

Herders/Farmers Conflicts and Livelihood in Enugu State, Nigeria

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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 are to; examine the relationship between growing land pressure and human capital; assess the relationship between dispossession and financial 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 that there was significant relationship between growing land pressure and human capital ($r = .425 < .760$, $p < .05$). There was significant relationship between dispossession and financial capital, ($r = .459 < .721$, $p < .05$). The study concluded that growing land pressure and dispossession, had a significant relationship between human capital and financial 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, Livelihood, Land Pressure, Human Capital, Financial Capital

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Introduction

In Africa as a whole there are reported cases of herders/farmers conflict. Violence involving pastoralist herders in West and Central Africa as perpetrators and victims has been surging in recent years. Since 2010, there have been over 15,000 deaths linked to farmers-herders violence and half of those deaths have occurred since 2018. The rise of farmer-herder conflict in Africa is more pernicious than fatality figures alone, however, since it is often amplified by the emotionally potent issues of ethnicity, religion, culture, and land. Militant Islamist groups in central Mali and northern Burkina Faso have instrumentalized such divisions to inflame grievances, thereby driving recruitment. Similarly, rebel groups in the Central African Republic (CAR) have positioned themselves as defenders of pastoralist interests (Brottem, 2021). Based on the foregoing the researcher wishes to ex-ray the effects of herders and farmers conflicts in Enugu state, Nigeria. In Nigeria, such reported conflict between herders and farmers therefore necessitated the need for this study.

The ongoing menace, which is the occasionally reported conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers in Nigeria, has been around for some time now. These conflicts occur due to the differing objectives on the part of both the farmers and the herders. It is probably arguable that resources and the utilization thereof have been the reason for most conflict among the farming community, both the crop farmers and the cattle farmers (Adelukurelu & Adisa, 2019). However, the dimension and magnitude of this conflict has assumed an increasing regularity and the killings have left researchers to wonder how this crisis can be solved. The fundamental issue in this crisis is the lack of government to plan productive activities that will guarantee long term investment in the country (Enoma 2019). This has caused the issue to be recurring, and seemingly without a definite end, which necessitates proper investigation.

Historically relations between herders and crop farmers have been cordial and peaceful. Both lived in a peaceful symbiotic relationship. Herders' cattle fertilizes the farmers land in exchange for grazing right (Ingawa & Irabor, 2011). Recently, these cordial relationships have taken a new dimension with increases violence throughout the country. Records show that at least 25 of the 36 states in the Nigeria including the FCT, Abuja had serious crisis between the herders and the crop farmers as at 2017(Nuong, 2020). According to report by Agbedo in the Sun Newspaper on June 2016, the increase in competition for arable land has often time led to serious manifestations of killings, and social friction among the two groups of people. These Killings and social friction between the two groups has led to greater insecurity in human life and food insecurity, though statistics currently show these effects (Nedozie, 2021). The major issues that caused the growing strife between herders and farmers boils down to one factor; diverging interests, which leads to conflict.

A significant number of the Fulanis are nomadic in nature, herding cattle, sheep, and goats across the vast dry grasslands of their environs and making them the main pastoral nomadic group in the world. The Fulani are one of the recognized population groups found mainly in the Northern part as well as the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. The main Fulani sub-group in Nigeria; Fulbe Gombe, Fulbe Adamawa, Fulbe Sokoto, Fulbe Mbororo, and Fulbe Borgu (Kasarachi, 2016). Despite the holy war (jihad) and ethnic dominance experienced by the Northern Nigeria, very

deep exchange relationship persisted between them and the sedentary farmers. The desert Fulani herdsmen depended on the savanna farmers for calories, exchanging salt for grain. The Fulani herdsmen unarguably represent a significant part of Nigeria's economy. They are the major breeders of sheep, cattle, and goats as those animals are the major source of meat and affordable source of animal protein eaten by Nigerians. The relationship between farmers and Fulani herdsmen was coming under increasing pressure due to fierce competition for resources. Fulbe herds were still welcome by Jos farmers. The Fulani herdsmen keep animals for the village farmers who consider livestock particularly cattle as a form of investment; milk and manure were traded for agricultural produce.

