



## **Social Unrest: Emerging Trends on Transnational companies and Oil-Producing Communities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria**

**Godwin Egbe, Frederick O. Ahmadu, David Imhonopi,  
Charles T. Iruonagbe & Ajibade E. Jegede**

Department of Sociology, College of Business and Social Sciences,  
Covenant University Canaan land Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.  
egbegodwin01@gmail.com

**Received: 07.03.2019 Accepted: 07.04.2019 Date of Publication: June, 2019**

**Abstract:** Every society is characterized by social relations and group interaction. However, conflict is inevitable due to the fact that human wants are insatiable. A major cause of conflict is oppression, exploitation and inequality. This paper examined youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The people inhabiting this geographical area are faced with life-threatening challenges such as pollution of underground and surface water, destruction of land fertility, death of aquatic life arising from oil spillage orchestrated by the activities of Transnational companies and youth restiveness. This paper employed the use of quantitative and qualitative research methods. Multi-stage and purposive sampling were adopted, 250 copies of questionnaire were administered and key informant interviews were conducted in the study area which was located in Eleme, Rivers State, Nigeria. The study focused on Rivers state, which is popularly acclaimed as the economic hub of oil companies operating in the region. The quantitative data collected from the field was presented in a frequency table while the qualitative data provided vital and first-hand details that complemented the quantitative data. Hypotheses were tested with the aid of a regression analysis which determined the nexus between the variables in the paper. Thus, findings in this study showed that there is a need to ensure that corporate social responsibilities, youth empowerment and employment are provided to guarantee the collective development of the people so as to guarantee lasting peace in the area.

**Keywords:** Exploitation, Niger Delta, Transnational companies, Youth Restiveness

## Introduction

There have been several studies carried out on the Niger Delta region. Although the geographical area has gained global relevance through different levels of scholarly study, the bulk of academic writings has tended in relation to particularly focus on oil exploration, environmental sustainability and the dividends that host communities accrue from Transnational companies. However, an area of study that has garnered little attention is the standard of living and general well-being of the residents in the area. Therefore, there is a need to explore the living conditions of the Niger Delta people and the quality of life in the area.

No doubt the discovery of oil in Oloibiri, Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State in 1956 and its subsequent exploration brought about increase in the Gross National Income (GNI) of Nigeria. This was evident in the oil boom of the 1970s, which cumulated into widespread establishment of infrastructures in the country and earned the nation an admirable reputation as a dominant economic power in the African region and the world at large. As a result of this development, transnational companies such as Agip, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Saipem and Shell were attracted to the country. The activities of transnational companies in the region led to a surge in Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and in oil production (Akinyemi, 2012; Nwosu, 2017; Oyadongha & Odio, 2016). Despite the successes recorded in the Oil and Gas industry and the transformation of the Nigerian economy, various studies have shown that there was no trickle-down effect on the living condition of the Niger Delta people whose region is the powerhouse in which the crude oil of Nigeria is

derived from (Iruonagbe, 2011; Tamuno, 2012; Kadilo 2014). Ironically, the standard of living and the quality of life prevalent in the Niger Delta does not reflect the abundant riches endowed in the area (Ebuk, 2017).

According to Iruonagbe (2011), the following questions come to mind when the Niger Delta region is mentioned; Why is there enormous poverty in a region that is blessed with human and natural resources? Why is conflict and youth restiveness on the increase? What pragmatic approach can be taken to restore lasting peace? Why is inequality so pronounced? How can environmental sustainability be achieved following the continuous exploration of oil in the area? The situation in the Niger Delta is a paradox, considering the level of wealth that resides in the region; over ninety percent (90%) of the foreign exchange earnings of Nigeria comes from the sale of crude oil which is domiciled in the Niger Delta. Similarly, over ninety-seven percent (97%) of the Nigerian national budget is sponsored by the proceeds from the petrodollar product. Yet, abject poverty, pronounced squalor, high rate of unemployment, decayed infrastructures, environmental pollution, high level of insecurity and youth restiveness are largely evident in the area (Ekong, 2011). Exemplified in this regard, is a comparison between Bayelsa State, Rivers State and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The cost of road construction in Bayelsa and Rivers State due to swampy and water logged areas located in the greater part of the both states is comparatively more expensive than in Abuja and this is because of the varying topography in the different states. However, the continuous agitation of the Niger Delta people for their share of the resources that accrues

from the region prompted the Federal Government to increase the revenue derivation formula of oil-producing states. This was purposed to empower the state governments and enable them to carry out capital-intensive projects that will affect the lives of the people. Elenwo (2013) posits that the wealth that was meant to change the fortunes of the region was hijacked by some state governors, who were interested in amassing wealth for their electioneering process.

Furthermore, the increasing unrest in the Niger Delta can be traced to over 5 decades of continuous oppression and marginalisation. Several prominent personalities have fought for the liberation of the region from the control of the Federal government and transnational companies. Notable among these agitators are Isaac Adaka Boro, who declared the Republic of Niger Delta on the 23rd of February 1966 but was subdued by the federal forces after 12 days and Kenule Beeson “Ken” Saro Wiwa, an environmentalist who was hung alongside other Ogoni activists on the 10th of November 1995 (Imhonopi & Urim, 2016; Osadolor, 2011). Subsequently, several agitation came from leaders of different “Militant groups” such as Asari, the then leader of the Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force (NDPVF), Ateke, the erstwhile leader of the Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV), Tompolo, Soboma, Ebipodei, Ndigbara, Tubotamuno, Togo, Ebikabowei and Okah and a host of other groups that have violently expressed their grievances against the ill-treatment meted on the region (Tambari, 2012). The growing crisis in

the Niger Delta region, propelled the Federal Government of Nigeria to establish the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on the 5th of June 2000 under the auspices of former President Olusegun Obasanjo’s administration. The mission of the NDDC was to consolidate on the gains of the Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission (OMPADEC) established by former military Head of State, Ibrahim Babangida under Decree No. 23 of July 1992. Also, the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs was established on the 10th of September 2008 by the late President Umaru Musa Yara’dua’s administration. The inauguration of the aforementioned commissions and Ministry was aimed at bringing development on the doorstep of oil-producing states of the federation through the implementation of quality human capital and infrastructural development. Moreover, these developments existed only in theory and not in reality as the commissions were used by selfish politicians to enrich themselves (Okeke, 2013).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Hopfensperger (2011) opines that the Nigerian state does not have realistic and dependable solutions for salvaging and redirecting some of the revenue it derives from the sale of crude oil for the benefit of the communities from which oil is exploited. This results in gross underdevelopment, pauperisation, marginalisation and the creation of a widespread poverty-infested zone. This implies that the wealth accrued from petroleum products by the government of Nigeria consequently does not reflect on the socioeconomic life of the

residents in oil-producing communities and their living conditions. The careless exploration of crude oil has led to many negative effects on the environment and the people living in the area. These effects stem from the emission of poisonous chemicals into the air that generate air pollution, land infertility arising from soil pollution, death of aquatic organisms and the destruction of surface and underground water. From the foregoing, it is very glaring that the production activities of transnational companies in the area have made life totally unbearable for the people. The plight of the people has been neglected and overlooked. Presently, the Niger Delta region contends with unemployment, hunger and starvation, youth restiveness and other criminal activities such as kidnapping, illegal refineries and pipeline vandalism (Dappa, 2007; Oghenetega, 2016; Spiff, 2017).

