



THE INCIDENCE AND IMPACT OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN SOME RURAL COMMUNITIES OF KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact of cattle theft on socioeconomic wellbeing of rural farmers in Katsina state. A cross-sectional data of 1488 respondent selected from six purposively sampled LGAs (Batsari, Danmusa, Faskari, Kankara, Sabuwa and Safana) was obtained via a well-structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussions. The survey data was analysed with inferential statistics using classical independent t-test in which the socioeconomic variables of the respondents before the cattle rustling were compared with the socioeconomic variables during the cattle rustling period. It was found that, despite the fact that cattle rustling has led to loss of life and displacement of people to other safe places, there is no significant reduction of the people living in such rural communities. This indicates that, there is no significant reduction of cattle ownership by the people before and after the cattle rustling. However, it has been found that a significant difference in income level of the respondent exists. Therefore, cattle rustling could further deepen the vicious cycle of poverty in rural areas of Katsina state. Some innovative ways of combating cattle theft in form of Community Cattle Ranch and Radio Frequency Identifier should be carefully adopted.

Keywords: Cattle rustling, economic wellbeing, famers, rural community

INTRODUCTION

There have been isolated cases and less pronounced existence of cattle theft across many parts of sub-Saharan and other parts of Africa over a long period. However, its transformation into a huge socio-economic and security threat over the last 10 years, particularly in North Western Nigeria has been unprecedented. Cattle rustling as being practiced today in Nigerian states of Zamfara, Kaduna and Katsina experience the robbery of cattle at an large scale by heavily armed organized gun-men whose activities also extend to terrorizing villages, community banditry and other related and more devastating operations (Chikuma & Francis, 2014 ; Sani *et al.*, 2016; Olaniyan, 2016 ; Sumner, 2016 ; and Abdullahi *et al.*, 2018).

There has been a decline in well-paid secure employment in west African countries owing to dismal performance in the industrial sector with resultant effect of shifting to the burgeoning informal or small scale, unregulated sector comprising a wide variety of activities in response to the needs and

financial capacity of the poor (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS),1996, Siegmund-Shultze, and Rischkowsky, 2001) This was in line with the findings of (Olaniyan, 2016; Saifullahi *et al.*, 2016; and Shehu *et al.*, 2018) in their researches: cows, bandits and conflicts: Understanding cattle rustling in northern Nigeria; Building community Cattle Ranch and Radio- Frequency Identification (RFID) Technology as an Alternative Methods of Curtailing cattle Rustling in Katsina State and Menace of cattle rustling and banditry in North Western Nigeria; A case study of Katsina State as well as (Sumner, 2016) TVC News reports on Cattle ruttling in Maigora Village, Katsina State respectively. Agriculture is one sector that can accommodate many labourers that lost their jobs from the other sectors of the economy. In doing so, it serves as a pathway to poverty alleviation and enhances the potential growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the economy. It is widely acknowledged that agriculturally driven growth generates a larger welfare effect than non-agriculturally driven growth, especially for the

poorest 20% of the population (World Bank 2007). This was further supported by the world bank report (World Bank 2013; 2016; 2017; 2018) in which it points out the contributions of agriculture in poverty reduction, rises in income and improved food security to 80% of the world poor population who lives in rural areas. Increased agricultural production creates demand for products and services both upstream (inputs, services for agriculture) and downstream (processing, storage, transport). It also generates consumption links as farmers and farm labourers spend increased incomes on goods and services. The degree of these multiplier effects depend on several factors including the extent of rural infrastructure, population density, the extent of immediate processing needs for agricultural products, the nature of technological change in farming and the tradability of goods and services both produced and demanded by agricultural communities (Xavier, Lin, Colin and Steve. 2001; Schneider and Gugerty, 2011).

Farming is virtually subsistence in nature in rural Nigeria, perhaps, commercial agriculture was largely absent in the areas, this is partly because most people dwelling in rural areas are poor, characterized by low income, large family size, lack of adequate formal education, low savings and investment, lack of access to credit facilities and use of crude farm implements. As a result, poor economic base, untold hardship, living from hand to mouth, joblessness, high death rate, have characterised the life in rural areas (Olayide, Iwaka, and Osagie, 1980). About two-third of Nigerians are said to be poor and 80% of whom are living in rural areas, they pathetically feel dissatisfied with their present living conditions (Badayi, 2002).

The major component of agribusiness that is making significant impact on the level of income of youth is livestock farming. In addition to serving as sources of farm power and manure; livestock serve our daily needs as source of protein during festivities like Christmas or *Sallah*. During such occasions, we witness unprecedented demand for them thereby making their prices to skyrocket (Nugent, 2000; Siegmund-Shultze, and Rischkowsky, 2001; Thys *et al.*, 2005).

