

## Original Research Article

## Effect of Armed Banditry on Cattle and Sheep Production in Kebbi South, Nigeria

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**Abstract:** This paper assessed the effect of armed banditry on cattle and sheep production in Kebbi South, Nigeria. Cattle and sheep production has recently come under a big threat due to the challenges of insecurity. Using a multi stage sampling procedure, 60 ruminant animal farmers who were specifically keeping cattle and sheep in the study area were selected for the study. In the first stage, three livestock markets such as Ribah, Maga and Wasagu were purposively selected based on the volume of cattle and sheep sold there. The use of livestock markets was because of the difficulty of accessing the farmers in their homes due to the prevalent security challenges in the study area. In the second stage, 60 questionnaires were randomly distributed to cattle and sheep producers identified in the markets. However, only 45 were used due to incomplete information. The information gathered was analyzed using descriptive statistics and five point Likert scale. The study revealed that 66% of the respondent were within the age of 41-60 years, married (93%) and educated (57%). Similarly, majority of the respondents (64%) have large families. According to the study, the most prominent system of production used was Semi-intensive (29%) and forage was the major source of feed (70%). The study concluded that banditry has significantly reduced cattle and sheep production in the study area with untold negative effect on their standard of living and that government should improve security in the study area.

**Keywords:** Effect, Armed banditry, Cattle and Sheep Production, Kebbi South.

## INTRODUCTION

Armed banditry poses a serious threat not only to cattle and sheep production but to the Internal Security of southern Kebbi State and to the nation at large in view of its impacts and implications. The level at which armed bandits is operating in southern Kebbi State the situation needs to be given its rightful attention by both the Federal and the State governments to address the problem (Abdulkadir 2020). The banditry activities have led to general and complex social violence and insecurity in the State. These actions have led to the destruction of lives and properties, displacement of people from their communities; and a growing numbers of widows; widowers and orphan children, mostly in camps where IDPs reside following armed bandits' continued attacks on both farming and pastoral communities across different areas in the state. The paper adopts descriptive study as its analytical framework. Moreover, the study has revealed the factors responsible for armed banditry in the state as a result of unemployment, Poverty, Injustice by traditional fathers, Drug abuse, Vulnerability, Disperse settlement, Huge financial benefits, Proliferation of fire arms, Poor nature of security at the border, Cultural conflict and Out of Court settlement (Ahmadu 2019).

Ewan (2007) posits that the North West has the highest poverty rate in Nigeria, considering its economic potential. As of 2019, poverty levels were above the national average of 40.1 percent for all seven states in the region, led by Sokoto (87.7 percent), Jigawa (87 percent) and Zamfara (74 percent) (United Nation International Children Fund, 2019). Millions lack access to basic health care and clean water, and coverage of immunization is well below national objectives.

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The region has the largest number of out-of-school children in Nigeria at present (Aliyu, 2017). Millions of children are in the poorly resourced and poorly controlled Quranic school system, or almajiranci, which creates cohorts of unqualified youth, on top of those who do not attend school at all (Alkali,2015). The area also suffers, like the rest of the world, from very weak local governance, marked by the mismanagement of public funds. From January to December 2019, armed bandits were responsible for more than 1,000 civilian deaths in the Northwest, according to a report from the West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP). Augustine (2015) observed that the problem of Armed Banditry in Kebbi South is worsened by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons affected by conflict due to lack of successfully implementation of disarmament programs. Most often than not targeted groups merely cross porous borders acquiring new identities in the process. Coupled with poor communication, lack of social amenities such as good roads, adequate power supply and health facilities and poverty aggravate the situations transforming it into ideal space for rustling, smuggling and small arms trade. These conditions also provide potential routes for terrorist activities.

## METHODOLOGY

### Study Area

Southern Kebbi State (Zuru Emirate), Nigeria is one of the four Emirates in Kebbi state which comprises of four Local Government Areas (LGAs) namely; Danko-Wasagu, Fakai, Sakaba and Zuru. The Emirate is located at latitudes 11° and 12° N and longitudes 4° and 5° E of the equator and in the extreme south-eastern part of the state on a 9,000 square kilometers landmass. Southern Kebbi is hilly and bounded to the north by Gummi Local Government Area of Zamfara State, North-west by Koko Local Government Area, South-west by Yauri Local Government Area, North-east by Bukkuyum Local Government Area of Zamfara State, south by Rijau Local Government Area of Niger state and a population of 582, 106 people (NPC, 2006; Yahaya, 2015).

