

**NOMADIC PASTORALIST'S AND FARMER'S CONFLICT, A PREDICTOR OF
NATIONAL INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the security and strategic implications of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict 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 the researcher's supervisor who is an expert in the field 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 nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has significant effect on national development. It was therefore recommended that besides using the application of well equipped devices like CCTV, defensive weapons against unexpected attacks, the law enforcement agencies should use requisite intelligence for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.

KEY WORDS: *Security, strategic implication, nomadic pastoralists, farmer's conflict*

INTRODUCTION

Historically, relations between nomadic pastoralists and farming communities have been harmonious. By and large, they lived in a peaceful, symbiotic relationship with cattle grazing and

fertilizing the harvested farm lands without destruction of cultivated farms. The shifting cultivation techniques by the farmers, allowed for grazing and organic fertilization of such fallow land over a minimum of two years, for enrichment and recovery of such lands for subsequent cultivation. Agriculture in Nigeria employs about 70 per cent of its labor force. Most of these are small-holders in the country's central wet savannah and southern regions who harvest most of the country's crops while pastoralists in the north raise most of the livestock. 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.

The competing demand on the shrinking land between livestock and crop farming has brought about the decades of conflicts between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in 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). Consequentially, this weakens the once mutually existing farmer-pastoralist relationships. This situation becomes worst especially when either the farmer or the nomadic pastoralist is categorized into a group relating to religion, tribe or region. Governance and administration in the affected areas have also become very difficult as the aggrieved communities are becoming more restive, thereby consisting a great threat to national integration.

Statement of the Problem

The conflicting and competing interests in land use for livestock grazing and crop cultivation by nomadic pastoralists and farmers respectively, has resulted in seasonal conflicts of alarming dimensions over time. This has been informed by massive movement of livestock by nomadic pastoralists in search of fodder and water during the dry season. Very often cultivated farms are over run and destroyed by such livestock, while cases of cattle rustling and killing of livestock are also recorded. 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 the security and strategic implications of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national integration.
- ii. To assess the security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development.

Research Questions

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

- i. What are the strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national integration?
- ii. What are the security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development?

Statement of Hypotheses

- i. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has no relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations.
- ii. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has no significant effect on national development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Strategic Assessment

Kenneth (2002) defined strategy as “the pattern of major objectives, purposes or goals and essential policies or plans for achieving the goals, stated in such a way as to define what conflict situation a country is.” This definition of strategy emphasizes on purpose and the means by which purpose will be achieved. It also emphasizes on the values and the cultures that a nation stands for. Ohmae (2004) defines strategy as “the way in which countries endeavor to differentiate themselves positively from other countries, using its relative strengths to better satisfy its citizens.” Ohmae’s definition highlights the competitive aspect of strategy and the strengths required to satisfy people needs. This definition thus aims at citizen’s protection as the driver of the strategy.

According to Glueck (2003), “Strategy is the unified, comprehensive and integrated plan that relates the strategic advantage of a country to the challenges of the environment and is designed to ensure that basic objectives of policies are achieved through proper implementation process” Chandler (1995) made an attempt to define strategy as “the determination of basic long term goals and objective of an enterprise and the adoption of the courses of action and the allocation of resources necessary for carrying out these goals”

A few aspects regarding nature of strategy are as follows:

- i. Strategy is the blend of internal and external factors. To meet the opportunities and threats provided by the external factors, internal factors are matched with them.
- ii. Strategy is the combination of actions aimed to meet a particular condition, to solve certain problems or to achieve a desirable end. The actions are different for different situations.
- iii. Due to its dependence on environmental variables, strategy may involve a contradictory action. A country may take contradictory actions either simultaneously or with a gap of time.

A well-made strategy guides security actions and thought. It provides an integrated approach for a country in tackling the challenges posed by conflicts. Strategy, according to a survey conducted

by Peter (1994) includes the determination and evaluation of alternative paths to an already established mission or objective and eventually, choice of the alternative to be adopted. Strategy is characterized by four important aspects namely Long term objectives, Competitive Advantage, Vector and Synergy.

Security and Strategic Management

Max (2012) avers that it is expressly stated in the Nigerian's Constitution that the Government(s) is ultimately responsible for the security of lives, property, etc of the people of Nigeria. Threats to the general peace may range from low-level civil disorder, large scale violence, or even an armed insurgency. Threats to internal security may be directed at either the state's citizens, or the organs and infrastructure of the state itself, and may range from petty crime, serious organised crime, political or industrial unrest, or even domestic terrorism. Foreign powers may also act as a threat to internal security, by either committing or sponsoring terrorism or rebellion, without actually declaring war.

Governmental responsibility for internal security will generally rest with an interior ministry, as opposed to a defense ministry (Richard and Van, 2002). Depending on the state, a state's internal security will be maintained by either the ordinary police or law enforcement agencies or more militarised police forces (known as Gendarmerie). Other specialised internal security agencies may exist to augment these main forces, such as border guards, special police units, or aspects of the state's List of intelligence agencies. Zygmunt (2007) stated that in some states, internal security may be the primary responsibility of a secret police force. The level of authorised force used by agencies and forces responsible for maintaining internal security might range from unarmed police to fully armed paramilitary organisations, or employ some level of less-lethal weaponry in between. For violent situations, internal security forces may contain some element of military type equipment such as non-military armoured vehicles.

