

EXPLORING IMPACT OF INTERCOMMUNAL CONFLICT ON POVERTY LEVELS OF GHITAL AND TAFAWA-BALEWA COMMUNITIES IN BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

Globally, inter-communal conflicts remain notorious social malaise that had taken a center stage in scholarly and policy realms. In particular, Ghital-Tafawa Balewa had for too long recorded lingering inter-communal conflict that had decimated human and material assets. Various strategies by stakeholders to change the narratives proved abortive. These conditions, facts and issues motivated this research. This study therefore aimed to explore the impact of the issue on poverty levels in the referent localities. Previous studies conducted on the subject matter were mostly anecdotal and conceptual commentaries which yielded shallow outcomes. The current research was empirical in approach to offer more analytical perspectives on the subject matter. Group Conflict Theory was adopted as study underpinning framework. Descriptive Survey Design was employed as study blue print. Sample size of 385 was determined using Taro Yamane scientific method, and doubled for research robustness. Stratified and Simple Random Sampling technique were used to draw research respondents from each cluster. A modified four-point Likert scale questionnaire tagged "Ghital-Tafawa Balewa Intercommunal Conflict Questionnaire (GTICCQ)," with internal consistency of 0.86 Cronbach Alpha was used in data collection. Ordinal regression method was employed to analyse the data and test the study hypothesis. Findings revealed that the inter-communal conflict had considerably increased poverty levels of Ghital and Tafawa-Balewa communities. Premised on findings, the study recommended a robust social safety nets for the people of the affected areas to curb their gullibility to violent conflicts. It is also recommended that regular inter-community peace building be introduced for the affected localities to improve their socio-economic dispositions.

Keywords: Inter-Communal Conflict, Poverty Level, Ghital and Tafawa Balewa Communities, Bauchi State.

Introduction

The increasing rate in which inter-communal conflict continues to plague the developing world has caused it to emerge as a major research agenda within the development economic literature inter-communal conflicts of varying scales and intensities has been witnessed in this century in different part of the world. It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of these conflicts but it is safe to say that these social unrests have taken a toll on humanity in terms of deaths, displacements and disruption of economic and social activities. Indeed, massive violent conflicts on a scale previously unimaginable have come to state humanity in the face with their attendant adverse effects on economic development of the society. The role of conflict in preventing poverty alleviation is of central concern as violent conflict has been considered a cause of regressive growth that can exacerbate chronic poverty issues within fragile countries. Experiences have shown that many of those involved in violent inter-communal conflict situation have been ethnic identities or land grabbing techniques to rally support, justify their action and proclaim a moral superiority over other (Fearon & David, 2013).

Nigeria has recorded bitter experience of violent conflict in various forms and inter-communal conflict in particular. Since the early 1980s, inter-communal conflict have become a reoccurring issues, especially in northern part of Nigeria, including the long existing inter-communal involving Ghital and Tafawa Balewa neighboring communities, sharing common land boundaries. in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Areas of Bauchi State since 2008. The

perennial character and violent dimension of the situation has inadvertently socialized the youth in the areas into belligerent militia groups. Youth are recruited as standing security apparatus for each community, carrying out functions of foot-soldiers and frontier groups; they select and ambush perceived opponents at ease, with little or no provocation. The precarious nature of the situation has made free flow of goods and services unattainable, and poverty unavoidable in the referent localities.

Relatedly, the global poverty index has categorized Northeastern part of Nigeria as one of the heavily impoverished in the country with consequential outcomes. Omatayo (2015) posited that, poverty brings fierce competition for scarce resources in order to sustain life and meet basic needs people will do anything to feed their children. Impoverishment causes income inequality, large or growing gaps between the rich and poor, it motivates resentment which can fuel support for armed movement which promises a more equitable division of resources and access to services. Inter-communal conflict disrupts functioning economic markets, education and health services migration patterns, employment opportunities, local governance structures and can be destructive for asset and land ownership. Justino (2009), buttressed that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of conflicts. The major problem is not just about the ubiquity of conflicts as present realities of our social systems. What is rather perturbing, is that these conflicts involve massive disruption of social, political and economic lives of the larger population; this is especially so when these conflicts (Omatayo, 2015).

