

The Socio-economic Repercussions of Cattle Rustling in Gusau Local Government Zamfara State, Nigeria

*A Dissertation submitted to the School of Arts and Languages in partial fulfillment
of the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology*

Submitted by

MOHAMMED KABIRU ABDULLAHI

Registration No: 11504610



Under the supervision of

Dr. Muhammed Madappalli

UID: 19342

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Lovely Professional University

Phagwara, Punjab

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DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis entitled, “The Socio-economic Repercussions of Cattle Rustling in Gusau Local Government Zamfara State, Nigeria.” Has been carried out by me during the academic year 2016-17 under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Muhammed Mandappalli and submitted to the Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab India in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Arts in sociology. The information derived from the literature has been duly acknowledged in the text and list of references provided. No part of this thesis was previously presented for another degree or diploma at this or any other institution.

CERTIFICATION

This thesis titled, "THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT ZAMFARA STATE NIGERIA" by Mohammed Kabiru ABDULLAHI, Reg. No. 11504610 meets the regulations governing the award of the Degree of Master of Arts, of Lovely Professional University Phagwara Punjab, and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

Dr. Muhammed Madappalli

Research Supervisor

Signature

Date

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my father Alhaji Abdullahi Ismail (late) for his love, emotional support and care to his children and other relatives.

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I wish to sincerely register my deepest gratitude to ALLAH, for his numerous blessing and favor. I thank him for the guidance, direction and protection offered to me throughout my life.

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Mohammed Kabiru ABDULLAHI

Reg. No. 11504610

ABSTRACT

The study dwells on the recent upsurge in Cattle rustling in Gusau local government Zamfara state, Nigeria. Cattle's rustling involves attacking rural communities with dangerous weapons and the stealing of their livestock by the gang of rural bandits. These acts result in the indiscriminate killing of innocent livestock owners, farmers, rural traders, vigilante group members, rape and abduction of young girls and married women and burning of hamlets/settlements by the various gang of cattle rustlers operating in the affected areas which usually result in mass migration of innocent rural dwellers out of the conflict areas of Gusau to a more safer regions. This has negatively affected the area economically and undermined the social fibre of the rural communities. The study set out to find the reasons for the recent upsurge in cattle rustling in the affects districts of Gusau local government. Data were collected using a survey while in-depth interviews were conducted with some of the stakeholders in the affected areas such as Police officers, victims and community leaders. The data collected were analyzed using tables to show the percentages of each response. The findings indicated that, the upsurge in cattle rustling can be attributed to a number of factors among which are proliferation of fire arms among the Fulani herdsmen, unethical activities of the rural vigilante groups, influence of violent culture, lack of adequate or complete absence of security personnel presence in the affected districts. As a way forward the research recommends that, government should as a matter of urgency embark on comprehensive disarmaments of all parties involved which led to reprisal attacks and adequate security is immediately provided to the affected communities and other vulnerable communities which is prone to attack.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Cattle's rustling is a practice of stealing livestock for either economic or social gain. Livestock is fundamental form of pastoral capital, besides functioning as a means of production, storage, transport, and transfer of food and wealth. Natural resources such as pasture, water, natural vegetation, and livestock are key drivers of the rural economy. However, reduced access to these resources, in particular grazing land and cattle routes has increasingly put the rural people especially cattle owners under intense pressure. (Kapron, T.P. 2013).

The phenomenon of cattle thefts is an ancient practice that is associated with societies suffering from social and economic upheavals and where the structures and functioning of leadership and government have collapsed or are significantly weakened (Mohammed and Jibrin, 2015).

Traditionally theft of livestock has been driven by the criminal intent to expropriate cow for meat or for sale. Pertinently, it must have served as a means of primitive accumulation of cow-herd in the contexts of subsistence and commercial pastoralism (Okoli and Opaleke, 2014).

Hitherto, this phenomenon is usually triggered by either a loss of herds due to famine, drought, or cattle diseases. In traditional African communities, cattle rustling are perpetrated when young person or children were sent to the bush with livestock for grazing, this gives the rustlers an easy opportunity to threaten and rustled the livestock from the young person's looking after the animals with utmost ease without any resistance.

But recent incidences of cattle rustling in north western Nigeria especially in Zamfara state has presented a different scenario. The upsurge in cattle rustling and rural banditry affecting villages and districts in Zamfara state is attributed to the increased sophistication of the rustlers who were mostly armed with dangerous weapons while attacking the targeted villages.

Also in recent period, rural banditry and violent conflict between pastoralists and farmers in Nigeria have been on the rise. This social conflict has traditionally consisted of dispute over natural resources and is often presented as a conflict between pastoralists and farmers over land have recently developed into rural banditry with heavy human and economic cost, ranging from the sexual assault of women and girls, attacks on villages, to cattle rustling, among others (Mohammed and Jibrin, 2015).

Over the years, cattle's rustling has evolves into a pattern of organised crime with immense criminal sophistication and efficiency. Hence, contemporary cattle rustlers operate with modern

weaponry and their operation are marked by trans- locational and trans-national syndication (Okoli and Opaleke 2014).

To corroborate further the devastating effect of cattle all over Nigeria, the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) has alleged that at least 40 million cattle have been stolen from its members across the country in the last two years. (People's Daily 26 March, 2015).

This new pattern of organised criminal syndicate of cattle rustlers with enough numerical strength and fire power has made it imperative for the local vigilantes to recruit more members and to expand their operation to cover most of the vulnerable villages/hamlets devastated by the activities of cattle rustlers. The activities of the vigilantes in some of the villages/hamlets in the respective districts of Gusau local government area, which is aimed at targeting the suspected cattle rustlers was usually uncoordinated which invariably triggered reprisal killing with vigilante members and cattle owners as the major casualties.

The districts affected by the activities of cattle rustlers in Gusau local government of Zamfara state were largely porous with difficult terrain which made it almost impracticable for effective patrol and surveillance to be feasible. This made it easy for the rustlers to operate unabated on motorcycles, armed with dangerous weapons. Upon arrival at any targeted villages/ hamlets they shoot sporadically to scare the local vigilantes and cattle owners, sometimes inflicting serious injuries or multiple deaths to the victims in order to do away with any resistance from the cattle owners so that they can move the rustled cattle easily to their hideouts in the forest.

The problem was further aggravated by the migration of foreign nomads into some of the forested areas of Magami, Wanke, Rijija, and Mada districts of Gusau Local Government from various regions. This was as a result of drought, famine, or armed conflict; these have invariably undermined the efficacy and hegemony of the traditional community leaders which hitherto serves as a mechanism of social control in the rural communities. The issue of integration and adaptation to new norms and values by the immigrants' nomads and the spreading of violent cultural traits and the supply of dangerous weapons to the indigenous nomads posed serious threat to these rural communities.

The significant increased in reprisal killings, constant raiding of villages/hamlets by cattle rustlers and harassment of women and girls, rape and kidnapping of cattle owners and the failure of government to address the problem, has forced many herdsmen who could not bear the uncertainty and constant threat to their livelihood to migrate out of these districts.

The increased in human migration especially herdsmen along with their livestock out of Gusau Local Government, has translated into huge economic lost as the mainstay of the economy of the region is largely agricultural activities which livestock formed the significant part.

1.2 BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE AREA UNDER STUDY

Gusau city was one of the ancient cities since 16 century when the Fulani migrated to Hausa land in search of Islamic knowledge and other business activities, such as livestock rearing. At that time Gobir was the only empire in Hausa land, was one of the seven original kingdoms of Hausa land. Its capital was the city of Alkalawa. In the early 19th century elements of the ruling dynasty fled north to what is today Niger Republic from which a rival dynasty ruling as Sarkin Gobir (Sultan of Gobir), at that time the family of Danfodio came to the Gobir Empire in Dagal for Islamic propagation, at that time Zamfara Fulani started searching for Islamic knowledge from Danfodio (Gusau Wikipedia 2017).

In recent history, Gusau town, capital of Zamfara state, north Nigeria, on the Sokoto River, it grew after the arrival of railway from Zaria, 105 miles (169km) southeast, in 1927 and is now a major collecting point for cotton and peanuts (groundnuts) grown in the surrounding area. Although cotton and ginning, weaving and dyeing are long-established local activities, it was not until the late 1960s that modern textile plant opened in the town. A seed-oil mill and soya bean-meal processing plant were also built. Besides cotton, cloth, and peanuts, Gusau exports tobacco (grown on the Sokoto River's flood plains around Talata Mafara), 48 miles (77km) north west. The town's Hausa and Fulani peoples also raise sheep, donkey, horses, and camels and trade in millet, sorghum, rice, cowpeas, beans, and flood plain-grown vegetables (Encyclopaedia Britannica 2009)

1.3 HISTORY OF THE FULANI HERDSMEN

The early origin of Fulani people most fascinating and deepened in mystery with widely divergent opinions. Many scholars believe that they are of Judaeo-Syrian origin. However, it is generally recognized that Fulani descended from nomads from both North Africa and from Sub-Sahara Africa. They came from the middle-East and North Africa and settle into central and West Africa from Senegal region they created the Tekruur Empire which was contemporary to the Ghana Empire. Then, they spread in all the countries in West Africa, continuing to lead their nomadic life style. They created here and there mixed states where they sometimes were the dominant group. But more often, they were absorbed by the indigenous population whom they had dominated. While some have speculated over the origin of Fulani people, current linguistic and genetic evidence suggests an indigenous West African origin among the Peul. The vast majority of the genetic lineages associated with them reflect those most commonly seen in sother West Africans. Their language is also of West African origin, most closely related to that of the Wolof and Serer ethnic groups.