It is important to note that these conflicts have direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of those involved. They also disrupt and threaten the sustainability of pastoral production and agriculture in West Africa (Moritz, 2010). These conflicts reinforce circles of extreme poverty and hunger, and destroy social status, food security and affect mostly the most marginalized groups that include women and children. This affects education of children leading to obstacles in their development and mass displacement. Consequentially, this debilitates the once mutually existing farmer-pastoralist relationships. This awful situation becomes worst, especially when either the farmer or the pastoralist is categorized into a group relating to religion, tribe or region. Abbass (2012) warned that the disharmony in pastoralism and sedentarism reflect enhanced sedentarisation and increased pastoralism leading to constant conflict with the agrarian societies. Some farmers practicing mixed farming attests that their animals have in one way or another affected other farmers and likewise sedentary pastoralists were in one way or the other affected by farmers (Nformi, Mary-Juliet, Engwali and Nji, 2014). This therefore necessitated the need for this study.

Statement of the Problem

The constant farmers-herders conflict in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon, most especially in the northern part of the country. However, what is relatively new is now the many news headlines about farmers/herders conflict in the states and regions, in particular, the South-West and South Eastern part of the country. In the past, many people have argued around the narrative of religion, land ownership rights, political power rotation, ethnicity and indigene settlers' arguments in the Northern part of Nigeria that are dominated by Hausa-Fulani ethnic group competing with other minority groups. Such cannot be said of the Southern parts of Nigeria that are predominantly Christians. Although, in the past decades, across Nigeria, most especially in the Southern part of the country, the Fulani settlers and their families were accepted and permitted into the host communities due to the cordial relationship between the sedentary farmers and herders. Following the recent increase in the conflict, the relationship between both groups had deteriorated.

Conflicts between farmers and herders can be understood as a problem of access to land. However, there has been a plethora of competing analysis by scholars on the causes of the conflicts as well as the escalation of hostility in the recent years. Struggle over grazing land and scarce resources have over the years resulted in perennial and growing violent conflicts in terms of frequency, intensity and geographic scope. Many have argued that the scarcity of natural resources had led to conflict which is triggered by competition over the meager resources available. While the Fulani herdsmen maintained that they are free to move around the country because of freedom of movement, the farmers

see this movement (most especially when such movement is into their farmland) as invasion and infringement on their communal and personal properties inherited from their grandparents.

Underpinning the escalation in frequency of conflicts in Nigeria is a confluence of environmental and demographic forces, especially desertification caused by climate change and population explosion. Expectedly, with the depletion of arable land for subsistence farming largely as a result of increasing urbanisation and the adverse effect of climate change. There is increased struggle between herdsmen and farmers – leading to violent confrontations and conflicts, deaths and forced displacement, as well as the destruction of agriculture and livestock.

The movement of herdsmen and subsequent clashes with farmers and host communities in recent times has heightened insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the North Central region and by extension in other parts of the country. The driving force of the clashes is the competition for available resources, especially grazing land. The killings recorded by Fulani herdsmen and farmers clashes have rampaged most communities displacing them of their farmlands and loss of their major source of livelihood. This is becoming unbearable with Fulani herdsmen always having their ways leaving the farmers at their mercy. Herdsmen attribute the root of the crisis to religious differences resulting in the killing of their cows while the farmers see the herdsmen as a threat to their crops and agricultural produce since the herdsmen allow their cows to feed on the farmers' crops. The wave of violence in Nigeria as observed by Kasarachi (2016) has disrupted socio-economic, religious, and educational activities, political instability and threatened the national unity of Nigeria. These extra-judicial killings have forced thousands of people to abandon their homes and farmlands for safety. The clashes between Fulani herdsmen and farmers have had a devastating effect on inter-group relationships especially at the flashpoint areas in Benue state and recently in Uzo-Uwani and Eha-Amufu villages of Enugu state. The regular crisis between farmers and herders in the studied area necessitated this study to evaluate the herders/farmers conflict and livelihood in Enugu State, Nigeria.

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. Examine the effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State.
- ii. Assess the relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State.