Statement of the Problem

The lingering and deleterious nature of the Ghital-Tafawa Balewa intercommunal upheavals had remains a challenging social phenomenon that had attracted regional attention and concern of both government and non state actors. Despite series of multi-stakeholder approaches to the matter, human and non human assets have continue to perish through deleterious actions, such as arson, poisoning sources of drinking water and grazing fields, sexual assault, cattle rustling, mass lootings, fatalities and other forms of human rights violations. within the two communities. Able youth from the two communities had developed a non productive routine of accumulating expensive and illicit locally manufactured lethal weapons for surveiling their communities and deterring the adversaries through sporadic and sometimes nocturnal reprisals with little or no provocation. For a fact that this phenomenon was manifesting from groups that had lived together as proximate brothers and sisters, and yet without visible sign of remediation had made the situation more puzzling. The conflict had many settlements, such as Ginzum, Dull, Bollakh, Jong-Koji, Dumal, Gwang, Bakin Kogin Ghital, Kwacciyal, Durun Nbudla-Ginzum, Dundu, Dogon Kanya, Dogon Tsamiya. These local settlements which in recent past, were economically vibrant and mutually receptive, had been wiped out by the crisis and displacing 2,819 persons (Bauchi State Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs 2023 Report).

Failures by successive governments and non state stakeholders to curb the menace and guarantee security and safety in the study area, was indiscernible and worrisome. The phenomenon has eroded the once existed mutually beneficial coexistence between the two groups. Sources of harmonious social networks such as places of worships, market squares and farmlands have been abandoned due to the mutual mistrust and apprehensions generated by the issue. Inter-communal marriages and joint cultural festivities have ceased; school enrollments and attendance have declined as a result of the dispute (Bauchi State Ministry of Information and Culture, 2022 Report). According to Justino (2009), in any inter-group conflict experiences, there were sets of intervening variables between diversity and conflicts that need to be interrogated to unravel the nature and extent of connections between them and, in specific terms, to discern the impact of inter-communal conflicts on their prevailing socio-economic circumstances. Unfortunately the Ghital-Tafawa Balewa situation had become a recurring decimal defying all remedial measures, and causing more apprehension. According to Saleh (2019), when groups in conflicts perceive ambiguity surrounding their survival, trust and authentic interaction are also adversely impeded, and this make them devise other means of protecting their cherished values. The researcher buttressed that sincerity in intergroup relations is a potent instrument capable of improving trust, cordiality and authenticity. This justified the focus of the present research, as it attempted to unveil the impact of intercommunal discord on economic dispositions of Ghital and

Tafawa-Balewa. This is with a view to developing sustainable conflict management models capable of speaking to the long existing conflict between Ghital and Tafawa-Balewa neighboring communities.

Significance of the Study

From the literary perspective, the research outcome would offer new insight on the underpinning factors responsible for lingering intergroup violence and unpack socio-economic implications of conflicts. It shall also evolve policies that would guide informed practice. In practical logic, the study outcome will motivate stakeholders to respond timely and proficiently to intercommunal belligerence, whenever it emerges.

Objective of the Study

The major objective of this study was to investigate the impact of inter-communal conflict on poverty levels of Ghital and Tafawa-Balewa belligerent communities.

Research Hypothesis

Null (H₀): Null hypothesis has been formulated to give focus to the research, thus: "Intercommunal Conflict has no significant impact on Ghital and Tafawa poverty levels"

Literature Review

Concept of Inter-communal Conflicts

Intercommunal communal crises have grown in importance in recent times; however, the primary concern of international communities about the issue is that, state sovereignty combined with the domestic nature of the conflict stands as a barrier to effective international intervention. Thus, such conflict pose a unique challenges to the international community in its attempts to bring peace to these areas and to end human suffering (Ezzrari & Paolo, 2012). Inter-communal conflict is multi-faceted concepts that covers greed, covetousness, self-centeredness, discontent, envy, arrogance, rudeness, impunity, among other acts. They are very capable of leading to breakdown of human relations, according to Joshua (2013) inter-communal conflict is a struggle over value and claims over status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate opponents. Dunmoye (2013) maintained that land or boundary disputes are major factors leading to inter-communal conflicts in the middle-belt region of Nigeria. This implies that crises are triggered by scarcity of production factors occasioned by rising population pressure, land alienation or concentration of land in the hands of a few. Communal conflict in the country are aggravated by economic crisis while ethnicism, religious differences and their manipulations, land hunger and grabbing, increasing population, chieftaincy disputes and the "native/settler" malignant syndromes, are major causes.

