



Tiv- Jukun Ethnic Conflict and Socio-Economic Development in Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State, 2015-2023

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Abstract

Conflict is an inevitable aspect of a social group. Conflict is an intrinsic part of mankind and can manifest in different forms. It mostly occurs as a result of incompatibility of interests between or among groups. Nigeria has experienced series of ethnic, religious, regional, communal and environmentally induced conflicts over the years. The causes of the conflict vary and they adversely affect the socio-economic development of the country. Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State has suffered from series of conflicts and the notable ones are: The Tiv-Fulani conflict, the Kuteb-Chamba conflict, the Fulani-Kuteb conflict, the Chamba-Tiv conflict, the Ichen-Chamba conflict, the Jukun-Fulani conflict, the Wukari ethno-religious conflict, the Tiv-Jukun conflict, among others. The Tiv-Jukun conflict has been a recurring decimal in history of Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. The conflict has resulted to loss of many lives and properties. The conflict in the zone has been rated as one of most violent disputes in the North-Central Geo-political Zone of Nigeria. This study has examined the causes of the Tiv-Jukun conflict and its implications on socio-economic development in Taraba Southern Senatorial Zone. The specific objectives of the were: to examine the causes of the conflict and to assess the effects of the conflict on socio-economic development of southern senatorial zone of Taraba State. Survey research was adopted for the study. The study adopted the Territorial Imperative Approach (TIA) as the theoretical underpinning of the study. The primary data of the study were obtained from questionnaire, interview and observation. The secondary data were generated from text books, magazine, newspapers, journals, official documents. The study found that the -Jukun ethnic conflict was caused by land dispute, un-cleared boundaries demarcation, political marginalization, among others. The study also found that the conflict has adverse effect on education, health service delivery, agricultural production, lives and properties, among others. The study recommended among others that the government should provide employment opportunities, developmental programmes and good governance.

Keywords: Conflict, Ethnicity, Social Development and Economic Development

Introduction

Conflict is an inescapable reality of social existence. Nations, societies, organisations identity groups, families and even individuals' experiences conflict in their interaction with similarly constituent entities. This was what perhaps prompted Marx and Engels to put forward a potent thesis that the

history of hitherto existing society is history of class struggle. The struggle is usually waged between the dominant and the dominated classes, which may either end in a revolutionary and fundamental reconstitution of a society or in a common ruin of the contending parties (Marx & Engels, 1971). Conflict is perceived in most parts of the World, including Nigeria as something abnormal, dysfunctional, and therefore detestable; It is a fact of life and could

be a precursor of positive change (Otile & Aberty, 1999). Every plural society is bound to face one form of conflict or other. What made a society an ideal polity is the extent to which the conflicting interest and needs in a society are constructively managed so that violence does not threaten its continued existence (Cinjel & Onah, 2015). What is to be emphasised, therefore, is not conflict parse but the ways man responds to it.

Conflict need not to follow a negative course, but if constructively handled, it can become an agent of growth and development for all parties. In a functional society conflict is demonstrated rather it is confronted with efficient procedures for cooperative problem solving. However, the experience of most societies including Nigeria is a far cry from harvesting the positive role of conflict. The positive view of conflict fades into insignificance when juxtaposed with the frequency of outbreaks of violent conflict in Nigeria since the return to civil rule on May 29, 1999. Indeed, there is scarcely any part in Nigeria which has not experienced one form of conflict or the other between 1999 and 2022 (Human Right Watch, 2023).

Taraba State is located in the North-East Geo-political Zone of Nigeria and it is a home to a significant number of ethnic groups. The notable ethnic groups are: Mumuye, Kuteb, Chamba, Ichen, Kpanzon, Wanu, Wapae, Fulani, Hausa, Tiv, Igbo, Jukun

Kwana, Jebu, Jonjon, among others. The dysfunctional conflict in state is traced back in the 1980s and most the most pronounced conflicts are: Tiv-Jukun, Tiv-Fulani, Fulani-Jukun, Chamba-Kuteb, Kuteb-Fulani, Tiv-Kuteb, Chamba-Ichen, Ichen-Tiv, among others.

Even though this study is restricted to Southern Zone of the state, the conflict is related to other conflicts outside the zone and the emphases of this study is the Tiv-Jukun Conflict in the the Soutern Senatorial Zone. The zone comprised of the five local government areas and these are: Wukari, Takum, Ussa, Donga and Ibi local government areas. The key ethnic groups in the zone are: Kuteb, Wapae, Wanu, Kpanzu, Tiv, Fulani, Ichen, Chamba, Hausa among others. It is against, this background that this study is undertaken to examine the causes, dynamics and the effects of the conflict on Southern Senatorial District of Taraba State between 2015 and 2021.

Statement of the Problem

Taraba State and precisely the Southern Senatorial Zone of the state in recent times have almost become synonymous with ethnic conflicts. There are series of interpretation on what actually are the causes: The perceptions on the causes of the conflict vary and differ; there are different and several stories behind the causes. The public is fed with different views and these views look like distorted

facts, half-truth and even outright fabrication with the global war on terror, some are even attributing the cause of the incessant attacks to terrorism. Others see it as an apparent vindication of Samuel Huntington Clash of Civilization. What are the actually causes of this recurring conflict is what invite this study. The repeated nature of the conflict mean that the cause has not be ascertain and solution to be found; finding the real cause is a necessary precursor for sorting out the possible solutions to the conflict.

Conflict is not good thing and its occurrence can mar and retard development of a society. The Tiv-Jukun conflict is a recurring decimal and it is seen as one of the most violent conflict ever witnessed outside the civil war. Despite this labels and claims, no data existed about the exact figure of casualties, properties destroyed (houses, business premises, schools, etc.), among others. This study intends to examine the effect of the conflict and its implication on development of the Zone.

Research Questions

The following research questions were posed to guide the study:

- I. What are the causes of Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State?
- II. How has Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict affects the Socio-economic Development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State?

- III. What are the possible ways to resolve the Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba state?

Objectives of the Study

The study has both broad and specific objectives. The broad objective of the study is to examine the Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict and the effect on socio-economic development of Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- i. Identify the causes of the Tiv-Jukun ethnic Conflict in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.
- ii. Assess the effects of the Tiv-Jukun ethnic Conflict on the Socio-economic development of Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.
- iii. Determine the possible ways to resolve the Tiv-Jukun Conflict in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the research work:

- I. Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict is caused by mutually inclusive factors in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.
- II. Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict has significant effect on Socio-economic Development of the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.

