Review Article

Assessment of The Impacts of Cattle Rustling on The Socio-Economic Development of North-Western Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of this research is to evaluate the effects of cattle rustling on the socioeconomic advancement of northwest Nigeria. To direct the study's execution, three goals, three research questions, and three hypotheses were developed. 450 respondents from the three North-West Nigerian states of Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara comprised the sample for this study, which was carried out using a descriptive survey research design. Forms, reasons, socioeconomic effects, and government initiatives to address the problem of cattle rustling in northwest Nigeria were the main topics covered in the research questionnaire. The data for the study were analyzed using two different techniques: The ANOVA statistic was utilized to test the hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance, while the mean and standard deviation methods of data analysis were employed to address the study issues. The study's conclusions demonstrated that rustling livestock poses a serious risk to Nigeria's socioeconomic progress. According to the study's findings, livestock rustling has hampered most of northwest Nigeria's socioeconomic progress. Based on the aforementioned conclusion, the following recommendations are made: law enforcement agencies should be drafted to cover flashpoint areas, especially at night when rustlers typically take advantage of the peace and quiet to unleash terror and havoc on gullible and innocent farmers; the Federal Government, National Assembly, State Governments, and State Houses of Assemblies should review and strengthen existing laws and policies.

KEYWORDS: Cattle Rustling, Livestock, Socio-Economic Development, Growth, Cattle Farmers, Community Leaders, North-Western Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Following the re-establishment of democracy in 1999, Nigeria experienced a variety of uprisings. Many Nigerians have been displaced, lost their lives, and had their properties stolen by a variety of criminal activities, including kidnapping, conflicts between herders and farmers, rape, pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta, the Boko Haram insurgency, cattle rustling, and

other crimes (Otto & Ukpere, 2012). One type of organized crime carried out by criminal networks is cattle rustling. It is made easier by the growing spread of armaments. According to Manu, Andu, Tarla, and Agharih (2014), cattle rustling has evolved into a system of economic plundering of the wealth of cattle farmers and pastoralists. It now poses a serious threat to social cohesion, economic development, national integration, good governance, and national integration, and cohesion, security, and social order in recent times.

Nigeria's current biggest security threat is cattle rustling, which has claimed many rural residents' lives and property. Considering the aforementioned claims, Saleh (2015) noted that the nature and frequency of cattle rustling in Nigeria have made it a threat to the survival of rural communities throughout the country, especially in the northern regions. The four northern states of Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, and Niger are home to the most villages where cattle rustling occurs. Here, it has caused numerous fatalities, injuries, and population displacement in addition to the loss of livestock and agricultural products (Yusuf, 2015). According to Abubakar (2016), cattle rustling is a national calamity since it poses the same threat as Boko Haram which is always discussed in the media. The issue persists despite the use of government institutions in Nigeria and the affected regions and states, such as the police, military and paramilitary groups, courts, community leaders, vigilante groups, etc., to deter criminal activity related to cattle rustling. In keeping with the foregoing, the purpose of this research is to investigate the effects of cattle rustling on the socioeconomic advancement of northwest Nigeria.

Cattle rustling poses a serious threat to the standard of living for pastoralists and others who depend on livestock for existence, for example. It has also resulted in deaths connected to violence and the movement of cattle owners from unstable environments. In addition, there has been a rise in rape and sexual assault; livestock raids have reduced the revenue of cattle owners; and there is a great deal of hunger and poverty. This study included three different sample techniques: proportionate stratified random sampling, purposive sampling, and simple random sampling. The researchers created the "Impacts of Cattle Rustling on the Socio-Economic Development of North-Western Nigeria Opinion Questionnaire" (ICRoSED), a structured questionnaire. The modified 4-point Likert scale of Strongly Agreed (SA4), Agreed (A3), Disagreed (D2), and Strongly Disagreed (SD1) was used to create the twenty-seven (17) items that made up the structured questionnaire.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to assess the Impacts of Cattle Rustling on the Socio-Economic Development of North-Western Nigeria. Specifically, the study is designed to:

1. Identify the major forms of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria

2. Identify the causes of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria

3. Examine the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-Western Nigeria.

RESEARCH QUESTION

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

1. What are the major forms of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria?

2. What are the causes of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria?

3. What are the impacts of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-Western Nigeria?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

HO1: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the major forms of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria.