The Fulani were first group of people in West Africa to convert to Islam through Jihads, or holy wars, and were able to take over much of West Africa and establish themselves not only as a

religious group but also as a political and economic force. They are the missionaries of Islam and continued to conquer much of West Africa. The Fulani are primarily nomadic herders and traders. Through their nomadic lifestyle they established numerous trade routes in West Africa. Many times the Fulani go to local market and interacts with the people getting news and spread it through much of West Africa (Anter, T. 2011)

The Fulani are with or without justification, identified with rearing of cattle in these areas. More so, the variety of names given to them in different countries indicates the extent of their living areas. For instance, they call themselves Fulbe. In Chad region and to the east of it, they are known as Fellata, among the Mande in the far west, they are known as Fula. (Anthony, A.O. 2014).

The largest concentrations of Fulani are in the countries of Nigeria, Senegal, and Guinea. In these countries, Fulani became the ruling class and intermarried with the local populations. The total Fulani population numbers more than 6 million.

The language of the Fulani is known as Fulfulde (or fula or polaar). There are at least five major dialects; and Sokoto and Adamawa in the east. Although they have similarities in grammar and vocabulary, communication among Fulani from different region is difficult. As Muslims, many Fulani can read and write Arabic.

All Fulani have an elaborate code for interacting among themselves and with other people. The code, known as pulaaku, deerees semteende (modesty), mungal (patience) and hakkiilo (common sence). All of these virtues must be practiced in public, among one's in-laws, and with one's spouse, Islam, which also require modesty and reserve, has tended to reinforce this code.

Among the nomadic Fulani, life can be extremely harsh. They often live in small, temporary camps. These can be quickly dismantled as they move in search of pasture and water for their herds. Because of the settlements' distance from town, modern health care is not readily available. Fulani have also settled in towns and cities. In the cities they usually reside in large family houses or compounds.

Among the Fulani, the family includes one's immediate kin and extended family, all of whom are treated as close kin. In rural areas, these groups tend to live close together and join in work efforts. In the towns and cities, they tend to be more widely dispersed. Each kin group (Lenyol) normally recognizes a common male ancestor who lived several generations ago and founded the family. Male members usually choose spouses for their children. Matches are generally made between relatives (particularly cousins) and social equals. This practice helps keep wealth (cattle and land) in the family. Polygyny (multiple wives) is not uncommon in Fulani society. A man's wives all help with domestic work and can bear many children.

The pastoral Fulani are currently facing many problems. Drought often reduces their water pasture, and disease may also strike the herds. Increasingly, there is less land available for herding, and conflict with settled people have increased. Present-day governments are also curtailing the Fulani's' movements or trying to force them to settle down. (World Culture Encyclopaedia).

1.4 GENESIS OF ZAMFARA CATTLE RUSTLING AND REPRISAL KILLING

In northern Nigeria, other state in the northeast were devastated with peculiar security challenges such as insurgency and other form of militia attacks,, the problems associated with cattle rustling and its aftermath continue to raised serious suspicion among the people of Zamfara on how the phenomenon metamorphosed to bloody circumstance that consumed over one thousand lives in less than two years.

In 2009, there had been frequent theft of domestic animals by bandits in Zamfara state covering many local government areas. The bandits used to be armed with Dane guns, cutlasses, and sticks for their operations. They attacked livestock owners residing in remote, isolated, and porous areas in the state. This unwholesome act triggered the communities that are predominantly in dispersed rural settlement to organize a local vigilante to counter the illegal activities of these bandits.

The attacks in Lingyado and Guru villages and the killing of over fifty people in Kizira community, attack on Dansadau, Dangulbi, Rukudawa, and several other communities in Tsafe, Zurmi and Gusau Emirate council raises the fear of the indigenes as what would be their fate as this continues attacks and indiscriminate killing could spell doom to the entire state. The trend if left unchecked with utmost urgency is capable of undermining the economic and social development of the Zamfara state.

Though stakeholders in security sector of the state described some of these deadly attacks as "reprisal", the excesses of this ugly development will no doubt impact negatively on the sustainable peace of the state more or less the conflict is now purely between the Hausas who are mostly the peasant farmers and Fulani natives residing along the forest borders of the state.

Since 2011 when the conflict reached an advance stage, security measures have been put in place to contain the security challenges and to a large extent Federal government initiated the police force Headquarters and other sister security agencies to support the state in the fight against these hoodlums.

Despite this intervention, little or no result was achieved. It may be that the root cause of the problem is not known or the real people who were the key actors are not fully and adequately contacted. What further aggravated the problem is the scenario at Chilin market of Dansadau

emirate council which occurred on the 7th July, 2011 in which some suspected Fulani persons were arrested and gruesomely murdered by the vigilante groups for alleged involvement in the cattle rustling.

The year 2011, marked the climax of the unethical activities of the local vigilante groups in the state which resulted in these unfortunate situation ravaging the rural communities in the state.

In furtherance of this unethical activities by the local vigilante groups, vigilante members from Maru, Tsafe, Zurmi, Birnin Magaji and some part of Anka and as a result, Fulani people became a thing of daily target among the Hausa farmers in Zamfara and almost every day a Fulani person is being arrested and killed for alleged involvement in one form of crime or the other.

Again the challenges of continued encroachment in to the grazing reserves areas by the farmers and tempering with the designated cattle routes has continue to add fuel in to the fire because Fulani persons especially those residing along the Dansadau forest are left with no option than to cross the farmland mostly in the night and destroyed some crops against the interest of the local farmers.

Again, while these persist, the issue of “jungle justice” on the side of the security agencies where a guilty person will be set free for reason of money or material exchange has provoked the side of the aggrieved parties to taking laws into their hand having lost confidence in the security agencies.

The traditional rulers themselves are not helping matters because they continue to support injustice in expectation of something in returns and we have seen several cases where traditional rulers are directly or indirectly indicted on several numbers of issues involving the conflicts between Fulani and farmers thereby treating the latter as second hand citizens who are always being exploited at the expense of their abundant wealth.

The situation has reached an alarming stage in 2012 when the rural vigilante kept mobilizing from one weekly community market to another in search of some suspected Fulani cattle rustlers and murdered them in an open market in Kaura-namoda local government area of Zamfara state by some rural vigilante from Nasarawar Godal area of Birnin Magaji local government of Zamfara state.

The untimely intervention in most of these problems have made several number of Fulani who spent dozens of years in Zamfara to exit the state for the fear of the unknown and the aftermath of their exist resulted to the hot tension Zamfara state people are endangered with today. (247 U Reports 2014, February).

1.5 THE IMPACT OF CATTLE RUSTLING ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ZAMFARA STATE

Apart from the killing of hundreds of innocent people of Zamfara over the years under review, no one can estimate the high rate of economic lost encountered by the people of the state especially food and other livestock either destroyed or stolen from the affected areas. But one most bad aspect of these deadly attacks, is that in every single attack, there must be lost of live and properties while severally houses and places of worships were been target of these hoodlums.

Again it crippled the investment opportunity of the state because foreign investors some time are not willing and interested in coming to Zamfara to invest due to lack of safety of their life and property.

A clear example was the threat on some of the officials of road construction companies along Dansadau area who were ask to quit their location of work or be killed. Also the development has impacted negatively on the mining and solid minerals opportunities henceforth, the foreign companies and investors did no longer consider Bagegga and mining communities safer for economic attraction.

Movement of goods and other agricultural product is no longer possible considering the fact people and even the security agencies are been attacked on the daily basis while farmlands are equally destroyed even before harvest and the hope for agricultural is almost dashed out.

Above all the exit of the Fulani people from Zamfara state due to the increasing rates of attack against their settlements and other livestock remain one of the most critical economic challenges heating the state.

There is no doubt to the fact that Fulani in Zamfara according to recent studies contributes up to eighteen percent of the state GDP and contributes about twenty four percent of the state internally generated revenue but with the situation on the ground, trailers loaded with Fulani people and their luggage's are been sighted almost on daily basis living the state for lack of safety. (247 U Reports 2014, February).

