

Livelihood of the Datoga Pastoralists of Tanzania after Migration

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Place of fieldwork: Tanzania

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- Research background

Pastoralists have utilized vast amounts of land, maintaining high mobility in arid and semi-arid areas. However, under recent social changes, many pastoralists have significantly modified their livelihoods and mobility. While many researchers have reported on the livelihoods of pastoralists who had long continued to utilize a certain area, few studies have examined in detail the livelihoods of pastoralists who migrated out of their own land.

Many of the Datoga pastoralists of Tanzania have migrated out of their homeland. In particular, the Barabaig, one sub-group of the Datoga who lived around Mount Hanang of the current Manyara region, experienced massive loss of land in the past, and many of them are said to have migrated to East, South-West, and South-East Tanzania.

- Research purpose and aim

The present study aims to shed light on the livelihoods of Barabaig pastoralists who migrated out of their homeland, and examine how they adapted their livelihoods to new circumstances.

- Fieldwork results and achievements

The study site was two contiguous villages (M and K) at Manyoni district in the Singida region of central Tanzania. Livelihoods of households of migrant Barabaig were investigated via interviews (5 householders) and participatory observation of grazing (3 households). The homesteads of the households were located within 4 km of the village center.

The table below shows a summary of the livelihoods of Barabaig households. It also provides a comparison with Barabaig households of Mureru village in the Manyara region (Lane 1991). While basic livelihoods are not different, the investigated Barabaig households of M and K village tend to have greater areas of farmland and fewer cattle, and utilize smaller areas for pasture than the households of Mureru do.

Table. Summary of Livelihoods of Barabaig households

Livelihood	Mureru village in the Manyara region (Lane 1991), n = 20	M village and K village in the Singida region (present study), n = 5
	Pastoralism, Subsistence agriculture	Pastoralism, Subsistence agriculture
Main source of cash	Sale of livestock	Sale of livestock
Average number of household members	11.0	8.8* ¹
Average area of farmland per household (ha)	1.2	2.2* ¹
Average number of cattle owned per household	62* ²	37* ^{1,3}
Grazing places throughout the year	the plains, the hills, the lake margin, the river margin (chosed according to the seasons)	around homestead (all year)
Watering places for cattle	- the lake, the rivers, surface water (freely utilizable) - wells (managed by the clan)	manmade pond (freely utilizable)* ⁴

*1: n = 4, *2: including calves, *3: other than calves under one year, *4: n = 3



Photo 1. Barabaig cow (M village)



Photo 2. Cowherd watering cattle (K village)



Photo 3. Grazing (K village)

- Implications and directions for future research

The results suggest that the Barabaig of M and K village have changed mobility in pastoralism according to changes in accessibility of water and rangeland or the increasing demand for education, medical care, access to the market economy, and so on. However, owing to the small sample size in the present study, future research with larger samples is needed.

The present study also suggests that pastoral mobility varies according to present locations of Barabaig homesteads, although the results are not shown in this report. In the future, I plan to investigate not only households living near village centers but also households living far away from it.

References

Lane, C. 1991. *Alienation of Barabaig Pasture Land: Policy Implications for Pastoral Development in Tanzania*. Thesis Submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Brighton: University of Sussex.