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**IMPACT AND ASSOSIATED FACTORS OF CONFLICT OVER RESOURCE AND LIVELIHOOD IN PASTORALIST COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF AFAR - ISSA CONFLICT IN AMIBARA WOREDA, AFAR REGIONAL STATE**

**CERTIFICATION APPROVAL**

**I hereby certify that the proposal for Dissertation entitled IMPACT AND ASSOSIATED FACTORS OF CONFLICT OVER RESOURCE AND LIVELIHOOD IN PASTORALIST COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF AFAR - ISSA CONFLICT IN AMIBARA WOREDA, AFAR REGIONAL STATE by Shimelis Ababaw has been prepared after due consultation with me . the proposal has my approval and has ,to my knowledge ,the potential of developing in to a comprehensive Dissertation Project.**

**I also agree to supervise the above mentioned Dissertation Title its completion.**

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**IGNOU UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**



**School of Social Sciences  
Indira Gandhi National Open University**

**IMPACT AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF CONFLICT OVER RESOURCE AND LIVELIHOOD IN PASTORALIST COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF AFAR - ISSA CONFLICT IN AMIBARA WOREDA, AFAR REGIONAL STATE**

**By: Shimles Abebaw (BA)**

**A THESIS PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO IGNOU UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ART**

**Advisor: Professor Elias Berhanu (PhD)**

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## **I. Introduction**

### **1.1 Back ground of the study**

In pastoral society conflict is usual because of their life style and culture. There are many reasons to raise conflict In Ethiopia such as competition to access resource, livestock and small scale irrigation and land for farming and pasture are principal source of social tension, there is no clear boundary to resource.

Violent conflict is more the norm than the exception in the Horn of Africa. Conflicts are waged at various levels: state, regional, and local. Conflict involves various actors: governments, nationalist groups, religious groups, and community or identity groups with significant backing from external forces. *Tades and Yona, 2001 :1 stated that,*

‘conflict describes relationships in which each party perceives the other’s goals, values, interests or behavior as antithetical to its own’. Starting from this, there can be a multitude of ways to resolve such existing or perceived contradictions. Any society and any political system in the world have to try to develop its own institutions, organization, and systems to handle conflicts peacefully and to prevent violence. ‘What has to be prevented is violence, not necessarily conflict as such. Rather conflict can and perhaps should be accepted as an inevitable component of all-social political relations, as well as an indicator of problems’. Finally, it should not be forgotten that conflict is a most powerful factor to bring about change and development in the above-mentioned definition.

The underlying causes of such inter and/or intra-group scenarios of conflicts are complex and intricate. As such, the conflicts were products of implications of various determinants of state and society relations and institutions. These causes may vary from tendencies of competition over scarce material resources, to aspirations of being dominant intra-group forces, to geographical, Psycho-cultural historical feelings or biases of non-complimentarily, to tensions induced by extra group factors such as different forms of state intervention, resource alienation (especially land), Political-oppressions, etc. (*Tades and Yona 2001 : 1*)

Pastoralists noted declining access to rangelands and increasing farming and land enclosure. Interestingly, both agro-pastoralists and those relying only on agriculture previously were diversifying and had an increasing number of animals to look after. This placed increased pressure on the grazing areas surrounding, or close to, land being used for agriculture.

Restrictions on mobility were affecting. Pastoralists as changes in land use, or in some cases in security, were impacting on seasonal access to water and pasture. More extreme climatic variations were consistently reported, and attributed to climate change, affecting agriculture and quality of grazing. This is a complex subject and hard data that documents changes and impact of alterations in weather patterns at the micro-level is not available. Changes in livestock ownership patterns, commercialization, and composition are also affecting mobility and which types of grazing are accessed (Aklilu and Catley, 2010).

In a context of highly variable rains and a mobile lifestyle that sometimes brings different clans into competition over scarce resources, clashes between Afar and Somali (Issa) clans typically have involved cycles of cattle-rustling and theft as they seek to restock or exact revenge for raids and killings. Severe drought temporarily reduces conflict as communities struggle to survive, but climate change has worsened the problems of scarcity and intensified competition and conflict.

The Afar and Somalia/Issa/ people is living as a neighbor since back to many years by sharing common religion, common environment and way of life/livelihood/, exchange of market products, by sharing their traditions and beyond this; However, through this ancient relation conflict is still common phenomena over the scarce resources shared by the two peoples.

