The Influence of Socio Cultural Factors of Herder/Farmer C0nflicts in Benue State.

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ABSTRACT: Conflict is perceived globally as something abnormal, dysfunctional and therefore detestable due to the fare reaching consequences. The effects on individuals and communities are usually horrible when one looks at the number of lives and amount of property lost and social segregation that may develop among individual/interest groups. Nigeria has had a plethora of ethnic, religious communal and environmental-induced conflicts. The Herder/Farmer conflict is one of such. The study will examine this conflict, focusing on the economic, social and political dimensions. A multi-state cluster sampling willbe adopted in selecting 1000respondents which will be used as the sample size for the study in looking at the factors that influence Herder/Farmer conflict in Guma, Kwande, Gwer-West Oju,and Agatu LGAs of Benue State. The study willhave adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Two instruments will be used, questionnaire and In-depth interview (IDI) guide. The conflict has been described as the most violent in Benue State since the Nigeria civil war. Conflict has been about land, tradition as well as native.The test for hypothesis one will attempt to find out if there is association between level of education and involvement in social conflicts. For hypothesis two, we will attempt to find out if there is no association between male or female involvement in social conflict. The study will examine the conflict, focusing on the prevalence of conflict on the economic, social and political dimensions. The consequences of the conflict will also be examined.
Notwithstanding the circumstance of the crises, there is a need to transform the socio-spatial and economic structure of the areas to achieve decent living condition. In this state of insecurity and lack of trust, no meaningful development programme can succeed. The conflict in the areas, due to its persistence and recurrent natures, has continuously led to damaging of lives and property and decrease in people's economic activities which call for in depth study of the problem.
KEYWORDS: Herder/Farmer, Persistent, Prevalence.

I. INTRODUCTION

Conflict has been a reality of human existence since pre-historic times, due to struggles between various factions of the society to satisfy their interest and needs. According to Alemika(1992) conflict is a product of antagonistic interest between two or more opposing forces or groups within the society. The average increase of global war is predominantlyin developing nations among which Nigeria is one Aliyu, (2004)

Thomas (2015) conducted a study on political parties, identities and violentconflict in Nigeria. The author argued that violent

Conflicts in Nigeria and the rest of Africa have produced a divergent set of analytical explanation. The study reflects on the complex nature of politics in Nigeria and explores the linkage between party politics, the politicization, manipulation and mobilization of identities and violentconflict in Nigeria.

The most significant cause of communal violence in Nigeria is the entrenched divisions throughout the country between people considered indigenous to an area and those regarded as settlers .It has also been noted that in Nigeria, a person's status as indigene or settler has an impact on his/her access to public services and opportunities. Even though settlers may have lived in an area for hundreds of years, they are consistently discriminated against in terms of land ownership, control of commerce, political opportunities jobs and education.Only an individual whose ethnic group or ancestor originates from an area is considered an indigene. A settler might be born where he/she lives but because his/her ethnic group or ancestors does not originate from that particular area, that person will always be considered settler.(Moti2010)

Research Hypotheses
1. Herder/Farmer people who are educated are perceived to be involved in social conflicts more than their counterparts who are not educated.
2. Males are perceived to be significantly associated with social conflicts more than females in Benue State.

3. Moslems are likely to participate in social conflicts more than Christians

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM/JUSTIFICATION

According to Olabode and Ajibade (2010) the most important object among the Fulani society is cattle. The quantity of cattle a person owns is a sign of his wealth. This has led to significant conflicts in most cases among the Herders and farmer's.Such conflicts have arising from farm encroachment on cattle routes and sometimes watering points .From their findings the issue rests on the fact that the cows, many times, stray into the fields and eat the grains of Herder farmers. Clashes between Herder and Farmers communities linked to disputes over grazing land, have become frequent in parts of northern Nigeria and Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States in particular in recent years. Some analyst have blamed the trend on increasing desertification which is pushing the Fulani in their search for greener posture, often putting them in conflict with Tiv farmers. For example, Sam-Tsokwa (1998) observed that where there are competing uses of resources, some amount of conflict could emerge. Madu and Ibrahim (2013) conducted a study on ethno-religious conflict in Taraba State and they noted that the resulting rise in communal conflict can be attributed to various factors, including: ethnic rivalry, religious violence, land conflicts, conflicts related to demarcation of administrative boundaries and political elections. While some conflicts may appear to be caused by a single factor, such as religion or ethnicity, the reality is usually more complex. Tensions caused by other factors, such as pressure on land or unequal access to social services, have added a dynamic dimension to violent conflict in Nigeria.

The history of ethnic violence in Nigeria illustrates the basis of both the emergence of ethnicity and its growth. Leonard Plotnicov reports that, in 1932, an ethnic riot nearly erupted in Jos. The town owed its existence to the tin-mining industry which was established in 1910 in its immediate surroundings. In fact, prior to the Second World War, jobs in the town were only available in the mines, government, and related activities. Yoruba and Hausa traders dominated petty trading. The Igbo came during the war.

Objectives of the Study
The general aim of this study is to examine the Infiuence socio-cultural factors that influence Herder/Farmer conflicts in Benue state. This aim will be pursued through the following specific objectives:
1. To investigate the causes/nature of social conflicts in Benue State.
2. To ascertain the extent of social conflicts in Benue State.
3. To determine the consequences of these social conflicts on the economic and social development of Benue State.
4. To identify how religious beliefs and educational attainment influence social conflicts in Benue State.
5. To determine the possible solutions to these social conflicts in Benue State.

Research Questions
1. What are the nature and causes of social conflicts in Benue State?
2. How does the occupation of the Herder/Farmer people influence social conflicts in Benue State?
3. What are the consequences of these conflicts on the economic & social development of Benue State?
4. How does religious beliefs and educational attainment influence social conflicts in Benue State?
5. What are the possible solutions to these persistent conflicts?

Significance of the Study
This study has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the study will add to the body of existing knowledge on conflicts generally and conflicts in Benue State in particular. It will be a source of resource material for future researchers in this area.
The findings of the study will be useful to policy makers, other agencies, stakeholders on communal conflicts resolution and management and organisations that are concerned with conflict in Nigeria and Benue state in particular and beyond. The study will further show how improved peaceful co-existence will hasten the pace of economic activities in the area.

Scope of the study
The scope of the research study is limited to five local governments which include; Gwer west, Guma, Kwande, Oju, and Agatu all in Benue State, Nigeria.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW
The review of literature will be done under the following headings: concept of conflict, causes of conflict, studies done in Nigeria and other countries, review of relevant theories and research hypotheses. Review of related studies in Nigeria, Review of related studies in other countries and Review of Relevant Theories.

Review of Relevant Theories
Theories will be reviewed, they include;
The theory of relative Deprivation.
The frustration Aggression theory.

Theoretical Literature
The Concept of Conflict

Oyeshola (2014) posit that conflict is disagreement, dispute or controversy in idea or view point held by two or more individuals, communities or religious groups. Olawale (2014) postulated that the conflict is the struggle over values and claims to scarce resources , status and power in which the aim of the opponents are neutralize or eliminate their rivals.it has been describe as the existence of non-compatibility or disagreement between two actors.

Conflict arise from the pursuit of divergent interest, goals and aspiration by individuals and at/or groups in define social and physical environment. Changes in the social environment, such as contestable access to new political position, or preparation of new resource arising from new development from new environment, are fertile ground for conflict involving individual group who are interested in these new resource to achieve their goals. Otite and Albert (2001) argue that conflict is perceive in most part of the world, including Nigeria, as something abnormal, dysfunctional and therefore detestable. Yet conflict is part of life and could be precursor or positive change. The big deal about conflict in the society is extent to which it is managed so that violence dose not threaten it continued existence. The term conflict poses some difficulty in defining due to itscentrality and effect on man and his activities. So many scholars have despite the difficulties, attempt defining the concept based on their academic background, interest or biases. To understand conflict and the prospect for it resolution toward sustainable development, it is necessary to have a working definition revealed by many two or more mutually antagonistic impulse or motives. It was further descried by Wilson and Hanna (1979) as struggle involving opposing ideas, values, and / or limited resource.

Causes of conflict

The herder/farmer conflict situation in Taraba state has been investigated by scholars and analyst from a variety of analytical prisms. An exegesis of some these contribution is germane in other to situate the subject matter on the sound analytical frame. In his account, Ayih (2003) Maintains that the conflict to what he calls 'population explosion; which he attributed to high birth rate and migration. According to him, people tent to move from northern and southern Nigeria into the middle belt region where population is relatively low and where there is availability of vast arable land. The consequent rapid growth in population has caused the farmland which is becoming scarce by the day. With this development, grazing areas that were hitherto abundant are being taken over by scattered small farms, making grazing in these areas difficult. Ayih's contribution is plausible in many respects. For instance, it captured properly the fundamental precipitates the herder/farmer conflict. This position agrees with the prevailing thinking on the resources conflict literature (Onuoha, 2007&adogi, 2013).