The area is inhabited by the following ethnic groups; Dakkarkari, Fakkawa, Dukkawa, Kelawa, Kambarawa, Katsinawan laka and Achifawa. Other settlers in the area are the; Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo etc. The different religions found in the area are Islam, Christianity and traditionalist, However, the traditional worship of different deities is still upheld in the area with many festivals celebrated at various times of the year. The climate is marked by both wet and dry seasons of which wet season dominates between April to October and dry season between November to February. Average rainfall is between 1025mm and 1050mm/ annum, mean temperature range between 31°C and 38°C and soil type is sandy loam which is suitable for agriculture. Animal husbandry is practiced side by side with crop production, on limited scale. The people of Zuru Emirate depend largely on the pastoral Fulani for meat, milk and butter. Hunting is an important economic activity after crop production and a supplement for meat production, hides and skin for shoes, warfare robes and local drums. Other economic activities are pot-making and weaving by women and blacksmithing by men.

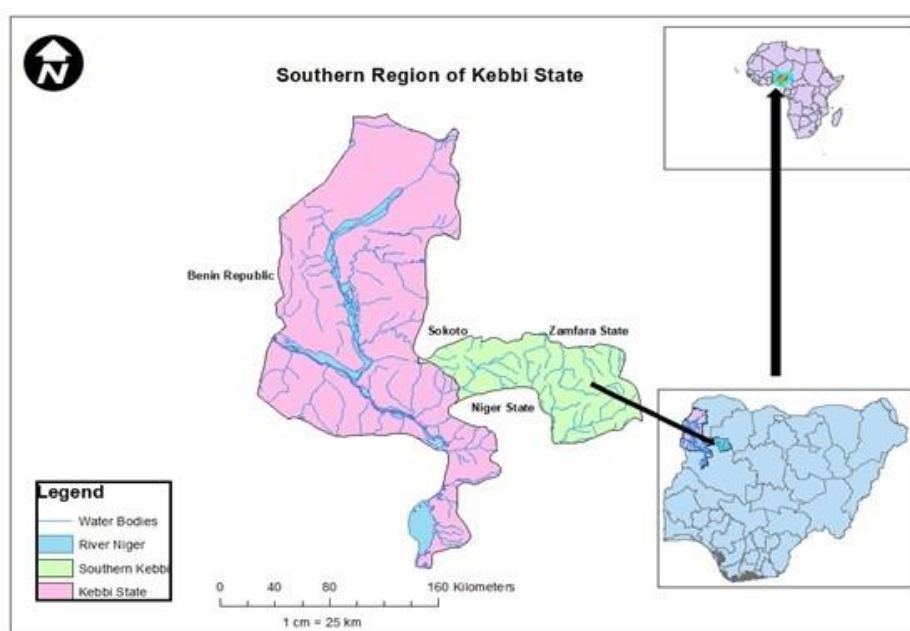


Fig 1: Showing Map of the study area

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A multistage sampling technique was employed to select 45 respondents which involved the random selection of three (3) major clans and four (4) villages giving a total of twelve (12) villages and 4 Cattle and sheep producers from each village to give a one hundred and twenty (45) respondents as sample size. A structured questionnaire was administered to respondents. Descriptive statistics and a four point Likert scale was used to analyse the data.

## RESULTS

**Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of ruminant animal producers**

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
20-30	5	11
31-40	9	20
41-50	13	30
51-60	16	36
61-70	2	5
70 and above	1	2
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	1	2
Married	41	93
Divorced	2	5
<b>Educational Status</b>		
Quranic Education	19	43
Primary School	11	25
Secondary School	11	25
OND/NCE/Degree	1	2
Postgraduate	2	5
<b>Household Size</b>		
1-10	16	36
11-20	21	48
21-30	7	16
<b>Livestock Occupation</b>		
Full-time	27	61
Part-time	17	39
<b>Other Occupation n=17</b>		
Cattle and sheep rearing	6	35
Civil Service	1	6
Trading	7	41
Livestock processing	3	18

Source: Field survey, 2022

**Table 2: Mean and standard deviation of effect level of armed banditry on cattle and sheep production in kebbi south**

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Armed bandits effect on cattle production	3.52	0.50	HE
2	Armed bandits effect of sheep production	3.53	0.51	HE
3	Armed bandits effect on food security	3.54	0.53	HE
4	Armed bandits effect on income from cattle and sheep	3.55	0.54	HE
5	Armed bandits effect on environmental security of people	3.55	0.54	HE
6	Armed bandits effect on community security	3.54	0.53	HE
7	Armed bandits effect on other animals production	3.56	0.55	HE
	Grand Mean	3.54		HE

