

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL CONFLICT: MIGRATION OF FULANI HERDSMEN AND THE IMPLICATIONS IN NIGERIA

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**ABSTRACT:** *The paper is on climate change and social conflict: Migration of Fulani Herdsmen and the implication on the Nigerian state. Climate change on the North-East has triggered migration of Fulani Herdsmen, with several negative impact on short and long- term. The principle target of the investigation is to inspect the level of environmental change, asses the level of migration as it affect grazing area in parts of Nigeria. The study employed descriptive qualitative content analyses, basically on secondary sources of data and the internet was consulted, using conflict theories as a theoretical tool for analysis. One major finding is that violent herdsmen conflict is mainly due to emigration of herdsmen from the North-East. We therefore recommend governments to set aside land for effective ranching.*

**KEYWORDS:** climate change, herdsmen and migration

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### INTRODUCTION

The most pleasing meaning of climate change is found in the glossary of terms of IPCC which defined environmental change as any adjustment in atmosphere after some time, because of normal inconsistency or because of human movement (IPCC, 2007, p. 22). Climate change triggers migration of Fulani herdsmen, due to the negative effect of environmental change with short and long haul consequences. Evans (2012) emphasized changes in climate will affect social and ecological frameworks, through danger, for example, over the top warmth liquefying of glaciers, which will result in optional effects including desertification, coastal flooding, land debasement, reduce crop yield, low water accessibility and nourishment frailty among others. Extreme weather reduce the availability of water needed by herders, drought also make grasses needed for grazing non-available. Negative climate change has necessitated the migration of herders from up North to down South, where they could get water and other resources needed to sustain their cattle's.

The migration out of their original secured grazing area to other parts of Nigeria. Dantala (2014), Ani (2018), Ozoh and Dinwobi (2018), opined that migration has led to conflict and the death of many thousand Nigerian in the process. The conflict will continue as long as there is no ranching in place, the number of cattle by herders, far outnumber the resources in their secured territory. They have lived all their lives as herders, which have been their source of income and livelihood from time immemorial.

This paper aim to examine climate change and the associated social conflict, in course of the migration of herdsmen from their original grazing area, to other parts of Nigeria. Furthermore, this paper will cover the following sub-themes: Methodology and scope, theoretical

framework, concept clarification: climate change, social conflict, migration, Fulani herdsmen. Impact of herdsmen conflict in Nigeria, conclusion and recommendations.

### **Methodology and Scope**

In this paper the information for the investigation is fundamentally chose from optional materials, for example, textbook, web materials, papers and magazines, journal articles and so on through a precise subjective substance descriptive investigation. The emphasis in this paper is on climate change and social conflict in Nigeria: Migration of Fulani herdsmen and the impact.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This paper will adopt frustration-aggression and conflict theory as it best explains the migration of Fulani herdsmen in search of resources for their herds and the associated social conflict, largely caused by climate change, as they move from place to place.

### **Frustration Aggression Theory**

Dollard and Miller in (1939) originally conceived this theory, later refined by Barkowitz in 1969. The theory posit animosity is a result or aftereffect of blocking or baffling an individual effort toward a specific objectives (Dollard, cited in Myers, 2007). The theory posit further, that dissatisfaction brought by impedances on objective coordinated action produce a status for animosity which if triggers can result in forceful reaction. Rationis (2014) the trigger could be an irrelevant component of behaviour, that could be neglected, yet the baffled person who is as of now sitting tight for an aggression to demonstrate his disappointment, it might incite forceful reaction or backlash. As applicable in this study, the objective and point of farmers amid planting season is to have a plentiful collect, move the ranch produce and make profit. Herdsmen also need to have very much encouraged solid dairy cattle to have the capacity to make profit also. At the point when this desire are not realized by group eaten up and wrecking the ranchers crop or on the other hand that the agriculturist encroaching on eaten stores or used water saved for cows to flood their farm. Animosity would be activated.

