

INTER-COMMUNAL CONFLICTS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EKET
SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA.

By

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ABSTRACT

This research work tries to consider the effects of communal conflict and socio-economic development Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The study adopted 3 objectives which help guide the work as regards to Examine the causes of communal conflict between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State Examine, the social effects of communal conflict between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State on socio development, Examine the economic effects of communal conflict on socio development between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. With major research questions and hypotheses. The theoretical framework adopted in this research work is Relative Deprivation to explain the issues of communal conflict. Using descriptive analysis and survey research design of which questionnaires were administered with a sample size of about 180 respondents. It was discovered that the causes of the conflicts are land boundary, traditional factors, political factors it was also discovered that the social effects of the conflict are Sexual harassment of women, acquiring of weapons/arms, Reduction in quality of social relationship, Restriction of movement and communication which has affected socio-economic activities. And recommendations were made base on Conflict Resolution and Management, The need for effective dialogue by the various stakeholders. The equal distribution of farmlands and other resources. The rightful owners should be allowed to occupy their land. Political parties should stop interfering in the chieftaincy conflict. The need for education and understanding and finally the state government in collaboration with the conflicting local government should put up security agencies to salvage the situation.

KEYWORDS: Communal Conflict, Socio-Economic and Development

INTRODUCTION

Conflict, generally is a reality of social relations. Communal Conflicts at any level arise from divergences of interests, desires, goals and values aspirations in the competition for resources to meet imposing demands on social life in a defined socio-physical environment Alabi and Famakinwa (2017). as a matter of fact, Man in a socio-physical environment lives in continuous process of dependence and interdependence which often produces contradictions and conflicts. Communal conflicts constitute one of the major recurring problems bedeviling the sociopolitical landscape of Africa. To be sure, communal conflicts are not new, particularly in socio cultural complex societies defined by a high number of ethnic nationalities and language groups such as Nigeria. Pre-colonial and colonial Nigeria experienced inter-kingdom dynastic feuds, and inter-community conflicts Okuntade, (2017). This research work major emphasis is within Eket senatorial district particularly Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas

of Akwa Ibom State, one of the common features of these conflicts has to do with their confrontational and violent dimension, which led to the loss of lives and property of people who hitherto lived together in relative harmony. The communal conflict between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State have led to the killings of thousands in this region. In other parts of areas however, such conflicts occur with a much lower level of violence despite the fact that they share several structural characteristics with other villages (ICG 2003). Communal conflicts have killed thousands; Communal conflicts pose a severe threat to human security and kill thousands of people each year

There have been deaths, loss of properties and displacement of many people across villages in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. Lucien, (2014). There are countless cases of conflict worldwide. Some scholars in the field of socio-economic development have argued that conflict is an interruption of development and that development cannot begin until war has ceased in a particular location. Mihelic, (2013).

The state of many rural areas in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State is nothing to write home about; many are underdeveloped and stricken by poverty. One major reason for this is the presence of conflict in these areas. Developmental projects often come to a standstill, leading to major decline in the progress of such places. The economies of many rural areas have plummeted and they are in crisis. (Remus, et.al, 2012). This study sought to unveil the extent to which communal conflict has impeded the socio-economic development of the society. Although conflict is a very normal art of our social existence, periods of rapid development are likely to be particularly fraught with conflicts of a more serious nature. Typically, the conflict associated with development is multi – faceted, and needs careful analysis. Various types of conflict are associated within developmental context. It is very important to note that most conditions giving rise to conflicts are not recognized and this may be the background of most of the conflict around us. There is a high tendency of reacting to the visible side of the conflict spectrum and in so doing; we may be ignoring some of the most important causative factors of conflict. This research thus seeks to investigate the root causes as well as the impact of communal conflict on socio development in between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This session specifically states out the problems which make the researcher to embark on this research work, for the purpose, the most developing countries are faced with the problem of rural under-development and Nigeria of which Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State is no exception. Most developing countries including Nigeria have lost most of their resources as a result of inter-communal conflict as there exist no enabling environment for businesses, The Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State which is purely rural, has suffered as a consequence of this inter-communal conflict. The situation in the area is exacerbated by the presence of the violent conflict, which has seemingly hampered subsistent fishing and farming – the very source of livelihood of the people Ibeno. There is thus food insecurity in the area. The regions- Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State have suffered long-lasting conflicts that have undermined the wellbeing of its people and the economy. There have been tribal wars