According to hagher (2002) the Tiv and Fulani tribes have been at war and like the Israelis and the Palestinians, the live with each other, depend on each other and yet, fight each other. Benue state is often referred to as Tiv state, and Taraba state for Fulani, Jukun, Mumuye, Wurkum, Jonjo, Kona among others. Political polarization has gradually turned into physical segregation too. Tiv violence has intensified in Taraba, an increasing number of Tiv have fled into Benue. The tiv have complained of persecutionin Taraba and talk and deliberative campaign of ethnic cleansing primary by the Fulani and the government authorities. The complained that the Fulani have the political advantage in Taraba state.

Olabode and ajibade (2010) identify six causes of conflict they are;
Control over scarce resource: physical resources essential to survival. The struggle by different parties to appropriate perceive scarce resource for self or group survival often engendered conflict. For example, because of the increasing desertification on Nigeria's north most fringes, many pastoral people have started pushing southwards in search of grazing land accounting, to some extent, for conflict between Tiv farmers and postural Fulani people.
Pasture searching; the Magajin Fulani (Fulani head) once explain that it seems difficult to keep cattle means of providing food for cows, especially in the dry season when grasses and leaf are dried or set on fire, they do lead to their cattle to any place to seek for pasture. With this is noted that the cattle depend on what they see and there by complete on little pasture available for them anyway.
Proximity; Farmers who have their farm very close to the road or animal path are liable to have their crops destroyed whenever the cattle are left loose. This shows that closeness often leads to real threat on farming system.

Water Supply: The only source of water for the cattle during dry season is to lead them to any available water point, which is often a low-land area. Farmers at this time often engaged in nursing their crops at the same water points because of dryness in the upland areas. This means that Fulani herdsmen move where there is push factor in order to locate a region of convenience. That is why Homer-Dixton (1996) explained that large scale movement of population is caused by environmental scarcity.

Leadership: Elected leader's inability to carry out their functions and responsibilities by providing succour to development problems (delivering of dividend of democracy) for the people at grass roots often provokes violent confrontations. This is because both political and traditional leaders, while in office, tend to engage in conflict for control of economic resources an influence to the determent of the people (IRIN, 1999).

Overdependence of Communities on Government for Social Amenities: Provision of social infrastructure in most communities is still far below United Nation's standard. This makes access to basic needs like water, health care, education, electricity, etc. Very difficult. Communities tend to oppose the formula for distribution of social amenities. These communities also perceived that they have legitimate rights to these facilities and are not provided; so they resort to violence in order to get their fair share(IRIN 1999).

Related Studies in Nigeria

Abegunde (2011) conducted a study on land as the main cause of inter communal conflict in Africa. The study examines the role of land in inter communal conflict (IC) in the south western Nigeria.it purposefully selected eight communities with recurrent IC in the region for questionnaire administration, targeting 10% of their household head. Study reveals that the most of the resident identified land as main cause of IC. It not that government grip over land in area was weak, as most of the resident acknowledged that individual families and community leader monitored the affairs of land in the region and the strangers have no full right to indigenous land. According to the author, this could by why most past recorded conflict erupted when people rose to fight for their land right. The author posits that the land policy makers of regional and local levels. To avoid complication, selected community leaders must be involved in the process.

III. METHODOLOGY

The research methodology adopted for this study was through collection of primary data from communities that were involve in the inter communal conflict in south western Nigeria. Available literature on the recent communal conflict in the study area revealed that out of the thirty one locations where inter communal conflict were very prominent between 1990 and 2008, four of them comprising eight settlement are in southern and western Nigeria. Those are Iju and itagbolu(Ondo state), Emure an Ise (Ekiti state) Irawo_Owde (Oyo state) Ife and Modakeke (Osun state). The eight settlement were selected for the purpose of study.

Findings in the study.

This study revealed that conflict in south western Nigeria were instigated by land related issues. Attempts by the resident to claim their communities right over certain pieces of land (72.7%) from other have result in conflict between then and other discrete communities. All respondents in Emure (100%), most in life (80.6%) and modakeke (72.2%), about two third in is (64.2%) and itaogbolo(65.9%) and more than half of the people in irawo ile (56.4%) respond among this line.

IV. CONCLUSION

The author concluded that the paper has important implication on land management and conflict prevention against land and its resource in the study area. First, it provided basis for understanding the causal and recipient role of land in conflict between discrete communities in south western Nigeria. It also revealed the underlying bedrock of who is in charge of land administration in the region. Here the weakness of the government of the land is evidently but indirectly portrayed in leaving land administration in the hands of community leaders and individuals families. This perhaps led to land fragmentation and administrative pluralism, making resident to claim their community's or individuals over pieces of land, resulting into conflict.

Related Studies in other Countries

Francis (2003) noted that Sudan has been at war for most of its modern history.

The conflict has often been presented as one between an Arab/Muslim north and an African/Christian south. The study further noted that ethnicity and religion have played a role; the conflict has mainly been fought over natural resources. It then states that politico-economic frame work, in which natural resources are being exploited and distributed, is mostly responsible for triggering and fuelling Sudan's numerous conflicts. The study concluded that the major cause of conflicts in Sudan was who control the natural resources, the Christian or the Moslems boarder disputes, food riots, the conflicts is through the evolution of dynamic policies and

implementations that will address the problems of equal sharing of natural resources, poverty and social relations within the micro and macro Sudanese society.

Tichaoma (2009) examined conflicts as a very serious hazard in West Africa. Many people are dying every day but is commonly recognized as a disaster hazard unlike the conventional hazards of flood, earthquakes and volcanoes. The researcher adopted the historical method of data collection. Data collected included both primary and secondary data. All the 16 countries that make up the population of the study were subjected to data collection and investigation. The researcher in his findings identified six main conflicts types namelyboarder disputes, food riots, political violence, inter communal strife, religious conflicts and inter-ethnic conflicts.

Nancy (2010) examined Kenya as a country with ethnic diversity and over 42 ethnic groups, communities that for many years have lived together in harmony and respect for each other. In the face of this harmonious cohesion between the different communities, there have been sporadic threats on issues of resources distribution and political differences that have cultivated ethnic hatred and fighting especially during generalelection that come every five years. The author posits that ethnicity has simmered in the country over the years but reached its climax in 2007-2008 when the country broke into ethnic fighting after a disputed presidential elections involving candidates from two ethnic communities in the country.

Review of the relevant theories
There are a number of theories explaining the origin of riot and conflict; some are the theory of the relative deprivation, ecological theory, frustration aggression theory and structure conflict theory.

The theory of relative deprivation
The relative deprivation was introduced by Samuel Stouffer (1949) and his co- workers in there classic social psychological study of the American soldiers. According to him, members of society who feel most frustrated and disgruntled by social and economic condition may not necessary by worse in an objective sense. Social scientist have long recognised that what is the most significant is how people perceive there situation. This precipitation is often based on a comparison of one self and one's mates. Relative poverty is a floating standard of deprivation by which people at the bottom of the society, whatever their lifestyles, are judged to be disadvantage in comparison with the nation as whole. A relative deprived person is dissatisfied because he or she feels down trodden relative to some appropriate reference group. Thus, blue worker who live in two family house on small plots of land through hardly at the bottom of the economic ladder, may nevertheless feel deprived in comparison to cooperate managers and professionals who live in lavish homes in exclusive suburbs (baunman,1999). The theory is related to the topic of study which it attempts to explicate how people that they have right to their goals and the deserve better than what the, for example, the struggle against European colonialism in Africa intensified when growing numbers of Africans decided that it was legitimate for them to have political and economic independence. Furthermore, the theory will direct the focus of this study, to investigate how inequitable resource distribution in Taraba state among the various ethnic groups in the region could bring about social conflicts.despite the relevance of this theory, it has been criticized on the ground that it fails to explain why some people who feel discontent fail to take action and join social movement. Counter argument include that some people are prone conflict avoidance, are short term –oriented, and result from social action.
Theoretical Frame No one theory can perfectly explain every aspect of crime or sources of conflicts in Nigeria and Benue in particular. The need to incorporate various theories for better explanation cannot be over emphasised.

V. METHODOLOGY
Research Design
This study will adopt the cross-sectional survey research design. This research design ensures that the study covers a broad area of observation, at a given point in time (Aldrige and Levine 2001). Nworgu(2005). The adoption of this design is important, considering the duration of the study and resources available to the researcher. The study will solicit information from the respondents using the interview guide and a questionnaire on the Influence of socio-cultural factors that influence Herder/Farmer conflicts in Benue State.

