FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CATTLE RUSTLING IN AMUDAT DISTRICT UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF NOROO SUB COUNTY

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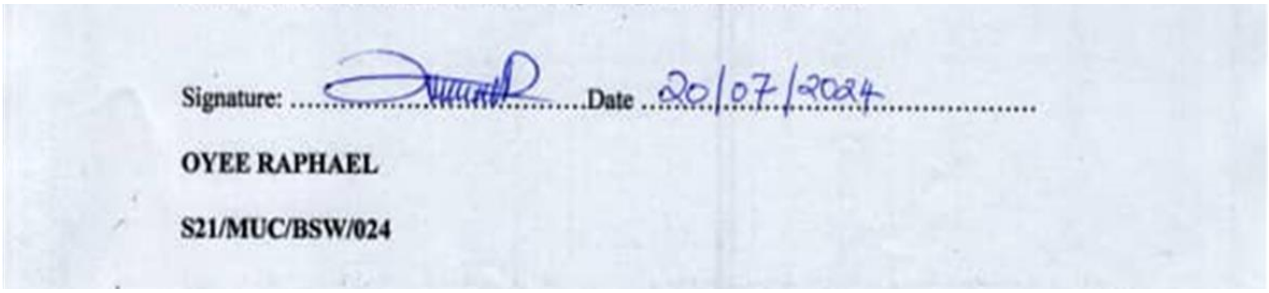
DECLARATION

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that the work contained in this research is my original work and has not previously in its entirety or in part been submitted at any University for academic award and its being submitted with approval of my supervisors.



APPROVAL

On behalf of the Department, I hereby accept that this research report has been done under my supervision and I approve it for submission to the university.

Signature ..... Date.....20Th July 2024.....

Research Supervisor

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DEDICATION

I dedicate my research dissertation to my research supervisor, Uganda Christian University, Loroo Subcounty, and to my family who have been financially, emotionally and technically supportive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the following individuals and institutions for their support and contributions to my research study on "Factors Associated with Cattle Rustling in Laroo Subcounty, Amudat District":

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List of Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Organization
GOCI	Global Organized Crime Index
ICPALD	IGAD Centee for Pastrol Area and Live stock Development
IMC	International Medical Corps
LiDeSA	Livestock Development Strategy
RECSA	Regional Centre on Small Arms
UPDF	Uganda People's Defense Force
WV	World Vision

Abstract

Background: Cattle rustling is a pervasive problem in Amudat District, Uganda, with significant economic, social, and security implications.

Objective: This study assessed the factors associated with cattle rustling in Amudat District.

Methods: A quantitative cross-sectional study involving 384 participants, using frequency, chi-square, logistic regression, and content analysis.

Results: The results of this study revealed tat political instability, corruption, poverty, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunities are significant predictors of cattle rustling. Additionally, proximity to porous borders, poor road infrastructure, and rugged terrain facilitate the theft of livestock.

Conclusion: Cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District is a complex phenomenon driven by a web of factors. Addressing these factors is crucial to preventing cattle rustling and improving the livelihoods of residents.

Recommendations: The study recommends addressing political instability and corruption, implementing community-based initiatives, introducing economic empowerment programs, and improving road infrastructure and border security to mitigate cattle rustling through economic empowerment programs, improved security measures, anti-corruption initiatives to address corruption and poor governance, and community-based initiatives to engage local residents in cattle rustling prevention.

Keywords: *Political, Economic, Geographic factors, Perceptions, Opinions, Cattle rustling, Amudat District, Eastern Uganda, A quantitative cross-sectional study.*

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the background to the study which includes historical background, theoretical background, conceptual background, and contextual background of the study.

1.1 Historical Background

In East Africa, cattle rustling has persisted for many centuries, and it's believed that elders sanctioned it as a game focused on replenishing lost herds and for cultural practices, such as payment of dowry and as a proof for manhood and bravery. The tradition later changed to commercial activity of selling cattle with several value chain actors in the last 30 years. Cattle rustling in the region has largely been attributed to illegal position of weapons and availability of illicit Small Arms which has caused fear and panic among cattle keepers in most countries in East Africa especially in Eastern Uganda in Uganda(RECSA, 2023).

A study conducted in Kenya reported high intensity of Cattle raiding with serious fighting that left many people killed and others disabled in 2017 and 2018; ever since then, it has negatively affected human and societal security and socio-economic growth in the region; for example, Pokot and Elgeyo counties in Kenya experience massive fighting between cattle keepers and rustlers that lasted for 5 months leaving about 30 people dead in 2019. Cattle rustling in Kanya was largely Spurred by use of small weapons which affected has threatened livelihoods of small-scale pastoralists (Sana & Oloo, 2019).

Cattle rustling in Uganda is a historic phenomenon that dates to the 1980s and is still experienced by herdsmen in eastern and northern Uganda (RECSA, 2023). The Karimojong warriors would steal many cattle with the aid of the guns of which most of the households in the region lost cattle which further lowered their household incomes till disarmament program in 2000 (RECSA, 2023). The impact of livestock theft on marginalized communities especially in Eastern Uganda has been severely felt by the pastoralists and nationals where children die due to malnutrition and illiteracy rate are high because the parents can economically afford to care for their children's career development. It deprives people of their livelihoods and increases poverty. It's often breadwinners who are injured or killed in raids, fueling communal grievances and revenge attacks (Sana & Oloo, 2019).