Literature Review

(a) Ethnic Conflict

According to Zachariah and Olisah (2020), violent conflict implies the situations where by communities or

social groups are aggressively destroyed, killed, damage themselves and their properties as the result of socio-political and economic problems. Alemika (2002) revealed that conflict usually occurs in the society as the result of competitive interests, values, beliefs, cultures and tradition between and among two or more opposing forces or groups within the society. In other words, the term conflict is opposite of peaceful coexistence. It means total absence of peace, love and total presence of hatred and violence. Many scholars opined that, the dream of achieving socio-economic development can never be materialised under conflicting situations which is highly characterised by total disregard to laws and orders in the society (Collier & Hoeffler, 1990).

Conflict creates total imbalances in social relationship between the parties and it works against socio-economic development. According to Godwin (2006), the term conflict can exist as the result of non-compatibility of interests between individuals. To David (2014), conflict is the process where one person or social groups perceived other individual as negatively impacted or is about to be negatively affected by something that the first party cares about. Nwanegbo (2015) conceptualised conflict in three categories. He explains that conflict must involve un-agreeable conditions between parties. He further explains that conflict must involve un-agreeable conditions between parties. He further explained that if all parties come in

agreement on certain issues that indicated the absence of conflict. This implies that irrespective of its manifestation either in war or in fight, conflict entails the fundamental conditions of disagreement.

According to Sill (1968), the term conflict is a condition of incompatibility or a situation where there is strong disagreement on the parts of one party to carry out the means or achieve the ends which appears to be incompatible with the other. Conflict occurs whenever the activities are incompatible. On the second note, he further asserted that the term conflict does not just occur. That, there must be identified or imagined untallied positions over issue. To him, it may be on what one desire when one does not tally with the other person. On the third note, he explains that conflict must be perceived to be occurring. He further posited that if conflict is not perceived by either party, then it does not exist. Based on the above clarification, we can safely adopt as our working definition that conflict can be perceived as disagreement, incongruent situation among different opinions and contending interests.

(b) Socio-Economic Development

There is no universally accepted definition of the concept of socio-economic development. Authors have attempted to conceptualize this concept from diverse perspectives. World Bank (1989) asserted that, the term development consists of both

social, political and economic elements such as progressive improvement in the living standard of the people, environmental protection, educational standard, health care delivery, equal job opportunities, and political freedom. From this perspective, the term development is multi-dimensional in nature and involves the improvement of the political, economic and social aspects of the people. Adeniyi (1993), also opined that development can take place whenever something moves from unpalatable condition to palatable condition or undesirable state to desirable one or positive changes. Rodney (1972), World Bank (1988), Ake (1991), Emeh (2013), still emphasised that development spread across social, economic and political dimensions.

Scholars have pointed out the following as the indicators of development. These include good governance, political stability, reduction in poverty, adequate security, reduction in crime rate, availability of social infrastructures, high level of industrialization, adequate food security, information and means of communication, improved technology, improvement in health care, good road networks, good education, justice for all among others. Development also involves process, conscious actions, it also focuses on both quantitative and qualitative changes, it is dynamic and not static. Development must be all inclusive and encompassing. This indicates that it must affect every segments of the society. It must be

progressive and not retrogressive. This concept also implies total rise in all sectors of the economy such as agricultural production, manufacturing and construction as the result of better skills and technology. It also includes, but not limited to increase in domestic products, increase in exportation, job and wealth creation, high per capital income, improved standards of living among individuals in the society (Anyaele, 2003).

Ewa and Agu (2001) viewed development as the process whereby the level of national production increase over a period of time. They identified raise in the standard of living and general wellbeing of the people as the core values of development. According to Anyaele, development occurs when there are quantitative and qualitative improvements in all or almost all the sectors of an economy and which can be sustained. He further identified high rate of economic growth, full employment, high standard of living, high agricultural productivity, availability of infrastructural development and high per-capital income as the main proofs that development has come to stay in a particular society. Todaro (1985), also emphasized that development is a multi-dimensional process that involves the reorganisation of the entire economic and social system. They further argued that, development involves an improvement in national income, productivity, radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structure of the society. To Seers (1969),

questions to be addressed about development are; what has been happening to poverty? What has been happening to the level of unemployment? And what has been happening to inequality? To him, if these central societal problems have declined from higher levels to the barest level, then, that country have developed. He further argued that, if one or two of these central problems are on growing basis, then that country has not been developed despite an increase growth on the per-capital income of the individuals. Dudley (1977) also viewed development from the aspect of human well-being. To this Scholar, development does not only meant an increase in the capital accumulation and economic growth, but also from the condition where people in the society have adequate access to improved standard of living which can manifest in access to quality food, employment opportunities, improved health services, portable drinking water, constant power supply, among others. Rodney (2008), on his part argued that development implies an increase in the output and changes in the technical and institutional arrangement by which it is produced.

Hinged on the above views, it has become obvious to establish here that development involve capacity of a society or government to manage resources efficiently and effectively towards improving the wellbeing of the people. Therefore, this demand for the institutionalisation of good governance elements such as strict adherence to rule

of law, accountability and growth with equity in which the poor and the rich both benefits as well. To students of development administration, development is the dynamic change of a society from one state of being to another. To Riggs (1970), the term development is a state of mind, a tendency, a direction rather than a fixed goal; it is the rate of change in a particular direction. Riggs further viewed development as a process of increasing the autonomy of social system, made possible by rising level of diffraction. Development must be holistic, having it's bearing on the polity and society. All nations are on the path of development irrespective of the fact whether the nation is developed, underdeveloped or is developing. Ultimately, development is concerned with the ways of enhancing people's quality of life through capacity building and provision of the basic needs of the society. According to Omolara (2017) and Ranis (2004), for any long-term development to be achieved, the need for human development can never be over emphasized. A country with high physical growth which is not accompanied by high level of human development will one day find out that their growth will be eventually unsustainable. The view of achieving growth first and human development later is one of the major flaws many developing nations of the world are still battling with.

Rostow (1959) viewed development as a process of transformation. He

observed that most of the western developed nations passed through five stages of development in history. To Rostow, these stages include the Traditional Stage, Pre-conditions to Take-off Stage, The Take-off Stage, Drive to Maturity Stage and The Stage of Mass Consumption. To him, stage one which is the initial stage of the traditional society signifies a primitive society having no access to modern sciences and technology; Stage two is a Pre-conditions or preparatory stage which covers a long period of a century or movement during which the Pre-conditions for take-off are established. These conditions mainly comprise fundamental changes in the social, political and economic fields. The third stage is the Take-off which covers relatively brief period of two to three decades in which the economy transforms itself in such a way that economic growth subsequently takes place more or less automatically. The fourth stage is Drive to Maturity. This is the stage where the economy becomes more mature and is capable of generating self-sustained growth. The rate of savings and investment are of such a magnitude that economic development becomes automatic. Overall, capital per head increases as the economy matures. The final stage according to Rostow is the stage of Mass Consumption.

