NOUN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PEACE STUDIES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION) VOL, 3, NO, 2, August 2023



NOUN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PEACE STUDIES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (NIJPCR)

VOL. 3, NO. 2, August 2023

ISSN: 2756-6099

NOUN
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PEACE STUDIES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION
[NIJPCR]

VOL. 3, NO. 2, August, 2023

A Publication of
Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
Faculty of Social Sciences
National Open University of Nigeria

© Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
Faculty of Social Sciences
National Open University of Nigeria,
Jabi, Abuja

August, 2023

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ISSN: 2756-6099

Published By:
Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution
Faculty of Social Sciences
National Open University of Nigeria
University Village, Plot 91. Cadastral Zone,
Nnamdi Azikiwe, Express way, Jabi, Abuja

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SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES AND DYNAMICS OF INTER-COMMUNITY CONFLICTS AMONG FISHERFOLKS IN BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA: A STUDY OF THE OGBIA, YENAGOA, AND BRASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the socioeconomic characteristics of fishing households in the Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa local government areas (LGAs) of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Its main objective is to investigate the factors contributing to inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in these LGAs, with the aim of advancing knowledge on conflict resolution and socioeconomic development in fisherfolk communities. A three-stage sampling technique was utilized to select 120 fishing households from six villages within the LGAs. Descriptive statistics and analytical techniques, including the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test, Bartlett's Test of Sphericity, and Principal Component Analysis (PCA), were employed for data analysis. The KMO test assessed data suitability for factor analysis, while Bartlett's Test of Sphericity determined the appropriateness of the correlation matrix. PCA was used for dimensionality reduction and analysis. The findings reveal a higher proportion of male fishing households across all three LGAs, with different age group distributions. Younger individuals are involved in Ogbia LGA, while those aged 36-45 are actively engaged in Brass and Yenagoa LGAs. Strong family structures were evident, with married fishing households being predominant in Ogbia and Yenagoa LGAs. A considerable percentage of fishing households in all three LGAs had tertiary degrees, and household sizes varied between the LGAs. Factor analysis identified multiple elements contributing to conflicts among fisherfolk communities, including loss of income, food insecurity, destitution, reduced access to social amenities, environmental degradation, disruption of fishing activities, loss of livelihoods, and economic decline. Understanding these factors can assist policymakers and stakeholders in developing targeted interventions to address the root causes of conflicts and promote peace, stability, and sustainable development within fisherfolk communities.

Keywords: Conflict resolution, Fishing households, Socioeconomic profiles, Sustainable fisheries management, Bayelsa State, Inter-community conflicts

Introduction

Socioeconomic disparities act as underlying triggers for inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups. Unequal access to productive fishing grounds, declining fish stocks, and limited livelihood opportunities intensify competition and tension between communities, exacerbating conflicts. External factors like environmental changes, policy decisions, and globalization further contribute to these conflicts, impacting the well-being and resilience of coastal communities. Social networks and identity also significantly shape inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups. Strong social ties within and between communities' foster cooperation and reduce conflict likelihood, while social divisions based on ethnicity, religion, or cultural differences can escalate tensions and violence (Pomeroy, Gente-Ferrer, and Pedrajas, 2017; Crona, Van Holt, Petersson, Daw, & Buchary, 2015).

Bayelsa state, Nigeria is one of the most resource-rich regions in Africa, with significant oil and gas reserves, as well as abundant fisheries resources (Ibeanu, 2011). However, the region has been plagued by conflict for several decades, with inter-ethnic and inter-community conflicts being a significant challenge. These conflicts are often fueled by political, economic, and environmental factors, leading to the displacement of people, destruction of property, and loss of lives (Ibeanu, 2011). Fishing is one of the major economic activities in the Bayelsa state, providing livelihoods for millions of people (UNDP, 2006).