Study Areas
The area of study consists of Agatu, Oju, Kwande, Gwer-West and Guma LGAs in Benue State. The ethnic group of the study areas are Tiv, Idoma, Igede, Jukun,Hausa, Fulani,Igbo,Akweya and Nyifon. Benue State has Twenty three (23) local government' areas comprising ofIgum

Obagaji, Ugbokpo, Buruku, Gboko, Gbajimba, Aliade, Naka, Katrina Ala, Tse-Agberagba, Adikpo, Ugba, Makurdi, Obrike-ItoOtukpa,Idekpa,Ayuwogbu-ibilla,Okpoga,Wannune,Sankera,Lessel, Vandeikyaamd Oturpo Local Government Areas.

The five (5) LGAs selected for this study were selected because of their involvement in the crises. Also the selection of twenty (20) Towns/Villages will be done because of their involvement in the crises. Andekuteb (2000

8) This makes it volatile and it has been grappling and trying to cope with the problem of ethnicity on the one hand, and the problem of ethno- religious conflicts on the other hand. While it is true that it is not easy to find the exact number of ethno-religious conflicts due to lack of adequate statistical data on this issue, it is interesting to note that about Eighteen 18 different forms of ethno-religious conflicts were recorded. The Herder/Farmer tribes have segregated themselves into small enclaves, sharing the same social amenities. Their socio- economic characteristics are the same; any effects of conflicts in the Area will have almost similar impacts on both tribes.

The study will be conducted in all the five LGAs mentioned above. The towns and villages which are considered for this study in Agatu, are Okokolo, Akwu, Ocholonya, Adagbo. In Oju LGA areAdele, Abofutu, Adega, Adiko, while those in KwandeLGA are Adikpo, Nanev,Ahile, Akende,In Gwer west are Ingohou, Abafakyai,Ainu,and Chia.In Guma are Tse-Akenyi,Atawa, Gyushage, Jugudu.The occupation of the study areas is predominantly farming both in crop and animal husbandry.

Physical Setting

1. **Agatu** is a local government area of Benue state, Nigeria. It was created in 1996.The headquarters of the local government is at Obagaji; it is one of the nine local government areas in the southern senatorial zone which is mainly occupied by the Idoma people of Benue state.The resident's population are mainly farmers.The local government shares boundary with Apa and Gwer west Local government areas of Benue state as well as with Omala local government area of kogi state and keana local government area of Nasarawa state.

2. Oju. Oju is a local government, it was created in 1976 and shares boundary with Obi Ado, konshisha and Gwer west local government.Oju was one of the pioneer local government in Benue state.

3. Kwande

Kwande is the third local government area of the study in Benue State, Nigeria. Its headquarters is in the town of Adikpo it has an area of 2,891 km2 and a population of 248,697 at the 2006 census. Is bordered by several other local governments.

Gumais a local government area of Benue state, Nigeria.Its headquarters are in the town of Gbajimba,It has an area of 2,882 km2 and a population of 191,599 at the 2006 census.

4. Gwer west. Is a local government area of Benue state, Nigeria its headquarters are in the town of Naka?It has an area of 1094 km2 and a population of 122,145 at the 2006 census.

Instruments for Data Collection

The study applied both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Two instruments were used for data collection in this study. These are: the questionnaire and in-depth interview guide IDI (In-depth-interview). The instruments was prepared in English but was translated into Tiv, Fulani, Idoma and Hausa to respondents by the research assistants. The questionnaire contain both open-ended and close-ended questions and was used to elicit information from the 950 respondents, and has two section, while the in- depth interview is an oral questionnaire.It is face to face interaction situation in which one person (interviewer) asks another person (interviewee) questions which are responded to orally. Section A contains information on the characteristics of respondents such as age, sex, education, location, marital status, occupation, and family size. Section B contains information on socio-cultural factors that influence conflict in these areas.

A total of 950 questionnaires were administered to respondents in the study areas by the researcher and the assistants, while 50 were used for interview by the researcher himself with the help of field assistants for 3 weeks. In-depth interview was used to seek information from the key informants on the Influence of socio-cultural factors that influence Herder/Farmer conflicts and effects of the conflicts on their socio economic activities before and after the conflicts.

Methods of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts and percentages were employed to determine the characteristics and distribution of each of the parameters found in the questionnaire using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Information on these categories will be illustrated with pie-chart, bar graphs and line graphs. Parametric test (chi-square test (χ^2) will be used to test the hypotheses of the study. Logistic Regression Analysis (LRA) was used to predict the influence of dependent variables on independent variable e.g. Socio-cultural factors and conflict.

The data from the in-depth interview will be edited and transcribed into codes. Quotes and expressions gathered will be identified and organized under distinct themes. In essence, the thematic method was used in analysing the data gathered from the in-depth interview. In view of this, each theme shall be discussed and illustrative quotes pulled out to support and elucidate the quantitative data.

Administration of instruments

For easy collection of data, the researcher recruited 10 field assistants comprising of 5 males and 5 females, I male and 1 female for each of the 5 LGAs from University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State. The reason for this number was to ensure that the research assistants are effectively managed in terms of funding, training, supervision and time management. In the case of female respondents, female research assistants will be more useful, due to the sensitive nature of the study area, for instance, the Fulani would not allow a male assistant to enter his house. They were trained by the researcher, who also supervise the administration and collection of the questionnaires. The questionnaires were self-administered. However, where the researcher/assistants find out that the respondent cannot read and write properly, only then were it other-administered. The respondents selected for interview were informed before time, as this wascreated for conducive environment for the interview. The distribution of questionnaires and collection alongside in-depth interview were done on weekdays, the time was in the evening 4.00pm – 6.00pm, and because that was the respondent's leisure time (when people sit under the tree after coming back from their farms to rest). The male respondents were located at "majalisai.ie. Where people of the same calibre, ideology and thinking stay to rest while the female respondents were located at their various households and it lasted for three weeks

Study Population and Scope

The population of these communities is put at 982,639 people by Projection using United Nations for Developing Countries which is census population + (3.5% growth of Cp) number of years (2015), which include male and female, married and unmarried, within the range of eighteen years and above. The population include occupations like farming (both in crop and animal husbandry), Civil servants and traders. The population further includes adherents of Islam, Christianity and a few who practice traditional religion and all levels of education.In terms of scope, this study is limited to Benue State and ethno-religious crises as they affect them.

Sample Size

It will be a near impossible task to use the entire population of five local governments in Benue State for this study. Consequently, a sample of 1000 respondents were used. Nwana (1981) assert that a well selected small sample could be more representative than a bigger one haphazardly selected.

Therefore, a sample size was statistically determined using "Taro Yamane" formula for a finite population. The formula is given as:

$$n \ = \ \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where

        n = sample size
        N = the finite population
        e = level of significance (or limit of tolerance error)
        l = unity (a constant)

The total population of the five communities is put at982,639 people.

A sample size of 95 males 95 females from each of the LGA were selected for the study i.e. 95 + 95 = 190 x 5LGAs = 950 for the five LGAs. Based on the above population, 950 respondents responded to the questionnaire, while 50 were used for in-depth interviewmaking a total sample of 1000.

Sampling Technique

Multi-Stage Cluster sampling was adopted for this study. According to Obasi (1999) cluster or area sampling involves selecting members of a sample in groups rather than individuals. The members of the target population were grouped on the basis of occupation, religion and any common features
 Shared by the group. A cluster sampling technique is usually used to select the sample from the identified clusters. Cluster sampling is suitable when the target population is too large and by implication, minimizes the costs that would have been spent on covering large sample.

At the first stage of the sampling, the first cluster comprises of five towns in each of the local governments, which was randomly selected in each of the five local government areas, using simple random sampling (hand picking). In doing this, the number of towns in each local government will be written down in different pieces of paper and put inside a bag. The bag was shaken very well after which one of the research

assistants was blindfolded and make to pick two pieces of paper from the bag. The towns written in the selected pieces of paper was sampled. In doing so, a total of five towns were selected to form the first cluster.

In the second stage of the sampling, systematic random sampling was used, in selecting eight villages from each of the towns in the first cluster. This involved the researcher to have a list of all the villages in each town, which acted as the sampling frame at this stage. The total number of the villages were divided by eight, which was the sample of interest at this level in order to obtain the $K^{th\ element}$ (interval size). After this, one number was randomly chosen as a starting point while each ward that falls at the interval were selected. As a result, the second stage which consist of forty-eight villages,weresystematically selected from the six towns earlier selected from the five local government areas.