Either party that were unable to achieve their monetary goal, will feel displeased, reprisal becomes eminent, which may result in conflict. These aggressions could be compare to the Fulani's avocation for why they assaulted Agatu group people of Benue Sate on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 and slaughtered hundreds of persons. (Mayah, Tukur and Adebayo, 2016) the leader of Gan Allah Fulani affiliation, confirmed the contention was a retaliation assault against the murdering of their noticeable child by the general population of Agatu who stole his dairy cattle in April 2013. This explain long stretches of disappointment and resentment against the Agatu and the eventual trigger of animosity from the herders.

### **Conflict Theory**

One leading advocate of this hypothesis is Karl Max (1818-1883). Max conflict ideology is a belief system that examine disparity under free enterprise and how to transform it through showdown. (Ritzer & Stepnisky 2014: 43). They argue conflict is an inherent feature of capitalism, because of conflicting interest between the two opposing classes. In this case the two classes are herders and farmers, with conflicting interest. Manning and Triggs, opined that the fundamental reason for struggle between two gatherings is more often than, not over access to material assets. The core of the hypothesis is that contradictory bunches in the public arena dependably battle for restricted or rare assets. This also explain the cause of conflict between

herdsmen and farmers, both parties are struggling over limited or scarce resources to feed their cattle, and water to irrigate their farm, which is unexplainably scarce to serve both parties. The two group each tries or struggles to acquire more resources for their farm and cattle's respectively. Each amass endeavour to ensure its own advantage, in this manner obstructing the advancement of another in getting to that (Idowu, 2017). The land assets are rear in Nigeria and required by both ranchers and herders for sustenance of their farm and cattle's and their various sources of livelihood.

Conflict is inevitable as both endeavour with one another in quest for assets that are scarce and limited, as both of the two bunches endeavour to interfere or misuse another previously verified and since a long time ago obtained resources. The herders trek miles without their spouses in search of brushing field in different networks, forcefully acquire sexual gratification or have their steers feed on ranch yields and face showdown for infringement, annihilation of harvest, famers in search of arable land could also infringe into touching reserve, hoodlums in host communities could also attempt to take steers for financial gain, etc could lead to conflict. Ofem and Inyang (2014), emphasized that the quest for access to an assortment of restricted assets, for example grassland, also water spots for animal give ascend to clashes. This aptly captures the situation of farmers and herdsmen conflict in Nigeria.

### **Concept Clarification**

#### **Climate Change**

According to the international scientific community, it is fundamental that all nations together unequivocally lessen their zone depleting substance and compound emission, in other to edge environmental impact from intensifying. These challenges go connected at the hip with social, monetary and natural issues that as of now influence it populace, framework, generation frameworks and ecosystem.

The prove of environmental change is convincing: ocean levels are rising, ice sheet are withdrawing, encouraging example are changing and the world is getting more hotter, (Elizabeth 2010), ongoing proof suggest significantly progressively quick change, which will enormously, and at times irreversibly, influence not just individuals, and furthermore species and ecosystem. Environmental change is real, Super Typhoon is the most recent cataclysmic event that has driven trustworthiness to the truth of climate change. It is the most grounded tempest in history, tore buildings apart, furthermore, left whole areas without power or correspondence. Dividers of water as high as fifteen feet cleared over nation washed away towns on numerous islands and washed ships aground where homes once stood. UN says around 920.000 individual have been affected. (The Argo, 2013) authorities said the dangerous tempest left more than 3850,000 people harmed and less than 77 individuals detailed missing over the Philippines.

Climate change though global, but its negative impact is felt more by needy individuals and poor nations, it can undo decades of development effort. Destitute individuals and poor nations are affected more, due to their sole reliance on common assets and restricted ability to adapt to atmosphere fluctuation and limit. Moving toward low-carbon social orders can help diminish ozone harming substance discharge, enhancing human wellbeing and prosperity and making green occupations. Urgent action is inevitable to staw away from an irreversible develop of

ozone depleting substances and an unnatural weather change at potential enormous expense of the economy and society around the world.

