



Research Paper

Socio-Economic Challenges to Livestock Development Sector in Somalia

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ABSTRACT

A cross sectional study was conducted during November 2020 to January 2021. Four districts were sampled including Beledweyne, Balcad, Afgoye and Mogadishu. The research used an explanatory mixed methods approach for data collection which includes a questionnaire and structured interviews. The sample of 121 respondents was purposely selected. The data was analyzed through SPSS software version 20 and excel. The study was organized to identify overwhelmingly barriers to investing in the livestock industry and perhaps major problems facing the livestock industry in Somalia today. It was found that 28.1% and 24.8% of the sample responded to a lack of proper market and poor of knowledge respectively. A 22% of participants indicated low opportunity investment, 14.9 % responded to lack of trust and 14%insecurity. And also the major problem facing livestock in Somalia, the majority of respondents 47.9% responded to seasonal shortage and feed availability, 24.8% responded Inadequate veterinary service, 14% and 13.2% responded Lack of policy and diseases, respectively.

KEY WORDS: Socioeconomic; Livelihood; Investment; poverty; employment;

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I. INTRODUCTION

Somalia's livestock sector dominates the country's economy, creating about 65% of Somali's job opportunities and 80 percent of foreign currency earnings. The private sector led export industry has helped to mitigate the impact of state collapse and war on the Somali people. Camel, cattle, sheep and goat herding are the main types of local breeds that pastoralist depend on for livelihoods (FAO, 2012).

Despite insecurity, political instability, recurrent droughts, poor infrastructure, disease and bans in trading of livestock by some major importing Gulf countries over the past two decades, the number of animals and meat exported from Somalia continues to grow. The private sector has been playing an important role in this trade since the collapse of the State. In 2012, Somalia exported over 4 million sheep, goats, cattle and camels (FOA, 2013).

More than 60% of the Somali populations in the federal republic are nomads who are engaged for their livelihoods, employment and income directly to livestock production. Pastoral communities are low income societies who mainly perform subsistence farming and are economically marginalized while the Livestock sector contributes to about almost 80% of export earnings and more than 40% of the GDP of the country (Hassan etal, 2000).

The objectives of study were to identify socio-economic challenges, livestock problems and ways to enhance productivity of the livestock sector in southern Somalia.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

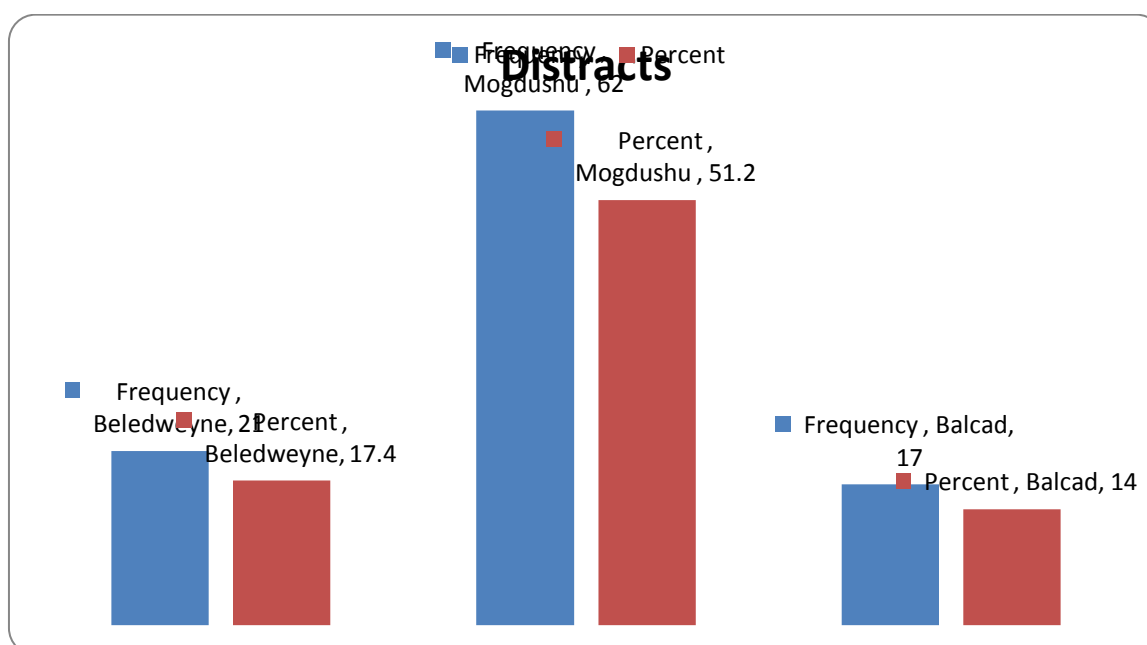
The study was conducted in southern Somalia. The research used an explanatory mixed methods approach for data collection which includes a questionnaire and structured interviews. Mixed methods approach was used and considered helpful in eliciting information from the respondents from different areas. The research respondents were different categories Business owners, farmers, students, professional experts, NGOs and bank workers. The target population of the study was all different categories mentioned above.