Research Questions

The following research question will guide the study;

- i. What is the effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State?
- ii. What is the relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses guided the study;

- i. There is no significant positive effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State.
- ii. There is no significant positive relationship between dispossession and financial 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 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.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Literature

Herders

The Fulani originated from the Senegambia before spreading out into about 20 states which cut across West Africa and the Sahel as well as western Sudan and Central African Republic (McGregor, 2014). The people are found in large number in Nigeria but while some have moved into the cities, many are still living as semi-nomadic herders. However, these group who own and rear herds of animals like cattle for commercial purposes are called Herdsmen. Fulani herdsmen or Fulani pastoralists are nomadic or semi-nomadic herders whose primary occupation is raising livestock (Iro 1994). They usually move their herds from one place to another in search of pasture and fresh water.

Farmers

Farmers (also called agricultures) are persons who engage in agriculture, raising living organisms for food or raw materials. The term therefore applies to people who do some combination of raising field crops, orchards, vineyards, poultry, or other livestock. Based on this broad definition, farmers are both the herdsmen who herd or keep livestock like cattle, goats and sheep, and crop farmers. However, for the purpose of this work, farmers are the crop farmers (those who raise field crops) also called peasant farmers/subsistence cultivators only (Okoro, 2018). A farmer is one who engages in agricultural activities, such as crops cultivation, who earns a living in any kind of farming either in organism or crops it could be on a small scale or owing large acres of land Webster's New World College Dictionary, (2014). However, in this work, farmers here are those that are involved in economic crops in Nigeria and their crops being destroyed by the cattle herders.

Conflicts

Conflict is a phenomenon that is an integral part of human settings. Wherever two or more people, groups and institutions interrelate, conflict is bound to arise at different time and circumstances. Most often, conflict is perceived as being utterly negative; nevertheless, this has not always been so. Depending on how conflict is resolved by the parties involved, it can be positive (constructive) or negative (destructive). When conflicts between individuals or institutions is destructive, it hinders progress in the social setting; compels individuals to resort to antagonistic attitude; lead to disintegration of organization as well as scuttling of development projects. Conflict according to Miller (2005) means to "clash or engage in a fight," a confrontation between two or more actors. Quincy (1971), explained conflict as a situation where a known group of human beings both at individual and/or collective levels willingly counter one or more other known human institution as a result of incongruous objectives among the actors/parties. From the foregoing, crop farmers-herdsmen conflict is the struggle for access, control, passage, grazing rights/routes, cultivation, safety, and ownership of land among crop-growing farmers and herdsmen. This struggle has escalated into violent clashes which resulted in killings, destructions of farm produce and crops, rape, arson, cattle rustling, banditry etc.

Herders/Farmers Conflict

Conflicts between herders and farmers have received clarification from different scholars. Oladele and Oladele (2011) defined farmers-herdsmen conflict as a competition between two agricultural land users, comprising farmers and herdsmen, which oftentimes turn into serious overt and covert hostilities and social friction. This definition views farmers-herdsmen conflict as a struggle over scarce resources, such as land and water. It underlines the importance of resources in farmers-herdsmen conflict. Audu (2013) in his submission 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.

Growing Land Pressure

The vast majority of human activity throughout history has occurred in land areas that support agriculture, habitat, and various natural resources. In his view, Hounbo (2019), 95% of the world's population today lives on 10% of the land. Land or ground, also known as dry land, is the terrestrial surface of Earth that is not permanently submerged in water. Land pressure is an essential factor for technological change and agricultural intensification. In land pressure situation, the farmers' welfare state is a determinant of agricultural productivity increase and the environment improvement (Hounbo, 2019). Deforestation, intensive agriculture and rising urbanization are all putting intense pressure on the Earth's natural resources and resilience to climate change. Land use refers to the human allocation of land for various purposes, including farming, ranching, and recreation. One-third of land is used for agriculture. Land pressure does not induce ipso facto technological change and agricultural productivity growth. *Land under strong pressure* caused mainly by the loss of utility or potential utility through the reduction of or damage to physical. As populations increase and land resources become scarcer, farmers need to farm more intensively. But farmers and governments may not react quickly enough to develop technologies to farm their land more efficiently, resulting in land degradation. Land under strong pressure caused mainly by the loss of utility or potential utility through the reduction of or damage to physical social cultural or economic features and/or reduction of ecosystem diversity. In order that the farmers can develop sustainable agriculture through technological change in land pressure situation, it's necessary to reduce significantly or eradicate chronic poverty among them by facilitating a truly profitable agriculture, and insuring social protection (Hounbo 2019). The rapid population increase theoretically affects the need increase of community on the land.

