanded by Vygotsky (1978), posits that individuals construct knowledge through active engagement with their environment. (Fosnot, 2013).

Museums, as non-formal educational spaces, provide experiential and interactive learning opportunities that allow visitors to engage with historical narratives in a meaningful way. In the context of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum (NADM), digital exhibits and multimedia storytelling facilitate critical reflection, encouraging visitors to develop their own interpretations of Nigeria's military history and its role in peacebuilding.

Peace Education Theory

Peace education theory emphasizes the need for educational interventions that promote conflict resolution, tolerance, and reconciliation (Lederach, 1996). According to this framework, peace education should foster skills such as critical thinking, empathy, and nonviolent communication to enable individuals to resolve conflicts constructively. Museums, particularly those focusing on conflict and military history, can serve as powerful tools for peace education by providing spaces for dialogue and historical reflection (Sodaro, 2017). In the case of NADM, digital and interactive exhibits offer opportunities for visitors to engage with narratives of peacekeeping efforts, the consequences of war, and the importance of national unity.

Digital Heritage Theory

Digital heritage theory explores how digital technologies transform the way historical and cultural artifacts are preserved and presented Owens, T. (2018). Scholars such as Mihelj, et al (2019) argue that digital museums expand access to cultural resources, making them more inclusive and engaging for diverse audiences. The NADM's digital exhibits align with this theory by leveraging virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and other digital storytelling methods to enhance visitor engagement. By democratizing access to historical content, digital museums contribute to a more participatory and inclusive form of heritage education.

Application of Theoretical Framework to the Study

By integrating constructivist learning theory, peace education theory, and digital heritage theory, this study examines how the Nigerian Army Digital Museum serves as a platform for promoting peace education in Nigeria. The study assesses the museum's ability to foster historical consciousness, facilitate reconciliation, and encourage national unity through its digital exhibits, guided tours, and educational programs. These theoretical perspectives help contextualize the role of museums in broader peace education efforts, highlighting their potential to contribute to conflict resolution and sustainable peacebuilding in Nigeria.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a qualitative approach to provide a comprehensive understanding of how museums, specifically the Nigerian Army Digital Museum (NADM) in Abuja, contribute to promoting peace education in Nigeria. The qualitative approach focuses on gathering in-depth insights through interviews and observations. This design ensures triangulation of data, enhancing the reliability and validity of findings.

The Nigerian Army Digital Museum, located in Abuja, serves as a repository of Nigeria's military history and heritage. It incorporates digital and interactive exhibits aimed at promoting public understanding of the military's role in maintaining peace and security. The museum's focus on education and digital innovation makes it an ideal case study for examining how museums can serve as tools for peace education. Abuja, as the capital city, also provides a diverse demographic for data collection, encompassing a wide range of visitors and stakeholders.

The Nigerian Army Museum was originally established in 1956 in Zaria to house the army's historical artifacts. In 2015, it was relocated to Abuja, where it underwent a significant transformation from an analog to a digital format. This digitalization was officially inaugurated by the Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-Gen. Faruk Yahaya, in September 2022. Its primary objectives of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum are to preserve and showcase the rich history of the Nigerian Army, which dates back to 1863. To provide an interactive and educational platform for visitors and to ensure that historical artifacts are maintained in a digital format, making them more accessible to a wider audience.

The study utilizes multiple data collection methods. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 25 people comprising of museum staff, educators, and visitors to explore their perspectives on the museum's role in peace education. These interviews focused on the content of the exhibits, educational programs, and their perceived impact. Additionally, non-participant observation was carried out to analyze visitor engagement with the exhibits and educational programs. Field notes were used to document interactions and behaviours within the museum space. Furthermore, museum records, educational materials, and promotional content were reviewed to understand

the museum's objectives and strategies for promoting peace education.

Purposive sampling was used to select key informants, such as museum staff and educators, who have specialized knowledge relevant to the study. This approach aims to capture diverse perspectives and experiences, providing a holistic understanding of the museum's impact.