The basic features of an ideal state such as clean and potable water, regular power supply, proper medical care, standard and solidified roads, and an abundance of employment opportunities, are largely lacking in the region (Frynas, 2009). Although the Niger Delta people are generally peace-loving individuals, the pitiable standard of living and nerve-wracking state of affairs in the region played a vital role in the resort of the youths to violent struggle for change. When the continuous peaceful cries for help by the Niger delta youth was met with frequent lacklustre attitude from the Federal government, they decided to engage in hostage-taking, destruction of oil facilities and pipeline vandalism to force

their demands on the government. This was due to the fact that every peaceful effort made towards imploring the federal government and transnational companies present in the region to change the ugly narrative attached to the region was ignored. Thus, the neglect and abandonment of the youths triggered the breakout of violence in the area (Hyden, 2015).

The people of the region wake up everyday to the same situation and are faced with the question of whether the natural endowment in the region is a curse or blessing. This has further aggravated the youth involvement in illegitimate activities to enable them earn a living and express their grievances since the legitimate process has been blocked by the government and the transnational companies (Ebeku, 2011). To this end, different militant groups arose and decided to take up arms to fight against what they tagged as injustice and environmental genocide meted on the Niger Delta region by the activities of transnational companies such as the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDVF) and Niger Delta Avengers (NDA). This has turned the entire region to a combat zone between the Nigerian Army and the militants resulting in heavy civilian casualties involving women and children who are most vulnerable to the continuous attack from the Nigerian military troops (Idemudia, 2017).

According to Ajegun, (2009), the transnational companies in the region have divided the oil-producing communities by giving cheap contracts

to traditional rulers and political elite thereby enriching them while the bulk of the masses remain poor. Also, corporate social responsibilities of transnational companies are neglected and memoranda of understanding are not implemented. This has triggered factional community leadership tussles which have grown into internally-generated communal crisis.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to identify how the issue of social unrest in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria has affected the activities of transnational companies operating in the area as well as the oil-producing communities. The specific objectives include to:

- i. Assess the effect of social unrest on the living conditions of oil producing communities in the Niger Delta.
- ii. Examine the relationship between youth restiveness and underdevelopment in the Niger Delta.
- iii. Analyse the activities of transnational companies on the environment of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta.

### **Research Questions**

The research questions relevant to this study are:

- i. What is the effect of social unrest on the living conditions of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta?
- ii. What is the relationship between youth restiveness and underdevelopment in the Niger Delta?
- iii. How has the activities of transnational companies affected

the environment of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The hypotheses that will be tested in the study include:

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a connection between social unrest and the living conditions of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta.

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a relationship between youth restiveness and underdevelopment in the Niger Delta.

H<sub>1</sub>: The nexus between the activities of transnational companies and the environment of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta.

### **Scope of the Study**

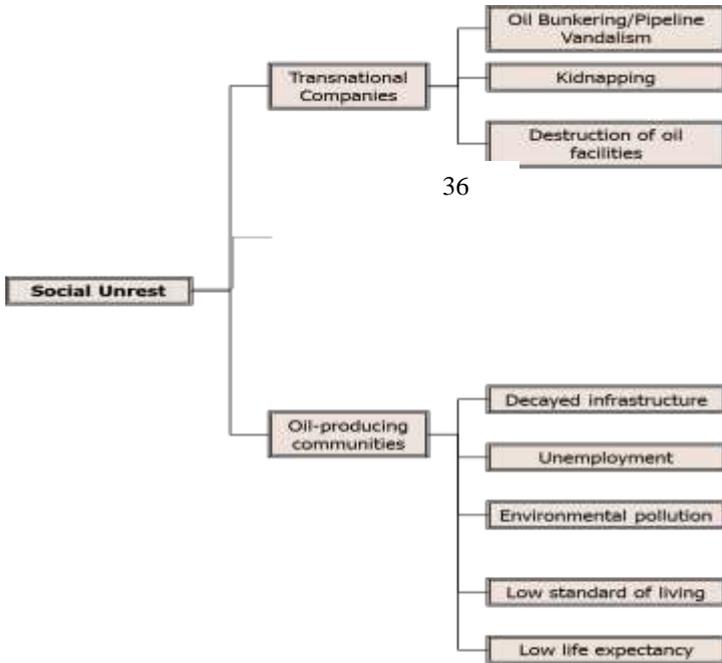
The study is limited to the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, with specific reference to Eleme Local Government Area in Rivers State. It critically assesses how social unrest and youth restiveness has affected the activities of transnational companies in the region as well as its effect on the oil-producing communities. Eleme Local Government Area is located in Rivers South East Senatorial District, with the council headquarters located at Ogale. The people of Eleme are a distinct ethnic group with a population of One thousand five hundred and seventy one (1,571) persons. The geographical area covers one hundred and thirty two kilometres square (132km<sup>2</sup>). The Local Government is divided into two main districts (Nchia) and (Odido) with ten wards that cut across the two districts; Agbonchia, Akpajo, Alesa, Aleto, Alode, Ebulu, Ekporo, Eteo, Ogale and Onne. It houses two of Nigeria's refineries at Alesa, Over 200 Transnational companies at Onne sea

port, such as: Total, Agip, Chevron, Shell, Exxon Mobil and a host of others.

**Literature Review**

This study encompasses the following concepts, Social Unrest, transnational companies and Oil-producing Communities. These concepts serve as

the variables of the study, however there are other variables embedded in them which reflects on their actions in the study. Below is the diagrammatic expression of the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variables.



Source: Researchers, 2019

**Social Unrest**

The presence of social unrest can be felt by both oil-producing communities and the transnational companies. The cumulative effect of this can be in the form of decayed infrastructure, unemployment, environmental pollution, low standard of living and low-life expectancy as illustrated in the diagrammatic chart. This implies that for every increase in social unrest in the oil producing communities there will be

a corresponding increase in the listed independent variables. The same applies to the transnational companies for every increase in social unrest there will be a corresponding increase in oil bunkering, pipeline vandalism, kidnapping of transnational company workers and destruction of oil installations by the aggrieved youths of the oil-producing communities.

According to the World Bank (2009), social unrest is usually propelled by

tensions and restiveness in the society, this may be linked to a failure in the political system and other relevant institutions, environmental degradation, exploitation and marginalisation. The propagation of unrest can come in form of protests, riots and crisis. This may culminate into full-blown war when pragmatic approaches are not taken to curtail the ranging causal effect of it. The collapse of social structures in a society can be traceable to mismanaged social unrest and this is equally evident in the destruction of life and properties and the uneasy livelihood that residents would be faced with as a result of conflicting interest among actors (Keil, 2010).

According to Kaur (2013), the Niger Delta region has been the centre of different agitations which have fuelled tensions in the area. The chronological presentation of the various group includes:

**i) Niger Delta Volunteer Service:** This group was pioneered by Isaac Adaka Boro and gained visibility in February 1966. Its main aim was to carve out a separate state of the Niger Delta people. Boro believed that an independent state for the Niger Delta people would solve the human and infrastructural development problem in the area. Thus, Boro sprang into action and pursued numerous failed peaceful activisms between the Chiefs and political leaders in the area so as to realise his dream of a separate state for the region. Also, he encountered another difficulty when the Nigerian government negated to accord due recognition and attention to the region despite its rich resources. These failures led to a combat between the

groups loyal to Boro and the federal forces. After the Republic of Niger Delta was declared, this group was subdued after twelve days by the Nigerian Army.