The struggle by two or more groups over political power, status and control of resource, in which the aims of the opponents are to undo each other, vividly characterizes the true nature and extent of Inter-communal clashes between Ghital and Tafawa-Balewa neighboring communities. Intercommunal conflict ingrains deeply, bitter feelings and mutual suspicion between or among contenders. According to Dunmoye (2013), political inequality, intergroup intolerance, inadequate inclusion in associational membership, imbalance power sharing, inter-clan and factional rivalries are factors that enhance inter-communal conflicts. Operationally, inter-communal conflict in this study means violent struggle between two belligerent communities, typically organized along ethno-religious lines, and with the propensity to either eliminate or neutralize or malign each other.

Concept of Poverty

The definition given by the earlier researcher reveal that notion that poverty means having no or inadequate income to meet the basic need of life. It is also lack of access to facilities which include education, health care, water and participation in the management and control of the economy which affect them. Donkor (2017) however argued that the definition of poverty used in the advanced industrialized societies are not sensitive enough to cope with the breadth and depth of deprivation in the third world countries. It shows therefore that poverty is a relative concept which when defining should take into consideration the needs of the people and the geographical setting within which the concept is being defined. There are as many definition of the concept of poverty as there are scholars writing on the issue. But there are universally accepted indicators of what constitutes poverty and these indicators categories and explain the concept. These indicators categorize poverty into absolute poverty, relative poverty, and material poverty. Absolute poverty means the inability of a person or group to provide the materials needs for physical subsistence and protection of human dignity. These work because the person or groups do not have jobs or income. Relative poverty on the other hand is the inability of certain sections of the society to satisfy their basic need as well as other needs; while materials poverty is the absence of ownership control of physical assets as lands and all other resources that land produce or that subsists on land as birds and animals and mineral resources. Finally, poverty could be spatial – rural poverty and urban poverty (UNDP, 2016).

Poverty can better be conceived and understood when combined with its causes as well. Universally accepted definition of poverty is the conventional view of it to be as a result of insufficient income for securing basic goods and services. The term “manage” is the general language on the tongue of the populace where people want to expand limited income or money at hand to buy sufficient and enough. The result is just to buy the goods and service that are inferior, less qualified, and not enough to meet the desired need. Poverty is a failure of functioning of education, health and life expectancy World Bank (2016). Poverty is unable to meet “basic needs physically such as food, health care, education and shelter, while non-physically are factors such as non-participation in most of the human developmental programmers which are said to be directed towards the poor masses to improve their living standard”. But often times these are lip services carried in the media channels rising hope for the masses but at the end of the day they are excluded. They are not involved in decision concerning society-economic condition (Anyanwu, 1997). To remove poverty, we must understand the factor that generate poverty; then we must generate political and cultural consensus to remove these factors. And generating this consensus is much more difficult than making statement of good intentions about the “removal” of poverty. Lack of development is often seen as the factor that determines poverty. But in fact, it is poverty that also prevent development. It is ignorance and conflict that lead to the vicious circle of poverty and the lack of development, while knowledge and cooperation lead to the virtuous circle of prosperity and progress.

Poverty can also arise from changes in average income or changes in the distribution of income when there is cut in salary, loose of job or source of living or even retirement from well-paid service, then poverty is obvious. Poverty will generally be greater in the country with higher unequal or distribution of income. According to sociologist poverty is an exceptionally complication social phenomenon and trying to discover its causes is equally complicated. The stereotype (and simplistic) explanation persist-that the poor cause their own poverty-based on the notion that anything is possible in America. Some theorist have accused the poor of having little concern for the future and preferring to “live for the moment” still other theorist have characterized the poor as fatalists. Resigning themselves to a culture of poverty in which nothing can be done to change their economic outcome. In this culture of poverty which passes from generation to generation-the poor feel negative, inferior, passive hopeless and powerless. The “blame the poor” perspective is stereotypic and not applicable to all of the underclass. Not only are most poor people able and willing to work hard, have they done so when given the chance. The real trouble has to do with such problems as minimum wages and lack of access to the education necessary for obtaining a better-paying Job.