Cattle rustling has been a long-standing issue in the Eastern Uganda region of Uganda, with profound social, economic, and security consequences. Recent reports indicate a rise in livestock theft, despite the unilateral and multilateral interventions of the cluster's respective governments. In 2019, about 400 head of cattle stolen by Turkana rustlers were recovered from Kenya which led to a rise in number of cattle stolen and human deaths in the same year. Cattle rustling has long plagued the Eastern Uganda region in northeastern Uganda, impacting the lives of its inhabitants. Specifically, this study focuses on the Amudat Community. The Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District people, like other groups, heavily rely on livestock for their livelihoods, cultural identity, and social status (Arasio & Stites, 2022; Mangala, 2016).

In the early 2000s, the Ugandan government successfully disarmed gun-wielding rustlers in Eastern Uganda, leading to a decade of relative peace. However, in recent years, cattle raiders have resurfaced, causing violence, loss of lives, and theft of livestock. A study in Baragoi Sub County within the Eastern Uganda region, recognized a joint effort by different Non-Government Organizations such as Agency for Technical Cooperation and Organization (ACTED), World Vision (WV), International Medical Corps (IMC), religious organizations and both the national and county government to curb cattle rustling (Taylor, 2022a).

The fresh disarmament campaign established by the army in July 2021 has faced challenges in curbing the violence and has been criticized for human rights violations. Cattle rustling disrupts the movement of livestock, affecting the Pokot community's economic stability. However, the citizens of Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District reported complaints of forceful and indiscriminate disarmament, inadequate security personnel to combat cattle rustlers, insecurity were also pointed out as contributing to the protracted conflict, as well as poor infrastructure. Lack of development was seen to be caused by insecurity which had led to lack of investments and low trade, hence lack of development in the area.

1.2 Contextual Background

Livestock, that is cattle serve as both a source of food and a form of wealth, however, the world, especially in developing countries have experienced the loss due to raids which has serious implications for food security in those counties. The world has been experiencing castle rustling especially in developing countries and has been largely attributed to economic challenges and limited security (Berger, 2023; GOCI, 2021; RECSA, 2023).

In Africa, cattle rustling has been come a common socio-economic and public phenomenon that need to be addressed with emergent interventions. Cattle rustling in Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, and Somalia has reached the peak contributing to prevalent socio-economic stress among the communities in these countries. Insecurity caused by cattle rustling in the region need dynamic and focused interventions tailored in economic planning and programs. In a study done in these countries revealed a strong association between possession of weapon, ambitious commercial cattle business, porous borders, socio-cultural perceptions, weak legislation, inadequate state presence, and cattle rustling (Kaino Jackson, 2022).

Several studies conducted in Nigeria and Mali revealed that cattle rustling has cause human and food insecurity in the communities in these countries; cattle farming is one of the food and commercial activities that enhance household incomes and food security in marginalized communities (Eyasmin & Ghosh, 2024), therefore, cattle theft negatively affect family economic growth and social security. The authors proposed that the governments should tighten security on boarder and other informed initiatives that are focused on promoting security internally and externally in order to reduce cattle rustling (Akah et al., 2023; Berger, 2023; GOCI, 2021).

After making profit from cattle selling business, the businesses men resort to using illegal arms violently with intentions to steal more cows to make abnormal profit. Cattle rustling has been reported as a militarized commercial business in most East African Countries including South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda (Kaprom, 2013; Okello, 2020). Studies have shown that Uganda government's efforts have reduced the problem of cattle rustling to stealing of cows with the support from Uganda People's Defense (UPDF)(Darlington & Ateyo, 2007; ICPALD, 2017, 2022; Uganda-Parliament, 2022).

Partnership with other organizations have designed and implemented initiatives to curb cattle rustling in some African which yield limited outcomes and to build resilience, and support socio-economic growth, research to assess the key issues above is urgently needed. Cattle rustlers have been taking advantage of porous borders, exploiting weak cross-border coordination between governments in the region (LiDeSA, 2024).

In most cases, cattle rustlers often recruit and arm rural warriors to steal cattle for commercial purposes in neighboring countries where they trade in cattle business. Remember, stolen cattle are easy to traffic as they can be disguised as a legal commodity. Unfortunately,

responses to cattle rustling in East Africa have so far been ineffective and States in the region have over years never acted on their proposals and promise to end cattle rustling for years responded to cattle rustling, instead, indiscriminate force or ineffective disarmament initiatives have been noticed in most African states, especially in Uganda and Kenya (Gumba, 2020; Mohamed Daghar & Willis Okumu, 2021).

1.3 Conceptual background

Several variables such as porous borders, violent commercial businesses, position of small weapons, traditional demands such as payment of bride wealth, weak registration, lack, of strong security have been assessed by some of authors as the factors associated cattle rustling in Africa, Uganda in particular. The cattle keeping communities neighboring porous borders such as Eastern Uganda in Uganda are at high risk of cattle rustling compared to those whose boarders have tight security(Alinda, 2023; Taylor, 2022a; Toolit D. Ambrose, 2022).

In addition, an area with high levels of access to weapons are associated with increased risk of cattle rustling compared to those without and this is common in Mali (Berger, 2023). Similarly, intensive business-oriented communities are at high risk of cattle rustling compared to areas where cattle business is not insensitive. Culturally, high demand for bride wealth is associated with increased temptation of stealing cows violently; for example, high bride wealth payment during marriages has become a key trigger of cattle rustling in Terekeka (United Nations, 2022).

1.4 Problem statement

Cattle rustling has been a persistent and devastating problem in Noroo Subcounty, Amudat, Eastern Uganda, with a staggering 70% of households reporting livestock losses due to theft, resulting in significant economic losses estimated at 30% reduction in livestock populations in the region (ICPALD, 2017; UBOS, 2020). Despite its prevalence, research on cattle rustling in Amudat, Eastern Uganda, is scarce, with existing studies primarily focusing on descriptive analyses that fail to establish a clear association between potential risk factors and cattle rustling (Mugisha & Mugume, 2017; Ochen, 2019).

