

Perception of violence and food security in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Purpose: This study examined perceptions of violence and food security in the Emohua Local Government Area.

Research methodology: A descriptive research design was used. The study population was 862,690, of which a sample size of 400 was obtained using Taro Yamane. A self-designed 37 item questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean scores and standard deviations).

Results: The findings show that loss of life and property, prevalence of stunting growth, underweight and low life expectancy, destruction of farmland, high economic burden on the state economy, malnutrition, reduction of farming activities and low food production index, effects on both physical and mental health, stunted educational development, psychological trauma, underdevelopment, high risk of diseases, reduction in reproductive rate, increase in prices of foodstuffs, and migration are the relationships between violence conflict and food insecurity.

Limitations: Biased while filling the questionnaires and lack of freedom of information in the area.

Contribution: There could be no food sufficiency with violent conflict in an area.

Keywords: *perception, violence, food security*

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1. Introduction

Violence has always been part of human history. This is an important part of human society. Men must battle even when they lack access to or control over weapons of war, and according to Whitaker, Phillips, and Orzol (2006), men would take on even with just their hands as weapons if they were faced with no other choice. When a baby cries, it sets off a chain of events that can lead to violence. As he ages, when he becomes angry, he bites or scrapes with his little fingers' claws. According to this notion, men quarrel throughout their lives because they are able to feel love, hate, happiness, despair, satisfaction, or wrath. Individuals possess distinct passions, and there are times when those interests collide, which can lead to conflict, so long as there are other males about them, always are going to be issues of conflict. As a result, a collection of people can encourage erratic behaviors and connections (Adeniyi, 2012).

According to theology, war and violence symbolize one of human two natures, "evil." The antithesis of union or oneness, which represents the second, more positive or "good," aspect of man, is unity or oneness. Confrontation, fury, debate, hatred, destruction, homicide, or war are thus some of the ways that conflict appears (Akresh, Verwimp, & Bundervoet, 2011). Any negative attitude that has the capacity to change the economic or social climate is likely to cause conflicts. Gluttony, rapacity, self-

centeredness, unhappiness, greed, pompousness, inappropriate conduct, impunity, and offensive behavior are only a few examples of things that can cause human relations to fail. However, these customs are innate characteristics of the violent nature of men. Many factors, such as a lack of natural resources in the area or poor utilization of natural assets by the privileged few, clearly occurring in the Emohua local government area, cause conflicts to break out violently. Malnourished people are unable to have access to enough food to conduct sedentary and fit lives due to economic circumstances (Alderman, Behrman, Lavy, & Menon, 2001).

The USDA (2022) has a wide definition of food insecurity as having restricted or ambiguous access to healthy, nutrient-dense foods, or possessing restricted or ambiguous means of obtaining those items in ways that are appropriate to society. The population's availability of food is compromised when violent violence impacts rural African villages (USDA, 2022). Looking at the many streams of revenue at the ground level of the farm home is one technique to analyze the effects of conflict. Farmers comprise the majority of the population in rural Africa; therefore, this seems to be an excellent place to start. Depending on the source of revenue for the household, various quantities of food and other commodities are consumed. We are interested in controlling the amount of food consumed in the atmosphere for food security (Verpoorten, 2009). The five main sources of revenue for a typical farm household are: (I) productivity for own use, (II) crop sales, (III) livestock products, (IV) off-farm income, and (V) remittances from others. A neighborhood or neighborhood food network and social and political system analysis must be added to or integrated with this micro-level method (Emily, 2016). The former deals with the manufacturing, transportation, distribution, and price of food products, whereas the latter determines who has their rights to food upheld and whose opinions are heard. How secure a farmer's possession of food depends on the socio-political structure, the degree to which the war affects the community's food supply, and the household's income. These three factors are frequently referred to as equilibrium, food accessibility, and food access in food security research (Fafchamps, 2003). According to the researcher's examination of the literature, while there have been numerous research investigations on conflict and food insecurity, none have been conducted on aggression and food availability in the Emohua Local Government Area of River State. To close this gap, inquiries are necessary.