in the area over years. This has stalled most developmental projects from both government and non-governmental organizations. The area is one of the underdeveloped places in Nigeria. The conflict in this area usually results in extreme brutality and violence against civilians, which culminates in the death of many people. Health, education and social welfare services in the area have been devastated, the local economy has collapsed and many features of traditional life and the social structure have been destroyed. This area being the scene of one of the most protracted conflicts in the state. The conflict has been the cause of perennial violence in this local government has long been an important trading Centre, and is still seen as the commercial nerve of the region. The two communities or local government clearly appears not to have benefited from its nodal location in the inter-regional trade, as unemployment, education, health etc. are still major concerns among its people. This local government was therefore seen as an ideal place for this study into the impacts of communal conflict on socio development, as the conflict appears to have adversely affected the development of the area.

This research thus seeks to investigate the negative effects of the conflict on employment generation, Education and finally, it effects on small and medium scale enterprise that brings about declines in health and well-being hindering individual's capacity to work, thus constraining the ability to earn an income in both the short-term and long-term.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study was to investigate the impact of inter-communal conflict on the socio-economic development in Eket senatorial district, while the specific objectives include:

- Examine the effects of inter-communal conflict on employment generation to persons in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom St
- Examine the effects of inter-communal conflict on Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State.
- Examine the effects of communal conflict on small and medium scale enterprises In Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

RESEARCH QUESTION

The following research questions were used to guide the conduct of this study.

- What are the effects of inter-communal conflict on employment generation of persons in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State?
- What are the effects of inter-communal conflict on Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State?
- What are the effects of communal conflict on small and medium scale enterprises in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

The research hypotheses will be set in null that will consist of:

Ho: There is no significant relationship between the effects of Inter-communal conflict and employment generation persons in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

Ho: There is no significant relationship between the effects of inter-communal conflict and Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

Ho: There is no significant relationship between the effects of inter-communal conflict small and medium scale enterprises in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State.

CONCEPT OF COMMUNAL CONFLICT

Conflict and development have had a unique relationship in which one births the other; in this case, development births conflict. As already, stated, development is all about change, progress or advancement and at any point in time when these take place there is disorder. Societal change most often requires structural change. While this may be true in any country, it is probably more often true in the developing world. When conflict is not generating from the process of development; it comes as an element to stall or undermine the process of development from issues such as political or ethnic dispute this is the main cause of the conflict between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Violent conflict has killed and displaced more people in Africa than in any other continent in recent decades according to the Commission for Africa. This severely challenges the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in these countries; moreover, conflicts are also costly and it is estimated that the cost of each conflict almost equals the value of annual development aid worldwide (Prakash, 2013).

DEVELOPMENT

It is important to realize that an apparently neutral and scientific word like development is no such thing. A definition of the concept of development unavoidably depends on the values of the person doing the definition, as well as on facts that are in principle falsifiable, Remus. et.al, (2012). This confirms that there is no absolute or accurate meaning to the term development. However, one thing which theoreticians and practitioners in the field of development all agree is that there is no agreement about the meaning of development as explained by Remus, et.al, (2012).

Often development is used interchangeably with the term social change. As Chambers, (2005). pointed out, if development means good change what then is good and what sort of change matters? Traditionally, these good changes refer to increased living standards, better health care and well-being and other forms of common good which are seen to benefit society at large. Tidström, (2009). Whichever perspective we take, development means change and that cannot in anyway be over emphasized.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF INTER-COMMUNAL CONFLICT INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, internally displaced persons (also known as "IDPs") are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border. To this, People are forced to flee or leave their homes - particularly in situations

of armed conflict - are generally subject to heightened vulnerability in a number of areas. Displaced persons suffer significantly higher rates of mortality than the general population. They also remain at high risk of physical attack, sexual assault and abduction, and frequently are deprived of adequate shelter, food and health services.

HIGH DEATH RATE

The violence also claims several lives. On the 3rd of January 2018 it was reported that twelve people were killed in a single night of violence (peace online, 2018). Respondents also claimed that lot of deaths are either not reported or are played down by the authorities to reduce the tensions. They however maintained that in every major violent outbreak, more than a hundred lives are lost.

