



NNADIEBUBE JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



Vol. 2 No.1 July-December 2021

**ISSN (Print) 2636-6398
E-ISSN (Online) 2636-638X
Journal Website (URL): [Https://nnadiebubejss.org](https://nnadiebubejss.org)**



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Published, 2022

Printed in Nigeria by:

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IKWO PRINTING PRESS LTD



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Determinants of Indigenous Famers -Fulani Herdsmen Conflicts and Effects on Rural Communities in Awka North Cultural Area of Anambra State Ugochukwu Emmanuel Ubah	1 - 56
Financial Inclusion Variables and Domestic Economy: Nigeria in Perspective (2006 -2019) Nwaonuma Douglas Nnachi PhD, Wilfred Ositaufere	57 - 82
Little Democracy, More Oligarchy: The Bane of Nigeria’s Political System Alexander Nnaemeka Agbaenyi, PhD, Basil O. Ibebunjo	82-95
Marketing Psychology: Conceptual Study of Behaviours that Consumers Display in Searching, Purchasing, Using, Evaluating and Display of Products and Services Onyewuchi, Uzoamaka Shirley	96-104
Music and The Problem of Knowing Emmanuel Chukwuemenam Umezina	105-109
Development and Validation of Attitude towards Sacrament of Reconciliation scale among Catholic youths: roles of Self-esteem and Gender Paul Ikeh, (Fr. C.S.S. R), Obiajulu Anthony Ugochukwu Nnedum PhD	110-151
Preliminary Validation of Ten-Item Personality Inventory in a sample from Nsukka in Southeastern Nigeria Ndubuisi Nkem Umeaku, Obiajulu Anthony Ugochukwu Nnedum PhD, Harry Obi-Nwosu PhD, Balebuel Francois Nkort	152-174



-
- Nigeria National Migration Policy: A Critical Review**
Ikechukwu Anthony Kanu, Immaculata Olu
Omojola and Mike Boni Bazza **175-185**
- Social Media Advertising and Patronage of Electronic Products: A Study of Consumers in Southern Nigeria
Chiyem Okorie, Nwaizugbo Ireneus Chukwudi, Titus Chukwuemezie Okeke, Obiajulu Anthony Ugochukwu Nnedum **186-205**
- Identification of Difficult Physics Process Skills in Physics Practical Activities among Senior Secondary School Physics Students in Awka Education Zone
Okafor T.U PhD **206-217**
- Effect of Motivational Strategies On Sales Force Performance in The Publishing Industry in Anambra State.
Vivian Obianuju Dike, Chukwuemeka Okereke, Ifeanyichukwu Nwadiogo Oranusi and Titus Chukwuemezie Okeke **218-250**
- Assessment of Student's Linguistic Competence in Anambra State
Jude IfeanyiChukwu Onebunne, Chinazom Sylvia Ezeaku, Onyinye Bernadine Ikwuagwu, Ann Uche Obinwa **252-278**
- Proactive Personality, Psychological Contract as Correlates of Job Satisfaction among Bankers
Bernard Chukwukelue Chine PhD, Osinachi Christian and Ogonnia Eze PhD **278-295**
- Right of Inheritance of Igbo Women within the Context of Igwebuiké Philosophy
Mary Winifred Gloria Eche **296-307**



Determinants of Indigenous Farmers -Fulani Herdsmen Conflicts and Effects on Rural Communities in Awka North Cultural Area of Anambra State

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Abstract

This study explored the core factors that determine the conflict between the killer herdsmen and indigenous farmers in rural communities in Awka cultural area of Anambra State. The work examined the effects of Fulani herdsmen violence on indigenous farmers in rural farming communities in Akwa North cultural areas. The study discovered that quest for protection and preservation of secured economic sources of livelihood, resource control and divergent values, imported Fulani Islamic fighters who quickly find their way out of the country once they accomplish their deadly jihadist mission, confrontations over damaged crops are followed by armed herders responding to the unarmed farmer's anger with brutal violence, that Fulani terrorist herders have been destroying the indigenous farmer's farms with their cattle, rapping their women and killing many farmers are at the core of the conflict. The major effects in rural economy abound, Urum, and Amanuke communities had their own confrontations with the armed Fulani herders who destroyed their farmlands when they invaded their farms with their cattle, rapping their women and in a bid to confront them, conflicts ensued resulting in the loss of lives and killing of many unarmed farmers, and willful destructions of properties worth millions of naira belonging to the indigenous farmer. Recommendations and suggestions were provided.

Keywords: Indigenous farmer- Fulani herdsmen conflicts, killer herdsmen violence, indigenous farmers' challenges, rural communities.

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous farmer-Fulani herdsmen conflict is on the increase in Nigeria. According to Adisa (2012) a study of major sources of conflicts between the herdsmen and the farmers was conducted where he observed that the farmers and the herdsmen conflict has remained the most preponderant resource use conflict

in Nigeria. Manu, Bime Mary-Juliet, Fon, Ajaja (2014) opined that conflict emanates from the insatiable nature of human wants; and competitions for scarce resources are the foremost causes of community or inter-group conflicts.

The incessant herdsmen attacks and the killings by killer Fulani herdsmen is a source of major national concern.



According to Ebgas (2018) from 1996 to 2006, about 121 people lost their lives in Bauchi and Gombe States as a result of conflict between herdsmen and farmers. Many communities, particularly in the northern central and eastern states have also lost human lives recently, faced severe attacks perpetuated by the killer Fulani herdsmen since January 2016, about 10 Agatu communities in Benue state suffered unprecedented hardship in the hands of men suspected to be Fulani herdsmen. About 500 Agatu villagers reportedly lost their lives to herdsmen. In Abia state, communities in Uzuakoli in Bende Local Government Area, Ebem and Akanu in Ohafia Umuchieze in Umunneochi, there have been cases of deadly clashes between rural farmers and cattle breeders. The invasion of farm lands in Ebem and Akanu communities nearly resulted in blood baths but the wisdom of the leaders in the community who timely reported to the authorities saved bloody clashes. Some of the cases were so serious that Abia government had to intervene, prevent the youths of the community from retaliating. However, peace committee had to be set up to stop the impending doom.

The case is not different in Enugu State, of the 482 communities in the state, one cannot point to one community that has not had its fare share of Fulani Herdsmen's barbaric activities which leaves in their wakes, perennial fears of

sorrow as incidents of killing, robbery, rape, maiming and kidnapping by cattle - killer herdsmen have inflicted pains on most farmers, leaving them in fears. In March 2014, suspected herdsmen allegedly invaded and killed Tamgbo Oguji, a member of the traditional ruler's cabinet at Eke community Udi Local Government Area Enugu State with so many other attacks in the state.

In Africa, farmers and herdsmen conflicts have been caused by different factors. Zartman (2005) suggests that access to resources, beliefs, values, or the nature of the relationship are factors that cause conflict. On the other hand, Signer (1996) identified territory, religion, language, ethnicity, self-determination, resources accessibility, dominance, equality, and revenge as the major factors that cause farmers and herdsmen conflict. Many factors impact on the probability of armed conflict between farmers and herdsmen. Economic hardship (Ezeokana, Nnedum, & Madu, 2009a) and Poverty (Ezeokana, Nnedum, & Madu, 2009b) has also been identified as a major factor, natural resource endowment, and population characteristic, ethnic and religious fractionalization, education levels, geography, as well as previous conflicts and globalization (Nnedum & Ezeokana, 2008) of climatic change are factors that constrain or facilitate farmer-herdsmen conflict. according to Abbas (2009), a study of major source of conflicts



between the pastoralist to be used interchangeably with herders and farmers shows that land related issues, especially on grazing fields, account for the highest percentage of the conflicts. Put differently, the struggle for economic viable lands cause more tension and violent conflicts among communities. The pastoralist has to move across and graze on farmlands that belong to farmers. Secondly, pastoralists require the calories produced by crop farmers, much as the crop farmers also often require the protein and the dairy products produced by the pastoralists. No nomad can exist for long without contact with sedentary people.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The quest for protection and preservation of secured economic sources of livelihood has been said to be the bane for continued conflict between herdsman and farmers in different places (Oli et al, 2018). Historically, tension between Nigeria's pastoralists Fulani and settled indigenous farmers have intensified in recent years, with dwindling natural resources and land availability greatly contributing to the ongoing escalating conflict in the country (Okollo, 2014). This implies that these conflicts are attributable to resource control and divergent values. As herdsman move about in search of greener pasture for their cattle, they often invade farm lands and destroy crops

which usually lead to confrontation by farmers or the local people (Olaleye, 2010).

This has continued to fuel the constant conflicts that occur between the farmers and the herdsman and has claimed many lives. At a time when the country is seriously concerned about her food security import bill, herdsman used their cattle to cause destruction on farmlands and are ready to kill and maim whoever dares to challenge them. It is even suggested that most of those who carry out the killings are not Nigerians but imported fighters who quickly find their way out of the country once they accomplish their deadly mission (Azuka, 2018). The report also said that, because the government has failed to respond adequately by protecting lives and property of the citizens in the region, the herdsman have grown bolder, and their perceived attempt to wipe out the native ethnic groups has quietly morphed into low intensity warfare. Even where the traditional rulers have attempted to call the herdsman to peace meetings, they routinely take advantage of these occasions to perform reconnaissance for future attacks (Ibekwe, 2015:3).

Confrontations over damaged crops are followed by armed herders responding to the farmer's anger with brutal violence, consequently, leading to reprisal attacks on the herding camps by farming communities. However, some factors that usually lead to the crises are



as follows; farm lands, insufficient grazing fields, disagreements, scarcity of fresh water, destruction of crops and burning of the bushes. Consequently, human displacement has been occurring, thousands of people have been killed as a result, properties worth billions have lost in the ensuing violence, animals have been lost too, with destructions of crops, distrust between farmers and pastoralists, increased anti Fulani sentiments that dwell amongst the people (Obinna, 2017). The herdsmen in turn accuse their host communities of cattle rustling (theft) and therefore, regard punitive violence against these communities as just and appropriate (Andrew, 2017).

In recent years, some communities in Awka North Local Government Area have been experiencing some pockets of violence with the cattle breeders where their farm lands have been eroded by the cattle and this has created tensions between the host communities and the visitors. In Urum community, there have been a number of conflicts between farmers and Fulani herdsmen throughout Awka north which have culminated into violent conflicts and the loss of lives and properties. This became serious when farmers have alleged that herdsmen have been destroying their farms with their cattle, rapping their women and killing many farmers. This has led to rising fear, distrust among the two groups in the communities. However, Amanuke community had their own confrontations

with the herdsmen who destroyed their farmlands when they invaded their farms with their cattle and in a bid to confront them, conflicts ensued resulting in the loss of lives and properties worth millions of naira. There was a case reported that Ugbenu community had to chase the herdsmen out of their community to avoid further escalation in their environment.

