Influence of Demographic Factors on Urban-Rural Drift and Farmer-Herder Conflict in Katsina State, Nigeria (2016-2021)

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the influence of demographic factors on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021. It is essentially quantitative research that employs environmental resource scarcity theory and adopts survey research method of an ex post facto type to elicit data from respondent-communities using structured questionnaire, unstructured oral interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) as research instruments which were complemented by a theoretical review of extant body of literature. The major findings of the study revealed that demography had influence on farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state during the period under study. It is shown that over half of the population under study was of relatively young and middle age categories, which could be considered active and agile, and also constitutes the labor force of their communities or villages in crop production and cattle herding. The old age category of people constitutes the decision makers or village administrators while by virtue of their age, they advise the youth and the middle age categories of people on certain responsibilities for peaceful co-existence and the overall development of the communities. The dominance of the young people in the study area is also a manifestation of joblessness which had compelled many such active youths to move to the villages where they could easily engage in crop production to feed themselves and their older ones while others generally engaged in cattle rearing to achieve the same aim of survival for themselves and their families, especially given that many of the respondent youths either have low or lack formal educational qualifications. For this paper, an appreciation of the influence of demographic factors on conflict and violence in Nigeria will logically depend on the understanding of the structure of the population that is engaged in conflict system in the country and this requires investigation into the overall demographic characteristics of the communities in conflict in the country in terms of age, gender, marital status, religious influence, educational level of attainment, employment status, occupation and monthly income which are strong economic factors and determinants of farmer-herder conflict as they shape shared assumptions, perceptions and images about what the people in the groups value, their definition of friends or foes and the means which individuals in the groups use to promote or pursue their goals. Incidentally, the paper contains useful information on areas of cattle rustling and banditry activities that partly engendered the nature of farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state and Nigeria at large as it suggests policy implementations for peace and development.

Keywords: Urban Areas, Rural Areas, Urban-Rural Drift, Rural-Urban Drift, Crop Farmers. Cattle Herders, Katsina State, Nigeria.

Introduction

Farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria increased exponentially since 2015 and the scale of the offensives by herders in the country accounted for the ranking of militant herders as the fourth most dangerous terror group in the world, after Boko Haram, Islamic States in Iran and Syria (ISIS) and al-shabaab (Global Terrorism Index, 2015). International Crisis Group (2017) reports that fatalities on clashes between crop farmers and cattle herders in Nigeria reached an annual average of more than 2000 between 2011 and 2016. Similarly, Assessment Capacities Project (2017) reports that about 2,500 persons were killed nationwide in 2016 in various coordinated attacks on farming communities by armed cattle herders. Meanwhile, tens of thousands have been forcibly displaced, with property, crops and livestock worth billions of naira destroyed at great cost to local, state and national economies.

According to Nwangwu and Enyiazu (2019), therefore, crop famers and cattle herders' attacks are very pronounced in about 22 states of the federation drawn mainly from southern Nigeria and the Middle Belt. In 2016 particularly, no fewer than 800 people were killed in Southern Kaduna, and 1, 269 in Benue state, where at least 14 of the 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs), including Agatu LGA, were invaded (Egbejule, 2017). As equally argued by Soriwwei, Adetayo and Egwu (2016), the cattle herders are often found with pump action gun, cartridge dane guns, cartridge ammo, cutlasses, jack knives, sticks, torch lights, certificate of occupancy, assorted charms and hard drugs.

Though the herders argue that they carry weapons to defend themselves and their herds against heavily armed rustlers and other criminal gangs in crop farming communities, International Crisis Group (2017), Nwangwu and Enyiazu (2019) rightly argue that the increasing prevalence of unlicensed weapons has increased the threats to human security in Nigeria. Accordingly, after several killings of crop farmers by nomadic cattle herders at the beginning of 2000s, reprisal attacks and armament of crop farming communities started in Nigeria as, sometimes, herders' cattle were killed as a response to herders' attacks on crop farming communities (Genyi, 2017). The communities experience great hostility against each other such that in the beginning, it was

just a conflict about scarce resources and how to share them; constant attacks, killings, burning villages, rape and so many other factors added more and more tension between nomadic cattle herders and sedentary crop producers (Ofuoku & Isife, 2010). Incidentally, as argued by Genyi (2017), in order to feel more secure and try to create defense mechanisms against each other, the collective identities of the groups (crop farmers and cattle herders) got stronger such that religion, ethnicity and regionalism (demographic factors) started playing a bigger role in the conflict as people needed strong ties to get together and defend their communities against attackers. Thus, in this paper, the major concern is on the influence of demographic factors on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021

Statement of Research Problem

This study examines the influence of demographic factors on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021. The work is largely drawn from the perspectives on demographic attributes of the respondent-communities in Katsina state under study and its influence on the conflict. Thus, the study is based on the following specific research questions:

i. What explain (s) the influence of demography on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021?

ii. What specific demographic factors influenced urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021?

iii. What was the nature of farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021?