Security has been the driving issue amongst nomadic farmers and crop farmers. Tonah (2006) stated that there is a consensus among observers that farmers-herders clashes have only since the 20th century become widespread in the coastal countries of West Africa., though Breusers et al. (1998) were of a dissenting view. They concluded after an investigation of farmers-herders relations in Burkina Faso that the conflict between Mossi farmers and Fulani herders was an old phenomenon. Tonah (2006) opined that the factors that account for the increasing farmer-herder conflict include the southward movement of pastoral herds into the humid and sub-humid zones, promoted by the successful control of the menace posed by disease, the widespread availability of veterinary medicine and the expansion of farming activities into areas that hitherto served as pastureland. A well-made strategy guides security actions and thought. It provides an integrated approach for a country in tackling the challenges posed by conflicts. Strategy, according to a survey conducted by Peter (1994) includes the determination and evaluation of alternative paths to an already established mission or objective and eventually, choice of the alternative to be adopted. Strategy is characterized by four important aspects namely Long term objectives, Competitive Advantage, Vector and Synergy.

Strategic assessment therefore, according to Rosen (1979), is sometimes confused with intelligence analysis of foreign forces and international trends. The major difference is that strategic assessment is an analysis of the interaction of two or more national security

establishments both in peacetime and in war, usually ourselves and a potential enemy. It is the interaction of the two belligerents that is the central concept, not an assessment of one side alone.

Security and Strategic Implication of Nomadic Pastoralist and Farmers Conflict to National Development

Security has been identified as one of the main factors that promote national development (Igbuzor, 2011). Consequently, insecurity is a major hindrance to national development. Security is the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). In recent time, the security implication and challenges had accentuated the deep schism in the polity and the conflicts in some of our neighbouring countries. This had led to the influxes of availability of illegal sophisticated weapons for pastoralist from neighbouring West African countries. Access to grazing rights in other countries in the ECOWAS zone including Nigeria are guaranteed by the *ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol of 1998 and the ECOWAS Protocol of Free Movement of Goods and Persons in West Africa*. The ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol allows for nomadic pastoralists to move across borders in search of pasture upon fulfilling the conditions laid down in the Protocol. So it is not strange to see a Malian, Burkinabe or Nigerien pastoralist grazing his cows, sheep or goats in Nigeria or a Nigerian grazing his livestock in Benin, Togo or Ghana, The poor identification system in the country has also led tagging even Nigerian Pastoralist as foreign mercenaries thus beyond the reach of Nigerian law for protection. The fact that most of them are Nigerians and some of them ECOWAS citizens is immaterial in confronting the situation as national development challenges. Consequently, the actors resort to a strategic method in dealing with the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflicts as was witnessed in Jos, Plateau state, North Central Nigeria in 2013, when thousands of pastoralist were forcefully evicted to make room “for security operations” or the hunt for bandits in Birnin Gwari area of Kaduna state, North west.

Bello (2013), argued that pastoralist cattle, sheep, goats and other small holdings were confiscated at will without recourse to law that in turn angered some pastoralists to resort to revenge missions with devastating consequences on poor rural farmers populations. These factors have all contributed to the rise and voraciousness of the conflicts between crop producers and pastoralist. These conflicts have become endemic in states like Plateau, Nassarawa, Benue, Taraba, Adamawa, Kaduna, Zamfara, Ogun, Ondo and Cross Rivers states amongst others. Also, many lives had been lost by Pastoralist and farmers as well as livestock and crops worth millions of Naira (Tukur, 2013).

METHODS

Research Design

This study adopted the descriptive Survey design

Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted 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 adopted the simple random sampling technique in selecting 100 respondents for the study. This was 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 used both the questionnaire and interview methods for data collection. The questionnaire was 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 strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national integration? In order to answer the question, percentage analysis was used (See table 1).

Table 1

Percentage Analysis of the strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national integration

Strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on	AGREED	DISAGREED	UNDECIDED	TOTAL	Ranking
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national integration	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected educational development in the conflict areas in Nigeria.	82	82	12	12	6	6	100	4 th
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected growth of economic activities of people in the affected areas in Nigeria.	93	93	3	3	4	4	100	2 nd
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected development of social amenities.	80	80	15	15	5	5	100	5 th
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected food security.	95	95	4	4	1	1	100	1 ^{st*}
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected foreign direct investment in Nigeria.	88	88	8	8	4	4	100	3 rd
Total							100	

****Highest Percentage frequency**

*** Lowest Percentage frequency**

From the result of the above table 2, it was observed that the highest strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national integration was that “Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected food security.” with a percentage frequency of 95% while the least was that “Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected development of social amenities.” with percentage frequency of 80%.

Research Question Two

What are the security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development?