It is in view of the aforementioned issues that the study seeks to examine the determinants and effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict in communities in Awka North L.G.A, Anambra State.

Research Questions:

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study;

- What are the nature of conflicts between herdsmen and farmers in Awka North L.G.A. communities
- What are the determinants of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA?
- What are the effects of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA?
- What are the measures that can be used to curtail farmers and herdsmen conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the determinants and effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict



in communities in Awka North LGA of Anambra State. The specific objectives are;

- To determine the nature of the conflicts between herders and farmers in Awka North L.G.A. communities
- To examine the determinants of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA.
- To ascertain the effects of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA.
- To identify the measures that can be used to curtail farmers and herdsmen conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA.

Significance of the Study

This work has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the work will provide a wealth of information to the global society on the local experiences with the herdsmen and farmers conflicts. It is also hoped that the information will enrich and enhance the existing body of knowledge and help to substantiate theories of crime. It will be an advantage to the body of existing sociological, criminological and criminal justice literature particularly in the area of crime or crime control strategies. It is also hoped that the outcome of this research will be a useful material to research students of criminology, law, law enforcement agents and public administrators for crime free society.

This will also stimulate further research in the quest to put an end to the feuds and conflicts that exist between the farmers and the herdsmen. The practical significance of this study is multi dimensional, it is anticipated that findings of this research will strengthen the attention of the security agents in the need to reinforce their relationship with the members of the communities where they are working for effective crime control. The findings will help the people of Awka North communities in particular and the Nigerian government at large to plan on how best to curtail the menace. It is also expected that policy makers will find the work as a resource material that will give them insight on how to come up with useful policies that will help bring lasting peace between the two groups. The findings will also help farmers and herdsmen in various communities to understand how perilous these herdsmen and farmers crises can be.

Operationalization of Key Variables

For the purpose of clarity and proper understanding of various terms used, the following key variables are defined as used in the work;

Community: This is referred to as a group of people who live together in an area, share common interest and ideas.

Determinants: These are factors that cause or influence something; Crop damage, low awareness of stock routes, and competition for land/water, with



deliberate hostility by both parties, are some of the determinants of herdsman and farmers conflict.

Effects: These are changes which are results or consequences of an action or other causes; Loss of properties and lives, reduction in output, scarcity of food items and mutual distrust among various parties to dispute are some of the effects of herdsman and farmers conflict.

Grazing: In agriculture, grazing is one method used whereby domestic livestock are used to convert grass and other forage into meat, milk and other products.

Farmer: This refers to a person who owns works or operates an agricultural enterprise, either commercially or to sustain himself or his family.

Nomadic pastoralist: This is defined as a person who herds livestock in order to find fresh pastures on which to graze upon.

Fulani herdsman: They are also called Fulani pastoralists, they are nomadic, they are semi nomadic Fulani herders whose primary occupation is raising livestock.

Conflict: This refers to some form of friction or discord arising within a group when the beliefs or actions of one or more members of the group are either resisted by or unacceptable to one or more members of a group.

Farmers-herders conflict: This is a dispute over land and/ or cattle between indigenous farmers and herders. This is

conflict between indigenous farmers and herders.

Host community: This is a community of people that is willing to take others into their homes and help support them.

Land: This refers to a solid surface of earth that is not permanently covered by water.

Violence: It is defined as the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death or psychological harm.

Cutting Age Research Frontiers

Concept of Herdsman and Farmers Conflict

The incessant resource conflicts witnessed in the tropics have resulted in loss of lives, properties and environmental degradation as also witnessed in some developed countries such as Balkans (Hellstrom, 2001; Niemella, 2005). The Fulani Herds men have borne a large proportion of the blame for most conflict and environmental degradation in policy statements in the Guinea Savannah region of West African states (Thebaud & Batterbury, 2001). The production potential of grassland and livestock in the arid and semi arid region is constrained by low and variable rainfall (Thebaud & Batterbury et al, 2001; Ifatimehin, 2008).



Therefore, there is a need for grazing movements to access pasture resources across regions in order to ensure food security for the herds. Hence, pastures, woody vegetation, water resources and land are taken as a common property resource as reported by Berger (2003). But the complex land-use system that has changed markedly over time has culminated in the present-day tension and conflicts between herds man and host communities. Jibo, (2001) reported that the Benue Valley region in Nigeria had witnessed violent conflicts enough to attract both State and National attention.

Land is increasingly becoming a major source of conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa, where land access had traditionally been characterized as relatively egalitarian Yamano & Deininger, (2005). It has been shown that local land conflicts can erupt into large scale civil strife and political movements (Daudelin, 2002). Some underlying factors such as population pressuer, agricultural commercialization, and urbanization, have contributed to the increasing number of conflicts between herders and farmers. (Cotula, Toumin & Hesse, 2004). Due to increases in population, the scrambling for land conflicts among competing user groups and often results in adverse impacts both to the land and its living and non-living resources.

Blench (2005) noted that although the phenomenon is as old as agriculture,

its intensity since the late 1980s is a function of the increasing war over resources, mostly grass and water, which is occasioned by climate change. In a well articulated on the impart of climate change in Nigeria, Aaron Sayne (2012) pays particular attention to the creeping desertification of northern Nigeria and weak state capability as responsible for the phenomenon of herders migration leading to violent conflicts. Olakunle & Olubimpe (2013), established a linkage between climate change and inter-ethnic conflict concluding that there is an escalation of conflicts between ethnic groups over access to dwindling resources. Samuel and Frances (2012), linked the perennial violence to climate change. Idowu (2011), have not only examined, but also linked the debilitating consequences on food production in the savanna area of Oyo state to the pastoral-farmer conflicts over access to resources in the area. Freedom and Gerard (2010) are also clear in their study on human insecurity in Nigeria that climate change is one of its casual factors.

Awareness of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict

Farmers-herders conflict has continued to spread throughout the sub-Saharan Africa and, Nigeria appears to be the most affected nation more especially in the North and some parts of Southern states. Many people have lost their lives and properties, communities have been sacked and destroyed on daily basis as a



result of the conflict (Abbass, 2012). Incidentally, climate change has contributed immensely to root causes of pastoralists' migration to some southern states for pasture and the ensuing violence between them. People are aware of the shortages in annual rainfall which has led to drought and desertification which contribute immensely to the occurrence of herdsman-farmers conflict in Nigeria (Olayoku, 2014).

However, there has been a wide and consistent acknowledged historical co-existence of farmers-herders in symbiotic relationship (Bassett, 1988). Seddon and Sumberg (1997) also acknowledge the public awareness of long historical record of fluctuating conflict, competition and cooperation between settled farmers and herders in the continent. Such relationships were realized through reciprocity, exchange and support (Moritz, 2010). This however, does not mean that conflicts between farmers-herders were non-existent.

Abba and Usman, (2008) attributed that with decreasing interdependent livelihood activities, the relationship is increasingly characterized by incessant conflicts. Tonah (2006) reports that farmer-herder clashes have since the 20th century become widespread in the coastal countries of West Africa. It is becoming common nearly in every part of Nigeria. According to Pasquale et al (2007), pastoralist-crop farmers conflicts

is the most predominant type of resource use conflict. In a newspaper study of conflict in Nigeria, Fasona & Omajola (2005) reported that farmer-herdsman conflict account for about 35% of conflicts cases reported in Nigeria newspapers. It is widespread in the country and has been on the increase in recent times.

Nweze (2005), reported that between 1996 to 2005, 19 people died and 42 were injured in farmers and herders conflict in Imo state. Another study of 27 communities in north central Nigeria indicated that over 40% of household surveyed had experienced agricultural land-related conflicts, with respondents recalling conflicts that were as far back as 1965 to 2005 Nyong & Fiki (2005). In the guinea savannah area of Kwara state, scholars have reported that out of about 150 households interviewed, 22 had experienced losses of livestock, while 8 households reported loss human lives, (Olabode & Ajibade, 2010). Further study by Ofuoku and Isife (2009) also revealed that in the south-south region of Nigeria, especially in Delta and Edo states, more than 40 million worth of crops are usually lost annually due to invasion of cattle.

Determinants of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict

The genesis of conflicts over access, use and management of land resources between cattle herders and farmers is as diverse as the nature of the



conflict themselves. In general, however, the expansion of the population throughout the northern Nigeria has led to the expansion of farming activities into areas utilized by cattle herders for the purpose of livestock production. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in Hausa land where the traditional pastoralist grazing area, stock routes, and water points have been turned into farming areas over the years. In Nigeria, the most frequent causes of conflicts between the nomadic pastoralists and the sedentary farmers are illegal invasion of farms and destruction of crops by cattle, particularly during the planting season and immediately after the harvesting period (Abubakar, 2012).

In a study conducted by Saidu (2013), he summarized the causes of conflict as inadequate legal and regulatory instrument used in implementation of resettlement; the lack of institutional learning to deal with complexity of the conflict that follows resettlement; lack of opportunities for restoring and improving living standards; lack of political will on the part of the government and lack of a number of procedural and financial aspects. Another cause of the conflict is lack of sensitization of the people to apply the land use Act of 1978. One of the policies (Nationalization Policy) stated that, the land in Nigeria shall be available to all Nigerians in any state, local government or district of their choices for residential,

agricultural, grazing commercial or industrial purposes, irrespective of their states of origin, ethnic background, religious and political affiliation (Aboki, 2003). Aboki also stated that conflict in Taraba, Benue and Nasarawa, Osun (Modakeke/Ife), Anambra (Umuleri/Aguleri), and Delta state (Ijaw-Itsekiri) were caused by the type of land policies that is in practice in those places.

Hoffmann, Umar, and Tukur (2008), opined that the relationship between farmers and herders started degenerating when the Hausa farmers began to raise animals including cattle. The farmers would take crop residues to their animals and as a consequence, forage became scarce for herders in the dry season. Probably out of frustration, the settled herders invited the nomadic ones to carry-out group herding on farmers field even while crops were yet to be harvested. When the farmers attempted to challenge them, violence erupted. This shows that nomads-farmers can be determined by ethnicity. Government policies can also be seen as a cause of nomads-farmers conflicts. For example, Hoffmann et al. (2008), further explained that the conflicts do occur as the size of the existing reserve shrink due to encroachment and government approved expansion of farmlands. This leads to the conversion of water points and stock routes into farmlands.

Effects of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict



In Nigeria, various violent conflicts have occurred over land related issues that have led to the decrease of agricultural production and increase of hunger, the clashes between various ethnic, occupational and resident groups usually result to destruction of farmlands. With the destruction of farm crops and in some cases retaliation by the farmers to killing livestock owned by the herdsmen hampers the overall food production, both in crops and meat, which implies increased hunger, diseases and malnutrition. Adebayo and Olaniyi (2008) believe that, conflict usually leads to disunity, violence, disagreement and bloodshed because parties involved try to reach their objective. It is a form of social interaction in which the actors seek to obtain scarce resources by weakening or eliminating other contenders. The incessant resource conflicts witnessed in the tropics have resulted in the loss of lives, properties and environmental degradation as also witnessed in some developed countries such as Balkans (Tenuche & Ifetimehin, 2009).

