

# A Study of the Livestock Market in a Pastoral Society in Northeastern Kenya

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## Background, Objective and Findings of the Research

Many researchers have pointed out that domestic animals of the pastoralists in East and South Africa are not ordinary objects, but are specially valued possessions. Researches concerning about modernization and social transformation have dealt with such topics as market economy, monetarization and the spread of school system, and are now deeply related to development practices. As for the research which focuses on market economy, it is appropriate to set a question of how the pastoralists use the livestock market, utilizing their indigenous livelihood and their social relations.

The livestock market of Modo Gashe city in Lagdera District in northeastern Kenya started in 2007, and has supplied a lot of camels to other large markets of this area.

The objective of this research is to reveal the process of buying and selling of camels at the Modo Gashe market. I carried out participant observation and interviews to the market actors, and found that the mediators called *dilaal* play unique roles to facilitate exchanges at the market.



Livestock market in Modo Gashe



Somali camels



Traditional food of camel meats