Even if there is no written documents about how the conflict had started, oral evidences from elders indicate that the conflict was started in 1948 with high blood shed from both peoples and finally the Afar people when they were live in the former Adal, Issa and Gurgura area were left the lands of Asbuli, erer, aydol and butiji area including the east parts of the rail trail parts and The government of Emperor Hailesilase decided the river of Erer as a natural geographical demarcation in one side for Afar and in other side for Somalia/Issa/ people. (Report of MOFA,2010)

Since then, to alleviate this problem from the root Emperor Hailesilase and the DergRegim were taken different strategy based on their administrative policy and doctrine; However, the federal and regional governments of EPRDF has taken different measures, especially after conducting a common peace conference in 2010 at Sodere so many important measures were taken place for creating sustainable peace in the area. Furthermore, the government conducted in depth discussion with the communities especially on common issues like the town of

Gedamaytu, Adaytu and Hundufo for whom they belong geographically and administratively. (Report of MOFA,2010)

Therefore, Livelihoods analysis in conflict-affected areas should automatically include conflict analysis, leading to programming strategies in which livelihoods work and peace-building work are not separate entities but combined, mutually reinforcing approaches.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Particularly pervasive violent conflicts in the Horn of Africa have detrimental effects on people's livelihoods there. Likewise the Afar and Issaof Ethiopia have long been interlocked in protracted violent conflict since the turn of twenty Century to date. The conflict has been involving various causes, actors and impacts at different periods. Changes in the context of conflict have been contributing to the nature and dynamics of the conflict and lead to human, material, environmental and social damage.

While the intensity, causes, and repercussions of violent conflicts vary spatially and temporally, pastoral areas are currently the hotspots. So far different studies has done by different researchers on Conflicts between Afar Pastoralists and their Neighbors specifically Afar-Issa case: by giving due attention from different intellectual Angles like Yakob and Getachew focused on the economic and political marginalization, administrative penetration and expropriation of pastoralists and their resources for huge non-pastoralist production systems by successive governments central to lively hood explanation, Ayele, the conflict is mainly characterized as common pastoralist conflict over scarce natural resource, fuelled by violence promoting cultural values, environmental degradation and the transhumant nature of pastoralist mode of production that require vast area and multiplicity of ecosystems, Issa-Afar conflict relates it to the nature mainly to the nature of the Ethiopian state. Others relate the conflict dynamics with scarcity and demographic Pressure (Bulcha, 2003; Tesfay,2003) and other; However, my research is specifically focusing on the impact and its associated factors of the conflict on resource and livelihood of the communities from different perspectives which was not fully addressed by the prior researches done by many researchers, Therefore, In order to investigate and assess this problem, will be answered the following research questions.

### **1.2.1 Research questions**

The following questions are raised in this study

1. What are the major factors associated with Afar-Issa conflict?
2. To what extent does the conflict affect the resource and livelihood of the pastoralist community?
3. Which type of livelihood is more affected by the conflict?
4. How much it is effective the action taken by the government to solve the problem?

## **1.3 .Objectives of the study**

### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to Assess the impact and its associated factors of conflict over resource and livelihood in pastoralist community in the case of Afar - Issa Conflict in Amibaraworeda , Afar Regional State.

### **1 .3.2 Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of the study will be

- To identify factors associated with Afar-Issa conflict from the previous until now
- To evaluate the impact of conflict over resource and the livelihood of the pastoralist communities.
- To understand which types of their livelihood is more affected by the conflict and in what case and extent.
- To assess conflict resolution mechanisms and government intervention in the pastoralist community of Afar- Issaconflict.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The study is expected to be useful from many dimensions. As we know clearly the impact of conflict over resources have a complicated problem on the livelihood of the affected communities; therefore, the research findings will help the politicians and the local governments by showing them clearly how the livelihood of communities is going be affected by the conflict which can be taking place by the two different ethnic group neighboring communities over the scarce resources, like death, migration, psychological problem which can be printed on the mind of the communities, restricted mobility to

access water, to access pasture for livestock's, health facilities, educational services, market, and other can be affected by the conflict .