In the third stage, six household units were selected from each of the wards using systematic random sampling; as a result, the total number of household units in each of the selected wards were individually divided into six to get the interval size, after which one household was randomly chosen as a starting point and other household at the subsequent interval selected for the study. However, in situations where any household refuses to participate in the study, such household were replaced by the nearest household in the frame. As a result, a total of two hundred and eighty -eight households were selected for the study.

In each household unit, two respondents were selected (male and female) using systematic random sampling.However, the respondents were not less than eighteen years of age in order to qualify to participate in the study.

In selecting respondents for the qualitative study, a total of fifty key informants were interviewed who were either a Chief, Pastor, Imam, Opinion Leader, Chairman/ Chairperson, Councillor, Community Leader or Village Head, hence purposive sampling wereused in this regard, having allocated a quota sampling of ten key informants per local government area. Such selection were concentrated on the towns that make up the first cluster, thus, five key informants in every town. However, anybody that participated in the quantitative study were included...

Expected Result

- There might be a significance relationship between people who are educated to be involved in social conflicts than there counterpart who are not educated.

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- There might be a significance relationship between males who associate them self with social conflicts than females in Benue State.

There might be a relationship between Moslems who participate in social conflicts than Christians.

VI. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 1: Local Government Area (LGA) of respondents

Name of LGA	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agatu	220	23.1%
Kwande	200	21.1%
Oju	200	21.05%
Gwer- west	180	18.95%
Guma	150	15.8%
Total	950	100%

Table 1: revealed the number of respondents from each local government area; Agatu, 23.1%; Kwande, 21.1 % Ojo, 21.05%. Gwer west18.95% and 15.8% Guma local government Area is 15.8 respectively.
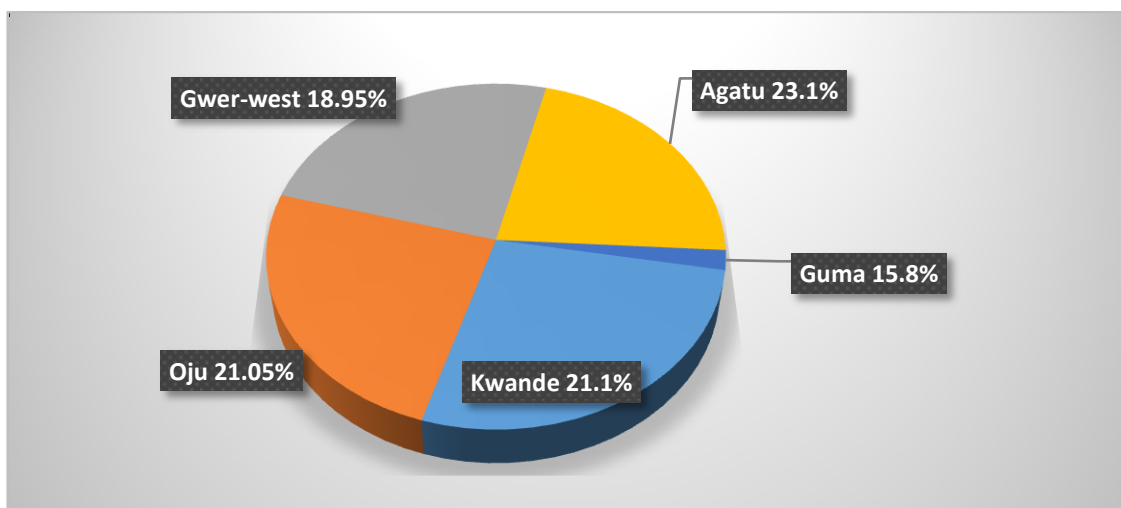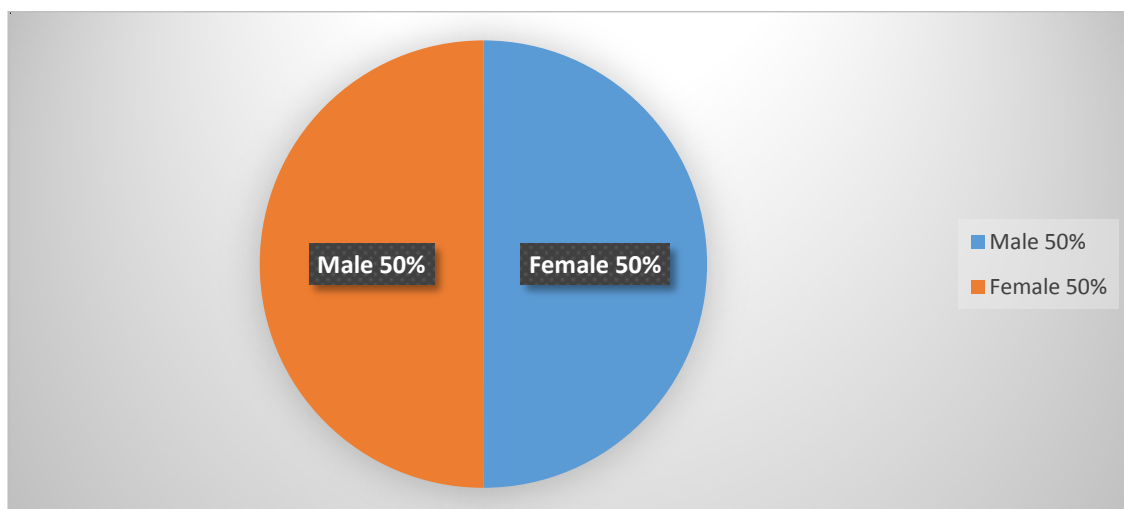
Fig.1:Local government Area of respondents.

Table 2: **Sex of respondent**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	475	50%
Female	475	50%
Total	**950**	**100**

Table 2: revealed the sex of respondents, Male is 50% and Female is 50%. This shows that the number of male equals the number of female
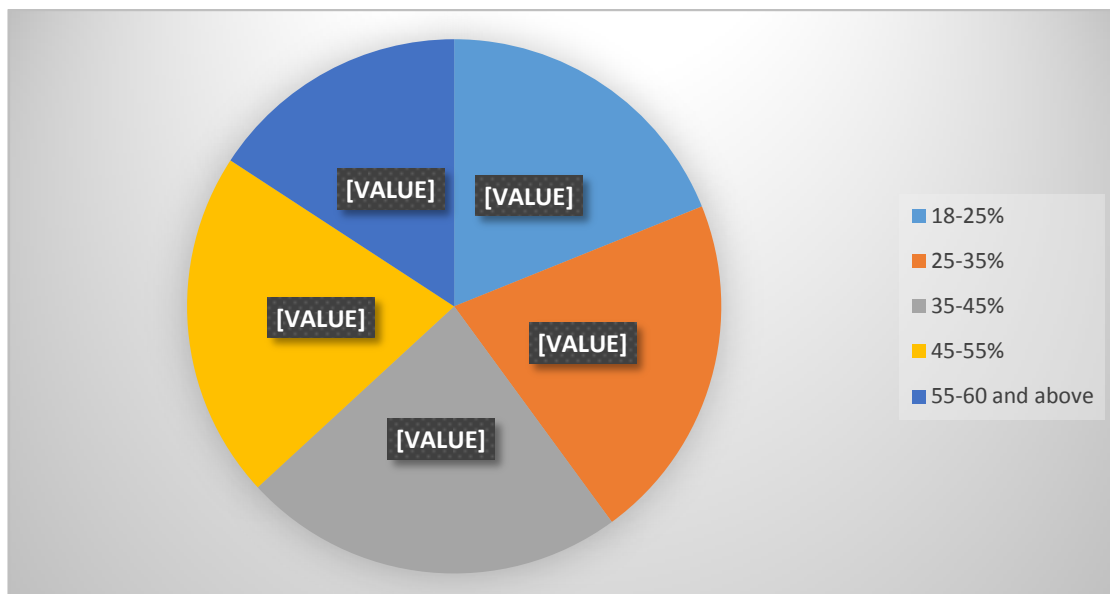

Age group of Respondents

Table 3: Age group of respondents

Age group (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-25	180	18.9%
25-35	200	21.05%
35-45	220	23.2%
45-55	200	21.05%
55-60 and above	150	15.8%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 3: revealed the age group of respondents; majority of the respondents were within the age group of 35-45years 23.2%, followed by those within the age group of 25-35 years 18.9%. While, 45-55 % 21.05% and 55-60 years and above represent 15.8% %, respectively. Figure 3.Shows the pie chart of respondents based on age group.