1.6 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In recent years, rural communities in north-western Nigeria, especially in Zamfara state has been devastated by banditry, proliferation of fire arms, kidnapping, and indiscriminate killing which has direct bearing with the problem of cattle rustling.

The problem in Gusau local government area especially in the four districts which includes; Magami, Wanke, Rijiya, and Mada have reached an alarming proportion. The significant losses of

life, livestock, and properties of innocent herdsmen and farmers have adversely affected the social fibre and economic base of the district.

Some negative implication that may result from incessant incidents of rural banditry relate to a society's social capital in terms of family and communal cohesion, gender relations, and customary institutions that condition social control and may undermine the prospects for human development. Incidents of armed banditry have in some instances been accompanied by sexual violence against women and young girls, the consequences of which cannot be overlooked.

The terror generated by armed banditry is a critical factor that can induce displacement and delay later return and resettlement. Such displacement may be internal or cross-border. Forced displacement has been observed to destroy families and communities, disrupt normal economic activities and undermine human development. It is notable also that contrary to traditional norms. Women and children are not spared in contemporary bandits operations. They seem to even bear most of the brunt in form of rape, torture and murder. (Muggah and Batchelor 2002:26).

Also during incidents of armed violence such as armed banditry, the direct consequences for women victims of sexual violence are manifold: psychological trauma, pregnancy, and the spread of HIV. In addition, however, sexual violence has specific poverty implications. Stigmatization as prostitutes, loss of spouses and prohibition of future marriage, and rejection by family and community members is common. Such treatment, in turn, limits women's access to livelihood assets such as land and labour and cuts them off from sharing in social capital. (Centre for International Cooperation Security (2005:21).

The resultant effects of this dastardly acts, and raiding of herdsmen and farmers by different gangs of bandits and indiscriminate killing of innocent villagers by the rustlers, has raised question as regards to what might be wrong with security agency's efficacy of dealing with crimes of this magnitude. This trend if left unchecked could lead to entire annihilation of the district which hitherto, has been full of pastoral activities which by and large contributed to the flourishing of the rural economy.

Thus, it is imperative therefore, to examine some of these effects of cattle rustling on the economy of the districts which is largely depended on agricultural activities. During both the rainy and dry seasons, the activities of cattle rustlers have prevented people of the districts from farming, trading, and rearing of their domestic animals.

The absence of economic activities and the fear of indiscriminate killing in these districts have caused huge migration out of these districts which significantly, undermined the social fibre of the affected community. As cultural activities and other rituals like, naming, and marriage

ceremonies and other traditional ceremonies are no longer feasible due to the immense threat posed by the rustlers.

The study is aims at studying the socio-economic repercussion of cattle rustling in Gusau local government of Zamfara state Nigeria

1.7 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the research are as follows;

- i. Identify the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic conditions of the people of Gusau local government area of Zamfara State, Nigeria,
- ii. Identify the factors responsible for the upsurge of cattle rustling in recent years in the districts of Gusau.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Cattle rustling in Zamfara state have escalated and spread to other neighbouring states sharing borders with Zamfara. This has posed serious security concern to the entire region as the problem has reached an alarming proportion.

The costs of these dastardly acts has put the economy of the state under a serious disadvantage as investors and other economic ventures are no longer feasible due to the inherent threats posed by this unwholesome acts of cattle rustling in the state.

The significance of this study therefore can be on the following;

- i. Contribute to knowledge by providing additional literature to the scanty existing ones on the subject matter of cattle rustling and other related issues.
- ii. Highlight the socio-economic effects of the menace of cattle rustling to the districts affected and other states in Nigeria in general.
- iii. Suggest policies on ways and means to effectively addressing the problem of cattle rustling in the affected areas of Gusau and other states in Nigeria facing similar problems.

1.9 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research work is limited to the study of the negative impact of cattle rustling in Gusau local government area of Zamfara state, Nigeria. Particular attention would be given to four districts under Gusau which includes, Magami, Rijiya, Wanke, and Mada.

Gusau is a city and local government area located in the north western Nigeria. It is the capital of Zamfara state in Nigeria. Gusau is located 12.17 latitude and 6.66 longitudes and it is situated

at elevation 451 meters above sea level. The local government has an area of 3,364km² and a population of 383,162 as at the 2006 census.(National Population Commission 2006).

It is also imperative therefore, to limit the study to the examination of the impact of cattle rustling on the socio economic conditions of the people of these districts.

The devastation caused by the activities of cattle rustlers over the years is said to be alarming. These districts which hitherto were the nerve centre of the economic activities of Gusau Local Government Area due to the presence of thousands of herds of cattle and other livestock with significant number of nomads and farmers living together in a peaceful atmosphere. This was recently undermined by constant raiding and killing of innocents people of the area by different criminal gangs of cattle rustlers.

1.11 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Concepts have been widely used in this research; therefore this unit is entirely devoted to defining them according to their meaning and usage in the research.

1. Cattle - large domesticated mammals kept for the production of milk, meat, and hides. Cows and oxen are commonly types of cattle. They are usually the major source of economic wealth among the rural dwellers both the small scale farmers and full time herdsman kept cattle for various economic reasons.
2. Rustling - stealing of grazing cattle or more generally refers to the acts of stealing livestock by means of violence using mostly dangerous weapons before, during or immediately after the commission of the offence.
3. Rustler - a person's' involved in the act of cattle or livestock theft who usually operate in groups and operate mainly in rural area. They also engaged in other violent crime in rural areas like armed robbery, arson, indiscriminate killing of livestock owners, rape and abduction of young girls and married women.
4. Vigilante - is a civilian organisation acting in a law enforcement capacity without legal authority especially in remote areas where there is inadequate or complete absence of law enforcement personnel? The rural vigilantes a largely man who lacks training and techniques of interrogation of suspected persons which by and large create antagonistic relationship with relatives of the suspected persons in their custody.

5. Herdsmen - a person who watches over a herd of cows, sheep etc. They are usually nomads' people who move with their animal from one place to another looking for pasture for their livestock to graze.

6. Fulani - a member of an ethnically diverse nomadic people living in western and central Africa. A significant number of them are nomadic in nature, herding cattle, goats and sheep across the vast dry grass lands of their environment, keeping isolate from the local farming communities making them the world's largest postural nomadic group.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The literature review is divided into sub-themes which aim at highlighting the scholarly contributions of various authors on the subject matter in this research. Issues like proliferation of fire arms and perspectives on cattle rustling would be more important among them.

2.1 PROLIFERATION OF FIRE ARMS

In recent years the upsurge in cattle rustling and attacks on villages by the rustlers could be attributed to the problem of arms proliferation in the African continent more particular in the West African sub-region where conflict became a daily occurrence.

Owa, O.G. and Anthony, A.K. (2015). They argued that, “The regular interception of illegal arms trafficking within and across the borders by security agencies also reveals the worrisome dimension that arms proliferation has recently assumed in the country. The media is awash with frightening reports of sophisticated Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) being seize by security operatives either at ports, borders, highways or crime and conflicts scenes.... Although Nigeria’s problem with SALWs is not new, its increasing availability in the last decade has helped stoke a wave of insurgencies, ethno-religious conflicts, cross-border banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and other violent crimes. ”

Odoh, S.I., and Chilaka F.C. (2012) posited that, “The term ‘conflict’ has been variously conceptualised. However, the multiplicity of definitions has always points at one fact:

It is pertinent to argued that, this proliferation of fire arms has created a new pattern of organised crime in most rural communities in Nigeria.

Okoli, A. and Okpalake. F. N. (2014) stated that, “contemporary cattle rustlers operate with modern weaponry and their operation are marked by trans- location and trans- national syndicate.... In Nigeria, the prevalence of cattle rustling has been wide spread, particularly in the northern part of the country where cattle rearing obtains as dominants agricultural practice. Recent development tends to have implicated cattle rustling in rising wave of violence in northern Nigeria.”

The increased in the rural banditry in the north western Nigeria and certain economic motives have aggravated the problem of cattle rustling in recent years.

Mohammed. J. K. and Jibrin.I. (2015) stated that, “Rural banditry and cattle rustling are on the rise, with aggressors motivated largely by economic and commercial motives; they have been

encouraged by the ready availability of markets serving their underground economy.” In the same manner they further argued that, “Cattle rustling involve the use of arms to steal households’ entire livestock possession, thereby threatening the very existence of the affected households and communities.”

Omitola, B. (2014) posited that, “The proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Sahel-Fulani herdsmen have been reported to be involved in transporting small arms to Nigeria through their cattle. The Nigeria military magazine quoting military sources claimed that most of the small arms came to the Boko Haram insurgents (and other dangerous groups and individuals) through Libyan and Malian rebels on the backs of camels and donkeys desperate to exchange arms for money. This has been made possible to a greater extent by a combination of both internal and external factors such as Nigerian porous borders, corruption of immigration officers, inadequate record of immigration and emigration and the problem of identifying who is a Nigerian, since the country lacks any means of identifying her citizens.”

