

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE EXTENT OF RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION
AND DAMAGES TO LIVES AND PROPERTIES IN TAKUM AND USSA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF TARABA STATE NIGERIA**

By

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ABSTRACT

This study has examined the extent of residential segregation and damages to lives and properties in Takum and Ussa Local Government Areas of Taraba state. The study aimed to examine the extent of residential segregation and damages to lives and properties in Takum and Ussa LGAs. In all, the worse affected areas of Takum, Rogo, Lissam and Rufu were grided into 40 squares, 38 of which were directly on the area and in each of the grids, 10 questionnaires were randomly administered on individuals bringing the total to 380 questionnaires designed to elicit information on causes of the crisis, its effects on production and income levels of the people, the extent of residential segregation and damages to lives and property were administered to randomly selected members of the society. The study has identified the causes of crisis to include poverty, chieftaincy tussle, boundary adjustment, youth unemployment, among others. The study found that robbery, vandalism, house breaking and social segregations were perpetrated mostly by the youths and are the aftermath of the crisis which resulted from perceived feelings of marginalization, claims of unequal access to economic, social and political opportunities in the area. This crisis in the area due to its persistence and recurrent nature, has also led to damages of lives and property and decrease in people's economic activities which calls for in-depth study to the problem. Also, the study found that throughout the crisis years, there was a decline in the level of agricultural investment/yield, income levels of the people of the area, and increased the level of social and residential segregation and damages to lives and property amounting to billions of Naira. This research concluded that for any meaningful development, to take place in the area, a number of policies that will check conflicts and address the problems of the people have to be put in place by governments at all levels and even the communities which should include; provision of basic social amenities, provision of job opportunities, the establishment of skills acquisition centers and the implementation of the various committee reports set up at different times to look into the crisis. These measures, the study posits will bring about

lasting peace that will guarantee progress and development of the people and their economy.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Peace is indispensable to development and all forms of human activities. Prior to the arrival of Chamba/Jukun people in Takum Local Government Area, there has been peaceful coexistence among the various Kuteb clans who were already organized politically, economically and socially under Ukwe, the Takum paramount ruler before 16th century (Sam-Tsokwa 1998). Conflict in the chiefdom began in 1830, when the Chamba people arrived in the area under their leader Garkie as a result of a conflict between them and Fulani jihadist of Tibati district of Cameroon. Other Chamba groups came in batches to meet the Kutebs who received and accommodated them in Jenuwa, a Kuteb village situated west of Takum (Dewar, 1935; and Sam-Tsokwa 1998). The nature of conflict then was mild and attributed to claims of banditry and extortionist activities of Chamba/Jukuns (Ahmed, 2000).

However, the situation changed in 1976, when major crisis occurred, since then Takum area has witnessed four other major crises, which include: the 1984, 1991/92, 1993 and 1997 to 1999 crisis. The persistence of communal conflicts in the area makes a probe of the causes, effects and management procedures as it affects development of the area imperative. This is necessary because, the destruction of more than half of Takum town, Lissam, and their surrounding villages, wasting so many lives and rendering so many homeless and living as refugees in bushes, Benue state, Jalingo, Wukari (Aliyu 1998; Lawson 1999) is pathetic and have far reaching consequences. Mamman (2000),

noted that violence does not only imposes loss, injury and emotional trauma on individual but breeds insecurity which leads to distrust, intolerance, isolation and in some cases violent reactions. There is no doubt that such atmosphere of uncertainty could be a major setback to overall development process of the area and consequently falling standard of living of the inhabitants.

What are the effects of the incessant nature of this conflict in the area on agricultural yield, income levels, infrastructures and rural poverty? Search for answer to this question is relevant for sustainable development of the area in this era in Nigeria where economic liberalization and privatization prevails.

It is worth noting that very scanty studies exist on rural conflicts between Chamba/Jukun and Kuteb in Takum and Ussa Local Government Areas of Taraba state. Previous studies on conflict in the area including: Sam-Tsokwa, (1998); Andefiki, (1999); Lawson, (1999); and Ahmed, (2000) dwelt mostly on the history of conflicts in the area, the causes and the extent of damage done to lives and property. There is little or no study on the effects on rural production and income, residential segregation, labour force, the level of adjustment of the people and economic activities to the conflicts. In this study we attempt to take stock of losses incurred over the years, measure and address the effects of conflicts on rural economies of Takum and Ussa Local Government Areas

1.2 Materials and Methods

The data for this paper was obtained through the administration of questionnaires specifically designed to obtain information among other things, on the extent of residential segregation and damages to live and property in Takum and Ussa Local Government Areas of Taraba State Nigeria.

