

Herders/farmers conflict theft and livelihood/social capital in Enugu State, Nigeria**Aluu, Donald Oko****Abstract**

The occasionally reported conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers in Nigeria, has been around for some time now. Conflict among the farming community, both the crop farmers and the cattle farmers had affected the economy. This had led to the study herders/farmers conflict and livelihood in Enugu State, Nigeria. The specific objectives was to; assess the relationship between theft and social capital in Enugu State. The population for the study was one two hundred and ninety-nine (299) persons. The whole population was used due to small number. A survey design was adopted for the study. Instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire and interviews. A total of two hundred and ninety-nine (299) copies of questionnaire were distributed while two hundred and eighteen (218) copies of questionnaire were returned. Pearson correlation(r) was used to test the hypotheses. The findings indicated there was significant relationship between theft and social capital ($r=0.472<0.669$, $p<0.05$). The study concluded that growing land pressure, dispossession, and conflict of interest, armed extremist groups and theft had a significant relationship between human capital, financial capital, mistrust on Natural capital, physical capital and social capital. The study recommended among others that Government should formulate a policy that will stimulate peace among crop farmers and pastoralist to sustain food security and reduce poverty among rural dwellers, thereby transforming the rural environment into an attractive centre.

Keywords: Herders–Farmers Conflict, Theft, Livelihood, Social Capital, Enugu State

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Authors	Affiliation
1	Department of Business Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Enugu State University of Science and Technology

Introduction

Herders–farmers conflict has become one of the most critical security and development challenges confronting Nigeria, with severe implications for agricultural production, rural livelihoods, food security, and social cohesion. The conflict, which was initially concentrated in the northern and Middle Belt regions, has increasingly spread to southern states, including Enugu State, due to population growth, climate change, desertification, competition for land and water resources, and the movement of pastoralists in search of grazing areas (Babatunde & Ibnouf, 2024). The recurring clashes have resulted in the destruction of farmlands, theft of agricultural produce and livestock, displacement of farming households, and the loss of lives and property, thereby threatening sustainable rural development and peaceful coexistence among communities.

In Enugu State, particularly in communities within Isi-Uzo and Uzo-Uwani Local Government Areas, the activities of armed herders have become a major source of insecurity for rural households. Beyond the destruction of crops by grazing cattle, theft of harvested farm produce, livestock rustling, and attacks on farming communities have significantly reduced agricultural productivity and household income. Consequently, many farmers have either abandoned their farmlands or reduced the scale of cultivation due to fear of violent attacks and economic losses (Udechukwu et al., 2024). The resulting decline in agricultural production has contributed to food shortages, increased poverty, and weakened the economic resilience of rural communities in Enugu State.

Livelihood refers to the capabilities, assets, resources, and activities that individuals and households utilize to secure their means of living, while social capital encompasses the networks, trust, social relationships, and norms that facilitate cooperation and collective action within communities. Herders–farmers conflict adversely affects both livelihood and social capital by disrupting farming activities, reducing household income, destroying productive assets, weakening trust among community members, and limiting cooperation in local development initiatives. As conflicts intensify, communities experience declining participation in cooperative societies, communal labour, neighbourhood security arrangements, and other forms of collective action that are essential for rural development and conflict resolution (Njoku, Efiog, & Moncada, 2024). The erosion of social capital further undermines the capacity of affected communities to recover from conflict and rebuild sustainable livelihoods.

Recent studies have shown that herders–farmers conflict has evolved beyond mere competition over natural resources to encompass broader issues of governance, insecurity, ethnic identity, and institutional weakness (Uduji, Okolo-Obasi, Uduji, & Odoh, 2024). The persistence of conflict in Enugu State has heightened concerns over food insecurity, rural poverty, and the weakening of social institutions that traditionally promoted peaceful coexistence. Therefore, examining the relationship between herders–farmers conflict, theft, livelihood, and social capital is essential for providing empirical evidence that can guide government, development agencies, security institutions, and community leaders in formulating effective policies and interventions aimed at restoring peace, protecting rural livelihoods, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting sustainable agricultural development in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for many rural households in Enugu State, Nigeria, providing income, employment, and food security. However, the increasing incidence of herders–farmers conflict has become a major challenge to agricultural production and rural development. What began largely as competition over access to land and water resources has evolved into violent confrontations characterized by the destruction of crops, attacks on farming communities, theft of agricultural produce, livestock rustling, and the displacement of rural households. These incidents have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity that discourages farming activities and threatens the sustainability of rural livelihoods.