Before July 2015, cattle rustling had been a nightmare to cattle owners across the core Northern states in Nigeria, but it only took a federal Government directive for the problem to come to national attention....In fact, April was significant among the recent successes as troops of 1 Division Nigeria Army under the auspices of operation Sharan Daji succeeded in clearing suspected armed bandits camps in Zamfara and Katsina states during the period. In Zamfara state, they raided and destroyed suspected armed bandits camps at Rafe and Ajah forests in Gusau Local Government Area. During the operation, the troops killed four bandits, while some escaped with gunshot wounds. The troops also recovered 5 Ak-47 rifles and 11 Ak-47 rifle magazine, 205 rounds of 7.62 mm (special) ammunition and 25 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO). (Vanguard Newspapers, 14 November 2016).

Troops of 223 Battalion Nigeria Army have averted another attack on Dansadau town by suspected Cattle rustlers and armed bandits on Wednesday 14th May 2016. The troops who were on patrol were alerted by well meaning individuals on seeing the bandits, the patrol team laid an ambush for the suspected cattle rustlers and armed bandits who come in large numbers on motorcycles fully armed. It was gathered that they were en route Ruwan Tofa and Babban Doka villages in Dansadau district of Maru Local Government Area, Zamfara state to wreck havoc on the helpless innocent people of those communities...The troops killed 18 and wounded several bandits. They also recovered 11 Ak-47 rifles, 1 G3 rifle, 1 locally made pistol, 11 magazines of Ak-47 rifle, a magazine of G3 rifle and 161 rounds of 7.62mm (special) ammunitions. (New Nigerian Newspapers, 06 May 2016).

2.2 PERSPECTIVES ON CATTLE RUSTLING

The phenomenon of cattle rustling in recent years has attracted the attention of scholars and analysts who interrogated it differently and this gave rise to different perspectives on the subject matter.

The sustained insurgency in Northern states has given wings to another equally deadly vice known as cattle rustling which devastates a large percentage of nomadic Fulani people in addition to sedentary mixed-farmers across many grazing areas in most parts of North states without previous governments doing anything to contain the menace and the nuisance it presents. Accordingly, growing concerns have greeted the rising incidence of cattle theft and accompanying rape of women and children by heartless rustlers. These had also resulted in conflicts, deaths and loss of means of livelihood to countless number of cattle breeders across the country. The resultant factor has been the manifestation of a pattern of organised crime with immense lawlessness and adeptness. The prevalence of cattle rustling has, of recent, been a big problem especially in the North-Western zone of the country where cattle rearing is an integral part of agricultural practice. Recent happenings tend to poster conducive atmosphere for cattle rustling to become an effective means of perpetrating violence in Northern Nigeria.(Desert Herald Newspaper 15 November, 2015)

Armed bandits have regularly attacked Fulani settlements in the region, stealing cattle, setting fire to homes and raping women, prompting the herders to move south and cross the border. In response, young Fulani men have become involved in cross-border rustling and armed robbery syndicates in West Africa, according to the Miyatte Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), the umbrella body of Fulani herders in Nigeria. They have turned on their kinsmen for not helping them out during decades of conflicts between herders and farmers over grazing and watering rights, which led to loss of their entire herds, creating poverty. (Daily Mail Newspaper 11 May, 2016)

Azeez, O., and Aliyu, Y. (2016) stated that, "Cattle rustling has recently become a major internal security concern in Nigeria, with the country's northern region as the epicentre. Reports of bandits with automatic weapons storming herder's settlements and farms with mission of killing people and pillaging cows proliferate... Our study discovers the involvement of cattle herders in the rustling business. A corollary to this development is the proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the country. The possession of these arms by non-state actors has set in motion chains of security challenges, one of which is the ability to organise armed syndicates to perpetrate cattle rustling. This situation is compounded by the inability of the Nigerian state to take control of the situation- evidence of increasing state weakness...Another trigger of the rustling business is the presence of large swathes of forest reserves that are generally out of the

reach of the Nigerian security operatives. Most of the rustling activities take place in state-owned reserves such as the Kamuku, Kiyanbana, and Falgore forests in North Nigeria”.

Bevan, J. (2007) stated that, “One modern dimension of pastoral conflict is the emergence of commercialized raiding which is facilitated by improved access to markets, brought about by the growth of urban populations and infrastructure close to pastoral regions. Urban centres provide a market (hungry people) as well an opportunity (butchery and meat processing facilities) that formerly did not exist. In contrast to augmenting and compensatory raiding, this form of theft is undertaken with the explicit intension of selling livestock for immediate profit- and usually results in the slaughter of the animals.”

Ducan Lenairoshi, et al, (2015) posited that, “Cattle rustling is largely caused by competition over control of and access to natural resources particularly water and pasture. Other causes of conflicts include historical rivalry, deep-seated cultural values, land issue, political inertements, idleness amongst the youth and more recently proliferation of illicit arms.”

Omitola, B. (2014) look at the phenomena from different perspective and stated that, “The influence of foreign Fulani groups in search of pasture accounts for irreconcilable conflicts being witnessed between the Fulani and their hosts communities. Due to cultural and religious affinity, it is practically difficult to distinguish between Nigeria Fulani and Fulani from other countries across the Sahel region moving into Nigeria”

Okoli, A, and Opalake,.N. (2014) state that, “Cattle rustling has been a perennial problem in Nigeria. In northern Nigeria where cattle rearing constitute a dominant occupation, the problem has been complicated by the rising incidence of farmer/ herders conflicts as well as the Boko Haram insurgency.”

Philip A. Olayoku. (2014) argued that, “Climate changes, the migration further south, the growth of agro-pastoralism, the expansion of farming on pastures, the invasion of farmlands by cattle, assault on non-Fulani women by herders, blockage of stock routes and water points, fresh water scarcity, burning of range lands, cattle theft, inadequate animal health care and disease control, over grazing on fallow lands, defecation on stream, and road by cattle, extensive sedentarisation, ineffective coping strategies, ethnic stereotyping, and the breakdown of conflict intervention mechanism- these are usually identified by scholars as the root causes of such violence in rural areas. ” They further added that, “the major source of tension between pastoralists and farmers is basically economic, with land-related issues accounting for the majority of the conflicts.”

Manu I.N, et al, (2014) stated that, “Cattle rustling have undergone fundamental transformation from a cultural practice of testing a person’s personal bravery and prowess to bloody warfare between various groups or communities. All these pose serious challenges to societal structures, survival, as well as moral foundations, It is a serious social problem as seen in other parts of the

world that needs to be investigated and appropriate solutions proposed before it gets out of hand. These cattle theft have had devastating effects on the development of cattle herds and have retarded investment in this sector especially by non-Fulani pastoralists.”

Schilling. J, et al, (2012) posited that, “Traditionally, livestock raiding often involved small scale manageable violence and theft of the best livestock or replacement of animals lost during periods of drought or diseases... However, in recent years, due to the proliferation of modern small arms, commercialisation of livestock, raiding, dispute over land tenure rights, banditry, and predation.”

Mohammed, J.K. and Jibrin, I. (2015) stated that,” In Nigeria, livestock was accounting for about 26% of the agricultural GDP and about 10% of the National Gross Domestic Product in the 1990’s, but the level of this contribution has significantly declined with agriculture contributing only about 19.65% of the GDP in the first quarter of 2014...Incidences of cattle rustling have significantly expanded in Nigeria since 2010 in many states thereby affecting the livelihoods of pastoral and agricultural households.”

2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research uses the Queer ladder theory (QLT) of Daniel Bell (1919-2011) an American sociology, for analysis of the functional significance of organised crime as a means for socioeconomic empowerment and social climbing. This theoretical perspective has been a popular theoretical framework mostly used in the present day studies of crime.

The theory has three basic assumptions viz;

- a. Organised crime is an instrumental behaviour; it is a means an end.
- b. It is an instrument of social climbing and/ or socio-economic advancement.
- c. It is a means to accumulate wealth, build power.

The theory is on the notion that, organised crime flourished in an environment where government presence is not felt especially in terms of crime prevention and control, where corruption prevailed with impunity, and where legitimate livelihood opportunities are limited (Okoli, A, and Opalake,.N.2014).

By applying this Queer ladder theory to this research work, it would enable us to come to term with prevalence of the phenomenon of cattle rustling in Gusau local government area of Zamfara state, Nigeria. The rustlers and their conspirators were mostly motivated to partake in cattle rustling due to the huge economic gains involved with little risks. This was predicated on the fact that, most of the targeted locations for cattle rustling are highly vulnerable without any or proper formal deterrence mechanism.

It is imperative to state here that, the adoption of the theory is to enable the research shade light on the sociological foundations of organised crime such as cattle rustling. Recent trend in the areas devastated by the activities of cattle rustlers indicated that, the bandits were highly

organized in large numbers for their nefarious activities to be carried out unabated in the remotely vulnerable districts of the local government area.