Nigerian like other countries has no one cause or determinant of poverty. On the contrary combination of several complex factors contributors to poverty. They include low or negative economic growth, inappropriate

macroeconomic policies, deficiencies in the labour market resulting in limited job growth, low productivity and low wages in the informal sector, and a lag in human resource development. Other factors which have contributed to a decline in living standards and are structured causes or determinants of poverty include increase in crime and violence, environmental degradation, retrenchment of workers, a fall in the real value of safety nets. And changes in family structures (Ajakaiye&Adeyeye, 2016).

According to Blackwood and Lynch (1994), universally accepted definition of poverty is elusive largely because it affects many aspects of the human conditions, including physical, moral and psychological. Different criteria have, therefore, been used to conceptualize poverty. Most analyses follow the conventional view of poverty as a result of insufficient income for securing basic goods and services. Others view poverty, in part, as a function of education, health, life expectancy, child mortality etc. Blackwood and Lynch (1994), identify the poor, using the criteria of the levels of consumption and expenditure. Further, Sen (1983), relates poverty to entitlements which are taken to be the various bundles of goods and services over which one has command, taking into cognizance the means by which such goods are acquired (for example, Money and Coupons etc.) and the availability of the needed goods. Yet, other experts see poverty in very broad terms, such as being unable to meet “basic needs” – (physical; (food, healthcare, education, shelter etc. and non – physical; participation, identity, etc.) requirements for a meaningful life (World Bank, 1996).

Poverty may arise from changes in average income or changes in the distribution of income. Let us for instance, assume a relationship between the poverty line (L) below which an individual is poor and the average incomes of the population (Y). Poverty can also be the outcome of inefficient use of common resources. This may result from weak policy environment, inadequate infrastructure, weak access to technology, credit etc. Also, it can be due to certain groups using certain mechanisms in the system to exclude “problem groups” from participating in economic development, including the democratic process. In Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA), the agricultural sector was exploited through direct and indirect taxation throughout the colonial and post-colonial decades leading to poor growth performance of the sector, heightened rural-urban migration and employment crisis. In urban SSA, Silver (1994) suggests three paradigms of exclusion: the individual’s specialization that cannot be accommodated in the factor market (specialization paradigms); the various interest groups that establish control over the input of available resources, for example, on goods and labour markets and simultaneously foster solidarity within the respective interest groups (monopoly paradigms); and the individual which has a troubled relationship with the community (solidarity paradigm).

A concise and universally accepted definition of poverty is elusive largely because it affects many aspects of the human conditions, including physical, moral and psychological. Different criteria have, therefore, been used to conceptualize poverty. Most analyses follow the conventional view of poverty as a result of insufficient income for securing basic goods and services. Others view poverty, in part, as a function of education, health, life expectancy, child mortality etc. Blackwood and Lynch (1994), identify the poor, using the criteria of the levels of consumption and expenditure.

Empirical Review

Odhiambo (2012) using Tobit regression method of analysis investigated the impact of communal crisis on poverty level in Nigeria and found that inter-communal violent conflicts lead to increase in abject poverty. Apart from the fact that costs of essential commodities soar up as a result of high costs of business (transport, security etc) as well as exploitation by individual who know the people have limited alternatives, the communities also experience reduced prospects of higher human development due to closure of schools and dispensaries which impede equality in quality educational achievement as well as access to health services. As children in the conflict affected area remain out of school, their counterparts in other areas continue with their learning.

