ABSTRACT

Many countries have experienced and comprehended that peacebuilding is a challenging process. The complex and prolonged nature of war, as well as the war consequences and mismanagement of peacebuilding approaches, make efforts at restoration challenging. Conversely, when war consequences confound the social fabric by creating widespread victimization, the losses can be varied and far-reaching. This is especially true of post-2009 Sri Lanka. Laying a foundation for peacebuilding approaches is essential in restoration during post-war recoveries. Theory shows that peacebuilding influences the restoration by making ‘justice’ a plausible realization. Restoration can be achieved by successful measures: sustainable resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and reparation. In this study, the main research question examines how peacebuilding approaches have been employed and their use on restoration during the post-war reconciliation process in Sri Lanka. The data are taken from the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which were badly affected during the twenty-six-year civil war. The study utilizes a mixed methods research design; a phenomenological case study method and a sequential explanatory design. Two data sets were used from three districts, which provide a sample of 48 questionnaire-based survey and qualitative data. The study reveals in the one-sample proportion test that peacebuilding approaches should be jointly yet differently significant for achieving restoration. The study argues that the state is one of the main actors in reconstruction and reparation, which are essential in war-affected regions. State peacebuilding mainly attempts to eliminate physical harm. However, the involvement of grassroots peacebuilding together with state peacebuilding makes it more effective in overall recovery. The findings reveal Sri Lanka’s post-war peacebuilding, such as that resettlement, livelihood (re)gain and reparation are state-driven yet integrative with grassroots peacebuilding efforts of restoration.