In recent years, communities in parts of Enugu State, particularly in Isi-Uzo and Uzo-Uwani Local Government Areas, have experienced repeated cases of conflict between herders and farmers. Besides the direct destruction of farmlands, theft associated with these conflicts has become increasingly common, with farmers losing harvested crops, farm inputs, livestock, and other productive assets. Such losses reduce household income, increase poverty, worsen food insecurity, and weaken the economic resilience of affected families. As a result, many rural households have reduced the size of their farms, abandoned agricultural activities, or migrated in search of safer means of livelihood.

The persistent conflict has also affected the social fabric of rural communities. The fear generated by violent attacks and theft has weakened trust, cooperation, and collective action among community members. Traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution, communal farming, neighbourhood security, and mutual assistance have been disrupted, resulting in declining social capital. The weakening of social networks and community cohesion limits the capacity of affected communities to recover from conflict and implement collective development initiatives.

It is against this background that this study seeks to examine the effect of herders–farmers conflict and theft on livelihood and social capital in Enugu State, Nigeria. The findings are expected to provide empirical evidence that will assist government, security agencies, policymakers, community leaders, and development partners in formulating effective strategies for conflict prevention, livelihood restoration, strengthening social capital, and promoting sustainable rural development in the state.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the herders/farmers conflict and livelihood in Enugu State, Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to;

- i. Identify the linkages between theft and social capital in Enugu State.

Research Questions

The following research question will guide the study;

- i. What is the linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study;

- i. There is no significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State.

Significance of the Study

The study will be beneficial to the following

Government: The study will be of great value to the federal and state governments of Nigeria in its fight against the large-scale insecurity in the country, food insecurity inclusive. The study will highlight the possible ways government could go about tackling herders/farmers conflict in the state.

Security agencies: The study will be of benefit to the Nigerian Police Force and other security agencies in South East by exposing them to the various forms by which these conflicts are expressed and ways to bring violent parties to book. The study will be of benefit to the general public. This is because the study is focused on ways through which these violent conflicts came about, while investigating the proper ways to curb them and restore sanity in the communities ensure food security and reduce high cost of livelihood in Enugu state, Nigeria.

Scope of the Study

Unit Scope: the unit scope of the study was on herders/farmers conflict and livelihood in Enugu State, Nigeria.

Content Scope: The content (variables) scope of the study include; growing land pressure, dispossession, interest and mistrust, armed extremist groups, theft as the the independent variables and human capital, financial capital, natural capital, physical capital and social capital as the dependent variable.

Geographical scope: The geographical scope of the study was Enugu State, Nigeria, with particular reference to herders/farmers conflict occurrences in various communities in Enugu State.

Limitations of the Study

The constraints encountered by the researcher include;

In the process of conducting the research, the researcher was impeded by the attitude of the respondents. This is so as some respondents felt indisposed to provide vital information. With much pleading from the researcher, they were able to release information that yielded what we have at hand. Fundamental constraints were encountered in the course of this research, the researcher was faced with certain unforeseen shortcomings such as time constraints, materials constraints and above all power failure constraint.

Material Constraints - The study faced the problem of inadequate materials as they are only few studies conducted in this research topic.

Power Failure Constraints - Another hard core which affected the study was the frequent power failure in Enugu State. The researcher had to hire a light generating set, to supplement the one at home in order to make sure that we produce this work.

Despite these limitations, the researcher persevered till the end and produced this study. However, due to these limitations there could be few shortcomings in the study being a human activity as perfection is only of God.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Literature

Herders

Herders are referred to as herdsmen or pastoralists. Synonymously, herders are also known as cowboys, ranchers, stockmen and the likes. In this study, Fulani herdsmen or pastoralists who are of nomadic or semi-nomadic culture are in focus, as they are known for clashing with the crops planters in Nigeria in the recent times Akinwotu, (2018). Hornby (2010) defines herdsman "as a man whose job is to take care of a group of animals such as sheep and cows in the country side. Robinson and Davidson (2008) posit that herdsman is someone who tends the herd (i.e., a

company of animals especially large ones that habitually remain together. The major work of the herdsman is to keep his animals (e.g., cows, cattle) in the ranches where he looks after them or takes them to the open field for grazing.