Dispossession

Land dispossession involves legal and non-legal means for removal of a person(s) from the possession of *land*. This often involves displacement and/or penury. Dispossession of land and natural resources is a major human rights problem for indigenous peoples. They have in so many cases been pushed out of their traditional areas to give way for the economic interests of other more dominant groups and to large scale development initiatives that tend to destroy their lives and cultures rather than improve their situation (Laltaika, & Askew, 2018). The lack of access to land has led young people to lose faith in their community elders who appear unable to protect their resource interests or are involved in land deals themselves. The encroachment of cultivated land into grazing areas deepens pastoralists' grievance that their rights to resources, be it land, water, wood, or forage, are weaker than those of farmers and consequently have been ignored. Pastoralists typically only need seasonal access to resources, so their land rights are often treated as secondary to those of farmers.

Livelihood

A person's livelihood refers to their means of securing the basic necessities (food, water, shelter and clothing) of life. Livelihood is defined as a set of activities essential to everyday life that are conducted over one's life span. Such activities could include securing water, food, fodder, medicine, shelter, and clothing. 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. For instance, a fisherman's livelihood depends on the availability and accessibility of fish. Livelihoods are 'means of making a living', the various activities and resources that allow people to live. Different people have different lifestyles and ways of meeting their needs. Similarly, households perform various activities to gain and maintain their livelihoods. The nature of these livelihood activities depends on the availability of assets, resources, labour, skills, education, social capital, seasonality, agro-climate/agro-ecology, and gender (Akinwale, 2010).

Natural Capital

Natural capital of livelihood is the natural resource stocks that people can draw on for their livelihoods, including land, forests, water, air and so on (Kamwi, Chirwa, Paxie, Graz, Manda, Mosimane, and Katsch, 2018). For rural people, agriculture and other natural resource-based activities may play an important role, but rural households also diversify into other activities, some of which are linked to agriculture and the natural resources sector, others which are not. There is the interaction between diverse livelihoods and the management of the natural resources upon which they to a greater or lesser extent depend. Goldman (2000) in the study of Ahmed, Kalthum, Roslina & Rahim, (2018) pointed out natural capital as the term used for natural resource stocks from which resource flow and services (e.g., nutrient cycling and erosion protection) that are useful for livelihoods are derived.

Physical Capital

Physical capital is the most important asset in adopting environmental strategies. Physical assets means the required accessibilities facilities needed by households or individuals like transportation, good facility, good housing, safe drinking water, and accessibility to medical facilities, market and school (Samsudin & Kamaruddin, 2013). Physical Capital of livelihood is the basic infrastructure that people need to make a living, as well as the tools and equipment that they use. Physical capital is a measure for the existence of physical requirements needed to support livelihood in a sense of infrastructure. Segal & Brock (2020), established that physical capital sometimes simply called "capital," includes human-made items or products that make the manufacturing process possible or enable it to run smoothly. Some types of physical capital are directly involved in the production, such as the welding equipment that fuses parts of a car on the factory floor.

Theoretical Framework

The Conflict Theory (Karl Max, 1848) guided 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 effect of Growing land pressure on human capital

Umana, et al., (2019) examined the menace of ethno-religious conflict on economic development in Nigeria. The purpose was to; examine the nexus between ethnicity and religion and the crises that have engulfed Nigeria in the past three decades, look at the effect of ethno-religious crises on the development of Nigeria as a nation, investigate the role of religious leaders in curtailing the menace and investigate the role of mass media in escalating ethno-religious crisis. The study employed desk research which made use of literature explored to make conclusion on the study. The findings revealed that factors like struggle for land resources, traditional authority, competition for economic and political spaces, clash of values and way of lives, religion and ethnicity and religious manipulations breeds ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria.