Junaidu (2009) observed that persistent conflicts over land resources have caused population displacement, which, as a result, changed the fabric of custom and habitual behaviour in northeast Nigeria. This led to low agricultural output, which resulted in malnutrition and disease; and by inducing people to leave, economic decline may erode confidence in the

national purpose and also upset the traditional balance of economic and political authority between ethnic groups in the area. However, it must be noted that conflicts can both be positive and negative. Consequences of resource use conflict between farmers and pastoralists exist. For instance, Blench (1997) indicates that resource use conflict is often a major stimulus to the evolution of intricate interlocking patterns of exploitation. The grazers also suffer from material damages when the farmers inflict physical injuries on the cattle by using cutlasses, spears or guns or by poisoning the cattle. In Santa sub division in Pinyin in 1994, a grazer lost his entire herd as a result of attack on the cattle by farmers. Open confrontation results in rural insecurity and out migration. In the event of a conflict, properties and lives are destroyed leading to misery and hardship.

Oli et al (2018), opined that farmers-herdsmen conflicts were mainly caused by lack of fresh water, grass and long-standing disagreements.

According to Ikezue and Ezeah (2017), Adams, Emmanuel, Engwali and Nji, (2014). Many farmers and herders have died as a result of the conflict and whenever conflict occurs the government would form a committee to investigate the root causes but fail to implement the committees report thereby failing to punish the main offenders.



Measures to Curtail Farmers and Conflict

The method used in resolving conflict depends on the nature and the magnitude of the conflict. For instance, conflict management should first seek to eliminate the conditions that create an environment of conflict which rise to situations that are likely to undermine good relationship (Imobighe, 2003). This means at the first level of conflict prevention and peace promotion; conflict managers should concentrate at putting in place the building blocks for societal peace and harmony through system re-examination and system correction. In all cases where conflict has been occasioned by crop destruction and where the offending pastoralist admits; interpersonal agreement may be reached, depending on the extent of the damage. Compensation (varying in amount) is often demanded and paid where minimal crops have been destroyed. This is a situation where pastoralists and crop farmers have co-habited for a long time. In such cases, the herdsmen speak the local language very fluently, thereby enhancing social integration and neighborhood. There are other instances where pastoralist-crop farmers interpersonal relationship is not very cordial if conflict arises in such a situation it is not usually resolved by personal intervention, the village head and the local head of herdsmen (Ardos)

are usually involved in settling the dispute (Adebayo & Olaniyi, 2008).

Review of Empirical Literature

This section reviews empirical studies of different authors citing their methodologies and findings. They are done under the following sub-headings;

Awareness of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict

Adebayo and Olaniyi (2008) conducted a study that ascertained the causes of conflicts between farmers and herders in Saki-West of Oyo state, Nigeria. The study utilized survey design. The sample size was 300 farmers. The major instrument of data collection was questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed descriptively through frequency counts and percentages, while Chi-square inferential statistic was used in testing the hypotheses. The results revealed that majority (73.8%) of the respondents were aware that farmers and herders clash very often. It was also indicated that (26.3%) of the respondents have experienced herders attack.

Adelakun, Adurogbanga, and Akinbile (2015) conducted a study on the socio-economic effects of pastoralist conflict on family farming which was done in Oyo State. The sample size of the study is 80. Data were collected using questionnaire and were analyzed using both descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) and inferential statistics



(PPMC, chi-square and T-test). The findings of the study indicated that (63.3%) of the population were aware of bush burning while (46.7%) were also aware of crop damage. The majority of the farmers (71%) were aware of the losses from farmer and pastoralists conflicts

Determinants of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict

Okoli and Ateihe (2014) conducted a study in Nigeria with the objective to explore the herders and farmer's conflict in Nasarawa state. Using a quantitative analysis and secondary sources. The research population is 863, 275. The analytical tool used for the work is regression analysis. The result of the study shows that conflict situation under review portends negatively for sustainable societal development and national security in Nigeria.

Aliyu (2015) in a study to examined the causes and resolutions of conflict between cattle herders and crop farmers in Kastina state. Snow ball sampling method was used to obtain a sample size of 126 respondents. Focus Group Discussions were used to gather qualitative data and descriptive statistics (mean, frequency count, and percentages) were used in analyzing quantitative data. However, the findings indicate that 75% of the cattle herders had no formal education implying that formal education level of respondents

were very low; this serves as a determinant of the conflicts between farmers and herders.

Sunday (2013) conducted a study which investigated the conflicts among farmers and pastoralists in northern Nigeria. The sample population consisted of 150 farmers, 100 pastoralists and 50 from government officials, NGOs and members of the public. The instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire complemented by a semi-structured interview schedule and the analysis was done using multiple regression and Pearson Product Moment. However, the data from 323 respondents were retrieved with 77% response rate which included 102 farmers 44.7%, 52 pastoralists 22% and 78 other members of the public 33%. Findings showed a significant positive relationship between freshwater scarcity and conflicts among farmers and pastoralist. Struggle for access to source of water was found to be the most potent predictor of causes of conflict.

Effects of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict

Ofem and Inyang (2014) conducted a study in Kogi State to ascertain conflicts between farmers and herders in Nigeria. A total of 135 randomly selected crop farmers were used. Data collected were analyzed using statistical tools such as mean, percentages and frequency counts while content analysis was employed to



analyze data obtained from key informants. The results showed that crop farmers produce was predominantly affected (85.2%).

Davis, (2015) conducted a study to examine the factors that have contributed to the causes and persistence of farmer-herder conflict in Tanzania. Respondents for the study consist of farmers and herders who were 36 in number. Focus Group Discussion was used to collect information on conflict resolution mechanisms. The study was analyzed with chi-square and the findings of the study stated that the effects are the lack of security of land tenure to small holder farmers and herders and destruction of farm and animal products.

Sulaiman, Ochi, Agwu and Furo (2015) in their study examined the major determinants of arable farmer-pastoralist conflict in Fadama areas of Bauchi State. 60 Fadama arable farmers and 60 pastoralists were used as the respondents. The study adopted a multi-stage sampling technique and Semi-structured interview schedule was administered to the respondents. The data were analyzed using factor analysis with findings that the effect of the conflicts ranges from reducing food production to loss of lives.

Measures to curtail herders and Farmers Conflict

Osabiya (2015) conducted a study on Conflict Management and Resolution in Nigeria Public Sector in Lagos Nigeria. Data were collected from a

sample of 170 employees of the Nigeria Public Sector. Questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. The findings indicated that more than 70.5% of the respondents claimed that conflict management and resolution can be resolved between conflicting parties.

Turner, Ayantunde, Patterson and Patterson (2006) conducted a study in Sudano-Sahelian zone of Niger State. The objective of the study was to examine the relation between farmer-herder conflict. Quantitative and qualitative survey instruments were used to collect data. The study was analyzed with regression analysis. The findings of the study had showed that the ability of the rural communities to prevent and manage conflict is largely based on the strength of the networks of communication between herding and farming interest, respect, respected community leaders, and leaders in neighbouring communities.

REVIEW OF RELEVANT THEORIES

For the purpose of this work, the following theories are reviewed.

Conflict Theory

The conflict perspective or conflict theory was derived from the ideas of Karl Marx (1818-1883), the great German theorist and political activist, who believed that society is a dynamic entity constantly undergoing



change driven by conflict. According to Marx, men in the social production of their existence inevitably enter into definite relations which are independent of their will, namely relations of production appropriate to a given stage in the development of their material forces of production, the totality of which constitutes the economic structure of society. The fact that the dominant or ruling class (bourgeoisie) controls the social relations of productions, the dominant ideology in capitalist society is that of the ruling class. Ideology and social institutions, in tune serve to reproduce and perpetuate the economic class structure. According to Marx, the real foundation upon which the superstructure of social, political and intellectual consciousness was built has been the exploitative economic arrangements of capitalism. Marx believed that any social setting based on exploitative economic arrangement generated within it the seed of its own destruction (Marx, 1971).

In general, conflict perspective views society as made up of individuals competing for limited resources. Competition over scarce resource is at the heart of all social relationships, competition rather than consensus is the characteristic of human relationships. Broader social structures and organizations reflect the completion for resources and the inherent inequality competition entails, some people and

organizations have more resources (power and influence) and use those resources to maintain their positions of power in the society (Marx, 1971). According to the conflict perspective, society is constantly in conflict over resources, and that conflict originates social change. For example, conflict theorists might explain the civil rights movements in 1960s by studying how activists challenged the racially unequal distribution of political power and economic resources. As in this example, conflict theorists generally see social change as abrupt even revolutionary rather than incremental. In the conflict perspectives, change comes about through conflict between competing interests, not consensus or adaptation. Conflict theory therefore gives sociologists a framework for explaining social change. All conflicts share common qualities. The first is that there is a kind of contact between the parties that are involved. Secondly, the parties in conflict perceive conflicting views and finally, one of the parties always want to redress existing contradictions (Ofuoku & Isife, 2009).

In relating this theory to the present conflicts and crises rocking the herders and farmers relations in our society, it shows that the both conflicting parties do have their own tenets of interests which they hold dearly and also want to protect for their own interests. Therefore, to constantly be in conflict for



the scarce resources shows that a particular group wants to control and be a dominant class in the environment that is in contentious. The theory also mentioned competition rather than consensus as a characteristic of human society: this explains the drive for competition between herders and farmers as a healthy affair occurring in a social structure and organization. With this explanation above, it shows that the near ending of the conflicts between herders and farmers is not close yet. The theory has been criticized for being too radical in its application in the society and in some quarters, it has been regarded as a theory of tension.

Strain Theory

Strain theory was developed by Robert Merton in 1957 to explain the rising crime rate that was experienced in USA at that time. Strain theory has become very popular with the contemporary sociologists. Merton argued that the cultural system of the USA was built on American Dream, a set of meritocratic principles which assured the American public that equality of opportunity was available to all, regardless of class, gender or ethnicity. The American Dreams encouraged individuals to pursue a goal of success which was largely measured in terms of wealth and material possessions. People were expected to pursue this goal through legitimate means such as education and

work. The dominant cultural message was if you are ambitious, talented and hardworking, then income and wealth should be your reward.

However, Merton (1957) pointed out that these goals were not attainable by all, that the structural organization of the USA means that the means to get on were not fairly distributed and it was difficult, if not impossible for some to compete and achieve financial success. Merton developed the concept of 'anomie' to describe this imbalance between cultural goals and institutionalized means. He argued that such an imbalanced society produces anomie, however, there is a strain or tension between the goals and means which produces unsatisfied aspirations. Merton (1957) argued that when individuals are faced with a gap between their goals (usual resources/income related) and their current status, strain occurs. Merton (1957) defined five ways that people adapt to this gap between having a socially accepted goals but no socially accepted way to pursue it.