1.2.1 Sources of Data

The sample size of the study was determined based on Educational and psychological measurement Table (Krejcie and Morgan, 1969). As seen in the table, the sampled population size of the study area is estimated at 382 people.

Probability sampling or scientific sampling was adopted based on its advantages in which:

- Households or individuals are selected randomly; and
- Each household or individual in the population has a known, non zero probability of being included in the sample.

Two-stage sampling was conducted with grid system constituting the primary sampling unit. The grid squares (1 x 1 cm) were super-imposed on the Takum and Ussa Local Government Area topographic map. Each grid square constitutes a zone or subgroups that represent aggregates of individual households in each cell of the study area . From each above, 10 households were randomly selected and each served with a questionnaire. In each of the households, individuals were selected to respond to the questions. Those chosen are spread across all age-grades, occupations and social inclinations because of the spread effects of the crisis on all.

1.2.2 The Study Population

The population of the study area comprises of Chamba/Jukun and Kuteb tribes who are the inhabitants of Takum and who are engaged in communal conflict. Both tribes have segregated themselves in to small enclaves, sharing the same social amenities. Their

socio-economic characteristics are the same; any development activity in the area will have almost similar impact on both communities.

The population of these communities is put at 247, 619 people by the (National Population Commission, 2006). The households surveyed from both tribes are numbered 382.

Households were considered the most suitable population for the study because of their involvement in family up-keeps, participation in the conflicts and involvement in rebuilding the community after conflicts. They share both positive and negative impacts of the conflicts. These population subgroups have witnessed conflicts for the past decade and have made presentations to commissions of inquiries set up by federal, state, and local governments for fact-finding and resolution of the conflicts.

1.2.3 Method of Data Collection

Structured questionnaires were used to elicit information from various respondents comprising of individuals selected randomly to represent the various households, community leaders and some government officials. The questionnaire is structured into two sections. Section one contains information related to the characteristics of respondents such as age, sex, education, residence, marital status, occupation, family size etc. section two contains information on socio-economic activities before and after the crisis. These include individual and business adjustments to conflicts; amenities enjoyed before, during and after conflicts, nature of business and income levels, causes of conflicts, socio-economic and political effects of conflicts.

Because of the large size of the study area, the researcher could not administer questionnaires to all households living in the area but resorted to sampling. In each cell of

the 38 grids coverage of the study area, ten households were selected randomly to respond to the questionnaires. This was done in order to give equal opportunity for any household to be selected. A total of 382 questionnaires were administered to respondents by the researcher and after one-week interval, 370 questionnaires were retrieved, representing 97% of the returned questionnaires.

Oral interviews were conducted by field assistants under the supervision of the researcher for one week after the questionnaires were delivered and followed by personal observations, which were aimed, to complement data acquired from the field through questionnaires. The interviewers sought information on the causes and effects of conflicts on their socio-economic activities before and after the conflicts. This was done to take care of the inadequacies or gaps that the questionnaires were not able to bridge in such areas as: the efforts of the church NGOs and individuals on resolution; whether the respondents' current expenditures are directed at rehabilitation, food provision or investment in agriculture; and the economic cost of these crisis to families and the entire society.

More so, apart from the questionnaires administered an in-depth interview with some key individuals and stakeholders on the causes and possible solutions to the crisis was undertaken. This was done to enable the researcher come up with the summarized divergent views opinion and the stance of each of the groups/communities and the way its going to be resolved.

Search for secondary data on causes and effects of conflicts in Takum area was made by the researcher through examination of commission and committee reports and other documentations on conflicts. Data of this nature were obtained from center for

Peace and Conflict Resolution, Abuja, National Archives, National Population Commission, Taraba state Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ussa and Takum Local Government Councils, textbooks, journals and the internet.

1.2.4 Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistical techniques such as mean and percentages and ratio were employed to determine the characteristics and distribution of each of the parameters found in the questionnaire. Information in these categories was illustrated with pie charts, bar graphs and line graphs, where appropriate.