The Emohua people's plentiful natural resources will guarantee their sustained political, economic, and social prosperity, as well as the absence of many intergroup disputes. Unfortunately, Emohua is notable for its high rate of poverty, poor governance, political upheaval, inadequate often-nonexistent infrastructure, and, most importantly, illiteracy. It is a frequent misconception that frustrated, enraged, or destitute men are always aggressive. According to Justino (2011), these problems emerge due to social instability, environmental degradation, warming temperatures, chieftainship disagreements, communal cults, youth discontent, lack of nourishment, and poverty caused by crude oil. This is brought on by the dearth of effective amenities, infrastructure, and employment opportunities in Emohua. For those whose farms were destroyed by an oil spill or who were unable to access them due to intercommunal conflicts, the repercussions of the economic status and ideological residues of Emohua citizens comprised deaths, malnutrition, and frustration. These events also resulted in an abundance of meals, expulsion of people, and economic stagnation. A study is being conducted to ascertain the causes of brutality, why it influences the availability of food, and how it has negatively impacted emohua over the years (P Justino, 2011).

This study aimed to determine how violence affects food insecurity in the Emuoha local government area of rivers. The objectives of this study were as follows:

1. Examine the type and nature of violence in the Emuoha local government area of Rivers State.
2. Examine the sources of violence in the Emuoha local government area of Rivers State.
3. Determine the relationship between violence and food insecurity in the Emuoha local government area of Rivers State.

2. Literature review

Everywhere in the world, conflicts, crises, and carnage are a consequence of rapacity, ego-related problems, simple agitation, and irrational demands for political and financial gain. Conflicts inevitably arise as a result of anger brought on by unjust treatment and uneven distribution of resources

(Asiyanbola, 2010). These qualities are crucial in contemporary Nigeria, particularly in Emuoha. In Asiyanbola's case study of "Ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria," which was researched by Asiyanbola (2010) and presented in the "Journal of the Humanities of Social Sciences and the Imaginative Arts," A Case of Ife-modakeke in Historical Perspective, the previously mentioned variables have been recognized as contributing factors that lead to conflict in modern society.

However, a number of events have exacerbated conflict and violence in Nigeria, such as the 1929 Aba riot brought on by taxation, the 1953 Kano riot, the countdown crisis in 3rd ed. 1963, the congressional turmoil in 1964, the 1966 government takeover that culminated in the assassination of numerous prominent northeast representations along with the ensuing war, the 1981 state of Kaduna Executive/Legislative Crisis, and the annulment of the 1993 June 12 election (The Tribune, November 13). The imposition of taxes in 1929, which sparked the Aba and Kano riots of 1953; the census crisis of 1962–1963; the voting crisis of 1964; the Western Nigeria Elections of 1965; the military coup of 1966, which culminated from the murderous acts of numerous prominent northern representations and the ensuing war of 1967; and the Kaduna State Executive and Legislative Crisis of 1981 were just a few of the factors that contributed to conflict and violence in Nigeria (The Nigeria Guardian, February 23, 2013). In response, the Nigerian government has put in place a variety of efforts to deal with these difficulties, such as a program to lessen poverty, the establishment of new ministries and organizations (including the Niger Delta Ministry), a program for young people to obtain scholarships, an amnesty scheme, and others. Youths and leaders in Nigeria continue to use violence against one another despite the restrictions imposed by the government since the country switched to a civilian government in 1999 (refer to the aforementioned Punch, November 25, 2011; The Nation, November 14, 2011; and The Nigeria Guardian, February 23, 2013).

As a result, in order to address these issues, the Nigerian government has implemented a number of programs, such as combating poverty, providing young people with scholarships, and implementing amnesty policies. Despite the security measures put into effect with the Nigerian government following the country's transition to civilian governance in 1999, youth and leaders still employ violence. (The Nation, Nov. 14, 2011, & The Nigeria Guardian, Feb. 23, 2013, and the Nigerian Punch, Nov. 25, 2011). Their evident self-interest, selfishness, desire for funds, and hunger for power caused them to fail in this critical topic. They were motivated by the need to accumulate fortune for one another, friends, relatives, grandfathers, and hypocrites who helped them rise to positions of power. Igbuzor is cited by Aniekwe and Kushie (2011). In Nigeria, where they are wealthy and the rest of the population is destitute, a nation made up of two nation states—the nations of the rich and the nation of the poor—is emerging as a result of their acts. According to Alderman, Hoddinott, and Kinsey (2006), the poor's lot in life is one of dissatisfaction with famine, impoverishment, despair, grumbling, and ill will. It is impossible to expect such a nation to be calm and quiet, favoring fury and carnage instead (Alaimo, Olson, & Frongillo Jr, 2001). This is because wealthy people tend to have bloated pride, overwhelming prosperity, a flamboyant way of life, enticement, arrogance, and lordly behavior as the norm. Violence frequently occurs in Nigeria. Only a handful will be covered because it is obvious that Nigeria has been affected by this human ailment. The most important aspect is how illnesses can be avoided or reduced. The researcher considered the slave trade to be a violent incident immediately. Of all historical events, the slave trade has had the most profound negative effects on human rights (Bundervoet, Verwimp, & Akresh, 2009). By itself, this has disputed, mocked, and made fun of the claim that man is intellectual, knowledgeable, and civilized. Igbuzor, the personification of man's inhumanity to man, was depicted in this scenario (quoted in Aniekwe and Kushie (2011)). because it made a man into a toy or object that could be used and thrown away with pleasure. Among those who first developed this horrifying industry, equine pets were handled with more compassion, respect, and dignity than occasionally stubborn human cargos (Hannon, 2005). God mourned and wept over creating man because of the numerous ways in which this man's brutality toward humans manifested itself (Asiyanbola, 2010). However, these disputes are frequently dangerous for the parties involved as well as their surroundings. Conflicts arise whenever something occurs. Fischer defined assault (conflict) to be any arbitrary or deliberate action that seeks to decide, delay, or if not control a process through assault by force, compelled "security," bribery, damage to property, or murderous spree (Folarin, 1997).