Pastoralists make substantial contributions to the economies of developing countries, in terms of supporting their own households and supplying animal protein (meat and milk) to villages and towns but this production is hampered by cattle rustling

(Manu, Andu, Tarla and Agharih, 2014). Conceptually, the term 'cattle rustling' appears to have evolved into a more or less standardized, specialist nomenclature. Hence, the concept is almost universally applied to designate the act of stealing cattle from a grazing herd notwithstanding the motivation or contextual specifics. Some recent studies have, however, used the notion of 'cattle raid' to denote the same reality (Greiner, 2013).

This incidence is commonly seen in northern part of Nigeria, particularly Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Bauchi; though not pronounce as in the case of Katsina, Kaduna and Zamfara states.

With the frequent incidence of cattle rustling in rural areas of Katsina, the social security and economic reasons behind livestock farming is now in shatters. The long existing role of livestock farming on poverty reduction is now under serious threat. The severity of this situation and how it can be tackled both in the short and long term is what this study aimed to address.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Effects of Cattle Rustling

The instantaneous effect of cattle theft is the rapid reduction in livestock investment capital which is attributed to indiscriminate stealing of breeding animals which slowed down the growth of herds (Manu *et al.*, 2014). These acts have led to loss of human lives, stealing of livestock, displacement of populations becoming the order of the day in this affected communities and a disruption to people's livelihoods. The displacement of people has set off a chain-reaction creating pressure on the more secure mountainous areas. Forests have been cut down to provide land to the "landless" displaced from their ancestral homes, in the first place. This has gradually affected soil fertility and climatic conditions in the districts. Cattle rustling could possibly trigger rural – urban migration since the urban centres are perceived to be immune from cattle theft. However, there is deep-rooted literature in economics on the adverse consequences of rural – urban migration. It is well known fact migration from rural to urban slow agricultural productivity, pressure on urban infrastructural facilities, robbery and other related social vices. Even though, rural communities have been victims of state repression since the colonial period to date which triggered negative effects on the social, economic and political developments of the pastoralist communities. Nonetheless, cattle's

rustling has added undesired salt to the wound thereby pushing people to migrate out of their settlements. Moreover, lost herds of livestock in the cattle raiding process led not only decline in cattle per capita but also affected the children's health that depends on milk for growth (Chikuma & Francis, 2014; Sani *et al.*, 2016; Olaniyan, 2016; Sumner, 2016; and Abdullahi *et al.*, 2018).

According to Kaprom (2013), the indiscriminate targeting of non-combatants, especially women and children, seems to be a symptom of the breakdown of the entire social order. The way in which cattle are raided for selfish purposes and the fact that pastoral communities have a lot of attachment to cattle due to their ritualistic and cultural importance affects the entire social fabric.

Empirical studies on cattle rustling

There is a dearth of empirical literature on the impact of cattle rustling on socioeconomic wellbeing of the pastoralists. Interestingly, there was no conflict in the finding reported of the previous studies. The general conclusion was cattle theft has adverse effect on economic prosperity of the affected areas. For instance, Simelane, (2005) investigated the impact of cross-border cattle rustling on socioeconomic activities in rural Southern Swaziland and a negative effect was found on the economic fortunes of homesteads in southern Swaziland. At almost all levels cattle theft has deepened poverty as household economies have had their agricultural production negatively affected. The effects of cattle rustling are on household characteristics on migration decisions and herd size amongst pastoralists in Baringo District in Kenya was (Kaimba, Njehia and Guliye, 2011). The study found that gender and age of the household head were significant determinants of

migration, whereas both also significantly influenced herd size. Moreover, intensity of cattle rustling, and loss of livestock to drought and/or disease also significantly influence the decision to migrate from one place to another.

Effect of cattle rustling on economic development of rural areas in Nairobi, Kenya was similarly investigated by Kaprom (2013). The study revealed that cattle rustling resulted to poverty in the affected rural communities. Agunkoya (2014) studied the socio-economic factors that affect the livestock numbers in rural communities of South Africa. The study shows that cattle theft is the cause of the reduction of livestock numbers. The major defect of the previous studies Kaprom (2013), Agunkoya (2014), was reliant on descriptive statistics in drawing their conclusion. This study improved on previous studies by using the classical inferential statistic to draw inference.