Dickson, Danjuma and Joel (2020) examined population explosion in Nigeria and its adverse influences on herders and farmers conflict in Nigeria. The study generated data from array of both published and unpublished materials such as: text books, journal papers, newspapers, magazines, white paper of reports of panel of investigation and commission of inquiry, internet materials, seminar and conference papers and a lot of others. The main instrument used to generate data for the study was interview. In interpreting our data, the relationship between population burst in Nigeria and the incidence of herders and farmers conflicts was established at both theoretical and empirical level. Empirically, the study used a qualitative and historical method that was critical and analytical in providing descriptive and historical details. This was further complemented by descriptive analysis. It was established that rapid population explosion has enormous influence on herders and farmers conflicts in Nigeria. Recommendations such as: Awareness creations, population education, family programmes education, farmer's education, control of borders, good governance, improve policing, religious tolerance and a lot of others were proffered.

Iddrisu (2020) examined the impact of food security on Bunkpurugu district of North-eastern Ghana. study employed a cross sectional design to solicit data from 384 participants using questionnaires and interview guides. The data which was analysed within the framework of system theory revealed that conflicts in Bunkpurugu district led to the destruction of food crops, burning of farm produce, displacement and killing of farmers and prevention of farming activities, these invariably affected food productions. The supply of food aids was, however, minimal and played an insignificant moderating role in the relationship between conflict and food insecurity.

Denis (2020) examined the phenomenon of ethnic violence in relation to political elitism in Nigeria since independence. Its objective is to explain how political elitism has contributed to the cases of ethnic violence in Nigeria since 1960. With the instrumentalist theory of ethnic conflict, this study explains in clear terms how politicization of primordial ethnic identities by the elites has led to a spate of ethnic violence in Nigeria. The methodology used in this work is mainly the analysis of secondary data from documents, journals and books from the library. It observes in its findings that despite manipulations of the masses by the political elites, the individual has a determinant role to play in the escalation of ethnic violence in Nigeria.

Hartoyo, et al., (2020) analysed the effects of socio-demographic factors on ethnic tolerance (ET) and religious tolerance (RT) as well as the participation of the local community in peace building in post-ethnic violent conflicts in a multi-cultural society. This research was conducted in the rural areas of Indonesia. Data were collected through a survey of 500 respondents from five districts susceptible to ethnic conflicts. From each district, two villages that experienced ethnic conflicts were chosen and from each village, 50 respondents were randomly selected. To strengthen the explanation of quantitative data, in-depth interviews were also conducted with another 50 residents, five informants from each of ten villages. Informants comprised community leaders or traditional leaders, local police officers, local military officers and district government officials. First, the degree of tolerance is not specifically concentrated in the socio-demographic characteristics. Second, ET affects RT. Third, local community participation in peace building in post-ethnic violent conflicts is not influenced by the socio-demographic characteristics but is influenced by ET and RT. The socio-cultural approach is the main strategy for peace building in post-ethnic (and religious) conflicts in multi-cultural societies. The weakness of inter-ethnic relations soon improves in the post-peace period through the reconstruction of social and cultural factors to strengthen social cohesion and social capital at the local community level by involving various stakeholders

The relationship between dispossession and financial capital

Sambo and Sule (2020) examined the nature of the farmers-herders conflict, causes, manifestations and its effects on nation building as a contribution to intellectual discourse in the area of development studies. The work relied on descriptive qualitative research in data collection and analysis. Secondary sources such as books, journals, reports and internet sources were consulted for data collection. The data obtained were discussed using content analysis where the existing literature were interpreted for further creation of meanings and contribution. The research discovered that farmers-herders conflict has many implications on nation building including insecurity, food security, ethnicity, politicization of national interest, creation of national disunity, economic sabotage and mutual suspicion

among many others. The research as part of its contribution to the discourse discovered that the conflict compounded the Nigerian insecurity through the fueling of banditry in other parts of the country.

Ojewale (2021) analyzed the mutually reinforcing drivers of violent conflict in rural and urban communities in Central Nigeria. This study adopts mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative research methodology through multi-stage sampling technique. This involved the purposive selection of Benue and Plateau States in Central Nigeria. The combination of household data collection and Geographic Information System led to the identification of 2,772, 117, 2,668 and 106 grids in Jos, Barkin Ladi, Makurdi and Gbajimba, respectively. This proportion constituted the clusters where household heads were chosen for questionnaire administration.