In addition, using descriptive analysis, findings from African Development Board (2014) revealed that the massive violent raid increase poverty and wants, and reduces the productive capacity of communities. The women have to assume additional responsibilities beyond the traditional ones of providing for the family and taking care of children schools fees. The coping mechanisms are undermined thereby engendering general literacy level decline. Due to the frequent violent raids among the communities, many young men continually engage in non productive community surveillance, and continually find themselves in abject poverty.. Further because of proliferation of guns, the incentive to sell whatever little in terms of resource to buy them for protection is a non productive investment that make them abandon schooling. This is also a non-productive investment. It is therefore evident that conflict keep the affected household outside meaningful and productive activities and resource are directed to consume goods that do not have productive value hence they tend to remain economically deprived with lack of sufficient resources to sustain their lives at required minimum standards. National Bureau of Statistics cited in 1998 that thoughts on appropriate conceptualization, measurement and accurate characterization of determinants of poverty have a long history. From analytical perspective, thinking about poverty can be traced back at least to the codification of poor laws in medieval England, through to the pioneering empirical studies, at the turn of the century, by Booth in London and by Rowntree in York. Rowntree's study, published in 1901, was the first to develop a poverty standard for individual families, based on estimates of nutritional and other requirements. In the 1960s, the main focus of poverty debate was on the level of income, reflected in macro – economic indicators like Gross National Product per capita. This was associated with emphasis on growth, as exemplified in the work of the Pearson Commission, Partners in Development (1969). In the 1970s, poverty became prominent, notably as a result of Robert MacNamara's celebrated speech to the World Bank Board of Governors in Nairobi in 1973, and the subsequent publication of Redistribution with Growth. Debate on poverty conceptualization was further upgraded by two factors. First was emphasis on relative deprivation, inspired by work in the UK by Runciman and Townsend. Townsend in particular, helped redefine poverty: not just as a failure to meet minimum nutrition or Subsistence levels, but rather as a failure to keep up with the standards prevalent in a given society.

Ismail and Amjad (2014) relied on co-integration and error correction model to examine the impact of inter-communal conflict on poverty levels in Nigeria. They found that there exists a long run relationship between various social and economic variables and terrorism while the result of ECM revealed that about 89% convergence towards equilibrium takes place every year. Nyukuri (2016) examined the impact of communal conflict on poverty and wants in Ghana using descriptive statistics and logistics regression techniques. The author found that areas affected by inter-communal conflict experienced an abrupt drop in effective demand for manufactured good due to lack of cash income from the agricultural sector and massive unemployment rate.

Theoretical Orientation

Group Conflict Theory: The model put forward to explain violent conflict especially within a political system is the group conflict models. The assumption of this model is that political violence for instance, is as a result of conflict between different actors within a given political enclave. In the circumstance, all politics is inherent in conflict between political actors premised on the authoritative allocation of values. For example, the power approach or theory focuses on the role of competition in fomenting inter-group hostility. Hewstone, Taussch, Voci, Kenworthy, Hughjes and Cairus (2008) contend that group in proximity are often groups in conflict. Neighboring groups often pose potential threats, to social identity, to numerical superiority, to locally held power, even to the existence of one's own group. Even in conflict that appear on the face to ethnic clashes (such as Hutus-Tutsi Conflict in Rwanda and Burundi) competition for power and resources may be as importance as ethnic differences. Similarly, there is another strand of theory group which sub-cultural division is. The main argument of this strand is that political instability is a function of cultural pluralism of heterogeneous nations in which the focal point of political identification and socialization is based on sub-national communities with different cultures and history as against the nation (Powel, 1992). This position has been corroborated by Morrison and Stephenson (1972) that cultural pluralism increases the possibility of conflict between members of communal groups as well as elite instability. This is similar to power approach position that racial and ethnic groups compete for power, prestige and

privileges, hostilities will arise and increase with intensity of competition (Giles & Evans, 1986). According to the instrumentalist perspective, elite in the course of contending for power often manipulate social division and blowing them out of proportion with threat, fear, hate discourse, propaganda and with no-compromise, aggressive, crisis politics. Thus, elite create opportunities with issues and crises to advance their interests and goals. Conciliation is difficult when rival leaders demonize their adversaries as opponents who can never be trusted and must therefore be defeated, dominated or ethnically cleansed (Obserschall, 2010). Elite competition for scarce resources is hinged on three assumption. Theses are: (1) the initiative for ethnic mobilization originates with the elite, (2) ethnic nationalist movement are led by the elite, and (3) ethnic mobilization is primarily, if not totally, for the benefit of the elites (Isumonah, 1997).