- **Conformity:** The majority of people in society choose to conform and not to deviate. They pursue their society's value goals to the extent that they can through socially means.
- **Innovation:** Those who innovate pursue goals they cannot reach through legitimate means by instead using criminal or deviant means.



- **Ritualism:** People who ritualize lower their goals until they can reach them through socially acceptable ways. These social ritualists focus on conformity to the accepted means of goal attainment while abandoning the distant, unobtainable dream of success.
- **Retreatism:** Others retreat from the role strain and reject both society's goals and accepted means. Some beggars and street people have withdrawn from society's goal financial success. They drop out.
- **Rebellion:** A handful of people rebel, replacing a society's goals and means with their own. Rebels seek to create a greatly modified social structure in which provision would be made for closer correspondence between merit, effort, and reward.

In relations of this theory, the innovationists are herdsmen who have accepted the cultural goal of success/wealth attainment but are trying to attain it through illegitimate means. A person may have the socially acceptable goal of financial success but lack a socially acceptable way to reach that goal. For me, a herdsman fits more into this, because a herder who cannot find good pastures around for the grazing of his cattle might be tempted to encroach on the farm of farmer to eat up his planted products. The discrepancy between the reality of structural inequality and the high cultural value of economic success

creates a strain that has to be resolved by some means. The southward movement of herders from the northern part of the country exposes the herders to the richness of the vegetations in the most part of south but, face insurmountable odds to achieving it, turning to illegal means to achieve success is rational. This theory was criticized on the ground that it applies only to the lower class as they struggle with limited resources to achieve their goals. Strain theory is still insufficient to explain who will commit crime. Not all people who lack legitimate means or opportunities turn to crime to do so (Bernburg, 2002).

Social Disorganization Theory

This theory was propounded by a group of sociologists at the University of Chicago, who assumed in their research that the delinquent/criminal behaviour was a product of social disorganization (Bohm & Haley, 2005). Bohm and Haley (2005) and Inciardi (2007) noted that the theory was first popularized by Cliff Shaw and Henry Mckay during the early 1920s while working on a research at a state supported social services agency. For the theorists, social disorganization is a condition in which usually controls over delinquents are largely absent, delinquent behaviour is often approved by parents and neighbours and there is little encouragement, training or opportunity for legitimate employment. Siegel (2007) and Inciardi (2007) link



high crime rates to neighborhood ecological characteristics. To them, youths from disadvantaged neighborhood were participants in a subculture in which delinquency was an approved behaviour and that criminality was acquired in social and cultural settings through the process of social interaction.

In 1942, Shaw and McKay established the Chicago Area Project (CAP) to coordinate community resources, such as: schools, churches, labour union and industries to solve community problems and also to sponsor activity programs, such as: scouting, summer camps and sports league; this is to develop a positive interest by individuals in their own welfare and to unite citizens to solve their own problems. This theory is very relevant in this study under reference because herders and farmers conflict have been well reflected in the tenets of the theory. Criminality is acquired through social and cultural settings; the conflict between the herders and the farmers has been for a long time and as a result, many younger generations of these two groups have learnt so far how to survive on conflicts which has made it hard to bring a reasonable solution between the conflicting herders and farmers. The theory was criticized because of its presumption that social disorganization is a cause of delinquency/criminality. Both social disorganization and

delinquency may be the product of other things (Bohm & Haley, 2005).

Broken Window Theory

Broken Window Theory (BWT) was the scholarly work of James Wilson and George Kelling in an article which appeared in March 1982 edition of 'The Atlantic Monthly' (Giddens, 2004; Inciardi, 2007; Jones, 2005). The theory suggests that "there is direct connection between the appearance of disorder and actual crime" (Giddens, 2004: 214). Giddens (2004); Haralambos and Holborn, (2004); Inciardi, (2007) and Jones, (2005) noted that if a single broken window is allowed to go unrepaired in a neighborhood (i.e. when residents overlooked minor crime like prostitution, drunkenness, pick-pocketing etc), it sends a message to potential offenders that neither police nor local resident care about the community. In time, the broken windows will be joined by further signs of disorder; vandalism and abandoned vehicle (the minor crime will graduate to bigger crimes like kidnapping, assassination, rape, conflicts, burglary and fraud). The area will begin a gradual process of decay and social disorder will flourish and law-abiding citizens will be afraid and seek to leave and will be replaced by deviant newcomers such as drug dealers, the homeless and people on parole (Giddens, 2004).

In relating this theory to the present issue on ground, the neglect of



the present conflicts between herders and farmers has escalated so much that it has increased that spate of crime in our various communities. Broken Window theory has been demonstrated in this study which has shown that more elements of crimes or conflicts have continued to occur in our societies. However, as a result of the neglect on the spate of menace of the herders in most parts of the country, the killings are becoming more menacing by the day since the government of the day has refused to arrest the situation to curtail the deadly attacks on several communities. Taylor criticized the theory by pointing out that disorder was not wholly responsible for the changes that occurred and that other social factors had to be considered as well (Taylor 2001 as cited in Jones, 2005). Contemporary developments have belittled the effectiveness of the theory as some crimes are perpetrated by people who are not domiciled in the environment of the crime.

Theoretical Framework: Two theories were adopted as frame work in this study and they are; Broken Window Theory and Strain Theory. It could be a sustained position to say that broken window theory fits into the study of conflicts between herders and farmers where there are ensuing conflicts however; the government has failed to put in measures that will bring an end to the increase of

conflicts between herders and farmers in Awka North L.G.A. However, since the conflict is locally generated it would also be solved locally. When a conflict occurs, community members and the police should try to find out why it happened and what can be done to avoid it in the future rather than simply disposing of the case (Inciardi, 2007).

Strain theory according to Merton does not focus upon crime persay, but rather upon various acts of deviance, which may be understood to lead to criminal behaviour. He noted that there are certain goals which are strongly emphasized by the society. Society emphasizes certain means to reach those goals (such as education, hard work, etc.,) however, not everyone has equal access to the legitimate means to attain those goals, (Merton, 1957).

However, the Broken Window theory (BWT), suggests that the apparent appearance of disorder and actual crime has manifested crimes in the society. When some issues occur in the society without being addressed, more trouble tend to occur as a result of its prevalence opportunities for more crimes. (Haralambos & Holborn, (2004).

To align Merton's theory to the work proper will make us to understand that; due to lack of access to some of the resources which the herds need for their daily consumption and the herders cannot provide it due to lack of resources, they



therefore, devise a means to meet their ends however resorting to violence.

while in Broken window theory, the appearance of disorder which is one of the manifestation and trappings of a third world society have provided the herders the lee way to unleash their terror of violence against any of the farming communities in Awka North L.G.A. that tries to stop them.

Furthermore, strain and broken window theory form an effective base where herders and farmers conflicts for struggle on scarce resources have harped on goal attainment and the social constraint placed on them through conformity to the rule of laws in the society. The theory stresses on the obedience or conformity to the laws of the society which has made it difficult for one of the conflicting groups to adhere completely to the rule of law of the land, and this makes conflicts between them inevitable in the society. Also note that innovative mode of adaption in strain theory and broken window theories that best explain herders and farmers conflicts.

Study Hypotheses

The study is to be guided by the following hypotheses:

1. The respondents are likely to vary significantly across the four selected communities, regarding awareness of specific cases of farmers-herders conflicts.

2. Younger adults are likely than older adults, to implicate complacency on the part of the government as a major determinant factor farmers-herders conflict in communities of Awka North L.G.A.
3. Female respondents are more likely to accept the establishment of cattle ranches as a measure to curtail farmers-herders conflicts in Awka North L.G.A, than their male counterparts.

METHOD

Study Design

The research will be a mixed methods research employing quantitative and qualitative research instrument. Such information according to him may include physical characteristics of people, materials or environment, socio-economic characteristics of the people as well as the attitudes, beliefs and opinions that help to explain behaviour, events and practice. This study is in no way an exception. This design is helpful because it is economical and consumes less time as sample drawn to represent the various elements of the population will be used to generalize the population of the study. The design will enable the researcher to gather information on public perception of the determinants and effects of herdsmen and farmers conflict in communities in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra state.



Area of the Study

The study area for this work is Awka North local government area of Anambra state. It is one of the 21 local government areas that make up Anambra state. Awka north is a local government area in Anambra state with administrative headquarters in the town of Achalla. The local government is in Anambra central Senatorial District with an area of 352km and bounded in the south by Awka south-west by Njikoka and Dunukofia local government areas, in the north by Ayamelum local government area and in the east and north-east by Enugu state. The towns that make up the local government are Awba, Oba-Ofemili, Ugbene, Ebenebe, Achalla (the capital), Urum, Amansea, Amanasa, Amanuke, Isu Aniocha, Mgbakwu, and Ugbenu. The most common religion in Awka North is the Igbo Traditional religious. (Onwuekwe, 2005). In respect of cultural practices or festivals, the most popular cultural festival in Awka is the Imoka festival. However, they are also Christians, which have not make them to disregard their traditional religion. The political feature of the people is democratic government, with a local government headquarters situated at Achalla town. Their major source of water for the community is a flowing river which cuts across several communities of the local government area and the major ethnic group is Igbo

and Ibo language as the only language being spoken in all the communities. (Ezewaji, 2014). Geographically, the greater part of indigenes in the communities' lives in the rural area with farming as their major occupation. Following the high rate of conflict that has been going on between herders and farmers, the researcher was informed by some colleague that work at the local government in Achalla to undertake the determinants and effects between herders and farmers in the communities of Awka north, Anambra State.

To justify the area: it's one of the hot beds of such violence in Anambra state. And there has been increasing violence by marauding herders which has resulted in the deaths, maiming, rapping, kidnap and destruction of properties and farmlands in the area. The study area is also justified because Awka north is an agrarian zone which will help the state to stabilize the conflicts to achieve food security in the state.

Population of the Study

The population of Awka North local government area according to NPC (2006) is one hundred and twelve thousand, one hundred and ninety-two people (112192), out of which fifty-four thousand, nine hundred and seventy-four (54,973) are females while the remaining number of the population which is fifty-seven thousand, two hundred and nineteen (57,219) are males. The target



population to be studied are adult residents who have attained the age of 18 years and above since they are those that can at least read and write or respond to the research questionnaire. The rationale for adopting this set of people for the study is predicated on the fact that they have come of age and are matured to have observed the level of conflicts ranging between the herders and farmers and the newest strategy to control crime.