(c) Ethnicity

The word ethnicity evolved from the Greek word 'ethos' and

denotes people, nation, indigene, race etc. It is an affiliation or distinctiveness between a particular ethnic group (Cinjel & Onah, 2015). Ethnicity has remained a dominant factor in African politics. According to Nnoli (1978), ethnicity is a social formation distinguished by communal characters. He went further to mention the communal factors as language, culture or both. Mafeje (1997) notes that ethnicity merely an abstract noun but ideologically loaded concept which is not a natural outcome of ethnic existence in any objective sense. This explains the fact that ethnicity does not exist independently.

According to Dosnbos (1991), it is essentially representing a single ethnicity aspect as dimension lifted from a more complex reality. It derives its meaning and significance from the interplay between. Other valuables such as class, state and power, while in turn it can (but does not necessary influence such dimensions with many and political class (1991:56). Egwa (2001) identified two compelling reasons why the concept needs to be classified. First is the common errors and tendency to simplify. The concept merely as an afomative from an ethnic group over if the etymological link can never be. Second, there is the problem of the tendency to confiscate ethnicity with other facial phenomena that share common attributes. Therefore, ethnicity should always be explained in its relation to and interaction with other social dynamics.

Ethnicity is a sense of collectiveness that binds ethnic groups based on their common identity base on language, historical background, cultural affiliation, racial identity, norms, values, tradition, religion affiliation, nationality and ancestral lineage. Ethnicity is the state of belonging to a social group that has a common and distinctive cultural and religious affiliation. In other words, this concept signifies identity base on ethnic affiliation. This term has been commonly used interchangeably with the concept such as race.

Scholars have viewed ethnicity in different perspectives. Some viewed ethnicity as ancient constructs, while others viewed it as modern construct. To Smith (1986), ethnicity is as old as the history of mankind. He further supported his argument by cited the examples of ancient ethnic groups which had been in existence since an ancient day. To him, these ethnic groups include; Hittites, Luciana, Minous, Canaanites, Amorites among others which have been in existence since 2200 BC. By this perspective, ethnic groups have been a significant factor in the rise and fall of political power in the history of the Europe. Glazer and Moynihan (1965) and Daniel (1985) submitted that ethnicity is something that emerges within the political system of modern multicultural societies. These views were based on their focus on different kinds of ethnicity. Smith (1965) also viewed ethnic group as geopolitical groups. He observed that ethnicity associated with

group membership and form of belonging. Ethnicity is an identity of social group based on a presumption of shared history and common cultural inheritance.

Hence, one can conclude that the term ethnicity deals with the classification of social group based on commonality in race, culture, religion, tradition, believe, language, historical record among others. Ethnicity is a means for identity among social groups in the society and serves as factor behind several challenges of socio-economic development.

An Overview of Ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria

Ethnic conflict is as old as the history of social groups on the surface of the planet earth. Ethnic conflicts exist in every society. This form of conflict is based on ethnic or racial identities. It is an inevitable aspect of human relationship in the heterogeneous society like Nigeria. Ethnic conflict can be intrinsic and natural to human endowment. Nigeria as a state came into being in 1914 by the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates by sir Lord Lugard (British Colonial Master). All the ethnic groups in Nigeria were brought together by them to form the country. Most of these ethnic groups viewed this amalgamation as imposition against their interest. As reported by Ali & Yahaya (2019), "sir Ahmadu Bello, the then Sardauna of Sokoto

commented that the amalgamation of the Northern and the Southern Protectorates of Nigeria as “mistake of 1914”. Nigeria is a heterogeneous country with about 200,000,000 Million populations with about 250 ethnic groups and over 400 languages across its borders. The nation comprises of 36 states with the Federal Capital Territory in Abuja and 774 local governments areas (Ali &Yahaya, 2019).

The history of ethnic conflict in Nigeria can be traced to the colonial transition has forced the formation of Nigeria in 1914 as earlier discussed. Before this period, the country was polarized along ethnic groups with the North, South-East and South-West under the influence of the Hausa/Fulani, the Igbo and the Yoruba ethnic groups respectively. The polarization of this country along ethnic lines by the colonial master has sown seed of ethnic conflict in Nigeria as a nation. As submitted by Williams (1996), these conflicts include but not limited to Nigeria Civil War, the Zangon Kataf crisis in Kaduna State, the Hausa-Fulani and Birom Ethnic Crisis in Plateau State, the Ife-Modakeke Ethnic Conflict in Oyo State, the Igbo/Hausa-Fulani in Kano State, the Kuteb-Chamba Conflict in Taraba State, the Ogoni-Andonis Ethnic Conflict, the Hausa-Yoruba Ethnic Conflict, the Sagamu-Kano Ethnic Conflict among others.

Ethnic conflict is one of the major factors that have been threatening

the corporate existing of Nigeria since independent. This is because ethnicity has influenced almost everything in the country. The struggle for the independence was reduced to the quest for ethnic dominance by some ethnic groups in Nigeria. At this time, ethnic interest was the greatest threat to the existence of the Western and Eastern regions, while the Northern region was partitioned along religious lines (Christian and Muslim) divides. This struggle was directed towards the control of national resources. The elites were politicized along ethnic blocs which has manifested in the series of coups and counter-coups, the Civil War of 1967-1970 which has claimed millions of lives and damages to valuables. These sentiments have deviated the interest of the elites from national integration, stability and development to ethnic propagation.

The heterogeneous cultural heritage of Nigeria is supposed to be a blessing to the country, instead of a problem, if properly harnessed and channel towards national development (Ray, 2012). Nigeria as a country has experienced series of ethnic conflicts that has cost several lives and properties worth millions of naira. These conflicts had taken violent nature like riots, assassination, warfare and succession in the country with negative effect on socio-economic development.

Scholars have attributed ethnic conflict in Nigeria to several factors. Some have identified competition for

ethnic conflicts in Nigeria are caused by socio-economic and political factors.