However, fishing activities in the region have been adversely affected by the persistent inter-community conflicts. Inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups pose persistent challenges in coastal regions worldwide, arising from a complex interplay of socioeconomic factors, resource competition, governance issues, and social dynamics within and between fishing communities. These conflicts have resulted in the destruction of fishing equipment, disruption of fishing activities, and displacement of fishing communities (Grüss, 2014). The fisherfolk have also been victims of attacks, with many losing their lives or sustaining injuries (Okonta and Douglas, 2001).

Inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups have far-reaching socioeconomic impacts on the affected communities. These impacts include loss of income, food insecurity, poverty, and reduced access to social amenities. The destruction of fishing equipment and disruption of fishing activities have led to a decline in fish production, leading to reduced income for the fisherfolk (Alvernia, Utomo, Soesilo, Herdiansyah, 2021). The fisherfolk have also been forced to abandon their fishing communities and relocate to other areas, leading to a loss of land and property.

Understanding the socioeconomic profiles and dynamics of these conflicts is crucial for developing effective strategies to manage tensions, promote social cohesion, and ensure sustainable resource management (Allison, Neil, and Oliver, 2018). While numerous studies have explored the socioeconomic characteristics of fishing communities in Bayelsa State, there is a research gap in assessing the specific socioeconomic factors contributing to inter-community conflicts. Additionally, the dynamics of community conflicts among fisherfolk groups and their implications have not been comprehensively explored in the context of the Ogbia, Yenagoa, and Brass Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Therefore, this research aims to bridge these gaps by conducting a comprehensive study on the socioeconomic profiles and dynamics of inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in the aforementioned LGAs of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the study

i. Investigate the socio-economic dynamics within fishing households in Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa LGAs of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.
ii. Assess the factors contributing to inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Ogbia, Yenagoa, and Brass LGAs of Bayelsa State, Nigeria.
iii. Examine the interconnections and relationships among the identified factors to understand the complex dynamics of inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in the study areas.

iv. Identify potential policy interventions and strategies to mitigate inter-community conflicts, promote peace and stability, and foster sustainable development within the fisherfolk communities of Ogbia, Yenagoa, and Brass LGAs

Materials and Methods

Bayelsa State, situated in southern Nigeria, shares borders with Rivers State and Delta State. It is located in the resource-rich Niger Delta region, famous for its abundant oil and gas reserves. The state boasts an intricate network of rivers, creeks, and mangrove swamps. Its population is diverse, encompassing ethnic groups like Ijaw, Ogbia, Nembe, and Epie-Atissa. Agriculture, fishing, and palm oil production play pivotal roles in the state's economy. Bayelsa State. Bayelsa State, Nigeria is located between approximately 4.8107° N to 6.1656° N latitude and 5.5674° E to 6.7040° E longitude. In the wet season, temperatures range from around 21°C to 25°C (70°F to 77°F) minimum and 28°C to 32°C (82°F to 90°F) maximum. In the dry season, temperatures range from approximately 23°C to 27°C (73°F to 81°F) minimum and 32°C to 36°C (90°F to 97°F) maximum.

Bayelsa State, Nigeria has abundant water resources, including rivers, creeks, and mangrove swamps, supporting diverse fish species. Its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean enhances fish production potential. Fishing communities with extensive knowledge contribute to the region's fish production. The state government implements initiatives for sustainable fishing, while the substantial population of fisherfolks relies on fishing for livelihood, making a significant impact on the fishing industry. In Bayelsa State, Nigeria, there are several local government areas (LGAs) that are known for their significant fishing activities. Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa LGAs in Bayelsa State, Nigeria has significant fishing communities like Otakeme, Otuabula, Twon-Brass, Odioma seaside, and Agbura. These areas are renowned for fishing activities, contributing to fish production, local economy, and food security, making them vital for the state's development

The study employed a three-stage sampling technique to select the research locations and participants. In the first stage, three local government areas (LGAs) in Bayelsa State,

Nigeria, namely Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa, were purposively chosen based on the intensity of fishing activities. In the second stage, two fishing communities were randomly selected from each LGA. These included Otakeme and Otuabula from Ogbia LGA, Twon-Brass and Odioma seaside from Brass LGA, and Yenagoa and Agbura community from Yenagoa LGA. Lastly, in the third stage, a simple random technique was used to select twenty fishing households from each of these villages, resulting in a total of 120 fishing households.