Furthermore, the outcomes of this study will might be contributed a lot for policy makers, stake holders, Federal government, regional governments ,elders, women's and clan leaders engaged in peace building activities and it also provides insightful clues for further researcher in the area

### **1.5 Organization of the study**

The researcher will by organized in five chapters. The first chapter will contain introduction part of the research such as background of the study and problem statement, objective of the study, significant of the study, description of the study area, and limitation of the research. The second chapter will contain the related literature review briefly and the third chapter will contain the research design and methodology used to collect and organize relevant data and information for the research work. the fourth chapter, the data collected from different sources will carefully organized, analyzed and interpreted by using different tools like table, charts etc and SPSS. Chapter five of this research report will consist of the conclusion of the main research findings and recommendations.

## **2. RESERCH DESIGN AND METHDOLOGY**

### **2.1 Research Approach**

The researcher will use both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Qualitative approach helps to study the attitude and perception of the community towards conflict over resources between the pastoralists communities and its consequences on their livelihood in the study area. It requires the investigator to engage with the person and the events which offers particular value in the process of generating new concepts or theories. It seeks to provide full and accurate description of phenomena in all their complexity. It used to analysis the broad questions and problems narrowly and to deal with small samples and uniqueness. And also it attempts to discover and show the assumptions that underlie events or actions related to conflict in the study area.

In addition to this quantitative approach will be used to get extensive information by help of statically analysis and figures. It focuses more on testing of existing theories of generalizations



related to conflict in the study area. And also it to reveal or establish cause and effect relationships among Conflict over resource between the pastoralist communities and its consequence on their livelihood on the case of Afar-Issa Conflict in Amibara Woreda Afar Regional State .

## **2.2 Description of the study area**

Afar is one of the Nine regional states of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Geographically, the region is shares international borders with Eritrea (to the north) and Djibouti (to the northeast) Domestically, Afar borders on the Somali region (to the east), the Oromia region (to the south), the Amhara region (to the west and southwest) and the Tigray region (to the northwest) the region is arid and hot, with annual rainfall usually between 225 mm and 560 mm and the daily maximum temperature between 18 and 45 degrees Celsius. Transhumant pastoralist is the main economic activity of Afar region; study will be conducted in one districts in the southern part of the region, namely, Amibara ,one of the woredas in the region which is Part of the Administrative Zone 3, Amibara is bordered on the south by Awash Fentale, on the west by the Awash River which separates it from Dulecha, on the northwest by the Administrative Zone 5, on the north by Gewane, on the east by the Somali Region, and on the southeast by Oromia Region. Towns in Amibaraworeda include Awash Arba, Awash Sheleko, MelkaSedi and MelkaWere. Pastoralism is one of the most important livelihoods for the majority of the population and followed by agro pastoralist way of life by depending on the Awash River

## **2.3 Research Design**

The descriptive research type will be used in this study to make intensive assessment of the magnitude and impacts of conflict in its livelihood in the study area . On the other hand the study needs the reality of the current practice of conflict resolution method, Impact and the magnitude by collecting reliable information from the sample of population under the study Area.

## **2.4 Method of Data Collection**

Primary and secondary source of data will be employed:

Analyses of local level conflicts require field level research, particularly primary data. To this end, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions will be held with knowledgeable and well-informed participants (key informant interviews). They will be selected on the basis of their resource fullness and participants included elders, clan leaders, political party members, administration officials, young people, and women. Discussions will also held with local administrative officials and experts working for government offices, a house hold survey will be conducted in randomly selected households. Secondary data will be collect from different documents mainly from work plane and annual reports of the concerned office of the woreda. And also questioners will be designed .

## **2.5. Sampling Technique**

The researcher will use both probability and non probability sampling techniques. under probability sampling the researcher will use simple random sampling Selected by using chance or random numbers each individual subject has an equal chance of being selected .And quota sampling or purposive sampling technique will be used for Afar and Issa clans as a researcher.

### **2.5.1 Universe of the study (target Population):**

The universe consists of all survey elements that qualify for inclusion in the research study. It may be individuals, groups of people, organizations, or even objects.

The total number of households in Amibarawereda is about 83851(male 46935, female36916). For Gedamaytu kebele is 900. From these the target population of the study area contains about 150 households.

**2.5.2 Sampling frame** The list of households that are registered in the wereda administration office is the sampling frame of the study . In the selected kebele about 150house holds will be the sample frame of the study.It is 16.7 % of the total population of the woreda.

**2.5.3 Sample unit** The sampling units will be residence households in the community, elders, clan leaders, political party members, administration officials, young people, women, local administrative officials and experts working for government offices.