The research question sort to find out the security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development. In order to answer the question, percentage analysis was used. (See table 2)

Table 2

Percentage Analysis of the security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development

Security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development	AGREED		DISAGREED		UNDECIDED		TOTAL		Ranking
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	
The prevailing nomadic pastoralist and farmers conflict contributes to the break down of law and order in Nigeria.	89	89	8	8	3	3	100	100	1 st **
The law enforcement agencies have enough requisite intelligence for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	85	85	11	11	4	4	100	100	2 nd
The law enforcement agencies have adequate equipment for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	34	34	65	65	1	1	100	100	5 th *
The law enforcement agencies have adequate manpower for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	81	81	15	15	4	4	100	100	3 rd
The law enforcement agencies have relevant training for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	55	55	42	42	3	3	100	100	4 th
Total									

**** Highest Percentage frequency**

*** Lowest Percentage frequency**

From the result of the above table 2, it was observed that the highest Security and strategic implications of the nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria on national development was that “The prevailing nomadic pastoralist and farmers conflict contributes to the break down of law and order in Nigeria” with the percentage frequency of 89% while the least was that “The law enforcement agencies have adequate equipment for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria” with the percentage frequency of 34%.

HYPOTHESES TESTING

Hypothesis One

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant difference in the opinion of the people as regards nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations. To test the hypothesis, chi-Square analysis was performed on the data (see table 3).

TABLE 3

Chi-square analysis of the difference in the opinion of the people as regards Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations.

Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict impact on national inter-ethnic relations.	AGREE		DISAGREE		UNDECIDED		X ²
	O	E	O	E	O	E	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected educational development in the conflict areas in Nigeria.	82	68.8	12	28.2	6	3	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected growth of economic activities of people in the affected areas in Nigeria.	93	68.8	3	28.2	4	3	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected development of social amenities.	80	68.8	15	28.2	5	3	107.78 *
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected food security.	95	68.8	4	28.2	1	3	
Nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict adversely affected foreign direct investment in Nigeria.	88	69.8	8	28.2	4	3	
Total	525	525	61	61	14	14	

***Significant at 0.05 level; df = 8; Critical = 15.51**

able 3 shows the calculated X²-value as (107.78). This value was tested for significance by comparing it with the critical X²-value (15.51) at 0.05 levels with 8 degree of freedom. The calculated X²-value (107.78) was greater than the critical X²-value (15.51). Hence, the result was significant. The result therefore means that there is significant difference in the opinion of people as regards nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations. The significance of the result caused the null hypothesis to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

Hypothesis Two

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

TABLE 4

Chi-square analysis of Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict significant effect on national development

Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict effect on national development	AGREE		DISAGREE		UNDECIDED		X ²
	O	E	O	E	O	E	
The prevailing nomadic pastoralist and farmers conflict contributes to the break down of law and order in Nigeria.	89	68.8	8	28.2	3	3	120.19 *
The law enforcement agencies have enough requisite intelligence for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	85	68.8	11	28.2	4	3	
The law enforcement agencies have adequate equipment for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	34	68.8	65	28.2	1	3	
The law enforcement agencies have adequate manpower for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	81	68.8	15	28.2	4	3	
The law enforcement agencies have relevant training for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.	55	68.8	42	28.2	3	3	
Total	344	344	141	141	15	15	

***Significant at 0.05 level; df = 8; Critical = 15.51**

Table 4 shows the calculated X²-value as (120.19). This value was tested for significance by comparing it with the critical X²-value (15.51) at 0.05 levels with 8 degree of freedom. The calculated X²-value (120.19) was greater than the critical X²-value (15.51). Hence, the result was significant. The result therefore means that there is significant difference in the opinion of people as regards the effect of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict on national development. The significance of the result caused the null hypothesis to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

Discussion of the Findings

The result of the data analyses in table 3 were significant due to the fact that the calculated X² value (107.78) was greater than the critical X²-value (15.51) at 0.05 level with 8 degree of freedom. The result implies that nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations. The result therefore was in agreement with the research

findings of Nwanegbo & Odigbo (2013) who asserted that consequently, insecurity is a major hindrance to national development and national integration. The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

The result of the data analysis in table 4 was significant due to the fact that the calculated X^2 value (120.19) was greater than the critical X^2 -value (15.51) at 0.05 level with 8 degree of freedom. The result implies that nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has significant effect on national development. The result therefore was in agreement with the research findings of Igbuzor (2011) who asserted that security has been identified as one of the main factors that promote national development and national integration. The result was also in agreement with the finding of McCarthy (2000) who 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. The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the research work, the following conclusions were made: There are cases of nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict in Nigeria. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has relative impact on national inter-ethnic relations. Nomadic pastoralists and farmers conflict has significant effect on national development.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are deemed necessary:

1. Besides using the application of well equipped devices like CCTV, defensive weapons against unexpected attacks, the law enforcement agencies should use requisite intelligence for the management of the nomadic pastoralist and Farmers conflict in Nigeria.
2. It was recommended that to reduce conflicts and increase national integration between the nomadic pastoralists and farmers there must be a conscious effort for a change of attitude by policy makers, nomadic pastoralists and farmers.

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