1.3 Results and Discussions

Residential Patterns

The segregation of different groups of people into groups of settlements (communities) within the same environment dates back to the colonial era which resulted in the evolution of Sabongaris in Kano, Zaria, Kaduna, Ibadan, e.t.c. This was done to create a conducive environment for settlers away from their hosts who became envious of their successes (Albert, I. O. 1995). After the abolishment of colonialism, Nigerians who see themselves as brothers choose to live in the midst of their native hosts within the towns where they are. Now, as crisis sets in, those living as minorities in mixed settlements become easily susceptible to attacks by the host majority and this makes some to relocate to their kiths and Kins, people of the same faith and even those in the same social status with them. This results to social, political and residentially segregated settlements in an area.

The crises made several families to move from one residential area to another in search of safety. In this process some form of residential segregation developed where

people of the same ethnic background settle in a particular area because they believe being together, they can easily defend themselves in case of threats to lives and property. Mixed settlements have also developed where people of different social groups have come to live together, during the crisis, mainly Hausas, Igbo, Yourbas, and even Kutebs and Jukun/Chamba e.t.c. went to settle around the army barracks. “Another development is the rise of new settlements in which Kutebs and other Nigerians who felt that government was backing the injustices meted out to them had decided to erect permanent structures opposite army barracks.” (Aliyu 1998; Ahmed 2000; Bagudu 2003) This leaves behind the areas that are almost purely inhabited by Kutebs, Jukun/Chamba, Hausas and a mixed settlement of others in an area within the same town.

Table 1 Proportion of residential segregation among the respondents before crisis:

Attribute/L.G.As	Takum		Ussa	
	No.	%	No.	%
Residential segregation	59	20.60	4	4.80
Mixed settlement	227	79.40	80	95.20
Total	286	100	84	100

Source: Field survey, 2012

As shown in Table 1, 25.40 percent of respondents claim they live in residentially segregated areas in both Local Government Areas. This situation was found to be more pronounced in Lissam and Takum than any other district in the study area. Also, in both local government areas there exist areas with people of different ethnic, religious and social backgrounds living together. This situation was found to be more common in Lissam than any other district in the study area before and even after crisis. This high incidence of residential segregation is more common in Takum than other districts because of the presence of more than one ethnic group cohabiting there.

However before the crises, the situation was a little bit different, mixed settlements as well as residential segregation were common but at varying degrees which intensified during and shortly after the crisis. Table 5.14 shows residential pattern after the crisis.

Table 2 Proportion of residential segregation after crisis

Attribute	Takum		Ussa	
	No.	%	No.	%
Residential segregation	152	73.1	126	77.8
Mixed settlement	56	26.9	36	22.2
Total	208	100	162	100

Source; Field survey, 2012

After the crisis, the intensity of settlements became highly segregated along ethnic, religious and economic lines. This is because people felt more secured in areas (zones) inhabited by people of the same ethnic group, religion and economic inclinations

After crisis, as evident in the Table 2, the rate of residential segregation became higher with 73.1% in Takum and 77.8% in Ussa respectively attesting to it. While that of mixed settlement which was prevalent before crisis in all districts became less compared to the situation before crisis.