**Note:** Very High Effect (VHE) = 4.50-5.00, High Effect (HE) = 3.50-3.49, Very Low Effect (VLE) = 0.50-1.49, Low Effect (LE) = 1.50-2.49 SD= Standard Deviation

**Table 3: Production systems used by the ruminant animal farmers**

System	Frequency	Percentage
Extensive	9	20
Semi-intensive	13	29
Intensive	12	28
Extensive and intensive	4	9
Extensive and Semi-intensive	1	2
Intensive and Semi-intensive	5	12

Source: Field survey, 2022

**Table 4: Feeding materials used for ruminant animals**

Feed material	Frequency	Percentage
Forage	31	70
Supplements	17	39
Concentrates	14	32
Kitchen wastes	02	5

Source: Field survey, 2022

**Table 5: Effect of banditry on ruminant animal production**

Banditry attack on Cattle and sheep farmers	Frequency	Percentage
Those that experience attack	23	52
Those who did not experience attack	21	48
Reduced Access to feed	6	14
Reduced income	13	30
Indebtedness	2	5
Relocation	3	7
Payment of Ransom	4	9
Death of love ones	5	11
Threat to Livestock business	18	41

\*Multiple responses were recorded Source: Field survey, 2022

## DISCUSSION

### Socio-Economic Characteristics

The socio-economic characteristics of cattle and sheep producers in the study area is shown in Table 1. The age structure revealed that 36% of the cattle and sheep farmers were within the age range of 51-60 years of age and then closely followed by 30% within the 41-50 years age range while those from 70 years and above had a percentage of 2% which is lowest. This implies that most those involved in cattle and sheep production are still active and would have been gotten vast experience in cattle and sheep production. They will be more favourably disposed to new development on latest production techniques. Gadzama *et al.*, (2018) reported that farmers within active farming age could adopt new techniques. Fukuda and Messineo. (2012) reported that experience increases with age which is an advantage of cattle and sheep production. The study revealed that 93% of the respondents were married. This implies that they may likely be conscious of their responsibilities and be dedicated to work. The respondents' could use the children as family labour. The education level of the respondents were shown to be highest in Quoranic with 43% while primary and secondary education had 11% each. Chikwuma and Francis (2014) and Gadzama *et al.*, (2018) reported that a good level of education among similar categories of farmers. Very few of them attained tertiary education as shown with 2% and 5% for OND/NCE/Degree and postgraduate education respectively. The education level of these respondents confer advantages such as being conversant with latest developments in cattle and sheep production, ability to also adopt latest production techniques and exploit opportunities inherent in cattle and sheep farming along marketing opportunities.

Augustine (2015) reported that the level of education observed in the study could boost their productivity through improved adoption of innovations and skills of the respondents in ruminant production. Education is always valued as a tool of independence to oneself from ignorance and enables the person to play non-traditional roles. Gadzama *et al.* (2018) reported that poor education may imply that the livestock producers may not have been in touch with the modern ways of rearing animals except those that might have diffused from other farmers around them. The study revealed that the respondents had large household as shown from household sizes of 36%, 48% and 16% having household sizes of between 10, 11-20 and 21-30 respectively. The large household size is of advantage since they could readily serve as regular labour supply. The large family size could have positive impact on cattle and sheep farming since they may constitute family labour (Gadzama *et al.*, 2018). The research findings shows that 61% of the farmers operate on full time while the rest also worked in civil service, traders and livestock processors. This could imply that those who

are not involved in other occupation or vocation will be able to concentrate on cattle and sheep production while the ones that have other occupations can derive advantage from multiple resources to support cattle and sheep production.

Table 2 revealed that all the 7 items posits their mean values ranging from 3.52 to 3.56. This indicates that the respondents agreed that armed banditry has high effect on cattle, sheep and other animal production. The table shows the standard deviation of all items which ranges from 0.50 to 0.55. This means that the respondents were similar in their responses.

The findings from the study as revealed in Table 2 indicates that all the 7 items posited their mean values ranging from 3.56 to 3.52. This revealed that the respondents posits that all the items indicated that armed banditry postulated high effect on cattle and sheep production. This means that armed banditry has high effect on all the categories of animal production. This finding agrees with the findings of Aliyu (2017) as they found banditry to have effect on ruminant production in Katsina state.