HO2: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the causes of cattle rustling in North-Western Nigeria.

HO3: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-Western Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Rahman (2009) asserts that public concerns are taken into account when creating social and economic initiatives as part of socioeconomic development. Among other things, socio-economic development is important to nations, which makes it a very broad and fascinating concept. According to Chojnicki (2010), socio-economic development refers to societal transformations, the majority of which are economic in nature. The progressive reinforcement of a socioeconomic organization's quantitative and qualitative aspects toward a greater degree of effectiveness, well-being, justice, and democracy at all levels is known as socioeconomic development (Dimos and Charis, 2022). The type of socio-economic development is determined by development processes and/or development goals. These processes are often internal sequences of state changes, or stages, wherein certain states dictate other states. This quantitative, qualitative, and structural change is the result of the subject's actions carried out in social practice. It is related to the consumption of goods and services (Chojnicki, 2010, & Bello, 2011).

According to Cheserek et al. (2012), cattle rustling is defined as the unlawful and coercive taking of livestock from owners or communities, using any weapon at hand with no regard for the lives lost or property damaged of the victims. According to Okoli and Okpaleke (2014), the term "cattle rustling" has developed into a relatively standardized specialized nomenclature. Because of this, the term is almost always used to refer to the act of stealing cattle from grazing herds, regardless of the reason behind it, the circumstances surrounding it, or the technique employed. A planned and organized crime known as "cattle rustling" occurs when a group of people take cattle forcibly from another person or the grazing area in order to profit financially (Behnke, 2008). Isabel (2014), viewed cattle rustling as involving the use of arms to steal households' entire livestock possession.

In the view of Cheserek *et al.* (2012) there are two forms of cattle rustling namely:

1. Livestock rustling by rival ethnic groups or clans: This type of rustling frequently includes a sizable number of individuals with distinct ancestry or familial ties. Increasing the wealth of livestock for the ethnic group or clans is the aim of this type of rustling. The family or group members split up the rustled cows for breeding purposes.

2. Cattle rustling practiced by thieves or criminal gangs: This type of rustling has a solely criminal goal in mind: stealing the cows to sell for profit. For this form of rustling to exist, there must be ready markets that are built around powerful cartels with wide networks and support from state institutions, particularly security agencies.

In most parts of the world, cattle rustling has been a source of conflict. Rustlers use a variety of tactics, driven by a variety of economic factors. According to (Smith 2011), the desire for territorial expansion and the need to exert some degree of physical control over neighbors are the primary causes of most African wars.

The acquisition of wealth or competition for scarce resources is seen as the major source of hostility which among others includes an extension of grazing rights. According to Bashir's (2017) findings, various factors contribute to cattle rustling, depending on the perspective of the individual. But he recognized the following as crucial elements: Poverty, meddling from the political droughts and restricted access to water sources due to climate change Competition for access to and management of finite natural resources, pastoralist culture (Fulani herders) and customs that have been passed down through the years that have fuelled hostility in the region, the monetization of cattle rustling, which stood for Bad policies towards the pastoralist community have caused instability in their way of life. Additionally, ranching and private farmlands being invaded in search of grazing land has negatively impacted cattle rustling.

Other causes are: the emergence of commercialized raiding which is facilitated by improved access to markets (Bevan, 2007), competition over control of and access to natural resources particularly water and pasture, the influence of foreign Fulani groups in search of pasture (Omitola, 2014) and the problem of climate changes, the migration further south, the growth of agro-pastoralism, the expansion of farming on pastures, the invasion of farmlands by cattle, assault on non-Fulani women by herders, blockage of stock routes and water points, freshwater scarcity, burning of range lands, cattle theft, inadequate animal health care, and disease control, overgrazing on fallow lands, defecation on stream, and road by cattle (Olayoku, 2014).

According to Hamman (2019), Nigeria has 774 Local Government Areas, which are made up of thousands of villages, small towns, and vast swathes of unprotected forest reserves. These areas are not secure due to a lack of security personnel. These northern Nigerian forest reserves include, among others, Sambisa, Yankari, Falgore, Kamuku, and Kiyanbana. These protected areas offer friendly communities where robbers, bandits, and other lawbreakers can freely commit their crimes.