Relationship between Conflict and Socio-Economic Development

There is a symbiotic relationship between communal conflict and socio-economic development. According to Nigeria Human Rights Watch (2011), communal conflicts is amongst major societal problems that has bedevilling the pace of socio-economic development in the developing countries of the world with particular reference to Nigeria. To give more affirmation to the assertion, Sundberg, Eck and Kreuts (2012), revealed that Africa Continent is one of the most conflicts prompted zone of the world. To Davis (1962), large disparities in the distribution of wealth can give feeling of relative deprivation and marginalisation which will facilitate conflict between communal groups in any society. Ethnic

conflict has the capacity of distorting local, regional and national cohesion which is very crucial in stimulating the pace of socio-economic development of any nation. Conflict is designed to resolve some divergent dualism. It is a way of achieving unity if properly handle. Conflicts can also be seen in the dissociative stance. Lindberg (1949), observed that conflict is characterised by a suspension of communication between the opposing parties. Likewise, Wilson and Kolb (1948), perceived conflict as a disjunctive process which results in the disruption of the bounds of unity that may previously have existed between the disputants.

No nation can develop amidst frequent conflicts no matter how rich it has within her disposal. To ensure sustainable development and growth, the United Nations (2003), declared fundamental human rights and freedom to live together without violent or intimidation or fear for all nations of the world. Joshua (1965) posited that in a conflict ravaged society, there will be no hope for Socio-economic development. This can be so because of lack of security of long term investment and this can result in sloppy economic activities.

On the other hand, Conceicao, Kim and Zang (2009), argued that, countries with low level of development lacks capacity to stimulate productivity which in turn hampers the growth rate of such country. This mandate has reinforced the need for government all

over the world to ensure the security of lives and properties within their territorial space and likewise the promotion of good governance for healthy development and growth. Scholars have revealed by their studies that the society that is crisis friendly will always experiences hindrances to socio-economic development. On another vein, one of the common characteristics of violent cconflict is the destruction of precious lives and properties. Human resources are one of the most important factors in achieving any meaningful development in the society. The children, youths which are the common victims of violent conflict are the potential and needed workforce of any society. Millions of lives have been wasted as the result of communal conflicts in Nigeria. Aside this is the destruction of valuable and properties and wealth. Parties in violent conflict always take pleasures in the destruction of properties such as houses, worship centres, social infrastructures such as public schools, markets, roads, recreational centres among others.

On other note, conflict is usually diverting government efforts and resources away from development projects and programmes to prosecuting war situations. This can affect both government and private individuals in the society. The management of crisis is very costly in terms of financial and other resources mostly in term of reconciliation, rehabilitation and resolution the conflict. Conflict is also responsible for an increase in the rate of

criminal activities and other societal problems. These include but not limited to kidnapping, vandalization of public properties, prostitution, drugs abuse and addiction, armed robbery, unemployment, abject poverty, poor nutrition, vulnerability to dangerous diseases, shortages of housing facilities, proliferation of dangerous weapons, increases in the level of Social inequality among other menaces in the society. All the above mentioned indices are anti-developmental.

Additionally, conflict also possessed fiscal implications over government revenue and expenditure. Conflict can reduce the government revenue base by disturbing economic activities, destroying the part of the revenue bases and can also lower the efficiency of tax administration. On aspect of expenditures, an increase in conflicts intensity is highly associated with an increase in Military, Police and other security votes, while decrease expenditure on capital projects (Davis, 1962).

Review of Empirical Studies

Several studies had been conducted over the years on Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict and similar areas. Zachariah & Olisah (2020) in their study on Violent Conflict and Socio-economic Development in Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba State, Nigeria, 2017-2019, examined the consequences of violent conflict on the Socio-economic Development in Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba

State. The study adopted Maxist Pluralist Theory as its theoretical guide. The study revealed the causes of the Tiv-Jukun conflict to include; political marginalisation, struggle for landownership and indigenes/settlers issue. The study further revealed that, the conflicts has led to reckless killings and destruction of properties worth billions of naira. The study further unveiled that, the conflict has significantly halted the pace of socio-economic development and as well increase the level of social distrust among the people of the area. These researchers recommended creation of job opportunities, establishment of skills acquisition programme, ethno-religious sensitisation and the need to live together and tolerate one another as the solutions to the crisis.

On another study conducted by Eneji and Ari (2020), titled "Insecurity, Conflict and Socio-economic Development in Nigeria" revealed that Nigeria has been battling with insecurity such as Boko Haram Insurgency, banditry, kidnapping. The study further recommended inclusive growth and participatory development for the poor as the possible measures to tackle the situations.

Another study, titled "Ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria: A study of Tiv-Jukun Socio-economic perspectives" by Joshua (1965) identified both remote and immediate causes of the conflict and its effect on socio-economic development. The study revealed that, competition over land resources and

desire for each ethnic group to attain political position for the benefits of their ethnic group is the major causes of the conflicts. The study recommended full implementation of the reports of the various committees that were set up to resolve the conflicts, through just and fair sharing formulas for resources between the groups and constitutional definition of who a citizen is.

On their part, Agbu, Zhemaand Useni (2019) wrote on Jukun-Tiv relations in the Benue Valley Region: The 2019 Scuffles in Southern Taraba State, Nigeria. The study reviewed the relationships between Jukun and Tiv from pre-colonial Nigeria with focus on 2019 Conflict. The study revealed that, the conflict has spoiled the cordial relationship that once existed between the groups and have resulted to mass destruction of lives and properties in the area.

Nwanegbo (2001) conducted a study titled, "Responding to Wukari Crisis: Problematizing and Strategizing for Effective Conflicts Management and Peace Building. The study revealed that, the conventional methods of responding to conflicts assisted by the techniques of early warning signals, litigations panels of inquiry were not being very successful in managing the situations. The study further identified non-conventional approach by the government in dealing with the situation. It identified the conflicts transformation strategy as a better way of peace building to

smoothen the relationship among the conflicting groups, maintain peaceful living condition and prevent it resurgences in the area.

A study by Cinjel, Aboki and Danjuma (2020) titled "Tiv-Jukun Conflicts and Food Security in Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba State". The study assessed the effect of Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflicts on food security. Both historical and qualitative methods were used. The study established that Tiv-Jukun conflicts have negatively impacted on food security. The study recommends creation of employment opportunities, enlightenment, good governance, developmental programme many more as the way forward.

Socio-economic development, mutual relationship, food insecurity, amongst others. These studies include but not limited to the one conducted by Cinjel et al (2020) which restricted its focus on the effect of the conflict on food security in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. This study was more narrowed in scope and objectives. Another study of the same nature is the one conducted by Zachariah and Olisah (2020) which its scope was also narrowed to same Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. These are just few among these studies. Hence, it is this gap in literature that this study seeks to contribute in filling.