Financial turmoil is no excuse for inaction, according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the event that we demonstrate now, we have 10-15 years “breathing space”, while requiring perpetual stringent measure to have any kind of effect. Climate change is the most ecological term of present times used to allude to change in present day atmosphere brought overwhelmingly by human beings. It's the most difficult issues that the present total populace is confronting (Adedeji et al, 2014).

### **The Fulani Herdsmen**

Found across West central Africa, they are said to be perhaps the biggest semi-itinerant gathering on the planet (Naziru, 2016). They are found in large numbers in Nigeria, some have moved to the cities, many are still living as semi-nomadic herders. The nomadic assembly essentially, spend the greater part of their lives in the shrub, herding their cattle's, are the ones to a great extent engaged with clashes. Anter (2011) opined the Fulani's as an ethnic group is spread over several West African and the Sudan. They are found in Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leon, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Benin, Ghana, Sudan and Cameroon.

In Nigeria, like elsewhere the Fulani's are basically pastoralist agriculturist, their main occupation is nomadic farming, pastoralist, trading, herding of cattle, goats and sheep. According to Blench (1994). The Fulani's originated from the Senegambia before spreading out into about 20 states which cut across West Africa, and the Sahel as well as Western Sudan and Central African Republic (McGregor, 2014). The Fulani's are the major provider of milk and meat in Nigeria. They contribute 90% of the meat industry in Nigeria, and of the cattle in Nigeria are owned by them. They also contribute about 3.2% to Nigeria Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Abass (2012). They are responsible for provision of hides and skin in Nigeria. The conflict between herdsmen and the local communities can be traced to the beginning of agriculture (Abass, 2012).

Basically Nigeria have two major seasons – rainy and the dry seasons. During the rainy season, the pasture begin to appear and this is the time when the clashes between the herdsmen and the people of local communities begin to occur due to their trespass into arable lands (Abass, 2012). Fulani's herders can travel hundreds of mile in huge numbers with their cows, looking for field, they are regularly outfitted with the weapons to secure their domesticated animals Naziru (2016). They are often engaged in disagreement, over the utilization of fundamental assets, for example, farmland, brushing regions and water among herders and neighborhood, ranchers are said to be the real wellspring of the battling Naziru (2016).

### **Migration**

Homan relocation is the development by individuals starting with one spot then onto the next with the goal of settling, for all frequently over long separations starting with one nation then onto the next, yet inner movement is likewise possible, indeed, this is the predominant frame time or incidentally in another area, for all time or incidentally in another area. An individual who move from their home to somewhere else due to a catastrophic event or aggravation might be portrayed as an exile or, aggravation might be portrayed as an exile or, a dislodge

individual. An individual looking for shelter from political, religious, or different types of oppression is typically portrayed as a haven searcher.

But nomadic are ordinarily not regarded as relocation as there is no goal to settle in the spot and in light of the fact that the development is generally occasional. Just a couple of migrant individuals have returned this type of way of life in present times, especially the current Fulani nomadic in the North-central states of Nigeria. In the North-central state of Nigeria, the Fulani herdsmen now move with the intention to settle in the visited places in the middle belt of Nigeria, which has often generated conflicts and several other implications in Nigeria today. It is in this regard, we refer to emigration, with regards to North-East to North-Central and North-South for purpose of grazing internally, with the intention to dwell in the new place, even with the use of force, is what this paper focuses is as migration.

It is a process through which people move from a permanent place of residence to another, more or less permanent one for a substantial period of time (Chakra Varthi, 2001; Chard, 2002; and Sight et al, 2001).

### **Results of worldwide Climate Change**

The consequences are numerous; however, a few will be discussed for the purpose of this paper.

#### **Natural Consequences**

These consequences are visible, temperature are rising, polar tops are dissolving, ocean level is risen, desertification increasing, the movement of cattle's down south by Fulani herdsmen are attributed to climate change which have occasioned drought in places up North where they use to have water and grasses to feed their herds. The movement of cattle's down south is in attempt to access resources, to sustain their cattle's. The number of natural disaster have increased more than ever, Tsunamis, flood, extreme drought happen more frequent than time past.

