

Effectiveness of the United Nations in Fostering Global Peace

Nimesh Chettri^{1*}, Kilari Chandra Sekhar²

¹ College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan

² Vignan Institute of Technology and Science, Telangana, India

*Corresponding Author Email: nimeshchhetri.cst@rub.edu.bt

Abstract

Global peace has been identified to be vital for ensuring the maintenance of health, safety and inclusion among the nations and the purpose behind the formation of the United Nations or UN is to promote peace. This study has been aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of the role taken by the UN to foster "international peace". An exploratory research design has been used for gathering and interpreting relevant data, while a secondary qualitative data collection approach has been followed. Reliable and valid data from published sources such as newspaper articles, websites and journals have been gathered and illustrated by thematic analysis. The results of this study indicate that maintaining "global peace" is vital due to its direct impact on the health and safety of people. The United Nations has been founded with the aim of resolving conflicts and war by identifying risk factors and promoting health, safety and peace. War, epidemic, the rise of chronic diseases and the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic have been identified to be the major challenges affecting "international peace". Through establishing and implementing the SDGs, the UN have aimed to ensure peace, justice and health among people. The international organisation has taken an active role in fostering peace and maintaining a balance between different factors associated with "global peace", including the safety and health of people from endangered areas.

Keywords

Conflicts, Global Peace, United Nations, Peacekeeping.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The United Nations was established in 1945, with the purpose of expanding peace and health as well as reducing the prevalence of war between nations. Since its foundation, the organisation has taken an active role in ending conflicts and wars by the organisations and councils under its roof. The Security Council of the United Nations has played an effective role to help in preventing and resolving conflicts between nations and communities [1]. The "UN Peacekeeping Operations" have also taken an efficient role in resolving risk factors developing tensions in different areas of the world. Global peace is inevitable for ensuring health, safety and effective financial conditions along with maintaining businesses properly.

The main challenge for global peace has been identified to be war and increasing tension regarding social, religious or cultural matters. In recent years, increasing violations, discrimination and prejudices regarding religious matters have increased the significance of the operations and activities of the United Nations or UN [2]. On the other hand, the General Assembly of the UN has been established with the aim of developing and providing effective recommendations for promoting and retaining peace in the international context. The UN has taken numerous interventions and has taken several strategies for reducing conflicts and "Conflict Prevention" is among the most beneficial strategies.

Problem Statement

Promoting global peace is inevitable in ensuring the safety and health of the general people along with ensuring effective business in the international market. At different times different risk factors have developed as challenges for global peace, including war, increasing global tension, inflation, financial crises, epidemic and religious or cultural discrimination and supremacy. The UN has taken a positive role in developing solutions for these challenges and establishing collaboration among the countries. Peacekeeping has been identified to be the most effective solution for resolving conflicts and promoting peace in the global context [3]. The UN has established collaboration with numerous countries and has developed an efficient cooperative network for fostering peacekeeping. The Security Council of the UN is responsible for determining the nature and potential impact of a risk factor as well as developing peace making solutions.

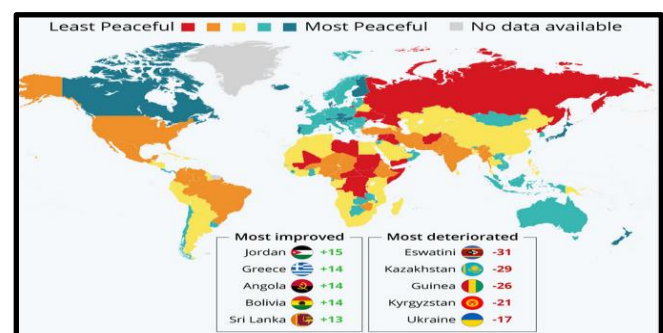


Figure 1: List of most and least improved countries in the Global Peace Index 2022 [4]

The “Global Peace Index” of 2022 has revealed the situation of international peace in different countries. It has been observed that the countries having tension regarding religious, cultural matters and war, have ranked least on the list and these countries include Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen [4]. The UN has taken several interventions and initiatives for promoting peace in these countries, such as in Afghanistan, a new event has been launched with the name of “*Humanitarian Responses in Afghanistan*”. Apart from this, in Yemen, the UN launched “*Special Envoy Yemen*” in 2012 for fostering peace [5]. Thus, this international organisation maintains a constant focus on ensuring peace by resolving different tension and challenges affecting collaboration, health and global peace.

Aim and Objectives

The main purpose of this study is to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the role of the United Nations in promoting and fostering global peace.