LOSS OF PROPERTY (THROUGH ARSON AND DESTRUCTION)

Properties running into several millions of Naira are lost annually through the violence. Arson, looting and gun battles are perpetuated during clashes between the feuding factions. These destroy the properties of many people from both factions. 17 respondents to the questionnaires, representing 57% of the sample population, claimed they have either personally lost property through the violence or have relatives who have lost properties. In the wake of the violence, which took place at the close of 2007, it was reported that over 15 shops and 159 houses were burnt. (dailysun web, 2008) some Public facilities are however targeted in these clashes.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT

The history of human kind and the rise and fall of civilizations is unquestionably a story of conflict. Conflict is inherent in human activities. It omnipresent and fore ordained. (Isard, 1992) Human conflict is truly a ubiquitous social phenomenon. It is experienced by all of us much of the time. It is the inevitable result of the living in close proximity of vast numbers of intelligent, complex beings with ambitions and goals that are always going to be compatible in context of a world of finite resources (Bradshaw, 2007). Conflict comes in various ways such as social conflicts which normally occurs where groups of people compete, organizational conflict which also occurs in organizations such as private sector companies, schools, government departments and political parties. Ethnic conflict, one of the most dramatic forms of conflicts is as a result of ethnic difference. This form of conflict can be extremely destructive.

The interconnection of development factors often causes further conflict escalation. For example, administrative chaos in under-financed governmental bodies often causes the transfer of responsibilities from the central state to NGOs, local governments, and the private sector. The result is that such organizations assume duties that may go well beyond their capacities, which causes further conflict. For example, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector lack training in facilitation, mediation, and negotiation, as well as the theoretical knowledge of conflict resolution. So conflicts escalate, with no one knowing what to do about it.

IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As defined by Good hand (2001) as a sustainable improvement in the quality of life of communities in rural areas. It becomes obvious that conflict will affect the rural areas in major aspects of developments such as economic growth, agriculture,

population displacement etc. however the major effect of conflict on rural development is poverty and this cannot be underestimated hence a more important link to establish is that between conflict and poverty which is the major impact of conflict on rural areas is.

HUMAN CAPITAL EFFECT

Conflict can have negative impact on human capital by causing physical and mental impairment, declines in health and nutritional status, as well as in education and training opportunities, which in turn drive individuals and households into poverty. Declines in health and well-being can hinder an individual's capacity to work, thus constraining the ability to earn an income in both the short-term and long-term. The physical impairment of civilians and combatants in times of conflict can drive chronic poverty. Children are often more vulnerable to conflict-driven impairment than adults. Impairment can affect children's ability to gain an education while young and can hinder an adult's ability to secure employment and care for children (Lwanga-Ntale 2003). Conflict also erodes human capital by causing mental impairment and permanent psychological trauma. Mental impairment can result from malnutrition, which can have repercussions for the IGT of chronic poverty: -Children whose cognitive development has been impaired in their early years may find learning more difficult, both at school and in terms of important life skills. Where this leads to difficulties obtaining skills or qualifications, their future labour market opportunities and thus earning prospects may be constrained (Harper, Marcus and Moore 2003). One type of mental impairment directly linked to conflict is permanent psychological trauma caused by the exposure to life threatening situations, rape or torture (Luckham et al 2001). Conflict can also increase the spread of HIV/AIDS through rape as a weapon of war. Lots of women were raped between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State during the conflict (Human Rights Watch 2004).

FINANCIAL CAPITAL EFFECT

Conflict also impacts on financial capital by causing economic distortion at both a macro and micro levels, damaging war-time financial capitals as well as affecting post-war growth. Issues such as capital flight, falling investment level, and loss of credit, savings and transfers, such as pensions, bridge the macro/ micro divide (Bruck 2001). - The greater part of the human costs of war does not result directly from battle deaths and injuries, but rather indirectly from the loss of livelihoods caused by the dislocation of economy and society resulting from conflict (Stewart et al 2001). Markets can fail due to insecurity, uncertainty and scarcity of information, leading to reduced trading opportunities, higher transaction costs, efficiency losses and reduced incentives to invest for the future (Bruck 2001).

PHYSICAL CAPITAL EFFECT

The destruction of assets in conflict has a significant impact on livelihoods, the breakdown or shrinking investment in public infrastructure and services further diminishes physical capital. Social services such as hospitals, clinics and schools can deteriorate due to reductions in government expenditure on infrastructure (Stewart et al 2001; Fozzard 2002). The mostly rural central and Northern provinces suffered the most damage to infrastructure. The impact on health was also severe. The ratio of doctors to population between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area of

Akwa Ibom State declined. (Stewart et al 2001). This destruction thereby disrupts social, economic and political relations and increases transaction costs of travelling to the markets and other public places. For example, rebels between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State directly targeted the energy supply to disrupt economic activities (Goudie and Neyapti 1999).