Furthermore, interventions aimed at mitigating cattle rustling, such as disarmament programs implemented by the Ugandan Government in 2011, and community-based initiatives supported by USAID in 2018 (Moffitt, 2022), have yielded limited success, with the prevalence of cattle rustling remaining high, resulting in the displacement of over 10,000

people and the loss of numerous lives (Cleansing & Darfur, 2024; Dauda & Davru, 2024; Taylor, 2022b).

Cattle rustling has been a persistent issue in Amudat District, especially in Noroo Subcounty in a report released in new vision-Uganda on May 25, 2023, and asserted that recovery rate of cattle for the poor is still low. About 1,000 cows were stolen in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District2021. Despite the current disarmament program, the problem has been escalated by cattle theft networks from neighboring countries, South Sudan, Kenya boarders (Wanyama, 2023). If no serious interventions to enhance security in the cattle farming community, food insecurity, poverty, illiteracy, and human insecurity will persist in the Sub-region, strategies such as join security and disarmament have been suggested to address the challenges but with limited research (Arasio & Stites, 2022; Muchwa, 2023; World Bank, 2022).

There is limited information about the rate at which cattle rusting has been practiced among the Karamojong people and its associated factors. Several factors such as porous borders, weak security, commercial beef trade and tradition demand such as dowry have been cited by several authors, though they didn't assess the relationship between them and cattle rustling (Arasio & Stites, 2022; Boukhazara, 2021; Mangala, 2016; Muchwa, 2023). Similar studies were conducted in countries such as Kenya and South Sudan, Nigeria, Mali, and Tanzania which have different geographic and cultural setting, thus creating a research gap to be filled.

1.5 Study of Objectives

This study will be guided by objectives stated below;

1.5.1 General Objective

To assess the factors associated with cattle rustling in Amudat District, Uganda

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

1. To determine the frequency of cattle rustling in Amudat District, Uganda.
2. To establish a relationship between political factors and cattle rustling in Amudat District, Uganda.
3. To establish a relationship between economic factors and cattle rustling in Amudat District, Uganda.

1.6 Research Questions

i. What is the frequency of cattle stolen during rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Uganda?

ii. Is there a relationship between the political factors and cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Uganda?
iii. Is there a relationship between the economic factors and cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Uganda?

1.7 Significance of the study

Understanding the factors associated with cattle rustling Loroo Subcounty, Amudat Community is crucial for developing targeted interventions that promote peace, protect livelihoods, and enhance the overall well-being of the residents in this vulnerable sub-region. Therefore, the findings of this study will inform the policy makers, Non-Governmental Organization and national security bodies with strategies aimed at reducing or curbing cattle rustling, hence contribute to societal and Individual household economic growth.

The findings from the district will also facilitate the futural research students and scholars in conducting literature review and will fill the gaps in the current published literature. The current research will partly contribute to completion of Bachelor of Social Work and Administration at Uganda Christian University.

1.8 Justification

Cattle rustling has attracted more attention among social work researchers in Africa, however there is no association that has been assessed between specific factors such as political influence, insecurity, cattle commercial activity, household poverty, porous borders, and cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District. In addition, other studies conducted in Eastern Region, Uganda, Kenya, Mali, and Nigeria depended qualitative approaches and data (Arasio & Stites, 2022; Muchwa, 2023; Taylor, 2022a), thus limiting generalization of the findings for the entire sub-region; for example, a case study conducted by Sana and Oloo, (2019) didn't assess the association between the variables and also didn't focus on economic factors instead concentrated on geographic controls of boards and Insecurity fueled by politics (Arasio & Stites, 2022). Therefore, this study will assess the factors associated with cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District

1.9 Study scope

1.9.1 Content scope

This study assessed the association between factors which are political, economic and geographic, and Cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District. These factors are displayed a conceptual framework in figure 1.

1.9.2 Geographic scope

The study was conducted in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Eastern Uganda Region, Uganda. Loroo Subcounty, Loroo Subcounty is neighboring Soroti District. The district is on porous board of Kenya and Turkan which has put the cattle keepers at high risk of cattle rustling.

1.9.3 Time scope

The study started in January 2024 and was finished in May 2024 with a dissertation.