METHODOLOGY

The study Area

Katsina State is located on the high plains of Hausa land of about 733 meters above sea level. The coordinates of the state are Latitude $11^{\circ}30'N - 13^{\circ}15'$ North of the Equator and Longitudes $6^{\circ}52'E - 09^{\circ}20'E$ East of the Green Wich Meridian. The state is bounded to the north by Niger Republic, in the south by Kaduna State, to the west by Zamfara State, while to the east; it is bounded by Kano and Jigawa States (See Fig. 1). The State covers an area of 23,938 km² which is about 2.7 percent of the total land area of Nigeria.

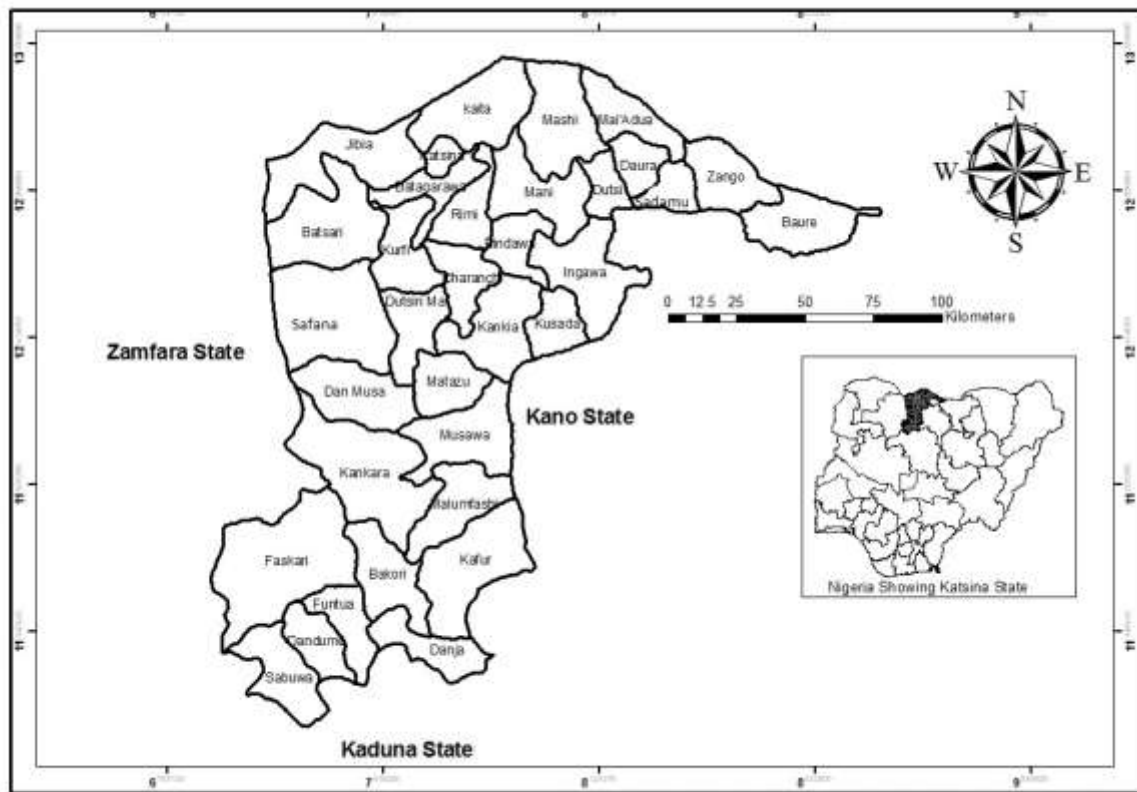


FIGURE 1: ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF KATSINA STATE SHOWING THE LGA'S

Source: Department of Geography A B U Zaria 2012

Sampling procedure

A cross sectional sample procedure was adopted for the study. Firstly, Six Local Government Areas (LGAs) (Batsari, Danmusa, Faskari, Kankara, Sabuwa and Safana) with reported cases of cattle rustling were identified. From each LGA five communities were

purposely selected. In selecting the respondents from the selected communities, simple random sample selection was applied to the group of affected herdsmen in the selected communities. In all, one thousand four hundred and fifty eight respondents were selected from all the selected communities.