| Ethnic Background of respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Tiv	500	52.6%
Fulani	100	10.5%
Edoma	150	15.8%
Igala	80	8.4%
Hausa and others	120	12.7%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 5: revealed the ethnic background of respondents; the Tiv 52.6% Fulani are 10.5 %, Edoma are 15.8%, Igala are 8.4 %, Hausa and others is 12.7% respectively/ Figure 5 shows pie chart
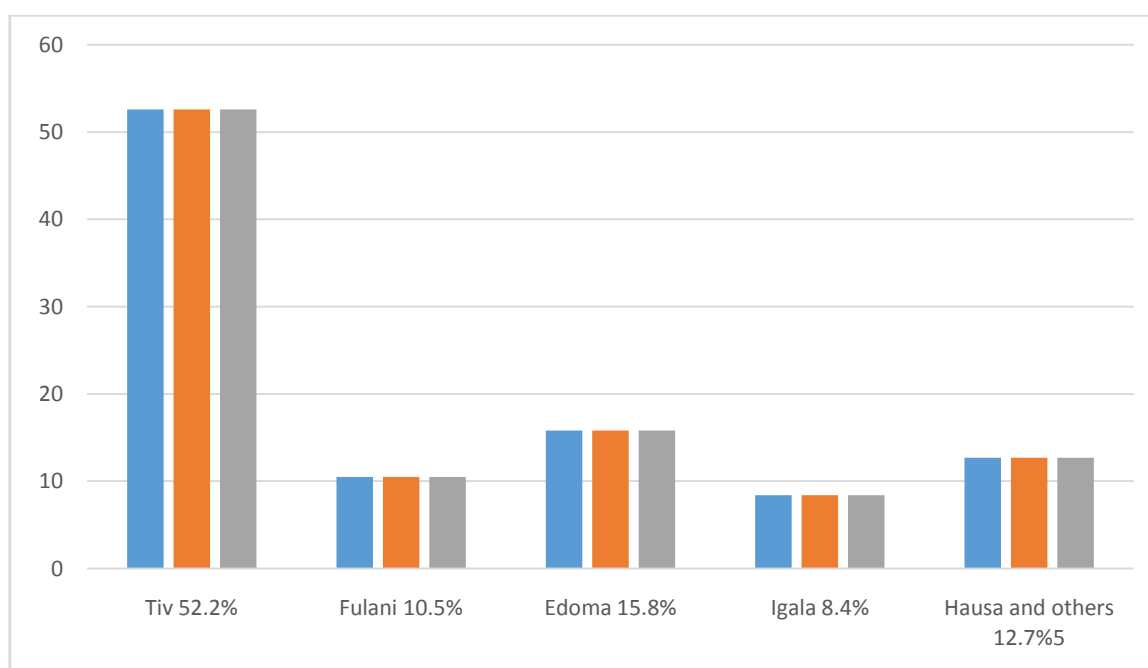
Table 6:Occupational Background

Occupational Background	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farmer	550	57.9%
Business	50	5.3%
Civil servant	100	10.5%
Artisan	30	3.2%
Applicant (unemployed)	150	15.7%
Student	70	7.4%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 6: the above table shows the occupational background of the respondents in the following order: farmers are 57.9 %, Business,5.3% Civil servant are 10.5%, while student represents 7.4%, applicant, 15.7%, artisan, 3.2% respectively.
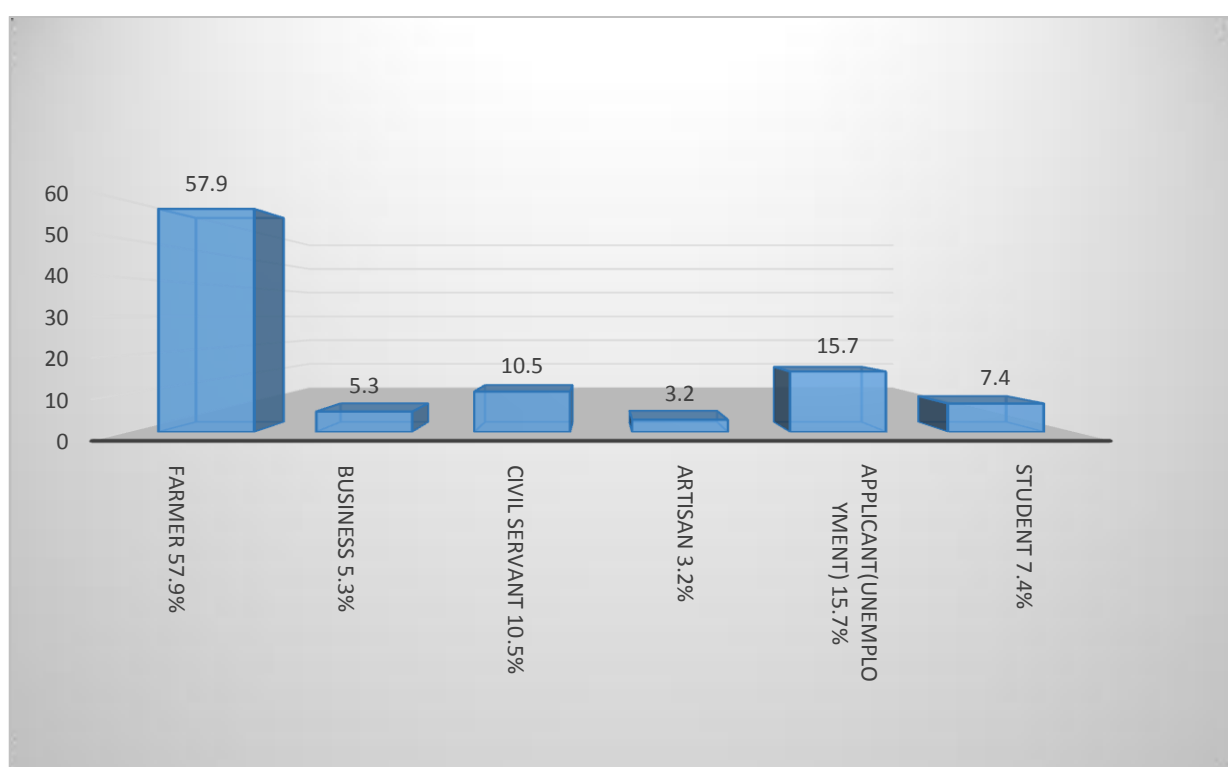
Table 7: **Village/District of respondents**

| Village/District	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agatu (Adagbo) (Okoloko)	160	16.8%
Oju (Abofutu) (Adele)	200	21.1%
Kwande (Akande)(Navev)(Ahile)	190	20%
Gwer-west (Abafakyai,Ainy,Chia, Ingohou.	200	21.1%
Guma (Gyushage,Atawa)	200	21.0%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 7: revealed the village/district of respondents in Agatu LGA is,16.8% of the respondents are from Adagbo,Okolokowhile those in Oju are Abofutu, Adele, Kwande are Nanev,Ahile are20% in Akande is 20%% Gwer west are Abafakyai Ainy, Chia,and Ingohou.21.1%.   Guma are Gyushage and Atawa 21.0% respectively.

Figure 7: shows that the pie chart is a representation of the village/district of the respondents.