**ii) Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People:** This movement was birthed on intellectual precepts and thrived on the collective foundation of intellectual struggle, dialogue, and constructive criticism. Its modus operandi revolved around frantic demands to the appropriate authorities and demonstrations against the exploitation of Ogoni land by Shell and the Nigerian Government. In 1990, under the auspices of Kenule Saro-Wiwa, the major leaders in this Movement collectively synergised their efforts and drafted a Bill of Rights which constituted of twenty points that publicised the interest of the Ogoni people. Also the movement agitated for political sovereignty, resource control and the right to utilise economic resources for the development of Ogoni land. Again they demanded that the Ogoni people should be compensated by the Federal government and Petrol-businesses as payment for the damage done on their land. They also fought for the right to take complete control over their environment so as to protect the area from future degradation. This led to the arrest, trial and hanging of Kenule Saro-Wiwa alongside other Ogoni activists by the Nigerian military government under the administration of late General Sani Abacha on the 5th of November 1995 despite various call from international organisations and human rights groups against the

execution of the activist and his colleagues.

**iii) Egbesu Boys:** Between 1998 and 1999 a group of youths from the oil-producing communities in consonance with the “Aleibiri Declaration” embarked on rampageous destruction of oil installations in the Niger Delta and attacks on transnational company workers. This led to total unrest in the region in view of the activities of the self-acclaimed “Egbesu Boys of Africa”. The main aim of the struggle was to ensure the dividends of the oil proceeds were given to the area where this resource was derived from. However, there was need for the empowerment of the unemployed youths in the region and the need for clean-up of the dilapidated environment.

**iv) Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force:** This group was championed by Alhaji Mujahid Asari-Dokubo, an Ijaw youth leader from Rivers State. The main focus of the group was to ensure that violent struggle was perpetrated through the use of arms against the federal government of Nigeria. When the peaceful protests and other conventional means to address the Niger Delta people’s marginalisation had ended without tangible results, Asari Dokubo and his group engaged in hostage-taking of expatriates working in transnational companies and the destruction of oil installations within the region. The youths were forced to reside in the creeks due to the nature of their activities and Asari Dokubo was arrested by the Federal troops in November 2005. His arrest led to the formation of a fiercer militant group.

**v) Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta:** This is one of the militant groups in the Niger Delta region that was headed by Jomo Gbomo. The youths organised themselves after a famous activist and militant leader Asari Dokubo was arrested by the Nigerian federal government. Among the activities carried out by this group was the destruction of Agip oil installation in Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. They went on a rampage kidnapping workers of transnational oil companies in the region and their specific targets included American, British and French expatriates. They also came up with the following demands:

- a) Asari-Dokubo should be released from detention.
- b) Oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta should be paid compensation by the transnational companies especially in areas affected by oil spillages.
- c) The people of Niger Delta should be given access to control and manage the resources in their land.
- d) All the youths from the Niger Delta held in detention by the Nigerian federal government due to their agitation in the region should be released completely.

The activities of these groups continued until government of the day released Asari Dokubo in June 2007. Other leaders in the Niger Delta such as the leader of the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) Edwin Clark, frantically advocated for the grant of national pardon for the agitators so that peace could return to the region. Also, Clark clamoured for the institution of enhanced empowerment programmes

aimed at the rehabilitation, reorientation and reintegration of the militant youths back into the society (Ojakorotu, 2009). The administration of late President Umaru Musa Yara'dua, especially having an illustrious son of the Niger Delta as the then Vice President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, welcomed the pleas of Edwin Clark and took steps to actualise them.

According to Peter (2013), social unrest has ravished the Niger Delta region and made life difficult for the people. The continuous activities of Nigerian security agencies have in addition promoted criminality in the area instead of addressing the main issue of violent aggression by the youths of oil-producing communities. Nwosu (2011) enumerated the following as the effects of social unrest on the living conditions of oil-producing communities:

- i. Decayed infrastructure
- ii. Destruction of properties
- iii. Insecurity
- iv. Low standard of living
- v. Lack of basic social amenities
- vi. Poverty
- vii. Unemployment

### **Transnational Oil Companies**

Alexander (2014) opines that transnational companies are organisations, conglomerates and ventures whose networks of operations span across more than four countries and are evident in different continents. These companies have different national headquarters situated in the countries of their operations and employees from different countries in different departments in terms of functions with clearly stated modes of operations. The Transnational companies operating in

the Niger Delta region include Shell, Chevron, Total F, Exxon Mobil and Agip. These companies have been perceived by the Niger Delta people to have opposing interests to that of the region, with regards to their foot-dragging action in implementing suitable and necessary Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes and employment opportunities within their host oil-producing communities. Instead, they have been accused of utilising more expatriates and professionals from other geopolitical zones as their employees while the youths from the host communities are left roaming the streets in search of jobs (Ekong, 2009).

According to Kadilo (2014), the precipitating issue of crisis in the Niger Delta has adverse effect not only on the oil-producing communities but also on the transnational companies operating in the area as follows:

- i. Destruction of oil installations
- ii. Oil bunkering
- iii. Pipeline vandalism
- iv. Kidnapping

For example, reacting to their negligence, the youths in oil-producing communities have taken up arms severally to express their grievances against the exploitation and marginalisation meted on them by the government and the transnational companies. Considering the wealth that flows from their communities with no noteworthy development situated in the area, the whole area is suffering from huge environmental decadence, which is a recipe from the operations of transnational companies in the region. It is difficult to actually say that the transformation of the oil and gas

industry resulted in a change in the living condition of the oil-producing communities. Also, it is imperative to ask if the absence of development equally means that there is underdevelopment in the oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta? Can violence be seen as the benchmark for measuring underdevelopment in the Niger Delta? Has the poverty ratio in the Niger Delta reduced? What is the situation of unemployment? And how can income inequality be handled? These are the questions that must be answered before one can actually attest to the fact that there is an atom of development in the Niger Delta (Seers, 1973; Iruonagbe, 2011; Nwankwo, 2009). According to Jeremiah (2017), anywhere there is underdevelopment and exploitation, the weeds of restiveness grows to overshadow the peace that once existed. There is a limit to which one can be marginalised, no matter the level of conformity and containment. The attributes of violence will always spring out like smoke and if not handled at the preliminary stage it could wreak havoc and disaster on the area. The youth restiveness in the Niger Delta can be linked to the neglect of the people by the government and the continuous environmental pollution on the part of the transnational companies. This is further compounded by the lack of efforts on the accused agencies and the Federal government to ensure a thorough clean-up of affected areas in the region.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The following theories will be used to explore and explain the scientific underpinnings of this study;

- i) General Strain Theory (GST).
- ii) Frustration Aggression Theory

The General Strain Theory was propounded by Robert Agnew in 1992. Agnew closely observed crime in societies and made valid assertions on youth involvement in criminal activities. His position was a critique of the strain postulation by R. K. Merton, which focused on goals and means within the society as the major factor driving people into crime, particularly when they cannot achieve their goals through the legally accepted means.

Agnew argued that a strain is characterised by the following:

- i. Unjust tensions
- ii. High magnitude of anxieties
- iii. Connection with poor social control
- iv. Engendered pressure, thereby making people involved in illegitimate acts

According to Agnew, people who engage in criminal activities have low social control due to the pressure that society places on them. They, therefore, join bad gangs in order to achieve their goals since they are not able to get it through conventional means. Furthermore, Agnew identified three kinds of strain-inducing stimuli which are:

- i. The helplessness to attain clearly valued goals
- ii. The elimination of positive stimuli
- iii. Inclusion of toxic stimuli

This theory, in relation to the crisis in the Niger Delta, especially when it comes to resource control and the plight of the people, explains that although the youths and the entire Niger Delta citizenry have a goal which is to attain a better life, yet they are unable to achieve

it. This is due to the negligence and abandonment they suffer at the hands of government and the transnational companies which are rather concerned about the profit they are making than the plight of members of their host communities. The corrupt government officials and politicians are after their own selfish interests by expropriating excess wealth for themselves while the entire region is steeped in abject poverty and their residents suffer poor living standards coupled with low life expectancy. This ugly scenario has remained a trigger that pushes the youths into the destruction of pipelines and hostage taking as well as engage in illegal bunkering to earn a living because they are not employed by the companies operating in the region.