NATURAL CAPITAL

Conflict again impacts on natural capital by reducing access to land, security of tenure and the distribution of holdings (Brück 2001). Factors which may reduce access to land include the breakdown of customary rights and values of usage, resource depletion and degradation, lack of management of natural resources, land expropriation and increased use of marginal lands (Daudelin 2003). The conflict between Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State also disrupted seed production and preservation activities, leading to a decline in agricultural output by small holders, (Howard et.al. 1998). The destruction or loss of agricultural land due to looting, dislocation and landmines can severely limit a household's ability to produce. Landmines -continue to destroy lives and keep the land useless for years after the ceasefire, extending the war uncertainty way beyond the end of the formal conflict (Brück 2001). Land-deprivation as an asset loss is what drives already poor people into deeper and more intractable poverty (CPRC 2004). Another aspect of the impact of war on natural capital is the environmental impact of refugees in camps or settlements, which depends on various factors and is a controversial debate in the literature (Kibreab 1997).

THE THEORY OF RELATIVE DEPRIVATION

The concept of "Relative Deprivation" was introduced by Samuel Stouffer and his co-workers in their classic social psychological study. "The American soldier in 1949; it was also used by Robert K. Merton in his standard text "social theory and social structure in 1949; and was widely used by sociologists in the 1950s (Marshall, 1998). Relative deprivation is defined as the conscious feelings of a negative outcome between legitimate expectations and presents actualities (Schaefer 2000). Relative deprivation as theoretical concept has been used to analyse contexts perceived injustice and inequality, and is frequently used within the social science (Manzi, 2007). Relative deprivation theory claims that a person would feel relatively deprived if he or she

- Lacks an object,
- Desire it,
- Sees some other person(s) with that object, and
- Thinks feasible that object (Lopez, 2002)

Manzi (2007) also argued that. Relative deprivation is the perceived difference between the material and social conditions that individual's think should achieve, and the conditions they believe they would achieve which causes relative deprivation. Relative deprivation can be managed by a gradual elimination of inequality, which causes value expectation and value capability to coverage thus avoiding socio economic upheaval. Jibrin (2008), attributed the ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria as a feeling of relative deprivation by the southern indigenes who are mostly Christians. The decreasing availability of physical, environmental and land resources such as clean water, good agricultural land for arable and animal husbandry could create a condition of "simple

security” “group identity” and “deprivation” in the area. (Shetima and Usman 2008), which could provoke violent conflict of high magnitude due to population movement and the scramble for available resources. The theory of Relative Deprivation is seen as a gap between just wants and the satisfaction expected wants. Relative deprivation is therefore, the difference between what we need and what we get. A group of people who fail to get a desired improvement in life conditions, justice, equality, and infrastructural development are deprived. In addition to that, if they are poor, and feel society is morally obliged to provide them with necessities, the gap between a just want that can generate irritation, anger, frustration and conflict. Thus, the idea of relative deprivation has been used either to measure fairness, inequality, social justice, or to explain grievance, social hostility or aggression (Godswill, 2007).

The foregoing discussion provides us with an understanding of communal conflicts especially their causes, effects and management. Relative deprivation theory indicates that, if natural resources or fertile land becomes scarcer as a result of increase in the population of people and cattle and desertification, people who relied on the resource as their source of livelihood would probably become increasingly discontented and frustrated by their inability to grasp their own share in the scramble for available resources. And as such, conflict between the competing groups would erupt. The Relative deprivation theory also state that when a group of people compare itself with other and realize that they are better off than them then conflict continues. The Relative deprivation which leads to conflict according to Lopez-Turley (2002) can be reduced or managed by a gradual elimination of inequality which causes value expectation and value capability to coverage, thus avoiding socio-political upheaval. This shows that, if relative equal access to pasture was given to both groups as Awogbade (1983) said that it used to be before the advent of colonialism in Benue tae, and then the symbiotic relationship enjoyed by the groups before would be restored.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Survey design was adopted for this study because it could facilitate gathering of information for the study. The populations for the study was the total population in the two local government Area, which is about 1,100,000 being the residents of Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket Local Government Area. (NPC, 2006). This research adopts Taro Yamani formula to determines the sample size (n) Yaro Yamani maintains that “the sampling of population of a large size would be determine

N

$$1+n(e) 2$$

Where n = sample size

N =total population size

I =constant

e = level of significance

$$n = 4,253,641$$

$$1 + 4,253,641 (0.05)$$

$$n = 4,253,641$$

$$1 + 4,253,641 (0.00025)$$

$$n = 4,253,641$$

1 +10634.1025

n = 4,253,641

1+10635. 1025

n = 399.96

Sample size = 400

This research adopted simple random sampling, while the research instrument used in collecting data for this study were the Internet, Questionnaire and Interview. In preparation of the data, the researcher used tabular format presentation while the Pearson moment correlation method was used in interpreting the collected data.