In addition to the theoretical postulation by Daniel Bell in his Queer Ladder Theory (QLT) on organised crime and his basic assumptions, it is important to state that, the underlying reality about the phenomena of cattle rustling in Gusau local government Zamfara state is beyond the quest for socio-economic advancement or a means to accumulate wealth or power. It is a climax of the existing conflicting relationship between the indigenous Hausas who were predominantly full time farmers and the Fulani pastoralists who are mostly transitional residents.

The occupational division between these two different ethnic groups even though having certain things in common like religion and intermarriages is largely responsible for the conflicting relationship. The Hausas owned majority of the lands in the area and engaged in full time farming while the Fulani pastoralists' main occupation is livestock and in the course of grazing, allegation of mischief on the farm land is usually emanated and if poorly handled it led to the escalation of conflict between the two different ethnic groups. It is imperative to stress that, allegation of unfair treatment and discrimination at the hands of the traditional rulers mostly Hausas when arbitrating disputes over mischief on farmland is one of the reasons for the soured relationship in recent years.

The recent attacks and reprisal killings witnessed in the affected areas was perceived to be a retaliation on the long period of persecution suffered by the Fulani herdsmen at the hands of farmers and traditional rulers in the affected areas.

Therefore, it is obvious that, reprisal attacks and killings prevalent in the affected areas in recent years is the manifestation of prolonged conflicting nature of the relationship between these two ethnic groups living together in the same geographical area for many decades.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employed mixed research methods. The mixed method entailed the use of close-ended questionnaire and interview schedule. The adoption of these methods was predicated based on the nature of the study and type of respondents involved who were mostly nomadic in nature moving from one place to another and also non-literate in western education. Questionnaires and interview would avail the researcher the opportunity of getting appropriate responses from the respondents which may represent the actual situation of this phenomenon of cattle rustling in Gusau local government of Zamfara state, Nigeria.

For this, the following methods were adopted for the research;

3.1 SAMPLES AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Usually the sample is relatively small number cases used as the basis for inferences in all cases (population). Because it is impossible or impractical to collect data from all the potential units of analysis, the sample represents the whole. The essential requirement of any sample is that it has to be as representative as possible of the population from which it is drawn. The sample size for this research consists of a number of one hundred (100) respondents. The simple random sampling method is adopted for data collection.

3.2 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The preferred methods of data collection for this research are questionnaire and structured interview. These methods are easy to replicate as both fixed set of closed and open-ended questions are used, which are easy to quantify, this means it is easy to test for reliability. Structured interviews are fairly quick to conduct which means that many interviews can take place within a short amount of time. This means a large sample can be obtained resulting in the findings being representative and having the ability to be generalized to a large population.

Also demographic information such as age, sex and occupations was collected so as to have an insight into the socio-economic and demographic characteristic of the respondents.

3.3 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE FIELD

The study “The Socio-economic Repercussions of Cattle Rustling in Gusau local government of Zamfara state, Nigeria” is an attempt to find out the negative effects of cattle rustlers activities on the people of Gusau. In the course of data collection while at the field which is largely remote, porous, and isolated areas in the rural Gusau, some difficulties were experienced with data collection exercise.

Having anticipated these problems, the adoption of close-ended questionnaire and interview schedule is in the right direction. The respondents in this study are always suspicious of any unknown visitor’s’ to their villages as their suspicion is based on the spying activities the rustlers used to carry out before any attack to these villages/settlements. This contempt served as a hindrance to proper and efficient data collection exercise.

It is also imperative to state that, the data was collected from different districts within Gusau local government area. The victims of this dastardly act which includes the livestock owners and farmers were mostly non-literate in western education; therefore the questionnaire was administered to them while taking their responses.

Another impediment experienced during data collection is the nomadic nature of majority of the respondents. They usually reside in the forest moving from one place to another for their animals to graze. In order to overcome this problem, responses were instantly taken from them without delay.

Also to elucidate additional information on the subject matter under study, persons who were considered as stake holders in the areas were made as respondents for the interview schedule. These includes, police officers, District heads, and State intelligence bureau officers who may be directly involved in managing this unwholesome activities of cattle rustling in the affected areas of the local government.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

This was basically designed to examine data collected from the field through the use of closed-ended questionnaire and structured interview schedule techniques. The quantitative method of data analysis was used simultaneously and in complement with qualitative method. The mass of data collected through questionnaire and interviews are analysed using statistical table. Therefore the responses represent the views of the people of Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State and other stakeholders in the areas devastated by the criminal activities of cattle rustlers.

4.1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES OF THE RESPONDENTS

TABLE 4.1.1: AGES DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS

This table shows the ages of the respondents.

AGES	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
18-28	15	15%
29-39	48	48%
40-50	25	25%
51 and above	12	12%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it is clearly shown that, fifteen percent of the respondents were between the ages of eighteen and twenty eight years, forty eight percent were between the ages of twenty nine and thirty nine. Twenty five percent of the respondents were between the ages of forty to fifty, while the remaining twelve percent of the respondents were fifty one and above years.

This has basically demonstrated that, majority of the respondents were within their youthful ages of active involvement in rural occupations which are mostly farming and rearing of domestic animals and invariably became more affected by the problem of cattle rustling as they are usually the target.

TABLE 4.1.2: SEXES OF THE RESPONDENTS

This table shows the sex distribution of the respondents.

SEX	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Male	75	75%
Female	25	25%
Total	100	100%

From the table above it is clearly indicated that, seventy five percent of the respondents were males while twenty five percent were females. This under representation of women in this study is associated with certain cultural and religion practice of the people of Gusau who happens to be predominantly Muslims and this has put some restrictions on women to interact freely outside the matrimonial homes and getting responses from such category is sometimes impracticable. Even though they are also directly affected by these unwholesome acts as they are mostly the victims of rape abduction and other forms of sexual abuses.

TABLE 4.1.3: OCCUPATIONS OF THE RESPONDENTS.

This table shows the various occupations of the respondents.

OCCUPATIONS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Farming	26	26%
Rearing domestic animals	56	56%
Trading	14	14%
Others specify	4	4%
TOTAL	100	100%

The table above shown that, twenty six percent of the respondents were predominantly farmers, fifty six percent were involved in animal husbandry and other related nomadic occupation of maintaining livestock. Fourteen percent of the respondents were local traders conducting trading in rural markets in the districts, while four percent of the respondents were primary school teachers, security personnel, civil servants etc. This has clearly indicated that, the rural economy composed of farmers, trader, livestock owners and other people engaged in quasi- traditional works like black smith, wood cutting etc. Therefore, majority of the respondents were directly affected by the negative impacts of cattle rustling in the area under study.

TABLE 4.1.4: PERCEPTIONS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows how the respondents perceived the problem of cattle rustling in Gusau local government area.

TYPES OF PERCEPTIONS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Theft of livestock by violent means.	17	17%
Harassments and indiscriminate killings of livestock owners by rustlers.	-	-
Burning of hamlets and settlements by rustlers.	-	-
All of the above	83	83%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it is shown that, seventeen percent of the respondents' perceived cattle rustling to be associated with the theft of livestock in large number by violent means. While eighty three percent of the respondents viewed cattle rustling to involved theft of livestock by violent means, harassment, and indiscriminate killing of cattle owners, and burning of hamlets and settlements of cattle owners by rustlers. This has shown that, the problem is not only limited to theft but also other violent acts perpetrated by the various gangs of rustlers on the innocent rural dwellers in the areas in Gusau. It is imperative to state that cattle rustling have

metamorphosed into rural banditry because of the massive economic gains involved in the illicit acts.

TABLE 4.1.5: PERIODS WHICH MARKED THE UPSURGED IN CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the periods when cattle rustling started in large scale with high level of violence and reprisal attacks.

YEARS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
1999 to 2004	-	-
2005 to 2010	10	10%
2011 to date	90	90%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the above classification it is clearly shown that, ten percent of the respondents were of the view that, the upsurge in cattle rustling started between 2005 to 2010 in Gusau, while ninety percent of the respondents argued that, the upsurge in cattle rustling begin between 2011 to date in Gusau local government area of Zamfara State.

Also during an in-depth interview with the Divisional Police officers of Gusau Central and Tudun Wada Divisions, they stated that,

The upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau Local Government started between 20011 to date. They further argued that the period marked unprecedented cases of attacks, reprisal killing, and livestock theft in the areas affected by the activities of cattle rustlers.

TABLE 4.1.6: PERSONS MOSTLY INVOLVED IN CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the most commonly found people involved in cattle rustling in Gusau local government area of Zamfara State.