1.9 Conceptual framework

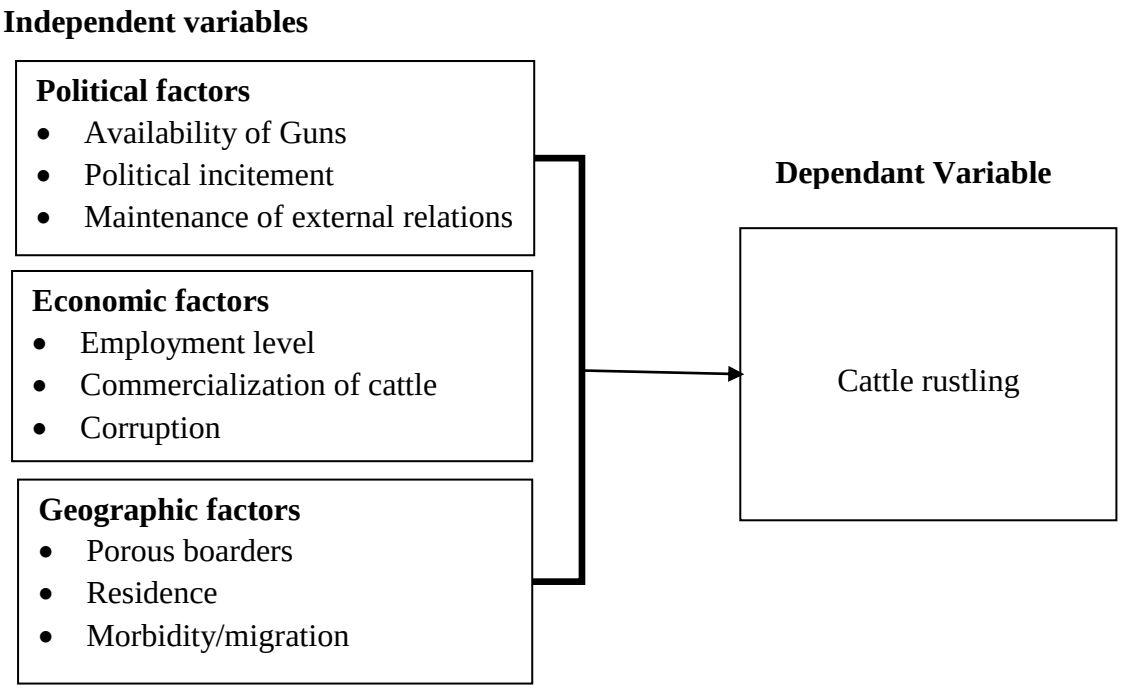

Figure 1*: A conceptual framework developed from the literature review from (Arasio & Stites, 2022; Muchwa, 2023).*

The independent variables listed in the conceptual frame have been identified in many articles as factors that associated with the outcome variable, that is, cattle rustling, for example poor relationships with neighboring regions, districts and countries is more likely to increase cattle rustling than those at good relationships (Barilla et al., 2019).

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of the literature reviewed from several scholars, national and international reports and journal articles.

2.1 Frequency of cattle rustling

Cattle rustling in pastoral areas has been rampant in East Africa especially in Eastern Uganda in Uganda and Kenya. Cattle rustling has been rampant in other Africa countries such as Ethiopia, South Sudan and due to this situation, most of the families have lost their relatives in the process of rescuing or protecting their cattle. Cattle rustling is a widespread problem that affects many regions globally. The frequency of cattle rustling varies widely depending on the location, with some areas experiencing more frequent incidents than others.

Cattle rustling is a widespread problem that affects many regions globally and the frequency of cattle rustling varies widely depending on the location, with some areas experiencing more frequent incidents than others. In East Africa, for example, cattle rustling is a common occurrence, with studies suggesting that: cattle rustling occurs at a rate of 2.5 incidents per month in Kenya (Kagumire, 2016), 1.8 incidents per month in Uganda (Mugambi et al., 2017), 1.2 incidents per month in Tanzania (Hussein, 2015). In West Africa, cattle rustling is also a significant problem, with studies suggesting that cattle rustling occurs at a rate of 3.5 incidents per month in Nigeria (Adeoye, 2018), 2.2 in Niger

In Southern Africa, cattle rustling is less frequent, but still a concern, with studies suggesting that cattle rustling occurs at a rate of 0.8 incidents per month (Mohlala, 2018) while in Botswana, cattle rustling occurs at a rate of 0.5 incidents per month (Kgosikoma, 2019). Overall, the frequency of cattle rustling varies widely depending on the location, with some areas experiencing more frequent incidents than others.

2.2 Political factors and cattle rustling

Political factors such as political instability corruption have been cited among the factors that contribute to cattle rustling in Africa. The influence of corruption on cattle rustling in Kenya was reported in 2017 and this study found that corruption among government officials and law enforcement agencies facilitated cattle rustling in Kenya. In Nigeria, the role of corruption in cattle rustling in Nigeria was also observed in a study that was conducted in

2020 and this study examined the impact of corruption on cattle rustling in Nigeria and found that corrupt officials enabled rustling activities.

Political Instability is another political factor that has contributed to the current cattle rustling in the Horn of Africa. A study that was conducted in 2015found that political instability and conflict in the Horn of Africa created an environment conducive to cattle rustling and cattle rustling in the context of political instability in South Sudan, a study conducted in 2018 examined the relationship between political instability and cattle rustling in South Sudan and found a positive relationship.

Weak Law Enforcement is a political factor that has been viewed as a challenge in addressing cattle rustling in African countries; several scholars have mentioned this factor as one of the factors associated increasing cattle rustling in the region. A study conducted in Nigeria revealed that weak law enforcement and inadequate resources enabled cattle rustling in Nigeria and a study conducted in Kenya examined the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in addressing cattle rustling in Kenya which contributed to continuous cattle rustling that that country, however, these studies didn't assess the relationship between the law enforcement and cattle rusting.

2.3 Economic factors and cattle rustling

Economic factors such as poverty influencings the practice of stealing cows in most rural communities which in most cases results in tense cattle rustling. Cattle raiders hunt for cows due to economic demands such as payment of bride wealth, school fees and other domestic basic needs such as shelter, medical care, and food additives such as salt, paraffin and clothes for their children. This was reported in Camerron where poverty largely contributed to cattle theft and rustling (Manu et al., 2014). A study on cattle rustling and poverty in Kenya found that poverty was a significant driver of cattle rustling in that country and the study conducted in Nigeria found a significant relationship between poverty and cattle rustling in Nigeria (Sani Ibrahim et al., 2021).

Unemployment and cattle rustling in Tanzania has been found significantly associated and the study conducted in Tanzania found that unemployment was a significant factor contributing to cattle rustling in Tanzania (Amani, 2017). A study conducted in South Sudan revealed a significant relationship between cattle rustling and youth Unemployment. The unemployed youths are more likely to be engaged in cattle rustling compared to those who fully engaged in productive work (Murkomen, 2015; Sebit, 2017).