The second aspect of the strain-inducing stimulus, according to Agnew, is the removal of positive stimulus. This can be likened to the withdrawal of pipeline surveillance contract offered to ex-militants and the stoppage of their monthly stipends as well as their skill acquisition training by President Mohammadu Buhari-led administration in 2015. This resulted in the uprising of Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) whose main aim was to cripple the economy of Nigeria by bombing pipelines and other oil installations belonging to international oil companies in the region. The addition of negative stimulus here involves the Federal government using the military to wipe out the militants instead of engaging in dialogue. For example, the government introduced "Operation Crocodile Smile" in the Niger Delta region which triggered more casualties on the side of

the Nigerian soldiers and the militants. The aggrieved youths were eager to engage in more attacks to disrupt oil explorations and destroy many facilities owned by the transnational oil firms which they knew would affect Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings.

Notwithstanding, Frustration Aggression theory was founded by notable psychologists in the Yale Institute of Human Relations in 1939, namely: J. Dollard, L. Doob, N. Miller, O. H Mowrer, and R. Sears. They published a Monograph which contained the experiment carried out by them that birthed the theory. The theory was developed by Berkowitz in 1989 when he published the frustration aggression hypothesis; the theory has become useful to disciplines including Psychology, Anthropology, Political Science, Economics and Sociology (Ted, 2013). The central argument of this theory is that persons who are under undue pressure become frustrated by the happenings around them. This could be propelled by external forces in the form of exploitation which eventually leads to a stimulus response of aggression or negative reaction. This negative response is capable of destroying the existing social order and as such can lead to a revolution (Beckley, 2009). According to Dollard, Miller, Doob, Mowrer and Sears, "One of the easiest lessons human beings learn, as a result of social living, is to suppress and restrain their overtly aggressive reactions". This shows that an individual who has endured deep-rooted economic hopelessness is more prone to regressively transform from a frustrated individual to an aggressive one and this

will most likely hike the propensity of such a person to engage in violent activities (Declan 2011). According to Sarabjit (2012), the various conflicts faced by the people in the Niger Delta is a reflection of the frustration that they have experienced which is as a product of their oil-motivated economic deprivation. The major beneficiaries of oil in the region are government officials and traditional rulers whose focus is torch lighted on and development of areas dominated by majority ethnic groups at the detriment of minority groups. Ajibade (2009) observes that the transnational companies in the Niger Delta have engaged in drillings, productions, refining, and distribution, a situation that has generated significant environmental stress such as the pressure on fishermen and farmers to abandon their occupations as a result of the degradation of the water bodies and land. In respect to this, the danger of oil exploration and production activities in the Niger Delta has forced the youths to engage in criminal activities, in such a way that they expressed their aggression in the form of the destruction of oil installations, kidnapping and hostage-taking. Since there is no proper structure of ensuring sustainable development in the region and the people have been exploited, violence became the order of the day, as different militants groups such as the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), Niger Delta Peoples volunteer force (NDVF) and Movement for the emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) emerged to confront the oppression and marginalisation.

There is a synergy between the two theories in explaining the study. Social unrest and youth restiveness occurred in the Niger Delta, because of the presence of strain which is the removal of positive stimuli. The positive stimuli include youth employment and empowerment, basic social amenities and development of infrastructure; the absence of these essential necessities within the rich oil-producing communities frustrated the youths. The aggressive nature of the youths became more visible when Nigerian security agencies were sent into the region to arrest and eliminate the violent youths. This became the negative stimuli that were introduced in the region with the aim of getting restive youths out of the way. However, this led to more crises in the region as youths armed themselves and there was increase in criminal activities.

There are several researches that have been done on issues about restiveness in the Niger Delta and this study drew some reflections from them. Most importantly, the study also identifies the gap neglected by other authors. Iruonagbe (2011), in his work, established that the situation in the Niger Delta region is paradoxical considering the level of poverty in the midst of mass wealth. Jeff (2014) opines that the level of unemployment in the Niger Delta is eighty-nine percent (89%), kidnapping is seventy-six percent (76%) and cultism is eighty-one percent (81%). In line with this, Chucks and Derrick (2012), in their study also identified that the level of social unrest and agitations in the Niger Delta is hinged on eighty-five percent (85%) of

protracted environmental decadence and ninety-three percent (93%) of oil politics played by the government and transnational companies. Furthermore the proliferation of weapons in the hands of oil-producing community youths was reported by Barida (2014) as the tactics of political gladiators in the region, to suck more wealth from the transnational companies. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the militant youths are used as armed thugs for the electioneering process of politicians in the region. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the weapons used by the youths are bought by politicians in the Niger Delta. Elechi and Nwafor (2012) opines that the transnational oil companies are responsible for eighty-nine percent (89%) of the crisis in oil-producing communities through their adoption of different factional groups from the traditional rulers, politicians and the youth movements as community representatives. The study by Elechi and Nwafor (2012) further mentions that there is a sixty-nine percent (69%) reduction in demands from oil-producing communities when there is crisis. Hence, the transnational companies tend to conserve more resources and completely neglect the basic needs and welfare of the communities.

### **Material and Methods**

This study adopted quantitative and qualitative research methods in which a

questionnaire was designed for data collection and were administered to respondents. The qualitative data were collected through key informant interview, multi-stage and purposive sampling techniques were used in the study. The study area covers the entire Niger Delta area, particularly the oil-producing communities within Eleme Local Government Area in Rivers State. It was purposively selected as the sample for the entire region because of its strategic importance in the location of transnational companies. Data used for the study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were collected through the administering of 250 copies of questionnaire to respondents and key informant interviews were conducted for community leaders and transnational company workers from community and public relations unit while secondary data were obtained from the relevant published works done by other authors. Respondents were residents in the study area who fell within the age groups of 16- 45 years.

The quantitative data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) where they were arranged and presented in the form of tables and regression analysis was used to test the hypotheses. The qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis.

**Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation**

**Table 1: Social demographic characteristics of respondents.**

<b>Sex of Respondents</b>	F	%	<b>Marital Status of Respondents</b>	F	%
Male	116	55	Single	58	27.5
Female	95	45	Married	45	21.3
<b>Total</b>	211	100	Divorced	32	15.2
			Widowed	41	19.4
<b>Age of Respondents</b>	F	%	Separated	35	16
16-25	73	34.6	<b>Total</b>	211	100
26-35	85	40.3			
36-45	53	25.1	<b>Religion of Respondents</b>	F	%
<b>Total</b>	211	100	Christianity	139	65.9
			Islam	65	30.8
	F	%	African Tradition Religion	7	3.3
	23	10.9	<b>Total</b>	211	100
<b>Academic Qualification</b>	F	%	<b>Occupation</b>	F	%
Informal Education	23	10.9	Civil servant	23	10.9
Primary Education	57	27	Trading	35	16.7
High School	51	24	Teaching	31	14.8
Bsc/HND	42	19.9	Fishing	54	25.7
Post Graduate Degree	38	18	Farming	49	23
<b>Total</b>	211	100	Student	19	9
			<b>Total</b>	211	100

**Source:** Researchers, 2019

Table 2: Response on Social unrest in the Niger Delta

Variables	SD		D		U		A		SA		Total
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
<b>Social unrest on the living conditions of oil-producing communities</b>											
Decayed Infrastructure	23	10.9	27	12.9	31	14.8	63	30	67	31.4	211
High level of Unemployment	14	6.7	19	9	27	12.9	78	37.1	73	34.3	211
Low-standard of living	9	4.3	17	8.1	29	13.8	74	35.2	82	38.6	211
<b>The relationship between youth restiveness and underdevelopment</b>											
Increased pipeline vandalism	23	10.9	29	13.8	43	20.5	58	27.5	58	27.5	211
High rate of oil bunkering	17	8.1	23	10.9	38	18.1	64	30.5	69	32.4	211
Kidnapping	21	10	28	13.3	31	14.8	51	23.4	80	37.6	211
Destruction of oil facilities	13	6.2	15	7.1	27	12.9	69	32.9	87	40.9	211
<b>The activities of Transnational companies on the environment</b>											
Oil spillage	4	1.9	11	5.2	35	16.7	87	41.4	74	34.8	211

URL: <http://journals.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/index.php/cjbss/>

water pollution	11	5.2	19	9	26	12.4	69	32.9	86	40.5	211
Death of aquatic life	7	3.3	13	6.2	33	15.7	75	35.7	83	39.1	211
land infertility	15	7.1	21	10	29	13.8	71	33.6	75	35.3	211
Air contamination	19	9	25	11.9	32	15.2	64	30.5	69	32.4	211
Low-life expectancy	8	3.8	17	8.1	28	13.3	73	34.8	85	40	211

Source: Researchers, 2019

### Findings of the Study

The First table shows that 45% of the respondents were females while majority of the respondents which constitute 55% were men. About 25.1% of the respondents were within the ages of 36-45 years, 34.6% of the respondents were within the age bracket of 16-25 years, while majority of the respondents which comprises 0.3% were within the ages of 26-35 years. Respondents that were divorced stood at about 15.2%, 16.6% were separated, 19.4% were widowed, 21.3% were married while 27.5% which constitutes majority of the respondents were single. While 3.3% of the respondents were devotees of African Traditional Religion, 30.8% were Muslims and the majority of respondents (65.9%) were Christians. Regarding education, 10.9% of the respondents were not educated formally, 18% were postgraduate degree holders, 19.9% had Bachelor degrees, 24.2% had high school certificates while many more (27%) were primary school certificate holders. The occupation of respondents as indicated in the table shows that 9% were students, 10.9% were civil servants, 14.8% were teachers, 16.7% were traders, 23% were farmers and the majority who were into Fishing were 25.7%.

The second table reveals that low standard of living, high level of unemployment and decayed

infrastructure in the Niger Delta, were the triggers for youth restiveness. The response for Decayed infrastructure indicates that 10.9% and 12.9% of the respondents did not consider Decayed infrastructure as an instigator of youth restiveness, 14.8% were undecided while 30% and 31.4% affirmed that Decayed infrastructure propelled youth restiveness in the Niger Delta. Regarding High rate of unemployment as a source of social unrest, 6.7% strongly disagreed, 9% disagreed, 12.9% were undecided, 37.1% whom were the majority agreed, and 34.1% strongly agreed. For low standard of living, 4.3% and 8.1% of respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, 13.8% were undecided, 35.2% agreed while 38.4% strongly agreed.

In corroboration with the quantitative data presented, key informant interviews with community leaders of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta, explained the alarming level of infrastructural decadence within their environment. Transnational companies were accused of being interested in the profit they made from oil exploration without considering the living conditions of their host communities. The community leaders explained that youths from the area were not employed by transnational companies, rather people from other regions and

URL: <http://journals.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/index.php/cjbss/>

expatriates were usually absorbed as employees in the companies. They further regretted that the living standards of oil-producing communities were low in spite of the wealth in their environment. Transnational companies' representative explained that, although they carry out corporate social responsibilities in their host communities, it is left with the community leaders to substantiate it, since they serve as the representatives of the community. Factional leadership and chieftaincy tussles were identified by the transnational companies' representative as factors affecting the oil-producing communities. Most times they are confused with whom to liaise with as community representatives, when it comes to employment opportunities for the oil-producing communities.

The table also shows the relationship between youth restiveness and underdevelopment, for pipeline vandalism 10.9% of the respondents strongly disagreed that it has been on the increase, 13.8% disagreed, 20.5% were undecided and 27.5% agreed and strongly agreed simultaneously. It was revealed that 8.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed on the high rate of oil bunkering, 10.9% disagreed, 18.1% opted out with undecided positions, 30.5% agreed and 32.4% who were the majority strongly agreed. While 10% of the respondents strongly disagreed on Kidnapping in the Niger Delta, 13.3% disagreed, 14.8% stood on the fence with undecided stance, 23.4% agreed and 37.4% strongly agreed. For the destruction of oil facilities, 6.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 7.1%

disagreed, 12.9% claimed to be undecided, 32.9% agreed whereas 40.9% of the respondents strongly agreed.

These were supported by the outcomes of the interview respondents from the oil-producing community, who enumerated that by virtue of the challenges that the people were confronted with some of the youths, out of frustration and anger, resorted to the illegitimate activities for survival such as pipeline vandalism, kidnapping, destruction of oil installation facilities and oil bunkering. This forced the government to send the military into the Niger Delta creeks with the aim of wiping out the militants. The representative from the transnational companies explained that their operations in the Niger Delta have been affected by the activities of youths. Several of their workers have been kidnapped and huge ransoms demanded by their abductors. However, some of their facilities have been destroyed while others were vandalised. They went further to say that the rate of kidnapping is very high in the region and the transnational companies have to pay heavily for the security of their workers, although it got to a point when they had to relocate from the entire region because of the level of restiveness.

The table reveals that 1.9% of the respondents strongly disagreed that oil spillage is a reflection of the activities of transnational companies on the environment of oil-producing communities, 5.2% disagreed, 16.7% remained undecided, 41.1% agreed while 34.8% strongly agreed. For water

pollution, 5.2% strongly disagreed, 9% disagreed, 12.4% were undecided, 32.9% agreed and 40.5% strongly agreed. The death of aquatic life is illustrated in the table with 3.3% of respondents, who strongly disagreed, 6.2% disagreed, 15.7% indicated that they were undecided, 35.7% agreed, 39.1% strongly agreed. For land infertility, 7.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed that it was caused by the activities of transnational companies on the environment of oil-producing communities, 10% disagreed, 13.8% chose to be undecided, 33.6% agreed and 35.3% strongly agreed. While 9% of the respondents strongly disagreed on air contamination in oil-producing communities, 11.9% disagreed, 15.2% were undecided, 30.5% agreed, and 32.4% strongly agreed. The distribution for low life expectancy is revealed in the table, as 3.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed that it was the byproduct from the activities of transnational companies, 8.1% disagreed, 13.3% did not decide, 34.8% agreed, while 40% strongly agreed.

