



Population dynamics of cattle slaughtered in a transient slab of the international cattle market Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract

The influx of cattle into Nigerian abattoirs is on the increase with little or no documentation on slaughtering activities and types of cattle slaughtered. This study was therefore conducted to evaluate the Population dynamics of cattle slaughtered in the study area. The study was carried out at Akinyele international cattle market, Ibadan over a period of 5 weeks between 7am-7pm to ascertain information on the population of cattle slaughtered, breeds, sex, size and the time of slaughtering. The result showed that a total of 1839 cattle were being slaughtered. These include White Fulani (43.2%), Red Bororo (35%), Gudali (19.8%) and Kuri (2%). Slaughtering activities starts at 7am with most of the animals (62.7%) slaughtered between 7-10am from Monday to Sunday. The highest number of cattle is processed on Fridays (35.9%) while the lowest are on Sundays (4.5%). More female cattle (73.3%) were slaughtered compared to 16.7% for male cattle with 57.2% (medium) of the cattle in the mid-age category. White Fulani and Red Bororo were the predominant breeds of cattle slaughtered at Akinyele international cattle market, Ibadan.

Introduction

Large number of cattle is offloaded daily in cattle markets from different parts of the country. When cattle arrive, they hardly stay for long before disposal. Early disposal at the expense of the owner is often necessitated by the physiological condition of the animal, consequence of long distance travel and nature of transportation. Under this condition, the cattle are hurriedly sold out for immediate processing which informed the creation of Transient Slaughter Slab (TSS). The TSS, also known as rescue slab was created about two decades ago along with the main cattle market to salvage the weak but seemingly healthy cattle. Filani (2005) reported that the initial kraal for receiving of cattle from the northern state to the southwest was moved to Akinyele in 1999 after Bodija ethnic conflict. There is scanty information on the number of animal and slaughtering pattern on daily basis in the different abattoirs in Nigeria. Thus, a study was designed to evaluate the population of cattle slaughtered and the pattern of slaughtering in the international cattle market, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Materials and methods

The study was carried out at the international cattle market, Akinyele, Ibadan. The study was conducted within a period of five weeks (Monday to Sunday) from 7am-7pm. Direct observation with the aid of check list was used to gather information on arrival time, breeds, sex and size of all



the cattle brought for slaughtering in the TSS. Data were collected daily and subjected to descriptive statistics using SPSS 2020.

Results and discussion

Shown in Figure 1 is the average number of cattle slaughtered during the period of the study. Slaughtering activities were carried out every day of the week. The population of cattle slaughtered ranged from 4.5% on Sunday to 35.9% on Friday.

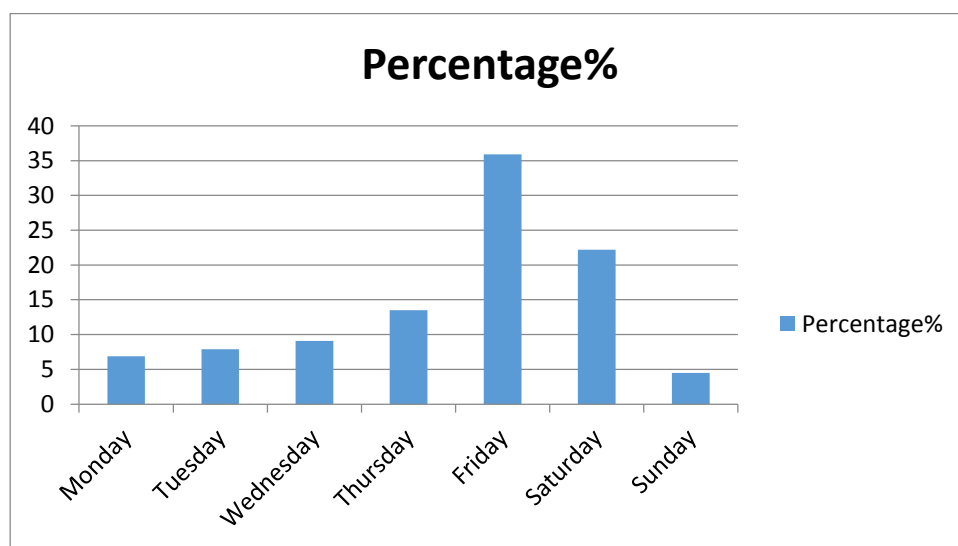


Figure 1: Bar Chart showing the population of cattle slaughtered per day

The peak of slaughtering observed on Friday followed by Saturday and Thursday could be as a result of the peculiarity of the days to be weekend. Ceremonies such as wedding, burial and other parties are mostly fix during the weekends am families also purchase meat for consumption. Slaughtering of cattle for the ceremony is mostly done a day to the program since slaughtering and processing of cattle could be time intensive.