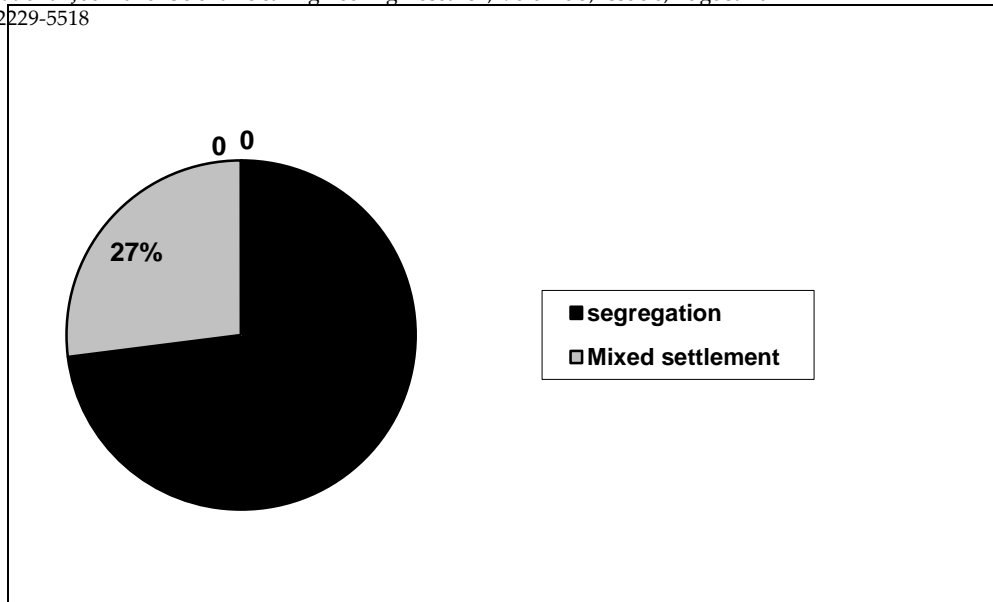


Fig. 1 Residential Pattern before the Crisis

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Fig. 1 indicates that 73 percent of the people were living in mixed settlement while only 27 percent were segregated from others due to socio-economic reasons. The high percentage of mixed settlement is an evidence to show that strong community spirit existed among the people before the crisis that could enhance the development and progress of the areas than after the crisis. Though, these segregations were based on ethnic groupings, creed and social backgrounds of the people and have passively existed in the area before crisis, with Fadama occupied predominantly by the Kutebs, U/Abuja by Hausas, among other ones.

Residential Relocation

Many families after the crises had to relocate to other areas because of insecurity and fear of attacks (see tables 5.13 and 5.14) (Aliyu 1998; Lawson 1999; Bagudu 2003).

Among those who have to relocate, some said they moved and are living with kiths and kins while others moved to live with people of the same faith. These patterns of movement were meant to ensure safety of lives and property in case of crisis.

However, some few people interviewed in Takum town claimed that they did not change their residential location. This group of people was least affected by the crisis as their area was not penetrated by the warriors during the periods.

Impact of the Crisis on Basic Infrastructure

Access to basic social services is an essential and integral part of human development. This according to a joint statement by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Education, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), forms the core of human development and is increasingly recognized as human right. By enabling the world's poorest lead healthier and more productive lives, such services are key to reducing the worst manifestations of poverty and break its vicious circle (United Nations Systems in Nigeria, 2004). The consequences of these uprisings were devastating and so many lives were lost, property worth billions of Naira destroyed, men, women and children, were attacked (Yawe 1993; Aliyu 1998; Bagudu 2001). The towns of Takum, Lissam, Bika, Rufu, Kwesati, Jenua, Kwambai, were razed down. The schools, residential property, water supply infrastructure, electricity transmission lines and equipment, roads and health centres, where they existed scantily were, plundered (Aliyu 1998; Lawson 1999).

Basic infrastructure such as health facilities; education, water, roads and electricity have suffered either outright destruction or disruption in the development process, see Table 2

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Table 2 Available Social Amenities and Institutions by Local Government Areas Before and After Crisis

Amenities

LGAs	Health centers		Educational institutions				Water infrastructure				Markets		Petrol stations		Banks	
	Pre-crisis	inter - crisis	Primary	Secondary	Pre-crisis	inter - crisis	Hand Pumps	Motorized pump	Pre-crisis	inter - crisis	Pre-crisis	inter - crisis	Pre-crisis	inter-crisis	Pre-crisis	Post - crisis
Takum	73	55	88	73	24	15	55	40	6	6	8	8	3	3	6	NIL
Ussa	60	51	64	52	11	6	43	39	4	4	7	6	2	3	4	1
Total	133	106	152	125	35	21	98	79	10	10	15	14	5	6	10	1

Source:

Field

Survey,

2005

Table 2 shows the available social amenities and institutions by local government areas before and after crisis.

In Takum Local Government Area, for health centers, educational institutions and hand pumps the crisis greatly affected and reduced the numbers of those amenities tremendously. But motorized water points, markets and petrol stations were not affected by the crisis as their numbers were constant at both pre and inter crisis periods. But Ussa Local Government Area on the other hand, witnessed enormous effects as there are sharp differences between pre crisis and inter crisis periods except for motorized water facility with no change and markets with the difference of only 1 at the inter crisis period.

The parts of the Local Government Areas that did not witness crisis have some of their infrastructure untouched except that they became almost dysfunctional during the period. But in the areas where the crisis was prevalent like, Lissam, Rufu, Rogo and Takum a lot of these amenities and institutions were destroyed and their functions halted (Bagudu, 2003). The two Local Government Areas which had 133 health centers, about 152 primary schools and 98 hand pumps before crisis witnessed a drastic reduction due to destruction from crisis to 106, 125 and 79 respectively.