Scope of the Study

This study will be limited to the determinants and effects of herders and farmers conflicts in Awka north communities, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Sample Size

The sample size for this work is 349. This sample size was determined using the Fisher, Laing, Stockel and Townsend (1998)'s formula for generating sample size when the population of the study is greater than ten thousand (10,000):

$$n = z^2pq/d^2$$

Where n = sample size

Z = level of confidence (1.96)²

P = proportion of occurrence or incidence 35%

q = complement of p (65%)

d = error margin or level of accuracy (5%)

Thus, using the formula

$$n = 1.96^2 (.35) (.65) / (0.05)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 3.8416(.35 \times .65) / 0.0025 \\ &= 3.8416(0.2275) / 0.0025 \\ &= 0.873964 / 0.0025 \\ n &= 349.5856 \\ n &= 349. \\ n &= 350 \text{ by approximation.} \end{aligned}$$

This number is considered enough and adequate in view of the statistical requirements, time frame and available resources at the moment. Also, the sample size is a good representative of the total population.

Sampling Techniques

Simple random sampling will be used to select the respondents to be administered questionnaire and will also be used to select respondents to be interviewed. Simple random sampling gives each element of the population an equal chance of being included in the study. This is the method that involves an unbiased approach to garner the responses from a large group such as selecting communities, villages, households and respondents in this study. This method is deemed relevant because the study population is very large and is made up of clusters like communities, villages and households. Awka north has about 12 communities in which (4) communities will be selected using simple random sampling technique. Four (4) communities shall be selected for the



study with one village selected from each of the four (4) communities selected.

Four communities were selected using simple random sampling technique; Ugbene, Achalla, Amansea, and Isu-Aniocha, one respondent above 18 years will be selected from each selected household and to ensure gender balance, the researcher will alternatively choose one sex from a selected household and another sex in the next.

Purposive sampling which is a type of non-probability sampling method will be used to select respondents to be interviewed. two farmers will be selected from each of the selected community for interview making them (4). One President General will be selected from each of the communities for the study making them (4), (2) police officers from the Divisional Police Station in Achalla who have witnessed conflict between herders and farmers will also be selected for the interview, and (2) herders that will be selected. And on the whole, 12 persons will be selected for IDI interview.

Instruments of Data Collection

Quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection will be used in this study. The major instrument for collecting data in this study is questionnaire. Questionnaire however forms the quantitative instrument for the study. It is relevant in this kind of study because it will help in testing relevant

hypotheses as it will be used to reduce the data collected to numerical values for easy computation and analysis. The questionnaire will consist of structured (close-ended) questions which will be divided into different sections. The first part will contain the socio-demographic data of the respondents such as age, sex, marital status, occupation, religious affiliation and education while the second part will deal with the substantive issues of the research which will be derived from the research questions, objectives of the study and hypotheses such as the awareness of conflict between herders and farmers amongst the people in Awka north local government area, determinants of herders and farmers conflict and effects of herders and farmers conflict. Also, a qualitative instrument that will be used to complement the data collected from the questionnaire to enhance the proper understanding of the work is in-depth interview. The unstructured (open-ended) questions will be derived from the objectives of the study.

Administration of Instruments

The researcher will administer the questionnaire with the help of three research assistants who will be trained on the methods and objectives of the study. These field assistants will be graduates and residents in the area. The rationale for selecting this set of people is that they will be more conversant with the area



under study and will be able to interpret the questions to the respondents. The questionnaire will be administered on a one on one (other administered) basis to all respondents to ensure uniformity in interpretation of concepts, recording of responses and to create a good rapport that will pave the way for effective interpretation of the questionnaire contents in a manner that they will be able to respond correctly. Also, for the in-depth interview, the researcher will conduct the interview when it will be suitable and convenient for the respondents. The researcher will moderate the interview; one of the research assistants will record the responses with tape recorder while the other will be taking down note. The researcher will use English language for literate respondents while the native language and dialect will be used for non-literate respondents in the administration of instruments.

Data Analysis

The data for this study will be collected through questionnaire and processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software application. Frequency tables, percentages and graphic illustrations like bar charts, histograms, pie charts, box plots etc will be used in analyzing the quantitative data. Research questions will also be analyzed using frequency tables and percentages. The stated hypotheses

will be tested using Chi-square (χ^2) inferential test statistics. The data gotten from the in-depth interviews will be analyzed using content analysis by interpreting and coding textual materials. In doing this, documents, oral communication and graphics will be systematically evaluated to complement the quantitative data of the study. However, illustrative quotes and expressions will be identified and organized under different themes. By so doing, the responses will be used to know the differences and similarities from the data generated from diverse sources within the same study area.

RESULTS

Data Presentation

This chapter contains the analysis and presentation of data collected from the field research. The chapter is divided into two major sub-sections: descriptive data analysis and presentation and test of study hypotheses. In this study, a total of four hundred (350) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the sampled respondents, out of which only three hundred and eighty-three (331) copies (representing 94.6% of the questionnaires copies) were collected back by the researcher and his assistants. However, after thorough data sorting or cleaning of the returned copies, three hundred and twenty-seven (327) copies (representing 98.8% of the returned



questionnaire copies) were considered valid; while four (4) copies (representing 1.2% of the returned questionnaire copies) were considered invalid due to improper or incomplete filling of the items in those questionnaire copies. Hence, only 327 valid copies were used for data analysis in this chapter. The qualitative data obtained through IDI with selected stakeholders in the study area, were analysed and used to support the quantitative data.

Descriptive Data Interpretation

This section is further divided into two sub-sections: analysis of socio-demographic data of the respondents and analysis of the main research questions.

Analysis of Socio-Demographic Data of the Respondents

This sub-section contains information on the data analysis conducted on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents including: gender, age, occupation, level of educational attainment, income and religious affiliation. The results are presented in table 1

Table 1: Summary of Composite Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of the Respondent

Socio-Demographic Variables	n	%
Sex		
Male	214	55.4
Female	173	44.6
Total	387	100.0
Age Categories		
18 - 27 Years	127	32.8
28 - 37 Years	143	37.0
38 - 47 Years	60	15.5
48 - 57 Years	10	2.6
> 57 Years	47	12.1
Total	387	100.0
Religious Affiliation		
Christianity	303	78.2
Islam	34	8.9
Traditional African Religion	50	12.9
Total	387	100.0



Level of Educational Attainment

No Formal Education	21	5.4
Primary School	52	13.4
Secondary School	107	27.6
Tertiary (Diploma)	127	32.8
Tertiary (Graduate)	70	18.1
Tertiary (Post-Graduate)	10	2.6
Total	387	100.0

Marital Status

Single	127	32.7
Married	188	48.5
Divorced	22	5.6
Widowed	36	9.3
Separated	15	3.9
Total	387	100.0

Employment Status

Unemployed	42	10.9
Civil/Public Service	54	13.9
Business	149	38.6
Artisan	31	7.9
Student	23	5.9
Farming	88	22.8
Total	387	100.0

Religious Affiliation

Christianity	296	76.4
Islam	51	13.2
African Traditional Religion	40	10.4
Total	387	100.0

Field Survey, 2021

Data analysis as contained in table 1 shows that a majority (55.4%) of female respondents participated in the study compared to relatively lower proportion (44.6%) of them who were males. The analysis also showed that the respondents



aged between a minimum of 18 years and a maximum of 57 years, with those aged between the age categories of 28-37 years constituting the majority (37.0%) in the population. The mean age of the respondents was 36.8 years. This shows that a good number of youthful adults were included in the study. Data analysis equally showed that with regards to respondents' educational qualifications, the highest proportion (32.8%) of them only finished up to the diploma level. This was followed by 27.6% of them who attained up to secondary school level. These data suggest that a relatively significant proportion of residents in communities of Awka North L.G.A were literate and this has implication on their ability to understand and respond effectively to the questions posed to them in this study.

With respect to occupation, data analysis showed that the highest proportion (37.6%) of the respondents were traders. This is followed 25.1% of them who were artisans. However, the least occupational group among the respondents is 8.3% of them who were students. Meanwhile, 3.1% of the respondents indicated other occupational groups such as farming, apprentice, among others.

A majority (48.5%) of the respondents indicated being married, while 32.7% of them were single. While 9.3% of them were widowed, 5.6% of them were divorced and the least proportion (3.9%)

of them was separated. With respect to their occupational status, data analysis showed that the respondents were engaged in various occupational roles, with 38.6% of them being involved in business/trading activities. This was followed by 22.8% of them who were engaged in farming activities, while the least proportion (5.9%) were students. Meanwhile, only 10.9% of them indicated being unemployed. Finally, on the analysis of socio-demographics, a majority (76.4%) of the respondents were Christians, 13.2% of them were traditionalists; while 10.4% of them were affiliated to Islam. This finding is not surprising since the study area is a Christian dominated zone in Nigeria.

Analysis of Research Questions

This section contains information on the findings made in relation to data analysis conducted on the responses offered by the respondents, in line with the five research questions raised in this study.

Research Question 1: What is the nature of conflicts between herders and farmers in communities of Awka North L.G.A?

Attempt was made in this study to examine what the respondents knew regarding the nature of the conflicts between farmers and herders in communities of Awka North L.G.A. The first question that opened the discussion on the issue was that which asked them to indicate whether or not they were aware



of the existing conflicts between farmers and herders within the selected communities of Awka North L.G.A.

Their responses were analysed and presented in figure 1.

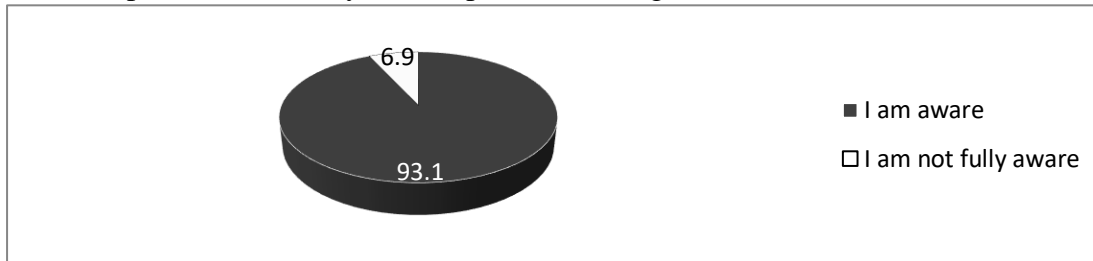


Figure 1: Respondents' Indication of Awareness about Farmers-Herders Conflict

Data analysis as contained in figure 1 revealed that almost all the respondents indicated that they were aware of the conflict between farmers and herders within various communities in Awka North L.G.A. Only a very lower proportion (6.9%) of them claimed that they were not fully aware about the conflicts. This finding is expected considering the fact farmers-herders conflict was some topical issues across the nation within the period of this study. Again, it was a local issue that occurred within most

communities; as such, it was expected that a significant proportion of the respondents would know about it. This finding coincides with the view of an interviewee who was of the view that "...I don't think that there is anyone in Nigeria now that does not know about the herders-farmers conflict; even little children can still say something about it..." (Male, 52 Years, Community President General, Awka North L.G.A). This was equally in line with the view of another interviewee who opined that,

...yes... I can tell you that about 90 percent of the people are aware that there is an on-going conflict between farmers and herders within their communities..., considering that it does not only affect those who are farmers but everyone within the various communities. So, it is not a secret thing that they cannot be aware of.... they are fully aware of the existing conflict, even though a significant number of them may not be able to say exactly what is the cause of the conflicts (Male, 56 Years, Community Present General, Awka North L.G.A).