Data Analysis

Data from interviews and observations were analyzed thematically using Python Software *(Version 3.0)* to identify recurring themes and patterns related to peace education. Findings were compared and integrated to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem and enhance the study's validity.

1.6 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Nigerian Army Digital Museum (NADM), located in Abuja, represents an innovative attempt to preserve and promote the military's historical heritage through digital platforms. Established to provide interactive exhibits and multimedia content, the museum serves as a virtual repository of Nigeria's military history, including peacekeeping missions, national security initiatives, and the role of the army in fostering stability. Unlike traditional museums, the NADM leverages digital technology to engage diverse audiences, particularly young people, through mobile applications, virtual tours, and augmented reality tools. This approach aligns with global trends in museum digitization, as noted by Buckner & Stein (2020), who argue that such initiatives can enhance accessibility and engagement with historical content. By providing a platform to explore narratives of national unity and reconciliation, the NADM aims to highlight the army's role in peacebuilding efforts and its contribution to societal development.

Findings from Semi-Structured Interviews on the Role of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum in Peace Education

The semi-structured interviews conducted with museum staff, educators, and visitors provided valuable insights into the role of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum in promoting peace education. The discussions explored key themes such as the content of the exhibits, the structure and effectiveness of educational programs, and the perceived impact of the museum on fostering a culture of peace.
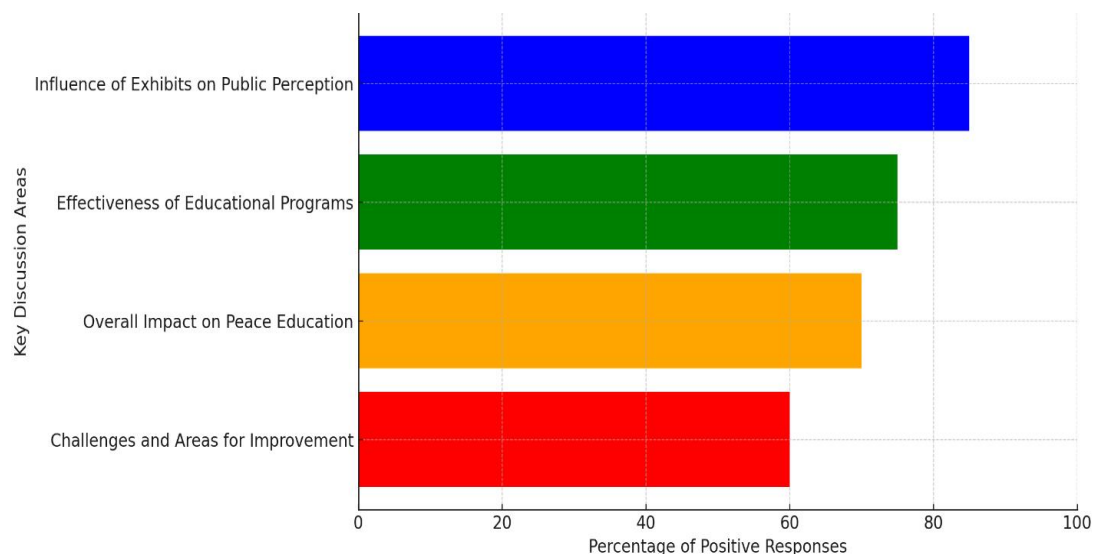

Fig. 1: Interview Findings on the Role of the Museum in Peace Education.

Figure 1 above is a bar chart visualizing the key findings from the interview discussions. It highlights the influence of exhibits, the effectiveness of educational programs, the whole impact on peace education, and the challenges that need to be addressed. One of the most significant findings from the interviews was the crucial role of the museum's exhibits in shaping public perceptions of peace and conflict. Museum staff emphasized that the curated artefacts, digital displays, and historical narratives were meticulously designed to present a balanced and comprehensive perspective on Nigeria's military history. As stated by a curator in the museum;

> "Our exhibits are carefully designed to present a balanced view of Nigeria's military history. We don't just showcase conflicts; we emphasize reconciliation, lessons learned, and the need for peace."