As shown in Table 2, 92.2 percent of the respondents claimed that basic infrastructure such as electricity; roads, health and water points were destroyed and the level of destruction varies from one area to the other in the two Local Government Areas. In terms of disruption of development projects, only 7.8 percent of the respondents indicated that some developmental projects were disrupted. Among the districts, Lissam and Takum have suffered more from this act of disruption than others, the halting of Takum-Bissaula road project, the recession of Government and even individual businesses are but a few examples. This is because of their

being headquarters of the Local Government Areas where the struggle for power takes place, as the people demonstrate their anger by this act to draw government's attention.

Problems Associated with the Crisis

Associated with any crisis is scarcity and inadequacy of basic needs and facilities and a sharp fall in living conditions of the inhabitants of the affected areas. Some of these problems are housing, water scarcity and other social problems and this reveals a startling pattern of low per capita income, low life expectancy and high level of indebtedness (Mammam, 2000).

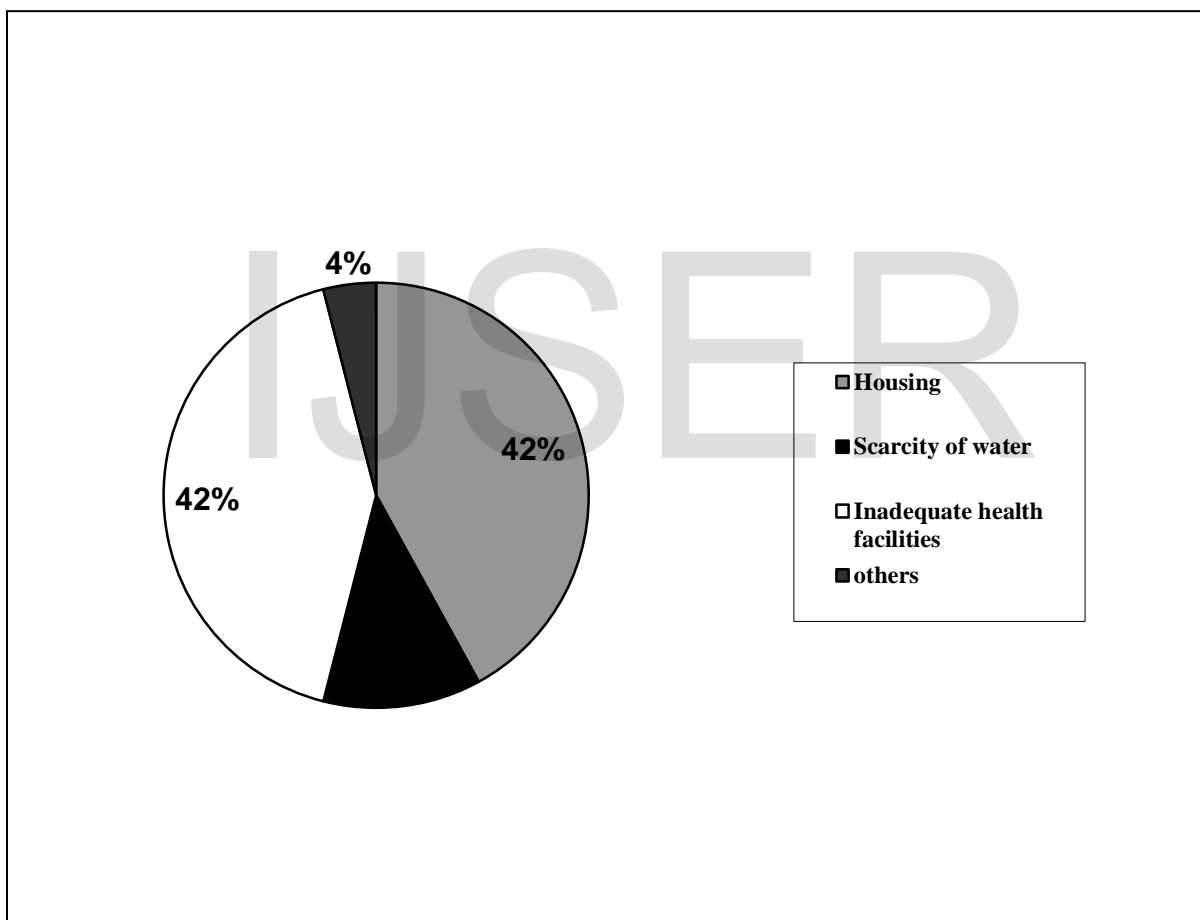


Fig 2 Problems Associated with the Crisis
Source: Field Survey, 2012

As shown in Fig. 5.16, 42 percent of the respondents claimed to have encountered housing problems. Also, 42 percent of the respondents claimed that there are inadequate health