2.4 Geographic factors and cattle rustling

The studies have shown that pastoral areas neighboring porous boarders are at high risk of invention and cattle raids which has contributed to increasing cattle rustling in many regions including Karamonja (Bello & Kazibwe, 2024). The cattle raiders take advantage of insecurity and free entry and exist, in and out of the pastoral areas which has made cattle raining a practice a routine illegal business fueling cattle rustling with its negative consequences such as hunger, poverty, and death of household heads and members in the process of rescuing their cows being taken through porous borders (Ismail, 2020; RECSA, 2023).

A study that was conducted in Mali revealed that porous borders contributed to high cattle rustling in Mali (Berger, 2023). Cattle Rustling in the Kenya-Uganda Border Region has been viewed as a serious problem that has contributed to death of many Karamojong and a study done in northern Uganda found a significant impact that called for serious security interventions (Bello & Kazibwe, 2024). The Role of Terrain in Cattle Rustling has been justified in a case study of the Ethiopian-Kenyan Border in 2018 and this study examined how the terrain of the Ethiopian-Kenyan border facilitates or hinders cattle rustling while a study of the Tanzania-DRC Border in 2017 investigated the relationship between border porosity and cattle rustling in the Tanzania-DRC border region, however, these studies demonstrate the growing interest in understanding the geographical factors associated with cattle rustling and the need for evidence-based solutions to address this complex issue (Change, n.d.; Hendrickson et al., 2009; Ismail, 2020; Kaimba et al., 2011).

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of methods and methodologies that we applied during data collection, processing.

3.1 Research Design

A cross-sectional study design was used in this study. This design was used because of its effectiveness in assessing factors associated with cattle rustling in Loroo Sub- County, Amudat District, Eastern Uganda for generalizability.

3.2 Study Location

The study was conducted in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Eastern Uganda, a sub-region located in northeastern Uganda. The district is inhabited by pastoralist communities, who rely heavily on livestock for their livelihood. Cattle rustling is a significant problem in this region, with frequent raids and attacks on livestock leading to economic losses, displacement, and human rights violations.

3.3 Study Population

The study population constituted of households and individuals living in Amudat, Eastern Uganda, who have experienced cattle rustling or are at risk of experiencing it.

3.4 Data Source

The study used primary data collected from households, community members, and local leaders in Amudat, Eastern Uganda.

3.5 Sample Size Determination

The sample size for the quantitative component was determined using the formula for estimating a single proportion, with a desired precision of 5%, a confidence level of 95%, and an estimated proportion of 50%. This resulted in a sample size of 384 households was calculated using the formula by William Gemmell Cochran, a Scottish Statistician:

Sample size (n) = (Z^2 x P x (1-P)) / E^2

with:

- Z = 1.96 (95% confidence)
- P = 0.5 (estimated proportion)
- E = 0.05 (desired margin of error)

n = (1.96^2 x 0.5 x 0.5) / 0.05^2

n = (3.8416 x 0.25) / 0.0025= 0.9604 / 0.0025=384.16 which was rounded down to 384.

3.6 Sampling Technique

A stratified random sampling technique was used to select 384 households for the quantitative component.

3.7 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion: Households and individuals who have experienced cattle rustling or are at risk of experiencing it and are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion Criteria: Households and individuals who had not experienced cattle rustling and were not at risk of experiencing it, and those who were not willing to participate in the study were excluded.

3.8 Data Collection methods and tools

Data were collected through a combination of structured questionnaires administered to 384 households.

3.9 Data Quality Control

Data quality will be ensured through pre-testing of data collection tools, training of enumerators and moderators, use of standardized data collection tools, regular supervision and monitoring of data collection, and data entry and cleaning checks.

3.10 Data Management and Data Analysis

Data were managed through a secure and confidential process, including data entry, storage, and analysis, with measures taken to ensure data quality, accuracy, and privacy. Data was analysed using a combination of descriptive statistics, Pearson Chi-square at bivariate analysis, binary logistic regression at multivariate analysis, and content analysis, with quantitative data analysed using Stata Version 16 software.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The study obtained ethical approval from Uganda Christian University, Mbale College and Introduction from Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District and informed consent from all participants. Confidentiality and anonymity of participants will be maintained, and voluntary participation was ensured. No harm or risk was posed to participants.

3.12 Limitations of the Study

The study had limitations, including limited generalizability due to the focus on Amudat, Eastern Uganda and a comprehensive view of the problem was not provided due to lack of qualitative approach.

CHAPTER FOUR: STUDY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the results from descriptive analysis using frequency and percentages, Bivariate using Pearson Chi-Square, and from multivariate analysis using binary Logistic regression. The qualitative results on perceptions and opinions were generated using content analysis and are also presented in this chapter.

4.1 Descriptive analysis

4.1.1 Descriptive analysis of respondents' background characteristics

Table 1: Economic and demographics by frequency and percentages

Variable	**Category**	**Frequency (n=384)**	**Percent (%)**
Occupation	Farmer	120	31
	Herder	90	23
	Businessperson	60	16
	Employee	50	13
	Unemployed	64	17
Income	Low	180	47
	Medium	120	31
	High	84	22
Gender	Male	201	52
	Female	183	48
Marital status	Single	120	31
	Married	180	47
	Divorced	30	08
	Widowed	54	14
Education Level	No education	60	16
	Primary	120	31
	Secondary	90	23
	Post secondary	114	30
Place of Residence	Rural	240	63
	Urban	144	38

Source*:* *Field study, April 2024, Amudat District*

Based on the frequencies and percentages in table 1, the majority of respondents (52%) were male, majority (47%) are married, 31% had a primary education level and the majority (63%) resided in rural areas. The average age was 46 years **(See table 2),** and in terms of economic factors, most respondents (31%) were farmers, and the majority (46.9%) have a low-income level.