The study was descriptive research design and cross sectional study conducted during November 2020 to January 2021. Four districts were sampled including Beledweyne, Balcad, Afgoye and Mogadishu. These districts were purposely selected due to the higher population of livestock.

The sample of 121 respondents was purposely selected. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews to collect information. Purposive sampling is the type of sampling where the researcher uses his/her judgment or common sense regarding respondents from whom the information was collected. The data was analyzed through SPSS software version 20 and excel.

III. RESULTS

The sample size of the study was 121 respondents. They were from four districts of different administrative regions; Beledweyne, Balcad, Afgoye and Mogadishu, Somalia. Where the majority of respondents from Mogdishu districts (n=62), followed by Beledweyne (n=21) and Afgoye (n=21), and least appeared Balcad (n=17) as shown below (Figure 1).



According to below table 1, the age and marital status of the participants varied from 18 to above 46 and most of participants were the age of 18-24 and most of them were single. On the basis of gender and occupation, the major respondents were male and most of respondents were from students followed by farmers.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of participants

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	76	62.8
Female	45	37.2
Total	121	100
Age		
18-24 year old	40	33.1
31-35 year old	29	24.0
36-40 year old	23	19.0
41-45 year old	15	12.4
46 year old and above	14	11.6
Total	121	100
Marital status		
Single	70	57.9
Married	51	42.1
Total	121	100
Occupation		
Farmer	31	25.6
Student	36	29.8
Professional experts	19	15.7
Bank workers	18	14.9
Traders	17	14.0

Total	121	100
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The below table 2 shows the major barriers to investing in the livestock industry and major problems facing the livestock industry in Somalia today. The majority of participants of this study 28.1% responded lack proper market, 24.8% were lack of knowledge, 14.9 % and the minority of this study 14% responded Lack of trust and security respectively. And also the major problem facing the livestock in Somalia, the majority of respondents 47.9% responded to seasonal feed shortage and availability, 24.8% responded Inadequate veterinary service, 14%, 13.2% responded Lack of policy and diseases, respectively.

Major barriers to investing livestock industry	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of trust	18	14.9
Security	17	14.0
lack of knowledge	30	24.8
lack investment	22	18.2
lack proper market	34	28.1
Total	121	100

The major problem facing the livestock industry in Somalia today?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of policy	17	14.0
Diseases	16	13.2
Inadequate veterinary service	30	24.8
Seasonal Feed shortage	58	47.9
Total	121	100

In figure 2, the participants were asked Suitability of Livestock industrialization in Somalia and the majority of them 59.5% (n= 72) were responded yes while minority 40.5% (n= 49) were responded no .