Incidentally, the specific objectives of this research paper are to:

i. Examine the influence of demography on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021;

ii. Analyze specific demographic factors that influenced urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021; and

iii. Assess the nature of farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021.

Theoretical Review of Related Literature

Related theories to conflict and its management are reviewed with a view to adopting the most appropriate theory to analyze the influence of demographic factors on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state during the period under study: Marxist' political economy

approach, for example, was developed by Karl Marx (1818-1883) as a critique of the capitalist political economy which represents the highest level of the development of private property and the exploitation of wage labour by capital. The peasants, having been expropriated and dispossessed of their means of production and existence i.e. land prior to the capitalist era and reinforced by capitalism, have been transformed into the *proletariat* (wage labourers) and have no choice than to sell their labour power to the bourgeoisie, who are the owners of the means of production under the capitalist mode of production. In the process, starvation-wages are paid to labour.

Marxist political economy approach, therefore, offers a scientific explanation of nature and society and is consequently a powerful instrument of their transformation as it gives primacy to the material existence and production of the society especially the role of the economy in the study of the society. Marxist political economy is anchored on Marx's writing on *historical* and *dialectical* materialism as well as Marx's theory of value and surplus value (Audu, 2017).

Historical Materialism

Materialism is the opposite of idealism. Idealism is unreal, it raises issues as they ought to be and not how they are in real life. Marx (1975) states that in the social production of their existence, men enter into definite and necessary relations which are independent of their will, namely relations of production corresponding to a determinate stage of development of their material forces of production. The totality of these relations of production constitute the economic structure of society, the real foundation on which there arises a legal and political superstructure which correspond to definite forms of social consciousness. The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life process in general. *It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being but on the contrary, it is their social being that determines their consciousness.* At a certain stage of their development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production or with the property relations within which they have been at work hitherto. These relations turn into fetters then begin an epoch of social revolution. What Karl Marx seeks to explain in this statement is that the general character of any society is determined by its economic structure: That is, by the manner in which goods are produced and shared in a society. Thus, the sharing of available land and water resources among

crop farmers and cattle herders in Nigeria is causal to conflict or clashes between the two groups which hitherto lived in harmony.

Dialectical Materialism

Dialectics means debate and constant motion. Dialectics considers all phenomena as being in the process of perpetual change. It views the development of nature as a continuous struggle between contradictions within nature. The study of dialectics became a science when Karl Marx liberated it from Hegelian idealism. Marxian dialectics argues that contrary to the belief of Hegel and other idealists that consciousness is developed at the level of spirit (mind) i.e. an individual's consciousness is determined by the ideas on his/her mind, Marxian political economy thus gives primacy to the material existence and production of the society, especially the role of economy in the development of one's consciousness.

With the material conception and interpretation of society, it is scientifically argued that the *dialectical nature* of society is the basis of its 'law of motion or development'. In other words, the contradictions in society with key contents such as *transition from quantity to quality, the law of the unity and conflict of opposites* and *the law of negation of the negation,* as inherent in any mode of production are the basis of societal change and development. This explains the history of the movement of human society from communalism to slavery, feudalism, capitalism and socialism/communism.

Implicitly, while dialectical materialism emphasizes the contradictory nature of society as the basis for change and development, historical materialism explains how human society has moved through the various stages or epochs to date. For this paper, therefore, the implication of the foregoing submissions is that the history of traditional nomadic pastoralism and cattle herding in Nigeria needs to change to modern or civilized non-nomadic herding where cattle herders need not to move about before feeding their herds (sedentarization of cattle herds) to avoid constant clashes with sedentary crop farming communities in Nigeria (also see Shaapera, 2025).