Theoretical Framework

There are several theories of conflict. The notable ones are; Frustration Aggressive Theory (FAT), Realist Theory (RT), System Theory (ST), Instrumentalist Theory (IT), Territorial Imperative Theory (ITT), among others. The study utilizes the ITT because of it is the best theory that provide thorough explanation of the Tiv-Jukun conflict. This theory was propounded by Eliot Howard in 1920 to observe bird territory. The theory was further developed by Korald Lorenz and Niko Tinbergen in 1930. It was first introduced into social sciences by Robert Ardrey in 1966 in his book "The Territorial Imperative: A Personal Inquiry into the Animal Origins of Property and Nation" and was later developed by Desmond Morris in 1967. Ardrey traced the animals' origins to property, nations and territoriality. A territory here means an area of space which an animal or group of animal defends as an exclusive preserve. It is within such territory that the basic needs and interests of such animals are gratified. These needs include security of space and food, identity, prestige amongst others. They therefore defend such an area at all cost. Ardrey became the most influential theorist of human territoriality. His fundamental argument was that "man is a territorial species, and that the behavior so widely observed in animal species is equally characteristics of our own". Like Morris (1967), he employed a primarily analogical method rather than

demonstrating the intrinsic territoriality of human beings through direct experiment or observation. Ardrey relied the existing zoological knowledge to explain his theory. Yet his understanding of animal behaviour was implicitly coloured by human social constructs. Most importantly, his very definition of territory was based upon the notion of human property. Ardrey argued that "ownership of land is scarcely a human invention as our territorial propensity is something less than human distinction was thus based upon circular logic.

Territorial Imperative has been adopted as the suitable for this study. A territory is an area of space which an animal or group of animals defends as an exclusive possession. All animals, including humans, have a sense of territoriality, and would patrol, secure and defend their own environment against any intrusion. This applies also to physical territory, girlfriends, wives, family members, members of the community, land, political positions, amongst others. To Ardrey, "If we defend the title to our land or the sovereignty of our country, we do it for reasons no different, no less innate, and no less ineradicable, than do the lower animals."

Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict majorly erupts as the result of struggle over Land and territorial spaces. The desire to own and control other resources such as political powers,

economic powers by both Tiv and Jukun become incompatible with the desire of others to satisfy their basic needs and interests within a physical territory. The Jukun tribal group view this as an act of intrusion into their territorial spaces. They contended that the Tiv arrived the Benue Valley in the late 18th century and met Jukun as their present locations which they dominated for centuries in the Kwararafa Kingdom. The Tiv were also said to sought their permission before establishing their settlements, that Jukun are the indigenes and therefore, landlords. The perspective of the Jukun on this conflict was thou shaped the philosophy that Tiv were incomers and settlers in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. The Jukun believed to own the land, but they gave some of them to Tiv. They further view Tivs with suspicion the ambitious orientation of the Tiv expressed by their desire to lead political positions, traditional stools and other privileges along their counterpart. They see violent attacks as best option to fight, protect and control their resources.

The Tiv ethnic group on their side also claimed the area as their territorial space which they can defend and control. The Tiv kinmen do not see themselves as "settlers or visitors" as presumed by their Jukun counterpart. The understanding of the conflict was based on a number of reasons. They rejected in it's entirety, the suggestion by the Jukun that they are settlers, squaters,

non-indigenes and rural farmers. They claimed they were been in the area before Jukun. Hence, view crisis as a tool to fight and maintain their territorial spaces. This has been a contentious issue in this conflict since 1950s. The Tiv want to have access to all political, economic and social entitlement in the study area.

Research Methodology

The study adopted the survey research design. This design was adopted because of the large population involved in the study coupled with the nature of the research problem. These research designs involve the use of a defined entity with specific population on which a sample size can be determined for in-depth investigation. Another justification is that the assessment involves in-depth interviews and administration of questionnaire with key respondents within the area of the study.

The population of the study is 1071500 inhabitants (Estimated Pupulation, 2022) which comprises of the total population of the five (5) Local Government Councils within the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. The study utilised These local governments include Ussa, Takum, Wukari, Ibi, and Donga Local Governments of Taraba State. The table below presents the details of the population.

The Estimated Population of Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State

S/N	Local Government Area	Population
1	Donga	209,400
2	Ibi	132,600
3	Ussa	143,000
4	Wukari	374,800
5	Takum	211,700
	Total	1,071,500

Source: National Population Commission, 2022.

Method of Data Collection

The secondary data were collected from the copies of Peace Ccommittee Reports on Tiv-Jukun Conflict in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State, Magazine, Newspapers, World Bank Reports, Text books, Website, Journals, Conference papers amongst others. Questionnaire and interview were used as instruments of data collection for the study. The structured questionnaire was sub-divided into sections such as A, B and C. The section A, dealt with the demographic characteristics of the research respondents, section B handled questions toward soliciting the information for the research objective one and section C, finally dealt with research objective two respectively.

Furthermore, the questionnaire was structured on five Likert Scale as Strongly Agreed (SD), Agreed (A), Undecided (U), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD) with the Scale of 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 respectively. The questionnaire is designed in a simple and clear format to enhance understanding. The justification for the use of questionnaire was to ensure easy and faster administration. Interview method was used to obtain data from Political leaders, youth leaders, spiritual leaders, security personnel and women

leaders. The justification for the use of interview instrument was to enable the researcher gain an in-depth insight which cannot be obtained by the use of questionnaire

Instruments of Data Collection

The instruments used in the collection of the data for the study were closed-ended questionnaire, interview and observation. These instruments were designed in line with the research objectives. A pilot study was conducted at the Sadaurna Local Government Area. It is located at the Central Senatorial Zone of the state and it also has history of ethnic conflict. The purpose of the pilot study was to test the suitability of the research instruments. In the pilot test, 20 copies of questionnaires were administered along with the interview questions.

Validity of the Research Instruments

The structure of a thesis determines the conclusions that can be drawn from it. To ensure the validity of the research instruments, the researcher made sure that the instruments designed for the study satisfied the requirements for face and content validity. For content validity, the researcher ensured that the questions fielded in the research

instruments were relevant to the objectives and scope of the study.

Other precautions that were taken by the researcher include the use of simple, concise and straight-forward language that enhanced the respondent's understanding and consistency over the issue under investigation. To ensure the face validity, the questions fielded were sufficiently subjected to internal moderation by the researcher's supervisor and two other senior lecturers in the Department of Public Administration, Federal University Wukari before they were administered.

Reliability of the Research Instruments

Test-Re-Test also known as test or measure of stability was used. The questionnaire was administered and after 14 days, it was re-administered to the same respondents in the same location. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to determine the correlation coefficient index and the index found was 0.7 on 1 scale index. This indicates that the research instruments are reliable, hence given the study reliable result.