Table 1: Sample Frame and Size

SN	LGA	Selected communities	Population	Sampled respondents
1	Batsari	Batsari, Ruma, Katoge, Mahuta, Wagini, Daurawa, Dan-Geza, Dan-Tsuntsu, Garin Dodo, Fura- Kirke.	271,800	318
2	Danmusa	Dandire, Hankibire, Kabuke, Shawaire, Gazarwai, Wurmawa, Sullubawa, Sanwatawa, Mara, Dandire,	148,000	240
3	Faskari	Mairuwa Tafoki, S/layi, Maigora, Daudawa, T/malamai, U/maje, Kadirawa, Ruwan-Godiya, SHEME.	254,200	245
4	Safana	Runka, Tsaskiya, Gora, Runka, Guzurawa Safana, Kwakware.	242,200	252
5	Sabuwa	Damara, U/kadarko, H/tabu, S/unguwa, Marabar Gora, Gamji, Gazari, Inono, U/sarkin. Dawa, Sabuwa	184,000	249
6	Kankara	?Gurbi, Makera, Zango, D/sabau, Mabai, Girbobo, Matsiga.	318,100	184
	Total		1418300	1488

A structured questionnaire was developed as an instrument for data collection on the socio-economic

characteristics of the respondents, causes and effects of cattle rustling as well as the prospects of using

Community Cattle Ranch and Radio Frequency Identification as an alternative way of reducing Cattle Rustling. The questionnaire was piloted in two LGAs (Safana and Dan-Musa) to ensure that the instrument is both reliable and valid. The data collected from the pilot survey necessitated the review of the questionnaire as some questions were proved difficult to understand by the respondents.

Analytical tools

The data obtained from the survey was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency counts, percentage, mean, and standard deviation were computed. Then, t-test was applied in testing the significant difference between variables. The Stata version 12 was used for the statistical analyses. These were aimed to depict the impact of cattle rustling incidences on the socio-economy of the affected communities.

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics

Items:	Frequency	Percent
Gender		
Male	1384	93
Female	104	7
Age		
18 and below	103	7
19 – 45	916	62
46 – 60	377	25
Above 60	85	5.53
No Response	7	0.47
Marital status		
Single	156	10
Married	1269	85
Divorced	27	2
Separated	5	0.33
Widow	17	1
No response	14	0.97
Education		
Primary	170	11
Secondary	249	17
Diploma and equivalent	181	12
Qur'anic education	832	56
No response	56	4
Occupation		
Retail	90	6
Wholesale	237	16
Agriculture	681	46
Civil servant	111	7
Manufacturing	58	4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The presentation of the survey's result is in two fold namely descriptive and inferential results. Table 2 presents the description of the demographic characteristics of the respondents. From the result in the Table, (93%) were males while females constituted only 7%. The result is in conformity with the traditional Hausa culture where females are usually stayed indoors and in most cases their husband or guardian represents them in numerous socioeconomic gathering that involves interaction between males and females. There is limited economic involvement of females in most rural communities. This does not undermine the huge trade and commercial activities which females engages within their house respondents were victims of cattle rustling (see Table 3).

Services	80	5
Others	171	11
No response	60	5
Source of income		
Own business	512	34
Dependent	172	12
Farming	657	44
Salaries	131	9
No response	16	1
Longevity on income source		
Less than a year	85	6
1 – 2 years	53	4
2 – 5 years	225	15
6 – 10 years	422	28
More than 10 years	674	45
No response	29	2
Planning to change business		
Yes	720	48.3
No	713	47.9
No response	55	3.8
Reason for changing business		
No profit	150	10
Insecurity	652	44
No market	72	5
Other reasons	46	3
No response	568	38

Source: Survey, 2015

Similarly, the result in Table 2 shows that overwhelming majority (62%) of the respondents are within 19 – 45 age bracket. Twenty five per cent of the respondent are 46 – 60 age bracket while 6% and 7% consists of respondent in above 60 years and 18years and below respectively. Moreover, the marital status of the respondents reveals that 85% of them are married, 10% of the respondents are single. While the literacy level, the results indicated that

most people in rural areas of Katsina state are having Qur’anic knowledge. The results shows that Primary, Secondary and Graduate schools have their respective share of respondents as 11%, 17% and 12%. Katsina state it seems to be agrarian in nature as farming is the predominant occupation and 44% of respondents reveal that farming is their major source of income.

Table 3: Cattle rustling by socio-characteristic of the respondents

Gender	Affected	Not affected
Male	836	495
Female	67	33
Occupation		
Security agents	52	42
Traditional rulers	90	26
Businessmen	74	82
Farmers	543	266
Politicians	55	14
Civil servants	23	23

Source: Survey, 2015

Comparing the cattle theft by respondent's occupation, surprisingly 82 businessmen have never had their cattle stolen as oppose to 74 businessmen whom were affected by cattle rustling in rural areas of Katsina state, Furthermore, vast majority of respondents (from the FGD conducted) demonstrated willingness to quit their present occupation owing to insecurity in rural areas. This may likely to deepen

employment crisis since unemployment is severe both in urban and rural economy. The issue will be devastated if predominant farmers forms the quantum of transition to other set of jobs. The repercussion of this is decline in agricultural production in the midst of the existing food crisis and thereby enhancing food insecurity in Nigeria.