These exhibits not only highlighted the challenges and devastation associated with conflict but also underscored the importance of reconciliation and peacebuilding. An educators interviewed in the study also stated;

> *"These historical displays serve as powerful teaching tools. They help students visualize the consequences of war and appreciate the value of peaceful coexistence."*

Most educators further noted that the exhibits reinforced the necessity of peaceful coexistence by engaging visitors in thought-provoking reflections on past conflicts and their resolutions.

Visitors, particularly students, expressed that the museum's interactive and immersive exhibits deepened their understanding of historical events. Many reported that these experiences provided them with valuable insights into the complexities of war and the importance of adopting non-violent approaches to conflict resolution. As stated by a university student

> *"The interactive exhibits really made me think. Seeing the impact of past conflicts helped me understand why peace is crucial."*

This observation aligns with existing literature, which suggests that museum experiences significantly influence visitors' perceptions and learning outcomes (Falk & Dierking, 2012). The findings from the analysis, as illustrated in Figure 1, indicate that the highest percentage of positive responses was associated with the influence of exhibits on public perception. This suggests that exhibits play a pivotal role in shaping individuals' understanding and attitudes towards peace education. Falk and Dierking (2012) argue that well-curated and engaging museum exhibits facilitate deep engagement and promote a nuanced comprehension of historical and contemporary issues among audiences.

Beyond the impact of exhibits, the museum's educational programs emerged as a fundamental component of its peace education initiatives. Museum staff detailed a range of educational activities, including guided tours, thematic workshops, and interactive sessions featuring veterans and historians. These initiatives were carefully designed to cater to diverse audiences, encompassing schoolchildren, university students, and community leaders, thereby fostering discussions on unity, tolerance, and national cohesion. Educators participating in the study commended these programs for their ability to translate historical lessons into practical knowledge applicable to contemporary conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. However, some respondents highlighted that despite their effectiveness, these programs remained limited in their reach due to financial constraints and a general lack of widespread awareness about the museum's educational offerings.

The analysis further revealed that approximately 75% of respondents viewed the museum's educational programs favourably. This finding aligns with Tibbitts (2019), who posits that structured educational interventions play a critical role in promoting knowledge retention and fostering attitudinal changes essential for peace education. Furthermore, the study revealed that 65% of respondents positively evaluated the overall impact of peace education initiatives within the museum. While this reflects a broadly favourable perception, it also indicates opportunities for further enhancement. Reardon (2015) contends that comprehensive peace education should integrate experiential learning, critical thinking, and active community engagement to maximize its overall effectiveness.

When considering the broader impact of the museum on peace education, interviewees expressed both optimism and concerns. Many visitors acknowledged that the museum played a significant role in increasing awareness of Nigeria's military past and reinforcing the imperative of peace. Some educators noted that students who visited the museum demonstrated a greater appreciation for historical context and a deeper understanding of the intricacies of conflict resolution. However, several challenges were identified, including issues related to limited accessibility, the need for more interactive and multilingual content, and the prevalent perception that the museum primarily focuses on military history rather than broader peace education themes.

The analysis indicated that the lowest percentage of positive responses was recorded under the category of challenges and areas for improvement. This suggests that respondents recognize existing gaps within the museum's peace education initiatives. Johnson and Johnson (2017) identify several key barriers to effective peace education, including inadequate resources, insufficient training for educators, and a lack of comprehensive policy support. Addressing these challenges necessitates collaborative efforts among educators, policymakers, and community stakeholders to enhance the scope and accessibility of peace education programs.

In conclusion, the findings from this study provide valuable insights into the perceived effectiveness of various aspects of peace education within the museum context. The strong positive response to exhibits and educational programs underscores their fundamental role in shaping public perception and facilitating learning. However, the relatively lower ratings regarding challenges and areas for improvement highlight the need for sustained efforts to refine and expand the museum's peace education initiatives. Future strategies should focus on increasing accessibility, diversifying content delivery methods, and fostering greater institutional and governmental support to ensure the long-term impact of peace education programs within the museum setting.