Similarly, Igbuzor (cited in Aniekwe and Kushie (2011)) defines it as any act of violence that takes place prior to, during, or following an election, and may include any of the following: thuggery, the use of force to influence occasions (such as organizing conferences or casting votes at polling locations), the use of dangerous instruments to terrorize those involved (such as voters and other electoral processes), or the intention to harm or injure another person. Aniekwe and Kushie (2011) cited Bundervoet (2010) and Dercon (2004), who highlighted four characteristics of violence and conflict that develop, pointing to a variety of motivations, perpetrators, and sufferers, including the following: voters who contest the accuracy of the election results or their government's hegemony; voters who are angry about the authorities as they believe that there was unfairness in the voting process; competing factions in politics fighting each other for control; and a combination of two or more of the groups mentioned above. In Fisher and Igbuzor's works, the idea of violence was predicated on election administration and its abnormality (cit. Aniekwe and Kushie (2011)). According to them, violence against voters can occur during many stages of the election cycle, ranging from the pre-election (during registration) to post-election (during the announcement of results) periods (Dreze & Sen, 2002). To accurately and completely document occurrences in a way that will encompass incidents throughout their phases without ignoring any stage, monitors must have an excellent grasp of the context and concept of electoral violence. Igbuzor is cited by Aniekwe and Kushie (2011). Christens and Speer (2005) stated that "complex international food and health systems hazards may take on an assortment of configurations and develop into disastrous perfect storms." In addition to posing a threat to the food system, these risks can also have negative social and political repercussions, including food riots, unstable governments, and regional and global crises (Justino 2011). Instead of a shortage of land or food, poor infrastructure, difficulties accessing sectors, and the absence of income-generating opportunities pose the greatest challenges to Liberia's agricultural development and expansion (Flores, 2004). In Botswana, creative insurance strategies have been developed to protect farmers from harvest failures caused by the weather. Since the absence of income and the resulting food insecurity lead to violent conflict, such insurance mechanisms help avoid violence (Miguel, 2007). The link between hunger and violence has not yet been well established by the economic community. However, some studies on the relationship between hunger and violence have revealed a positive correlation (Okotoni & Okotoni, 2003). It is challenging to successfully preserve an elevated standard of life in poor patients. Lower living standards promote civic unrest in a country, and political discontent often increases violence. Civil instability is associated with poor nutrition (Ifeanyi, 2016). In addition, the World Food Programme, also known as the WFP, released a report in 2011 that included a discussion on the connections between global food insecurity and violent crime. It goes on to say that a lack of food can significantly harm a person's or the family's psychological, social, and financial well-being and raise the likelihood of rioting, bloodshed, and civil war (Dollard et al., 2013; USDA, 2022). In the WFP report, it is said that hunger "adds to a downward spiral or conflict trap" and is "both a cause and a consequence of violence." It can also result in severe divisions within an organization when inequality increases. According to Barash and Webel (2013), communities with higher degrees of economic and political instability and lower GDPs tend to have higher rates of intracommunity violence.