Analytical Techniques

Descriptive statistics such as Mean = (Sum of all values) / (Number of values); Percentages (Part / Whole) *100. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test is a measure of sampling adequacy used in factor analysis to assess the suitability of the data for this analysis. The KMO test produces a value between 0 and 1, with higher values indicating better suitability for factor analysis. Calculate the KMO statistic using the following formula: KMO = SPSS / (SPSS + SMR). The KMO value ranges from 0 to 1, where values close to 1 indicate a high degree of sampling adequacy, suggesting that the dataset is suitable for factor analysis. Values below 0.6 are generally considered unacceptable for factor analysis.

The KMO statistic is typically accompanied by a significance test to determine if the KMO value is significantly different from 0. A significant KMO value indicates that the dataset is suitable for factor analysis. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity: Bartlett's Test of Sphericity involves calculating the test statistic, which follows a chi-square distribution. Here's an overview of the formula:

Compute the correlation matrix, denoted by R, based on the dataset containing the variables of interest for factor analysis.

Calculate the determinant of the correlation matrix, denoted by |R|.

Determine the sample size, denoted by n, which is the number of observations or cases in the dataset.

Calculate the test statistic, denoted by T, using the following formula:

$T = - (n - 1 - (2p + 5) / 6) * \ln(|R|)$

In this formula: n is the sample size and p is the number of variables included in the analysis. Compare the calculated test statistic, T, to the critical value from the chi-square distribution with degrees of freedom based on the sample size and the number of variables. The degrees of freedom for Bartlett's Test of Sphericity are calculated as:

df = p * (p - 1) / 2.

The critical value is determined based on the desired level of significance (e.g., $\alpha = 0.05$) and the degrees of freedom. If the calculated test statistic, T, is larger than the critical value, reject the null hypothesis. This indicates that the correlation matrix is not an identity matrix and is suitable for factor analysis. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a technique used for dimensionality reduction and data analysis. It aims to transform a set of correlated variables into a smaller set of uncorrelated variables called principal components. The formula for transforming the original data matrix X into the principal component matrix Y can be represented as:

Y = X * W

Where:

Y is the transformed data matrix of size n x m, where n is the number of data points and m is the number of selected principal components. X is the original standardized data matrix of size n x p, where p is the number of variables. W is the matrix of eigenvectors of size p x m, where each column represents a principal component.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Socioeconomic Profiles of Fishing Households in Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa LGAs

Profiles	Variable	Ogbia	Brass	Yenegoa	Total
Gender	Male	23 (57.5%)	26 (65%)	31 (77.50)	80 (66.70)
	Female	17 (42.5%)	14 (35%)	9 (22.5%)	40 (33.3%)
Age	18-25	12 (30%)	7 (17.5%)	3 (7.5%)	22 (18.3%)
	26-35	11 (27.5%)	7 (17.5%)	6 (15%)	24 (20.00%)
	36-45	9 (22.5%)	19 (47.5%)	20 (50.00%)	48 (40%)

	46-55	6 (15%)	6 (15%)	5 (12.50%)	17 (14.20%)
	56 and above	2 (5.00%)	1 (2.50%)	6 (15.00%)	9 (7.50%)
Marital Status	Married	24(60.0%)	2(5.0%)	33(82.5%)	59(49.2%)
	Single	12(30.0%)	38(95.0%)	1(2.5%)	51(42.5%)
	Widowed	4(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	6(15.0%)	10(8.3%)
Educational Background	Non formal	4(10.0%)	6 (15.0%)	10(25.0%)	20(16.7%)
	Primary	4(10.0%)	0(0.0%)	4(10.0%)	8(6.7%)
	Secondary	14(35.0%)	10(25.0%)	5(12.5%)	29(24.2%)
	Tertiary	18(45.0%)	24(60.0%)	21(52.5%)	63(52.5%)
Household Size	1-3 people	9(22.5%)	0(0.0%)	15(37.5%)	24(20.0%)
	4-6 people	17(42.5%)	37(92.5%)	14(35.0%)	68(56.7%)
	7-9 people	9(22.5%)	1(2.5%)	11(27.5%)	21(17.5%)
	10 or more people	5(12.5%)	2(5.0%	0(0.0%)	7(5.8%)