Another interviewee equally concurred on the above views by saying that,

It is something that happens within the community, so it is expected that almost everyone should be aware of it even children. ...but the only difference is that quite a number of people may not be aware of what is the actual issues involved in the conflicts...some others may be speculating about it, while other may have deeper insight on it...but what matters is that people know that



there is a problem and when they know it, it becomes a think of worry to them (Female, 66 Years, Retired Civil Servant, Awka North L.G.A).

Table 2: *Respondents' Understanding about Farmers' and Herdsmen Conflict*

Response Options	n	%
– Farmers who are attacking cattle herders moving to their farms	61	15.8
– Herders who invade farms with their herds to destroy farmers' products and crops	253	65.3
– Herders and farmers who do not want to accommodate each other	42	10.9
– People who hate the sight of each other	26	6.8
Sub-Total	382	98.8
No Response	5	1.2
Total	387	100

Researcher's Data Analysis, 2021.

Table 2 shows that of all the respondents, the greater proportions (65.3%) of them understood the conflict between farmers and herdsmen as issue arising from herdsmen invade on people's farms with their herds to destroy farmers' farm produce. However, the

least proportion (6.8%) of them understood the conflict as arising due to hate between farmers and herders.

Table 3: *Respondents' Awareness about the Major Issues Associated with Farmers-Herders Conflict*

Response Options	n	%
– It usually involves cattle rustling by community members and subsequent reprisal attacks against host communities by the herders	65	16.8
– It involves herders destroying crops with their cattle and subsequent reprisal attack from the farmers	322	83.2
Total	387	100

Researcher's Data Analysis, 2021.

In table 3, the majority (83.2%) of the respondents were aware that the farmers-herders conflict mostly involves herders destroying crops with their cattle and subsequent reprisal attack from the

farmers within the communities involved. Only a lower proportion (16.8%) of the respondents claimed that the conflicts start with cattle rustling by community members and subsequent reprisal attacks



against the host communities by the herders. The findings obtained qualitatively equally shed some light to complement the quantitative findings. According to an interviewee,

...the conflict is always a dynamic one ...it is neither here nor there, but in majority of the cases, it is always a case of herders using their cattle to destroy people's crops in the farms and when such happens, the farmers get angry and try to retaliate by killing some of the animals...and you know what such means for those Fulani herders (Male, 45 Years, Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, Awka North L.G.A).

Another interviewee equally gave an opinion in this regard establishing the view that destruction of crops is the major issue involved in the conflicts. According to the interviewee,

...eeeeem! In most of the cases, the problem often starts when those animals (referring to cattle) destroy people's farms. Later, the farmers may try to chase the herders away with their cattle or in most cases; they may start killing the cattle. Few days after, those herders would come back in retaliation for their cattle lost and when such happens, it is always very devastating for the community members (Female, 50 Years, Community Women Leader, Awka North L.G.A).

The respondents were further asked to indicate whether or not they were aware of specific cases of conflict between farmers and herdsmen within their communities. Findings obtained from their responses are presented in figure 2.

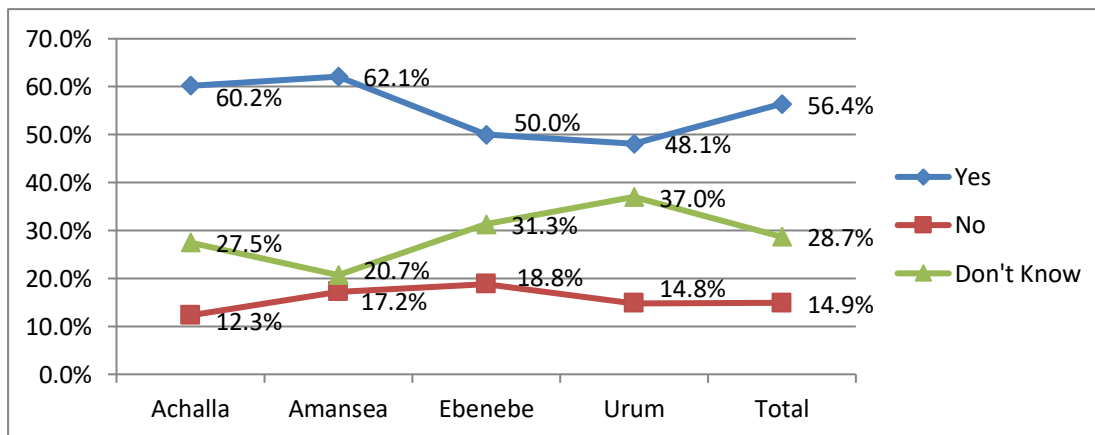


Figure 2: Respondents' Awareness of Specific Cases of Herders-Farmers Conflicts within their Communities



As seen in figure 2, the slope for the “Yes” response option rose higher than the other two response options – implying that the respondents were affirmative within the four communities regarding the occurrence of cases of conflict between farmers and herders. However, respondents’ awareness of specific cases of farmers-herders conflict

...of course, there are cases of such conflicts every now and then, particularly when cattle destroy people’s crops in the farms. In such occasions, you tend to see community actions against the herders and their cattle, which often result to conflicts between the two groups. ...as law enforcement officials, we try to intervene in such situations and that is why it seems like such cases are not prevalent. But I tell you; such conflicts are always there (Male, 48 Years, DPO Nigeria Police Force, Awka South L.G.A).

The views of other interviewee were equally captured regarding the specific cases of farmers-herders conflicts within

...eeeem! yes, such cases occur once in a while within our community and when it occurs, it is always very nasty within tension in the community. ...often times, the herder takes their herds and destroy people’s crops in the farm, and in anger those whose crops are destroyed often retaliate in a manner that they either try to chase them away from the community or kill some cattle, which often result in more fierce conflicts (Female, 50 Years, Community Women Leader, Awka North L.G.A).

seems to occur most within Amansea and Achalla Communities (62.1% and 60.2%), more than the other two communities – Ebenebe and Urum (50.0% and 48.1%) respectively. Interviewee response obtained from one of the interviewees confirmed the above findings. According to the interviewee,

communities in Awka South L.G.A, and they expressed similar views to that above. For instance, one of the interviewee noted that,

Research Question 2: What are the determinants of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA?

Table 4: Respondents’ Indication of the Major Determinants of Farmers and Herders conflict

Response Options	n	%
– Crop damage by cattle	188	48.5
– Indiscriminate bush burning	46	11.9
– Land encroachment	61	15.8
– Religious and Biasness	31	7.9
– Inadequate grazing reserves	46	11.9
– Cattle rustling	15	4.0
Total	387	100.0

Researcher’s Data Analysis, 2021.



Data analysed in table 4 shows that of all the respondents, a majority (48.5%) of them indicated that damages on crops caused by cattle was the major determinant of the conflicts between farmers and herders within their communities. 15.8% of the went for the option of land encroachment by the herders, while the least proportion (4.0%) went for the option of cattle rustling.

Table 5: Respondents on other Determinants of Farmers-Herders Conflicts

Response Options	n	%
- Attack of farmers by herders	238	61.4
- Long standing disagreement between herders and farmers	58	14.9
- Cattle defecation in public places	42	10.8
- Killing of stray cattle	34	8.9
- Lack of access to water point	15	4.0
Total	387	100.0

Researcher's Data Analysis, 2021.

Additional question on the determinants of farmers and herders conflicts showed that a greater proportion (61.4%) of the respondents had the view that attack of farmers by herders was the major

determining factor towards the conflicts. However, one of the interviewees gave another dimension to the conflicts by noting that,

...well, if you ask me, I will say that the conflicts are not merely about the destruction of crops by cattle, but more of mutual ethnic intolerance that have existed over the years; but recently the level of ethnic intolerance has reached a peak that any little thing can trigger conflicts between the host communities and those herders (Male, 45 Years, Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, Awka North L.G.A).

The above assertion coincides with the views of another interviewee who argued that, *...for me, the fact remains that there has been a long-term hatred existing between those communities and the herders, even though that it is not quite pronounced; but once in a while, you see conflicts arising due to such hatred, but the major reason people would hold unto would be that the herders are destroying farm produces...but in reality, the reasons for the conflicts are beyond mere destruction of farm produce (Male, 46 Years, Farmer, Awka North L.G.A).*

Finally, on the determinants of farmers-herders conflict, the respondents were

asked to indicate whether or not they considered the view that complacency on



the part of the government over the farmers-herders conflict, was a major factor fueling it. Their responses were analysed and presented in figure 3.

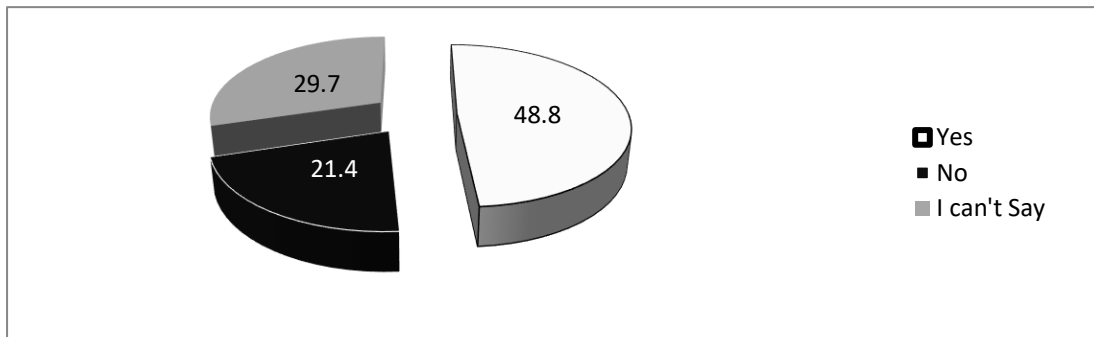


Figure 3: Respondents' Views about Government's Complacency as a major determinant of Farmers-Herders Conflicts

Data analysed in figure 3 shows that the majority (48.8%) of the respondents subscribed with the view that complacency on the part of the government to intervene in the farmers-herders conflicts, was a major factor associated with its continued reoccurrence. While only 21.4% of them disagreed with this view, about a quarter proportions (29.7%) of them were uncertain about it. Approaching the analysis from the qualitative dimension, one of the interviewees had this to say,

Well, I cannot say that the government is not making effort at all to intervene in the escalating problems of farmers and herders...but I also feel that the government has not shown significant commitment to solve the problem. There is a lot of political game involved in this... the question is, who is the government and another question is, who owns those cattle that are used to destroy people's sources of livelihood. If you are able to answer these questions, you will then understand where I am pointing to... To make my point clearer, the owners of those cattle are equally majority of those individuals in government, they are the ones arming those herders with AK 47 riffles to kill people, so that is why there seems to be some level of complacency on the part of the government (Female, 66 Years, Retired Civil Servant, Awka North L.G.A).