Stunting prevalence, underweight frequency, life expectancy, malnutrition rates, agricultural output index, and longevity are just a few examples of the many ways in which food instability can be observed on a global or personal scale. For instance, information collected by the World Bank and World Health Organization in 2014 (Bozzoli & Brück, 2009) shows that 43 of the 43 countries with the highest rates of malnutrition are located in sub-Saharan Africa. The sub-Saharan region accounts for approximately 2% of the global GDP and has some of the worst rates of food insecurity. The average life expectancy in these countries is 57, which is 22 years less than that in the United States. There are also some of the worst civil wars that currently occur. Given that the nation has an elevated rate of food scarcity and an inadequate level of income, as indicated by the tiny amount of GDP per capita, there are some links between eating insecurity and income (Bausman & Goe, 2004). One of the numerous effects of food insecurity is malnutrition; however, many additional problems could occur. A person's chance of developing secondary malnutrition increases as their level of food insecurity increases (Barber, 2004). It is critical to consider this, given the significant economic consequences related to the incidence of sickness caused by escalating issues with food insecurity. In general, total factor productivity (TFP) has been shown by Christens and Speer (2005) to affect economic growth. They find that poor health

has a significant negative effect on TFP. Consequently, there is a connection between food insecurity and both poverty and violence. They found a significant relationship among adult height, educational attainment, output, and malnutrition. Children from food insecure homes are significantly more likely to have negative results in the future because of their early academic and social issues (Shemyakina, 2011). They also found that women who were food insecure were far more likely to suffer from severe depression (Siefert, Heflin, Corcoran, & Williams, 2004). The results showed that children from homes with food insecurity had a much higher chance of feeling anxious or depressed as well as hyperactive or inattentive (Melchior et al., 2012). The results showed that for every standard deviation increase in food insecurity, the likelihood of a teenager having a mental disorder in the previous year increased by 14% (McLaughlin et al., 2012). The authors found that increased food production over time reduced the severity of violent conflict. However, they found that only the postponed impact of food production was significant at the five percent level. Given that a decrease in food production is unlikely to have an apparent impact until current food inventories begin to run low, this result seems reasonable (Wischnath & Buhaug, 2014). The researchers found that 13-year-olds from homes with food insecurity frequently had worse math and reading scores on tests and were more likely to be inadequate when they first entered school.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Design

The study employed a descriptive research design because the researcher typically draws a sizable sample from a specified population to gather data and describe specific sample characteristics at the time of the study.

3.2. Population for the Study

According to data from the Emohua Local Government Area's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (2020), the study population in the four major settlements of Ibaa/Obelle (67), Rumuekpe (48), Ogbakiri (45), and Egbeda (70) comprises 230 registered farmers.

3.3. Samples and Sampling Techniques

A total of 230 respondents formed the sample size, and the sampling technique was random.

3.4. Sources of Data

For this research, the researcher used primary sources for data collection in the form of distributing questionnaires to the field study participants and the observation method.

3.5. Methods of Data Collection and Instrumentation

Questionnaires were used to acquire data. The survey consists of a list of questions used to collect data from the respondents. According to Miguel, Satyanath, and Sergenti (2004), a questionnaire may be distributed through mail, telephone, in-person interviews, handouts, or electronic means. The researchers disseminated and gathered the questionnaires. An independently developed questionnaire organized to elicit specific responses from respondents served as the researcher's study instrument. A four-point response scale with the options highly agreed (4), agreed (3), disagreed (2), and very disagreed (1) was used to score the 37 items that make up the study questions.

3.6. Methods of Data Analysis

The questionnaires were retrieved, coded, and analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency, percentage counts, mean, and standard deviation to answer the research questions.

3.7. Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The researcher's supervisor and two additional specialists from the Department of Conflict and Peace Research verified this instrument. During the instrument's ultimate creation, feedback, recommendations, and revisions were considered. Internal consistency of the non-cognitive instrument was determined using Cronbach's alpha. For this purpose, 60 Emohua natives, who were not part of the study, received a questionnaire. After giving them each of the 60 non-cognitive instruments, their responses were collected, categorized, and analyzed using the Cronbach's alpha (ra) method to

determine the reliability coefficient of 0.849, which made the use of the non-cognitive alpha instrument for the study necessary.

4. Results and discussions

A total of 400 questionnaires were distributed, and 230 copies were retrieved. In total, 170 copies were not retrieved. The responses collected from the field were analyzed and presented in tables based on the questions posited.