The production systems used by cattle and sheep farmers in the study area is shown in table 3. Twenty-nine percent (29%) and (28%) of the farmers adopt semi-intensive and intensive systems respectively while 20% of them utilize extensive system. From this study, it could be seen that more of the farmers adopt intensive and semi-intensive. This could imply better management practices for improved productivity but they could be bearing higher cost of production. The security that pervades the entire study area might have influenced this adopted systems of production. Gadzama *et al.* (2018) reported in similar study that the ruminant animal farmers adopt intensive system of farming because of the security challenges and the rustling of animals in the area of study which increased the cost of production.

Table 4 shows that forages are the main source of cattle and sheep feeds. Feeds and feeding are part of the major challenges faced by cattle and sheep farmers. This is more serious in the situation of banditry attacks in the study area. According to table 4, about 70% of the respondents rely on forage for feeding their animals. Other material used is supplements as indicated by 39% of the ruminant farmers. According to Axworthy (2004), provision of multi-nutrient blocks as supplements has had the widest impact. Those who used concentrates and kitchen wastes are 32% and 5% of the respondents respectively. The principles for using these as the basis of the diet of cattle and sheep. Forages are very important in any type of management system adopted by the farmers. It becomes challenging both for the farmers and the animals if they cannot freely go out with their animals to graze or go to harvest forages for their animals due to the fear of bandits and rustlers. Cattle and sheep farmers in Nigeria are mostly nomadic, semi nomadic and pastoral farmer's, therefore cattle and sheep are based on natural pasture as the major feed source (Alkali, 2015). Cattle and sheep in the tropics in general, are raised predominantly on grass which are inherently poor in digestibility, nutritive value and unavailability in off season (Abdulkadir, 2020).

Results in table 5 shows the effect of banditry on cattle and sheep production in which 52% of the respondents have experienced banditry attack at least once while the rest have friends, colleagues, relatives and neighbors who experienced the attacks in recent times. Looking at the effects of banditry on cattle and sheep production in the study area, about 30% of the farmers noted reduced income as a major effect. About 61% of the farmers in the area engaging in full-time animal production business. This effect has definitely affected the major aspects of life of the respondents in the study area. In fact, 41% of the respondents saw banditry as a threat to livestock business in general. Other notable effects are reduced access to feeds (14%), death of loved ones (11%) and forceful relocation (7%). These are setbacks for the growth of cattle and sheep production in the area. According to Gadzama *et al.*, (2018), as a result of banditry, some households have experienced drastic negative changes in some things they have always enjoyed in the course of their cattle and sheep production engagements.

## CONCLUSION

The paper is an attempt to extrapolate the nexus between Banditry and cattle and sheep production in kebbi south. It can be concluded that banditry has significantly reduced the cattle and sheep production in the study area with untold negative effect on their standard of living.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper wishes to recommend the following as additional measures and the way forward:

- Government and its agencies are implored to intensify effort at improving on eradicating banditry in the study area so that cattle and sheep farmers can concentrate on their productive activities.
- Findings indicated that there is obvious failure on the part of government security agencies in efforts to prevent and control acts of armed banditry. As a result, it is recommended that, government should recognize vigilante groups while also resuscitating local community monitoring systems.

- The federal government and governments of the North West states should continue to seek resolution of conflicts between herders and farmers that have been the engine of instability in the region, including through negotiated settlements that build upon previous state-level disarmament efforts.
- Empowerment of the Yan sakai in all the Local Government areas of Kebbi south, organizing them and providing them with weapons and ammunition, some may prefer the Double Barrel Shot Gun (DBSG) while others may be given Rifles, such as the AK-47 and where necessary RPG Launchers. They need to be given a short training on communications during operations as well as intelligence gathering. They need to understand the role of GSM and Global Position System (GPS) in locating bandits.
- These Yan Sakai must be screened at their ward levels to ensure they are of good character with guarantors in the community including Heads of Families, Imams, ward and village heads. For long these traditional institutions had been neglected and in some places the bandits have incorporated them into their networks.
- Each LG should have a Commander of Yan Sakai and be given the mandate to clear the Bandits in their Local Government Areas. Where there is need for coordinated action across the neighboring LGAs, the Commanders can sit and organize a joint action.
- Provision of cattle ranches with adequate security to livestock owners should be in place so as to curb cattle rustling.
- Government should provide adequate security with intelligent support to reduce the effect of kidnappings in Kebbi south.
- Importantly, provision of adequate security should be focus on the people so as to protect their life and properties from armed robbers in the State.

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