Theoretical Framework of Analysis: Environmental Resource Scarcity Theory

This paper employs environmental resource scarcity theory to explain the influence of demographic factors on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state during the

period covered in this research paper. Environmental resource scarcity theory was propounded by Valerie Percival and Thomas Homer-Dixon in 1994. The central argument of the theory holds that environmental resources are critical to the survival of people and nations, both for subsistence and economic mainstay (Percival & Homer-Dixon, 1998). The theory states that environmental resource scarcity is the product of an insufficient supply, too much demand or an unequal distribution of a resource that forces some sector of a society into a condition of deprivation resulting to violent conflict which affect the vulnerable groups (Suhrke, 1996). The relationship between environmental (natural) resources and violent conflict is, thus, as old as human settlement (Baechler, 1998). Access to control of the resources of an environment has been a contentious issue that often generates tensions and violent conflicts within and among nations which often affect vulnerable groups (Homer-Dixon, 1999). The resource issues as they relate to violent conflicts focus on 'hard' resources such as strategic minerals, to the neglect of 'soft' resources such as water, food, and land. Violent confrontations associated with environmental scarcity are not likely to enhance some desirable forms of cooperation (Gleditsch, 2001).

Accordingly, there are three types of environmental scarcity: (i) supply-induced scarcity, which is caused by the degradation and depletion of an environmental resource; for example, the erosion of cropland. (ii) Demand-induced scarcity which results from population growth within a region or increased per capita consumption of resource, which increases the demand for the resource. (iii) Structural scarcity, which arises from an unequal social distribution of resource that concentrates in the hands of relatively few people while the remaining population suffers from serious shortages resulting to violent conflict that affects the vulnerable groups (Percival and Homer-Dixon, 1998). These three types of scarcity often occur simultaneously and interact. Two patterns of interaction are common, namely, resource capture and ecological marginalization. Resource capture occurs when increased consumption of a resource combines with its degradation which occurs when powerful groups within society anticipating future shortages shift resource distribution in their favour, subjecting the remaining population to scarcity (Percival, et. al, 1998). Ecological marginalization on the other hand occurs when increased consumption of resource combines with structural inequalities in distribution causing denied access to enough of the resource and making weaker groups to migrate to ecologically fragile regions that subsequently become degraded (Homer-Dixon, 1994).

The types of scarcity and their interactions produce several common social effects, including lower agricultural production, economic decline, migrations from zones of environmental scarcity, and weakened institutions. Nevertheless, when elements of environmental scarcity are manipulated without being properly managed by social and economic settings, they are easily and cheaply hijacked for political agenda thereby causing violent conflict that often affects the vulnerable. These social effects cause objective socio-economic deprivation and, in turn, raise the level of violent conflict between or among groups in the affected population (Homer-Dixon and Blitt, 1998).

Environmental resource scarcity theory proves relevant for this study on the causes of violent conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in the study area as the major assumptions of the theory are relevant to explain the shrinking of environmental resources in the study area as the major cause of violent conflict between the two groups under study.

Materials and Methods of the Study

The research design adopted for this study is the expost-facto design which is justified by its ability to capture the respondents affected by the conflict in the area under study. The research took measurement once from the respondents in Katsina state as a representative sample of the population of the State. Thus, questionnaires, face-to-face interviews of some Key Informants, Focus Group Discussions and collection of official documents formed part of the design to collect data for this study.

The instruments of data collection for this study were:

i. The use of structured or close-ended questionnaire

ii. The use of Key Informants Interviews

iii. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

For the Key Informants Interviews, this study contacted twenty-five (25) key informants considered to be designated officials at the state, local government and community levels in Katsina to augment the responses from the questionnaire. Consequently, so many respondent interviewees including Sarki, Maiangwa, Yandakans and District heads, Ward heads, Government representatives, community leaders, leaders of crop producers' organization, cattle herders' organizations in Katsina state, police officials, vigilante groups and others were purposively

sampled from each Senatorial District of Katsina state for this study. The reason is that they were in the picture of the reality on ground regarding the nature of conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in the State and were capable of forming their opinions. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with two (2) different groups of Cattle herders' Association and Crop farmers' Association in Katsina state.

Data generated through the focus group discussions were transcribed and literally analyzed or interpreted to complement the data sourced from oral interviews and the questionnaire sources. Thus, text books, academic journals, conference proceedings, seminars/workshop papers, newspapers, magazines, official publications of local governments in Katsina state, the Katsina state government and those of the Federal or local governments in Nigeria were used to obtain the relevant data for this research.

The research employed Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 21) and Excel applications to employ both quantitative and qualitative descriptive analysis methods to summarize the result of the study as the mode of presentation is thematic in nature and relevant issues are systematically considered under selected themes and sub-themes designed to address declared objectives of the study such that inferences or generalizations are made in order to address the research questions earlier raised for logical conclusion and recommendations in this paper.