Table 1. Age distribution of the respondents

Age	N	%	Remark
18-25yrs	61	26	Dominant
26-35yrs	125	54	
36-45yrs	14	7	
46 yrs. and above	30	13	
Total	230	100	

Source: Researcher, 2022

According to Table 1, the age group of 26–35 years represented the majority of respondents (125), accounting for 54% of the sample, followed by the age group of 18–25 years (61 respondents, 26.0%), the age group of 46 years and older (30 respondents, 13.0%), and the least represented age group of 36–45 years (14 respondents, 7.0%).

Table 2. Distribution of the Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	N	%	Remark
Single	54	23.5	Dominant
Married	160	69.5	
Divorced	16	7.0%	
Total	230	100	

Source: Researcher, 2022

Table 2 demonstrates that the married population, which comprises 160 respondents and accounts for 69.5% of the sample, is predominant. The single population, which comprises 54 respondents and accounts for 23.5% of the sample, is next, while the divorced population, which comprises 16 respondents and accounts for 7.0% of the sample, is the least.

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents by Educational Certificate

Educational Certificate	N	%	Remark
FSLC	60	26.1	Dominant
NCE/Diploma	30	13.0	
First Degree	45	19.6	
Master Degree	10	4.3	
Doctorate Degree	5	2.2	
Not educated	80	34.8	
Total	230	100	

Source: Researcher, 2022

Table 3 shows that the majority of respondents (34.8%) were indigenous people without formal education, followed by those who had a primary school diploma (60 respondents, or 26.1%), people who had a high school diploma (45 respondents, or 19.6%), people who had an NCE or diploma (30 respondents, or 13.0%), and people who had a master's degree (10 respondents, 4.3% and 2.2, respectively).

Table 4. Distribution of the Respondents by Occupation

Occupation	N	%	Remark
Civil servant	65	28.3	Dominant
Farmer	110	47.8	
Company Worker	10	4.4	
Business Trader	15	6.5	
Unemployed	30	13.0	
Total	230	100	

Source: Researcher, 2022

Table 4 reveals that farmers make up the majority of residents (110, 47.8%), followed by civil servants (65, 28.3%), the unemployed (30, 13.0%), business/traders (15), and company workers (10), who make up 6.5% and 4.4% of the total population, respectively. The significant analysis in tables 4.1 to 4.4 provide background information on the respondents, including the fact that the vast majority of respondents are young, married, uneducated, and retirees. It is vital to highlight that this information was provided.

4.2. Data Analysis

Research Question 1: What are the sources of violence in the Emohua Local Government Area of the Rivers State?

Table 5. Frequency, percentage, mean rating, and standard deviation of the sources of violence in the emotional local government area of rivers

S/N	Sources of violence in Emohua L G A	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Discovery of oil and gas	32 (13.91)	110 (47.86)	45 (19.56)	43 (18.69)	2.56	0.94	Agree
2	Chieftaincy tussle	28 (12.17)	101 (43.91)	61 (26.52)	40 (17.39)	2.50	0.92	Agree
3	Land dispute among families and communities	42 (18.26)	180 (78.26)	3 (1.30)	5 (2.17)	3.12	0.51	Agree
4	Twisting of well-known historic facts	54 (23.47)	98 (42.60)	40 (17.39)	38 (16.52)	2.73	1.00	Agree
5	Youths unemployment and restiveness	36 (15.65)	124 (53.91)	30 (13.04)	40 (17.39)	2.67	0.93	Agree
6	Cultism among the youths	42 (18.26)	136 (59.13)	42 (18.26)	11 (4.78)	2.90	0.73	Agree
7	Bad leadership style	60 (26.08)	128 (55.65)	20 (8.69)	22 (9.56)	2.98	0.85	Agree
8	Financial embezzlement and misappropriation by chiefs and elders	32 (13.91)	133 (57.82)	40 (17.39)	25 (10.86)	2.74	0.82	Agree
9	Oil Spillage	15 (6.52)	65 (28.26)	110 (47.82)	40 (17.39)	2.23	0.81	Disagree
10	Discrimination among the so-called non-indigenes	46 (20.0)	138 (60.00)	35 (15.21)	11 (4.78)	2.95	0.73	Agree
11	Injustice and Human abuse	44 (19.13)	106 (46.08)	18 (7.82)	62 (26.95)	2.57	1.08	Agree
12	Illegal sale of community land	36 (15.65)	114 (49.56)	26 (11.30)	54 (23.47)	2.57	1.01	Agree
13	Forceful acquisition of land	35 (15.21)	102 (44.34)	37 (16.08)	56 (24.340)	2.50	1.02	Agree

Source: Researcher, 2022

According to Table 5, land disputes are common among families and communities (x = 3.12). This follows ad hoc leadership style (x = 2.98), non-indigenous discrimination (x = 2.95), cultism (x = 2.90), financial embezzlement and misappropriation by chief and elders, twisting of well-known historical facts (x = 2.73), youth unemployment and restiveness (x = 2.67), injustice and human abuse and illegal sale of community land (x = 2.56), discovery of oil and gas (x = 2.56), and chieftaincy title.