Objectives

- To assess the need for global peace and the aim behind developing the United Nations
- To identify and illustrate the challenges of global peace
- To evaluate the role played by the United Nations in fostering global peace
- To recommend potential solutions to enhance the influence of the United Nations in preventing the issues

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design

The research design involves the comprehensive structure of the methods and techniques chosen for conducting a study. This method can be divided into the group of descriptive, experimental, exploratory and correlational. Using an exploratory design helps to explore and assess a phenomenon with limited coverage and provides relevant insights [6]. This research design also helps to gain answers to meet the research objectives. Considering these aspects, this particular research design has been chosen to use in the following study to explore and interpret the role taken by the UN in ensuring “global peace”. Using an exploratory research design will help to gather relevant data in order to assess the importance of “global peace”.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Relevant and reliable secondary sources, such as newspaper articles, websites and journals have been used for gathering data.
- Journals, newspaper articles and reliable websites published in 2018 or after 2018 have been included.

Exclusion Criteria

- Websites and journals consisting of unreliable data and published before 2018 have been excluded.

Data Collection Method

The data collection method involves gathering potential data required to evaluate and interpret a particular phenomenon. A secondary qualitative data collection method has been chosen to follow for gathering data associated with the effectiveness and importance of the UN in fostering peace in the global environment. Secondary data refers to the type of data which was basically collected by someone else with different purposes [7]. Using this data collection method allows accessing a large volume of relevant and reliable data sets and this method is cost-effective. A secondary method of data collection saves time and budget and in the study, previously published data has been collected by exploring different online sources.

Data Analysis Procedure

Data analysis is carried out to assess and interpret the gathered data and develop effective insights associated with the subject. In the following study, a secondary qualitative approach has been followed for collecting data and in order to assess the gathered data, a thematic analysis has been selected to conduct. Thematic analysis is among the most common approaches to analysing and illustrating qualitative data [8]. The collected data has been thematised and elaborated on in accordance with the main aspects of the following study. Additionally, this method has been used to explore the factors and patterns of the subject and develop potential solutions for the problem.

RESULTS

Evaluation of the need for global peace

International peace is crucially required for maintaining a balance between the losses and gains of the general people. The main threat to international peace is a war which comes with numerous risk factors, including increasing costs, causing death and loss of belongings and enhancing violation and discrimination. In addition, the emergence of chronic diseases is another concern for the lives of people. It has been observed that ensuring “global peace” has the potential to improve the health and financial crises of people [9]. The “World Health Organisation” has claimed that “global peace” is vital for ensuring the health and protecting the world. Climate change, inflation, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and cold-war situations in several countries has increased the need for fostering “global peace”.

Promoting “global peace” has the potential to prevent the conflicts and challenges rising in the global context, including the increased risk of war, the severe impact of the pandemic and increasing financial crises. Establishing a peaceful world is highly required for eliminating these threats and promoting health, safety and financial inclusion. “Global peace” has been observed to be a major motivational effort for establishing collaboration and effective engagement between different organisations, governments and different sectors for ensuring peacekeeping [10]. Considering the severe requirement of “international peace”, different

organisations, especially the United Nations have been focused on promoting and fostering peace among the countries to promote safety, health and inclusion in diversity.

The aim and purpose of the United Nations

The main aim and purpose of the United Nations are to maintain international peace and security and promote the well-being of the people worldwide. The primary purpose of the UN right now is to collect effective measures for the prevention and remove the threats from the country to maintain peace. Besides that, the UN is focusing on developing friendly relations with other international countries worldwide. Gaining international cooperation is important for the UN, and to achieve cooperation UN need to promote and encourage respect for common human rights without the distinction of race, caste, sex, religion or anything else [11]. Apart from this, to pursue this purpose the principles of the organization are equal for every member and the organisation.

After the Second World War, United Nations was founded to maintain international peace and security by developing friendly relations with other countries. The international connections of this organisation and the vast power of the organisation provide it to take action for a huge issue and every member of the organisation opens up about their opinions to reach a conclusion on the issue. This organisation solves international big issues and reaches their service to every corner of the globe. The UN has four main purposes and they are **1)** to provide peace throughout the world, **2)** to develop friendly relations with international countries, **3)** to provide togetherness in the workplace which will improve the livelihood of the poor people and encourage people to give respect each other and **4)** to become a centre of harmonization to take actions according to these plans and achieve the organisational goal. The UN system has its own funding, own programmes, own entities to lay out its goals and maintain the organisation to achieve the organisational goals [12]. The sustainable plans are developed in the headquarters of the UN which is placed in New York through the general assembly, socio-economic council and their security system developments to pass the plan and take actions according to it.