Results and Discussions

In this section, efforts are made to analyze results and discussions on the influence of demography on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state between 2016 and 2021 relying largely on the demographic attributes of the respondent-communities in the area. Thus, the tables that follow are drawn in line with the research questions and hence the declared objectives of the paper:

The influence of demography on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021

Table 1: Age, Gender, Marital Status and Religion of Respondent-Communities and Influence on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021

1.Age Distribution	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
No response	8	0.5	0.5	0.5
18 – 25 years	428	28.5	28.5	29.0
25 – 30 years	531	35.5	35.5	64.5
30 – 35 years	315	21.0	21.0	85.5
35 – 45 years	135	9.0	9.0	94.5
45years above	83	5.5	5.5	100.0
Total	1500	100.0	100.0	
2.Gender status				
Male	1200	80.0	80.0	80.0
Female	300	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	1500	100.0	100.0	
3.Marital Status				
Married	577	38.5	38.5	38.5
Single	195	13.0	13.0	51.5
Divorced	443	29.5	29.5	81.0
Engaged	60	4.0	4.0	85.0
Widowed	225	15.0	15.0	100.0
Total	1500	100.0	100.0	
4.Religion				
Islam	1387	92.5	92.5	92.5

Christianity	82	5.5	5.5	98.0
Traditional	15	1.0	1.0	99.0
Others	08	0.5	0.5	99.5
Pagan	08	0.5	0.5	100.0
Total	**1500**	**100**	**100**	

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The age distribution of the respondents to this study was between 18 years and 45 years and above. Five categories of people were identified, comprising of the **y**oung age of between 18 – 25 years and between 25 – 30 years; middle age categories of 30 – 35 years and 35 - 45 years; and the old age category of 45 years and above. Table 1 shows that majority of the rural people in the study area belongs to the young age categories. About 33.5% of the respondents belonged to the young age category of between 25 – 30 years while 28.5% belongs to the young age category of between 18 – 25 years. The middle age categories account for 21.0% and 9.0% respectively. Only 5.5% of the studied population represents the old age category of 45 years and above. These figures show that over half of the population under study was of relatively young and middle age categories, which could be considered active and agile, and also constitutes the labor force of their communities or villages in crop farming and cattle herding or rearing of animals. The old age category of people in Katsina state, particularly in the localities under study, constitutes the decision makers or village administrators while by virtue of their age positions and experience of life, they advise the youth and the middle age categories of people on certain responsibilities for peaceful co-existence and the overall development of the communities. The dominance of the young people in the study area is also a manifestation of joblessness which has compelled many such active youths to remain in the villages where they could easily engage in crop production to feed themselves and their older ones while others generally engaged in animal/cattle rearing to achieve the same aim of survival for themselves and their families, especially given that many of the respondent youths either have low or lack formal educational qualifications.

Implicitly, the high cost of living in the urban areas where many active youths, most of whom either are not qualified for gainful employment in urban areas or are qualified but unemployed,

has contributed to their dominance in the villages which consequently makes for their engagement in and preference to crop production and animal rearing/cattle herdng. The result also shows that there is rather urban-rural drift in search of cheap food and easy access to housing facilities as many young men and woman who attempted to leave their villages for urban areas in search of better living conditions had essentially found it difficult to stay even in the urban areas without meaningful jobs to earn them a living. The implication of the foregoing interpretation to this study is that there is readily available workforce or labor power for crop production and cattle herding in the localities of Katsina comprising of the youth and the middle age categories of people under study.

In terms of gender status of the respondents to the questionnaire, table 1 shows that greatest percentage of the studied population constitutes the male gender which is 80.0% while 20.0% respondents are females. This means that even though the research team was gender sensitive, given the pivotal roles played by both males and females in crop production whereby most men have their wives to help them on their farms for the subsistence and sustenance of their families in the face of the socio-economic hardships experienced in the rural areas, access to the female gender was relatively difficult because of the culture and tradition of the people of Katsina state. Yet, many respondents in an interview with the research team observed that though women, both young and grown-up, play important roles in the survival of the family households, like their men counterparts, the culture and tradition of the people in Katsina under study does not allow the women-folk freedom to do all things publicly nor does it permit easy access to the women-folk in the localities under study. Incidentally, findings from the questionnaires retrieved on the basis of gender indicated that only 20% (300 copies) were retrieved from the females while 80% (1200 copies) were retrieved from the males. Thus, the gender disparity was very high due to the culture and tradition of the people in Katsina state but the available figures did not alter the initial intension to gender fairness and equality in this study. It is equally clear that the impact of the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders on the study area is felt by the target groups of respondents as both genders constitute the vulnerable groups.