Table 8: `Level of Education

Table 8

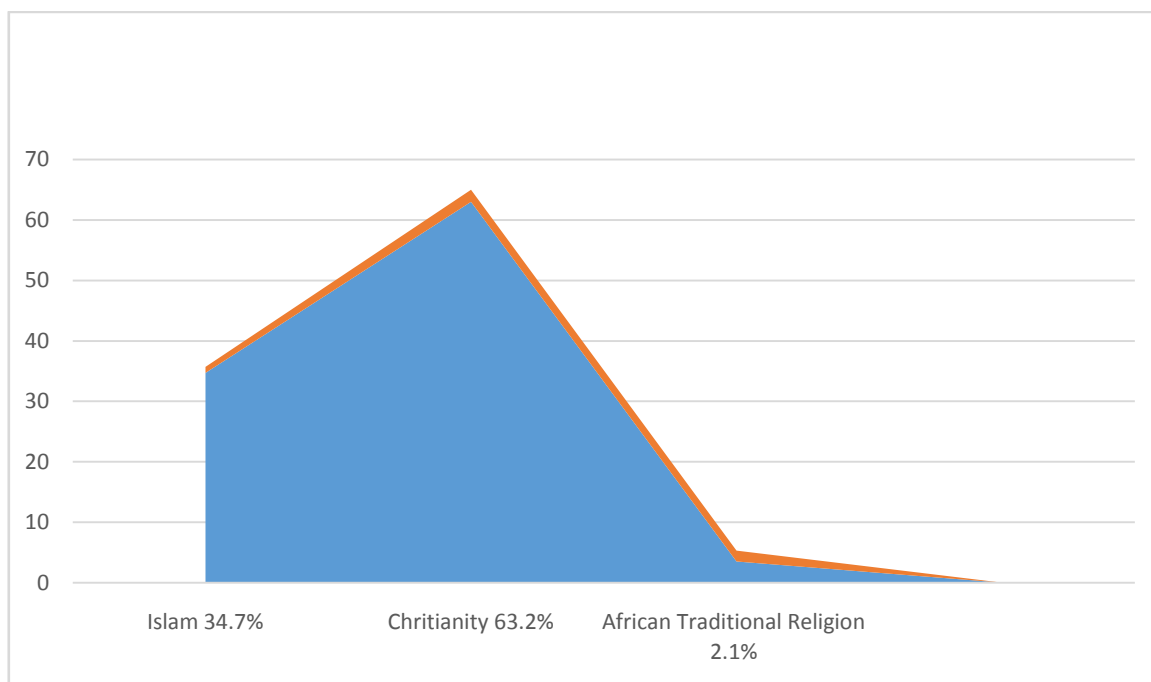| Response option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No. formal education	350	36.8%
Primary education	200	21.1%
Secondary education	270	28.4%
Tertiary education	130	13.7%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 8:revealed that 36.8% of the respondents have no formal education at all, while 21.1% of the respondent have primary education; 28.4% have secondary education and 13.7 have tertiary education. Hence, those with higher education are more in number than those in lower education.
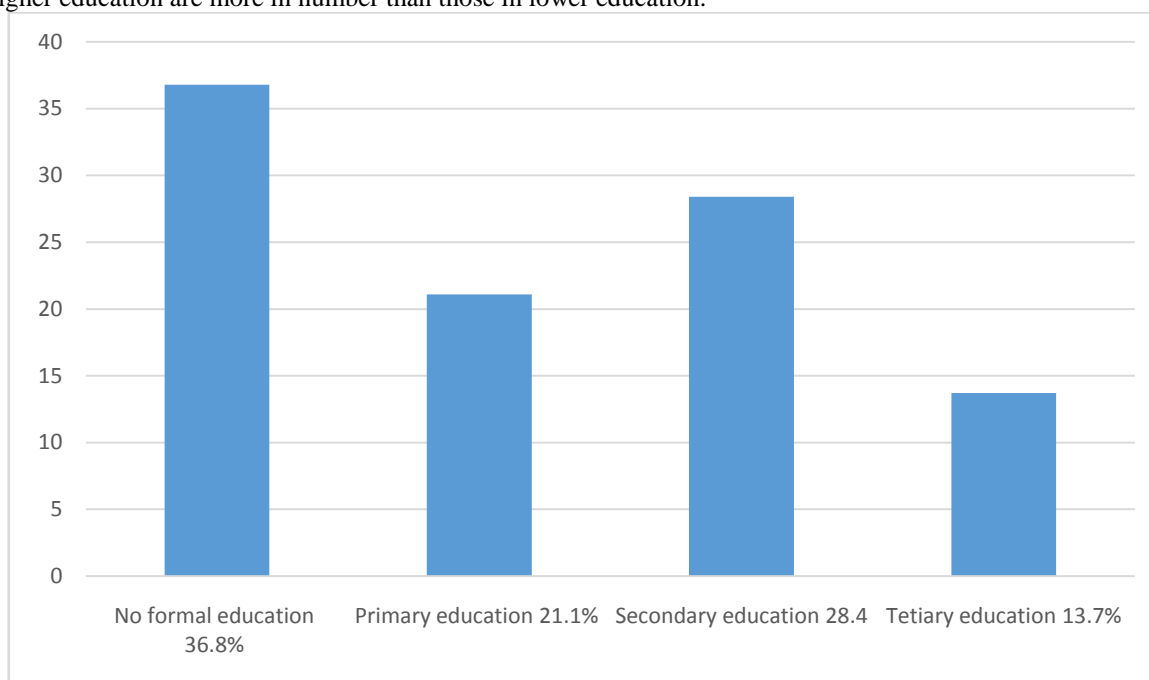
Table 9: Religious affiliation

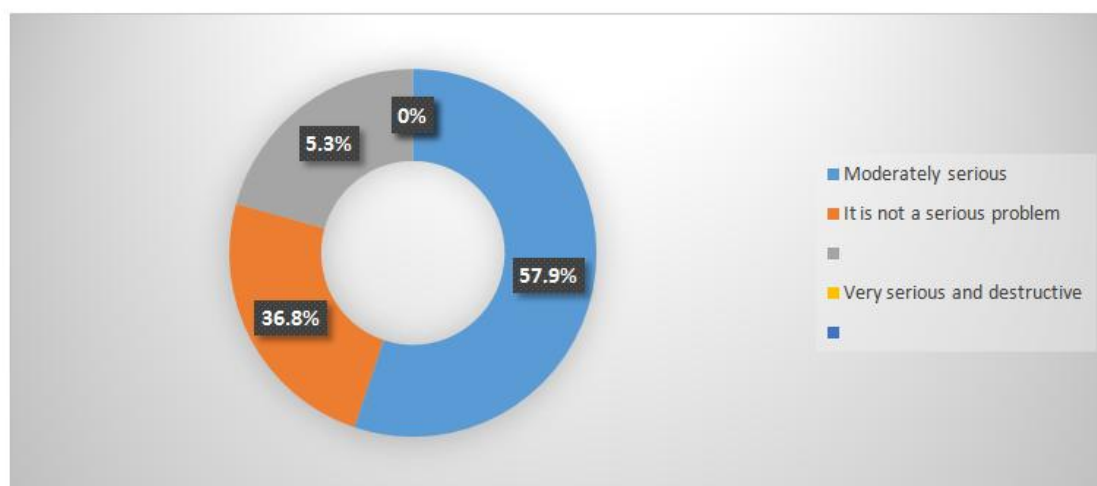| Response option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Islam	330	34.7%
Christianity	600	63.2%
African Traditional Religion	20	2.1%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 9: revealed that 34.7% of the respondents are Moslems, while 63.2% are Christian and African Traditional Religion (ATR) has 2.1%. / Hence, the number of Christians outnumbered that of the Moslems and ATR.

Table 10: Distribution of respondents on Extent of conflict

Response option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very serious and destructive	550	57.9%
Moderately serious	350	36.8%
It is not a serious problem	50	5.3%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 10: Revealed that 57.9 % of the respondents agreed that conflict between Fulani/Tiv in Agatu, Oju Kwande, Gwe-west and Guma LGAs of: Benue state is very serious and destructive; 36.8% agreed that it has been on for long time; while only 5.3 % agreed that it is not a serious problem.


Table 11: The influence of socio-cultural factors that caused the conflict among Fulani/Tiv in Agatu, Oju, Kwande, Gwer-west and Guma LGA of Benue State

Response option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Boundary issues	180	18.9%
Indigene/settler dichotomy	300	31.6%
Chieftaincy Tussle	10	1.1%
Grazing land issue	250	26.3%

Unemployment	70	7.4%
One's beliefs and attitude	40	4.2%
Poor orientation on traditional values and norms	100	10.5%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 11: Shows the influence of socio-cultural factors that necessitated the conflict among Fulani/Tiv in Agatu, Oju Kwande, Gwer-west and Guma LGA of Benue state. Indigene/settler dichotomy has the highest value of 31.6%, while other socio-cultural factors such as , boundary issues 18.9, grazing land issue26.3%, and chieftaincy tussle1.1, and unemployment 7.4% one's beliefs and attitudes have 4.2 %, poor orientation on traditional values and norms.respectively
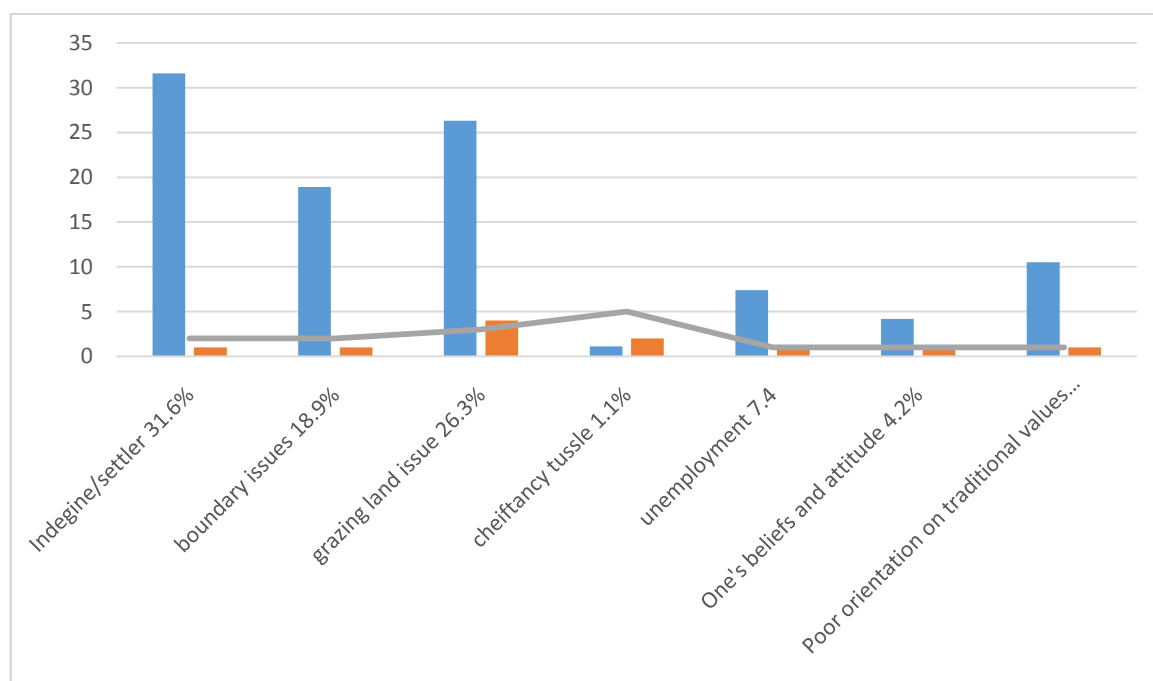
Table 12: Have you ever taken part in social conflict among the Tiv/ Fulani' people?