Farmers

Farmers are those people or a person who own or manages a farm for sustaining their families and society at large. Based on the foregoing, the research intends to see a *farmer* as a person engaged in agriculture, raising living organisms for food or raw materials or a person who pays a fixed sum for some privilege or source of income and a person who cultivates land or crops or raises animals (such as livestock or fish).

Conflicts

According to Shittu, (2020) explained that conflict could be referred to as a form of friction, discord or strong disagreement arising within a group when the behavior or action of one or some members of such groups are unexpected or restricted by some or other members of the group, especially in fierce or bloody manner. However, Rahim (2010) view that conflict could better be defined in context.

Herders/Farmers Conflict

Audu (2013) posited that farmers-herdsmen conflicts are a struggle between crop farming and pastoral groups for land or other resources that are critical for the sustainability and/or development of pastoral and agricultural production systems, such as watering areas, wetlands and fertile lands which can assume violent or non-violent dimensions. This view outlines the importance of land and water resources to the development of pastoral and agricultural production, as well as emphasizes the influence of resource scarcity in farmers' herders' conflict. Other scholars who support this view include Udoh and Chilaka (2012) who believe that resource scarcity is the primary cause of farmers-herdsmen conflict.

Components of Herders/Farmers Conflicts

Brottem (2021), observed that Population pressure, growing land pressure, armed extremist groups, changes in land use and resource access, dispossession, growing social inequalities, and conflict of interest and mistrust, theft, declining trust between communities have rendered traditional dispute resolution processes less effective in some areas, contributing to the escalation of conflict. Adebayo & Olaniyi, 2008 observed that Farmers often accuse herders of trespassing on their farm land to graze their cattle, contaminating the streams, indiscriminate defecation of cattle on roads and destroying their crops. While the cattle breeders (herders) claim that they are being attacked by gangs and farming communities who steal their cattle and only act to defend themselves. With the destruction of farm crops and retaliation by the farmers to kill livestock owned by the herdsmen, the overall food production, both in crops and meat is grossly affected, which implies increased hunger, disease and malnutrition.

Components of Herders/Farmers Conflicts that formed part of the objectives of the study

Theft

Theft is the act of taking another person's property or services without that person's permission or consent with the intent to deprive the rightful owner. The word theft is also used as a synonym or informal shorthand term for some crimes against property, such as larceny, robbery, embezzlement, extortion, blackmail, or receiving stolen property. Livestock is the most valuable resource across many rural communities and is a common target of theft. Increased frequency and magnitude of livestock theft is both a cause and effect of violent conflict. Armed groups use stolen cattle to fund their activities. The risk of theft causes herders to arm themselves to protect their animals. The increased demand for arms enriches criminal syndicates involved in arms trafficking. All these factors raise the risk of violent altercation. Meanwhile, aggrieved groups may perceive stealing livestock from communities with which they have been in conflict as a form of justice. This has led to a rapid expansion in the number of community-based armed groups to ostensibly guard against livestock theft, though such groups can also be engaged in reprisal violence (Brottem, 2021). Rural communities regard livestock as "living wealth", and they are often their only source of income and sustenance. Thus, when their livestock are stolen many households and subsistence farmers lose their livelihoods. But these farmers are not the only ones who suffer on account of stock theft; it also has a serious impact on commercial farmers, and thus the red meat industry as a whole. In many Nigerian states and parts of Central Africa, "war economies" have emerged around livestock trade networks and migration routes. In search of land, herders are increasingly forced into forest reserves, which also serve as hideouts for criminal gangs and extremist groups. This exposes herders to cattle theft and other forms of insecurity to which many pastoralists have responded by arming themselves for protection (Olajumoke, 2021).