The data presented reveals the socioeconomic profiles of fishing households in three local government areas (LGAs) within Bayelsa State, Nigeria: Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa. The information provided includes variables such as gender, age, marital status, educational background, and household size. In terms of gender distribution, across all three LGAs, a higher percentage of fishing households are male. In Ogbia LGA, approximately 57.5% of fishing households are male, while 42.5% are female. Brass LGA shows a similar trend, with 65% being male and 35% being female. Yenagoa LGA has the highest male representation, with 77.5% of fishing households being male and 22.5% female. Overall, males constitute about 66.7% of the total fishing households, while females make up around 33.3%. The gender distribution among fishing households in the three LGAs has several implications for understanding the dynamics and challenges within these communities.

Firstly, the higher representation of males in fishing households indicates a traditional division of labor where men are primarily responsible for fishing activities. This reflects entrenched gender roles and norms within the communities. Consequently, women may be

engaged in other roles within the household or community, potentially limiting their participation in fishing-related activities. Understanding the implications of the gender distribution among fishing households in the three LGAs is crucial for promoting gender equality, sustainable development, and targeted interventions. By addressing issues related to gender roles, economic disparities, access to resources, and decision-making, these communities can strive towards more equitable and inclusive societies that benefit both men and women.

Regarding age groups, the data reveals different distributions across the three LGAs. In Ogbia LGA, the largest age group among fishing households is 18-25, comprising 30% of the population, followed by the 26-35 age group at 27.5%. In Brass LGA, the largest age group is 36-45, accounting for 47.5%, while in Yenagoa LGA, it is 36-45 as well, constituting 50% of the fishing households. Overall, the most populous age group across all three LGAs is 36-45, making up 40% of the total. The implications of the age group distribution among fishing households in the three LGAs can provide insights into the demographics, labor force composition, and potential challenges within these communities. The distribution of age groups among fishing households indicates the composition of the labor force engaged in fishing activities. The higher representation of the 18-25 age group in Ogbia LGA suggests the involvement of younger individuals in fishing-related work. This may be attributed to factors such as physical strength, availability of job opportunities, or cultural practices. The larger presence of the 36-45 age group in Brass and Yenagoa LGAs suggests that individuals in this age range are actively participating in fishing activities.

Examining marital status, it is evident that the majority of fishing households in Ogbia and Yenagoa LGAs are married. In Ogbia LGA, 60% of fishing households are married, 30% are single, and 10% are widowed. However, Brass LGA exhibits a significant difference, with only 5% of fishing households being married and a striking 95% being single. Across all three LGAs, approximately 49.2% of fishing households are married. The higher percentage of married fishing households in Ogbia and Yenagoa LGAs suggests the presence of established

family structures. Marriage often signifies a partnership and shared responsibilities, which can contribute to a stable support system within the household. The presence of married couples may indicate the availability of social support, shared decision-making, and resource pooling among family members. Understanding family structures can help identify potential sources of support and leverage them for community development initiatives. By recognizing the implications of marital status distribution, policymakers and community stakeholders can develop targeted interventions and support systems that cater to the diverse needs and challenges of both married and single individuals within fishing communities. Addressing social, economic, and gender dimensions can contribute to the overall well-being, resilience, and development of these communities.

The educational background of the fishing households demonstrates varying levels of education attainment. In Ogbia and Yenagoa LGAs, the highest percentage of fishing households have attained a tertiary education, accounting for 45% and 52.5% respectively. Brass LGA shows an even higher percentage, with 60% of fishing households having a tertiary education. The lowest educational level observed across the LGAs is non-formal education, making up 16.7% of fishing households. Overall, a majority of fishing households, approximately 52.5%, have completed tertiary education.