In consonance with this, the community leaders through an interview explained that the activities of transnational companies in the Niger Delta have generated environmental hazards that are unhealthy for the people of the region. The respondents agreed that oil spillage, water pollution (both underground and surface water), death of aquatic life, land infertility, air pollution and low-life expectancy were

major challenges facing oil-producing communities, as a result of the activities of transnational companies operating in the region. The community leaders explained that oil spillage sites have been left untouched for over three (3) decades and that this has affected the entire environment. Representatives of the transnational companies explained that eighty percent (80%) oil spillage at their operational bases were caused by youths who indulged in illegal oil refinery, oil bunkering and pipeline vandalism. They mentioned that although there were plans to clean up most of the affected areas, such were a collaborative effort between the companies and the government. They, however, cited government's lack of readiness to provide the required support. They believed that when government provides the need input, the transnational companies would have no choice than to take pragmatic response. Thus, the submitted that the current challenge involving regular attacks on oil facilities by restive youths could further frustrate the clean-up process.

### **Hypotheses Test**

**Hypothesis 1:** There is a connection between social unrest and the living conditions of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta.

### **Results**

Multiple R is represented as 0.711

R Square is represented as 0.657

Adjusted R Square is represented as 0.648

Table 3

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.711 <sup>a</sup>	.657	.648	631.212

a. Predictors: (Constant), High level of unemployment  
 b. independent Variable: Low standard of living

From the table, it is evident that the R value indicates some levels of correlation. However, the R square explains that high level of unemployment in the Niger Delta has

resulted in the people having low-living standards, which has made the youths in the area to embrace violence as the means of improving their condition.

Table 4

Anova						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	63.364	1	21.121	21.055	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	179.565	210	1.003		
	Total	242.929	211			

a. Independent Variable: Low-standard of Living  
 b. Predictors: (Constant), High level of Unemployment

The table shows that the regression indicates the dependent variable which is significant at 0.00 levels.

Table 5

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.675	.160		3.876	.000
	High level unemployment	.611	.176	.618	6.724	.000
	Low-standard of Living	.288	.168	.265	3.879	.000

a. Dependent Variable: High level unemployment

$$Y = b_0 + b_1c_1 + b_2c_2 + b_3c_3$$

This model can be explained as follows:

Y = (Response variable)

b<sub>0</sub> = (Independent variable)

b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, represent the coefficients

c<sub>1</sub>, c<sub>2</sub>, c<sub>3</sub> are the values of the term

The table shows that the coefficient for high level of unemployment is 0.611,

standard error remains at 0.176 and beta coefficient is 0.618. Therefore it is statistically significant because the P. value is at .000 level of significance which is less than (<) .005.

The coefficient for low-standard of living is 0.288, standard error is 0.168

URL: <http://journals.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/index.php/cjbss/>

and beta coefficient is stated as 0.265. Therefore it is statistically significant because the P. value is at .000 level of significance which is less than (<) .005.

This means that for every unit increase in the level of unemployment, a 0.29 unit increase in Low-standard of living is predicted, holding all other variables constant.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is a relationship between youth restiveness and underdevelopment in the Niger Delta.

**Results**

Multiple R is represented as 0.688

R Square is represented as 0.638

Adjusted R Square is represented as 0.634

Table 6

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.688 <sup>a</sup>	.638	.634	693.587

a. Predictors: (Constant), Increased Pipeline vandalism

b. independent Variable: High rate of oil bunkering

The table reveals that the R value indicates some levels of correlation. However, the R square explains that increase in pipeline vandalism in the

Niger Delta has a relationship with high rate of oil bunkering by the youths of oil-producing communities.

Table 7

Anova

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	61.292	1	19.179	20.133	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	167.421	210	1.004		
	Total	361.735	211			

a. Independent Variable: High rate of oil bunkering

b. Predictors: (Constant), Increased Pipeline vandalism

The table illustrates that the regression specifies the dependent variable which is significant at 0.00 levels.

Table 8

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
		1	(Constant)	.642		
	Increased pipeline vandalism	.637	.192	.629	6.938	.000
	High rate of oil bunkering	.316	.183	.425	2.637	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Increased Pipeline vandalism

$$Y = b_0 + b_1c_1 + b_2c_2 + b_3c_3$$

This model can be explained as follows:

URL: <http://journals.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/index.php/cjbss/>

Y = (Response variable)

b<sub>0</sub> = (Independent variable)

b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, represent the coefficients

c<sub>1</sub>, c<sub>2</sub>, c<sub>3</sub> are the values of the term

The table reveals that the coefficient for Increased Pipeline vandalism is 0.637, standard error remains at 0.192 and beta coefficient is 0.629. Therefore, it is statistically significant because the P. value is at .000 level of significance which is less than (<) .005.

The coefficient for high rate of oil bunkering is 0.316, standard error is 0.183 and beta coefficient is stated as 0.425. Therefore, it is statistically significant because the P. value is at 0.00 level of significance which is less than (<) .005.

This means that for every unit increase in Pipeline vandalism, a 0.32 unit increase in oil bunkering is expected, provided that all other variables remain unchanged.

**Hypothesis 3:** The nexus between the activities of transnational companies and the environment of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta.

**Results**

Multiple R is represented as 0.645

R Square is represented as 0.629

Adjusted R Square is represented as 0.618

Table 9

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.645 <sup>a</sup>	.629	.618	671.425

a. Predictors: (Constant), Oil spillage

b. independent Variable: Land infertility

The table shows that the R value indicates some levels of correlation. However, the R square explains that a rapid increase in oil spillage in oil-

producing communities has an association with land infertility within the affected area.

Table 10

Anova

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	72.441	1	23.392	24.496	.001 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	246.397	210	1.027		
	Total	483.648	211			

a. Independent Variable: Land infertility

b. Predictors: (Constant), Oil spillage

The table illustrates that the regression specifies the dependent variable which is significant at 0.01 levels.

Table 11

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.619	.231		4.598	.000
	Oil spillage	.622	.187	.571	5.721	.000
	Land infertility	.417	.179	.439	3.859	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Land infertility

$$Y = b_0 + b_1c_1 + b_2c_2 + b_3c_3$$

This model can be explained as follows:

Y = (Response variable)

b<sub>0</sub> = (Independent variable)

b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, represent the coefficients

c<sub>1</sub>, c<sub>2</sub>, c<sub>3</sub> are the values of the term

The coefficient for oil spillage is showcased in the table as 0.622, the standard error is 0.187 and the beta coefficient is 0.571, it is regarded as statistically significant because the P. value is at 0.00 level of significance.

The coefficient for land infertility is 0.417, standard error is 0.179 and the beta coefficient is 0.439, this is statistically significant since the P. value is at 0.00 level of significance and is less than (<) 0.05.

Therefore, for every unit increase in oil spillage there is a 0.42 increase in land infertility, when all other variables are considered constant.

**Discussion of Findings**

The following were observed after the analysis of the data from the field. High level of unemployment is appropriate and has a positive relationship with low standard of living. Therefore, the two are significantly related because the ‘b’ coefficient is positive and it is statistically significant at 0.0%.

Consequently, from the above analysis, the hypothesis is accepted. This is because there is a significant

relationship between high level of unemployment and low standard of living, which are seen as the forces that propel youth restiveness in the Niger Delta. In consonance with this discovery, the oil-producing community leaders explained that the level of unemployment in their community among youths has skyrocketed and this has trickled down to the living standard of the people which is low. But this restiveness is more glaring because of the frustration of the youths who cannot secure jobs especially when they are surrounded by companies that can provide lucrative employment.