Livelihood

Livelihood refers to their "means of securing the basic necessities of life". An individual's livelihood involves the capacity to acquire aforementioned necessities in order to satisfy the basic needs of themselves and their household. The activities are usually carried out repeatedly and in a manner that is sustainable and providing of dignity. Livelihoods are the capabilities, assets and activities required for people to earn money and secure a means of living. Disasters and crises can take a devastating toll on people's food security and livelihoods. They can increase people's socio-economic vulnerability and seriously impact their ability to recover, which in turn affects their ability to cope with future shocks and stresses. A livelihood is not only for generating income, it also encompasses empowerment and the dignity of people's lives (Datta, Mahajan & Thakur, 2004).

Components of Livelihood

Kamwi, Chirwa, Paxie, Graz, Manda, Mosimane, and Katsch, (2018) noted that there are five different types of assets own by individual to build their livelihoods which consists of natural, social, human, physical and financial assets. The five livelihood capitals, namely; Human capital, Social Capital, Physical Capital, Natural Capital and Financial Capital form the pillars of the investigating tool for the sustainable development approach, commonly accepted as the livelihood framework (Lax & Krug, 2013). These livelihood capitals (natural, physical, human, social and financial) are major assets for every individual wellbeing which are in different proportions of access and availability.

Components of Livelihood that formed part of the objectives of the study

Financial Capital

Financial capital is seen within the sustainable livelihoods framework as the financial resources people use to achieve their livelihood objectives (Mumuni, & Oladele, 2016). Financial capital can be accumulated from two different sources; one source is represented by available stock in the form of cash or equivalent available assets as livestock, the other source is characterized by the external inflow of money which originates from labour income, pensions, remittances or other types of financial liabilities. Within the five capitals, the financial capital enables people to adapt to different livelihood strategies. It sets the precondition for the creation or improvement of other capitals than financial capital (Ahmed, Kalthum, Roslina & Rahim, 2018). Of the five livelihood assets, financial assets provided the most significant influence. The lack of financial assets would inhibit this group to increase production scales and develop infrastructures that would, consequently, make it difficult to achieve livelihood diversification (Lax & Krug, 2013).

Theoretical Framework

The following theories will be reviewed in line with the objectives of the study;

Conflict Theory

The study was anchored on the conflict theory which views society as made up of individuals competing for limited resources. In the course of getting their resources, and achieving their various objectives, conflict is bound to occur. This is the case of Fulani herders and farmers clashes in Enugu State.

This theory was anchored on objective two; the relationship between dispossession and financial capital because in the conflict perspective, 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 wants to redress existing contradictions (Ofuoku and Isife, 2019).

Empirical Review

The linkage between theft and social capital

Yakubu, Musa, Bamidele, Ali, Bappah, Munir and Manuwa (2021) examined the effects of farmer herder conflicts on rural households food security in Gombe State, Nigeria. Primary data were collected using structured questionnaire and focus group discussion among 118 farmers and 112 herders. Percentage, to bit and log it regression models were used in analysing the data. The result showed that, household size and education, farm size and cattle route encroachment were the major causes of the conflict. In addition, killing of stray cattle, population growth, rape and sexual harassment were all responsible to farmer-herder conflict with different marginal effects. The study revealed 59.3% of the farmers and 31.3% of the herders, had food insecure with moderate hunger, while 43.7% of the farmers and 66.1% of the herders had food insecurity with severe hunger. Selling of grazing areas, corrupt practices by traditional rulers are some of the constraints that affects conflict management.

Ibrahim and Adebayo (2021) examined herders-farmers conflicts, infrastructural facilities and school enrolment in Benue State, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study. The survey design method was adopted for the study. The population of the study is eleven thousand nine hundred eighty-seven (11,987) teachers from 407 secondary schools in Benue State. A total of 400 teachers from one hundred secondary schools constituted the sample of the study. Purposive and proportionate sampling procedures were used to select the sample size for the study. The instrument for the study is a researcher designed questionnaire tagged “Herders-Farmers Conflicts, Infrastructural Facilities and School Enrolment Questionnaire” (HFCIFSEQ). The data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The result shows that there is a serious impact of herders-farmers conflicts on the provision of infrastructural facilities in secondary schools and on students’ enrolment in secondary schools in Benue State.