Research Question 3: What are the effects of herdsmen and farmers conflicts in communities in Awka North LGA?

The effects of farmers-herders conflicts were assessed under two dimensions viz: the socio-economic effects and the socio-psychological effects on the members of the community. First, the respondents were asked to indicated from the given

response options, that which they considered the most socio-economic effects of the conflicts on the community. Their responses were analysed and presented in table 6.

Table 6: Respondents' Views on the Socio-economic Effects of Farmers-Herders Conflicts

Response Options	n	%
– Destruction of farm produce	134	34.7
– Destruction of properties	65	16.8
– Shortage of food/food insecurity	73	18.8
– Increase in the price of farm produce due to scarcity of commodities	38	9.9
– Lack of sustainable development in the conflicting communities	65	16.8
Sub-Total	375	97.0
No Response	12	3.0
Total	101	100.0

Researcher's Data Analysis, 2021

Data analysed in table 6 shows that about a quarter proportions (34.7%) of the respondents indicated that destruction of farm produce was the major socio-economic effect of the farmer-herders conflicts on their communities. This was followed by 18.8% of them who considered shortage of food/food insecurity as the major socio-economic

effects of the conflicts. However, the least socio-economic effect as considered by 9.9% of the respondents was that of increase in the price of farm produce due to scarcity of commodities. Findings obtained qualitatively were equally consistent with the above findings. For instance, one of the interviewee noted that,

...well, there are a number of socio-economic effects associated with the conflicts. ...as a stakeholder in the community, I can tell you that when such conflicts occur, there is always shortage of food due to the fact that people will find it difficult going into the farms to harvest crops...in most cases, crops stay in the farms and decay leading to



loss of capital for those who own the farms and eventually food insecurity for the entire community. ...you know such experiences are not something to be desired and that is why we try as much as we can as stakeholders in this community, to prevent further occurrences in such conflict because there are not benefits in such conflicts (Male, 65 Years, Community Chieftain, Awka South L.G.A).

Table 8: Respondents' Views on the Socio-Psychological Effects of Farmers-Herders Conflicts

Response Options	n	%
– Loss of lives	134	34.7
– Disunity between herders and farmers	65	16.8
– Rising fear and tension among members of the community	73	18.8
– Proliferation of light and small arms within the conflict communities	38	9.9
– Distrust between farmers and herdsmen	65	16.8
Sub-Total	375	97.0
No Response	12	3.0
Total	387	100.0

Researcher's Data Analysis, 2021.

In table 8, for the majority (34.7%) of the respondents considered loss of lives as the major socio-psychological effects of farmers-herders conflicts within Awka North L.G.A. This was followed by 18.8% of them who considered rising fear and tension among members of the community as the major socio-psychological effects of the conflicts.

However, the least socio-psychological effects of the conflicts are that of proliferation of light and small arms within the communities, as indicated by the lowest proportions (9.9%) of the respondents. Findings of the qualitative data were equally consistent with the above quantitative data. For instance, one of the interviewees noted that,

...well, violent conflicts always have adverse effects on the parties involved and it is often most devastating when shedding of blood is involved... such conflicts often impose serious fears and unrest in the mind of the defenceless community members because they are not sure what would happen next. There could be reprisal attack from the herdsmen as the case in most communities in the Northern parts of Nigeria. Because of fear of reprisal attacks, the social lives of members of the community are restricted,



and many of the community members even run away to neighbouring communities. So, the conflicts are always very psychologically overwhelming for the community members (Male, 56 Years, Community Chieftain, Awka South L.G.A).

Another interviewee equally expressed a view which suggests that disunity between community members and the herders is the manifest socio-psychological effect arising from the conflicts. According to the interviewee,

...if you ask me, I will tell you that there are various socio-psychological effects such as conflicts inflict on the community. But if I must be particular; I will say that the most manifest socio-psychological effect of the conflicts is that of distrust between the community member and those Fulani herdsmen. This means that, the members of the host community find it difficult to accommodate those herdsmen; and you know, the herdsmen themselves would equally become skeptic in their dealings with the host community members. Once this seed of distrust has been planted in the minds of the two parties, it will become difficult for them to regain (Female, 66 Years, Retired Civil Servant, Awka North L.G.A).

Research Question 5: What are the Measures that can be used to Curtail Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts in Communities within Awka North L.G.A?

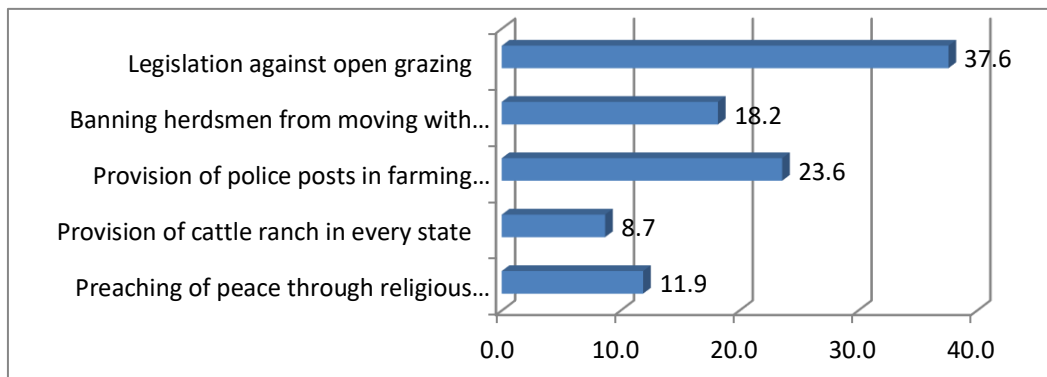


Figure 3: Respondents' Views on Possible Measures to Curtail Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts

Data contained in figure 3 shows that the highest proportion (37.6%) of the respondents went with the view that legislation against open grazing was the best measure to address the conflicts between herdsmen and farmers within their various communities. This was followed by 23.6% of them who indicated that provision of police posts within the farming communities could be a plausible



solution. However, only a very lower proportion (8.7%) of the respondents felt that provision of cattle ranch in every state could solve the problem. In order to explore further measures to curtail the farmers-herders conflicts outside the

close-ended options in the questionnaire, the respondents were presented with open-ended question which gave them opportunity to express their subjective views on the subject matter

Their responses were analysed and presented in figure 4.

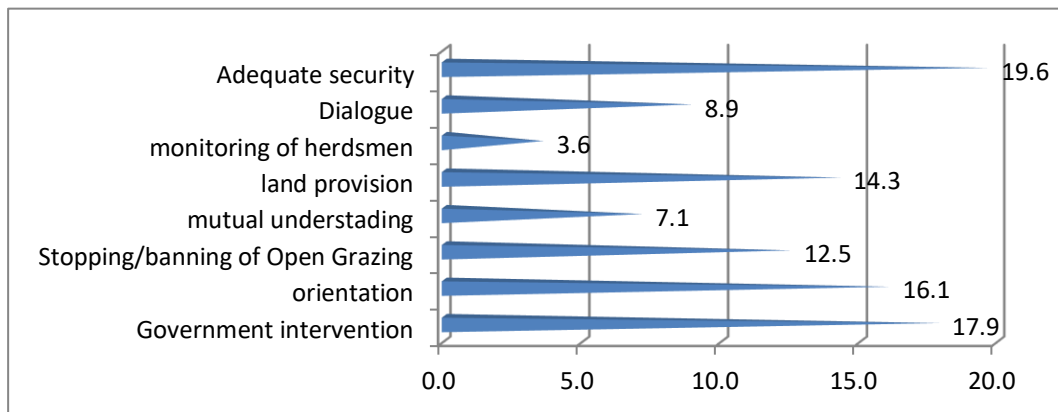


Figure 4: Respondents' Open-Ended Views on Measures to Curtail Farmers-Herders Conflict

An open-ended question was presented to the respondents and obliged them to specify other measures which they considered important to address the conflict between herders and farmers within their communities. Few respondents responded to this question with arrays of different comments. However, their responses were arranged under distinct sub-themes that reflected the contents of their views. After sorting the responses, nine sub-themes emerged as analysed in figure 4.

Consequently, a majority (19.6%) of them indicated that provision of adequate security within various communities would help to address the conflicts between herder and farmers. This was followed by 17.9% of them whose opinions reflected that of government intervention in making legislations to address the conflicts. Another significant proportion (16.1%) of them felt that orientation for peaceful coexistence would be beneficial to address the conflicts. However, the least response



obtained was that of monitoring of activities of herdsmen as given by 3.6% of the respondents. Approaching the discourse from the qualitative data, some of the interviewees gave insightful opinions on how to practically curtail farmers-herders conflicts. According to one of the interviewees,

...I think that the solution lies in the hand of the government...if the government is serious in solving this problem, I don't think it is something that would even take time...because the conflicts involve more or less land and destruction of farm crops. So, for me, I think that the government can intervene by making legislations that would create ranches and equally ensure the enforcement of such laws and not just something to be written on paper. I do not see the reason why cattle will be moved from place to place in this age where there are technologically driven methods of cattle rearing. Once the government begins to take steps in creating ranches, the issue of farmers-herders conflicts will be a story of the past (Male, 56 Years, Community Chieftain, Awka South L.G.A).

Another interviewee however placed the solution on social orientation, peace and conflict resolution. According to the interviewee,

There is the need for communities to be made to understand the need for peaceful co-existence and how conflicts affect the development of people and communities. You see... in most occasions, such conflicts arise due to retaliation by farmers after cattle destroy their farms. In such occasions, they community members especially farmers should be discouraged from taking laws into their hands. It is the responsibility of the law enforcement agency to handle reports of such nature. This equally goes back to the herders.... In fact, it is the duty of the leaders of the groups to report to the police in issues that may cause conflict...but what often happens is that the community members often take laws into their hands and such approaches often result to more conflicts. So, my point is that community leaders should be made to understand the need for peace and conflict resolution (Male, 48 Years, DPO Nigeria Police Force, Awka South L.G.A).

Test of Hypotheses

This section contains information on test of the hypotheses stated in this study. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 significant levels using chi-square test, considering

the fact that the variables were measured at the categorical level.

Hypothesis 1: The respondents are likely to vary significantly across the four



selected communities, regarding awareness of specific cases of farmers-herders conflicts.