However, Isumonah (1997) disagrees with the last assumption on the ground that although some ethnic nationalist' movement were led by individual of high social backgrounds, but the motive along this effort was not materials gains. He cited the case of Basque nationalism in Spain Huntington (1997) in the same vein sees preservation of ethnic, culture and traditions ties among others as a major factors in inter-group conflict. The group conflict theory has been punctured by some critics. Looking at the theory critically, one can infer that ethnic diversity in itself does not result in conflict. It is its manipulation by the political elite that causes conflict. This is evident in many plural states of the world that are not conflict-prone (e.g the United States of American). Rotchild (1970) even argues that factionalism reduces the possibility of violent conflict, as this can lead to divergent groups learning skills to live together in spite of their recognized diversity. Akanji (2005) posits that it is possible the failure of this learning process exacerbate conflict and increase the possibility of serious hostility precisely because it provides convenient platforms for political mobilization as it was in the case of Yugoslavia in the 1990 before disintegration. Anifowose (2006) equally raises the issue of inability of the group theories to explain some form of intra-ethnic or (inter-group) conflict. Lastly, the group conflict theory may not singly and sufficiently explain the incidence of ethnic conflicts and armed conflict without recourse to power inequalities and asymmetric view which contribute to ethnic mobilization (Akanji, 2005).

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study is the survey research design as valuable tool for assessing opinions and trend. Survey research is a commonly used method of collecting information about a population of interest. Stratified sampling was primarily used to ensure that different groups of the population are adequately represented in the sample so as to increase the population's levels of accuracy when estimating the parameters (Adamu, 2006). Stratified sampling method helped the researcher to group the population into groups and sector based on geographical location. The proportion determination formula was used to ascertain and allocate sample sizes for the two communities as follows:-

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n = Sample size, N = Population Size 1 = constant and e = Level of precision/sampling error which is 0.05

Table 1: Youth populations from the affected Communities

S/N	Location	Phase	Population
1	Tafawa-Balewa	Community 1	387
2	Ghital	Community II	374
	Total		761

Source: Researcher (2024)

Therefore,

$$n = \frac{761}{1 + 761(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{761}{1 + 761(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{761}{2.9025}$$

$$n = 262$$

Proportional allocation formula was applied to each group to ensure even-spread as captured in Table 2. The proportionate formula used is given as:

$$n = \frac{nrh}{n}$$

where;

- nr = number allocated each class strata
- n = total sample
- rh = Total population of each strata
- n = Total Population

Table 2: Youths selected from study areas.

S/N	Locations	Community	Population	Sample
1	Tafawa-Balewa Community	Community 1	387	$\frac{387 \times 262}{761} = 133$
2	Ghital Community	Community II	374	$\frac{374 \times 262}{761} = 129$
	Total		761	262

Source: Field Survey by Researcher (2024)

The study utilized questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher on the basis of the research work and it was divided into two parts. Part one comprises of general information relating to the respondent, part two examined the effect of inter-communal conflict on economic development. A five point Likert-scale which ranged from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” (5 = strongly agree, 4 = agree, 3 = Undecided, 2 = Disagree, and 1 = strongly disagree) was used to reflect the agreement of the respondent. Likert scales are widely used in most research. To elicit the cooperation of the respondents, the nature and purpose of the research was made known to the respondents and anonymity was assured.

Table 3: Result of Reliability Test

Variable	Alpha
Inter-Communal Conflict	0.7554
Poverty levels	0.9851
Test of Scale	0.8614

Field Survey, 2024

In the case of this study, the levels of alpha are well above 0.70 typically accepted level, demonstrating a high level of internal consistency. As shown in table 2 the alpha levels for the different indicators averaged alpha coefficient of 0.8614 is greater than 0.70, fully supporting the reliability of the constructs. This study employed the regression analysis to test the stated hypotheses. The justification for the use of simple regression method is because it measures the relationship existing between two or more variables. It is simple to compute without errors and it helps

to illustrate the directional outcome and strength of the variables. It further shows a precise quantitative measurement of the degree of relationship between dependent and independent variables.

