

IMPACT OF HERDSMEN AND FARMERS CLASH ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN UKUM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE

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Abstract

The study aimed at investigating the Impact of Herdsmen and Farmers Crisis on the Management of Secondary Schools in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State. The study has examined the impact of herdsmen and farmers in North Central in general and Benue State in particular with particular attention as to how these conflicts the management of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area. Frustration aggression theory was used to backup the variables used in the study. Empirical and conceptual framework was carried out on all the variables. Four research questions were used to guide the study, for hypotheses where tested using Pearson product moment coloration. The results show that the crises have significant impact on the management of secondary schools in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State. It was recommended among other things that government should not leave any stone unturned to ensure peace and security within its territorial integrity to enable school management carry out their duties effectively. State Government should collaborate with Federal Government to ensure a peaceful atmosphere so that secondary school can function effectively.

Introduction

The Fula origin also known as Fulani are a mass inhabitants widely dispersed in all of Africa, but most predominant in West Africa. The Fulani people are descendants from Middle East and North Africa. However, the history of the Fulani origin began with the Berbers of North Africa around the 8th or 11th century AD (Anter, 2015). Over a millennium ago from AD 900-1900, they spread to most parts of West Africa and to some areas of Central Africa (Anter, 2015). The Fulani migrants were predominantly Muslims. As the population increases, the number of converts to Islam also increased. In the beginning of 18th century, there were revolts between the Fulani and the local people. Although, these uprisings began as holy wars (jihads), after their triumph they followed the basic standard of Fulani ethnic dominance in most West African States. Most of the Fulani people are nomadic in nature,

herding sheep, goats and cattle across the dry grass lands of their environs and making them the main pastoral nomadic group in the world. The main Fulani sub groups in Nigeria are: Fulbe Gombe, Fulbe Adamawa, Fulbe Sokoto, Fulbe Mbororo, and Fulbe Borgu (Kasarachi, 2016). The Fulani unarguably represent a significant part of the economy of Nigeria. They are the major breeders of goats, sheep and cattle as those animals are the major source of meat and affordable source of animal proteins ate by Nigerians. The Fulani own over ninety percent of the livestock population which accounts for one-third of agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) and 3.2% of the entire GDP in Nigeria (Fabiya & Otunuga, 2016).

The Fulani herdsmen mostly move with their cattle's from one destination to another in search of grazing land especially in the dry season. When the Fulani light-skinned herders are migrating, they are often accompanied by their dark-skinned sedentary kinsmen (urban or town Fulani), who are better educated, more dynamic as politicians, and were fanatical and versed as Muslims than the former. When the herders encounter local opposition to their encroachments, the sedentary provide the requisite political and military strategy for resistance, and when the sedentary felt the need for socio-religious cleansing (a jihad), the herdsmen provide the rank and file of the fighting forces. However, the Fulani herders in most cases settled in fertile areas to rear their cattle and when the migration continued to be dictated by economic and socio-political factors, increased trends of conflicts between the herders and their host communities (farmers) escalated. Many Nigerians lost their lives, properties/farmlands or crops every year to Fulani herders. The conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farmers came into existence as a result of encroachment of farmlands by the Fulani herders. Nigeria is under a severe internal security threat as the threat has political, economic and environmental dimensions. Each of these dimensions has critically affected the stability of the nation and can be traced to many factors in which the Fulani-herdsmen appears to be major factor. Most worrisome in the present development is the pillaging, raping, killing and kidnapping by the so-called Fulani herdsmen. Stories are found in the national dailies on daily basis of how these shepherds strategically attack several communities and houses, with sophisticated assault gunsAK-47. According to Okereke (2012) and Bello (2013), the conflicts in most part of Nigeria especially the Fulani herdsmen and farmers clash are largely uncalled for. Farmers can no more do their farm work peacefully due to herdsmen. These herdsmen and farmers clash have placed Christians and Muslims against themselves.

Recently, studies carried out by Okereke (2012) and Kasarachi (2016) have clearly shown that, magnificent conflict erupt between herdsmen and farmers resulting to loss of lives, valuable properties and mass destruction of large expanse of arable farmlands thereby causing serious threat to food security since farmers for fear of attack could no longer go to farm and harvest their farm produce. The latest attacks by Fulani herdsmen is on the upsurge, with the latest attacks in February 2018 happening in Benue State, Taraba State, Nassarawa State and few cases of attack in other states. In recent times, the killings recorded by Fulani herdsmen and farmers clash has rampaged most communities displacing them of their farmlands and loss of their major source of livelihood. This is getting to the apex with the herdsmen mostly having their means leaving the farmers at their mercy. Herdsmen imposed the roots of the clashes to religious differences leading to the killing of their cows while the farmers see the herdsmen as a danger to their crops and agricultural produce since the herdsmen allow their cows to eat the farmer crops. This recent wave of conflict in Nigeria as noticed by Kasarachi (2016) has hindered socioeconomic, religious and educational activities, political instability and threatened the national unity in Nigeria. These extra judiciary killings have forced thousands of people to abandon their homes and farmlands for safety. This unfolding violence have become so devastating that there is no speculation the

fact that Nigeria is at a crossroad and gradually drifting to a conflict society (Okereke 2012). Equally begging for answers are the social issues of the rape of women, robbery and kidnapping with ultimate intent for ransom. Hence the study, the impact of herdsmen and farmers clashes on the socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.