Oluwayomi, Adewale and Solih (2021) investigated the farmers-herdsmen conflict in Wansagare Alabafe, a community in the Oke Ogun axis in the northern part of Oyo State, Nigeria. The study used a mixed research method to generate data. The questionnaire was the instrument used to generate quantitative data from 80 respondents amongst farmers and herders. Fifty (50) questionnaires were administered to the farmers and thirty (30) questionnaires were administered to the herdsmen in the same community. The oral interview was the instrument used to isolate participants for the study. Results showed that there is an intense conflict between the farmers and herdsmen in the community for reasons associated with the destruction of crops on farmlands and cattle rustling. Results revealed that conflict occurs more during the dry season than during the rainy season.

Ukpong (2021) examined land as a source of conflict between farmers and herders in Oyo State, Nigeria. The eco-violence by Homer-Dixon which seeks to explain the relationship between environmental factors and violent conflicts was adopted in this study. The study design was descriptive Survey and Case study method; the study area was Iwajowa local government area of Oyo State. The primary and secondary data were used. 65 questionnaires were administered to 50 farmers selected from 5 communities from 5 agricultural zones of the Local Government Area and 15 herders. The study was of the view that in order to manage the crisis between farmer and herders, the government, to effectively revisit the Land-Use Act of 1978 in order to resolve the re-occurring conflicts in the agricultural sector which currently provides employment to over 80% of the country’s population. It also recommended that state and local government should put laws in place that will ensure effective regulation of grazing and farming activities in Iwajowa Local Government area of Oyo State through efficient land-use laws/legislations and administration and open grazing should be banned in Oyo state and other areas that are experiencing farmers/herders conflict in the country.

Tanyi, Nwatu, Ugwu, Amadi and Idongesit (2021) examined the impact of herdsmen and farmers' conflict on farming communities in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State. Qualitative data were collected from 15 farmers through the use of in-depth interviews. Data collected was translated and transcribed, coded using Nvivo12 and analyzed thematically. Findings showed that this persistent unrest or clash between the herdsmen and farmers has brought about hunger and starvation among the people. The study further revealed psychological trauma as another effect of these conflicts due to incessant killings and the destruction of property.

Gap in Empirical Literature

The study examines the relationship between herders-farmers conflicts and livelihood in Enugu State. This is an attempt to investigate how the incessant occurrences of Fulani herdsmen attack on farmers in various communities in Enugu state has related with the level of livelihood in these communities in the state. To achieve the objectives of the study, a lot of empirical studies on this issue were reviewed so as to add unique value to the existing literature. The empirical studies reviewed showed were shown to have investigated this phenomenon, but with particular reference to other states within the country such as Benue, Zamfara, Taraba, and other states with huge reporting of these kind of conflicts. However, the case of Enugu state remains uninvestigated, especially as it pertains to livelihood within the state. Therefore, the current study becomes the first attempt at understanding the relationship that exists between these conflicts and livelihood in the state. The study also employs the use of the Pearson correlation analysis, which is different from the method of analysis employed by previous studies in the research. Before the current study, majority of studies employed document analysis and literature review to arrive at conclusions. However, the current study attempts at empirically and quantitatively examining the objective of the study, using correlation analysis.

Methodology

The area of the study was Enugu State. The study used the descriptive survey design approach. The primary source of data was the administration of questionnaire. The population of the study was made up of executives of the town unions, councilors, ward leaders, Housa/ Fulani leaders, Market men and women community leaders and selected individuals who were capable of knowing the problems of herders/farmers issues in their communities and local governments. A total population of two hundred and ninety nine individuals (299) was used for the study. Two hundred and eighteen (218) respondents returned their questionnaire and accurately filled. The validity of the instrument was tested using content analysis and the result was good. The reliability was tested using the Pearson correlation coefficient (r). It gave a reliability co-efficient of 0.75 which was also good. Data was presented and analyzed by mean score and standard deviation. The hypotheses were analyzed using Pearson correlation coefficient (r) statistics tool.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Distribution and return of the Questionnaire

Table 4.1 shows the data relating to the distribution and return of the questionnaire

Table 4.1 Distribution and Return of the Questionnaire

S/n	Sample Source	Distributed	No Returned	Percentage	No not Returned	Percentage
	Ward Leaders	70	52	17	18	6
	Councillors	70	50	17	20	7
	Fulani Leaders	15	13	4	2	1
	Hausa Leaders	15	14	4	1	-
	Market men and women	80	54	18	26	9

Executives town Unions	49	35	12	14	5
Total	299	218	72	81	28

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Two hundred and ninety-nine (299) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents and two hundred and eighteen (218) copies of the questionnaire were returned representing seventy two percent (72%) while eighty one (81) copies of the questionnaire were not returned representing twenty eight percent (28%). This shows a high rate of the respondents.

