

Ecological Disconnections and Community Dynamics of Fulbe Pastoral Women in Northern Nigeria

By

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Introduction

- * Ecology explains the relationship between living organisms; (including humans) and their physical environment.
- * The relationship ranges from being mutual, competitive, predative, parasitic and communal.
- * Human activities and climate change have induced ecological disconnections
- * Ecological disconnections have impacted on community dynamics

Introduction Cont...

- * The Fulbe in the Sahel of West and Central Africa and part of Sudan are the largest pastoral group in Africa
- * They represent the pastoral communities within the savannah ecology of Northern Nigeria
- * More than 50m in population & have unique patterns of movement adaptive to arid and semi-arid environments
- * The Savannah provides a rich biome for their livelihoods and livestock .
- * The Pastoral Fulbe have unique community dynamics adapted to the ecology of Northern Nigeria.

A Fulbe Household



Fulbe Pastoral Women



Pastoral Fulbe on Transit



Heading to the Market to sell dairy



The Study Area

- * Extends from Lat. $13^{\circ} 28' 41.01''$ to $8^{\circ} 32' 9.96''$ N of the equator and Long. $4^{\circ} 8' 30.37''$ E to $11^{\circ} 54' 39.77''$ E
- * The region has two dominant seasons: The Wet and dry seasons
- * Unpredictable seasonal changes have induced limited grazing resources
- * Destruction of bio-diversity, soil surface, weak institutional environmental management plan and rural development abound

Map of Northern Nigeria



The Problem

- * Pastoral Fulbe women are perceived as victims of ecological disconnections
- * The situation has affected their livelihood and social family dynamics
- * Their resilience and coping strategies of are dismal to the perceived ecological disconnections

Objectives

- * examine the types of ecological disconnections,
- * identify factors of the ecological disconnections ,
- * Characterize the community dynamics of the pastoral Fulbe women and
- * establish the relationship between the ecological factors and the nature of community dynamics of the pastoral Fulbe women.

Research Questions and Hypothesis

- * What types of ecological disconnections exist ?
- * What are the factors of these ecological disconnections?
- * What are the community dynamics of the pastoral Fulbe women?
- * What is the relationship between the ecological factors and the nature of community dynamics of the women?
- * Ho:There is no significant relationship between ecological factors and the nature of community dynamics of the pastoral Fulbe women

Significance to Victims Support

- * Facts for effective environment management
- * Insight on Institutional arrangements for victim support
- * Future evaluations and predictions

Methodology

- * Survey design with purposive sampling
- * Research instrument with *r*-coefficient of 0.86
- * Use of questionnaire to elicit data
- * Data classified and coded
- * Descriptively analysis supported by graphs, tables
- * Hypothesis testing at 0.05 alpha level

Results

Bio-data

- * 76% were older than 15 years
- * 26 % had basic education; 56% in Islamic education; 100% in indigenous knowledge
- * 94% of their livelihood sources is from the physical environment
- * 100 % owned and graze animals

Major ecological disconnections identified -

Competition for space (grazing land) with non pastoral neighbourhoods,

- Broken chain of mutualism and symbiotic associations resulting to farmer harder conflict
- Increased predation vulnerability
- Increased parasitism
- Increased communal clashes

Results Cont--

Impact of the Eco-Disconnections

- * Climate Change induced: Extreme exposures and weather variation
- * Land-Use induced: destruction of surface soils, biodiversity loss, confiscation of pastoral range lands blockage of cattle routes
- * Institutional: Weak institutional framework for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Rural Development
- * The above leading to forceful migration, communal clashes, untimely deaths and even suicide among pastoral Fulbe Communities

Result Cont---

Nature and Characteristics of Community Dynamics of the Fulbe pastoralists

- i. Lost of economic strength from animals
- ii. Drop in level of Basic level of education
- iii. Endangering family relationships and association, affection decision make processes
- iv. Politically excluded and citizenship rights infringe upon
- v. Socially misunderstood and misinterpreted by non-Fulbe neighbours leading to all forms of stereotypes and prejudice of the pastoral Fulbe group
- vi. Increase in mobility and building resilience to their environmental challenges

Result Cont--

Hypothesis

- * A strong, positive correlation between ecological disconnection and community dynamics exist
- * Correlation was significant: $r = 0.84$; $p = < 0.05$
- * The hypothesis which state that there is no significant relationship between ecological disconnection and community dynamics of the Fulbe pastoral women was rejected. Thus the relation is real and bonding

Recommendations

- * Northern Nigeria's States and the Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Environment to review laws and policies to address the existing eco-disconnections in the pastoral habitats
- * Effective Environment Management Plans and sustainable land-Use practices
- * Mitigation measures be intensified by MDAs in Nigeria to reduce climate -related community vulnerability
- * MDAs to ensure sustainable land use practices
- * improved Socio- economic and political inclusions of the pastoral communities in Nigeria

Recommendations cont.

Media that perpetuates fake news, ethnic stereotyping and prejudice to be sanctioned

Education curricular be reviewed for an all- inclusive nomadic education programs

Thank You