Challenges of global peace and potential solutions

The United Nations have become an honest and true universal organisation for solving the challenges and serious issues of countries across the globe. The security councils of the UN have helped to put an end to the conflicts created between two countries to maintain peace around the world, for many decades. Whenever there is a conflictual situation created between two countries this organisation first accepts opinions from both countries and suggests a peaceful agreement to put an end to the conflict. Sometimes this organisation adds general security to do the job really quickly and provide safety to the common people of those countries [13]. However, the organisation cannot always assemble peace between countries which are a big global challenge for

the UN.

The war situation in Ukraine has badly impacted the organisation, as general securities and assemblies was not able to find out ways to that can put an end to the war before it get started. On the other hand, the peacekeeping mission in Mali has captured a lot of challenges and problems in providing safety to the common people [14]. The organisation has faced challenges while assisting the Taliban in Afghanistan, lately, the economy of Afghanistan has collapsed as the Taliban cut off all western aid which turns into the world's biggest humanitarian crisis. Apart from these problems, there are much more challenges for the organisation such as racism and religious conflicts across the world, cultural differences between countries across the world, human rights and the refugees of every country and many others. The world has recently overcome the pandemic situation and this organisation has provided protection and potential solutions to the countries during this period.

United Nations' SDG guidelines regarding global peace

Weak security, conflicts between countries and limited access to justice has been a great threat to the United Nations, as it does not help to develop sustainable frameworks. In the year of 2019, the organisation has seen 357 killings of human rights defenders and almost 30 enforced disappearances in 47 countries across the world. The organisation has their personal "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDG) guidelines to maintain global peace. This organisation has taken many targets to maintain global peace and these targets are reducing all kinds of violence to decrease the death rate worldwide, putting an end to child abuse and violence, trafficking and exploitation, and developing more useful and strict laws against any form of violence [15]. Apart from this, making laws against corruption and developing effective institutes at all levels will keep a transparent relationship with their employees and many others.

This organisation has taken 17 SDGs to maintain peace across the world and also to maintain the socio-economic status of every country. **1)** there will be no poverty in any country, **2)** end the hunger issues of every country and improve the nutrition circle of every country by increasing the food quality in agriculture, **3)** healthy lifestyle leading for every age group across the world, **4)** providing more qualitative opportunities in education, **5)** end all the gender issues and build sustainable gender equalities and empowering women and girls in every field, **6)** providing good sanitisation, **7)** sustainable and reliable frameworks based on natural resources, **8)** innovative and foster industrialization, **9)** increase economic growth through decent frameworks, **10)** decrease inequalities, **11)** strong communities, **12)** sustainable consumption and production patterns, **13)** taking urgent decisions to combat the climate change, **14)** save the lives of the underwater planet, **15)** protect the animals on the land, **16)** providing more laws for justice and peace, and **17)** making new global partnership [16].

Assessment of the role of the United Nations in promoting peace

The UN has taken an active role in ensuring peace and justice among different nations and has taken various types of interventions to end war and conflicts leading to the cold war. Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan are among the most endangered nations in the 2022 “Global Peace Index”. Additionally, the UN has announced providing an amount of 2.4 billion Dollars to improve the health and safety of the people impacted in the country [17]. It has been observed that health and safety conditions have a direct correlation with peace and regarding this, the UN has been focused on improving health conditions along with ensuring safety for the people living in areas having severe conflicts.

The most influential initiative organised by the UN is “*Action for Peacekeeping*”, launched in 2021. Additionally, the main purpose behind establishing this program is to focus on ensuring access to essential priorities and promoting peace by resolving emerging challenges [18]. The peace operations and activities of the UN have been expanded in numerous countries, especially in countries having severe issues of health, discrimination and safety. The organisation sends its volunteers or peacekeepers to these areas and in Africa, the UN has sent around 100,000 volunteers [19]. Thus, the UN maintains a constant focus on preventing the threat and risk factors and ensuring the health and safety of people from endangered communities for promoting “global peace”.

DISCUSSION

The following study has been carried out to assess the importance and influence of the UN in promoting “global peace” and the gathered data has been thematised. It has been observed that ensuring “global peace” is essential for maintaining balance in the inclusion, safety and health of people from different areas. It has been observed that sports can take an effective role in fostering “international peace” by creating collaboration between different nations [20]. The main factors increasing the significance of “international peace” are increasing chronic diseases, war, financial crises, epidemics and war. War is a major threat that not only impacts “global peace”, but also creates disruptions by affecting economic conditions, health and security of the general public. On the other hand, the UN stands among the organisations working for promoting health, inclusion, safety and peace among numerous countries.