Data presentation and analysis

The linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu state, Nigeria.

Table 4.2.1: Responses on the linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu state, Nigeria.

		5 SA	4 A	3 N	2 DA	1 SD	ΣFX	- X	SD	Decision
1	The abandonment of grazing reserves system in 1970 and 1980 has led to the poor agricultural productivity and cattle rustling.	380 76 34.9	332 83 38.1	21 7 3.2	42 21 9.6	31 31 14.2	806 218 100%	3.70	1.226	Agree
2	Constant urbanization and demographic shifts have caused farmers to move away from farming activities and have increased the number of cattle rustling	380 76 34.9	332 83 38.1	3 1 .5	58 29 13.3	29 29 13.3	802 218 100%	3.68	1.576	Agree
3	The continued movements of herdsman toward south east in search of pasture for their animals increased destruction of farms and stealing of cattle.	330 66 30.3	336 84 38.5	18 6 2.8	94 47 21.6	15 15 6.9	793 218 100%	3.64	1.462	Agree
4	The movement of herds from one place to another affects farmland that trigger income for farmers.	410 82 37.6	216 54 24.8	60 20 9.2	10 5 2.3	57 57 26.1	753 218 100%	3.45	1.569	Agree
5	Herdsman movements to farmland within the river bank areas resulted in a number of clashes as a result of cattle theft.	455 91 41.7	156 39 17.9	75 25 11.5	46 23 10.6	40 40 18.3	772 218 100%	3.54	1.282	Agree
Total Grand mean and standard deviation								3.602	1.423	

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 4.2.1, 159 respondents out of 218 representing 73.0 percent agreed that the abandonment of grazing reserves system in 1970 and 1980 has led to the poor agricultural productivity and cattle rustling 3.70 and standard deviation of 1.226. Constant urbanization and demographic shifts have caused farmers to move away from farming activities and have increased the number of cattle rustling 159 respondents representing 73.0 percent agreed with mean score of 3.70 and standard deviation of 1.576. The continued movements of herdsman toward south east in search of pasture for their animals increased destruction of farms and stealing of cattle 150 respondents representing 68.8 percent agreed with mean score of 3.64 and standard deviation of 1.462. The movement of herds from one place

to another affects farmland that trigger income for farmers 136 respondents representing 62.4 percent agreed with mean score of 3.45 and 1.569. Herdsman movements to farmland within the river bank areas resulted in a number of clashes as a result of cattle theft 130 respondents representing 59.6 percent agreed with a mean score of 3.54 and standard deviation 1.282

Test of hypotheses

Table 4.4.1 Shows Pearson correlations on linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State

Table 4.4.1: Pearson correlation: There is no significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State.

Correlations						
		The abandonmen t of grazing reserves system in 1970 and 1980 has led to the imperfect of agriculture Sector and stealing of cattle	Constant urbanization and demographic shifts increased farmers to move afield for farming activities and the livelihood of herdsman and the number of cattle missing	The continued movements of herdsman toward south east in search of pasture for their animals increased destruction of farms and stealing of cattle.	The movemen t of herds from one place to another affects farmland that trigger income for farmers.	Herdsman movement s to farmland within the river bank areas resulted in a number of clashes as a result of cattle theft.
The abandonment of grazing reserves system in 1970 and 1980 has led to the imperfect of agriculture Sector and stealing of cattle	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	1	.669** .000	.625** .000	.639** .000	.644** .000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
Constant urbanization and demographic shifts increased farmers to move afield for farming activities and the livelihood of herdsman and the number of cattle missing	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	.669** .000	1	.804** .000	.576** .000	.556** .000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
The continued movements of herdsman toward south east in search of pasture for their animals increased destruction of farms and stealing of cattle.	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	.625** .000	.804** .000	1	.494** .000	.614** .000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
The movement of herds from one place	Pearson Correlation	.639**	.576**	.494**	1	.472**

to another affects	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000
farmland that trigger	N	218	218	218	218	218
income for farmers.						
Herdsman	Pearson					
movements to	Correlation	.644**	.556**	.614**	.472**	1
farmland within the	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	
river bank areas						
resulted in a number	N	218	218	218	218	218
of clashes as a result						
of cattle theft.						