Method of Data Presentation and Analysis

Descriptive statistical tools such as frequency distribution tables, simple

percentages and charts were used in the presentation of data for this study. Primary data from the questionnaire were analyzed through ordinary least squares (OLS) with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The responses generated through interview and observation was used to generate information better than questionnaire. The qualitative data generated through an in-depth interview and secondary sources were analysed through content analysis.

Model Specification

The functional model for the study on the causes and implication of the Tiv-Jukun conflict on socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State was specified as below;

SSZTSDP=F (CETJ)
..... (3.1)
SSZTSDP= F (CTJ, ETJ)..... (3.2)
This can be further transformed into econometric model as:
 $SSZTS = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (CTJ) + \beta_2 (ETJ) + \mu_t$
.....(3.3)

Where:
SSZTSDP = Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State Development Projects
CTJ = Causes of Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict, ETJ = Effect of Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict.

Bio-data of the Respondents

Indices	Categories	Number of Respondents	Percentage
(a) Sex	Male	202	72.9
	Female	75	27.1
	Total	277	100
(b) Age	18 – 25	60	21
	26 – 30	61	22.7
	31 – 40	129	46.6
	41 and above	22	7.9
	Total	277	100

(c)	Marital status	Married	114	41.2
		Single	127	45.8
		Divorce	13	4.7
		Widow/widower	19	6.9
		Total	277	100
(d)	Education qualification	FSCL	22	7.9
		SSCE	53	19.1
		Diploma/NCE	130	46.9
		HND/Degree	64	23.1
		Postgraduate Degree	8	2.9
		Total	277	100

Source: Field Survey, 2023

Table above, it reveals that 202 of the respondents were male which accounted for 72.9 % of respondents. Whereas 75 respondents, representing 27.1% were female. This shows that male respondents were the majority compared to their female counterparts in the study.

The table further shows that 60 respondents, representing 21% were between 18-25 age bracket, 61 respondents, representing 22.7% were between 26-30 age bracket, 129 respondents, representing 46.6% were between 31-40 age bracket while, the other 22 respondents, representing only 7.9 were between 41 and above. This shows that the majority of the respondents were drawn from the age bracket of 31-40 years.

The table also reveals the marital status of the respondents. It can be noticed from the that single persons were the majority with the corresponding number of 127 (45.8%). While, married respondents have a total sample size of 114 (41.2%) responses. In addition, divorced/separated respondents has the lowest responses

with number of 13 (4.7%) and the widow were 19(6.9%) that involved in the study.

The table also presents the educational qualification of the respondents. The table revealed that ND/NCE holders to be the highest respondents in the study with 130 participants (46.9%) compared to other groups in the sample size. In the same vein, HND/B.Sc. holders were 64 (23.1%) respondents were the second largest respondents. Whereas, FSCL and M.Sc./PhD that have 22 (7.9%) and 8 (2.9%) respectively. This shows that the research respondents were educated; Thus, given the study reliable responses.

Test of Hypothesis One (1)

This section applied the Statistical Package for Social Sciences [SPSS] version 2023 and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) to test the relationship between the two variables. The OLS table below emerged which shows the statistical test of the hypothesis as below:

H₀:The Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict is not caused by mutually inclusive Factors in

Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State

H₁: Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict is caused by mutually inclusive Factors in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State

Ordinary Least Square (OLS) Results for the test of the hypothesis one.

Dep. Var: SSZTS

Variables	Coefficients	SE	t-values	P-Values
CTJ	-0.292**	.060	4.828	.000
Constant		0.013		
R ²		.594		
Adj R ²		.588		
F-statistics		29.904		
F-probability		.000**		

The asterisks ** indicate significance at 5%. The figures in SE are standard errors.

Source: Author's Computation using IBM SPSS version 23 (2023)

Table above, reveals the coefficient of independent variables provided with the t-statistics values as well as the probability values to ascertain the level of significant of the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable in this analysis. Causes of Tiv-Jukun Conflict (CTJ): The sign of the coefficient of CTJ was negative and statistically significant agree with assumption that negative sign exist between causes of conflict and Socio-economic development of Southern Taraba State Senatorial Zone. It indicated that the value of the coefficient of -0.292 implies that on an average a one percent (1%) increase in CTJ will lead to a 29.2% decrease in development of Southern Taraba Sate when all variables are held constant.

In addition, the result indicated that $R^2 = 0.594$, it means that independent variables explained the dependent by 59%, that is, the model possessed the quality of good fit for policy recommendations and implementation. It implied that the

causes of Tiv-Jukun and effect of Tiv-Jukun conflict were well captured to have explained its effect on the socioeconomic development in Southern Taraba State. This model only leaves 41 % to other factors which were not included in this analysis. Moreover, adjusted $R^2 = 0.588$, it means after adjustment made and removing of errors in the model, the adjusted R^2 of 0.588 still explained about 58% of model leave out 42% to other explanatory variables not included in this analysis.

Finally, F-statistic of 29.904 and its P-value of 0.000 proved that all the explanatory variables captured in this study are jointly influence the socio-economic development indices in Southern Taraba State. It means that causes of Tiv-Jukun and effect of Tiv-Jukun conflict have jointly influence the level of socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. In the subsequent section, the study would test the formulated hypotheses to refute the effect of Tiv-

Jukun conflict on socio-economic development in Taraba State.

Decision Rule: If the calculated P-value is less or equal to 0.05, the null hypothesis should be rejected while, the alternate hypothesis should be accepted, given that the estimate are statistically significance. However, if the P-value is greater than 0.05, then, the null hypothesis should be accepted while the alternate hypothesis should be rejected, be certain that the estimate are not statistically significance.

Result: Since T-calculated value of 4.828 is greater than 2-critical value. Then the study therefore, the Null hypothesis has been rejected. This position has been confirmed by its probability value of 0.000 which is less

Ordinary Least Square (OLS) Results

Dep. Var: SSZTS

Variables	Coefficients	SE	t-values	P-Values
ETJ	-0.100	.062	2.609	.004
Constant		0.013		
R ²		.594		
Adj R ²		.588		
F-statistics		29.904		
F-probability		.000**		

The asterisks ** indicate significance at 5%. The figures in SE are standard errors.

Source: Author’s Computation using IBM SPSS version 23 (2023)

Furthermore, the coefficient of the effect of Tiv-Jukun conflict (ETJ) is negative and statistically significant. The value of the coefficient of -0.100 implies that on an average a one percent (1%) increase in ETJ will lead to 10% decrease in socio-economic development of the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State assuming that other factors are held constant. This

than 0.05 as a threshold for decision making

Test of Hypothesis Two (2)

This section applied the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 2023 and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) to test the relationship between the two variables. The OLS table below emerged which shows the statistical test of the hypothesis as below:

H₀: The Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict is not significantly affecting socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State

H_i: The Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict significantly affects socio-economic development in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State

result has provided answer to objective (ii) of the study which seeks to examine the effect of Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict on the Socio-economic Development on Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. Moreover, this means if there increase in the effect of Tiv-Jukun conflict in Southern Taraba State, it affects business, agricultural, education, mutual relation, health service delivery and properties and thereby result

general decrease in level of socio-economic development in Southern Taraba State.