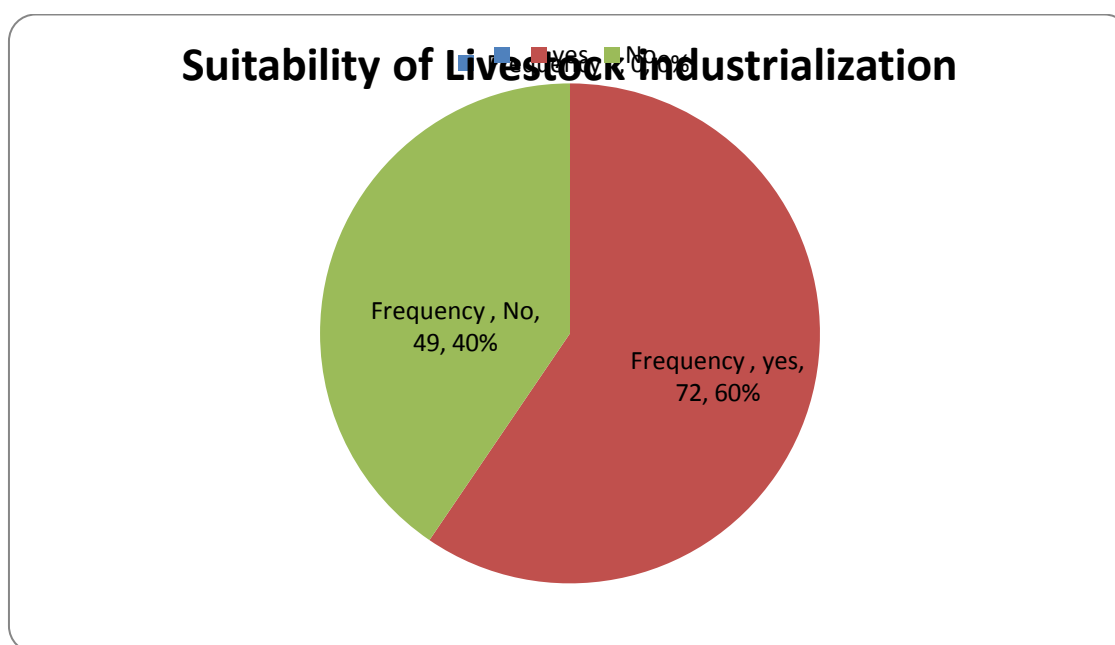


Table 3 shows how livestock contribute Poverty reduction and employment. The majority of respondents 42.1% responded livestock contribute Poverty reduction and employment >40%.

Table 3 livestock contribute to poverty reduction and increase employment rate.

Percentage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
10%	15	12.4
20%	18	14.9
30%	37	30.6
>40%	51	42.1
Total	121	100.0

Table 4 Imported Livestock products in Somalia, the majority 52.9% responded Eggs, Milk and Milk products, 24.8% and 22.3 % were Meat.

Imported Livestock products	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Eggs	64	52.9
Milk and Milk products	30	24.8
Meat	27	22.3
Total	121	100.0

Table 5 shows how livestock industry affects the economy, the majority of respondents 58.7 % responded promote economic growth, reduce poverty 24 % while minority 17.4% responded Create employment.

livestock affect the economy	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Reduce poverty	29	24.0
Promote economic growth	71	58.7
Create employment	21	17.4
Total	121	100.0

As shown in figure 3, participants were got their livelihood income from different sources Selling Milk 30.6%, selling Meat 19.8%, Auction 18.2%, Working farm 17.4%, and Working livestock NGOs 14.0% respectively.