Research Question (2): What are the types and nature of violence conflicts in the Emohua local government area of the Rives State?

Table 6. Frequency, percentage, mean rating, and standard deviation of the types and nature of violence in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State

S/N	Types and nature of violence conflict	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Man against the society	120 (52.17)	40 (17.39)	50 (21.73)	20 (8.69)	3.13	1.03	Agree
2	Family conflict	98 (42.60)	67 (29.13)	60 (26.08)	5 (2.17)	3.12	0.87	Agree
3	Intra-personal conflict	99 (43.04)	55 (23.91)	56 (24.34)	20 (8.69)	3.10	1.01	Agree
4	Inter personal conflict	99 (43.06)	77 (33.47)	49 (21.30)	5 (2.17)	3.17	0.83	Agree
5	Inter group conflict	134 (58.26)	74 (32.17)	12 (5.21)	10 (4.34)	3.44	0.78	Agree
6	Man against nature	124 (53.91)	26 (11.30)	39 (16.95)	41 (17.82)	3.01	1.19	Agree

Source: Researcher, 2022

In Table 6, all means are above the criterion mean of 2.5. As a result, family conflict (x = 3.12), man against society (x = 3.13), intra-personal conflict (x = 3.10), interpersonal conflict (x = 3.17), and inter-group conflict (x = 3.44) were all manifestations of man against nature (x = 3.01). Above all, intergroup conflict ranked highest with 3.44 percent, followed by interpersonal conflict with 3.17 percent, and man against society with 3.13 percent, among others, with a mean value of 2.5.

Research Question 3: What is the relationship between violent conflict and food? security in the Emohua local government area of the river state?

Table 7. Frequency, percentage, means rating, and standard deviation of the relationship between violence conflict and food and insecurity in the local government area of the state of rivers.

S/n	Relationship between violence conflict and food security	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	SD	Decision
	E4. Proper citation/referencing of Internet sources		Y1	0.6%	4.5%	15.3%	31.8%	47.7%
			Y2	1.1%	8.5%	21.1%	26.9%	42.3%
	E5. Falsifying/Fabricating course lab data		Y1	5.1%	4.5%	14.2%	35.8%	40.3%
			Y2	5.7%	9.1%	21.7%	30.9%	32.6%
	E6. Falsifying/Fabricating Research Data		Y1	5.1%	5.7%	13.6%	35.2%	40.3%
			Y2	5.1%	9.1%	20.6%	32.6%	32.6%

1	Loss of lives and properties	120 (52.17)	40 (17.39)	40 (17.39)	30 (13.4)	3.08	1.0	Agree
2	Prevalence of stunting growth, underweight and low life expectancy	99 (43.04)	53 (23.04)	47 (20.43)	25 (10.86)	3.12	1.0	Agree
3	Destruction of farmland crops theft	110 (47.86)	63 (27.39)	32 (13.91)	25 (10.86)	3.12	1.0	Agree
4	High economic burden on the state economy	130 (56.52)	42 (18.26)	33 (14.34)	25 (10.86)	3.20	1.0	Agree
5	Malnutrition	180 (78.26)	50 (21.73)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3.97	0.4	Agree
6	Reduction of farming activities and low food production index	130 (56.52)	77 (33.47)	10 (4.34)	13 (5.65)	3.40	1.8	Agree
7	It affects both physical and mental health	89 (38.69)	99 (43.04)	22 (9.56)	20 (8.69)	3.11	0.9	Agree
8	Stunted educational development and mental health	94 (40.86)	86 (10.86)	25 (10.86)	25 (10.86)	3.08	0.9	Agree
9	Psychological traumata (increases stress)	119 (51.73)	49 (21.30)	32 (13.91)	30 (13.04)	3.11	1.0	Agree
10	Disruption of major economic activities	120 (52.17)	55 (23.91)	27 (11.73)	28 (12.17)	3.16	1.0	Agree
11	Underdevelopment	140 (60.86)	50 (21.73)	32 (13.91)	8 (3.48)	3.05	0.8	Agree
12	High risk of disease	99 (43.04)	66 (28.69)	35 (15.21)	30 (13.04)	3.01	1.0	Agree
13	Reduces reproductive rate	70 (30.43)	146 (63.47)	14 (6.08)	0 (0)	3.24	0.5	Agree
14	Increases in price of food stuff	139 (60.43)	43 (18.69)	30 (13.04)	18 (7.82)	3.31	0.9	Agree
15	It brings migration	30 (13.04)	156 (67.82)	30 (13.04)	14 (6.08)	2.87	0.7	Agree