Lawal, et al., (2021) explored the nexus between climate change and the farmer-herdsmen crisis with a view of highlighting the drivers of the conflict in Nigeria. The study adopted environmental scarcity and eco-survivalism theories of conflict. It collated survey data from both farmers and herders and descriptively analyzed it to further understand the dynamics and drivers of the farmer-herders crisis. The study found out that 88.8% of respondents believe that the weather and climate patterns have changed significantly thereby affecting the availability of both fertile land and grazing land. In addition, 83.7% of herders agree that lack of grazing land has forced them to migrate southward from the north in search of greener pastures and this results in confrontation from farmers which eventually results in conflicts. Another 60.4% of respondents attribute the reasons for confrontation to competition over greener land for either farming or grazing.

Yakubu (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, tobit and logit 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.

Nnaji, Ma, Ratna and Renwick (2022) examined the differential impacts of the incidence and severity of farmer-herder resource use conflicts on food insecurity of rural households in Nigeria. The study employs a two-stage predictor substitution model to estimate survey data collected from 401 rural households in Nigeria. The empirical results show that both the incidence and the severity of farmer-herder conflicts significantly increase food insecurity, and the severity of these conflicts has a larger impact than their incidence.

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.

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, 2026

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 relating to research questions

The effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu state, Nigeria.

Table 4.2.1.1: Responses on the effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu state, Nigeria.

		5	4	3	2	1	ΣFX	-	SD	Decision
		SA	A	N	DA	SD		X		
1	The substantial movements of herders from the country side into culturally farmer alien towns have increased cost of goods.	420	192	48	58	41	759			Agree
		84	48	16	29	41	218	3.48	1.269	
		38.5	22.0	7.3	13.3	18.8	100%			
2	The migration of herders across communities or towns has resulted to reduced income of the farmers	305	192	75	36	66	674			Agree
		61	48	25	18	66	218	3.09	1.269	
		28.0	22.0	11.5	8.3	30.3	100%			
3	Imperial expansion and territorial boundary change of herders increased poverty of the communities	305	192	75	36	66	674			Agree
		75	57	26	20	40	218	3.09	1.462	
		34.4	26.1	11.9	9.2	18.3	100%			
4	Ethnic mobilization has triggered a clash of livelihood through herder's farmer conflicts and decreases quality life.	445	196	21	84	31	777	3.56	1.569	Agree
		89	49	7	42	31	218			
		40.8	22.5	3.2	19.3	14.2	100%			
5	Hostile local populations lead to disputes as the herder's animals destroys farm products.	415	196	54	40	48	753	3.45	1.282	Agree
		83	49	18	20	48	218			
		38.1	22.5	8.3	9.2	22.0	100%			
Total Grand mean and standard deviation								3.334	1.423	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 4.1.1, 132 respondents out of 218 representing 60.5 percent agreed that the substantial movements of herders from the country side into culturally farmer alien towns have increased cost of goods 3.48 and standard deviation of 1.226. The migration of herders across communities or towns has resulted to reduced income of the

farmers 109 respondents representing 50.0 percent agreed with mean score of 3.09 and standard deviation of 1.576. Imperial expansion and territorial boundary change of herders increased poverty of the communities 132 respondents representing 60.5 percent agreed with mean score of 3.09 and standard deviation of 1.462. Ethnic mobilization has triggered a clash of livelihood through herder's farmer conflicts and decreases quality life 138 respondents representing 63.3 percent agreed with mean score of 3.56 and 1.569. Hostile local populations lead to disputes as the herder's animals destroys farm products 132 respondents representing 60.6 percent agreed with a mean score of 3.45 and standard deviation 1.282

The relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu state, Nigeria

The relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu state, Nigeria.

Table 4.3.1: Responses on the relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu state, Nigeria.