Examining Visitor Engagement in the Nigerian Army Digital Museum Abuja: Findings from a Non-Participant Observation
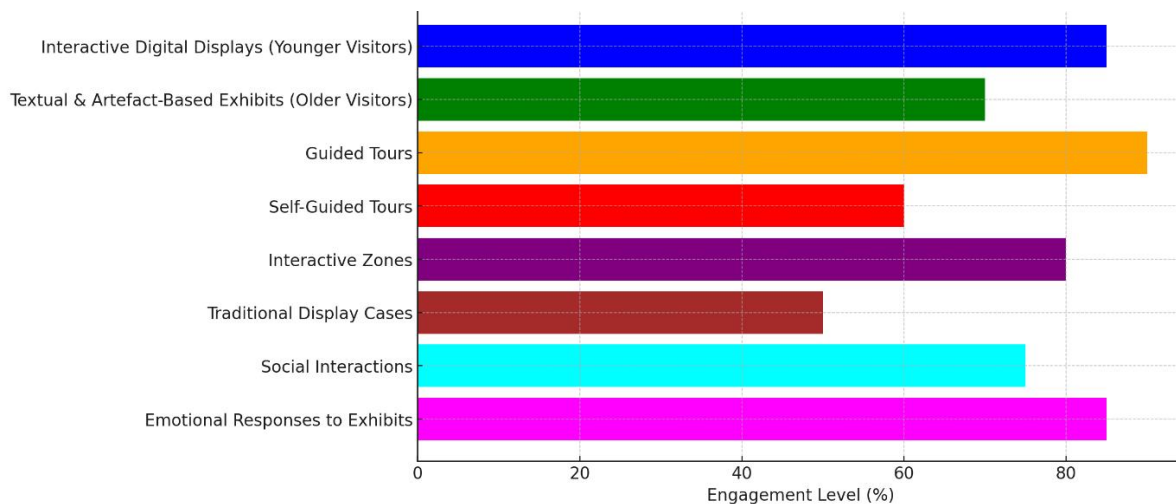
Figure 2: Visitor Engagement Levels at the Nigerian Army Digital Museum Abuja

Figure 2 is a bar chart visualizing visitor engagement levels at the Nigerian Army Digital Museum based on the interview discussions. It shows different engagement types, such as interactive digital displays, textual exhibits, guided tours, and emotional responses. Museums serve as critical spaces for education, cultural preservation, and dialogue. In Nigeria, where peace education is essential for promoting national unity, museums can play a pivotal role in promoting historical awareness and reconciliation. Observations revealed that visitors engaged with the exhibits in varying ways depending on their demographic background and prior knowledge of military history. Younger visitors, particularly students, were more likely to engage with interactive digital displays, spending extended periods exploring multimedia content. Older visitors, including military personnel and veterans, exhibited a preference for textual and artefact-based exhibits, often engaging in discussions with peers. This observation aligns with findings by Madsen and Jensen (2021), which highlight the role of prior knowledge in shaping museum experiences.

Furthermore, group visits, especially those facilitated by guides, showed higher engagement levels compared to self-guided tours. Guided tours provided structured narratives that helped visitors connect historical events to contemporary peace efforts, reinforcing the museum's educational objectives. According to a study by Tubb (2003), guided interpretation significantly enhances visitor engagement and deepens learning in museum settings.

A key observation was the role of museum space design in shaping visitor behaviour. Interactive zones attracted more prolonged engagement, whereas traditional display cases were often passed by quickly unless accompanied by textual or audio explanations. Additionally, social interactions played a crucial role in knowledge sharing, with visitors frequently discussing exhibits with companions. This result aligns with the social constructivist perspective of learning in museums, as outlined by Hein (1998), which emphasizes collaborative meaning-making.