The higher percentages of fishing households with tertiary education in Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa LGAs suggest the presence of individuals with higher levels of human capital and skills. Education plays a vital role in equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, and capabilities that can contribute to their economic productivity and overall well-being. Higher levels of education can enhance the capacity of fishing households to engage in diverse economic activities, make informed decisions, and adapt to changing circumstances. By recognizing the implications of educational background distribution, policymakers and community stakeholders can develop strategies to further strengthen educational systems, improve access to education, and promote lifelong learning within fishing communities. This

can enhance the human capital, economic prospects, and overall well-being of fishing households while fostering sustainable development in the LGAs.

Regarding household size, the data shows different distributions across the three LGAs. In Ogbia LGA, the most common household size category is 4-6 people, accounting for 42.5% of fishing households. In Brass LGA, the majority of fishing households have a larger household size, with 92.5% falling into the 4-6 people category. On the other hand, Yenagoa LGA exhibits a higher percentage of smaller households, with 37.5% falling into the 1-3 people category. Across all three LGAs, the most prevalent household size category is 4-6 people, making up 56.7% of the total. The varying distributions of household sizes across the LGAs indicate differences in resource allocation and management. Larger households, such as those in Brass LGA, may face challenges in managing and providing for the needs of a larger number of family members. They may require access to a greater quantity of resources, such as food, water, housing, and healthcare, to meet the demands of their household size. Understanding these resource allocation dynamics can inform strategies to ensure equitable distribution and support the well-being of larger fishing households.

Table 2: KMO and Bartlett's Test for Factors Contributing to Inter-Community Conflicts Among Fisherfolk Groups in Ogbia Yenegoa and Brass LGA

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.804
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	991.075
	df	55
	Sig.	.000

The statistical tests presented in Table 2 provide insights into the adequacy of the sample for factor analysis. Firstly, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure assessed the sample's suitability, yielding a value of 0.804. An acceptable KMO value is typically above 0.6, and in this case, the obtained value of 0.804 indicates that the sample is appropriate for factor analysis. Secondly, Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was conducted to examine the null hypothesis that the correlation matrix represents an identity matrix, implying no correlation between the

variables. The test yielded a statistic of approximately 991.075, which adheres to a chi-square distribution.

The significance value associated with Bartlett's test was found to be 0.000, indicating that the null hypothesis can be rejected at any reasonable significance level, such as 0.05 or 0.01. This suggests strong evidence of significant correlation among the variables in the correlation matrix, contradicting the assumption of an identity matrix. In conclusion, the results of the KMO measure and Bartlett's test demonstrate that the sample is suitable for factor analysis based on the KMO measure, and there is significant correlation among the variables based on Bartlett's test.

Table 3: Component Factors Contributing to Inter-Community Conflicts Among Fisherfolk Groups in Ogbia Yenegoa and Brass LGA.

Factors	**Communality (CEI)**	**Component**	
	Extraction Index	1	2
Loss Of Income	.800	.894	
Food Insecurity	.682	.815	
Destitution	.690	.826	
Reduced Access to Social Amenities	.533	.699	
Environmental Degradation	.838		.901
Disruption Of Fishing Activities	.731	.855	
Loss Of Livelihoods	.795		.778
Economic Decline	.688	.829	
Poverty And Income Inequality	.494	.696	
Social Unrest and Tension	.344	.419	
Displacement Of Communities	.880	.933	
Diagnostic statistics			
Initial Eigenvalues		5.801	1.674
% of Variance		52.736	15.219
Cumulative %		52.736	67.955

In Table 3, the analysis utilized Principal Component Analysis (PCA) as the extraction method, along with Varimax rotation and Kaiser Normalization. The Communality (CEI) measure represents the proportion of variance in each item that can be attributed to the extracted components. It indicates the strength of the association between each item and the underlying factors. Higher communality values, ranging between 0 and 1, indicate stronger relationships with the factors.