Also, increased pipeline vandalism has a positive relationship with high rate of oil bunkering; the two variables are statistically significant at 0.0% with the ‘b’ coefficient in positive. This means that a rise in pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta leads to an increase in oil bunkering because once the pipeline is vandalised, the next step is to bunker the petroleum product. In line with this, a representative of the transnational firms affirmed that several times when the oil pipelines were vandalised by the restive youths, they set up illegal refineries in different locations in the creeks.

The nexus between the activities of transnational companies and the

environment of oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta was tested in the study, showing that oil spillage has a positive relationship with land infertility. These variables are statistically significant at 0.0% and the 'b' coefficient is positive. Also, for every increase in oil spillage in the Niger Delta, the fertility of lands becomes destroyed. The community leaders expressed their grievance in their inability to cultivate crops on their lands as a result of soil pollution and land degradation. This has further impoverished the people as no compensation has been paid.

### Conclusion

The Niger Delta is a region blessed with the abundance of natural resources, yet the people are living in abject poverty. Many of the indigenes in the region cannot access quality education and basic social amenities. The environment has been negatively affected, to a large extent, by the activities of transnational oil companies operating in the area leading to low-life expectancy for most of the residents. Their situation is further compounded by the activities of corrupt politicians in government, who

deprive their people of the dividends that should have accrued to them as a result of the blessing of nature on their land. The situation has, therefore, forced the youths to embrace violence as a means for survival. This study, therefore, concludes that to turn around the fortunes of the afflicted and affected people of the Niger Delta region, government needs to be committed more to the improvement of the human development indices of the people. This can be done by providing them with the basic things of life such as good and potable water, modern infrastructure befitting the sacrifices the people have been forced to pay due to oil exploration and exploitation activities in the area and granting more economic benefits, including employment opportunities, to the people. Transnational oil corporations should also commit more resources to their corporate social responsibility programmes towards the Niger Delta people and ensure that these benefits get to the people. These corrective measures, if implemented, will surely bring about a win-win situation for all the parties concerned.

### Recommendations References

- Agnew. R. (1960). *General strain theory*. Chicago, U.S.A: University of Chicago Press.
- Ajegun, T. (2009). Conflict, complicity & confusion: Unraveling empowerment struggles in Nigeria after the return of democracy. *Review of African Political Economy*, 27(85), 115-123.
- Ajibade, D. S. (2009). *Silence on climate change and the natural*

*resources conflict in Nigeria: The Niger Delta experience* [Monograph]

- Akinyemi, O., & Nwaokocha, C. (2012). Evaluation of corrosion cost of crude oil processing industry. *Journal of Engineering, Science, and Technology*, Vol. 7, No.4, 517-528.
- Alexander, P. (2014). The Niger Delta: Petro-violence and partnership development. *Review of African*

- Political Economy*, Vol.2, No, 219-227.
- Barida, M. (2014). Petroleum exploration and production: Past and present environmental issues in Nigeria's Niger-Delta. *American Journal of Environmental Protection*, 1(4), 78-90.
- Beckley, J. (2009). *The myth of the oil crisis: Overcoming the challenges of depletion, geopolitics and global warming*. Praeger Publishers
- Chucks, H., & Derrick, K. (2012). Environmental impact assessments in developing countries: An opportunity for greater environmental security? Working Paper No.4 USAID Foundation for Environmental Security & Sustainability (FESS).
- Dappa, B. A. (2007). Humanistic approach to environmental assessment with case study from the Niger Delta. In A. G. Onokerhoraye & G. E. D Omuta (Eds), *Perspectives on development centre for population and environmental development*. Benin City.
- Declan, S. ( 2011). *Tackling the natural resource: An illustration from Nigeria*. IMF Working Paper, Washington D.C.
- Ebeku, S. A. (2011). Oil and the Niger Delta people: The injustice of the Land Use Act. *The Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy*, 9(14). Retrieved from <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/cepmlp/journal/html/vol9/article9-14.html>
- Ebuk, G. (2017). Health risks associated with oil pollution in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 13(3).
- Ejibunu, H. T. (2007). *Nigeria's Niger Delta crisis: Root cause of peacefulness*. Stadtschlaing, Germany: European University Centre for Peace Studies.
- Ekong, U. (2009). *Development challenges in the Niger Delta and the implication for the economy*. Port Harcourt, Nigeria: PANAM Nigeria Publishers.
- Elenwo, D. (2013). Mobilization and participation: Social-psychological expansions of resource mobilization theory. *American Social Review*, 49(5), 583-600.
- Elechi, W., & Nwafor, L. (2012). *Global reach: The power of the multinational corporation*. New York: Praeger Publishers.
- Frynas, J. G. (2009). The false development promise of corporate social responsibility: Evidence from multinational oil companies. *International Affairs*, 81(3), 581-598. Retrieved from <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2005.00470.x>
- Hopfensperger, J. (2011). Oil dividend management in Nigeria: A case for democratic reforms within the Niger Delta Development Commission. *Journal of International Policy Solutions*, 5, 79-91. Retrieved from <http://irps.ucsd.edu/assets/004/5366.pdf>
- Hyden, G. (2015). *African politics in comparative perspective*. UK: Cambridge University Press.

- Idemudia, U. (2017). *Corporate partnerships and community development in the Nigerian oil industry*. New York: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. Retrieved from <http://www.ng.total.com/media/pdf/Idemudia.pdf>
- Imhonopi, D., & Urim, U. M. (2016). The spectre of terrorism and Nigeria's industrial development: A multi-stakeholder imperative. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies*, 9(1), 20-40.
- Iruonagbe, T. C (2011). Women and youth empowerment: An antidote to the Niger Delta Crisis. *Nigerian Sociological Society Journal*, 3(1).
- Jeff, N. (2014). Social valuation of mangroves in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services, & Management*, 9(4).
- Jeremiah, K. (2017, April 11). Nigeria: Niger Delta indigenes to get oil blocks to douse tension. *The Guardian*.
- Kadilo, K. (2014). Globalization and local resistance: The case of the Ogoni versus Shell. *New Political Economy*, (1).
- Keil, M. J. (2010). *Natural resources and violent conflicts: Options and actions*. Washington D. C: World Bank
- Kaur, G. (2013). The political economy of dependence: Notes towards analysis of multinational corporations in Kenya. *Journal of East African Research and Development*, 4(2).
- Martins, K. (2007). *Community relations and oil multinational operations in the Niger Delta, Nigeria*. USA: Lints Publishers Florida.
- Nwosu, U.W. (2011). Security and national development in Nigeria: The threat of Boko Haram. *International Journal Humanities and Social Science*, 3(4).
- Nwosu, U. W. (2017). The relationship between oil industries and their host communities: A case study of Ibeno Community in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Unpublished Masters Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria.
- Ojajorotu, V. (2009). *Contending issues in the Niger Delta crisis of Nigeria*. Florida; JAPSS Press.
- Okeke, N. M. (2013). *Environmental law: The Nigerian situation*. Calabar: Swiftcom Publishers
- Osador, T. (2011). Perceptible aspects of the environmental effect of oil exploration on a Nigeria rural community. In *Niger Delta Environments: Status and Trends Nigeria*. (Geographical Association).
- Peter, A. (2013). *Petroleum and structural change on a developing country: The case of Nigeria* (8). Praeger Publishers.
- Sarabjit, H. (2012). Institutional design, ethnic conflict management, and democracy in Nigeria. In Reynolds (Ed.), *The architecture of democracy*. pp. 400-429. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tambari, B. N. (2012). *Disorder as political instrument; African works*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Tamuno, G. (2012). *Community conflicts in the Niger Delta, petro weapon or policy failure?* Berkeley Workshop on Environmental Politics Working Paper. Institute of International Studies, University of California Berkeley, USA.