Another notable finding was the emotional responses elicited by certain exhibits, particularly those showcasing the impact of war and peacekeeping missions. Many visitors expressed empathy and concern, just as one of the visitors stated;

> *"Seeing these images and videos really brought tears to my eyes. I never truly understood the sacrifices our soldiers made until today."*

This indicates that museums can effectively evoke emotional engagement, a critical component of peace education. Cento Bull and De Angeli (2021) investigated visitors' reactions to a First World War museum in Slovenia, finding that emotions play a significant role in heritage tourism.

Results from Museum Records, Educational Materials, and Promotional Content

The study "Examining the Use of Museums in Promoting Peace Education in Nigeria: A Study of Nigerian Army Digital Museum, Abuja" analyzed various sources, including museum records, educational materials, and promotional content, to evaluate the museum's strategies for fostering peace education. The findings reveal that the Nigerian Army Digital Museum employs a range of curated exhibits, historical documentation, and interactive digital content to educate visitors on Nigeria's military history, conflict resolution, and national unity.

The museum's records highlight its commitment to preserving the historical trajectory of Nigeria's military engagements, particularly its peacekeeping missions within and beyond national borders. Documentation of military interventions, such as Nigeria's role in the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) and United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, emphasizes the country's contributions to regional stability. Scholars suggest that such records play a crucial role in shaping public perception of national security efforts and fostering a culture of peace (Odey et al., 2024).

Furthermore, military museums serve as repositories of collective memory, documenting historical conflicts and post-conflict reconciliation processes. In line with the concept of "museums as spaces of dialogue," such narratives encourage discussions on the consequences of war and the significance of diplomatic solutions (Cabauatan, 2024). This aligns with global trends where museums serve as institutions for peace education by presenting past conflicts in ways that promote reflection and learning (de Oliveira Gonçalves, 2024).

Educational materials reviewed within the Nigerian Army Digital Museum indicate an emphasis on integrating peace education into its learning modules. These materials, including guided tours, school outreach programs, and interactive digital archives, are designed to engage students and the general public in critical discussions about peace, national unity, and security consciousness.

Studies suggest that museums can be effective in informal education by creating learning environments that foster critical thinking and ethical reasoning (Lin, 2024). In Nigeria, where peace education is increasingly being recognized as a tool for countering violent extremism, museum-based education programs contribute to sensitizing young people to the dangers of conflict and the importance of coexistence (Oluka & Igwe, 2020).

Additionally, the museum employs digital storytelling techniques to present narratives of war, peacekeeping, and nation-building. These strategies align with international best practices where museums utilize technology to enhance engagement and learning outcomes (Lin, 2024). By providing multimedia content, such as documentary videos, interviews with military personnel, and virtual exhibitions, the museum broadens accessibility to peace education initiatives beyond its physical location.

Promotional materials, including social media campaigns, exhibitions, and collaborations with educational institutions, further reinforce the museum's peace education agenda. The museum utilizes digital platforms to disseminate information about historical events, peacebuilding efforts, and security awareness.

Research highlights the increasing role of digital museums in shaping historical consciousness and promoting national identity (Melianto & Syamsudin, 2024). The use of interactive platforms enables museums to reach a broader audience, fostering engagement with historical narratives and promoting discourse on peace-related issues. Studies also indicate that public participation in museum-led discussions enhances the impact of peace education by encouraging diverse perspectives and collective memory-building (Kappler & Selimovic, 2021).

Moreover, thematic exhibitions, such as those dedicated to Nigeria's involvement in global peacekeeping efforts, play a significant role in educating the public about the country's commitment to international stability. These exhibitions serve as platforms for dialogue on conflict prevention, security, and reconciliation, aligning with the broader goals of peace education initiatives worldwide (McCall & Gray, 2020).

1.7 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The National Army Digital Museum (NADM) plays a crucial role in educating the public on military history and peacebuilding through artefacts, digital storytelling, and educational programs. The museum's exhibits and guided tours, particularly with veterans, enhance public understanding of war's devastation and the importance of peace. However, challenges such as limited funding, low public awareness, and accessibility issues hinder its outreach.