More so, the marital status of respondents, as shown in table 1, indicates that due to the centrality of the roles played by both husbands and their wives for the survival of family households via crop production and rearing of animals for the males, majority of the respondents in the study area

(38.5%) was married. According to most of them who responded to the oral interviews, they married to have partners who would help them on their farms and some petit businesses to be able to sustain their families. On the other hand, 13.0 % of the studied population were single. The percentage of respondents who are single is few because, as found, many families marry early for their children as many others give out their daughters in early marriages. Some men have more than one or two wives. Generally, it was also found that many families separate in Katsina state, as about 29.5% of the respondent population under study was divorced. Most marriages were said to be based initially on arrangement where parents could give their sons and daughters into marriages for reasons, they had rather than the love for each other. However, many couples who married each other based on arrangement or convenience break up easily.

Table 1 also indicates that only 5.5 % of the studied population was of Christian religion which indicates the minority of Christians in the area. Muslims constitute over 92.5% and majority of the population in the areas under study. About 1.0% of the respondents preferred to be called traditionalists to neither Christians nor Muslims. Others (0.5%) indicated as pagans and other unnamed religions respectively. The presence of these religions in Katsina state in the midst of conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in the area signifies that conflict is inevitable in any society and has no geographical boundary. It does not respect religion nor tradition but cuts across all facets of social life.

Other Specific Demographic Factors that influenced Urban-Rural Drift and Farmer-Herder Conflict in Katsina State, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021

The next segment of the paper equally looks at other demographic factors that influenced urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria during the period covered in this paper.

Table 2: Educational Level, Qualification, Employment, Occupation and Monthly Income of Respondent-Communities and influence on urban-rural drift and farmer-herder conflict in Katsina state, Nigeria between 2016 and 2021

5.Educational level	Frequency	Percent (%)	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
No Formal Schooling	150	10	10	10
Primary School	547	36.5	36.5	46.5
Secondary school	593	39.5	39.5	86.0
Polytechnic/COE	143	9.5	9.5	95.5
University	67	4.5	4.5	100.0
Total	1500	100.0	100.0	
6. Qualification				
No Response	150	10	10	10
First School living cert.	547	36.5	36.5	46.5
SSCE	593	39.5	39.5	86.0
Diploma or NCE	143	9.5	9.5	95.5
B.Sc/B.A/B. Ed	45	3.0	3.0	98.5
M.Sc/M.A/M. Ed	22	1.5	1.5	100.0
Total	1500	100.0	100.0	
7. Employment				

No Response	90	6.0	6.0	6.0
Employed	195	13.0	13.0	19.0
Unemployed	1215	81.0	81.0	100.0
Total	1500	100.0	100.0	
8. Occupation				
No Response	53	3.5	3.5	3.5
Civil Servant	120	8.0	8.0	11.5
Crop Producer	488	32.5	32.5	44.0
Student	240	16.0	16.0	60.0
Pastoralist/Rearing of Animals	375	25	25	85.0
Crop Producer/ Pastoralist/Rearing of Animals Total	225 1500	15.0 100.0	15.0 100.0	100.0
9. Monthly Income				
No Response	23	1.5	1.5	1.5
N10, 000 to N19, 999	225	15.0	15.0	16.5
N20,000 to N29,999	187	12.5	12.5	29.0
N30,000 to N39,999	308	20.5	20.5	49.5
N40,000 and above	487	32.5	32.5	82.0

Not Certain	270	18.0	18.0	100.0
Total	**1500**	**100**	**100**	

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

It could be observed, as indicated on table 2, that majority of the respondents in the studied area were either having secondary education (39.5%) or primary school certificate of education (36.5%). The respondents that indicated having tertiary education equally showed that their qualifications in such educational attainment are Diploma and NCE. Those who attended Polytechnics account up to 15.0% of the studied population while those having other related levels like Colleges of Education and of Agriculture constitute 16.0 of the population under study. Only 2.0% was of Primary School Level.

Accordingly, majority of the respondents in the studied area had secondary school qualification, being 39.5% as 36.5% had primary school certificates. Meanwhile, those with Diploma or NCE constitute just 9.5%. Only 4.5% had University education. About 10.0% could not attain formal education. Thus, the educational qualification of the respondents to this study indicates that over 39.5% and 36.5% of the respondents to this study had SSCE and first school leaving certificates as qualifications respectively. The implication of the above figures to our analysis in this work is that greater percentage of the studied population in Katsina state was not adequately educated and qualified for certain employments to enable them have what to earn their living than engage in crop farming and cattle herding activities. Therefore, available figures indicate that there is high level of unemployment which accounts for over 81.0% of the studied population in Katsina state. Only about 13.0 % of the studied population is employed as others (6.0%) had no response regarding their employment status. The higher percentage (81.0%) of unemployment in the studied communities of Katsina state simply indicates an equally higher percentage of poor living standard among the majority of Katsina people. The occupational distribution of respondents also indicates that over 32.5%, being the majority of the total respondents, was involved in crop farming while about 25.5% preferred to engage in cattle herdig activities. About 8.0% of the studied population was of civil servants while 16.0% was of students by occupation.