IDENTITY OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN CATTLE RUSTLING	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Local nomads	14	14%
Foreign nomad	72	72%
Rural bandits	11	11%
All of the above	3	3%
TOTAL	100	100%

The table above indicated that, fourteen percent of the respondents attributed the upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau local government area of Zamfara state to the criminal activities of local indigenous Fulani nomads who engages in the unwholesome acts for economic gains. Seventy two percent were of the view that, foreign nomads were mostly involved in cattle rustling as their life style is highly nomadic in nature moving across the boundaries of many countries across Africa. This has avail them the opportunity to rustled livestock in large number and escape with the same to other neighbouring countries across the open borders. Eleven percent of the respondents were of the view that, rural bandits were mostly involved in cattle rustling, while three percent were of the view that, both local and foreign nomads, and rural bandits were responsible for high incidences of cattle rustling in Gusau local government area.

During the in-depth interview, the respondents stated that,

Mostly the foreign nomads were largely responsible for large scale theft of livestock in the areas. This was predicated on the fact that they travelled across the borders of so many countries in the sub region armed with sophisticated weapons and escape after perpetrating their nefarious acts leaving little room for possible trace.

TABLE 4.1.7: METHOD OF MOVING AWAY THE RUSTLED CATTLE IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the various methods through which the rustled livestock are taking away from their owners.

METHODS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Through The cattle routes in the bush.	44	44%
The use of vehicles	2	2%
Through the thick forest	53	53%
All of the above	1	1%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it shown that, forty four percent of the respondents were of the view that, most of the rustled livestock were taken away from the area where they were stolen through the cattle routes in the bush which is mostly isolated without much obstruction. Two percent of the respondents argued that, the rustlers usually move away the stolen livestock through the use of vehicles like Lorries or trucks for easy disappearance. Fifty three percent of the respondents were of the opinion that, the stolen livestock were usually take away through the nearby thick forest to concealed their movement in case of follow up by cattle owners, vigilante or security personnel. While on percent of the respondents opined that, cattle rustling utilised the entire enumerated alternative in the course of committing the nefarious acts.

For the in-depth interview, the respondents stated that,

Cattle rustlers usually invade the targeted villages and settlements with sophisticated weapons and usually unleashed terror on the cattle owners and local vigilantes who came to their rescue. They moved the rustled animals through thick forest and the cattle routes. The use of vehicle to transport the rustled livestock is very rear in the affected areas.

TABLE 4.1.8: FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UPSURGE IN CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the various factors responsible for the upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau local government area.

FACTORS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
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Proliferation of lethal weapons	16	16%
Vulnerability of the areas	3	3%
Absence or lack of proper security	-	-
All of the above	81	81%
TOTAL	100	100%

The table above indicated that, sixteen percent of the respondents were of the view that, proliferation of lethal weapons like short guns, rifles, machine guns and other assault rifles in the hands of potential rustlers was responsible for the upsurge in cattle rustling in the areas affected by this heinous crime. Three percent of the respondents attributed the upsurge in cattle rustling in recent years to the problem of vulnerability of the area which is porous and difficult to police. While eighty one percent of the respondents were of the view that, different factors enumerated above combined together was responsible for the upsurge in cattle rustling and other associated criminal activities in Gusau local government area of Zamfara state.

For the in-depth interview the respondents also were of the views that,

Proliferation of dangerous weapons among the Fulani nomads’ especially foreign nomads who travelled along the borders of Niger, Chad, and Cameroon with arms and ammunitions concealed inside their loads help adversely in the spread of this dangerous weapon to other potential criminal gangs in the region. Vulnerability of the affected areas and lack of adequate security was largely responsible for the upsurge in cattle rustling in recent years in Gusau local government area. The affected area where largely situated at the boundary of the forest with no access road and no proper communication facilities and also the security personnel are not stationed in the affected districts, these has gave the rustlers an ample opportunities to operate freely in the affected areas.

TABLE 4.1.9: SOURCES OF GETTING SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS.

This table shows the various sources through which cattle rustlers get sophisticated weapons.

SOURCES	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Illegal arm dealers	-	-
Armed robbers/rural bandits	-	-
Foreign nomads	-	-
All of the above	100	100%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it is clearly shown that, one hundred percent of the respondents were of the view that, the sources through which the various gangs of rustlers are getting sophisticated weapons is through the above enumerated sources. Rustlers have no definite source of getting dangerous weapons but through any source which is available to them.

TABLE 4.1.10: SOCIAL EFFECTS OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the different social effects of cattle rustling among the people of Gusau local government area.

TYPES OF SOCIAL EFFECTS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Forced migration	-	-
Abduction and rape	-	-
Inability to conduct ritual and cultural ceremonies due to fear of attack	-	-
All of the above	100	100
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it clear indicated that, all the one hundred percent of the respondents sees cattle rustling as been responsible for forced migration out of most vulnerable areas of Gusau as a result of constant attacks and theft of livestock by criminal gangs of cattle rustlers. Abduction

and rape of young girls, married women has been a daily occurrence in those areas devastated by the activities of the rustlers. Ceremonies like marriage, naming, and other cultural activities which attract large number of people is also not feasible due to the threats posed by the gang of rustlers to these rural communities in the area.

In response to this also the respondents involved in in-depth interview stated that,

due to fear of indiscriminate attacks and reprisal killing by the rustlers, majority of the herdsmen living in the in the affected areas were forced to migrate from the district to safer places thereby losing ties with their local community completely and became internally displaced. They usually encountered problem of integration and invariably treated with contempt as alien in the new environment.

TABLE 4.1.11: ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the different dimension of economic effects of cattle rustling to the people of Gusau local government area.

TYPES OF ECONOMIC EFFECTS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Loss of entire herds to rustlers	-	-
Farming become impracticable	-	-
Trading and businesses in rural markets not feasible	-	-
All of the above	-	-
TOTAL	100	100%

The table above shown that, all the one hundred respondents were of the view that, the economic effect of cattle rustling in Gusau local government area has been very devastating to the people living in these areas. Some families have lost the entire herds to the rustlers, farming not feasible in most farms which were far from the settlements, or bordering the forest areas. Trading and small businesses which hitherto flourished in most local markets in the affects area

has been undermined due to frequent ambush and robberies by the rustlers on commuters travelling to rural markets in the areas. This and many more threats have invariably affected the economy of the local government area.

During in-depth interview with the respondents, they stated that,

The activity of cattle rustlers has a devastating effect on the economy of the district. The rustlers have prevented important and viable economic activities like farming, trading, rearing of domestic animals due indiscriminate attacks at farmlands, cattle grazing areas, and blocking of local roads leading to other villages and settlements by the bandits.

TABLE 4.1.12: PROACTIVE MEASURES ON CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU

This table shows the various measures adopted to prevent cattle rustling in Gusau local government area.

PROACTIVE MEASURES	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Utilising local vigilante	8	8%
Self defence by the communities	12	12%
Law enforcement agencies protection	78%	
All of the above	2	2%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it is clearly indicated that, eight percent of the respondents were of the view that, utilising the local vigilante groups to protect the vulnerable areas and prevented theft of livestock. Twelve percent of the respondents favoured self defence and encourage local communities to organise local patrols to prevent incursion of cattle rustlers in to their areas. While two percent of the respondents were of the views that, the above enumerated proactive measures be utilised to prevent cattle rustling in the areas.

For the in-depth interview the respondents stated that,

due to incessant attacks and killing of innocent cattle owners by the rustlers, livestock owners and local vigilantes in of various villages/settlements have organised local patrol teams mainly of vigilante and volunteers to protect themselves from eminent attack from the rustlers.

TABLE 4.1.13: ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL VIGILANTE AND THE UPSURGE IN CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU.

This table shows the connection between the unethical activities of local vigilante and the upsurge in cattle rustling and reprisal attacks on livestock owners in Gusau local government area.

ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL VIGILANTE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Increases the incidences attacks, reprisal killing and livestock thefts	92	92%
Reduction in cattle rustling	5	5%
Undecided	3	3%
TOTAL	100	100%

From the table above it shown that, ninety two percent of the respondents were of the view that, the unethical activities of the local vigilante groups which involved unprecedented torture, extortion and killing of suspected rustlers on unverified allegations led to the upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau local government area. Five percent of the respondents viewed the activities of the local vigilante as one of the measure which reduces the incidence of cattle rustling in the area, while three percent of the respondents were undecided.

For the in-depth interview the respondents stated that,

the unethical activities of the local vigilant by means of arresting Fulani men suspected of belonging to the gang of cattle rustlers on unsubstantiated rumours and subjecting them to rigorous unethical interrogation by the untrained vigilante who in most case murdered these suspected Fulani men in cool blood was largely responsible for the reprisal killing and upsurge in cattle rustling in the district as the rustlers or any gang of rural Fulani bandits took

it as an avenue of revenge on any community that attack and kill its member unjustly.

TABLE 4.1.14: ASSESSMENTS ON THE ROLE OF SECURITY AGENCIES IN DEALING WITH THE UPSURGE OF CATTILING RUSTLING IN GUSAU.

This table shows the respondents assessments of the efficacy of law enforcement agencies in dealing with recent upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau local government area.

