

NOMADIC PASTORALISTS-FARMER CONFLICT AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

BY

PROF. SULEIMAN A. S. ARUWA
DEAN, SCHOOL OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES,
NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFI,

EBUTE, JOEL U.
DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFI

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ABDUL ADAMU BIU
DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFI

ABSTRACT

The study assessed nomadic pastoralists-farmer conflict and insecurity in Nigeria. The population of this study consisted of all staff of the seven strategic Federal Ministries and relevant agencies under these ministries and three International Donor Agencies. The study adopted a descriptive research design while simple random sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents. Data was collected using a questionnaire and interview method under the ministries. The instrument was vetted by an expert in test and measurement before the reliability test was conducted which produced the reliability coefficient of 0.89 proving the instrument to be reliable for the study. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage analysis. From the results of the data analysis, it was observed that there are incidences of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has significant threat on breakdown of law and order in Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that considering the fact that the prevailing nomadic pastoralist and farmers conflict is one of the major determinants of breakdown of law and order in Nigeria, government and other agencies such as, National Emergency Management Agency should intervene quickly in order to reduce conflicts and restore peace in the warring regions.

.Key Words: Nomadic Pastoralists, Farmers, Conflict, Law and Order, Security, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The population explosion of Nigerians with accompanying extensive infrastructural development has not only encroached on the traditional routes by nomadic pastoralists but also increased demand for farm land to feed the growing population. Tensions have thus grown over the past decade, with increasingly violent flare-ups spreading throughout central and southern states; incidents have occurred in at least 22 of the country's 36 states, (International Crisis Group, 2017). According to the study conducted by the Assessment Capacity Project Team,

(2017), in 2016, over 2,000 people were killed and tens of thousands displaced in Benue and Kaduna states alone. Incidents involving nomadic pastoralists accounted for 44 per cent of all fatalities in the country in 2016 (SBM Intel, 2017). Recently, Benue State government had on the 11th January, 2018 conducted mass burial of 73 persons who lost their lives as a result of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict. These conflicts are, by every measure, complex, multidimensional and viewed as one of the top greatest security challenges with catastrophic implications on Nigeria.

It is important to note that these conflicts have direct impact on national development as the lives and livelihood of those involved are disrupted and the sustainability of pastoral production and agriculture in Nigeria threatened. These conflicts reinforce circles of extreme poverty and hunger, and destroy social status, food security and affect mostly the most marginalized groups; women and children. This affects education of children leading to obstacles in their development and mass displacement to safer places as internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The Federal and State Governments have used security agencies, special taskforces and even vigilante groups to try resolving the nomadic pastoralists and farmers' conflict to no avail. Consequently, the Federal Government has been heavily criticized for its inability to curb the clashes in spite of continued assurances that the situation is under control. Currently, a joint military and other security agencies operations (AYEM AKPATUMA) has been deployed in six states of the federation to help arrest the situation. It has therefore become critically urgent to engage in a security and strategic assessment of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria, so as to formulate appropriate responses in mitigating the implications and impacts of the conflict on national security, breakdown of law and order.

Statement of the Problem

It is so worrisome that despite the efforts of the Federal and State Governments, the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has continued to escalate rather than abate. Many lives and property have continued to be lost in the conflict while the security, peace, governance development and overall wellbeing of Nigerians; especially those in the affected areas are heavily negatively impacted. It also seems that previous researches into the conflicts have been centered on causes and effects of the conflicts. The solutions based on the researches have not abated the conflict.

The conflict has affected food security in Nigeria as well as disharmony and distrust of the conflict with a view to suggesting strategies for positive impact on national development and integration. In addition, the identified implications could be effectively securitized to attract the desired and deserved attention of government.

Objectives of the Study

The major objective of this study is to assess nomadic pastoralists-farmer conflict and insecurity in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- i. To identify security implications of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria.

Research Questions

It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to answer the following questions:

- i. What are the security implications of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria?