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis One

The null hypothesis indicates that there is no significant relationship between communal conflict and employment opportunities.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and regression analysis was used in analysis of the above hypothesis with the examination of the responses to the questions on the relationship between communal conflict and employment opportunities. The PPMC obtained for each of the responses to the questions in Table 1, is presented in Table 1.

Table 1.: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficients for Hypothesis One

		EO	EO	EO	EO
EO 1	Pearson Correlation	1	.593**	.414**	.426**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	250	250	250	250
EO 2	Pearson Correlation	.593**	1	.659**	.599**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	250	250	250	250
EO 3	Pearson Correlation	.414**	.659**	1	.932**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	250	250	250	250
EO 4	Pearson Correlation	.426**	.599**	.932**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	250	250	250	250

Source: Researcher's Computation (2024)

Table 1 indicates that on the statements that there is no significant relationship between the effects of communal conflict and employment opportunities within Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. Pearson Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficients generated include 0.893, 0.414, 0.426, 0.659, 0.599, and

0.932 were found to be statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This is an indication of the significant influence of communal conflict on employment opportunities within Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. However, on the nature and degree of relationship communal conflict (independent variable employment opportunities, the regression and correlation results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Analysis Results for Hypothesis One

IDP = 3.336 + 0.091COMCON	
t-stat= (51.795)	(2.244)
Prob. = (0.000)	(0.026)
R= 0.141; R² = 0.020; F-stat= 5.035; Prob. (F-stat) = 0.026	

Source: Researcher's Computation (2024)

Table 2 shows that employment opportunities (IDPs) will remain positive at an average of 3.336 units, if there are no changes in Communal Conflict (COMCON). This implies that Communal conflict remain constant, indicating the more the unit of communal conflict the more the level of employment opportunities which will lead to an increase of 0.091 units change. This positive relationship is statistically significant with a computed t-statistic value of 2.244 and a probability value of 0.026 (Sig = 0.026), since the probability value obtained is less than 0.05 at 5% level of significance.

The correlation (PPMC) coefficient R-value of 0.141 indicates the existence of a positive correlation between communal conflict (COMCON) and Employment Opportunities (EO). However, this can be said to be a low positive correlation. Also, the predictive power of communal conflict (COMCON) to explain the changes in employment opportunities (EO) is low given the obtained coefficient of determination (R²) value of 0.020 obtained.

Finally, given that the computed F-statistic value obtained is 5.035 and the probability (sig) value is 0.026, the relationship between communal conflict (COMCON) and employment opportunities, can be said to have goodness-of-fit. This implies that the relationship is statistically significant. This is an indication that the null hypothesis earlier stated would fail to hold, and is hereby rejected. This implies that a positive and significant relationship exists between communal conflict (COMCON) and employment opportunities (EO).

Hypothesis Two

The null hypothesis indicates that there is no significant relationship between the effects of communal conflict and Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and regression results were used in analysis of the above hypothesis with the examination of the responses to the questions on the relationship between effects of communal conflict and Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. The PPMC obtained for each of the responses to the questions in Table 3, is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficients for Hypothesis Two

	ED1	ED 2	ED 3	ED 4
Pearson Correlation	1	.947**	.932**	.549**
ED 1 Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
N	250	250	250	250
Pearson Correlation	.947**	1	.935**	.594**
ED 2 Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
N	250	250	250	250
Pearson Correlation	.932**	.935**	1	.603**
ED 3 Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
N	250	250	250	250
Pearson Correlation	.549**	.594**	.603**	1
ED 4 Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
N	250	250	250	250

Source: Researcher's Computation (2024)

Table 3 indicates that on the statements that there is a significant relationship between the effects of communal conflict and Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficients generated include 0.947, 0.932, 0.549, 0.935, 0.594, and 0.603 were found to be statistically significant at 5% level of significance. This is an indication of the significant influence of communal conflict and Education, given the high correlation coefficients obtained.