		5	4	3	2	1	ΣFX	-	SD	Decision
		SA	A	N	DA	SD		X		
1	Blockage to livestock routes reduced access to grazing land.	420	272	21	88	44	845	3.88	1.226	Agree
		84	68	7	44	44	218			
		38.5	31.2	3.2	20.2	6.9	100%			
2	Where gazette grazing reserves do not exist and with cattle encroachment onto farms trigger conflicts between them	325	272	3	76	46	722	3.31	1.576	Agree
		65	68	1	38	46	218			
		29.8	31.2	.5	17.4	21.1	100%			
3	The spread of cultivation into grazing areas brings fight among herders/farmers.	365	280	18	80	29	772	3.54	1.462	Agree
		73	70	6	40	29	218			
		33.5	32.1	2.8	18.3	13.3	100%			
4	The young herder social problems of drugs and alcohol abuse raisin challenges.	365	216	69	12	62	724	3.32	1.569	Agree
		73	54	23	6	62	218			
		33.5	24.8	10.6	2.8	28.4	100%			
5	The increasing competition for limited resources has often led to violent conflicts.	460	164	42	86	28	780	3.58	1.282	Agree
		92	41	14	43	28	218			
		42.2	18.8	6.3	19.7	12.8	100%			
Total Grand mean and standard deviation								3.526	1.423	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 4.1.1, 152 respondents out of 218 representing 69.7 percent agreed that Blockage to livestock routes reduced access to grazing land 3.88 and standard deviation of 1.226. Where gazette grazing reserves do not exist and with cattle encroachment onto farms trigger conflicts between them 133 respondents representing 61.0 percent agreed with mean score of 3.31 and standard deviation of 1.576. The spread of cultivation into grazing areas brings fight among herders/farmers 143 respondents representing 65.6 percent agreed with mean score of 3.54 and standard deviation of 1.462. The young herder social problems of drugs and alcohol abuse raises challenges 127 respondents representing 58.3 percent agreed with mean score of 3.32 and 1.569. The increasing competition for limited resources has often led to violent conflicts 133 respondents representing 61.0 percent agreed with a mean score of 3.58 and standard deviation 1.282

Test of hypotheses

Relevant Hypothesis: Hypothesis One: There is no significant positive effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State

Pearson correlation on the effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State

Table 4.4.1.3: Shows Pearson correlation on there is no significant positive effect of

growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State

Correlations

		The substantial movements of herders from the country side into culturally farmer alien towns have increased cost of goods.	The migration of herders across communities or towns has resulted to reduced income of the farmers	Imperial expansion and territorial boundary change of herders increased poverty of the communities	Ethnic mobilization has triggered a clash of livelihood through herder's farmer conflicts and decreases quality life.	Hostile local population s lead to disputes as the herder's animals destroys farm products.
The substantial movements of herders from the country side into culturally farmer alien towns have increased cost of goods.	Pearson Correlation	1	.653**	.650**	.562**	.578**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
The migration of herders across communities or towns has resulted to	Pearson Correlation	.653**	1	.559**	.434**	.425**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.000

reduced income of the farmers	N	218	218	218	218	218
Imperial expansion and territorial boundary change of herders	Pearson Correlation	.650**	.559**	1	.561**	.760**
increased poverty of the communities	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
Ethnic mobilization has triggered a clash of livelihood through herder's farmer conflicts and decreases quality life.	Pearson Correlation	.562**	.434**	.561**	1	.635**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
Hostile local populations lead to disputes as the herder's animals destroys farm products.	Pearson Correlation	.578**	.425**	.760**	.635**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	218	218	218	218	218

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

Table 4.4.1.3 showed the Pearson correlation matrix on level of growing land pressure on human capital showing the correlation coefficients, significant values and the number of cases. The correlation coefficient shows $.425 < .760$. This value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed) and implies that there was significant positive relationship between growing land pressure and human capital in Enugu State ($r = .425 < .760$). The computed correlations coefficient is greater than the table value of $r = .000$ with at alpha level for a two-tailed test ($r = .425 < .760, p < .05$).

Decision Rule

The decision rule is to accept the null hypothesis if the computed $r .000$ is less than the tabulated ($r = .425 < .760$) otherwise reject the null hypothesis.

Decision

Since the computed ($r = .425 < .760$) is greater than the table value of $.000$, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we concluded that there was significant positive relationship between growing land pressure and human capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r = .425 < .760, p < .05$).