Table 4: Effect of cattle rustling on socioeconomic factors

Factors	Severe (%)	Moderate (%)	Low (%)	Not affected (%)
Growth	279(31)	324(35)	238(26)	73(5)
Income	312(30)	236(23)	359(35)	117(12)
Employment	222(26)	257(31)	257(31)	105(12)
Assets	279(31)	294(33)	228(26)	87(10)
Population	538(43)	287(23)	331(26)	97(8)
Child education	268(32)	181(21)	254(30)	147(17)
Access to health facilities	198(23)	209(25)	287(34)	154(18)
Market day	194(21)	270(30)	306(34)	141(15)

Source: Survey, 2015

Any unrest in societies may probably fuels not only destruction of properties but has devastating effect of on growth, income, population, child education, etcetera. Table 4 shows that as a result of cattle rustling, the affected communities in Katsina state have their steady growth rate tempo slow down. Thirty five (35%) percent respondents reveal that the growth rate of their communities has been moderately affected by cattle theft, thirty one percent (31%) were of the viewed that cattle rustling is having a severe effect in their community. Income and employment whom where perceived in economics as two sides of the same coins were also adversely hit by cattle rustling. Forty three percent (43%) indicated that population growth rate was severely affected by the cattle rustling while twenty three percent (23%) believed that the effect of cattle theft on population was moderate.

Child education and access to health facilities were factors that determine future development of any society. There is existing growing concern about the poor schools and rural health care delivery in Katsina. Therefore, cattle's rustling has aggravated the sorry states of child education and health delivery and thereby making these sectors seeking for not only urgent attention but also comprehensive restricting, reposition and re-strategizing to effective service delivery. Weekly market seems to be the bedrock of commercial activities in most rural economy. It is not only the market where agricultural produce are traded in large quantities but also path through which inputs and food is often channel to manufacturing enterprises and consumer respectively. It is very clear in Table 4 above, 34% respondents indicated that the impact of cattle rustling on market is low while 30% of the view that cattle theft has a moderate effect on market day in their community.

Table 5: Comparison of pre and post cattle rustling period indices.t

Groups	Obs	Mean	Std. error	Stddev	t-prob.
Number of cattle owned before cattle rustling	1497	49.24	9.24	357.47	0.211
Number of cattle owned during cattle rustling		31.96	10.13	391.13	
Population before cattle rustling		2902.30	606.55	23444.48	0.976
Population During cattle rustling		2939.82	1099.94	4258.55	
Income before cattle rustling		25132.03	9066.819	280778.8	0.058
Income before cattle rustling		8365.06	2831.202	2831.20	

Source: data analysis, 2015

It is evident from result in Table 5 that there is no significance difference in the number of cattled owned ownership of cattle. Cattle have becomes major source inputs to farmers in rural communities of Katsina state and so despite the fear of cattle theft people still owns cattle. Lack of market and decline in cattle prices are also factors attributing insignificant difference in the ownership of cattle rural areas of Katsina state. Similarly, the result reveals insignificant difference in the number of people living in rural community before the advent of cattle rustling with number presently living in the rural community. However, there exist significant differences in income level before and during cattle rustling. In other words, cattle rustling has deepen a poverty traps in rural areas. This finding is consistent with that of Kaprom (2013) which reveal that cattle rustling resulted to income decrease in rural communities of Kenya.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATION

The results of this research indicates that despite cattle rustling which has led to loss of lives and temporary to semi-permanent displacement of people to other safe places, there is no significant reduction of the rural dwellers. If the cattle rustling had persisted, there are tendencies for the whole

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communities to move to the cities searching for safe heaven.

Moreover, a significant difference in the income level of the respondent before and during the cattle rustling was established. As such, cattle rustling could further deepen the vicious cycle of poverty in rural areas of Katsina state.

It is deeply rooted that Nigeria is struggling with multiple security challenges ranging from insurgency, kidnappings, armed robbery and others. The incidence of Boko Haram escalated as a result of ill military intervention which is yet to yield a fruitful result. Applying similar strategy to cattle rustlers may not be interpreted to dovetail in to something more deadly. Much beyond that, public authority should be cautious with military intervention. Some innovative ways of combating cattle theft in form of Community Cattle Ranch and Radio Frequency Identifier should be carefully adopted. In this regard, participatory polices are advocated in other to affected community chance to make input in the design and implementation best possible way to tackle cattle rustling..

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