4.1.2 Descriptive statistics of Household size, age and Households that experienced cattle rustling

Table 2: Descriptive statistics of Age, Household size and Proportion of HHs that experienced Cattle Rustling

Variable	Measure	Results
Age	Mean	32 years
Household size	Mean	6 members
Household that experience Cattle rustling	Percentage	57%

Source*: Primary data, April 2024*

The findings in table 2 indicated that on the average of respondents was 32 years old, an average household size of 6 members and 57% of households that experienced cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Eastern Uganda.

4.1.3 Frequency, and factors associated with cattle rustling

The study findings revealed that about 62% (239) of respondents reported experiencing cattle rustling at least once, about 32% (121) reported experiencing cattle rustling 2-3 times while 6% (24) reported experiencing cattle rustling more than 4 times. During the interviews about 55% (212) of respondents believed that political instability contributed to cattle rustling, 42% (162) believed that lack of effective governance contributed to cattle rustling and 28% (106) believed that corruption contributed to cattle rustling.

Considering economic factors in relation to cattle rustling, about 70% (269) of respondents believed that poverty contributed to cattle rustling, 56% (216) believed that unemployment contributed to cattle rustling and about 47% (175) believed that lack of economic opportunities contributed to cattle rustling.

The study findings revealed that about 60% (232) of respondents believed that proximity to porous borders contributed to cattle rustling, about 52% (199) believed that rugged terrain contributed to cattle rustling while about 42% (162) believed that lack of access to markets contributed to cattle rustling.

4.2 Association between Factors and Cattle rustling at bivariate analysis

Table 3. Peason Chi-square in determining Association Between Factors and Cattle rustling

		Cattle rustling 5(Yes)	Cattle Rustling (No)	χ^2	P-value
Political factors	Political instability	140(61)	90(39)	10.29	**0.016***
	Corruption	120 (57)	90(43)		
	Lack of effective governance	100(56)	80(44)		
Economic factors	Poverty	150(63)	90(38)	12.15	**0.007***
	Unemployment	120(57)	90(43)		
	Lack of economic opportunities	100(56)	80(44)		
Geographic factors	Proximity to porous borders	160(67)	80(33)	15.21	**0.002***
	Rugged Terrain	140 (61)	100 (39)		
	Lack Access to markets	120 (57)	100 (43)		

*****Significance is p value less than 0.05 at 95% confidence level***

The study findings revealed that political factors (p-value=0.016), economic factors (p-value=0.007) and geographic factors (p-value=0.002) were significantly associated with cattle rustling in Amudat District, Eastern Uganda sub-region at 95% confidence level.

4.3 Predictors of cattle rustling in Amudat District, Eastern Uganda

All factors at bivariate analysis level were included in multivariate analysis because they were found significantly associated with cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, Eastern Uganda Sub-Region. A binary logistic regression model was used to determine the predictors of cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat, Eastern Uganda with p-values, Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) at 95% confidence level.

Table 4: Predictors of Cattle Rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Eastern Uganda

Variables	**AOR**	**95% CI**	**P-Value**
Political Stability	2.17	1.23-3.41	**0.001***

Corruption	1.79	1.14-2.82	**0.003***
Poverty	2.38	1.53-3.71	**0.001***
Unemployment	1.93	1.23-3.03	**0.002***
Proximity to Porous boarders	4.52	2.51-8.13	**0.001***
Rugged Terrain	1.53	1.01-2.32	**0.012***

*****Significance is p value less than 0.05 at 95% confidence level***

The study finding revealed that political Instability (AOR: 2.17, 95% CI: 1.38-3.4, p-value=0.001) was found significantly associated with cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District. This means that for every unit increase in political instability, the odds of cattle rustling increase by 2.17 times, while controlling for other variables. In addition, corruption was also found significantly associated with the outcome variable (AOR: 1.79, 95% CI: 1.14-2.82, p-value=0.003), implying that or every unit increase in corruption, the odds of cattle rustling increase by 1.79 times, while controlling for other variables.

Poverty (AOR: 2.38, 95% CI: 1.53-3.71, p-value=0.001) was found to be significantly associated with cattle rustling, meaning that for every unit increase in poverty, the odds of cattle rustling increase by 2.38 times, while controlling for other variables. Also, unemployment (AOR: 1.93 (95% CI: 1.23-3.03, p-value= 0.002) was significantly associated with cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, implying that for every unit increase in unemployment, the odds of cattle rustling increase by 1.93 times, while controlling for other variables.

The study result in table 4 revealed that proximity to Porous Borders was found significantly associated with cattle rustling (AOR: 4.52, 95% CI: 2.51-8.13, p-value=0.001), meaning that for every unit increase in proximity to porous borders, the odds of cattle rustling increase by 4.52 times, while controlling for other variables. Also, rugged terrain (AOR: 1.53, 95% CI: 1.01-2.32, p-value=0.012) was found significantly associated with the outcome variable; for every unit increase in rugged terrain, the odds of cattle rustling increase by 1.53 times, while controlling for other variables.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter is composed of discussion of significant results of the study, conclusions drawn from the discussions and recommendations.

5.1 Discussions

5.1.1 Frequency of Cattle Rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District

The results show that cattle rustling is a prevalent issue in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, with 62.2% of respondents reporting that they have experienced cattle rustling at least once. This suggests that cattle rustling is a significant problem in the area, with a substantial proportion of the population affected. This agreed with the study findings from Kagumire, (2016) that revealed that cattle rustling is a common occurrence with Kenya registering 2.5 incidents per month (Kagumire, 2016).

