Restorative Justice is nevertheless a disaggregated model. Combining relational justice, participative or consensual justice and transforming or reforming justice, restorative justice has become a catchall concept that has something for everyone.

In this research, an attempt has been made to find out the feasibilities of restorative justice – satisfying victim without stigmatizing the offender. The research study concluded the following findings of the restorative justice:-

1. **FOCUSSES ON VICTIMS’ NEEDS**

Restorative justice takes into account the material, financial, emotional and social needs of the victims (Including those personally close to the victim who may be similarly affected). The benefits of restorative justice from victims perspectives are as follows:-

a) Providing an opportunity to the victim(s) for participation in the justice process, thus, making less formal process where their views count.

b) Victim(s) receive answers to their questions and a better understanding of why they were chosen to be victimized.

c) Restoring the emotional and material losses to victims by valuing efforts by offenders to make “amends” i.e., sincere apology; changed behavior; restitution; and generosity towards victim and the affected community.

d) The process of restorative justice ensures respectful and fair treatment to the victim(s) participating in the process.
2. **FOCUSSES ON THE AFFECTED COMMUNITY'S NEEDS**

When this is the issue, as opposed to individual victims, advocates face more fundamental challenges. If the restorative justice wisdom is to be widely accepted—viewing crime as an injury to personal relationships requiring a focus on direct victims, rather than as an offence against the state or society—participants in the test-marketing forum may be somewhat curious about being asked simultaneously to embrace what may seem to them equally abstract notions of harm to community, and community-as-victim. Therefore, the term “community” lends itself to a variety of defining criteria, ranging from geographic boundaries, to membership of a family, professional, or social group.

3. **OFFENDERS TO ASSUME ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

Restorative Justice enables offenders to assume active responsibility for their actions which resulted in lesser victimization of victims. A focus on harm also implies an emphasis on offender accountability and responsibility - in concrete, not abstract, terms. Too often we have thought of accountability as punishment -- pain administered to offenders for the pain they have caused.

Restorative Justice focuses on “crime” as essentially about harm, accountability means being encouraged to understand that harm, to begin to comprehend the consequences of one's behavior. Moreover, it means taking responsibility to make things right insofar as possible, both concretely and symbolically. As our fore-parents knew well, wrong creates obligations; taking responsibility for those obligations is the beginning of genuine accountability.
Unfortunately, in our current criminal justice system, this often is irrelevant or even counterproductive to real accountability. Little in the criminal justice process encourages offenders to understand the consequences of their actions or to empathize with victims. On the contrary, the adversarial game requires offenders to look out for themselves.

In our present criminal justice system, Offenders are discouraged from acknowledging their responsibility and are given little opportunity to act on this responsibility in concrete ways. The "neutralizing strategies" – the stereotypes and rationalizations that offenders use to distance themselves from the people they hurt -- are never challenged. So the sense of alienation from society experienced by many offenders, the feeling that they themselves are victims, is only heightened by the legal process and the prison experience.

4. **REINTEGRATE VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS INTO THE COMMUNITY**

Crime causes injuries. It can also result in both the victim and offender experiencing stigmatization. Therefore, restorative justice places a high value on the reintegration of the victim and of the offender. The goal is to have them become whole, contributing members of their communities.

5. **NO SOCIAL STIGMA**

Restorative justice system satisfies the victim without stigmatizing the offender. It focuses on repairing the harm done by the offender. The offender has to make "amends" in the form of sincere apology and generosity. The victim gets the material restitution in the form of money as well as sincere service on the part of the offender.
In the traditional criminal justice system, victims often feel stigmatized by family, friends and the community. Sometimes this is because of the loneliness experienced during and after a traumatic crisis. But sometimes it is because victims are uncomfortable reminders to those around them that crime can happen to anyone. Out of fear, people who might naturally support victims instead attempt to explain away what happened by blaming the victim or wishing he/she would "just get over it." This works to separate the victim from loved ones and community members and can lead to stigmatization.

Offenders also face stigmatization. Since crime causes fear in the community, offenders become vilified in the eyes of society. Incarceration separates them from their families and communities. Upon release, offenders frequently lack stable support structures, and even start-up money for food and clothes, housing, transportation, and other parts of a healthy productive life. At the same time, offenders face discrimination in their attempts to become productive citizens.