4.4.2.3 Shows Pearson correlations on relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State

Table 4.4.2.3: Pearson correlation on relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State

		Correlations				
		Blockage to livestock routes reduced access to grazing land.	Where gazette grazing reserves do not exist and with cattle encroachment onto farms trigger conflicts between them	The spread of cultivation into grazing areas brings fight among herders/farmers.	The young herder social problems of drugs and alcohol abuse raisin challenges.	The increasing competition for limited resources has often led to violent conflicts.
Blockage to livestock routes reduced access to grazing land.	Pearson Correlation	1	.710**	.709**	.566**	.574**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000	.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
Where gazette grazing reserves do not exist and with cattle encroachment onto farms trigger conflicts between them	Pearson Correlation	.710**	1	.721**	.561**	.570**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000	.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
The spread of cultivation into grazing areas brings fight among herders/farmers.	Pearson Correlation	.709**	.721**	1	.566**	.550**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000	.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
The young herder social problems of drugs and alcohol abuse raisin challenges.	Pearson Correlation	.566**	.561**	.566**	1	.459**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		.000
	N	218	218	218	218	218
The increasing competition for limited	Pearson Correlation	.574**	.570**	.550**	.459**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	

resources has often led to violent conflicts.	N	218	218	218	218	218
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** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.4.2.3 showed the pearson correlation matrix on dispossession and financial capital showing the correlation coefficients, significant values and the number of cases. The correlation coefficient shows $.459 < .721$. This value indicates that correlation is significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed) and implies that there was significant positive relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State ($r = .459 < .721$). The computed correlations coefficient is greater than the table value of $r = .000$ with at alpha level for a two-tailed test ($r = .459 < .721, p < .05$).

Decision Rule

The decision rule is to accept the null hypothesis if the computed $r .000$ is less than the tabulated ($r = .459 < .721$) otherwise reject the null hypothesis.

Decision

Since the computed ($r = .459 < .721$) is greater than the table value of $.000$, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we concluded that there was significant positive relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r = .459 < .721, p < .05$).

Discussion of findings

There was significant positive effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State

From the result of hypotheses one, showed the computed ($r = .425 < .760$) was greater than the table value of $.000$, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we concluded that there was significant positive effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r = .425 < .760, p < .05$). In support of these hypotheses Bayzil, Agnieszka and Piotr, (2021) asserts that there are many factors determining the competitiveness and development possibilities of business units, sectors, and economies. Nowadays, human factor endowment seems to be one of the key elements of development, especially when knowledge-based economy and endogenous growth theory is considered. Also, Olabatoke and Amusain (2017) investigated the effect of Fulani cattle herders' intrusion on the economic livelihood of crop farmers in Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State. Results showed that majority of the crop farmers are males (91.00%), married (89.90%) and in their productive age of between 41 – 60 years (46.84%). Majority (51.90%) of the farmers had more than 20 years of farming experience but are still predominantly small-scale farmers engaged in growing cash crops (51.90%) and arable crops (48.10%).

There was significant positive relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State

From the result of hypotheses two shows the computed ($r = .459 < .721$) was greater than the table value of $.000$, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we concluded that there was significant positive relationship between

dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State as reported in the probability value of ($r = .459 < .721, p < .05$). Furthermore, the Findings of the study of Akejiir (2018) on the underlining factors that are responsible for the increasing farmer-herder's conflict in Ukpabi-Nimbo community, Enugu state as a case study revealed that fingers cannot be pointed to one factor causing the increase in the conflict between the farmers and the herders. The various factors responsible for the escalation of the conflict are soil-erosion caused by change in climate, destruction of farmlands caused by cattle grazing done by the Fulani herdsmen. More so, cattle rustling, and cattle theft done by gangs and groups called "Malaysian Boys" who are also raping and using the situation in the community to terrorize the people. It was also found that the government responses to the conflict is slow, and security forces are deployed to the community after an attack has been carried out by the said Fulani herdsmen even though there was an earlier warning prior to the attack that took place in 2016

Summary of Findings

From the result of the analyses, the study found that

- i. There was significant positive effect of growing land pressure on human capital in Enugu State ($r = .425 < .760, p < .05$).
- ii. There was significant positive relationship between dispossession and financial capital in Enugu State ($r = .459 < .721, p < .05$).

Conclusions

The study concluded that growing land pressure and dispossession, had a positive significant relationship between human capital and financial 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.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made by the study

- i. 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.
- ii. There should be proper identification of cattle grazing routes, provision of adequate stock grazing reserves and water reservoirs along stock routes be put in place by the government while providing lands to farmers who does not access to land to enlarge the farming scope through the bank of agriculture.

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