Bashir (2017) asserts that pastoral livelihoods have been significantly impacted by cattle rustling activities. In addition to immigration, internal displacement, intolerance between communities, a high number of police patrol and military personnel, an increase in the incidence of human rights abuse, sexual assault, and rape, as well as the arrest and detention of regular people without a warrant or probable cause, have all been brought about by the conflict. Additionally, Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016) have found that cattle rustling activities represent a serious threat to the standard of living for pastoralists and those who depend on livestock for survival from an economic standpoint. Other socioeconomic effects include: the threat has impacted the mental health and general well-being of the rural population (Kynoch & Ulicki, 2000).

For the sake of security, the cattle owners were forced to accept poverty. According to another study by Kaimba, Njehia, and Guliye (2011), the quantity and migration of cattle owners from a volatile environment to a more secure area is determined by the degree of livestock rustling

and the threats posed by the total number of human deaths and livestock losses. As a result, this threatened rural communities and upset their means of subsistence, which raised the rate of poverty among the people living in these areas.

Due to herdsmen being forced to sell their cattle or have them forcibly taken by bandits, as well as the precipitation of the sale of the stolen livestock even below the tiny amount that could be classified as raiding, cattle raids have resulted in a reduction of the income of cattle owners, which has negatively affected their socio-economic well-being (Manu, Andu, Tarla, & Agharih, 2014).

In a related development, victims of cattle rustling have experienced trauma. For example, studies carried out in Nigeria's Zamfara State revealed that the victims had experienced trauma as a result of attacks. It was discovered that farmers experienced trauma at a higher rate than traders and herdsmen. Their professional status has been significantly impacted by this (Gidado, 2018). The farmers' attachment to their farms and the destroyed crops are the causes of the differences (Gidado, 2018). This demonstrates how the farmers and cattle owners experienced psychological, financial, and social effects.

In another development, research conducted on the menace of cattle rustling in the seven local governments of Katsina State found that it has resulted in a high level of illiteracy, hunger, poverty, death, and immigration of the victims to other places. (Abdullahi, Victor, & Binta, 2017). This has led the rural populace to migrate or refuse to farm for fear of attack and consequently, resulting in poverty.

Finally, Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016) discovered that cattle rustling operations pose a serious threat to the rural communities' economy, pastoralists' level of living, and people who depend on livestock for existence.

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey research design was used in the study. A descriptive survey research design was used in the study. This approach was chosen because it makes use of a sample to record, characterize, and elucidate what exists or does not exist regarding the current state of the phenomenon under investigation. The research was carried out in Nigeria's northwest. One of Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, the North West encompasses both a political and geographic area of the nation. Geographically, the zone is almost totally contained inside the West Sudanian Savannah ecoregion, which is tropical. In terms of culture, the majority of the zone is part of Hausa Land, the Hausa people's ancestral homeland. The seven states that make up North-West Nigeria are Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Kano, and Jigawa States.

The study's target demographic included all of the cattle producers, community leaders, and security personnel in North-Western Nigeria. Owing to the sheer number of states in North-Western Nigeria, the researchers have decided to employ three of them as sample states for their study: Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara. A sample of 450 respondents was chosen by the researchers from each of the three states. In the three states that were sampled, there were 150 government officials, 150 community leaders, and 150 cattle ranchers among the respondents. A multi-stage sampling methodology was employed as the sampling strategy for this investigation. Simple random sampling, purposive sampling, and proportionate stratified random sampling are some of the several sampling methods.

A structured questionnaire was designed by the researchers and titled "Impacts of Cattle Rustling on the Socio-Economic Development of North-Western Nigeria Opinion

Questionnaire" (ICRoSED) was used as the instrument for data collection. The structured questionnaire was designed with twenty- (17) items using the modified 4-point Likert scale of Strongly Agreed (SA4), Agreed (A3), Disagreed (D2), and Strongly Disagreed (SD1) respectively. The items in the research questionnaire focused on: Forms, causes, socio-economic impacts, and government efforts at tackling the menace of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria.