ASSESSMENTS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Excellent	-	-
Good	18	18%
Satisfactory	26	26%
Poor	56	56%
TOTAL	100	100%

The table above table clearly shown that, eighteen percent of the respondents assessed the performance of security agencies in dealing with problem of cattle rustling in Gusau as good services. Twenty six percent assessed the services rendered by security agencies as satisfactory, while fifty six percent of the respondents assessed the role of the security in dealing with problem of cattle rustling as poor.

TABLE 4.1.15: ASSESSMENTS ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN HANDLING THE PROBLEM OF CATTLE RUSTLING IN GUSAU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

This table shows the respondents assessments on the role of government in handing the problem of cattle rustling in Gusau.

ASSESSMENTS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Excellent	3	3%
Good	13	13%
Satisfactory	21	21%
Poor	63	63%

TOTAL	100	100%
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From the classification above it indicated that, three percent of the respondents sees the role of government in respect of addressing the problem of cattle rustling in Gusau as an excellent one. Thirteen percent of the respondents viewed the role of government as good, twenty one percent of the respondents considered it as satisfactory, while sixty three percent of the respondents' assessed the role of government in tackling the menace of cattle rustling as poor especially the upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau local government in result years.

For the in-depth interview a respondents stated that,

Government should be more serious to its responsibilities by providing adequate security to the affected villages and settlements in the affected areas of Gusau local government area to serve as proactive measures in the prevention of theses unwholesome activities of cattle rustlers.

4.2 TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

At the initial stage of this research work three hypotheses have been developed to guide the study for data collection. The first stated that, 'cattle's rustling is responsible for the declining of economic activities in the affected districts of Gusau local government area of Zamfara state', this hypothesis have been validated by the responses of the respondents on both the questionnaire and in-depth interview schedule. This was reflected in table 4.1.11 which clearly indicated that, majority of the respondents were of the views that, the activities of cattle rustlers in the affects districts has a devastating economic consequences on the people of the area. They further stated that, many families have lost their entire means of livelihoods as a result of the theft of whole of their livestock by the rustlers. Farming which is one of the mainstays of the rural economy in the region and is no longer feasible due to high degree of uncertainty and constant threats of attack by various gangs of cattle rustlers to the rural communities in the districts affected by this scourge. Trading and small rural businesses were also affected due to frequent ambush and blocking of rural feeder roads by the bandits who indiscriminately robbed commuters of their possessions. This unwholesome act has negatively affected the fragile agrarian rural economy which largely depends on farming, trading and livestock.

The second hypothesis stated that, 'possession of dangerous weapons by the cattle rustlers is responsible in the upsurge of cattle rustling in the affected districts of Gusau local government', this was also validated as shown on table 4.1.8 in which majority of the respondents were of the

views that, the proliferation of dangerous weapons like short guns, rifles, machine guns and other illegal weapons in the hands of these hoodlums was largely responsible for the upsurge in cattle rustling and other violent crimes in the affected districts of Gusau local government area. Even though, other factors may also contribute to this upsurge, for example, the vulnerability of the affected districts, lack of adequate security coverage and porous nature of the settlements. It is worth mentioning that, as a result of this proliferation of dangerous weapons among the various gangs of rustlers, the activities of the local vigilante groups have been adversely affected as they could not match the fire powers of the hoodlums which gave room for the bandits to operate uninterrupted in the affected districts.

The third hypothesis stated that, 'influence of foreign culture is responsible for the upsurge in cattle rustling in Gusau local government area'; this was validated as majority of the respondents were of the views that, the infiltration of foreign nomads in the affected districts and the spread of violent traits to the local nomads has aggravated the problem. The respondents further argued that, the large scale theft of livestock in the affected districts were usually perpetrated by these foreign nomads who are dangerously armed and has the propensity to move large number of herds across the border regions away from where such livestock were rustled for easy disappearance of the stolen livestock. This unwholesome act has greatly accelerated the upsurge in cattle rustling in the area under study.

4.3 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In the course of proper execution of this research work, questionnaire and interview schedule methods were respectively used to collect data from the respondents on the subject matter which have been presented and analysed earlier.

It was discovered that, majority of the respondents in this study were of the opinion that, the upsurge in cattle rustling in the affected districts of Gusau local government area started between 2001 to date. This dastardly act was characterised by indiscriminate attacks and killing of cattle owners, vigilante members, and other innocent rural dwellers by the various gangs of cattle rustlers. The most devastating moment of these acts was when the hoodlums decided to embark on reprisal killings in the affected districts.

It is also posited by the majority of the respondents that, significant number of the hoodlums involved in cattle rustling and other violent crimes in the affected districts of the area under study were mostly of Fulani descent who have prior knowledge and skills on how to quietly move large number of livestock with less hitch.

Again majority of the respondents were of the views that, the proliferation of dangerous weapons among the Fulani herdsmen especially the youths in the respective districts was largely responsible for the increasing incidences of cattle rustling in the area under study. As a result of this widespread possession of these dangerous weapons, the efficacy of the local vigilante groups to deal these ravaging acts has been greatly undermined as they cannot match the fire power of the hoodlums.

The respondents were also of the views that, the unethical activities of the local vigilante groups by way of conducting jungle justice on the suspected Fulani cattle rustlers in the affected areas of Gusau greatly served as a provocation to the Fulani's and their accomplices which invariably triggered reprisal reactions from the various criminal gangs in the area by means of attacks and killing indiscriminately to support their kinsmen.

It is also important to note that, majority of the respondents were of the view that, as a result of indiscriminate attacks and killing of innocent livestock owners and general lack of security and safety in the affected districts, many families have relocated away from this troublesome areas. Life in the affected areas became unbearable as normal cultural and communal activities are not been observe due the fear of been attack at any time of the day.

It is also pertinent to state that, majority of the respondents are not satisfied with the effort of the security agencies in the area in tackling this impending problem of cattle rustling. Many of the respondents expressed their dismay for insufficient effort from the security personnel to tackle the problem of indiscriminate attacks and killing of cattle owners by the different gangs of bandits. The state government was vehemently faulted for not doing enough to rescue the local communities ravaged by the unwholesome activities of cattle rustlers in the affected districts of Gusau. As most respondents were of the views that, for political reasons, the Zamfara state government is reluctant to physically intervene in the carnage due to their ties with the leadership of the Fulani's as their direct involvement can be seen by the Fulani leaders as direct confrontation against the Fulani people by the government. It was further argued that, in most cases, the government prefer dialogue rather than military action even though the Fulani bandits are fully armed with sophisticated weapons and their regular attacks on the rural communities continued unabated with no signs of ending the problem through dialogue and reconciliation.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY

From the beginning, certain hypotheses were advanced, which were subsequently analyzed. The study is articulated in such away as to bring to light the negative impacts of cattle rustling and its associated devastating consequences on the living conditions of the rural communities in Gusau local government area, Zamfara state, Nigeria.

In this respect, the chapter one of the essay concentrates on highlighting the basic contents, mode of procedures of research, such as historical background of the area under study, historical origin of Fulani herdsmen, Genesis of Zamfara state cattle rustling and reprisal killing, the impact of cattle rustling on the socio-economic development of Zamfara state, statement of problem, objectives of the study.

However, other important discussion in this chapter includes, hypotheses, scope of the study. In addition, the chapter also contains definition of terms; concepts are unavoidably useful to this category of the field of study.

Chapter two of this study is solely centred towards the review of related literature on the subject matter. These summarily looked into the problems of cattle rustling by examining different perspectives on the phenomenon of cattle rustling, proliferation of fire arms which largely fuelled the recent upsurge in rural banditry and cattle rustling in the area under study. Theoretical framework in which Queer ladder theory (QLT) was adapted to explained the organized nature of cattle rustling in contemporary period which is more or less a means to accumulate wealth and build power by the actors involved in this heinous crimes.

Chapter three highlights and explain the research design, population of study, sample and sampling procedure, method of data collection and problem encountered in the field in the course of data collection exercise.

Chapter four, therefore focused on analyzing the data collected from the area under study which is presented on the tables which consequently prove or disprove the hypotheses developed at the initial stage of the research.

Finally, chapter five summaries and conclude the research work, remarks on the investigation and findings of the research is thus concluded. This is followed by recommendations, which are personal or individual views of the writer which may be useful pointer for further investigation as well as a source of criticism.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The research found out that in the districts affected by the menace of cattle rustling in the area under study, the security agencies and the state government failed to secure these areas from the constant raiding and attacks by the various gang of cattle rustlers and other rural bandits.

Moreover, the unethical activities of the local vigilante groups in various districts of Gusau local government area which involves indiscriminate arrest of suspected Fulani herdsmen, with frivolous, trivial or no evidence to prove their involvement in any attack associate with livestock theft. The situation was further aggravated when the vigilantes resulted into killing any suspected cattle rustler in an open market square without any justification.