Table 9: Summary of Chi-Square Test Showing Variation Respondents' Awareness of Specific Cases of Farmers-Herders Conflict Within the Four Selected Communities

Selected Communities	Awareness of Farmers-Herders Conflict within Communities			Total	χ^2	df	Sig.	
	Yes	No	Don't Know					
Achalla	Freq.	69	12	30	111	11.179 ^a	6	.083
	Exp.Freq.	62.5	16.6	31.8	111.0			
	%	62.2%	10.8%	27.0%	100.0%			
Amansea	Freq.	70	19	24	113			
	Exp.Freq.	63.7	16.9	32.4	113.0			
	%	61.9%	16.8%	21.2%	100.0%			
Ebenebe	Freq.	31	12	18	61			
	Exp.Freq.	34.4	9.1	17.5	61.0			
	%	50.8%	19.7%	29.5%	100.0%			
Urum	Freq.	48	15	39	102			
	Exp.Freq.	57.5	15.3	29.3	102.0			
	%	47.1%	14.7%	38.2%	100.0%			
Total	Freq.	218	58	111	387			
	Exp.Freq.	218.0	58.0	111.0	387.0			
	%	56.3%	15.0%	28.7%	100.0%			

The chi-square statistical test was run to test if respondents varied significantly within the four selected communities of Awka North L.G.A, in relation to their awareness about specific cases of farmers-herders conflict in their communities. The result of the test shows a statistically significant evidence to reject the stated alternate hypothesis, ($\chi^2(6) = 11.179, p = .083$). This goes to suggest that the awareness of farmers-herders conflict was general among

respondents within the four selected communities of Awka South L.G.A.

Hypothesis 2: Younger adults are likely than older adults, to implicate complacency on the part of the government as a major determinant factor farmers-herders conflict in communities of Awka North L.G.A.

In testing this hypothesis, the respondents' ages were re-coded into two categories: youthful adults and older



adults, in such a way that respondents who ages between 18 to 37 years were classified as youthful adults, while those aged between 38 years and above were classified as older adults.

Table 10: Summary of Chi-Square Test Showing Variations in Respondents' Age and their views Regarding Government's Complacence on Farmers-Herders Conflicts.

Variable		Government's Complacence			Total
		Yes	No	I can't Say	
Youthful Adults	Freq.	133	58	79	270
	Exp.Freq.	131.9	57.9	80.2	270.0
	%	49.3%	21.5%	29.3%	100.0%
Older Adults	Freq.	56	25	36	117
	Exp.Freq.	57.1	25.1	34.8	117.0
	%	47.9%	21.4%	30.8%	100.0%
Total	Freq.	189	83	115	387
	Exp.Freq.	189.0	83.0	115.0	387.0
	%	48.8%	21.4%	29.7%	100.0%

.096^a 2 .953

Result of the statistical test suggest that the stated alternate hypothesis could not be upheld, since no statistically significant variations was observed in the views of both the youthful adults and the older adults regarding the view that government's complacence is a major determinant of farmers-herders conflicts in communities of Awka South L.G.A, ($\chi^2(2) = .096, p = .953$). This result implies

that respondents had similar views regarding this, irrespective of their age groups.

Hypothesis 3: Female respondents are more likely to accept the establishment of cattle ranches as a measure to curtail farmers-herders conflicts in Awka North L.G.A, than their male counterparts.



Table 10: *Summary of Chi-Square Test on Respondents' Gender and Views on the Establishment of Ranches*

Gender		Response Options			Total	χ^2	df	Sig.
		Yes	No	Not Sure				
Male	Freq.	119	59	36	214	26.397 ^a	2	.000
	Exp.Freq.	117.8	74.1	22.1	214.0			
	%	55.6%	27.6%	16.8%	100.0%			
Female	Freq.	94	75	4	173	26.397 ^a	2	.000
	Exp.Freq.	95.2	59.9	17.9	173.0			
	%	54.3%	43.4%	2.3%	100.0%			
Total	Freq.	213	134	40	387	26.397 ^a	2	.000
	Exp.Freq.	213.0	134.0	40.0	387.0			
	%	55.0%	34.6%	10.3%	100.0%			

Consistent with the stated alternate hypothesis, result of the chi-square test shows statistically significant evidence that female respondents were more likely than the male respondents, to accept the view that establishment of cattle ranches would help to curtail the farmers-herders crisis in Awka North L.G.A, ($\chi^2 (2) = 26.397, p = .000$).

DISCUSSION

At this juncture, it is pertinent that the findings made in this study be discussed in line with the specific objectives of this study, for coherence and clarification of assumptions held in this study. Consequently, this study articulated four specific objectives which were addressed using quantitative and qualitative data, which were analysed concurrently. The first specific objective was to determine the nature of conflicts between farmers and herders in Awka North L.G.A. deducing from the series of data analysis

conducted to address this specific objective, the study found that the conflicts involved a situation where herders invade peoples' farms with their herds and destroy crops and farm produce, which are the major sources of economic livelihood for people within the host communities. This destruction of farms is often met with reprisal attacks against cattle by the farmers and counter reprisal attacks by the herders. The study equally found that Amansea recorded the highest level of occurrence in the conflicts within the past two years prior to the period of this present study. However, the test of hypothesis showed that the frequency of occurrence in the conflicts did not vary statistically significantly between the four selected communities of Awka North L.G.A.

The second specific objective of this study was to determine the factors that influenced the occurrence of farmers-herders conflict within communities of



Awka North L.G.A. Findings in this regard showed that issues including crop damage by cattle, land encroachment and inadequate grazing reserves, and incessant attacks by herders, are among the manifest factors that often trigger the conflicts between farmers and herder. Data which emerged through the qualitative aspect of the data analysis showed that one of the significant determining factors towards the farmers-herders conflict is that of existing long term ethnic intolerance between the host communities and the Fulani herders operating within the host communities. These findings are consistent with previous studies conducted within other parts of Africa. For instance, Ugwumber (2018) reported that struggle over grazing land and resources have been a major cause of farmers-herders conflicts in terms of frequency, intensity and geographical scope.

This study equally intended to examine the effects of the farmers-herders conflicts in communities of Awka North L.G.A. Findings that emerged through data analysis in this regard showed that the socio-economic effects include destruction of farm produce which often results also to shortage of food/food insecurity due to the level of damage done on farm crops and that of inability of farmers accessing their farms for fears of reprisal attacks. Result of the study equally showed that loss of lives, rising fear and tension among members of the

community and distrust between farmers and herders, are the major socio-psychological effects of the conflicts on the members of the communities in Awka North L.G.A. These findings are supported by previous research findings which reported the devastating effects of farmers-herders conflicts in other parts of Africa. For instance, Popoola, Brimah and Olawale (2020) found that farmers-herders conflict has devastating consequences on food production, entrepreneurial practice and economic activities of the people. Scholars like Ofem and Inyang (2014) and Davis (2015) equally submitted that destruction of farm produce which is mainly the basis means of economic sustainability for many households is often one of the major effects of enduring farmers-herders crisis.

Finally, the findings of the study in relation to specific objective four, showed that measures to address the farmers-herders conflict could be through legislation against open grazing, provision of adequate security within the communities of Awka North L.G.A, government intervention through the provision of grazing reserves for the herders, as well as social orientation targeted at achieving mutual cooperation between the members of the host communities and the herder, among other latent measures. These measures found through this study are equally consistent with what previous researches



recommended within their own researches (Osabiya, 2015).

Summary of Findings

This study was conducted to examine the determinants and effects of farmers-herders conflict in communities within Awka North L.G.A of Anambra State. Data for this study were collected for three weeks using the household data collection approach. Data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency count and percentage), in line with the four specific objectives of the study, and inferential statistics involving Mann-Whitney U test and chi-square statistic were used to test of study hypotheses. Based on the data analysed in this study, the key findings are summarised as follows:

The study found that a majority of the respondents were quite aware of the farmers-herders conflicts within communities of Awka North L.G.A. Meanwhile, the study equally found that the conflict progress from the destruction of farms by herders and their cattle to reprisal attacks against cattle by members of the local farmers, and further counter reprisal attacks from the herders in vengeance for their cattle.

The study equally found that issues surrounding the occurrence of farmers-herders conflict within communities of Awka North L.G.A can be located within a number of factors including crop

damage by cattle, land encroachment and inadequate grazing reserves, and incessant attacks by herders, as well as existing long term ethnic intolerance between the host communities and the Fulani herders.

The study also found that the effects of farmers-herders conflict within communities in Awka North L.G.A are manifest in destruction of farm produce which often results to shortage of food/food insecurity due to the level of damage done on farm crops and that of inability of farmers accessing their farms for fears of reprisal attacks. Other effects found through this study include the socio-psychological effects on the members of the community including loss of lives, rising fear and

Tension, trauma and post traumatic disorder experiences (Ezeokana, Chine, Nnedum & Ojo, 2011) among members of the community and distrust between farmers and herders.

The study equally found that possible measures to curtail the occurrence include: legislation against open grazing, provision of adequate security within the communities of Awka North L.G.A, government intervention through the provision of grazing reserves for the herders, as well as social orientation targeted at achieving mutual cooperation between the members of the host communities and the herder, among other latent measures.



CONCLUSION

This study was conducted with the aim of examining the nature and effects of farmers-herders conflict in communities within Awka North L.G.A, Anambra State. This study was premised on the lack of extensive researches within the farming communities of Anambra State where the conflicts between farmers and herders are prevalent. Based on the findings obtained in this study, the researcher concludes that the nature of conflicts between farmers and herders in communities of Awka North L.G.A assume similar dimensions prevalent within other parts of Nigeria, where the key issue revolves around destruction of farms by herders and their cattle, which is a major source of socio-economic sustainability for most farmers within the farming communities. The effects of such conflicts are however devastating for socio-economic growth of people within such communities, as well as mutual co-existence of farmers and herders within such communities. This study therefore has yielded important findings that remind the government and community stakeholders the need to nip the problem in the bud before it degenerates into an uncontrollable degree. Against this backdrop, some recommendations to control the escalating conflicts between farmers and herders especially within communities of Awka North L.G.A are proffered in the subsequent sub-section.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, conclusion and gaps in this study, the following are recommended.

One of the major findings of this study was that inadequate grazing reserves were a major factor associated with farmers-herders conflicts. Consequently, the government should endeavour to practicable laws that would establish grazing reserves for the herders and their cattle. Since cattle rearing are private venture in Nigeria, such grazing reserves should be accompanied with laws promoting the payment of taxes on the grazing reserves. Such taxes would then be used for the development of the host communities where such grazing reserves are instituted.

Peaceful coexistence can be achievable through social orientation achievable through socialization process. As such, there is need for intensified social re-orientation targeted at instilling the sense of peaceful coexistence among the people. Such could be done through community-based orientation programmes, as well as social dialogue between the host community leaders and that of the herders' community.

There is the need for the government to establish a Conflict Management Agency (CMA) which could be instituted in local communities like Awka North L.G.A and charged with the role of mediating in all forms of communal conflicts. This would ensure that the people become conscious



of the government presence within their communities, and issues of conflict affecting their livelihood could be easily reported to the agency for immediate actions to resolve the issues.

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