Hypothesis Testing

The hypothesis formulated in this study was approached with the aid of t-statistics contained in the regression result. The decision rule for accepting or rejecting the null hypothesis for any of these tests will be based on the probability value (PV). If the PV is less than 5% or 0.05 (that is $PV < 0.05$), it implies that the variables in question is statistically significant at 5% level; otherwise it is not significant at that level.

Hypothesis: Inter-communal conflict have no significant effect on poverty levels of Okpella and Okene Communities.

Table 4: Regression Model result on Inter-communal Conflict and Poverty Levels of Ghital and Tafawa Balewa Communities.

ANOVA					
Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F-Value	p – value
Regression	271.641	2	23.88	11.45	0.000
Residual	417.327	260	1.546		
Total	688.967	262			

Summary Output			
a. Dependent variable POV			
Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients	t-value	p-value
(Constant)	8.62133	2.9169	0.0242
ICC	0.69611	2.7751	0.0211
R-square	0.53580		
Adjusted R-Square	0.50655		

Source: Authors Computation Using SPSS, 24

From the regression result in table 4, it was observed that the calculated t-value for inter-communal conflict is 2.91 and with p-value of 0.0242. since the p-value is less than 0.05 ($0.0242 < 0.05$) it thus falls in the rejection region and hence, we reject the null hypothesis (H_{01}). The conclusion here is that inter-communal conflict has a significant effect on poverty levels of ghital and tafawabalewa community. The F-statistics which is used to examine the overall significance of regression model equally showed that the result is significant as indicated by a very high value of the F-statistics, 11.45 and it is significant at the 5.0 per cent level. That is, the F-statistics value of 0.0000 is less than 0.05. the coefficient of determination (R-square), used to measure the goodness of fit of the estimated model, indicates that the model is reasonably fit to prediction. The R^2 (R-square) value of 0.5358 shows that inter-communal conflict has a strong effect on poverty levels. It indicates that about 53.58 percent of the variation in poverty levels if caused by inter-communal conflict, while the remaining unaccounted variation of 46.42 percent is captured by the white noise error term.

Discussion of findings

Findings from the study showed that inter-communal conflict has a significant impact on poverty levels of Ghital and Tafawa-Balewa communities. The short term and long-term depletion in material and human capital have created a special form of destitution that trap the affected communities into abject poverty. Many communities have lost their breadwinners during the conflict which reduced their level of economic wellbeing in ghital and tafawabalewa communities. This agrees with Odhiambo (2012) whose analysis showed that inter-communal violent conflict lead to increase in abject poverty and fall in standard of living. Nyukuri (2016) also found that areas

affected by inter-communal conflicts usually experience an abrupt drop in supply and high demand for manufactured goods due to lack of cash income from the agricultural sector, causing massive poverty, lack and wants.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It is evidently clear from the finding of the study that Ghital and Tafawa-Balewa communities have witnessed tremendous setback arising from the incessant inter-communal conflict across length and breadth of the areas. Inter-communal conflicts have often been used as a negative force in Ghital and Tafawa Balewa communities are premised on gaining power through the manipulation of sectarian sentiments, poverty and ignorance of the down trodden masses at this grassroots levels. Findings of this study therefore showed that incessant inter-communal conflict have a significant effect on poverty levels of Ghital and Tafawa Balewa.

Based on the findings, the study offered the following recommendations:-

Government should introduce reliable and implementable social safety nets by creating employment opportunities for employable youths. Peace building programme should be introduced for residents of these areas. To achieve, the target beneficiaries should be involved right from need assessment stage using the bottom-top approach of poverty reduction policy formulation. This will significantly help in alleviating the increasing rates of poverty identified as one of the end products of inter-communal conflicts in the study area. Ethnic and religious conflict merchants connected to the protracted conflicts should be identified and penalized to serve as deterrence to others. The study further recommended that an inclusive and joint-problem solving strategy be employed to effectively manage the conflict, as against regimental and unilateral perspective.

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