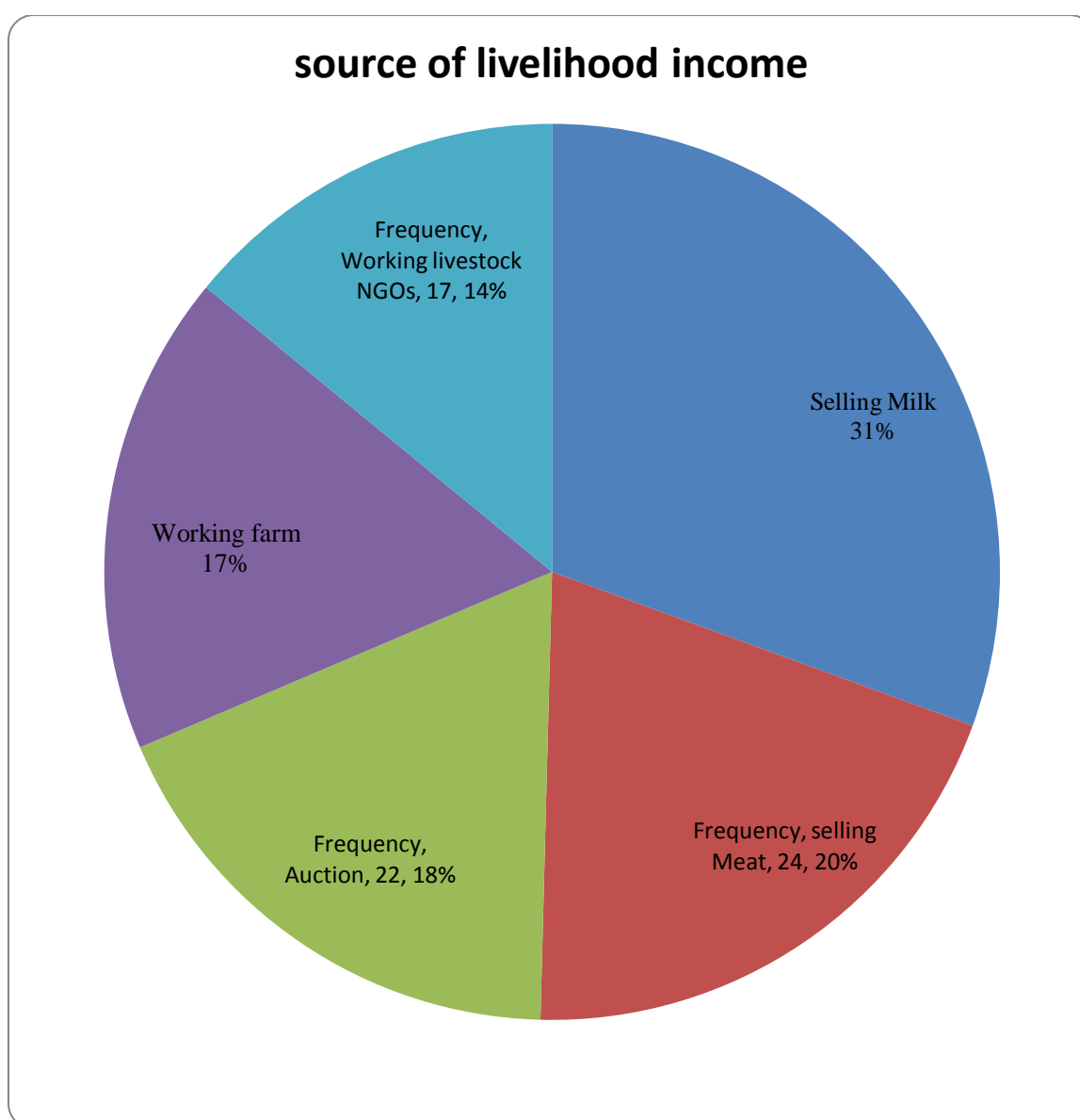
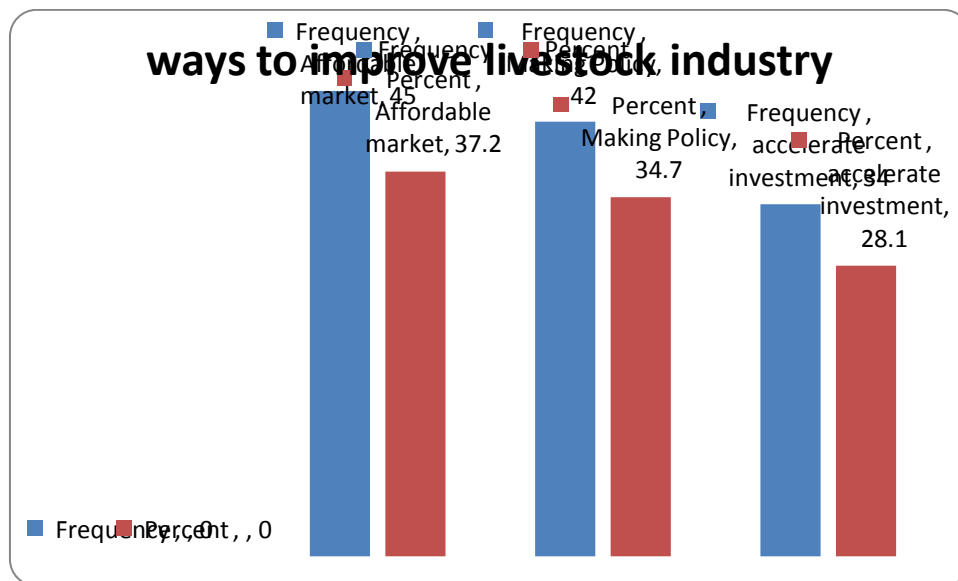