In addition, the result indicated that $R^2 = 0.594$, it means that independent variable explained the dependent by 59%, that is, the model possessed the quality of good fit for policy recommendations and implementation. It implied that the causes of Tiv-Jukun and effect of Tiv-Jukun conflict were well captured to have explained its effect on the socio-economic development in Southern Taraba State. This model only leaves 41% to other factors which were not included in this analysis. Moreover, adjusted $R^2 = 0.588$, it means after adjustment made and removing of errors in the model, the adjusted R^2 of 0.588 still explained about 58% of model leave out 42% to other explanatory variables not included in this analysis.

Finally, F-statistic of 29.904 and its P-value of 0.000 proved that all the explanatory variables captured in this study are jointly influence the socioeconomic development indices in Southern Taraba State. It means that Tiv-Jukun influence the level of socio-economic development in Southern Taraba State. In the subsequent section, the study would test the formulated hypotheses to refute the effect of Tiv-Jukun conflict on socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.

Decision Rule: Accept the alternate hypothesis if the T-calculated value is greater than 2-critical value, and accept the null hypothesis if the T-calculated value is lesser than 2-critical value.

Result: Since T-calculated value of 2.609 is greater than 2 critical value, then, the study rejects the null hypothesis that Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict has not affected the socio-economic Development in southern Senatorial zone of Taraba State. Thus, the alternate hypothesis H_2 is accepted. This means that the Tiv-Jukun Ethnic conflict has negatively affected socio-economic development in Southern Taraba State.

Findings and Discussion

This study titled “Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict and Socio-economic Development in Taraba South Senatorial Zone, 2015-2021”. The study investigates the causes of the Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict and its effect on socio-economic development in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. After the statistical test and analysis of the research hypotheses posited for this study using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) method, it was discovered that Tiv-Jukun Conflict has significantly affected socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. The study revealed the causes of the conflict to include indigene-settler divide, political marginalization, unemployment, un-cleared boundaries demarcation, bad governance, elite

attitude and land dispute. The study further revealed that the conflict has negatively affected business activities, agricultural production, human lives, education activities, standard of health services.

Indigene-settler divide caused the Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. Indigene is a social construct given to a person who is born and brought up in a particular place. An indigene enjoyed all rights and privileges attached to that particular locality. Settler on the other hand implies a person who is not an indigene of a particular place and lacks access to basic rights and privileges enjoyed by an indigene. The data presented in fig. 4.3.1 revealed that 173 respondents, representing 62.5% and supported by 61 respondents, representing 22% affirmed this stance. The result of study conducted by Zechariah & Olisah (2020) on Violent Conflict and Socio-economic Development in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria, 2017-2019 corroborated with this finding. More so, the outcome of the interview conducted with Mr Danasabe Tanko (Adviser to the Care Taker Chairman of Wukari Local Government of Taraba State) on 15/11/2022, also supported this finding. This implies that there is great division based on indigene and settler status in the study area between the Tivs and the Jukuns. The Jukuns contended that Tiv kinsmen arrived Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State in the

late 18th century and met the Jukun at their present location which they dominated for centuries in the ancient Kwararafa Kingdom. The perspective of the Jukun on this conflict was thus shaped by one philosophy: That Tiv's were incomers and settler in Southern Taraba State, while Jukuns are full indigenes of the area, therefore, landlords. Tiv perception of the conflict was hinged on the numbers of reasons that they are not settlers, strangers and squatters. They believed that by their long stay in the area have granted them an indigene status. This has been one of the controversial issues in this conflict since 1920s.

Political marginalization caused Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. Struggle for political power has been fingered as one of the major factors that is not only threatening the peaceful co-existence of the Southern part of Taraba State but, Nigeria as a whole. Political marginalization occurred where certain segment of the society has been repeatedly denied access to political positions which they believed are legible. The data presented by fig. 4.3.2 revealed that 43% of the respondents which were supported by 36% of the respondents affirmed this stance. More so, the outcome of the interview conducted with the Chairman of Tiv Development Association, Wukari Chapter on 5/12/2022 aligned with this finding. Corroboratively, the result of the study conducted by Joshua (1965) on Ethnic Conflict in Nigeria: A

Study of Tiv-Jukun Socio-economic perspectives also aligned with this finding. Injustice is one of the major causes of ethnic conflict in Nigeria and other developing countries of the World. Tivs argued that their numerical strength in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State should give both elective and non-elective positions in Taraba Government.

Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict is caused by unemployment in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. Unemployment is a catalyst for all forms of evils including ethnic conflict. There is an adage that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. This implies that if a person is not gainfully engaged, he/her will be easily used for any bad act. The level of unemployment in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State is alarming as out of every 100 youths, you will hardly find 10 that are fully employed. Youths who are expected constitute the engine of socio-economic development have being wasted as the result of this menace. The data presented in fig. 4.4.3 revealed that 140 respondents, representing 50.5 which were supported by 60 respondents, representing 21.2% affirmed this stance. More so, the result of interview administered across the respondents also aligned with this stance. Corroboratively, the result of study by Agbu, Zhema & Useni (2019) on Jukun-Tiv Relations in the Benue Valley Region: The 2019 Scuffles in Wukari strongly aligned with this stance.