IPCC predict the followings:

- By around 2100 global temperature would have risen between 1.1<sup>0</sup>C and 6.4<sup>0</sup>C, the exact increase gases and other pollutant, including combined physical and compound procedures in the air.
- Some part of the world will get more precipitation, with others getting to be drier. Present ocean levels will ascend by between 18 and 59 centimeters, since hotter water involve more space than cold water, and also due to the retreat of the ice sheet and polar ice sheet.

#### **Economic Consequence**

Global climate change will have damning ramification for living nature just as the economy. A little ascent in mean yearly temperature can majorly affect the local biology and organic assorted variety (Pounds & Puschendorf, 2004). Biodiversity is of immense significance for the dependability of the ecosystem also for human wellbeing (Harvard, 2002). The monetary effect of dry spell, flood and other weather variability, will move toward becoming substantial, set to rise to between 5% and 20% of global income. Climate will affect the attainment of millennium development goals

The MDG goals are:

- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality



- Improve maternal health
  - Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases
  - Ensure environmental sustainability
  - Develop a global partnership for development
- All these will be non-achievable without a positive climate change.

### **Potential Health Impact of Climate Change**

Worldwide environmental change would influence human wellbeing with different multifaceted nature complexity, it will shift geologically as an element of both condition and geography and defenseless of the neighborhood populace. Impact could be positive or negative, scientist have however, anticipated predominantly negative impact. The characteristics biological and physical system that are fundamental piece of Earth's life system, can be disrupted by negative climate change.

Negative health impact of climate change, includes change in presentation to climate limits, heat waves, cold, flood, cyclones, storm-surges, drought, increase production and use of certain air pollutant, furthermore, aeroallergens (spores and molds). Climate change can also influence the transmission of numerous infectious diseases particularly water, sustenance and vector conceived illness, provincial nourishment production, can be affected (especially cereal grains). The depletion of the Ozone's will get worse, with potential health consequences, thereby increase in incident of skin malignancy in reasonable cleared population, eye sores, for example waterfalls, and maybe concealment of invulnerable action, would turn into an issue for environmental change.

### **Political and Security Risk**

Climate change has been connected to increment political insecurity World Wide. (FPW, 2014) when food price rose sharply in 2007-2008, there was "food riot" with casualties in Cameroon, Haiti, India etc. Civil war in Somalia and Syria, have been connected to dry season and starvation exacerbated by climate change. The political tension and deteriorating security occasioned by Fulani herdsmen conflicts and killing, is a similar case in Nigeria, the conflict and killing by herdsmen, reinforced by climate change, (shortage of water) and other resources to sustain their cattle.

### **Pressure on water and food**

Sustenance creation is firmly combine with water accessibility, increasing inconsistent precipitation raises fears of deficiencies, on the planet most helpless locales. Water shortage in Pakistan and India, have threatened the feasibility of farmine in the area , same is the case, in up North in Nigeria where herders need water and grasses to feed their cows, hence they are migrating to areas, they could get these resources. In the process farm land for crops are destroyed, with unending daily crisis and conflict in Nigeria. In cases of warmer weather, crop growth and yield will also be increased, outrageous climate can be dangerous to farmland, yields, and domesticated animals, rising ocean levels can disintegrate and salize cropland (AFS, 2016) Christoph, M; Wolfgang, (William, L.H; & Hermann Lotze-Campen 2011).

### **Social Conflict**

Conflict is an inescapable unavoidable truth. It is conceived out of contrasts and will emerge in any circumstance where individual are required to communicate with each other. Conflict is by and large viewed as an obstacle to advance. Notwithstanding, it is not generally a terrible

thing, it can also be an innovative power. It is difficult to come to a consensus concerning the definition of the term conflict. The way out to comprehend the term conflict is to separate the theories of conflict into functional, situational and interactive. Adherents of the utilitarian methodology, opine conflict serves a social function, situational followers suggest conflict is an expression under certain situation. George Simmel, a German sociologist. In 1955, defined conflict as intended to determine desperate dualism, it is a method for resolving some sort of solidarity, regardless of whether will be through the destruction of one of the clashing gathering. According to Simmel, conflict servers as a social reason and compromise came even with the all-out devastation of one gathering. Simmel suggest three ways to end a conflict. Firstly, conflict may end with a triumph more than one gathering over another; secondly, conflict can be settled through trade off; thirdly appeasement. However, not all conflict can be ended as discussed.