The monthly income distribution of the respondents to this study was between a minimum of N10, 000 to N19, 999 (15.0%) and a maximum of **N**40,000 and above (32.5%). Majority of the rural people in the study area belongs to the category of those who earn between **N**40, 000 and above (32.5%) while 20.5% earned N30,000 to N39,999 as others (18.0 %) are not certain of their monthly income.

The Nature of Conflict between Crop Farmers and Cattle Herders in Katsina State, Nigeria: A Nexus with the demographic attributes of the respondent-communities in the study area

This section presents and analyzes data on the nature of conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina State, Nigeria and links the conflict with the demographic attributes of the respondent-communities in the study area. Katsina state is among the States in Nigeria that experienced conflict involving crop farmers and cattle herders but were hardly reported in existing literature, more so because stake-holders played significant roles in the management of existing conflict. On November 25, 2016, for instance, a reprisal attack was launched on Dungun Mu'azu community in Sabuwa LGA of Katsina state by armed pastoralists who felt aggrieved over their stolen and rustled cattle in the area. The attack was meted on innocent crop producers in the area as eight (8) people were massacred, seven (7) men and one (1) woman. The research team confirmed the incidence in an interview with traditional rulers and residents of Dungun Mu'azu community in Sabuwa LGA of Katsina state with assurances that efforts were made by stake-holders to prevent a repeat of the ugly incidence in the area (Oli, et al, 2018).

In Sabon Gida Quarters, Katsina town, precisely on October 20, 2020, pastoralists suspected to be bandits attacked and broke into the home of a woman herbalist. Similar attack on November 5, 2020 was meted on a residential area behind Katsina open air theatre in Katsina state. On January 5, 2021, bandits invaded the house of a pastoralist and rustled away some of the man's cattle in Chechenya village, behind Federal Teaching hospital, Katsina state (Ladan & Danjuma, 2023). Similarly, on July 20 and 21, 2021, bandits suspected to be armed pastoralists carried out attacks on Bambami village, close to Katsina metropolitan city where they kidnapped 13 persons and stole 8 motorcycles.

In short, Ladan and Danjuma (2023) provides incidences of periodic incursions by bandits into Katsina metropolitan from 2020 to 2023 and even though our study is not on banditry in Katsina state, there is useful information on areas of cattle rustling and banditry activities that partly

engendered conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in Katsina state and Nigeria at large. For instance, bandits secretly invaded a cattle rearing yard in Shagari Low Cost Housing Estate in Katsina state and rustled all the cattle in the yard on the 9th of April, 2023 but some of the cattle were recovered a day later by the Police as part of the roles played as stake-holders in the management of conflict in the area (2023, p.17). The foregoing argument partly shows that certainly, conflict existed between crop producers and cattle herders in Katsina state during the period under study.

Table 3: The Nature of Conflict between Crop Producers and Pastoralists in Katsina State

S/N	The Nature of Conflict between Crop Producers and Pastoralists in Katsina State	Rating					TWV	NCI
		1	2	3	4	5		
1.	Quarrel over stray Cattle	131	75	319	525	450	5,588	3.7
2.	Abandoning of manure contracts and involvement in direct competition for grazing land by cattle herders	95	200	143	536	526	5,698	3.8
3.	Quarrel over: missing cattle and rustled cattle; land encroachment by cattle herders; defecation of cattle on access reads to farmlands, etc.	148	159	363	400	430	6, 505	4.3
4.	All of the above	98	75	94	648	585	6, 047	4.0
5.	None of the above	476	450	308	153	113	3, 477	2.3
	ANCI = $\frac{\sum ANCI}{5}$	ANCI = $\frac{18.1}{5}$ = 3. 6						