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.4.5.3 showed the pearson correlation matrix on theft and social capital showing the correlation coefficients, significant values and the number of cases. The correlation coefficient shows .472<.669 this value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed) and implies that there was significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State ($r = .472 < .669$). The computed correlations coefficient is greater than the table value of $r = .000$ with at alpha level for a two-tailed test ($r = .472 < .669, p < .05$).

Decision Rule

The decision rule is to accept the null hypothesis if the computed r . 000 is less than the tabulated ($r = .472 < .669$) otherwise reject the null hypothesis.

Decision

Since the computed ($r = .472 < .669$) is greater than the table value of .000, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we concluded that there was significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r = .472 < .669, p < .05$).

Discussion of findings

There was significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State

Although the relationship between social capital and crime is theoretically persuasive and empirically robust. Hypothesis five showed the computed ($r = .472 < .669$) is greater than the table value of .000, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we concluded that there was significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r = .472 < .669, p < .05$). The advantages of increasing social capital for a community seem to be unlimited. The level of social capital in a neighborhood can be linked to crime through social disorganization. Socially disorganized neighborhoods have high rates of residential mobility, family disruption, ethnic heterogeneity and poverty. These factors do not allow for the social institutions in the socially disorganized community to effectively control the behavior of the youth in the neighborhood. This occurs because the residents withdraw from organizations and institutions that would provide informal social control. Obasanmi, Omokugbo and Enoma (2021) examined the herder and farmer conflict on social economic development of Nigeria. The study presented the structural theory and the Frustration-Anger-Aggression Hypothesis to provide possible explanations for the crisis. The causes of farmers/herders clashes in recent times were identified to be a function of several factors not only limited to climate change resulting in drought and desertification soil degradation; growing population size, global terrorism, crime (rural banditry and cattle rustling) amongst others. This crisis has resulted in displacement

of people from their communities, women and girls vulnerability to sexual and economic predation, huge economic burden on the government leading to loss of revenues, dwindling food supply and rising cost, increasing division among the Federating states and threat to National Security amongst others.

Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

Summary of Findings

From the result of the analyses, the study found that

- i. There was significant positive linkage between theft and social capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r=.472<.669$, $p<.05$).

Conclusions

The study concluded that growing land pressure, dispossession, conflict of interest, armed extremist groups and theft had a positive significant relationship between human capital, financial capital, mistrust on Natural capital, physical capital and social capital. It shows that with the presence/existence of these various components of herders/farmers conflict been practiced in a positive way would not only enhance the livelihood of herders/farmers but will also create peaceful existence between them. The interactions between settled farmers and herders are inevitable, because the social interaction between them is regarded as fundamental. This however has birthed clashes between herders and their hosts and entangled them in a tussle for land, water and natural resources. Farmer-herder conflicts are enduring features of social life. Crop damage is not limited to damage to growing crops on the field but also included unauthorized grazing of crop residues after harvest. Other causes of conflict reported were access to watering points, expansion of crop fields across corridors for animal passage and thefts of animal. The ability of rural communities to prevent and manage conflict is largely based on the strength of networks of communication between herding and farming interests, respected community leaders, and leaders in neighboring communities. Overall, the local institutional arrangements are functional and a high percentage of conflicts are effectively managed at local levels. Having a right attitude to social conflict is therefore necessary for conflict resolution. Despite tenure insecurity concerns, farmer's agricultural investment decisions remain unchanged because such changes in investment decisions may reduce incomes and compromise their livelihoods.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made by the study

- i. An idle mind is the devils workshop hence, government should take job creation and youth employment serious as it will help reduce unemployment and theft in the society.

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