An American sociologist, Lewis Coser in 1967, the author of the functions of social conflict, defined conflict as: “the conflict of qualities and interest, the pressure between what is and what some groups feel should be, the conflict of qualities and intrigue is the result of contention among herders and rancers. Bernard and Ashimi (2014) citing Coser (1967) conflict serves the capacity of pushing society and prionompting new foundations, innovation and monetary system. Conflict is a process in which one party suggest that its interest are being opposed by another party. The interest of herders and farmers are being opposed by each other in Nigeria.

Coser (1967), conflict in a fight over characteristics and cases to uncommon status, power and resources in which the enemy is to kill the opponent. In communicative perspective, it is a communicated battle between somewhere around two independent parties who receive inconsistent objectives, rare prizes and obstruction from different gatherings in accomplishing their objectives (Hocker and Wilmot, 1985). Thomas (2005), define conflict a contradiction in assessment between individuals or gatherings because of the distinction in attitude, beliefs, values or requirements. The definition above, prove that, there is no one just definition of conflict. It very well may be reasoned that contention can influence everybody to differing extend, (Leung, 2010).

Conflict is a reality in everyday lives and should be considered a natural process that occurs daily. As a group perform, it dole out assignments, struggle unavoidably emerge, furthermore strife ought to be viewed as characteristics procedure that happens every day by day (Robins, et al 2003), strife is seen as unbiased because of life vulnerability. Strife can be dysfunctional or functional. Strife process comprise of five phases.

- i. Potential opposition or incompatibility
- ii. Cognition and personalization
- iii. Intention
- iv. Behaviours; and
- v. Outcome

Fajana (2000), identified two wellsprings of contention

- i. Internal and
- ii. External sources

(Bodtker, et al, 2001) on his part, struggle is shaped by three noteworthy components:

- i. Mentalities, subjective thought and feeling

- ii. Conduct, obvious conduct and potential activities
- iii. Consistency, qualities and intrigue.

### **Impact of Herdsmen Conflict in Nigeria**

One undeniable impact of Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria is gruesome killing of Nigerians, especially Christians. According to Fani-Kayode (1028) started that till date, no Fulani herdsmen has been detained or jailed for slaughtering more than 5,300 Christians in 2018, the jihadist who slaughtered the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) preacher for preaching in Abuja was sans set. The man who slaughtered Bridget, the Deeper Life Pastors' wife in Kano were also let go. The revelation was made in reaction to Adamawa court, convicted five Christians to death by hanging for slaughtering Fulani herdsmen, by justice Abdul-Azeez Waziri a Fulani judge.

Whereas the Christians, Alex Amos, Alheri Phanuel, Holy Boniface, Jerry Gideon and Jari Sabagi killed the herdsmen in self defence. Never in the history of Nigeria, has it been so divided along religions and ethnic line from 1999-date. Farmers – Herders crisis have impacted negatively on the peace, security as well on the economy of the nation (Beetseh, Samuel and Victoria, 2018). Most fearful is the impact on investors both domestic and foreign are discouraged with far reaching consequences on the nation. Herders and Farmers crisis have resulted in land scarcity, growing scarcity of arable land and water sources that are essential to sustain crop cultivation and cattle herds.

The Christian – Muslim divide in Nigeria, is worse due to crisis traceable to Fulani herdsmen, this is evident by the fact that a majority of clashes occur in most part of the states, Plateau, Taraba, Ekiti, Ebonyi and Benue. These clashes have also expanded access to arms and programmed weapons, and additionally the misuse of ranchers herders' brutality by Boko-Haram terrorist (Blench & Dendo, 2003 and Rashed, 2012). The arms proliferation is visible, in the media, Fulani; herdsmen openly wield Ak 47, the media is awash of such photographs. These further deteriorate the security system in the country.