Statement of the Hypotheses

- i. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has no significant threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Security

The term security has now been categorized in many forms, but the general definition that covers forms of security or type of security is “Security is the degree of protection against danger, damage, loss, and crime”. Security has always been one of the States’ main functions. Undoubtedly, as authoritarian States transitioned into democratic States, the concept of security evolved. In the past, the concept of security meant maintaining order, as an expression of the power and supremacy of the State. Today, democratic States are espousing law enforcement models that encourage citizen participation and that are premised on the principle that the protection of citizens by law enforcement must be respectful of the institution, the laws and basic rights (Dike, 2012). Thus, from the standpoint of human rights, when we speak of security today, we are not just talking about fighting crime; instead we are talking about how to create an environment conducive to peaceful coexistence. And so, the concept of security must place greater emphasis on activities to prevent and control the factors that generate violence and insecurity, rather than purely repressive or reactive behaviors to consummated acts (Deutch, 1999).

According to Buzan (2004), security has a central role in the enforcement and protection of certain rights, and we can therefore state that there can be no effective citizen security without the enjoyment of those rights inherent to the concept of human security – namely, the lack of employment; poverty; inequity; or lack of freedoms, to cite just a few examples. These do not, per se, constitute violence and insecurity but rather conditions conducive to as well as direct threats to security and to peaceful coexistence in any society. Emmanuel (2011) opine that internal security is the act of keeping peace within the borders of a sovereign state or other self-governing territories. This is done generally by upholding the national law and defending against internal security threats. Responsibility for internal security may range from police to paramilitary forces, and in exceptional circumstances, the military itself.

According to the Nigerian Constitution (1999), Chapter 12, Section 14, states that: It shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and of all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter of this Constitution.

- i. The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice.
- ii. It is hereby, accordingly, declared that:

- a. Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority;
- b. The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government: and
- c. The participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Nomadic Pastoralists

According to Blench & Roger (2001), nomadic pastoralism is a form of pastoralism when livestock are herded in order to find fresh pastures on which to graze. Strictly speaking, true nomads follow an irregular pattern of movement, in contrast with transhumance where seasonal pastures are fixed. However this distinction is often not observed and the term nomad used for both—in historical cases the regularity of movements is often unknown in any case. The herded livestock include cattle, yaks, sheep, goats, reindeer, horses, donkeys or camels, or mixtures of species.

Nomadic pastoralism is commonly practised in regions with little arable land, typically in the developing world (Zarins & Juris, 1992). Pastoralists raise different types of livestock. The characteristics of the animals and local environmental conditions determine the number and composition of the herds (Ahmed, 2009). Pastoral production systems are by large, a product of climatic and environmental factors. The objective of the pastoralist is to accumulate and maintain as much wealth as possible in terms of livestock. Pastoralists have been able to carve out a living from the harsh and unpredictable environment for centuries. In their long history, livestock provided not only a valuable source of food, but also acted as a reserve of wealth, a redeemer from damage, a sacrificial gift, and a means of marriage and other ceremonial payments (Barrett, Brandon, Gibson & Gjertsen, 2001).

According to FAO (2011), pastoralists usually graze over areas outside farm lands, and these have been accepted to be the norm from time immemorial. Their movements are opportunistic and follow pasture and water resources in a pattern that varies seasonally or year-to-year according to availability of resources (FAO, 2011). The patterns of movement may be controlled by seasonal climate variations. However, increase in population, drying of waterholes, shifting in rainfall pattern leading to drought as a result of the changing climate affects both sectors of agriculture. At the same time, smaller and local agricultural production systems are becoming more and more integrated into the global economy, pushing up land values. These, coupled with the absence of good governance and the increase in level of poverty creates avenue for conflicts. Both customary and statutory land management systems are often not responding adequately to the tenure insecurity these changes bring (Djire 2014).

McCarthy (2000) asserts that extensive livestock production in the form of pastoral livestock keeping is among the most suitable means of land use in arid areas of Africa because of its adaptability to highly variable environmental conditions. Livestock here signifies cattle, sheep and goats. In Nigeria, most pastoralists do not own land but graze their livestock in host communities (Awogbade, 1997). While a few have adopted the more sedentary type of animal

husbandry, the increasing crises between farmers and pastoralist presupposes that grazing is a major means of animal rearing in Nigeria. The sedentary type of animal husbandry also proves to be more expensive, difficult to manage and inefficient for the rapid growing market of an ever increasing population like Nigeria.