Sunday which is observed to have the least records of cattle slaughtered could be indicative of the day being a day of rest for both butchers traders and consumers. Also, information gathered by interviewing of different butchers reported that there is a standing order by the state government that no butcher is allowed to slaughter animal on Sunday for the purpose of selling but could slaughter for individuals buying for occasion or personal use

Presented in Table 1 are the breed, size and time of slaughtering of cattle. Slaughtering activities were observed to commence as early as 7am. The peak of slaughtering activity was between 7am-10am (62.7%) and the least being 4-7pm (0.5%)



The massive number of animals slaughtered at this peak could be due to the fact that butchers are in a rush to slaughter, process and display meat for sale in due time. They might want to sell on time, make money and possibly go to process more animals if they have hope of exhausting the sale. Butchers might also be in haste to process cattle so as to avoid left over of meat that might possibly lose value as a result of spoilage setting in if it has to stay over the night. Preservation of beef and most especially the intestines might be a challenge as the means of preservation might not be readily available and if available could be expensive which might not be cost effective.

Table 1: Types and Arrival time of cattle slaughtered.

Parameter		Frequency	Percentages (%)
Arrival time	7-10	1082	62.7
	10-1	390	22.6
	1-4	246	14.2
	4-7	9	0.5
Breeds	White Fulani	794	43.2
	Red bororo	644	35.0
	Sokoto	365	19.8
	Gudali		
	Kuri	36	2.0
Size	Large	572	31.1
	Medium	757	41.2
	Small	510	27.7

Also presented are the breeds of cattle slaughtered. It was observed that four different breeds of cattle were slaughtered. White Fulani (43.2%), were mostly slaughtered followed by Redbororo (35%). The result is similar to the findings of Muhamma *et al.* (2008) who reported that more cattle of Bunaji breeds were slaughtered than the other breeds in Kaduna. However it is at variance with that of Opara *et al.* (2006) who reported that White Fulani and Sokoto Gudali accounted for 76% of the animals slaughtered at Owerri abattoir. The high percentage of White Fulani cattle (43.2%) slaughtered could be as a result of the breed being transported more to the south west market as a result of its ruggedness and high tolerance to trypanosomiasis. The breed is also known to withstand the extreme of weather conditions.

The sizes cattle slaughtered were adjudged to be large (adult), medium (growers) and small (calves). About forty one percent of the cattle slaughtered were medium sized. Slaughtering of growers could be more as a result of the available cash the buyer has for purchase. It could also be as a result of fluctuation in the prices of cattle in the market thus compelling buyers to go for lesser size of animal than desired. Individuals that opted for the purchase of small animals sometimes do so since they are encouraged that they could buy live cattle that will give all the part of animal



body instead of going for parts such as the laps, head, etc alone. Large sized cattle might be slaughtered by the butchers and other individuals that are relatively financially buoyant.

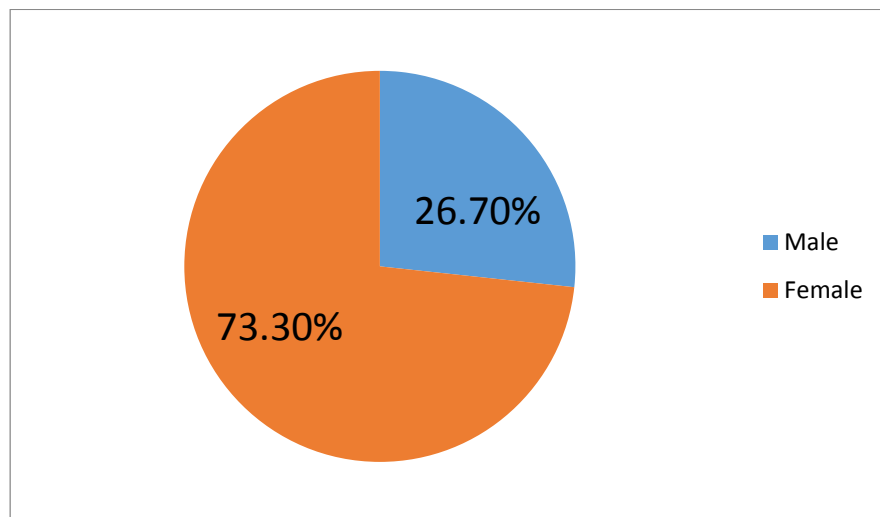


Figure 2: Pie chat showing Sex of cattle slaughtered

The sex of cattle slaughtered is as shown in figure 2. Female cattle (73.3%) are mostly slaughtered than male (26.7%). This could be due to the fact that the population of female cattle produced and transported to thereby to the market is more than that of male cattle. It could also be that the cost of purchase of female animal is less than that of male. So also, the price in which meat from female animal are sold might not be different from that of male. Therefore many of butchers might want to go for cattle that have the least cost effect so as to make more profit. Most of the female animals sold in the market could be inactive in age thus less productive and are sold out for consumption since it might not be cost effective for the owners to continue rearing such animals.

Conclusion

The results of this study showed that female cattle were slaughtered more than the male at the Akinyele transient slab. White Fulani and red Bororo were the breeds of cattle mostly slaughtered. Slaughtering is done more in the early hours of the day. Majority of the animals slaughtered during the period of the study were from Thursday to Saturday in which Friday records the highest percentage.

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