The crisis currently is discouraging tourist from visiting Benue, Jos and Taraba. Benue is known as the food basket of Nigeria, because of their fertile soil which makes agriculture very important for their livelihood, and food supply down south, the food supply is disrupted due to incessant herders – farmers crisis, thereby resulting in food shortage in Nigeria, the price of food in Nigeria market, have risen very high. Nigerian are living witness to these truth. The wanton ravaging of farm land as the source of food supply and livelihood. The Fulani's are herders they move from one location to another looking for sustenance and water for their cattle's in the process it has lead to the invasion of other people's farms by the herdsmen. Thousand have been killed and many expelled from their home, it has triggered off compulsory migration, in other to remain alive and avoid the onslaught of Fulani herdsmen, who seems to have the protection of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria.

The herdsmen have also in some instance, allege the rustling of their cattles, in such circumstances Fulani herdsmen have take, rape, raze houses and execute quilt less individuals as they go through (Akinkuolie, 2018; Blench, 1984; & World Bank, 1989). The rate at which herdsmen wreak havoc has expanded exponentially. According to Institute for Economics and Peace, in 2014 1,229 people were murdered, and 63 in 2013, Benue State suffered most in these serial murder and blood letting. It occurred few days to the end of Gabriel Susswarm's



administration in May 2015, more than 100 farmers and their family members were reportedly killed in villages and refugee camps located in the Ukura, Gafa and Tse-Gusa Local Government Area of the State. Reports have it that, in July 2015, suspected herdsmen brutally attack Adeke, a village on the suburb of Makurdi. Last December, six person killed at Idele village in Oju Local Government Area. The brutal reprisal attack saw the killing of three Fulani herdsmen and their heads severed. February 2018 crisis between herdsmen and farmers in Benue State, 40 people were murdered, about 2,000 displaced, a minimum of 100 seriously hurt. There are reports of Fulani herdsmen attack in southern states of Nigeria including, Enugu, Ekiti and Ondo States (Daniels, 2006). There are also instances the headship of Fulani group have owned up publicly and accepted that the attack was carried out by it members (Ajayi & Allagenyi, 2001, Daniels, 2006).

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is obvious that climate change is the essential driver of violent struggle among herders and ranchers. Government as a matter of urgency should adopt mitigation strategy recommended by several International Organizations, governmental and non-governmental.

- The constitution of any nation, is supposed to regulate the conduct of people therein, and meant to apply equally to all irrespective of religion, ethnic group or tribe. The government of Nigeria, have not applied the constitution without bias, with regard the excess of the Fulani herdsmen. A judge in Taraba State, recently sentence, Six Christian, Christian by religion to death by hanging, it is natural for people to defend themselves, when in danger. The question to ask is; how many herdsmen have been sentenced to death by hanging for their unending daily killing? if IPOB body with clear agenda can be tagged terrorist organization, herdsmen deserve a quick tag and fast, too.
- Cattle rearing is a private business, however, government where the herders originate should set aside land for effective ranching. All herdsmen should be compelled to confine their herds to that area. The owners of herds should be made to pay specific tax, for the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities. The killing of farmers and destruction of properties, raping of women, killing of children, even pregnant women is very uncivilized act. Is a security threat, and reveal the non-compatibility of all faith in Nigeria, which proves co-existence is not feasible in the nation. The recommendation of 2014 conference, should be fully implemented.
- The source of fund of the arms wielding Fulani herdsmen should be investigated, not only investigated, be made public. No individual, irrespective of religion and tribe, should be allowed unchecked to flourish his business, at the expense of innocent Nigerian lives, as currently visible everywhere in Nigeria, Fulani herdsmen. The daily killing of Nigerian by Fulani herdsmen is a course for worry.
- Those vested with the powers, to bring the Fulani herdsmen to book, are not sincere, they should. States anti-grazing bill have been passed, it should be enforced for the good of all and sundry.

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