The Component Extraction Index indicates the intensity of the relationship between each item and the extracted components. Higher values indicate a stronger association with the respective component. Regarding the rotated component matrix, in Component 1, he analysis reveals that the factor of Loss of Income is strongly associated with the extracted components, as evidenced by its communality of 0.800 and a high component extraction index of 0.894. Similarly, Food Insecurity exhibits a significant relationship with the components, indicated by a communality of 0.682 and a component extraction index of 0.815. Destitution also demonstrates a substantial connection, with a communality of 0.690 and a component extraction index of 0.826. Reduced Access to Social Amenities shows a moderate association, with a communality of 0.533 and a component extraction index of 0.699. The finding is in line with Nyborg et. al. (2012) who noted that the effect of community conflict included limited access to the market due to security checkpoints, psychological stress, and continued fear, and insecurity limits participation in recovery activities (particularly women).

These factors, namely Loss of Income, Food Insecurity, Destitution, and Reduced Access to Social Amenities, are interrelated and signify a complex socio-economic issue. In light of this analysis, policy interventions aimed at addressing these issues could prioritize the implementation of poverty alleviation programs, the establishment of social safety nets, and targeted initiatives to enhance access to fundamental amenities such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Additionally, measures to promote income generation, job creation, and skills development could be considered as part of the policy framework to address this multifaceted challenge

In Component 2, the analysis reveals that environmental degradation exhibits a strong relationship with the extracted components, as indicated by its high communality of 0.838 and a significant component extraction index of 0.901. Similarly, disruption of fishing activities demonstrates a considerable association, with a communality of 0.731 and a component extraction index of 0.855. Loss of livelihoods also shows a moderate relationship, with a communality of 0.795 and a moderate component extraction index of 0.778. Economic decline is suggested to have a significant relationship, as it has a communality of 0.688 and a component extraction index of 0.829.

Furthermore, there are additional components that were not specified in the analysis. For instance, poverty and income inequality display a moderate association, with a communality of 0.494 and a component extraction index of 0.696. Social unrest and tension indicate a relatively weak relationship, with a communality of 0.344 and a component extraction index of 0.419. In contrast, displacement of communities demonstrates a strong association, as reflected by its high communality of 0.880 and a significant component extraction index of 0.933.

The Diagnostic Statistics

The Initial Eigenvalues indicated the amount of variance explained by each extracted component. Component 1 had an initial eigenvalue of 5.801, accounting for 52.736% of the variance, while Component 2 had an initial eigenvalue of 1.674, explaining 15.219% of the variance. The Cumulative Percentage represented the cumulative variance explained by each component. At the end of Component 1, 52.736% of the total variance was explained. Adding Component 2 increased the cumulative percentage to 67.955%.

The rotated component matrix offers insights into the relationship between each item and the extracted components in the factor analysis. Component 1 is associated with factors such as loss of income, food insecurity, destitution, and reduced access to social amenities. Component 2 is linked to environmental degradation, disruption of fishing activities, loss of livelihoods, and economic decline. Additionally, there are other components that include

poverty and income inequality, social unrest and tension, and displacement of communities. The initial eigenvalues and cumulative percentages provide information about the amount of variance explained by each component.

Table 4: Factors Contributing to Inter-Community Conflicts among Fisherfolk Groups in Ogbia LGA

Factors		**Component**		
	Extraction	1	2	3
Loss Of Income	.778	.752	.456	.066
Food Insecurity	.760	.771	.300	-.276
Destitution	.646	.761	.029	.257
Reduced Access to Social Amenities			.009	-.020
Environmental Degradation	.676	-.001	.012	.822
Disruption of Fishing Activities	.719	.788	-.035	.313
Loss of Livelihoods	.569	.192	.182	.707
Economic Decline	.653	.209	.757	.191
Poverty And Income Inequality	.578	.401	.524	.378
Social Unrest and Tension	.773	.330	-.811	.078
Displacement Of Communities	.704	.786	-.158	.249
Diagnostic statistics				
Initial Eigenvalues		4.240	1.719	1.353
% of Variance		38.549	15.629	12.299
Cumulative %		38.549	54.178	66.476

Table 4 presents the rotated factor loadings for the factors contributing to inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Ogbia LGA. The results from the rotated component matrix and diagnostic statistics indicate that various factors, including economic challenges, environmental factors, social tensions, and displacement, play significant roles in these conflicts. These findings have important implications for policymakers and stakeholders who

can utilize them to design targeted interventions aimed at addressing these factors and fostering peace, stability, and sustainable development within the fisherfolk communities.