Security Implication of Nomadic Pastoralists and Farmers Conflict

Security implication of nomadic pastoralist and farmers' conflict cannot be over exaggerated, the concept of security has been a pivotal issue to every society from time immemorial. Security has been identified as one of the main factors that promote national development and national integration, Igbuzor (2011). Consequently, insecurity is a major hindrance to national development and national integration. Security is the pillar upon which every meaningful change in the area ethnic, religious and political can be achieved and sustained (Nwanegbo & Odigbo 2013).

According, to Bello, (2013). Nomadic pastoralists and farmers are the primary source of the food in Africa, consequently, between 2012 to 2015, nomadic pastoralists and farmers have engaged each other in an internecine warfare that is threatening the peace and stability of our country. Increasing availability of modern weapons has increased the intensity and violence of these disputes. The conflict had assumed a dangerous dimension with the infusion of ethnic, religious and political factors, internal subversive group, mercenary elements, illegal movement of fire arms, human trafficking, drugs trafficking, kidnapping and intra-pastoralist conflicts had all added to the security combustion. There is need to address the issues dispassionately with a view of finding a lasting solution to the problem, otherwise the consequences on the ethnic, political, and religious and food security in Nigeria and indeed West Africa will be devastating. Pastoralists are often blamed as source of troubles and violent conflicts particularly in several rural areas in Nigeria indeed Africa. This sentiment has beclouded the fact that the problem between pastoralists and farmers is basically a national security, development and economic challenge which threatened national integration that ought to be tackled that way. It is regrettable that within this era and due to the increase and intensity of the conflicts and challenges political leaders and security agents view the problem as security threat to law and order, and thus, befuddling the real issues unabated, and contrary to the impression that nomadic pastoralists are in the news for all the wrong reasons. Their contributions to food security, environmental sustenance, economic stability and security monitoring are hardly mentioned. The news is always about pastoralist getting involved in violent attacks killing farmers, kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry, damage to crops, cattle rustling and theft. We are not arguing that some Pastoralist don't get involved in these crimes, some do but we cannot use the act of a few to judge the whole. Tukur (2013) Opined that, apart from the nomadic-pastoralist and farmers conflicts, conflicts are abound between pastoralist and forestry/wildlife parks officials, fishermen as result of damages to fishing nets and ponds, mining and quarrying activities, road construction and property development, spill over of urban problems like religious and political conflicts into rural communities has also led to hapless killings and wanton destruction of lives and properties.

METHODS

Research Design

This study will adapt the descriptive Survey design

Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of all staff of the seven strategic Federal Ministries and relevant agencies under these ministries and three International Donor Agencies for the purpose of this study. The target respondents are planned to be from officers in the rank of Director and above. It is estimated that each Ministry has twenty directors.

Sample and Sampling Technique

This study will adopt the simple random sampling technique in selecting 100 respondents for the study. This will be realized by selecting 10 respondents from each of the above organizations and with this the sample size will form 50% of the total population.

Research Instrument

The study will use both the questionnaire and interview methods for data collection. The questionnaire is designed using the four point Likert type scale and divided into two sections with an introduction to assure the respondent of the confidentiality of their responses.

Validation of the Instrument

The instrument was face and content validated by the researcher's supervisor and one expert from test and measurement and evaluation as well as security and strategic department lecturers from the department also scrutinized the instrument.

Reliability of the Instrument

A test-retest reliability was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. In the trial testing, 20 respondents who were not part of the main study were randomly selected from two organisations and the instrument administered on them. Data collected from the respondents were subjected to test-retest statistical analysis using Cronbach Alpha and the test gave an average reliability coefficient of 0.89 which was high enough to justify the use of the instrument.

Technique for Data Analysis and Model Specification

This study used descriptive statistic such as percentage analysis to analyse the data in respect of the research questions. However, for the hypotheses the researcher used chi-square analysis to test them. Test for significance was done at 0.05 alpha level.