The UN consists of 193 member countries and has been focused on developing collaboration in order to ensure security and peace in the international context. Consequently, the organisation consists of different branches and sections for different purpose and the responsibilities regarding peacekeeping has been provided to the Security Council [21]. The major purpose behind the formation of the UN is to end threats and conflicts leading to war and promote peace. Additionally, the organisation seeks funding and investments from its member countries to provide help to different areas with potential needs. The organisation maintains

collaboration with various other international organisations for improving and resolving humanitarian and financial issues. These organisations include the “*International Labour Organisation*”, “*World Bank*” and “*The International Monetary Fund*”.



Figure 2: Volunteers and workers of the UN [21]

In recent years, various types of challenges have impacted “world peace” and increased complications regarding different issues have increased the threat to peace. In addition, increasing discrimination, and the prevalence of cultural and religious matters have enhanced the need for an inclusive and peaceful earth. The peacekeepers involved in UN operations face several types of challenges, such as attacks while in operations, law breakdowns and arranged crime which creates barriers for them [22]. It has been observed that the prevalence of “organised crime” has increased rapidly which has created limitations as well as barriers for peacekeepers and also affected “international peace”. In recent years, the most crucial challenge affecting “global peace” has been identified to be the “law and order vacuum” in Sudan, “inter-community attacks and violations” in Mali and increasing tension in different parts around the world that are driving towards war.

The *UNPOL* or “*United Nations Police*” has been focused on improving the operations regarding “peacekeeping”, and “peace-building” and ensuring justice and inclusion. The UN has intended to send the UNPOL as “peacekeepers” in high-priority areas, known as A4P+ [23]. In addition, the UN has also prioritised strengthening alliances and collaborative programs. SDGs have been aimed to promote peace by improving the quality and flexibility of the way people live in the world [24]. Sports and tourism have been identified to enhance collaboration and interaction between nations and improve partnerships. On the other hand, the UN seeks funding from its member countries to arrange programs and take action regarding humanitarian issues to improve the quality of people’s lives and prevent conflicts.

War, inflation, increasing costs, changing health and environmental conditions, increasing chronic diseases, epidemics and the recent COVID-19 pandemic has been identified as the major factors creating disruptions associated with peace. SDGs consist of 17 goals for promoting equality and inclusion regardless of gender or income and protecting the world [25]. In order to achieve these goals and implement potential guidelines, the UN has established the *2030 Agenda*. Additionally, the organisation holds strong engagement and collaboration with several other

organisations focused on promoting health, gender and economic inclusion. Founded in 1945, this organisation has aimed to prevent conflicts and protect the security, peace and human rights of people. The Security Council under the UN is responsible for detecting risk factors creating threats along with developing potential solutions to foster peace.



Figure 3: Sustainable Development Goals of the UN[26]

The organisation maintains an effective focus on achieving and implementing the objectives as well as ensuring peace making throughout the planet. Therefore, it can be stated that the UN has taken effective responsibility for promoting and expanding peace regardless of gender, national identity or income. The implementation of the SDGs has been aimed to ensure prosperity, progress and peace [26]. Thus, this organisation has ensured the effective promotion of “global peace” as it is inevitable for fostering safety, health and inclusion. On the other hand, the UN has also taken an effective role in eliminating the factors creating challenges to “international peace”.

CONCLUSION

In the following study, the importance and influence of the United Nations in promoting “global peace” has been discussed. “Global peace” not only involves ensuring peace, rather it is more involved with promoting health, inclusion and security. Considering the overall discussions, it can be stated that “international peace”, being one of the vital aspects, has to be protected. Several challenges affecting “global peace” has been identified and assessed, including increasing violation and tension regarding religious and cultural matters, the cold war and increasing chronic diseases. Organised crimes and violating laws and orders have also increased which are creating barriers for the peacekeepers. The UNPOL has been focused on preventing these threats and associated risk factors to promote peacekeeping. A secondary data collection method has been followed and gathered data has been interpreted by conducting a thematic analysis.

It has been observed that promoting “global peace” is imperative and the UN has been focused on fostering it for ensuring inclusion, security and effective health of the general public living throughout the world. The main aim of the UN is to prevent war and promote peace along with improving collaboration and humanitarian efforts. The UN has implemented the Sustainable Development Goals or

SDGs to improve numerous humanitarian factors and foster peace by reducing poverty and promoting health and gender and financial inclusion. The UN has taken an active and vital role in expanding poverty throughout the world, especially in the countries ranked least on the “2022 Global Peace Index”. Serving the most impacted people and protecting human rights and securing the people living in A4P+ areas have been identified as a major priority of the UNPOL. The organisation has established collaboration with governments, humanitarian organisations and various international organisations for ensuring “global peace”. The UN has also taken several interventions and adopted different initiatives for improving peace in different areas, such as “Special Envoy Yemen” in Yemen and “Humanitarian Responses in Afghanistan” in Afghanistan.

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