S/N	Causal Factors to the Nature of Conflict between Crop Producers and Pastoralists in Katsina State	Rating					TWV	CFI
		1	2	3	4	5		
1.	Crops damage by Cattle; insufficient public water points in the area;	113	75	281	543	488	5, 718	3.8
2.	Cattle rustling and rural banditry; land encroachment by cattle herders; defecation of cattle on access reads to farmlands.	75	113	94	588	630	6, 085	4.1
3.	Scarcity of grasses and fodder in the grazing areas; Blocking of access to pasture and available water by crop producers	109	83	225	552	531	5,813	3.9
4.	All of the above	113	124	257	488	518	5,674	3.8
5.	None of the above	381	344	372	175	228	4, 025	2.7
	ACFI = $\frac{\sum CFI}{5}$	ACFI = $\frac{18.3}{5}$ = 3.7						
S/N	Other Causal Factors to the Nature of Conflict between Crop Producers and Pastoralists in Katsina State	Rating					TWV	OCFI
		1	2	3	4	5		

1.	Fight over access to water points by pastoralists and crop producers	113	150	263	430	544	5, 642	3.8
2.	. Killing of stray animals by people suspected to be crop producers	158	113	105	589	535	5, 730	3.8
3.	Inadequate grazing areas and Land encroachment by cattle herders	146	156	214	506	478	5, 514	3.7
4.	All of the above	75	135	150	566	574	5, 929	4.0
4.	All of the above	75	135	150	566	574	5, 929	4.0
5.	None of the above	488	480	233	160	139	3, 482	2.3
	AOCFI = $\frac{\sum OCFI}{5}$	AOCFI = $\frac{17.6}{5}$ = 3. 5						

Source: Field Survey, 2022

As shown on table 3, the respondents to this study were asked to express their opinions on the things that constitute the nature of conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state. The Likert Scale of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree were employed with the weight value of 5,4,3,2, and 1 assigned accordingly. The Average Nature of Conflict Index (ANCI) is found to be 3.6 while the opinions of the respondents on the nature of the conflict in Katsina state indicate quarrel over missing cattle and rustled cattle; land encroachment by cattle herders; defecation of cattle on access roads to farmlands (NCI=4.3); abandoning of manure contracts and involvement in direct competition for grazing land by cattle herders (NCI=3.8), quarrel over stray cattle (NCI=3.7) as the major factors that constitute the nature of conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in Katsina state. The opinions of the respondents thus show that all the above indices explain the nature of conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in the State (NCI=4.0).

As further shown on table 3, efforts were equally made to get the respondents' opinions on factors that explain the nature of the conflict in Katsina state. Likert scale of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree were employed. The Average Causal Factors Index (ACFI) is found to be 3.7 while the opinions of the respondents on the factors that explain the nature of the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state indicate cattle rustling and rural banditry; land encroachment by cattle herders; defecation of cattle on access reads to farmlands (CFI = 4.1); scarcity of grasses and fodder in the grazing areas; blocking of access to pasture and available water by crop producers (CFI = 3.9) and.crops damage by cattle; insufficient public water points in the area (CFI = 3.8). The result further shows, therefore, that all of the afore-mentioned factors put together explain (CFI = 3.8) and have major influence on the nature of conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in Katsina state.

Table 3 also shows responses on other factors that explain the nature of the conflict in Katsina state. Similarly, likert scale of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree were employed. The Average Other Causal Factors Index (AOCFI = 3.5) and the opinions of the respondents on other factors that explain the nature of the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state indicate fight over access to water points by pastoralists and crop producers (OCFI = 3.8), killing of stray animals by people suspected to be crop producers (OCFI = 3.8), inadequate grazing areas and land encroachment by cattle herders (OCFI = 3.7). Implicitly, all of the afore-mentioned factors put together explain and have major other causative factors indices (OCFI = 4.0) on the nature of conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in Katsina state.

Table 4: Further Explanations to the Nature of Conflict between Crop Producers and Pastoralists in Katsina State

S/N	Further Explanations to the Nature of Conflict between Crop Producers and Pastoralists in Katsina State	Rating					TWV	FENCI
		1	2	3	4	5		
1.	Cattle Rustling	225	244	131	413	487	5, 194	3.5

2.	. Armed banditry	263	158	143	514	424	5, 184	3.5
3.	Perceived hatred for each other	146	158	364	431	401	5, 283	3.5
4.	All of the above	263	300	135	416	386	4, 862	3.2
5.	None of the above	450	443	308	138	161	3, 617	2.4
	AFENCI = $\frac{\sum FENCI}{5}$	AFENCI = $\frac{16.1}{5}$ = 3.2						

Source: Field Survey, 2022

As shown on table 4, the paper sought further explanations to the nature of the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state. The Average Further Explanations to the Nature of Conflict Index (AFENCI = 3.2) and the opinions of the respondents on further explanations to the nature of the conflict in Katsina state indicate cattle rustling (FENCI = 3.5), armed banditry (FENCI = 3.5), and perceived hatred for each other (FENCI = 3.5). Implicitly, all of the factors relating to further explanations to the nature of conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in Katsina state (FENCI = 3.2) include cattle rustling, armed banditry and perceived hatred for each other.