Statement of the Problem

The menace of Fulani-Herdsmen appears to have dire implications for socio-economic development in the states attacked and Nigeria in general. In the states where the Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis is pervasive, the property destroyed and cases of rapes slog their economic and social opulence back by several steps. Besides the destroyed properties, socio-economic life in those states is usually grounded to a halt as people could not freely go about their farming and socio-economic activities for fear of being killed. The overall implication for sustainable development is that the farming, economic and social activities seem to be fast deteriorating. Also, a substantial part of the country's budget has been spent on the compensation of families who lost their relations to the Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis. Also, huge amount of money is being spent on weapons and ammunition acquisition so as to equip the military to handle the situation on ground. All these seem to have affected educational development of secondary schools in the area. These observations have attracted the attention of this researcher to investigate the impact of herdsmen and farmers clash on the socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state. Nigeria is seriously threatened by Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis and therefore, considered to be a main threat affecting the social and economic activities of the nation. Fulani herdsmen and farmers clashes seem to have become a major problem to the security and development of Nigeria. The frequent occurrence of Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis appears to have left adverse effects on socio-economic development of the people. Fulani herdsmen and farmers crisis no doubt have negative impact on social and economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.

Purpose of the Study

The major aim of the study is to examine impact of herdsmen and farmers clash on the socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state. Other specific objectives of the study include;

1. To examine the nature of the herdsmen/farmers' clashing Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.
2. To examine the causes of Fulani – Herdsmen and farmers clashes in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.
3. To examine the impact of Herdsmen/farmers clash on socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.
4. To examine the socio-economic implication of the menace of Fulani – Herdsmen and farmers clash on education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.

Research Questions

1. What is the nature of the herdsmen/farmers' clash in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State?
2. What are the causes of Fulani – Herdsmen and farmers clashes in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state?

- 3 What is the impact of Herdsmen/farmers clash on socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state?
- 4 What are the socio-economic implications of the menace of Fulani – Herdsmen and farmers clash on education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State?

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant impact of Herdsmen/farmers clash on socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.
2. There is a significant impact of Herdsmen/farmers clash on socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.
3. There is no significant relationship between herdsmen-farmers clash and socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.
4. There is a significant relationship between herdsmen-farmers clash and socio-economic development of secondary education in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue state.

Methodology

Data Collection

The data for the study was collected using questionnaires developed by the researcher, validated by research experts and approved by the supervisor.

Sampling Technique

As a result of the inability of the researcher to effectively study the whole group under study, a representative number was chosen as the sample size population. One hundred (100) teachers in selected public secondary schools in Benue state were used as the sample size. The sample size was calculated using the Taro Yamane scientific formula which is given as:

$$N = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

N is the Population

1 is the constant

e is the degree of error expected

n is the sample size

$$n = \frac{200}{1 + 300 (0.05)^2}$$

$$\frac{200}{1 + 400 (0.0025)}$$

$$\frac{200}{1 + 1}$$

$$\underline{200}$$

$$n = 100$$

Method of Data Collection

In this study, questionnaires and interviews are research instrument used. Questionnaire is the main research instrument used for the study to gather necessary data from the sample respondents. The questionnaire is structured in such a way that it provides answers to the research questions.

This instrument is divided and limited into two sections; Section A and B. Section A deals with the personal data of the respondents while Section B contains research statement postulated in line with the research questions and hypotheses in chapter one. Options or alternatives are provided for each respondent to pick or tick one of the options.

Method of Data Analysis

In order to analyze the data collected effectively and efficiently for easy management and accuracy, the simple percentage method was the analytical tools used for this research project and a sample size of one hundred (100) will be represented by 100% for easy analysis of the responses.

Also, Correlation statistical analytical method will be used in the research work. Correlation as a statistical technique is used in testing of hypothesis so as to predict what the relationship between two variables should be. It is used in drawing and reaching conclusion by collecting the observed values from the questionnaire administered to respondents, testing the degree of freedom and carrying out a decision in determining the critical value of the hypothesis.

$$r = \frac{n\sum X y - \sum X \sum y}{\sqrt{[n\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2] [n\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

Where x = independent factor
y = dependent factor

Having gathered the data through the administration of questionnaire, the collected data will be coded, tabulated, and analyzed according to the research question and hypothesis.

Reliability of Instrument

Anyanwu (2012) defines reliability as “the ability of a particular measuring instrument to yield similar result when applied to the same situation at different times.” The reliability of instrument was determined by a reliability test through the use of pilot study. Test and retest approach was adopted and the pretest was done using questionnaire administered to the respondents of the selected companies. A total of twenty (200) copies of questionnaire were administered to residents in five selected public secondary schools in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State. All the copies of the questionnaire distributed

were completed and returned. Using the Pearson Product Moment correlation Coefficient, the reliability was found to be high, $r = 0.96$ showing that there is consistency in the items of the survey.