Response Option	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	632	66.5%
No	318	33.5%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 12: revealed that 66.5% of the respondent said that they had taken part in social conflict among the Tiv/Fulani of Agatu, Oju, Kwande, Gwer-west and Guma LGAs, while 33.5% said they had not taken part in the crises

Table 13: In your opinion, why have these conflicts persisted in these areas? (Please tick as many as applicable to you)

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Non-implementation of committee reports	79	8.32%
Lack of continuous dialogue between parties involved	211	22.21%%
Lack of provision of Basic amenities	123	12.95%
Enmity between the two parties	318	33.47%
Cattle grazing on farm lands.	219	23.05%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 14: Consequences of conflict on the economic and social development

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
House breaking	198	20.84%
Ethnic strife	105	11.06%
Stagnation of business activities	282	29.68%
Low agricultural output and investment	365	38.42%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 14 revealed the consequences of conflict on the economic and social development; 20.84% of the respondents agreed that house breaking is one of the consequences, while 11.06%, 29.68%, 38.42% of respondents stated that ethnic strife, stagnation of business activities, low agricultural output and investment respectively are consequences of conflict on the economic and social development in the three LGAs.

Table 15: Occupation before the crisis

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	225	23.68%
Artisan	185	19.47%1
Civil Servant	127	13.37%
Student	180	18.95%
Business	122	12.85%
Others (specify)	111	11.68%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 15 revealed the occupation which the respondents engaged in before the crisis. Farming which represents 23.68% was the major occupation of the respondents, artisans were 19.47%, civil servants were 13.37%, students were 18.95%, business was12.85% and others such as applicant were 11.68%.

Table16: Occupation after crisis

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	280	29.47%
Artisan	211	22.22%
Civil Servant	127	13.36%
Student	135	14.22%
Business	111	11.68%
Others (specify)	86	9.05%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 16 revealed that 29.47% of the respondents still engaged in farming after the crisis, while 22.22% were artisan, 13.36% were civil servants, students were 14.22% and 11.68% were into business and 9.05% of the respondents are applicants after the crisis. The number of students has decreased due to the fact that some of them were killed during the conflict.

Table 17: Distribution of responses on whether they changed location

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	458	48.21%
No	492	51.79%

Total	950	100%

Table 17 revealed that 48.21% of the respondents said they changed location after the crisis, while 51.79% of the respondents did not.

Table 18: If yes, why did you change location?

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To protect the lives of myself and family member	389	40.95
I came from neighbouring village	258	27.16%
The religious connotation of the crisis	303	31.89%%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 18 revealed that 40.95% of the respondents changed location after the crisis to protect their lives and those of their family member while 31.89% changed location because they were from neighbouring village while 23.74 changed location because of the religious connotation of the crisis.

Table 19: Where did you move to?

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To live with relatives	289	30.42%
To live with friends	362	38.11%
To live with people of the same faith	299	31.47%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 19 revealed that 30.42% of the respondents lived with relatives after the crisis, 38.11% live with friends, while 31.47% live with the people of the save faith.

Table 20: Distribution of Respondents on Conflict perceived as being higher in communities with poor orientation

Conflict perceived as being higher in communities with poor orientation on traditional values and norms?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	550	57.89%
No	400	42.11%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 20 revealed that 57.89% of the respondents perceived conflict as being higher in communities with poor orientation on traditional values and norms, while 42.11% of the respondents did not agree.

Table 21: Distribution of responses on the reasons why conflict is perceived to be higher in communities with poor orientation to traditional values and norms

Distribution of responses on the reasons why conflict is higher	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ignorance of traditional values and norms	316	33.26%
Lack of religious tolerance	298	31.37%
Grazing land dispute issue	336	35.37%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 21 revealed that33. 26% of the respondents stated that Ignorance of traditional values and norms is one of the reasons why conflict is perceived to be higher, 31.37% stated lack of religious tolerance while and 35.37% stated that grazing land dispute is the reason why conflict is perceived to be higher in communities with poor orientation to traditional values and norms.

Table 22: Persistent Fulani/Tiv conflict is significantly related to government's nonchalant attitude

Response Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	319	33.57%
No	300	31.58%
Can't say	331	34.85%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 22 revealed that 33.57% of the respondents agreed that persistent Fulani/Tiv conflict is significantly related to government's nonchalant attitude, while 31.58% of the respondents were not of this opinion 34.85% can't say anything.

Table 23: Reason why conflict is related to government's nonchalant attitude.

Reason why conflict is related to government's nonchalant attitude	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Non-implementation of committee reports	294	30.95%
Lack of proper conflict resolution strategies	317	33.37%
No reason stated	339	35.68%
Total	**950**	**100%**

Table 24: Possible solutions to these persistent conflicts

Solutions	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Beefing up security in all LGA's	469	49.36%
Non- implementation of committee reports on conflicts	101	10.64%
Job creation	123	12.95%
Provision of basic amenities	15	1.57
Continues and institutionalized dialogue among involved parties	31	3.26%
Government to educate the people to see themselves as brothers and sisters	131	13.79%
To encourage communities to engaged in reorientation of norms/values	80	8.43%
Total	950	100%

Table 24: revealed some possible solutions to these persistent conflicts, 49.36% of the respondents agreed beefing up security in all the LGAs while 10.64%, 12.95 %, 1.57%, 3.26% 13.79% had other solutions and 8.43% of the respondents respectively indicated implementing committee reports on conflicts, job creation, provision of basic amenities, continuous and institutionalized dialogue among involved parties, governments to educate the people to see themselves as brothers and sisters, government to have proper boundary demarcation, and to encourage communities to engaged in re-orientation of norms/values respectively were some of the possible solutions to these persistent Conflicts.

Test of hypotheses
Hypotheses 1
H1: Tiv/Fulani people who are educated are perceived to be involved in social conflicts more than their counterparts who are not educated.
H0: Tiv/Fulani people who are educated are perceived not to be involved in social conflicts more than their counterparts who are not educated.

Table 25: Level of education and involvement in Social Conflict.

To test this hypotheses, Education was recorded to high and low. Low education included non-formal education, primary and secondary, while high education included tertiary education.

Levels of Education	Involvement in Social Conflict		Total
	Yes	**No**	
High Education	99(29.8)	233(70.2)	332(100.0)
Low education	132(55.5)	106(44.5)	238(100.0)
Total	231(40.5)	339(59.5)	570(100.0)

X^2= .337; df = 1; p= .573
Critical value of X^2 = 3.841 @.05 level of significant

Hypotheses 2
H1: Males are perceived to be significantly associated with social conflicts more than females in Benue State.
H2: Males are perceived not to be significantly associated with social conflict more than females in Benue State.

Table 26: Contingency involving Sex and Involvement in Social Conflict Cross tabulation.

Sex	Involvement in Social Conflict		Total
	Yes	**No**	
Male	203(67.7)	97(32.3)	300(100.0)
Female	87 (29.0)	213(71.0)	300(100.0)
Total	290(48.3)	310(51.7)	600(100.0)

X^2 = .390; df=1; .612

Critical = 3.841 @ .05 significant level
To test this hypotheses, Table 2is cross tabulated with involvement in social conflict (Table12). The critical value which is 3.841 is greater than the calculated value which is 0.390. Therefore, we reject the research hypotheses and accept the null hypotheses which says that males are perceived not to be significantly associated with social conflict more than females. In other words, both males and females equally engage in social conflict among the Tiv/Fulani people of Benue State.