Diagnostic statistics

The initial eigenvalues represent the amount of variance explained by each component individually. In this case, Component 1 has the highest initial eigenvalue of 4.240, explaining 38.549% of the variance. Component 2 has an initial eigenvalue of 1.719, accounting for 15.629% of the variance, and Component 3 has an initial eigenvalue of 1.353, explaining 12.299% of the variance. The cumulative percentages indicate the total amount of variance explained by each component and the cumulative progression. After Component 1, the cumulative percentage of variance increases to 54.178% with the addition of Component 2, and it reaches 66.476% when Component 3 is included.

Table 5: Factors Contributing to Inter-Community Conflicts Among Fisherfolk Groups in Yenegoa LGA

Factors		**Component**	
	Extraction	**1**	**2**
Loss of Income	.978	.987	-.062
Food Insecurity	.802	.889	-.110
Destitution	.718	.847	.029
Reduced Access to Social Amenities	.541	.721	.145
Environmental Degradation	.955	-.205	.956
Disruption of Fishing Activities	.923	.955	-.108
Loss of Livelihoods	.822	.369	.829
Economic Decline	.987	.988	-.105
Poverty And Income Inequality	.691	.773	-.305
Social Unrest and Tension	.669	.491	-.654
Displacement of Communities	.933	.953	-.156
Diagnostic statistics			
Initial Eigenvalues		6.960	2.060
% of Variance		63.275	18.728
Cumulative %		63.275	82.003

The rotated component matrix in Table 5 provides insights into the interconnections among the factors contributing to inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Yenegoa

LGA. In Component 1, factors such as loss of income, food insecurity, destitution, reduced access to social amenities, environmental degradation, disruption of fishing activities, loss of livelihoods, economic decline, poverty and income inequality, social unrest and tension, and displacement of communities demonstrate high loadings above 0.7, indicating a significant and strong association with Component 1. Component 2 also exhibits notable loadings for environmental degradation, disruption of fishing activities, and displacement of communities, suggesting a moderate to strong association with Component 2.

These findings imply that the factors linked to economic challenges, food insecurity, environmental degradation, social tensions, and displacement are interconnected and play a role in inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Yenegoa LGA. The substantial and moderate associations observed in the rotated component matrix underscore the relevance of these factors in comprehending the underlying dynamics of inter-community conflicts.

Table 6: Factors Contributing to Inter-Community Conflicts among Fisherfolk Groups in Brass LGA

Factors	**Component**	
	1	2
Loss of Income	.609	.637
Food Insecurity	.996	.057
Destitution	.996	.057
Reduced Access to Social Amenities	.996	.057
Environmental Degradation	-.282	.907
Disruption Of Fishing Activities	.155	.909
Loss Of Livelihoods	.836	.543
Economic Decline	.183	.923
Poverty And Income Inequality	.955	.029
Social Unrest and Tension	.539	.660
Displacement Of Communities	.941	.332

The rotated component matrix presented in Table 6 offers valuable insights into the interconnections among the factors contributing to inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Brass LGA. Component 1, characterized by high loadings ranging from 0.609 to 0.996, demonstrates a strong association with factors such as loss of income, food insecurity, destitution, reduced access to social amenities, loss of livelihoods, poverty and income inequality, social unrest and tension, and displacement of communities. These findings suggest that these factors are closely linked and contribute significantly to Component 1. On the other hand, Component 2 exhibits notable loadings ranging from 0.543 to 0.923 for factors including environmental degradation, disruption of fishing activities, economic decline, and social unrest and tension. This indicates a moderate to strong association between these factors and Component 2. While they contribute to the overall understanding of inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Brass LGA, their influence is relatively less pronounced compared to the factors in Component 1.