This study also revealed un-cleared boundaries demarcation as one of the contributory factors in the Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. Most Tivs and Jukuns communities share borders with each other's in the Southern Senatorial of Taraba State with particular references to Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. Aside this, some of the local government areas are close to Taraba State. For example, Katsinala and Logo local governments' areas of Benue State share boarders with Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. The data presented in fig. 4.12 revealed that 150 respondents, representing 54.2 which were supported by 75 respondents, representing 27.1% affirmed this stance. This finding corroborated with the outcome of interview conducted with the village heads of Rafin-Kada and Tor-Damisa in Donga Local Government Area. These respondents revealed that, there as being existing boundaries disputes between Abako and Rafin-Kada communities. They further revealed same challenges between Jotar and Wukari Town. The finding by Nwanegbo (2001) on "Responding to Wukari Crisis: Problematizing and Strategizing for Effective Conflict Management and Peace Building" tallied with this stance. Data presented in fig. 4.5.1 revealed that 234 respondents, representing 84.5,% supported by 31 representing 11.2% strongly affirmed the negative effect of the conflict on business activities in the study area. Business is very key in the socio-economic development of any

society. The outcome of the interview carried out across the study area aligned

Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict negatively affected a lot of human lives and properties in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. Another finding of this study is the negative effect of the conflict on human lives and properties. Data presented in fig. 4.5.3 shows that 170 respondents, representing 61.4% which were supported by 31 respondents, representing 11.2 % supported this stance. The Tiv-Jukun conflict were characterised by barbarity and atrocities of unimaginable proportions. The methods by which the two ethnic groups killed each other were at best heartless. They categorized each one as an enemy and slaughter or shot one another. The crisis reached its climax when Rev. Father Tanko David was gruesomely murdered and burnt to ashes along Wukari-Takum road on 31st August, 2019. This act drew the attention of both local, national and international communities. This act prompted President Muhamadu Buhari in the statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu, directed the Tor-Tiv, the Aku-Uka of Wukari, religious leaders in the two states to meet urgently to find an end to the crisis (Vanguard, 2019).

Supporting this finding is the report by the West Africa Network for Peace Building (2019) which claimed that the crisis has killed about 600

people and damaged properties worth over billions of naira in 2019. To add more flesh to this, is the report by the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) of Takum, Ibi and Wukari Local Government Areas shod that many people which were killed during the conflict were not properly reported to authorities for proper documentation. This finding further aligned with the report by Nathaniel (2020) which claimed that 14 billions naira were lost as the result of Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in the study area. To add to the above is the outcome of an interview with the Chairman of Tiv Development Association, Wukari Chapter revealed thus:

"Tiv-Jukun conflict has created untold hardships to many people including Tivs who have been displaced from Wukari Local Government Area and other parts of Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State"

Visits to some of the communities that were affected by the crisis also revealed that must of them have been deserted; buildings such as schools, hospitals, worship centers, residential homes, and recreation centers among many others have been destroyed by the crisis. The bitter truth remained that, if this condition is not cautioned by the government, there will be challenges of food security which can culminate to hunger, mal-nutrition and other severe dangers for socio-economic development

Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict has negatively affected the level

infrastructural development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. The conflict had also taken a toll in terms of infrastructural development and economic activities. The destruction of infrastructures such as schools, health care facilities, disruption in trading activities, bottlenecks in the free movement of goods and services as well as the potential. Wukari Yam Market was affected and stores were closed for several months. Jukun towns such as Kente, Akwana, Arufu, Sondi, Rafin-Kada etc were destroyed by Tiv militia groups. The data presented in fig. 4.5.4 shows that 167 respondents, representing 60.3% which were supported by 88 respondents, representing 31.8% supported this claim. Furthermore, the outcome of this study further aligned with that of Cinjel, Aboki & Danjuma (2020) on Tiv-Jukun Conflicts and Food Security in Wukari Local Government Area and Eneiji and Ari (2020) on Insecurity, Conflict and Socio-economic development in Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study investigates the causes and effects of the Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict and Socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State between 2015 and 2021. The findings of the study revealed the causes of the conflict to include bad governance, indigene-settler divide, elite's attitude, un-cleared boundaries demarcation, land disputes, political marginalization and unemployment as

the causes of the conflict. The study further revealed that the conflict has negatively affected the standard of health service delivery, agriculture production, mutual co-existence business activities, education activities, human lives and properties in the study area.

Therefore, the study concluded that the Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Conflict has been caused by mutually inclusive factors and has negatively affected the pace of socio-economic development in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, the study recommends as follows:

- Government should create employment opportunities for the teeming population of the Southern Senatorial Zone of the Taraba State. These jobs should focus majorly on the youths which are the major players in the conflict. There is an adage that “an idle mind is always the devil's workshop”. Agriculture sector should be modernized so as to attract some of these youths into gainful employment. Youth should be empowered with entrepreneur skills and funds to be self-reliance. Our education system should be transformed so as to make our school leavers to be more self-reliance rather than depending on government for white collar jobs.
- Government should organize enlighten programs such as workshop, seminar among many others to enlighten them for peaceful co-existence and ethnic tolerance. This will help to educate them to appreciate the value

of peace in Socio-economics development. It will also enable them to utilize legal means in handling their differences rather than recourse to violent measures. Without peace there will be no any sustainable development. Government should also inculcate peace subjects in the education curriculum at the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions across Taraba State. The religious groups should also be encouraged to preach and promote peace to their members as a matter of urgency.

- There is a need for deliberate and corroborative efforts by Taraba and Benue State Governments to settle all the existing boundaries disputes along the Tivs and Jukuns communities in the Southern Senatorial Zone of the Taraba State. As revealed by the study, there are existing boundaries disputes between the Abako and Rafin-Kada and between Wukari and Katsina-ala Local Government Areas. These communities should be encouraged to use round table discussion in order to find common grounds for the sake of peace and development of the area. They should keep aside ethnic interests and pursue true peace and national development. They should drop the wrong perception that Benue is for the Tivs while Taraba is for Jukuns, but should pursue unity of Nigeria as whole. Government should constitute Boundaries Demarcation Committee where both Tivs and Jukuns will be well represented so as to find lasting solutions to these boundaries disputes.
- There should be constitutional clarification, definition and interpretation of who is an indigene of

particular place and a settler in order to clarify the various claims among the Tivs and Jukuns in Southern Senatorial Zone of Taraba State. This is to settle the challenge of indigene-settler divide which has been revealed as one of major factors in the conflict. The central government must tackle the issue of citizenship rights and abolish in clearer terms the indigene-settler dichotomy as it is not only the root cause of Tiv-Jukun ethnic conflict in Nigeria where access to political power and other resources in certain parts of the country are restricted, denied on the basis of an individual citizenship status.

- Government should revisit the Land Decree Art of 1976 where land is solely the property of the government. Government should intervene where and when it is necessary to ensure that those Tivs which were displaced from their communities be returned or special land should be allocated to them to ease their hardships. The Jukuns should be pacified to welcome Tivs as their brothers for the sake of peace and development. Reformation of this act will provide a balance between state ownership and protection of peasant farmers. Such reform should regulate the maximum size of land that an individual or group can own in the rural area and should provide protection to peasant farmers and settler's farming communities against encroachment of tribal sentiment.
- There is need for joint effort by the Taraba and Benue State governments to aid the reconciliation process by ensuring the arrest and prosecution of all the perpetrators of the conflict so as to serve as deterrent to others. This dialogue and mediation to

include traditional/communities leaders, religious institutions, women and youth leaders and other relevance stakeholders from both groups.

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