**2.5.4 Sample size:** The primary concern of the study is to include representatives and adequate number of sample size in order to perform a meaning full analysis. The study area has 150 house holdresidents. For focus group discussion having 5- 7 people group member for each focus group discussion and interview the representatives will be 2 focus group discussion from

weredaadministration, 2 focus group discussion from experts working for administration and peace office, 3 focus group discussion clan leaders , 3 focus group discussion for elders.

## **2.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Based on the nature and type of the data it will be edited, coded, and tabulated before the actual data analysis process. The quantitative data will be tabulated and manipulated. And the data obtained from unstructured questionnaire, unstructured interview and focus group discussion will be also analyzed through narrative analysis by means of strengthening the quantitative data for further description and new findings

## **2.7 Data Presentation**

After data analysis researcher will be presented new analysis results and findings by using tables, graphs, through photographs ,maps, figures, pie charts and the like

# **3. Literature Review**

## **3.1 Nature and Definitions of Conflict**

To start with the etymology of the term conflict, the Latin word *com* means ‘together’ and *fligerem* means ‘to strike’. Accordingly, the term conflict is a ‘derivation from the Latin *Confligere*, to strike together, to clash’. These clashes may have various features ranges from “intrapersonal, interpersonal to inter-organizational and inter-group” (Kurt Singer 1949b in Fink1968: 434). To mean that conflict may arise between nations, institutions, between various groups, among family members and even within oneself.

Accordingly Mack and Snyder (1957:212-13 quoted in Fink1968: 431) concluded that “conflict is for the most part a rubber concept, being stretched and moulded for the purpose at hand.” Hence, academicians argued for and against in conceptualizing a general theory of conflict. As elaborated by Fink some argued in favor of a comprehensive theory on conflict knowledge in such a way that as a result of the contribution of many fields a general theory on conflict is emerging. On the other hand justifications against general theory on conflict knowledge argued that “no existing social science discipline, by itself, contains sufficient intellectual resources to achieve an adequate theory of international conflict crucial aspects of each particular kind of

conflicts are inevitably overlooked by theories of greater generality true knowledge is of particular.” (Kurt Singer 1949 in Fink1968: 414)

### **3.2. Conflict in Pastoralist Society**

It involves peculiar contexts that includes what Azar referred as communal content, communal action and state action expressed in clan based narrow definition of identity, strong mobilization mechanism of ethnic and clan members for war at any time and absolute peculiar-exclusionary definition of identity, most often than not, coercive state measure and low level of integration, high degree of marginalization, extremely poor socioeconomic profile, precariousness of life in general. Conflicts grow out of such general back-grounds where in groups’ relationships and choice of action is defined by same factors.

Competition for scarce resources, relative deprivation coupled with image of participants and perception of threat are strong predictor and important condition for the likelihood of violence but are not *sin qua non*. As long as same phenomenon stimulates different level of perception, threat, and insecurity by different groups, the subjective self and enemy image formation and its social context are the necessary conditions to violence. The juxtaposed existence of the particular historical and political context identity redefinition and ethnic (clan) consciousness appears, the consequent change in and past memories of power relationship, interests defined under such condition totally determines pastoralist community nature of togetherness.

### **3.3 Livelihoods and Conflict in Pastoralist Areas**

The Somali Region of Ethiopia is characterized by many of the same development issues affecting other mainly pastoralist areas of Ethiopia, and the Horn of Africa more widely. A very longstanding and core problem has been conflict, which, in part, relates to the limited and variable natural resources in pastoralist areas and competition for resources between groups. However, conflict also has many other dimensions in these areas due to factors such as changing national political ideologies and structures, limited government capacities in more remote areas, and the frequent “cross-border” aspects of conflict.

During the last 15 years or so, humanitarian and development aid organizations and donors have supported an increasing array of peace-building, conflict resolution, or similar programmes in pastoralist areas. When implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), these programs often focus on conflict resolution activities at the levels of local government and communities, including efforts to build local capacities to prevent conflict. A common finding from these programs across different countries is that, while progress is often evident during implementation, local reductions in violent conflict are later undermined by higher-level actors and processes. Often running parallel to these programs, and sometimes implemented by the same agencies with the same funding sources, are “livelihoods programs.” These vary considerably in their approach in pastoralist areas but, in one way or another, often focus on livestock and related areas such as water development, livestock marketing, or natural resource management.

