



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Impact Of War On Human Life And Role Of United Nation And World Health Organization In Welfare

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Abstract

War has far-reaching effects that extend beyond immediate battlefield consequences. It significantly impacts national economies, social cohesion, public health, and political stability while reshaping international relations, trade, and security paradigms. This article explores the multifaceted effects of war on both national and international levels, drawing on historical and contemporary examples to highlight economic, social, political, and human. War has devastating and far-reaching effects on human life, affecting individuals, communities, and nations. This research explores the psychological, social, economic, and physical impacts of war on civilians and combatants alike. It draws from historical and contemporary conflicts to understand the multifaceted consequences of warfare as well as role of India and United State as well as United National Organization and World Health Organization in preventing war affairs.

Key words: National economies, social cohesion, public health, and political stability ,reshaping international relations, trade, and security paradigms, India , United State State, United Nation , World Health Organization.

Introduction

War, defined as an organized and often prolonged conflict carried out by states or non-state actors, disrupts societies and economies, creates humanitarian crises, and alters geopolitical landscapes. Understanding the national and international impacts of war is essential for policymakers, peacebuilders, and humanitarian agencies. War, whether internal or international, disrupts the fabric of human society. It causes loss of life, displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and long-lasting psychological trauma. This paper examines the diverse ways in which war affects human life beyond the battlefield. War has long been one of the most destructive forces affecting human civilization, leaving deep and lasting scars on individuals, societies, and nations. Its consequences extend far beyond the battlefield—devastating healthcare systems, displacing millions, and inflicting both physical and psychological trauma. In response to these humanitarian crises, global organizations such as the **United Nations (UN)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** play crucial roles in addressing immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. This research aims to explore the multidimensional impact of war on human life and examine how these international bodies contribute to welfare, peace-building, and the restoration of essential services in war-affected regions.

Research Objectives

1. **To analyze the multifaceted impact of war on human life**, including physical health, mental well-being, displacement, education, and economic stability.
2. **To examine the immediate and long-term health consequences of war** on affected populations, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly.
3. **To evaluate the role of the United Nations (UN)** in conflict resolution, peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and post-conflict reconstruction.
4. **To assess the contributions of the World Health Organization (WHO)** in managing healthcare crises during and after wars, including disease prevention, medical aid, and mental health support.
5. **To explore the coordination between UN and WHO** in implementing welfare programs and rebuilding health infrastructure in war-torn regions.
6. **To identify challenges and limitations faced by international organizations** in delivering effective welfare services during wartime and in post-conflict recovery.
7. **To provide policy recommendations** for enhancing the effectiveness of the UN and WHO in future conflict scenarios for improved humanitarian outcomes.

Review of Related Literature

1. Impact of War on Human Life

War has consistently shown devastating consequences on human life, affecting not only combatants but also civilians, who often bear the brunt of conflict. According to **Machel (1996)**, children are among the most vulnerable in war zones, suffering from displacement, malnutrition, loss of education, and psychological trauma. Additionally, **Murthy and Lakshminarayana (2006)** highlight the long-term psychological effects of war, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression among both adults and children.

Furthermore, **Ghobarah, Huth, and Russett (2003)** argue that the indirect effects of war, such as the collapse of healthcare systems and the spread of disease, often cause more fatalities than the conflict itself. War also disrupts social structures, governance, and economic development, leading to a prolonged cycle of poverty and instability (**Collier et al., 2003**).

Role of the United Nations in Human Welfare

The United Nations plays a central role in mitigating the effects of war through peacekeeping missions, humanitarian aid, and policy frameworks. The **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)** coordinates emergency responses and mobilizes international resources to assist affected populations. In post-conflict zones, the **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** focuses on rebuilding infrastructure, promoting governance, and supporting socio-economic development (**UNDP, 2020**).

Moreover, the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** provides protection and support for millions of displaced people worldwide. For example, in the aftermath of the Syrian Civil War, the UNHCR played a crucial role in delivering shelter, healthcare, and education services to refugees in neighboring countries (**UNHCR, 2022**).