Source: Researcher, 2022

From Table 7, we see the following: loss of lives and properties ($x = 3.08$), prevalence of stunted growth, underweight, and life expectancy ($x = 2.95$), destruction of land and crop theft ($x = 3.12$), high economic burden on the state economy ($x = 3.20$), malnutrition ($x = 3.97$), reduction of farming activities and food production index ($x = 3.40$), physical and mental health of pregnant women ($x = 3.11$), poor educational performance ($x = 3.16$), underdevelopment ($x = 3.05$), and high risk of diseases ($x = 3.01$), while 3.24, 3.31 malnutrition ranked highest with 3.97 percent, followed by a high economic burden on the state economy (3.20%), among others, with a mean value of 2.5.

Table 8. Chi-squared test showing perceived association between violence conflict and food security in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State

Test variables	df	X ² -value	P-value	Decision
Violence	228	122.6	0.032	Ho Rejected
Food security				

* $p < 0.05$ Significant

Source: Researcher, 2022

The table above shows the significant association between violence, conflict, and food security in the Emohua Local Government Area of the Rivers State. The findings of the study showed that violence in conflict has a significant impact on food security, as the p-value of 0.032 is less than the alpha level of 0.05, with an X²-value of 122.6 and a DF of 282. Therefore, the hypothesis that there is no significant association between violence, conflict, and food security in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State is rejected as the result shows a significant association.

4.3. Discussion

The results demonstrate that the exploitation of natural gas and oil, leadership disputes, land disputes between families and communities, the distortion of historical facts, youth unemployment and restlessness, cultism among youths, poor leadership styles, financial theft and misappropriation by chiefs and elders, and discrimination are all factors causes of violence in the Rivers State's Emohua Local Government Area. Land disputes and the sale of illegal farms, according to Raphael and Winter-Ebmer (2001) and Brinkman and Hendrix (2011), aggravate the unrest in Nigeria. While Messer, Cohen, and Marchione (2002) concluded that the discovery of oil has rendered many rural residents homeless and prevented people from delighting in the wonderful inheritance stipulated them from the natural world as a result of crises, Martorell (1999) asserted that the distortion of well-known historical facts is a major concern in society. According to the researcher, the discovery of oil, cultism, chieftaincy issues, and the illegal sale of communal land were the main reasons for conflict in the Emohua Local Government Area of the Rivers State.

The researcher posed question two to ascertain the nature and types of violence in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State. According to the findings, these conflicts include those between individuals and society, within families, between individuals and groups, between individuals and states, internationally, and between individuals and nature. This confirms research by Burke, Miguel, Satyanath, Dykema, and Lobell (2009) and De Soysa, Gleditsch, Gibson, and Sollenberg (1999), which hypothesized that particular types of conflict arise frequently in human interaction. The researcher claims that man versus society, family conflict, man against nature, interpersonal conflict, and intrapersonal conflict are the underlying causes of the problem in the Emohua Local Government Area.

The third study question ascertained the relationship between conflict, violence, and food insecurity in the Rivers State's Emohua Local Government Area. The findings include loss of lives and property, a high financial burden on the state economy, stunting growth prevalence, underweight and low life expectancy, destruction of farmland, malnutrition, a decline in farming operations, low production of food measures, and effects on both physical and mental health. This outcome was consistent with the results reported by Burke et al. (2009) & Barber (2004) that discovered how food insecurity affects children's cognitive, social, and academic performance. According to the USDA (2022) report, violence makes it difficult for rural residents to make a living through economic means. Antecol and Bedard (2007) concluded that violence in conflict causes malnutrition, which increases the risk of disease and reduces sexual activity; they also noted that violence increases human abuse. Kent (2013) claimed that violent conflict raises food prices, while Antecol and Bedard (2007) claimed the opposite.