Figure 4, the study found out ways to improve livestock industry in Somalia, the majority of participants 37.2% responded Affordable market, Making Policy 34.7% while only 28.1% were responded need to accelerate investment.



IV. DISCUSSION

Over 60 percent of the Somali human populations subsist in pastoralism. Pastoralists contribute more than 40 percent of the GDP and 80 percent of National export. Camel, cattle and small ruminants are widely distributed in all ecological zones of the country (Abdullahi et al, 2010). The study found out livestock contribute Poverty reduction and employment >40% (table3). This study was in line with the study of the report by (Lencho, 2018) which was indicating that Pastoralism and trade in livestock remains the principal livelihood for a majority of Somalis. Livestock accounts for roughly 80% of export earnings annually. The study shows the major barriers to investing in the livestock industry and the major problem facing the livestock industry in Somalia today. The majority of participants of this study 28.1% (n=34) were said to lack a proper market, 24.8% (n=30) were lack of knowledge, 14.9% (n=18) and the minority of this study 14% (n=17) were said Lack, respectively. And also the major problem facing the livestock in Somalia 47.9% (n=58) were said Shortage of feed and availability, 24.8% (n=30) were said Inadequate veterinary service, 14%, 13.2% (n=17, 16) were said Lack of policy and diseases, respectively. This study was in line with the study of the report by (Agegnehu Mekuria Beta et al, 2018) which indicate that The different challenges which ranked by respondents at the current study area were land shortage (76%), seasonal feed shortage and poor quality (68%), lack of initial capital and governmental support (56%), disease outbreak and inadequate veterinary services (50%). The farmers considered opportunities of beef cattle production such as demand (78%), market access (72%), urbanization (36%), and breed availability (34%). Common health problems of beef identified were infectious disease (48%) followed by noninfectious problems (32%).

This study livestock contribute Poverty reduction and employment rate. The majority of respondents 42.1% responded livestock contribute Poverty reduction and employment >40%. This study was in line with the study of the report by (Biradar1, 2013) which indicates that the percent contribution of livestock to the household income ranged from 18.60 to 33.90 percent. Livestock generated annual employment of 140.79 man-days for adult women and 95.35 man days for adult men.

V. CONCLUSION

The study was investigating socio-economic challenges to the livestock development sector in Somalia. The major barriers to investing livestock industry including security issues, lack of trust, lack of knowledge, lack of trust and lack of proper market and major problems facing the livestock industry in Somalia today include seasonal feed shortage, lack veterinary serve, poor infrastructure, lack of policy and disease. The study also finds out the way of the livestock sector to improve. On other hand, livestock contributes to poverty reduction, increases employment rate and GDP.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

Livestock is the backbone of the country's economy and livelihood. So that we highly recommended improving infrastructure, making suitable policy, paving international markets, reforming livestock sector institutions and normalizing security of the country.

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