However, on the nature and degree of relationship between communal conflict (independent variable) and Education, the regression and correlation results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Analysis Results for Hypothesis Two

$$DOP = 0.105 + 0.243COMCONF$$

$$T\text{-stat} = (1.242) \quad (40.370)$$

$$Prob. = (0.215) \quad (0.0000)$$

$$R = 0.932; R^2 = 0.868; F\text{-stat} = 1629.734; Prob. (F\text{-stat}) = 0.000$$

Source: Researcher's Computation (2024)

Table 3 shows that destruction of properties (DOP) will remain positive at an average of 0.105 units, if there are no changes in Communal conflict. This implies that in the event that communal conflict remains constant, there is the likelihood that Education (ED) will remain positive. Similarly, a unit change in the level of Communal Conflict will lead to an increase of 0.243 units change in Education (ED). This positive relationship is statistically significant with a computed t-statistic value of 40.370 and a probability value of 0.000 (Sig = 0.000), since the probability value obtained is less than 0.05 at 5% level of significance. The correlation (PPMC) coefficient R-value of 0.932 indicates the existence of a positive correlation between communal conflict (COMCONF) and Education (ED). However, this can be said to be a high positive correlation.

Finally, given that the computed F-statistic value obtained is 1629.734 and the probability (sig) value is 0.000, the relationship between Communal conflict and Education (ED) can be said to have goodness-of-fit. This implies that the relationship is

statistically significant. This is an indication that the null hypothesis earlier stated would fail to hold, and is hereby rejected. This implies that there is the existence of a positive and significant relationship between communal conflict and Education in Ibeno and Esit Udua in Eket local government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

- **Communal conflict and Employment opportunities.**

There is an existing positive and significant relationship between communal conflict and Employment opportunities, indicating that the more the increase of the conflict the greater the number of persons that will be displaced and staying idle without a job, considering Government employees, fishermen, farmers, traders, small and scale businesses owners, etc. World Bank Report (2006):

- **Communal conflict and Education**

The research conducted shows and indicated that there is a significant relationship between communal conflict and Education as the conflict between the two communities has led to the destruction of properties ranging from houses, primary and secondary schools, hospitals, churches, etc., a continuous increase in the conflict will lead to the destruction of properties leading to underdevelopment of the area as students are always out of schools due to the existence of the conflict. Ubani et.al (2020).

- **Inter-communal conflict on small and medium scale enterprises**

The findings revealed that the conflict has affected lots small and medium scale enterprise in both the conflicting regions as these businesses can no longer go about their normal businesses thereby bringing a negative effect to the socio-economic development of the regions and at large that of Akwa Ibom State. Small and medium scale businesses being computer business centers, Naija bet centers, hair salons (unisex) bakeries, table water producers, restaurant, poultry business, cryfish centers and fish shops. Etc.

CONCLUSION

This chapter has examined the mutual impact of the inter-communal conflict and socio-economic development in the Area. These have been discussed in other chapters of this study. To this, there is an existing positive and significant relationship between communal conflict and Employment opportunities, indicating that the more the increase of the conflict the greater the number of persons that will be displaced and staying idle without a job, considering Government employees, fishermen, farmers, traders, small and scale businesses owners, etc. World Bank Report (2006):

It can also be concluded that there is a significant relationship between communal conflict and Education as the conflict between the two communities has led to the destruction of properties ranging from houses, primary and secondary schools, hospitals, churches, etc., a continuous increase in the conflict will lead to the destruction of properties leading to underdevelopment of the area as students are always out of schools due to the existence of the conflict. Ubani et.al (2020).

Finally, it can be concluded from the findings that the conflict has affected lots small and medium scale enterprise in both the conflicting regions as these businesses can no longer go about their normal businesses thereby bringing a negative effect to the socio-economic development of the regions and at large that of Akwa Ibom State. Small and medium scale businesses being computer business centers, Naija bet centers, hair salons (unisex) bakeries, table water producers, restaurant, poultry business, cryfish centers and fish shops. Etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations were made;

- A fair distribution of farmlands and other Resources, considering access to education to all groups, the need for both factions to the conflict to display tolerance and understanding, the need to enter into effective dialogue, Political parties should stop interfering in the chieftaincy conflict.
- That the Akwa Ibom State government, political parties, the chiefs, clan heads, the paramount ruler and stakeholders should show a high sense of morality and refrain from exploiting ethnic sentiments for electoral favors.
- It was also recommended that there should be an effective dialogue by the various stakeholders, the rightful owners should be allowed to occupy their land, and Political parties should stop interfering in the chieftaincy conflict and finally the need for education and understanding.

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