The associations observed in the rotated component matrix enhance our comprehension of the underlying dynamics of inter-community conflicts among fisherfolk groups in Brass LGA. Specifically, Component 1, primarily driven by factors related to economic challenges, food insecurity, poverty, social tensions, and displacement, emerges as a significant contributor to these conflicts. Component 2, which encompasses factors associated with environmental degradation, disruption of fishing activities, economic decline, and social unrest and tension, also plays a role, albeit to a lesser extent.

Conclusion

The analysis of the socioeconomic profiles of fishing households in Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa LGAs in Bayelsa State, Nigeria, provides valuable insights into the gender distribution, age groups, marital status, educational background, and household sizes within these communities. The findings highlight important implications for understanding the dynamics, challenges, and potential interventions to promote sustainable development and inclusive societies.

The study reveals a higher representation of males in fishing households across all three LGAs, indicating a traditional division of labor where men are primarily responsible for fishing activities. This reflects entrenched gender roles and norms within the communities, potentially limiting women's participation in fishing-related activities. The age group distribution among fishing households varies across the LGAs, with the 36-45 age group being the most populous. This suggests active participation of individuals in this age range in fishing activities. The prominence of the 36-45 age group highlights the importance of intergenerational knowledge transfer and succession planning within fishing households. Ensuring the transfer of knowledge and skills to younger generations is crucial for maintaining fishing livelihoods and preserving cultural heritage.

Marital status distribution reveals that the majority of fishing households in Ogbia and Yenagoa LGAs are married, indicating the presence of established family structures and potential sources of support within the households. Recognizing family structures can help develop targeted interventions and support systems that cater to the diverse needs and challenges of both married and single individuals within fishing communities. Educational background distribution highlights higher levels of education attainment among fishing households in all three LGAs, particularly in Ogbia, Brass, and Yenagoa LGAs.

This suggests the presence of individuals with higher levels of human capital and skills. Strengthening educational systems, improving access to education, and promoting lifelong learning within fishing communities can enhance the human capital, economic prospects, and overall well-being of fishing households. The distribution of household sizes demonstrates differences in resource allocation and management across the LGAs. Larger households may face challenges in managing and providing for the needs of a larger number of family members. Understanding resource allocation dynamics can inform strategies to ensure equitable distribution and support the well-being of larger fishing households.

The statistical tests, including the KMO measure and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity, indicate that the sample used for factor analysis in studying inter-community conflicts among

fisherfolk groups in Ogbia, Yenagoa, and Brass LGAs is suitable and demonstrates significant correlations among the variables. Economic challenges, such as loss of income, food insecurity, destitution, poverty, and income inequality, have been identified as major contributors to conflicts. These factors highlight the need for policies and interventions that focus on poverty alleviation, income support, and economic diversification to reduce dependence on fishing and improve the economic conditions of the fisherfolk communities. Environmental degradation and the disruption of fishing activities have also been found to play a significant role in inter-community conflicts. Furthermore, social tensions and the displacement of communities have been identified as factors that contribute to inter-community conflicts.

Recommendation

i. Develop and implement programs that challenge traditional gender roles and norms, promote women's participation in fishing-related activities, and enhance their access to resources, decision-making, and economic opportunities;
ii. Establish initiatives to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills from older generations to younger ones within fishing households;
iii. Promote sustainable fishing practices, environmental conservation, and responsible resource management within fishing communities;
iv. Establish social safety nets and support systems to address the vulnerabilities and socio-economic challenges faced by fishing households to include access to healthcare, social security, microfinance services, and community-based initiatives;
v. Implement targeted programs to address economic challenges faced by fisherfolk communities, including income generation initiatives, vocational training, access to credit and financial services, and support for alternative livelihood options beyond fishing;

vi. Facilitate community dialogues, promote social cohesion, and establish mechanisms for conflict resolution and dispute settlement. Strengthen community-based organizations; and

vii. Foster inclusive and participatory decision-making processes by involving fisherfolk communities, local government authorities, civil society organizations, and relevant stakeholders in the development, implementation.

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