Hypotheses 3
H1: Moslems are likely to participate in social conflicts.
H2: Moslems are not likely to participate in social conflict more than Christians.
 To test this hypotheses, Table 9 (religious affiliation) is cross tabulated with Table12 (Involvement in social conflict) Table27. Contingency table for Religion and involvement in social conflict cross tabulation.

Religion	Involvement in Social Conflict		Total
	Yes	**No**	
Moslem	122(38.4)	196(62.6)	318(100.0)
Christian	45(21.9)	160(78.1)	205(100.0)
African Traditional Religion	35(74.5)	12(25.5)	47(100.0)
Total	202(35.4)	368(64.6)	570(100.0)

X^2= .378; df=2; p=.595

Critical X^2 = 5.991 @ .05 significant level

Since the critical value of x which is 5.991 at .05 level of significant is greater than the calculated value which is 0.378, we reject the study hypotheses and conclude that Moslems are not likely to participate in social conflict more than Christians among Tiv/Fulani of Benue State.

Calculated Chi-square value is 0.337 while the critical value is 3.841.Sincethe critical value is greater than the calculated value, we accept the null hypotheses of no relationship. This means that their non- educated counterparts. In other words, education has no influence in ones participation in conflict among Tiv/Fulani.

Discussion/Findingson traditional values and

On the Influence of socio-cultural factors that caused Herder/Farmer conflict among Fulani/Tiv in Benue State, **Table 21** shows that Grazing land dispute issue was the most important factor of (35.37%). It was also found that the greatest consequence of the conflict was ethnic strife which affected both economic and social development as seen in **Table 14.**

In terms of possible solutions to these persistent conflicts, respondents agreed that implementation of committee reports is the best possible solution to the persistent conflict in the study areas; (Table 24). It should be noted that unfortunately some of these earlier committee reports have not been implemented. For example the Wukari crisis between the Jukun and Tiv in 2001and recently in 2019 hundreds of people were killed, government did not implement the committee report and that may be the reason why conflict has persisted in the State. Re-occurrence of crises has also weakened the social relationship that existed among the people and caused mutual suspicion instead of cooperation among them.

The findings in Table 21 Revealed that Grazing land dispute issue was the most important factor (35.37%) while those with moderate orientation on norms and values has lesser chances of engaging in social conflict,

Data from In-depth interview (IDIs) with Hamman Jobdi a chief in Adagbo town inAgatu L.G. As, revealed that the crises created inconveniences, reduced the standard of living of most families and further impoverished the already pauperized people of the study areas. Michael Jotau a pastor in Adega town in Oju L.G. As revealed that some households which had better accommodation before the crises now have to live in substandard houses with little or no facilities. This is associated with the destruction during the crises and also limited resources to rehabilitate or develop new ones. However, Francis Yakubu, a ward leader in Adikpo town in Oju LGA, revealed that what is found to be common is increase in construction of round hut types of houses which are least attractive but provide immediate solution to the accommodation problems of the time.

However, indepth interview data with Daniel Shamaki an opinion leader in Ainu town inGwer-west L.G.A shows that more modern structures are springing up in all districts. Again, Maube Garaji a chief in Atawa town inGwer-west L.G.A revealed that, before the crises, the situation was a little different as mixed settlement was more common while residential segregation, though present, did not exist for any special reason. Most respondents claimed they were mixed settlements before the crises while others identified segregated settlements due to socio-economic reasons. However, after the crises the bond among residents was weakened and both mixed settlements and segregated settlement sprang up. Many families after the crises had to relocate to other areas because of insecurity and fear of attacks. Among those who relocated, majority of them were living with kith and kin while others lived with people of the same faith.

The findings of the study on the extent of conflict between the Fulani/Tiv in these study areas revealed that the conflict is usually very serious and destructive and has been on for a long time as shown in Table 10 and were `supported by the views of some of those interviewed. For example, Audu Baduku an opinion leader in Ahile town in Kwande LGA, Habu Maikwarya, a Farmer in Ocholongo in Agatu LGA and Mati Galau, an opinion leader in Chia town inGwer-westLGA, unanimously emphasized that conflict posed a serious problem to the community and was very destructive.

The findings of the study on the major factors responsible for this crisis revealed that poor orientation on traditional values and norms, indigene/settler dichotomy, boundary issues, grazing land issue, chieftaincy tussle, unemployment and people's beliefs and attitudes were the major factors responsible for the crises. Indeed, in-depth interview with Galitu Maina, a chief in Nanev town in Kwande LGA and Alhaji Kote an Imam inAbafakyai townin Gwer-westLGA, also confirm that all the above factors were responsible for the crises

The findings of the study also disclosed that conflicts persisted in these areas because of non-implementation of committee reports, lack of continuous dialogue between parties involved, lack of provision of basic amenities, enmity between the two parties, and competing uses of resources. Interview with Jauro Mange, a ward leader in Akwu townin Agatu LGA, and Pastor Emmanuel all of above address stated that boundary issues usually caused the conflict, and most often indigene/settler dichotomy and grazing land issue were responsible factors for the crises. Another interviewee, Baba Galadima, a chief fromAdiko town in Oju L G A, stressed that poor orientation on traditional values and norms, chieftaincy tussle and one's beliefs and attitudes were the main causes of conflicts in their area.

Findings of the study on consequences of these conflicts on social and economic development include house breaking, ethnic strife, stagnation of business activities, low agricultural output and investment, scarcity of housing infrastructure, water scarcity and transmission lines vandalization. According to Zaki Emmanuel tse, in Guma LGATse Akenya town in Guma LGA and Musa Makeri, an opinion leader in Gyushage town in Guma LGA, conflict affects farming activities thereby causing low agricultural output and investment. Musa stated that some hoodlums usually used the period to break into people's houses and vandalized electrical cables.

Finally, the findings of the study on possible solutions to these persisted conflicts include beefing up security in all the LGAs, implementation of committee reports on conflicts, job creation, provision of basic amenities, continuous and institutionalised dialogue among involved parties, government to educate people to see themselves as brothers and sisters, government to have proper boundary demarcation, and to encourage communities to engage in re-orientation of norms and LGAvalues. In support of the approve, Mall. Sani Abubakar, one of the ward leaders in Okoloko town in Agatu, stressed that having proper boundary demarcation and educating people to be united would ease the problem of conflicts in their area. Some of the spiritual leaders interviewed, including Daniel Chia, a pastor inAbofutu town in Oju LGA, and Ado Na Allah, an imam in Akande town in Kwande LGA, suggested that more emphasis should be placed on the implementation of committee reports on conflict and also continuous dialoguing the warring communities would solve the problem of conflict in their area.

➢ The test of hypotheses for the study revealed for hypothesis one that there is no association between level of education and involvement in social conflict. For hypothesis two, the result indicated that there is no association between male or female involvement in social conflict. For hypothesis three, the result indicated that there is no association between religion involvements in social conflict.

Recommendation

The findings throughout the study show that peace is indispensable to development and a prerequisite to the thriving of human activities. Based on these findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Government of Benue state should build upon the existing, albeit, fragile peace and reconciliation efforts by promoting awareness campaigns, through radio and other local media, that focus on commonalities rather than differences between ethnic groups.**2.** It should develop an early warning and response mechanism in conjunction with the relevant security agencies.

3.. Localities Government, private individuals and communities should join hands to provide uninterrupted access of the masses to education, health services, employment and other physical development facilities for quality living.

4. Government should meet periodically to dialogue with youth leaders, community leaders, traditional rulers and religious leaders in the area on issues that affect them, seek their advice and suggests where necessary. This will give everyone a sense of belonging and foster the spirit of brotherliness among warring communities. On land problems, government should promote all appropriate measures to minimize the allocation of land for purposes that are, not in the interest of people's welfare.

5. The various groups should re-organize themselves into development groups such as trade unions, community development associations, tribal unions, farm groups, cooperative societies and even age grades. These groups should be registered and given a workable mode of operation and a constitution by the government which should charge them to identify their problems and how best to solve same and also assist them financially, morally and materially. By doing so, people will always think of developing themselves and their communities and the feeling of isolation from the scheme of things will be non-existent. This will avert communal conflicts in the area. The leaders of the various communities should meet periodically and discuss issues that affect their area and also see areas they could come together to curb crime, conflicts and other negative developments in their immediate.

SUMMARY

These series of conflict have caused untold economic, political, and social havoc in the study areas, plus unbearable injuries. The conflict continues to pose serious problems for Nigeria's socio political development, as retard efforts at nation building.

This work studies the analysis of the relationship between educated and non-educated people in respect to social conflict, it also studies the perception of people in association of social conflict to male or female. In the review of literature, concept of conflict, causes of conflict, studies done in Nigeria and other countries were reviewed.

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