Role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in War-Affected Areas

The WHO has a vital role in maintaining and restoring health systems in conflict zones. It provides essential medical supplies, deploys emergency medical teams, and supports disease surveillance and vaccination campaigns. According to the **WHO (2021)**, in war-torn regions such as Yemen and Sudan, the organization has delivered lifesaving services amid collapsing local health infrastructures.

The WHO also addresses the long-term health effects of war, such as mental health disorders and chronic diseases exacerbated by inadequate access to care. Through programs like the **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies (MHPSS)**, WHO aims to build resilience among war-affected populations.

The reviewed literature underscores the profound and multifaceted impacts of war on human life, including physical, psychological, and socio-economic dimensions. The UN and WHO play indispensable roles in responding to these crises, offering humanitarian aid, healthcare services, and long-term development support. However, the literature also indicates ongoing challenges, such as underfunding, limited access to conflict zones, and the need for better coordination among global actors.

National-Level Impacts of War

1 Economic Disruption

War leads to massive destruction of infrastructure, loss of labor, and diversion of national budgets from development to defense:

Example: Syria's GDP fell by over 60% between 2010 and 2016 due to prolonged conflict.

War often triggers inflation, unemployment, and long-term economic recession.

2 Human Cost and Public Health

High mortality and injury rates.

Displacement and refugee crises.

Psychological trauma and increased prevalence of mental health disorders such as PTSD.

Collapse of healthcare systems and outbreak of diseases.

3 Social and Cultural Breakdown

Disintegration of families and communities.

Cultural heritage sites are often destroyed (e.g., Iraq, Afghanistan).

Education systems are disrupted, leading to a "lost generation."

4 Political Instability

Regime changes, often resulting in power vacuums.

Rise of extremist groups in weakened states (e.g., ISIS in Iraq/Syria).

Erosion of civil liberties and democratic institutions.

International-Level Impacts of War

1 Refugee and Migration Crises

War displaces millions, affecting neighboring and distant countries.

Countries like Turkey, Lebanon, and Germany have absorbed large Syrian refugee populations, straining resources.

2 Global Economic Consequences

Disruption in global trade routes and energy supplies.

Volatility in global markets due to uncertainty.

Increased global defense spending reduces investment in global development initiatives.

3 Geopolitical Tensions and Alliances

Wars reshape international alliances and rivalries.

Example: The Russia-Ukraine war intensified NATO's presence in Eastern Europe and strained Russia-West relations.

4 Humanitarian and Environmental Impact

International organizations like the UN, WHO, and Red Cross are mobilized.

Environmental degradation from bombing, chemical weapons, and infrastructure destruction.

Case Studies

1 Ukraine-Russia Conflict (2022–Present)

Economic sanctions on Russia.

Global food and fuel crises.

Strengthening of Western alliances like NATO and EU coordination.

2 U.S. War in Afghanistan (2001–2021)

Long-term occupation led to economic strain.

Regional instability in South Asia.

Massive civilian casualties and displacement.

Impact of war on human beings

- 1. Psychological Impact:** War leads to widespread psychological trauma. Civilians and soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety. Children growing up in conflict zones often face long-term developmental and emotional challenges.
- 2. Physical and Health Consequences:** Physical injuries from violence, lack of access to medical care, malnutrition, and outbreak of diseases are common in war zones. Health systems often collapse under the strain, leading to higher mortality rates even from preventable diseases.
- 3. Economic Disruption:** Wars destroy infrastructure, disrupt agriculture, trade, and employment. Economic instability leads to poverty and hunger, deepening social inequalities. Rebuilding takes decades and often requires international assistance.
- 4. Displacement and Refugees:** Conflicts displace millions, creating refugee crises. Displaced persons live in overcrowded camps or foreign lands, often without basic rights or resources. This leads to loss of identity, culture, and community ties.
- 5. Impact on Education:** Schools are often targeted or used for military purposes. Children lose access to education for years, which affects future generations and hinders national development.
- 6. Social and Cultural Breakdown:** War fractures communities, fueling hatred and mistrust among ethnic or religious groups. Cultural heritage is destroyed, and societal norms often collapse under prolonged violence.

Role of India in prevention of war

India has played a significant role in the prevention of war and the promotion of peace both regionally and globally. Here are the key aspects of India's role:

1. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

India was a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War, advocating for peaceful coexistence and neutrality between the US and Soviet blocs. Under leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, India promoted dialogue over confrontation.