Ted, Y. N. (2013). *From grievance to greed: An analysis of violent conflicts in oil bearing communities in Nigeria*, Roseline publishers, Enugu, Nigeria.

World Bank. (2009). *Nigeria: Poverty in the midst of plenty* [Report No. 120]. Washington D.C.

Upon the findings made in this study, the following recommendations are proffered:

- i. The government should ensure that proper dialogue is made with the people and the transnational companies operating in the area so that issues that would enable lasting peace would be addressed.
- ii. The government and the transnational oil firms should implement the agreed memorandum of understanding to the oil-producing communities.

- iii. There should be provision of essential basic infrastructures prominent of which are clean water, good roads, healthcare facilities and standard educational facilities in the area.

- iv. Youths who are qualified professionals and skilled artisans from the Niger Delta and are living in the region should be absorbed into the transnational oil-companies as a way of engaging the unemployed populace in that area.

- v. There should be rapid response of cleanup in areas affected by oil spillage in order to reduce the level of hazards on the ecosystem.

- vi. The transnational companies should not be involved in internal community issues such as sponsoring factions of traditional, political and youth leadership. This will reduce the level of crisis in the oil-producing region.

- vii. The community development committee should be neutral and accountable in the discharge of their duties towards bringing development to the grassroots instead of acquiring wealth and enriching themselves at the expense of the people.

## References

Agnew. R. (1960). *General strain theory*. Chicago, U.S.A: University of Chicago Press.

Ajegun, T. (2009). *Conflict, complicity & confusion: Unraveling empowerment struggles in Nigeria after the return of*

democracy. *Review of African Political Economy*, 27(85), 115-123.

Ajibade, D. S. (2009). *Silence on climate change and the natural resources conflict in Nigeria: The Niger Delta experience* [Monograph]

- Akinyemi, O., & Nwaokocha, C. (2012). Evaluation of corrosion cost of crude oil processing industry. *Journal of Engineering, Science, and Technology*, Vol. 7, No.4, 517-528.
- Alexander, P. (2014). The Niger Delta: Petro-violence and partnership development. *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol.2, No, 219-227.
- Barida, M. (2014). Petroleum exploration and production: Past and present environmental issues in Nigeria's Niger-Delta. *American Journal of Environmental Protection*, 1(4), 78-90.
- Beckley, J. (2009). *The myth of the oil crisis: Overcoming the challenges of depletion, geopolitics and global warming*. Praeger Publishers
- Chucks, H., & Derrick, K. (2012). Environmental impact assessments in developing countries: An opportunity for greater environmental security? Working Paper No.4 USAID Foundation for Environmental Security & Sustainability (FESS).
- Dappa, B. A. (2007). Humanistic approach to environmental assessment with case study from the Niger Delta. In A. G. Onokerhoraye & G. E. D Omuta (Eds), *Perspectives on development centre for population and environmental development*. Benin City.
- Declan, S. ( 2011). *Tackling the natural resource: An illustration from Nigeria*. IMF Working Paper, Washington D.C.
- Ebeku, S. A. (2011). Oil and the Niger Delta people: The injustice of the Land Use Act. *The Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy*, 9(14). Retrieved from <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/cepmlp/journal/html/vol9/article9-14.html>
- Ebuk, G. (2017). Health risks associated with oil pollution in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 13(3).
- Ejibunu, H. T. (2007). *Nigeria's Niger Delta crisis: Root cause of peacefulness*. Stadtschlaing, Germany: European University Centre for Peace Studies.
- Ekong, U. (2009). *Development challenges in the Niger Delta and the implication for the economy*. Port Harcourt, Nigeria: PANAM Nigeria Publishers.
- Elenwo, D. (2013). Mobilization and participation: Social-psychological expansions of resource mobilization theory. *American Social Review*, 49(5), 583-600.
- Elechi, W., & Nwafor, L. (2012). *Global reach: The power of the multinational corporation*. New York: Praeger Publishers.
- Frynas, J. G. (2009). The false development promise of corporate social responsibility: Evidence from multinational oil companies. *International Affairs*, 81(3), 581-598. Retrieved from <http://www.blackwell->

- synergy.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2005.00470.x
- Hopfensperger, J. (2011). Oil dividend management in Nigeria: A case for democratic reforms within the Niger Delta Development Commission. *Journal of International Policy Solutions*, 5, 79-91. Retrieved from <http://irps.ucsd.edu/assets/004/5366.pdf>
- Hyden, G. (2015). *African politics in comparative perspective*. UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Idemudia, U. (2017). *Corporate partnerships and community development in the Nigerian oil industry*. New York: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. Retrieved from <http://www.ng.total.com/media/pdf/Idemudia.pdf>
- Imhonopi, D., & Urin, U. M. (2016). The spectre of terrorism and Nigeria's industrial development: A multi-stakeholder imperative. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies*, 9(1), 20-40.
- Iruonagbe, T. C (2011). Women and youth empowerment: An antidote to the Niger Delta Crisis. *Nigerian Sociological Society Journal*, 3(1).
- Jeff, N. (2014). Social valuation of mangroves in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services, & Management*, 9(4).
- Jeremiah, K. (2017, April 11). Nigeria: Niger Delta indigenes to get oil blocks to douse tension. *The Guardian*.
- Kadilo, K. (2014). Globalization and local resistance: The case of the Ogoni versus Shell. *New Political Economy*, (1).
- Keil, M. J. (2010). *Natural resources and violent conflicts: Options and actions*. Washington D. C: World Bank
- Kaur, G. (2013). The political economy of dependence: Notes towards analysis of multinational corporations in Kenya. *Journal of East African Research and Development*, 4(2).
- Martins, K. (2007). *Community relations and oil multinational operations in the Niger Delta, Nigeria*. USA: Lints Publishers Florida.
- Nwosu, U.W. (2011). Security and national development in Nigeria: The threat of Boko Haram. *International Journal Humanities and Social Science*, 3(4).
- Nwosu, U. W. (2017). The relationship between oil industries and their host communities: A case study of Ibeno Community in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Unpublished Masters Dissertation submitted to the Department of Sociology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria.
- Ojajorotu, V. (2009). *Contending issues in the Niger Delta crisis of Nigeria*. Florida; JAPSS Press.
- Okeke, N. M. (2013). *Environmental law: The Nigerian situation*. Calabar: Swiftcom Publishers
- Osadolor, T. (2011). Perceptible aspects of the environmental effect of oil

- exploration on a Nigeria rural community. In *Niger Delta Environments: Status and Trends Nigeria*. (Geographical Association).
- Peter, A. (2013). *Petroleum and structural change on a developing country: The case of Nigeria* (8). Praeger Publishers.
- Sarabjit, H. (2012). Institutional design, ethnic conflict management, and democracy in Nigeria. In Reynolds (Ed.), *The architecture of democracy*. pp. 400-429. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tambari, B. N. (2012). *Disorder as political instrument; African works*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Tamuno, G. (2012). *Community conflicts in the Niger Delta, petro weapon or policy failure?* Berkeley Workshop on Environmental Politics Working Paper. Institute of International Studies, University of California Berkeley, USA.
- Ted, Y. N. (2013). From grievance to greed: An analysis of violent conflicts in oil bearing communities in Nigeria, Roseline publishers, Enugu, Nigeria.
- World Bank. (2009). *Nigeria: Poverty in the midst of plenty* [Report No. 120]. Washington D.C.