Two methods of data analysis were used for analyzing data for the study: The mean methods of data analysis were used to answer the research questions that were raised. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to determine the mean for data analysis while the ANOVA statistic was used to test the hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data for this study was obtained from a TETFund sponsored Institution Based Research Titled *"Impacts of Cattle Rustling on the Socio-Economic Development of North-Western Nigeria"*.

Answering the Research Questions

Research Question 1: What are the major forms of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria?

Table 1: The major forms of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	Mean	Decision
1	Rustling of livestock by opposing ethnic groups or clans	3.11	Accepted
2	Rustling of cattle by criminal gangs or thieves who sell off the stolen cows	3.01	Accepted

[Source: Survey, August, 2023]

The analysis in Table 1 revealed that there are two major forms of cattle rustling prevalent in the study area. These forms are the rustling of livestock by opposing ethnic groups or clans and the rustling of cattle by criminal gangs or thieves who sell off the stolen cows. These assertions are supported by calculated mean scores of 3.11 and 3.01 which are well above 2.5 which is the mean score for the decision rule.

Research Question 2: What are the causes of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria?

Table 2: The causes of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	Mean	Decision
1	Poverty	3.20	Accepted
2	political interference	2.79	Accepted
3	Climate change occasioned by droughts and reduced access to water sources	2.82	Accepted
4	Competition over access and control of scarce natural resources	2.92	Accepted
5	Limited natural resources	2.95	Accepted
6	the influence of foreign Fulani groups in search of pasture	3.04	Accepted

| 7 | emergence of commercialized raiding which is facilitated by improved access to markets | 2.82 | Accepted |
| 8 | Lack of security presence in remote rural communities | 3.11 | Accepted |

[Source: Survey, August, 2023]

From the analysis in Table 2, the findings of the study with mean scores of 3.20, 2.79, 2.82, 2.92, 2.95, 3.04, 2.82, and 3.11revealed that the major causes of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria are: Poverty, political interference, Climate change occasioned by droughts and reduced access to water sources, Competition over access and control of scarce natural resources, Limited natural resources, the influence of foreign Fulani groups in search of pasture, emergence of commercialized raiding which is facilitated by improved access to markets and lack of security presence in remote rural communities respectively.

Research Question 3: What are the impacts of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-western Nigeria?

Table 3: The impacts of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-western Nigeria

S/N	ITEM	Mean	Decision
1	Cattle rustling has resulted in conflict-related deaths,	2.62	Accepted
2	migration of cattle owners from the volatile environment	3.01	Accepted
3	cattle rustling poses a major danger to the living standard of the pastoralists	2.60	Accepted
4	cattle rustling poses a major danger to the living standard of those who rely on livestock for survival	2.77	Accepted
5	With Cattle rustling Sexual assault, and rape have also increased,	2.85	Accepted
6	Cattle raids have led to the reduction of income of the cattle owners	2.77	Accepted
7	Cattle rustling has resulted in a high level of hunger and poverty	2.82	Accepted

[Source: Survey, August, 2023]

According to analysis of Table 3, the following are the main effects of cattle rustling on the socioeconomic circumstances of people living in Northwest Nigeria: Cattle rustling poses a serious threat to pastoralists' way of living and to that of people who depend on livestock for sustenance. It has led to deaths from conflicts, the exodus of cattle owners from unstable environments, and in addition to a rise in sexual assault and rape, cattle raids have reduced cow owners' revenue and resulted in widespread starvation and destitution. Calculated mean scores of 2.62, 3.01, 2.60, 2.77, 2.85, 2.77, and 2.82, respectively, corroborate these findings.

Testing the Hypothesis

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the major forms of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria.

Table 4: ANOVA analysis for testing Hypothesis one

Sources	D.F	Sum of Square	Mean Square	F. Statistics	P. value
Between Group	2	0.001667	0.0008334		
Within Group	6	43592.0911	7265.3485	1.147	1.000
Total	8	43592.0928	5449.0116		

Table 4 shows the relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the major forms of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria. The result obtained from the analysis shows that the value of F-statistics (1.147) is greater than the P value of 1.000 at a 0.05 level of significance. This means that the hypothesis is rejected. This suggests that there is a significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the major forms of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria.