The implication of the foregoing analysis is that quarrel over missing cattle and rustled cattle; land encroachment by cattle herders; defecation of cattle on access reads to farmlands; abandoning of manure contracts and involvement in direct competition for grazing land by cattle herders, quarrel over stray cattle and others were the major constituents of the nature of conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state. Among the factors that explain the nature of the conflict indicate cattle rustling and rural banditry; land encroachment by cattle herders; defecation of cattle on access roads to farmlands; scarcity of grasses and fodder in the grazing areas; blocking of access to pasture and available water by crop producers and crops damage by cattle as well as insufficient public water points in the area.

Other factors that explain the nature of conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state indicate fight over access to water points by herders and crop producers, killing of stray

animals by people suspected to be crop producers, inadequate grazing areas and land encroachment by cattle herders. Meanwhile, the opinions of the respondents on further explanations to the nature of conflict between crop producers and pastoralists in Katsina state indicate cattle rustling, armed banditry and perceived hatred for each other.

Implicitly, therefore, the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in Katsina state share some similarities with those in other States like Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba but there are also unique aspects with the conflict in Katsina state. In terms of the similarities, there is common competition for land and resources; there are clashes between crop farmers and cattle herders over grazing rights and crop damage; there are ethnic tensions in all the States affected by the conflict. However, what is found to be unique about the nature of the conflict in Katsina state is in such specific areas as follows: One, Katsina state is predominantly a Muslim State which affects the dynamics of the conflict and the responses to it by the parties in conflict. Secondly, the State has a relatively high proportion of sedentary herders who are more integrated into the local community with a strong tradition of crop farming and herding, making the conflict more nuanced and complex than in other States. More so, Katsina state has a large population of Fulani herders who are natives to the State with a long history of peaceful coexistence with crop farmers, making the conflict a departure from the norm.

Another thing that is found to be unique about the nature of the conflict in Katsina state is in the area of economic significance: Livestock production is a significant economic activity in Katsina state and this makes the conflict in the area a major economic concern. Finally, it is found, too, that geographical location of Katsina state also makes the conflict in the area unique with other States because Katsina state is a predominantly flat State with vast grazing land, making it a hub for herders. Its proximity to the Niger Republic and other neighboring countries also makes it a transit point for herders and hence the uniqueness of the conflict in Katsina state with other States affected by similar conflict.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Conflict, which is inevitable in any social setting, emerges through an interaction of people as they perceive, interpret, express and respond to social and economic realities around them. For this paper, an appreciation of the influence of demographic factors on conflict and violence in Nigeria will logically depend on the understanding of the structure of the population that is engaged in

conflict system in the country and this requires investigation into the overall demographic characteristics of the communities in conflict in the country in terms of age, gender, marital status, religious influence, educational level of attainment, employment status, occupation and monthly income which are strong economic factors and determinants of farmer-herder conflict as they shape shared assumptions, perceptions and images about what the people in the groups value, their definition of friends or foes and the means which individuals in the groups use to promote or pursue their goals. Thus, effective management of existing conflict in Katsina state and other affected communities in Nigeria is key for peace and development in the country. The study recommends as follows:

(i) There is need to create RUGA Settlements in the study area. This will be appropriate in the management of the conflict between crop producers and cattle herders in the State and beyond.

(ii) Educational training of the youth in the communities for more awareness on modern crop farming and cattle herding practices devoid of conflict is hereby recommended.

(iii) Prohibition of the use or possession of arms by cattle herders will go a long way in managing the conflict between crop farmers and cattle herders in not only Katsina state but Nigeria at large.

(iv) Formation of Community Vigilante Forces to check the excesses of cattle herders and crop farmers in the States affected by the conflict is hereby recommended. This should be complemented by establishment of dispute resolution committees across the States to settle the conflict.

(v) There should be provision of financial support (Economic Wherewithal) to both crop producers' and cattle herders' cooperative societies by both States and Federal Governments in Nigeria to curtail or manage the prevailing conflict. Between the groups.

(vi) Sinking of boreholes and additional water supply points across the communities in Katsina state and other parts of Nigeria affected by the conflict to avoid or manage existing conflict over water supply points is also recommended.

(vii) Cattle herders need not to move about before feeding their herds (sedentarization of cattle herds) to avoid constant clashes with sedentary crop producers across communities in Nigeria. Thus, establishment of cattle ranches is highly recommendable

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