Table 1. Pearson – Product Moment Correlation Coefficient showing the reliability of instrument

Selected public secondary schools in delta state	First Average Response (x)	Second Average Response (y)	Xy	X ²	Y ²
Ugborikoko Secondary School, Effurun	4	5	20	16	25
Inland Girls Secondary School	5	4	20	25	16
Government Technical College Onitsha	3	4	12	9	16
St Brigids Girls Asaba	3	4	12	9	16
Boys technical college	4	3	12	16	9
Total	19	20	76	75	82

Source: Researcher’s Field survey 2019.

Formula:

$$\frac{n\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{(n\sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2)(n\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2)}}$$

$$\frac{20(76) - (19)(20)}{\sqrt{20(75) - (19)^2(20(82) - (20)^2)}}$$

$$\frac{1,520 - 380}{\sqrt{(1,500 - 561)(1,640 - 400)}}$$

$$\frac{1,140}{\sqrt{(1,139)(1,240)}}$$

$$\frac{1,140}{\sqrt{1,412,360}}$$

$$\frac{1140}{1188.42} = \underline{0.96}$$

Results and Discussion

The data gathered were presented according to the order in which they were arranged in the research questions, simple percentage and pie graphs were used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents while spearman rank correlation was adopted to test the research hypotheses.

Hypothesis 1

H₀: There is no significant impact of herdsmen/farmers’ clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state.

H₁: There is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers’ clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state.

Level of significance: 0.05

Decision rule: reject the null hypothesis if the p-value is less than the level of significance, accept the null hypothesis if otherwise

Table 2. Test Statistics

	There is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers’ clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state
Chi-Square	105.520 ^a
Df	3
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 25.0.

Conclusions based on decision rule

Since the p-value= 0.000 is less than the level of significance (0.05), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers’ clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state

Hypothesis 2

H₀: There is no significant relationship between herdsmen-farmers clash and socio-economic development of secondary schools in Benue state.

H₁: There is a significant relationship between herdsmen-farmers clash and socio-economic development of secondary schools in Benue state.

Level of significance: 0.05

Decision rule: reject the null hypothesis if the p-value is less than the level of significance, accept the null hypothesis if otherwise.

Correlations

		There is a significant relationship between herdsmen-farmers clash and socio-economic development of secondary schools in Benue state	There is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers' clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state
There is a significant relationship between herdsmen-farmers clash and socio-economic development of secondary schools in Benue state	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	1 100	.853** .000 100
There is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers' clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	.853** .000 100	1 100

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Based on the Correlation table above

The correlation coefficient R= 0.853 indicates a strong positive relationship. We therefore conclude that there is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers' clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state.

Findings

1. The herdsmen and farmer's clash in Benue state led to high loss lives and properties

2. Competition over land use remains the major cause of herdsmen and farmers clashes in Benue state
3. There is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers' clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state
4. Herdsmen and farmers clash in Benue state led to fast deterioration of farming, economic and social activities in the state.
5. There is a significant impact of herdsmen/farmers' clash on socio-economic development of secondary school in Benue state.
6. Provision of ranches for the cattle will serve as a measure to resolve the herdsmen/farmers clash in Benue state.
7. Herdsmen and farmer clash in Benue state led to poor socio-economic development of secondary schools in the state.

Conclusions

It is concluded that there is a great social and economic effects of the menace of Fulani's Herdsmen in Benue state. It can be concluded that the causes of the conflict are destruction of crops, harassment of nomads by host youths, disregard for traditional authority, stray cattle, sexual harassment of women by nomads and Indiscriminate bush burning and theft of cattle. The social effect of the menace of Fulani – Herdsmen are loss of human life, sexual harassment of human life, acquiring of weapons/arms, reduction in quality of social relationship, reduction of social support and high cases of rape while the economic effect of the menace of Fulani – Herdsmen are reduction in output and income of farmers/nomads, loss of produce in storage, displacement of farmers, scarcity of agricultural products, loss of house and properties and infrastructural damages. It was further concluded that farmers and Fulani perception of the causes of Fulani – Herdsmen and farmers clashes in Nigeria are not different while farmers and Fulani perception of the social effects and economic effects of Fulani – Herdsmen and farmers clashes in Nigeria are different.

Recommendations

Following the finding of this work the following recommendation is being made:

1. Representatives of the host communities and Fulani herdsmen should be conveyed under a public forum and involved in the decision making and permitted to take part actively in the planning procedure of restoring peace to most of the affected communities
2. Participatory planning process that involves all stakeholders (herdsmen and farmers) in the dispute resolution mechanism should be adopted.
3. Ranching method of cattle rearing should be adopted at rearing location across the country while the herdsmen should be given needed training for effective and efficient management of the ranching.
4. There is need for proper re-orientation of the essence of social interaction irrespective of the religious and ethics background
5. Government should be firm and fair in its resolution and implementation of decisions

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