### **3.4 Historical Background of Afar-Issa Conflict**

The conflict trends are inter-related and reinforce each other as drivers or consequences of other changes of demographics, livelihoods, change in the governance environment and change in other social dynamics. These events reflect the deep historical roots of inter-tribal conflicts and clan dynamics, which, over time, were exacerbated by trends such as land enclosure, commercial use of land, and the changing political environment. Conflict has continued to the present day with sporadic but explosive violence as well as smaller “drip” deaths and incidents such as livestock raiding. Some of these incidents have a distinctive pattern and are relatively predictable.

Early 1900s: Migration of Oromo Ittu into Mieso from western Hararghe highlands, to access grasslands for livestock production. Ittu were mainly pastoralists at this time. Construction of the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railway, with Issa from Djibouti employed as workers and guards who later occupied areas around the railway in what is now Shinile Zone.

### **3.5 The causal factor of Afar Issa Conflict**

Two major factors are making resources scarcer in Afar and putting many places which were previously accessible to Afars out of their reach. First, a wide-scale westward expansion of Issa-Somalis (here in after Issa) in the past seven to eight decades has displaced a number of Afar

clans (particularly those who belong to the Weima tribe) from their traditional rangelands in West Hararghe (Getachew 2001; Gebre 2001). Issas are in our territory. They get military training in Djibouti to displace us from our fathers' land. They were around Dire Dawa in the past but control most of our resources now. (Interview with Seko Mohammed Seid, Afar elder at Ambash, Amibara district, November 2006).

### **3.6 Conflict over Resources with Afar**

Afdem and Miesoworedas are remote woredas farthest from Dire Dawa and Shinille zone. Afdemworeda has arid and semi-arid land in the north and western parts. One can also see bushy and mountainous plains along the south and eastern parts of the woreda. It shares a border with Afar and Oromiya regions but they are ill defined and often cause conflict over resources. Most of the areas in the woredas are inaccessible due to poor road infrastructure and the people have few business relationships with other parts of the zone.

The UN-EUE mission observed a lot of dead cattle in Gedamaytu (Miesoworeda), and Unduftu (Afdemworeda). While these losses are due to water and pasture shortage, the main reason is the recent conflict between the Afar and the Issa. The latest conflict broke out when the Afar attacked the Issa who were around the Awash River and the Afar stole about 400 cattle from the Issas. Accordingly, quite a number of Issas lost access to traditional water points and grazing lands. In Gedamaytu, the traditional water sources of the Issa used to be around Keleale in Adaitou but now the Afar have occupied the place and therefore the Issa have been forced to leave and relocate to Dawadit, west of Unduftu, where little water and pasture is available.

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Yasin ,2002" Regional daynamics of inter-ethnic conflicts in the horn of Africa:an analysis of the Afar Somali conflict in Ethiopia and Djibouti "

Yohannes et al ( 2005:7) " addressing pastoralist conflict in Ethiopia "

## 5. Time plan

<b>4.1 Research Time plan</b>																												
Activity	<b>Time schedule for Month and Week</b>																											
	August				September - October				November - December				January				February				March - Aprile				May			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Identify Dissertation Topic selection/ themes- start reading																												
Survey more literature. Interact with the supervisor to finalize the dissertation proposal																												
Polish the proposal. Take the supervisor`s signature on the cover of the proposal and register - Post a copy to the program coordinator																												
Finalize the proposal in the light of the comments given by the Faculty. Keep the copy with comments and suggestions of the faculty in safe custody.																												
Collect and analyses the data																												



## 6. Budget plan

Budget category	Quantity	Unit cost Ethiopian Birr	Multiplying factor	Total Cost (ETB)	Remark
1 Personnel					
Assistance for data collector as consultancy/Supervisor	2	500/day	30dayx500	15,000.00	
Data collector and language translators	3	300/day	30 day x 300 x3	27,000.00	
Sub total				42,000.00	
2 Materials and equipment					
Paper	5	160.00	160X5	800	
Pen	30	4.00	4X30	120.00	
Photocopy	4000	1	4000*1	4,000.00	
Subtotal				4,920.00	
3 Transport and communication				5,000.00	
Total				51,920.00	
Contingency 10%				5,192.00	
<b>Grand total</b>				<b>57,112.00</b>	