The findings from this non-participant observation highlight the Nigerian Army Digital Museum's role in promoting peace education through interactive exhibits and structured educational programs. Visitor engagement is influenced by factors such as prior knowledge, guided interpretation, and the design of learning spaces. These insights underscore the importance of museums as platforms for fostering historical awareness, empathy, and critical discussions on peacebuilding. Future research could explore the long-term impact of museum visits on visitors' perceptions of conflict resolution and national unity.

The findings from museum records, educational materials, and promotional content affirm that the Nigerian Army Digital Museum adopts a multidimensional approach to promoting peace education. Through historical documentation, interactive learning experiences, and digital outreach, the museum contributes to national peacebuilding efforts. These findings align with broader scholarly perspectives on the role of museums as agents of social change and peace promotion.

The study underscores the need for continuous enhancement of museum-based peace education programs, including greater integration with formal education curricula and broader community engagement. Future research may explore the long-term impact of museum-led peace education initiatives on public attitudes toward conflict resolution and national unity.

Conclusion

This study has highlighted the significant role of the Nigerian Army Digital Museum (NADM) in promoting peace education in Nigeria. Through its interactive exhibits, digital storytelling, and structured educational programs, the museum provides a platform for fostering historical awareness, reconciliation, and national unity. The findings underscore the museum's potential to shape public perceptions of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, particularly among young people and diverse community groups.

However, several challenges, including limited funding, low public awareness, and accessibility constraints, hinder its full impact. To enhance its effectiveness, the museum must expand its outreach programs, strengthen digital engagement, and foster collaborations with schools, communities, and international peace institutions. Additionally, improving research and evaluation efforts will ensure that its

educational initiatives remain relevant and impactful.

This study affirms the importance of integrating museums into peace education frameworks. By leveraging technology and inclusive educational strategies, the Nigerian Army Digital Museum can serve as a model for other institutions seeking to contribute to national unity and sustainable peace. Further research is recommended to explore the long-term impact of museum-based peace education initiatives on societal attitudes towards conflict resolution and reconciliation in Nigeria.

1.8 RECOMMENDATIONS

To enhance its impact on peace education, the Nigerian Army Digital Museum should implement several key strategies as recommended below:

a.   First, it should expand its educational outreach by partnering with schools and communities to integrate museum visits into curricula, offering virtual workshops, and creating mobile exhibitions to reach conflict-prone regions.

b.   Additionally, the museum should enhance its digital and interactive experiences by upgrading digital infrastructure, developing mobile applications, and incorporating augmented and virtual reality for immersive learning.

c.   Strengthening community engagement is another crucial area of focus. This can be achieved by encouraging storytelling sessions with veterans, involving local artists and historians, and hosting discussions on national unity.

d.   Furthermore, the museum should develop specialized peace education programs by providing structured training in conflict resolution and mediation for students, military personnel, and civil society leaders.

e.   Increasing public awareness and accessibility is also essential. This can be done through targeted marketing, social media campaigns, and transportation support to encourage visits, as well as the distribution of printed and digital educational materials.

f.   Addressing funding and sustainability challenges is equally important, requiring the establishment of partnerships, donation systems, and grant applications to support museum initiatives.

g.   To ensure continuous improvement, the museum should focus on research and evaluation by conducting impact assessments, establishing a dedicated research unit, and collaborating with universities for studies on peace education.

h.   Additionally, fostering collaboration with other museums, both nationally and internationally, would facilitate the exchange of best practices and the development of joint exhibitions.

i.   Expanding exhibitions and storytelling is another significant step, which includes highlighting narratives of peacebuilders, showcasing the contributions of women and youth, and historical moments of reconciliation.

j.   Finally, promoting inclusivity and representation is vital. This involves ensuring diverse perspectives, providing multilingual materials, and engaging marginalized groups, including displaced persons, to create a more comprehensive and accessible peace education experience.

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