This in in consistence with the study findings from Uganda and Tanzania that showed cattle rustling as a frequent phenomenon, about 1.8 incidents of cattle rustling occur per month in Uganda (Mugambi et al., 2017), and 1.2 incidents per month in Tanzania (Hussein, 2015) and in agreement with studies conducted in West Africa which revealed that cattle rustling was a common and a significant problem, for example, studies that were conduced in Nigeria and Niger indicating frequent 3.5 incidents per month in Nigeria and 2.2 in Niger (Adeoye, 2018).

5.2 Factors associated with cattle rustling.

5.2.1 Political factors and cattle rustling

The study findings revealed that political instability and corruption were significantly associated with cattle rustling. This agreed with a study finding by Mugisha et al. (2017) that found political instability and corruption were significant predictors of cattle rustling and Political factors such as political instability corruption have been cited to be associated with cattle rustling in Africa. This finding agreed with study findings from Kenya and Nigeria that revealed that a significant influence of corruption on cattle rustling.

Politically, corruption among local authorities enable cattle rustling, as seen in the case of a local leader who was found to be complicit in a recent rustling incident and also to address these issues, improved law enforcement, community engagement, economic empowerment initiatives, conflict resolution mechanisms, and regional cooperation are necessary.

5.2.2 Economic factors and cattle rustling

The study finding revealed that unemployment and poverty were significantly related with cattle rustling and the study finding agreed with Mwenda et al. (2015) who found that economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, were the primary drivers of cattle rustling in Kenya's pastoralist communities. This finding were in line with a study done by Sani Ibrahim et al., (202) that found poverty a significant driver of cattle rustling in Kenya which was in consistence with a study finding from Nigeria which revealed a significant relationship between poverty and cattle rustling in Nigeria (Sani Ibrahim et al., 2021).

In addition, a study conducted in Tanzania that revealed a positive relationship between unemployment and cattle rustling (Amani, 2017). This was in consistence with a study conducted in South Sudan that reported a significant relationship cattle rustling and youth unemployment. The unemployed youths are more likely to be engaged in cattle rustling compared to those who fully engaged in productive work (Murkomen, 2015; Sebit, 2017). Economically, poverty and unemployment drive individuals to engage in cattle rustling, such as a group of youth who were arrested for rustling cattle to sell in a nearby market. In addition, initiatives like vocational training and livelihood support programs have helped to reduce poverty and unemployment, thereby decreasing the incentive for individuals to engage in cattle rustling.

5.2.3 Geographic Factors and Cattle Rustling

The results also show a significant relationship between cattle rustling and geographic factors such as proximity to porous borders and rugged terrain. This suggests that the location of Loroo Sub- County, Amudat District, with its porous borders and rugged terrain, may be contributing to the prevalence of cattle rustling. The results have implications for policy and practice in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District. Addressing cattle rustling will require a multi-faceted approach that considers the socio-economic and geographic factors that contribute to it. The studies have shown that pastoral areas neighboring porous boarders are at high risk of invention and cattle raids which has contributed to increasing cattle rustling in many regions including Karamoja (Bello & Kazibwe, 2024). The cattle raiders take advantage of insecurity and free entry and exist, in and out of the pastoral areas which has made cattle raining a practice a routine illegal business fueling cattle rustling with its negative consequences such as hunger, poverty, and death of household heads and members in the process of rescuing their cows being taken through porous borders (Ismail, 2020; RECSA, 2023).

The study findings from Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District agreed with findings from Mali that revealed that porous borders contributed to high cattle rustling in Mali (Berger, 2023). Also, cattle rustling in the Kenya-Uganda border region has been viewed as a serious problem that has contributed to death of many Karamojong and a study done in northern Uganda found a significant impact that called for serious security interventions (Bello & Kazibwe, 2024). The Role of Terrain in Cattle Rustling has been justified in a case study of the Ethiopian-Kenyan Border in 2018 and this has also been cited in a study that was conducted by several authors that found a significant association between border porosity and cattle rustling in the Tanzania-DRC border region (Change, n.d.; Hendrickson et al., 2009; Ismail, 2020; Kaimba et al., 2011). Geographically, the remote and inaccessible nature of some areas, like the mountainous regions of Loroo, facilitates cattle rustling, while the porous borders with neighboring districts allow rustlers to easily transport stolen livestock.

5.3 Conclusion

Cattle rustling occurs frequently in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District, with an average of 2-3 incidents per month. Political instability and corruption are significant predictors of cattle rustling in the region. Additionally, economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunities contribute to the prevalence of cattle rustling. Geographic factors also play a significant role, with proximity to porous borders, poor road infrastructure, and rugged terrain facilitating the theft of livestock. Many respondents perceive cattle rustling as a major threat to their livelihoods, and believe it is driven by political factors. Majority of respondents agreed that addressing political instability and corruption is crucial in mitigating cattle rustling, and support community-based initiatives to address the issue.

5.4 Recommendations

The impact of cattle rustling on pastoralist communities is significant, with respondents reporting loss of livestock, reduced income, and food insecurity. To address this challenge, it is recommended that political instability and corruption be addressed, community-based initiatives and sensitization programs be implemented, and economic empowerment programs be introduced to support pastoralist communities. Improving road infrastructure and border security is also crucial in reducing cattle rustling.

Further research is needed to explore the complex dynamics driving cattle rustling and to identify effective solutions. By understanding the interplay between political, economic, and

geographic factors, stakeholders can develop a comprehensive approach to mitigate cattle rustling and support the livelihoods of pastoralist communities in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District.