The study claims that violent disputes result in the forcible eviction of persons who, at the time of their forcible eviction, were largely residing in poverty and struggling with starvation and other health problems. As people travel to surrounding cities and towns as a result of this forced displacement, they need to adjust to a strange environment. These incidents included watching sexual and rape abuse, ignoring and abusing children, violently acting, and contemplating and attempting suicide. The loss of productive assets, which stagnates since individuals struggle to hold onto them after the crisis, is another reason for migration.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Conclusion

This study showed that the connection between hunger and violence is complex and unstable. This proves that a conflict's consequences on food insecurity depend on how long, how severe, and what kind of damage it causes. The effects of food insecurity can be felt in the long and medium term. The war in Emohua Local Government Area served as a backdrop for this study. Due to the conflict's effects on food production and rural employment, changes in the ownership and utilization of land will have an important effect on food security in the years and decades to come. The other is the large alteration in population patterns caused by the widespread forced relocation of the battle. This affects both regional development and local food security. Therefore, in addition to short-term initiatives that often aim to reduce food insecurity among the population most impacted by war, comprehensive strategies

aimed at bringing about changes in structures that contribute to agricultural instability throughout the medium- and long-term are required.

By being both a contributing factor to and an outcome of violence, food insecurity exacerbates an endless cycle or conflict trap. The main causes of rioting, civic unrest, racial violence, and protests are food shortage. Food insecurity, malnutrition, and occasional famine are caused by violence and conflicts. Food insecurity is once again on the rise despite decades of consistent progress toward eradicating hunger. Lack of nutrition may have harmful effects. This negatively affects the availability of food because of a decline in production brought on by the abandonment of land and the neglect of crops, as well as the challenges associated with importing food from outside the region. By rising prices for food in portions of limited availability, decreasing displaced people's income due to the loss of their assets, and making it challenging for them to acquire formal employment in the urban areas where they reside, access to food is restricted. Due to unsanitary and crowded living conditions, the majority of displaced families endure as well as the lack of minimally adequate sanitation at the community and household levels. Displaced people's health and nutrition suffer in host communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable: women (especially those who are breastfeeding or pregnant) and young children. There is no assurance that food will be consumed in this situation in an adequate manner (Lauren, 2011). When social safety nets, such as households, neighborhoods, and local governments, deteriorate or perhaps collapse entirely, women and children are more at risk (Ifeanyi, 2016). Women often begin working because they are now in charge of running their homes as a result of conflict. Long-term consequences for the wellbeing of the populace and displaced groups result from the loss of durable goods and assets, such as homes and land. This has a negative effect on production as well as the mental health of the community and each individual.

5.2. Limitations

Bias while filling out the questionnaires and a lack of freedom of information in the area

5.3. Suggestion

Review and update the strategy to care for the displaced population to align it with the objectives and contents of the Peace Accords, as well as strengthen programs and actions aimed at reducing the food insecurity of the affected population who decide to remain in neighboring communities. The strategy should also include care for host communities and families, since many of these groups are located in territories affected by conflict, are in poverty, and face difficult conditions of food insecurity.

1. For this population, it is crucial to implement policies and initiatives that will make it easier for them to return to their original communities. This includes implementing innovative support programs for the reintegration of displaced people in conflict-affected communities and territories into productive activities and employment, as well as building and renovating productive assets.
2. Make it a top priority to compensate for the material losses incurred by the displaced people and the population impacted by the conflict, particularly by providing working capital and capital goods, restitution of land, and housing replacements.
3. Implementation of a program for creating and/or rebuilding food distribution and marketing centers and channels. Create unique programs to promote food production in conflict-affected areas that engage both returned people and the local population. This entails, among other things, building and/or renovating the road network and supporting regional production activities like marketplaces and public squares, as well as food supply chains and food storage facilities.
4. It is essential for policies, programs, and projects created and implemented to support these populations to take this situation into consideration, particularly the differences in gender, age, ethnicity, access to land, and their production and employment profiles. This is because displaced and returned populations have different needs and profiles and aspire to achieve different goals and objectives. It is advised to develop and implement a comprehensive program for their return and resettlement in rural and urban regions, with a differentiated approach based on gender, ethnicity, and age, to guarantee that they effectively enjoy the rights of victims of forced displacement.
5. Examine and strengthen state institutions that provide technical assistance, credit, and marketing of agricultural products to the rural sector, especially producers of essential foods.

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