2. Peacekeeping Missions

India is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping forces, sending troops to conflict zones in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Indian peacekeepers have been instrumental in maintaining stability and preventing war in several countries.

3. Diplomacy and Mediation

India has often used diplomacy to ease tensions, especially in South Asia. Examples include: Kargil Conflict (1999): India exercised restraint and internationalized the issue through diplomatic channels.

India-China border tensions: India has consistently engaged in dialogue to resolve disputes. Sri Lanka Civil War: India attempted to mediate peace and sent the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in 1987.

4. Advocacy for Disarmament

India has consistently advocated for global nuclear disarmament and a no-first-use nuclear policy. It promotes the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and supports treaties that aim to curb the arms race.

5. Promotion of International Law

India supports the United Nations Charter, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the use of international institutions to address disputes.

6. Humanitarian and Development Aid

India provides aid and development assistance to neighboring and African countries, helping prevent instability that can lead to conflict.

Role of United State in prevention of war

The United States plays a significant role in the prevention of war globally through a variety of diplomatic, military, and economic strategies. Here are the key aspects of its role:

1. Diplomatic Engagement

The U.S. uses its influence to mediate conflicts and support peace negotiations between nations. It is an active member of the United Nations and supports peacekeeping missions. The U.S. frequently works through alliances like NATO, the G7, and bilateral agreements to promote stability.

2. Economic Tools

The U.S. uses economic sanctions and foreign aid to influence other countries' behaviors, discouraging actions that could lead to war. It supports economic development and humanitarian aid in conflict-prone regions to reduce instability.

3. Military Presence and Alliances

The U.S. maintains military bases worldwide as a deterrent to aggression by hostile states. Through alliances such as NATO, it provides security guarantees that discourage nations from engaging in war.

4. Non-Proliferation Efforts

The U.S. leads efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction through treaties like the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

5. Support for International Law

The U.S. supports international legal frameworks that govern conflict and promote peace, such as the Geneva Conventions and international courts.

6. Conflict Resolution and Peace building

U.S. organizations and agencies like USAID support post-conflict reconstruction and promote democracy, rule of law, and human rights, which help prevent future conflicts.

8.Role of United National Organization and World Health organization war in affairs

Here is a concise explanation of the roles of the United Nations Organization (UNO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the prevention of war and related affairs:

1. United Nations Organization (UNO):

The UNO was founded in 1945 after World War II to promote peace, security, and international cooperation. Its roles in the prevention of war include: Peacekeeping Missions: Deploys peacekeeping forces in conflict zones to maintain ceasefires, protect civilians, and support political processes.

Objectives of the United Nations Organization (UNO)

The United Nations (UNO), established in 1945, has the following main objectives as outlined in its Charter:

1. Maintain International Peace and Security

Prevent and remove threats to peace.

Suppress acts of aggression.

Promote peaceful resolution of disputes among nations.

2. Develop Friendly Relations Among Nations

Promote respect for equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

Encourage cooperation among nations regardless of race, religion, language, or political system.

3. Achieve International Cooperation.

Solve global problems in economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian fields.

Promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. Be a Center for Harmonizing the Actions of Nations

Coordinate efforts of countries to achieve common goals.

Serve as a platform for dialogue and negotiation.

Peacekeeping Missions: Deploys peacekeeping forces in conflict zones to maintain ceasefires, protect civilians, and support political processes.

Mediation and Conflict Resolution: Acts as a neutral platform for diplomatic negotiations to resolve conflicts peacefully.

International Law Enforcement: Promotes adherence to international laws and treaties that discourage aggression and war.

Sanctions and Diplomacy: Imposes sanctions on nations that threaten peace and encourages dialogue and cooperation.

Function Of United Nation Organization (UNO):

Promotion of Human Rights: Works to eliminate the root causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and human rights violations.

Mediation and Conflict Resolution: Acts as a neutral platform for diplomatic negotiations to resolve conflicts peacefully. **International Law Enforcement:** Promotes adherence to international laws and treaties that discourage aggression and war.