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Appendix I: Questionnaire

Introduction

Cattle rustling is a significant problem in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District with serious economic, social, and security implications for local communities. Despite efforts to address the issue, cattle rustling continues to persist, and its impact is felt by many. This questionnaire aims to gather information on the perceptions and opinions of residents

regarding cattle rustling in Loroo Subcounty, Amudat District. Your responses will help us better understand the issue, identify effective solutions, and inform strategies to prevent and respond to cattle rustling. Your participation is voluntary and confidential. Please answer the questions honestly, and to the best of your ability. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Section 1: Demographic Information

1. Age: _____
2. Gender
1 = Male
2 = Female
3. Occupation
1 = Farmer
2 = Herder
3 = Other (please specify)
4. Education Level
1 = Primary
2 = Secondary
3 = Tertiary

Section 2: Frequency of Cattle Rustling

1. How often have you experienced cattle rustling in the past year?
1 = Never
2 = Rarely
3 = Occasionally
4 = Frequently
5 = Very Frequently
2. Number of head of cattle lost to rustling in the past year: _____
3. Estimated value of cattle lost to rustling in the past year: _____

Section 3: Political Factors
1. Political instability contributes to cattle rustling
1 = Strongly Disagree
2 = Disagree
3 = Neutral
4 = Agree
5 = Strongly Agree
2. Effectiveness of local government in addressing cattle rustling
1 = Not Effective at All
2 = Not Very Effective
3 = Neutral
4 = Effective
5 = Very Effective
3. Experienced political violence or intimidation related to cattle rustling
1 = Yes
2 = No

Section 4: Economic Factors

1. Current economic situation
1 = Very Poor
2 = Poor
3 = Neutral
4 = Good
5 = Very Good
2. Employment status
1 = Employed
2 = Unemployed
3. Monthly income: _____
4. Poverty contributes to cattle rustling
1 = Strongly Disagree
2 = Disagree
3 = Neutral
4 = Agree
5 = Strongly Agree

Section 5: Geographic Factors
1. Distance from home to nearest border
1 = Very Far
2 = Far
3 = Neutral
4 = Close
5 = Very Close
2. Terrain in your area
1 = Rugged
2 = Flat
3 = Mountainous
4 = Other (please specify)
3. Terrain contributes to cattle rustling
1 = Yes
2 = No

Appendix II: Informed Consent Form

Title: *Factors Associated with Cattle Rustling in Laroo Subcounty, Amudat District*
Introduction:

We are conducting a research study to understand the factors associated with cattle rustling in Laroo Subcounty, Amudat District. The purpose of this study is to identify the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to cattle rustling in the area. Your participation in this study will help us better understand this issue and inform strategies to address it.

Consent:

- I have been informed that this study aims to investigate the factors associated with cattle rustling in Laroo Subcounty, Amudat District.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw from the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.
- I have been assured that my responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.
- I understand that the information I provide will be used solely for research purposes and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team.

Risks and Benefits:

- There are no known risks associated with participating in this study.
- The benefits of participating in this study include contributing to a better understanding of cattle rustling in Laroo Subcounty and informing strategies to address it.

Procedures:

- I will be asked to participate in a [insert method, e.g., survey, interview, focus group] that will take approximately [insert time] minutes to complete.
- I will be asked questions about [insert topics, e.g., demographics, experiences with cattle rustling, perceptions of the causes and consequences of cattle rustling].

Confidentiality:

- My responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.
- Any information that could potentially identify me will be removed or altered to protect my identity.

Contact Information:

- If I have any questions or concerns about this study, I can contact [insert name, email, phone number].

Signature:

I have read and understood the information provided above. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note that this is just a sample, and you should adjust it according to your specific study needs and requirements. Also, ensure that your informed consent form complies with the ethical guidelines and regulations of your institution and funding agency.

Appendix III: Introduction Letter from U.C.U

UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Office of the Academic Registrar

To SENIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY (SAS)

Recieved and cleared for data Collection

SUB-COUNTY CHIEF LOKOO SUB-COUNTY AMUDAT DISTRICT

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Academic Research

Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr./ Mrs./Miss OKEE RAPHAEL

Of Registration Number: S21/MUC/BSW/024 pursuing a Masters' Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRA

He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CATTLE RUSTLING IN AMUDAT DISTRICT, UGANDA

and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a University requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

26 MAR 2024

Mr. Akampurira Timothy

Academic Registrar

Appendix IV: Research Acceptance Letter from Loroo Subcounty

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

LOROO LOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Subject: **Acceptance letter for Data collection for Bachelor's Degree final report**

Dear Oyee Raphael,

I am writing to confirm my acceptance of your request to collect data in Loroo Sub County for the purpose of completing your final report towards the award of a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration at Uganda Christian University, Mbale University College

Your commitment to pursuing your academic goals and conducting research in our community is truly commendable.

As the sub county chief, I am pleased to grant you permission to carry out your data collection activities within our jurisdiction

I trust that your research will not only contribute to your academic success but also provide valuable insights that may benefit our community and its residents. Should you require any assistance or support during data collection process, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office.

I wish you all the best in your research endeavors and in the successful completion of your degree program. Your dedication to the field of social work is admirable and I am confident that you will excel in your academic pursuits

Thank you for choosing Loroo Sub County as the location for your data collection and I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of your research

Warm regards,

THE SUB- COUNTY CHIEF
LOROO SUB-COUNTY
AMUDAT DISTRICT

Ogwang Raphael Lokuti, SAS Loroo Sub County