The scenario created a chain of retaliation and reprisal attacks in the affected areas which culminated in the significant loss of lives and property. Also this situation has led to the mass exodus of nomads who were hitherto living in peace and harmony with the host communities to other regions considered to be safer.

It is in the light of this that, the following short and long term measures are recommended for consideration in policies, ways and means of addressing the problem of cattle rustling and other associated banditry activities in rural areas of Gusau Zamfara state, Nigeria.

5.2.1 SHORT TERM MEASURES

1. There should be constant and effective deployment of adequate number of security personnel to the affected communities to checkmates the illegal activities of the cattle rustlers and other rural bandits as well as halting the unethical activities of the local vigilante groups which invariably aggravated the problem in recent years.
2. There should be 24 hours surveillance patrol along Nigeria-Niger Republic borders to check the influx of foreign nomads who are mostly suspected of smuggling dangerous weapons, such as rifle, pistol, machine gun and ammunitions to Nigeria through these porous borders which greatly help in increasing the incidences of rural banditry in Zamfara state.
3. There should be aerial surveillance on the suspected bandit's hideouts in the forest. This would assist greatly for easier identification and location of the target for the ground troops to move in precision on the intended target in order to reduce human casualty during the operation.
4. There should be collaboration efforts between the states of Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger all in Northern Nigeria to check and prevent the fleeing bandits from residing in their forest areas. This became imperative since the bandits moves from the extended forest of one state with their loots to other state or other side of the forest

to sale or safe keep the rustled livestock. The collaborating could be in planning, intelligence sharing and joint operation etc.

5.2.2 LONG TERM MEASURES

1. Disarmament, government should set up effective modalities to retrieve/recover the unlawfully possessed fire arms from wrong hands. These unlawfully possessed fire arms certainly precipitated the increasing attacks on rural communities in the affected districts and the rustling of their livestock by the cattle rustlers who operate with high degree of impunity because of their fire power which the villagers/rural vigilante cannot dare to confront them.
2. There should be a sustained effort from the government to encourage dialogue and reconciliation among the different ethnic groups in the respective communities affected by the problem of cattle rustling and other different forms of rural banditry. These communities have been hitherto living in peace and harmony with each other for many decades, but recent events has totally changed the hitherto peaceful relationship into that of confrontation and reprisal attacks and killing.
3. The Government should create an enabling environment for local jobs creation at the village level for the teeming unemployed youths. Rural poverty has been pervasive in recent years; youths that supposed to be engage in different aspects of rural economy are now left roaming about in the rural community without doing anything, this and many more has contributed in the upsurge in rural banditry and cattle rustling as they are striving to make a livelihood out of the criminal loots due to non availability of opportunity for rural employment.
4. The government should make a new and strict legislation to deal decisively with the problem relating to all forms of rural banditry. This can serves as deterrence to the actual and potential bandits. As human beings are capable of calculating the cost and benefits of engaging in any lawful acts, if the cost out weight the benefits this can serves as a deterrent for further misdemeanour.
5. There should be close intergovernmental cooperation between Nigeria and its neighbouring countries of Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon to check the movement of nomads across these borders. The phenomenon of rural banditry is also prevalent in some rural areas of these countries bordering Nigeria, bandits usually travelled along the porous borders with rustled livestock, arms and ammunicions escaping from the scene of crimes to a more safer places in order to dispose up the rustled livestock and acquire additional arms and ammunicions for the continuation of their nefarious acts.

5.3 CONCLUSION:

The major causes of cattle rustling in Gusau local government area of Zamfara state, Nigeria are multi-faceted and includes among others: proliferation of fire arms among the Fulani herdsmen, unethical activities of the rural vigilante groups operating without any legal code to guide their operations, harsh economic conditions which gave rise to massive youths unemployment in the rural areas, influence of violent foreign culture, and breaking down of social values which hitherto serves as a mechanism of social control.

Traditionally, rural areas are known for its peace atmosphere and harmonious co-existence among its inhabitants but the present day realities has changed the scenario to a more volatile and unpredictable nature of rural life security wise thereby eroding the social fibre of the rural community making it prone to all forms of rural criminalities.

The outstanding socio-economic impacts of cattle rustling are: disruption of economic activities, fall in rural businesses due to fear of indiscriminate attacks while on transit to and fro rural markets. Farming which is the main stay of the rural economy has been greatly affected due to fear of attacks and lack of safety while in the farm land. In some instances bandits do attack farmers while cultivating their farmland injuring or even killing them and usually carted away with their oxen which they are using to plough their farmland and escaped to the nearby forest.

This lack of safety and security has prompted the mass migration of law abiding rural dwellers with large number of their herds away from the affected districts to safer places. This has detrimental effects on the rural economy thereby accelerating the problem of rural poverty and unemployment.

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APPENDIX (A)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY, PHAGWARA PUNJAB INDIA

Dear Respondent,

I am a post graduate student of the above mentioned University, carrying out research work on the topic; **The Socio-economic Repercussions of Cattle Rustling in Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State, Nigeria.** Please answer the questions with sincerity as this research is only meant for academic purpose, and you are assured all necessary confidentiality with regards to any information you provide.

INSTRUCTION; tick options you think that are most appropriate.

1. Sex of Respondent
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
2. Age of Respondent
 - a) 18 - 30 Years
 - b) 31 - 43 Years
 - c) 44 - 56 years
 - d) 57 and above
3. Occupation of Respondent
 - a) Farming
 - b) Rearing domestic animals
 - c) Trading
 - d) Others specify-----
4. What do you know about cattle rustling?
 - a) Theft of livestock by use of violence.
 - b) Harassment and indiscriminate killing of cattle owners.
 - c) Burning of hamlets, villages, and settlements
 - d) Others specify-----
5. When did livestock theft start in large scale in your area?
 - a) 1999 to 2005
 - b) 2006 to 2010
 - c) 2011 to date
 - d) Others specify
6. Who are the people mostly involved in cattle rustling your area?
 - a) Local nomads
 - b) Foreign nomads

- c) Rural bandits
 - d) Others specify-----
7. What are the methods or ways through which cattle rustlers move the rustled cattle away from your area?
- a) Through the cattle routes in the bush
 - b) Through the use of vehicles
 - c) Through the thick forest
 - d) Others specify-----
8. What do you think is responsible for the upsurge of cattle theft in your area in recent years?
- a) Proliferation of lethal weapons among the Fulani herdsmen
 - b) Spread of violent culture by foreign nomads
 - c) Absence or lack of adequate security in the affected districts.
 - d) Others specify-----
9. What do you think are the sources through which cattle rustlers used to get sophisticated weapons?
- a) Illegal arms dealers
 - b) Robbers
 - c) Foreign nomads
 - d) All of the above
10. What do you think are the social effects of cattle rustling in Your area?
- a) Force migration
 - b) Abduction and rape
 - c) Inability to conduct cultural and ritual activities as a result of fear of crime.
 - d) All of the above
11. What are the economic effects of cattle rustling in your area?
- a) Lost of the entire herds to rustlers
 - b) Farming became impracticable
 - c) Local market and trading activities not feasible
 - d) All of the above

12. How can the rural communities protect themselves against the activities of cattle rustlers?

- a) Utilizing the local vigilante
- b) Self defence
- c) Seeking protection from security agencies
- d) Others specify-----

13. Do you think the activities of the local vigilante group help in reducing the incident of cattle rustling in your area?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Undecided
- d) Others specify-----

14. How do you assess the various security agencies approach in dealing with cattle rustling in your area?

- a) Excellent performance
- b) Good
- c) Satisfactory
- d) Poor

15. What is your general assessment on the effort made so far by Government in tackling the menace of livestock theft in your area?

- a) Excellent
- b) Good
- c) Satisfactory
- d) Poor

Thank you

APPENDIX (B)

STRUCTURED INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Name of respondent-----
2. Sex of respondent-----
3. Occupation of respondent-----
4. What do you know about cattle rustling?-----

5. When did cattle theft started in these areas?-----

6. Who do you suspect to be involved in cattle rustling in these areas?-----

7. What are the methods or ways through which cattle rustlers moved the rustled cattle away from these areas?-----

8. In your opinion, what do you think is responsible for the upsurge of cattle theft in the affected districts?-----

9. What do you think are the sources through which cattle rustlers used to get sophisticated weapons from?-----

10. How can you access the various security agencies approach to the problem of cattle rustling in these areas?-----

11. What is your views on the efforts so far made by government of Zamfara state in tackling the problem of cattle rustling the affected districts?-----

12. What do you think are the social effects of cattle rustling in the affected districts?
13. How does the activities of cattle rustlers affected these districts economically?-----

14. How can the rural communities protect themselves when facing danger of eminent attack by cattle rustlers?-----

15. In your own opinion do you think the activities of the vigilante group help in reducing the incidences of cattle theft in your area?-----
-----?

16. What is your general assessment on the effort so made by Government to address the problem of livestock theft in the affected districts?