Sanctions and Diplomacy: Imposes sanctions on nations that threaten peace and encourages dialogue and cooperation.

Promotion of Human Rights: Works to eliminate the root causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and human rights violations.

2. World Health Organization (WHO):

While WHO is primarily a health-focused agency under the UN, it plays an important supportive role in conflict prevention by addressing health-related factors that can contribute to unrest:

These objectives guide the various organs and activities of the UNO, including peacekeeping missions, humanitarian aid, development programs, and international law enforcement.

Mission of WHO

"Promote health, keep the world safe, serve the vulnerable."The WHO's mission is to coordinate international health within the United Nations system and lead global efforts to ensure access to essential health services and improve health outcomes for all.

Vision of WHO

"A world in which all people attain the highest possible level of health." WHO envisions a world where everyone, regardless of socio-economic status or geography, can enjoy optimal physical, mental, and social well-being.

Objectives of WHO

As defined in its Constitution, WHO has the following key objectives:

1. To attain the highest possible level of health for all people.
2. To act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
3. To provide leadership on global health matters and shape the health research agenda.
4. To set norms and standards and promote their implementation.
5. To monitor the health situation and assess health trends.
6. To strengthen health systems and improve access to essential medicines and health technologies.
7. To promote health equity and reduce health inequalities worldwide.
8. To provide technical support to countries in developing and strengthening public health policies and strategies.
9. To support emergency preparedness and respond to health crises and outbreaks.

Function of UNO

Emergency Health Services: Provides health care in war-affected and post-conflict areas, reducing civilian suffering and preventing further instability.

Disease Control in Conflict Zones: Prevents the spread of epidemics during and after wars, which can destabilize regions. **Health System Strengthening:** Helps rebuild health systems in fragile states, promoting stability and peace.

Mental Health and Trauma Support: Addresses psychological effects of war, aiding in recovery and reducing the risk of recurring violence. Here is a concise explanation of the roles of the United Nations Organization (UNO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the prevention of war and related affairs:

2. Role of World Health Organization (WHO) in preventing war affairs

While WHO is primarily a health-focused agency under the UN, it plays an important supportive role in conflict prevention by addressing health-related factors that can contribute to unrest:

Emergency Health Services: Provides health care in war-affected and post-conflict areas, reducing civilian suffering and preventing further instability.

Disease Control in Conflict Zones: Prevents the spread of epidemics during and after wars, which can destabilize regions.

Health System Strengthening: Helps rebuild health systems in fragile states, promoting stability and peace.

Mental Health and Trauma Support: Addresses psychological effects of war, aiding in recovery and reducing the risk of recurring violence.

9. Conclusion

War remains a profound disruptor at both national and international levels. While its immediate impacts are visible in loss of life and destruction, its long-term consequences extend to economic hardship, political instability, and altered global dynamics. International cooperation, peacebuilding, and sustainable development are vital to mitigating the effects and preventing future conflicts. The impact of war extends far beyond combat zones, inflicting long-term suffering on human lives and societies. Peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and post-war rehabilitation are essential for healing and sustainable development. War leaves a profound and often irreversible impact on human life, disrupting societies, economies, and the very fabric of communities. It results in loss of life, displacement, psychological trauma, destruction of

infrastructure, and long-term socio-economic instability. Civilians, especially women and children, bear the brunt of its consequences, facing challenges such as inadequate healthcare, malnutrition, and lack of access to basic services. In this context, the roles of the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are both crucial and commendable. The UN, through its peacekeeping missions, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic interventions, works to mitigate the immediate effects of conflict and foster long-term peace and reconstruction. The WHO, on the other hand, addresses the critical health emergencies that arise during and after conflicts by coordinating international health responses, supplying essential medical resources, and supporting war-affected populations through mental and physical health initiatives. Together, these organizations play a vital role not only in alleviating the immediate suffering caused by war but also in rebuilding lives and promoting sustainable development in post-conflict regions. However, for their efforts to be truly effective, there is a need for increased global cooperation, adequate funding, and stronger political will to prevent conflicts and prioritize human welfare. Ultimately, fostering peace and supporting recovery requires a unified global commitment to uphold human rights and dignity amidst the harsh realities of war.

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