Data Analysis and Result

Research Question One

What are the security implications of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria?

In order to answer the question, percentage analysis was performed. (See table 1)

Table 1

Percentage Analysis of the security implications of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria

Security implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development	AGREED		DISAGREED		UNDECIDED		TOTAL	Ranking
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on inter- ethnic harmony in Nigeria.	93	93	5	5	2	2	100	1 ^{st**}
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on religious tolerance in Nigeria	85	85	13	13	2	2	100	5 th
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on inter cultural cohesion.	86	86	11	11	3	3	100	4 th
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict constitutes a threat to equal rights	81	81	15	15	4	4	100	6 ^{th*}
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict would have negative impact on national integration in Nigeria	88	88	10	10	2	2	100	3 rd
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict is aggravating indigenship/citizenship controversy.	92	92	7	7	1	1	100	2 nd
Total							100	

****Highest percentage frequency**

*** Lowest Percentage frequency**

From the result of the above table 1, it was observed that the highest Security implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development was on the ground that “Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on inter-ethnic harmony in Nigeria” with the percentage frequency of 93% while the least was that “Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict constitutes a threat to equal rights” with an percentage frequency of 81%.

HYPOTHESES TESTING

Hypothesis 1

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant difference in the opinion of the people as regards nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria. To test the hypothesis, chi-Square analysis was performed on the data (see table 4)

TABLE 2

Chi-square analysis of the difference in the opinion of people as regards threat Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria.

Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria.	AGREE		DISAGREE		UNDECIDED		X ²
	O	E	O	E	O	E	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on inter-ethnic harmony in Nigeria.	93	87.5	5	10.17	2	2.33	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on religious tolerance in Nigeria	85	87.5	13	10.17	2	2.33	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict has negative impact on inter cultural cohesion.	86	87.5	11	10.17	3	2.33	9.18*
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict constitutes a threat to equal rights	81	87.5	15	10.17	4	2.33	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict would have negative impact on national integration in Nigeria	88	87.5	10	10.17	2	2.33	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict is aggravating indigenship/citizenship controversy.	92	87.5	7	10.17	1	2.33	
Total	525	525	61	61	14	14	

*Significant at 0.05 level; df = 10; Critical = 18.31

Table 2 shows the calculated X^2 -value as (9.18). This value was tested for significance by comparing it with the critical X^2 -value (18.31) at 0.05 levels with 10 degree of freedom. The calculated X^2 -value (9.18) was less than the critical X^2 -value (18.31). Hence, the result was not significant. The result therefore means that there is no significant difference in the opinions of people as regards Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria. Meaning that even though nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict have significant threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria, there is no significant difference in the opinions of people as regards. The non significance of the result caused the null hypothesis to be accepted while the alternative one was rejected.

Discussion of the findings

The results of the data analysis in tables 1 and 2 were not significant due to the fact that the calculated X^2 value (9.18) was less than the critical X^2 -value (18.31) at 0.05 level with 10 degree of freedom. The result implies that there is no significant difference in the opinion of people as regards the effect of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national development there is no significant difference in the opinions of people as regards nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria. The result therefore was in agreement with the research findings of Bello (2013) who argued that, pastoralist cattle, sheep, goats and other small holdings are confiscated at will without recourse to law that in turn angered some pastoralist to resort to revenge missions with devastating consequences on poor rural farmers populations.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the research work, the following conclusions were made:

There are cases of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria. The non-significance of the result caused the null hypothesis to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted. There are incidence of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has significant threat on the breakdown of law and order in Nigeria.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are deemed necessary:

1. Considering the fact that the prevailing nomadic pastoralist and farmers conflict is one of the major determinants of breakdown of law and order in Nigeria, government and other agencies such as, National Emergency Management Agency should intervene quickly in order to reduce conflicts and restore peace in the warring regions.
2. Besides using the application of well equipped devices like CCTV, defensive weapons against unexpected attacks, the law enforcement agencies have should use requisite intelligence for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.

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