HO$_2$: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the causes of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria

Table 5: ANOVA analysis for testing Hypothesis two

Sources	D.F	Sum of Square	Mean Square	F. Statistics	P. value
Between Group	2	0.005489	0.002744		
Within Group	6	43647.1442	7274.524	3.773	1.000
Total	8	43647.1497	5455.8937		

Table 5 shows the relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the causes of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria. The result obtained from the analysis shows that the value of F-statistics (3.773) is greater than the P value of 1.0000 at a 0.05 level of significance. This means that hypothesis two is rejected. This suggests that there is a significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the causes of cattle rustling in North-western Nigeria.

HO$_3$: There is no significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-western Nigeria.

Table 6 shows the relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-western Nigeria. The result obtained from the analysis shows that the value of F-statistics (5.549) is greater than the P value of 1.000 at a 0.05 level of significance. This means that hypothesis three is rejected. This suggests that there is a significant relationship between the mean response of security agents, community leaders, and cattle farmers on the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people in North-western Nigeria.

Table 6: ANOVA analysis for testing Hypothesis three

Sources	D.F	Sum of Square	Mean Square	F. Statistics	P. value
Between Group	2	0.008089	0.004044		
Within Group	6	43731.6154	7288.6026	5.549	1.000
Total	8	43731.6235	5466.4529		

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

There are two main types of cattle rustling that are common in the research area, according to the data in Table 1. These include rival clans or ethnic groupings rustling cattle, as well as criminal gangs or thieves rustling cattle and selling the stolen animals. This result was in agreement with the findings of Isabel (2014), Behnke (2008), Okoli and Okpaleke (2014), and Cheserek et al. (2012).

As can be seen from Table 2's analysis, the study's conclusions highlight the following factors as the main contributors to cattle rustling in northwest Nigeria: poverty, political meddling, climate change brought on by droughts and decreased access to water sources, competition for access to and control of limited natural resources, the influence of foreign Fulani groups looking for pasture, the emergence of commercialized raiding that is made possible by easier access to markets, and a lack of security presence in remote rural communities. This result was consistent with those of Omitola (2014) and Bashir (2017).

According to Table 3's analysis, the main effects of cattle rustling on the socioeconomic circumstances of people in North-western Nigeria are as follows: it has led to deaths from conflicts; cattle owners have migrated from unstable environments; cattle rustling poses a serious threat to pastoralists' standard of living; and it poses a serious threat to those who depend on livestock for survival. In addition to a rise in sexual assault and rape, cattle raids have reduced cow owners' revenue and resulted in widespread starvation and destitution. The results of Bashir (2017), Kaimba, Njehia, & Guliye (2011), and Manu, Andu, Tarla, & Agharih (2014) were in agreement with this finding.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study's conclusions demonstrated that rustling livestock poses a serious risk to Nigeria's socioeconomic progress. According to the study's findings, livestock rustling has hampered most of northwest Nigeria's socioeconomic progress. Cattle rustling poses a serious threat to the standard of living for pastoralists and others who depend on livestock for existence, for example. It has also resulted in deaths connected to violence and the movement of cattle owners from unstable environments. In addition, there has been a rise in rape and sexual assault; livestock raids have reduced the revenue of cattle owners; and there is a great deal of hunger and poverty. In light of the foregoing conclusion, the following actions are advised:

1. More legislation must be put in place, and local traditional authorities must be given more authority to stop cattle rustling operations as their norms attempt to supersede moral norms.

2. Educational services aimed at closing the literacy gap and influencing local communities' attitudes about livestock rustling.

3. It is advised that the Federal Government, National Assembly, State Governments, and State Houses of Assemblies examine and reinforce the current laws and policies.

4. Law enforcement organizations ought to be assigned to monitor hotspot regions, especially during the night when cattle rustlers typically take advantage of the quiet to terrorize and destroy innocent farmers.

5. The majority of the grazing reserves are in poor condition, and their lands are being encroached upon. In an effort to stop the destructive issues brought on by disputes between farmers and herders and, more recently, the cattle rustling trade.

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