facilities. Due to the spread effects of crisis, and as field observations reveal, all inhabitants of this area witnessed the pangs of all these problems put together. The problems identified above, require great attention to relieve the people from hardship. Development programmes geared towards water supply, schools, health delivery services, housing, electricity, roads etc should be the top priority of government and individuals in this area. Also associated with the crisis is scarcity of food items, clothing, and poor sanitary conditions.

Also, a great number of respondents orally interviewed suggested that job creation, improved social facilities, improvement in trading and farming activities and compensation of those who lost their properties will go a long way to improving on the lives of individuals and stimulate growth in economic activities of the area and ameliorate some of the problems outlined above.

House breaking:

Apart from setting ablaze of buildings during the crisis, house breaking became visible shortly after the crisis. Since most of the jobless youths and mercenaries who executed the crisis were still in possession of arms and ammunitions, it became very easy for them to break into homes and make away with people’s property. This act from Table 5.16 is more prevalent in Takum than in Ussa Local Government Area and the houses of rivals were the most targeted. The prevalence rate in Takum Local Government Area was higher based on the 51.3% respondents in Takum than that of Ussa with only 40.0% as seen in Table 3.

Table 3 Other social effects of the crisis

Type	Takum %	Ussa %	Total %
House Breaking	51.3	40.0	45.6
Social segregation	33.0	2.0	17.5
Rampant killings	10.5	2.0	6.3
Vandalism	11.0	40.4	25.7
Others	5.5	4.3	4.9
Total	100	100	100

Source: Field survey 2012

Social Segregation

Due to the fact that the society is socially stratified along economic, religious, political and cultural lines, the tendency is that people settle in the area based on these considerations so as to enable them achieve their interests of safety, economic, religious and political influence. But after crisis, this became prevalent in the area with Takum having higher rate than Ussa Local Government Area, this may be due to its more complex and urbanized nature.

Rampant Killings

After crisis, this became minimal as security men were deployed to most of the affected districts in both Local Government Areas. Even with this, there were silent killings here and there. According to people interviewed, the victims are those that may get into enemy areas either knowingly or unknowingly. The prevalence of this in Takum over Ussa is due to the former's cosmopolitan nature.

Vandalism:

This act was perpetrated in the area both during and shortly after the crisis resulting to the destruction of schools, hospitals, health centers, electricity installations and markets. This according to field information was done to convey people's grievance to government. But the act has really deepened the rate of poverty as people had to travel long distances to enjoy these essential services.

After the crisis period, the youths who were already employed by the war resorted to house breaking which became very rampant as the fleeing inhabitants returned to resettle in the area. From Table 5.17, the case of social segregation was more prevalent in Takum which has Kuteb, Jukun, Yoruba, Hausa, Chamba, and others living there unlike Ussa Local Government

Area. (Bagudu, 2003) which is predominantly inhabited by the Kuteb people, this situation as it is Takum Local Government Area is almost non-existent, except for segregation occasioned by social stratification.

Soon after crisis, there are few cases of rampant killings in both Local Government Areas, 6.3% of the respondents asserted that killings took place in the area especially Takum Local Government Area. Other crimes like rape, armed robbery and theft were minimal as few persons that were interviewed stated that they were considered abominable during those periods, as their repercussion could be defeat by enemies during the period. The other forms of social effects which few respondents agree are so rampant in both areas are rape, hooliganism and armed robbery which 4.9 percent of the respondents claimed are in existence in the area.

CONCLUSION

The reoccurrences of conflicts between Chamba/Jukun and Kuteb in Takum and Ussa Local Government Areas for more than a decade have increased the poverty level of the people and hence falling standard of living. Though, the causal factors are known, the inability of stakeholders to resolve the crisis has made people to live in fear and mutual suspicion. In this state of insecurity and lack of trust no meaningful rural development programme can succeed. Notwithstanding the circumstances of the crisis there is a need to transform the socio-spatial and economic structure of the area to minimum living conditions.

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