Reintegration occurs when the victim or offender can become active and productive parts of their communities. To accomplish this, victims and offenders must find communities with the following characteristics: (1) mutual respect for those in the community, (2) mutual commitment to others in the community, and (3) intolerance for--but understanding of--deviant behavior by members of the community. This happens only in the restorative justice system.
Healing by reintegration of victims as well as offenders into the community, strives to restore harmony, health, and well-being by comprising personal accountability, decision-making and the putting right of harm. This inclusion as opposed to exclusion, demonstrates the capability of transformation of the administration of criminal justice, mental health, psychology and public policy norms. Examples of healing include: victim offender mediation, conferencing, healing circles, victim and ex-offender assistance, restitution, and community service, each method heals in different ways. These restorative justice methods engage all the parties i.e., victim; offender and the affected community in creating agreements in order to avoid recidivism and to restore safety for how the wrongdoing can be righted which allows the victim to have direct say in the judgment process. This gives offenders the opportunity to understand the harm they have caused.

6. COMMUNITY BASED

Restorative Justice recreates a working community that supports the rehabilitation of offenders and victims and is active in preventing crime. The teacher in the classroom, the police officer in the community, the probation officer with his caseload, the corrections officer in the prison all have opportunities to model and teach. One can turn negative incidents into constructive events – building empathy and a sense of community that reduce the likelihood of negative incidents in the future.

7. INEXPENSIVE

Restorative Justice provides means of avoiding escalation of legal justice and the associated huge costs and unnecessary delays as in the case traditional criminal justice system.

Compared with the traditional model of justice, restorative justice offers a more positive and constructive approach to restoring ties between the victim of an offence, the person who committed the offence and the community as a whole. It does not eliminate denunciation and reaffirmation of social norms, but it does tend to make justice more compassionate and more sensitive to the suffering of the individuals and communities affected by crime which can be easily understood with the help of a chart given below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Criminal Justice</th>
<th>Restorative Justice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problem</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defined narrowly, abstractly, a legal infraction.</td>
<td>Defined relationally as a violation of people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only legal variables relevant</td>
<td>Overall context relevant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State as victim.</td>
<td>People as victims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State (active) and offender (passive).</td>
<td>Victim and offender primary, along with community and State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Process</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversarial, authoritarian, technical, impersonal.</td>
<td>Participatory, maximizing information, dialogue and mutual agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus = guilt / blame</td>
<td>Focus = needs and obligations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“neutralizing strategies” encouraged</td>
<td>Empathy and responsibility encouraged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pain, suffering</td>
<td>Making things right by identifying needs and obligations; healing; problem-solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harm by offender balanced by harm to offender</td>
<td>Harm by offender balanced by making right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriented to past</td>
<td>Oriented to future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Restorative justice has not yet changed the basic course of the criminal justice system. It has proven to be a more effective alternative to prison or other forms of punishment. It is, therefore, suggested that the philosophy of restorative justice should be used in conjunction with the present criminal justice system to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. Restorative justice is non-stigmatizing, economically viable and socially practicable process.

Restorative justice has significant contributions to make as a framework for understanding the work of peace building and as a foundation for the development of practices, processes and institutions aimed at achieving it. Restorative justice theory and practice is thus worthy of serious attention by those working to build lasting and sustainable peace in post-conflict societies. Through a restorative lens the heart of peace building becomes clear it requires the establishment of just relationships upon which a secure and peaceful future can be built and maintained. Justice (understood restoratively) is thus required for peace.

Restorative justice allegedly emerges from conflicts between formal legality and its ‘informal’ social environment as conditioned by politics, morality, economics and education. Like any other system of justice, restorative justice has its own internal modes of procedure and self-regulation. Like any other social sub-system, restorative justice constructs its internal understanding of social conflicts and formalizes their modes of resolution in an artificial and self-referential way. Responding to the failures of allegedly formalistic and dehumanizing criminal justice, it needs to introduce alternative forms of dispute settlement. Instead of repeating its accusations of criminal law’s non-responsiveness, a social theory of reflexivity in restorative justice rather needs to focus on its limits, its internal forms of self-regulation, its conceptual self-reference, and its interference with the social environment. So, Restorative justice theory and practice provide ways to look forward to, plan for, realize, and maintain a peaceful future.
We are working towards restorative justice when we:

- Focus on the harms of wrongdoing more than the rules that have been broken.
- Show equal concern and commitment to victims and offenders, involving both in the process of justice.
- Work towards the restoration of victims, empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them;
- Support offenders while encouraging them to understand, accept and carry out their obligations;
- Recognize that while obligations may be difficult for offenders, they should not be intended as harms and they must be achievable;
- Provide opportunities for dialogue, direct or indirect, between victims and offenders as appropriate;
- Involve and empower the affected community through the justice process, and increase its capacity to recognize and respond to community bases of crime;
- Encourage collaboration and reintegration, rather than coercion and isolation;
- Give attention to the unintended consequences of our actions and programs; and
- Show respect to all parties (including victims, offenders and justice colleagues).

Harry Mika and Howard Zehr