

Oil Spill Disaster and Militant Uprising in Host Communities: A case study of Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State

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Abstract- The problem of militancy and violence arising from oil spill disaster in host communities has continued to attract the attention of policy makers, intellectuals, non-governmental organizations, international development agencies and so on. The study set out to examine the issue of oil spill disasters and the attendant militant uprising in Nigeria with a focus on the issue of oil spill compensation and rehabilitation to victims in host communities in an effort to reduce the tide of violence in the region. To achieve this objective, data was collected from 240 respondents within a three months period. The study relied on both primary and secondary source of data collection. The cluster and random sampling technique were used to select participants for the study. The data analysis process involves the use of both qualitative and quantitative methods and in order to achieve this, the chi-square technique was used to establish a relationship between the T – variables i.e. oil spill and militant uprising in host community. Findings reveal that there is a strong link between the activities of oil multinational corporations and the rise of militancy caused by non – adherence to oil spill contingency plan as it affects compensation/ reparation payments to affected persons thereby causing massive destruction to lives and properties in the host communities during conflict. This finding has important implications for both theory and development practices. The study recommends the integration of local cultural peacemaking initiatives that takes into cognizance the real affected victim of a spill disaster in the rehabilitation process and massive infrastructural development as a major step towards the reduction or possible end of militancy notwithstanding the amnesty programme of the federal Government nor the fact that it has recently announced its willingness to implement the United Nation report recommendation on Ogoniland.

INTRODUCTION

The epicentre of Nigeria's oil industry activities which involves much of crude oil exploration and exploitation for the past 50 years is indubitably in the Niger Delta. Evidently, Nigeria leads Africa as the largest Continental producer and the seventh on a global list of world largest producers (NDMP,2006, Egbenongbe, N et al,2006) in spite of the prevailing socio-economic crisis and environmental degradation in the region. Presently, over 3,000 kilometers crude oil pipelines and 280 flow stations span the region (NDMP, 2006) making it imperative that communities hosting crude oil production facilities will continue to be a potential disaster zone of oil spill as long as exploitation persists in the region.

Oil spill disasters are a public concern as a result of its frequent occurrence as well as youth restiveness over compensation and rehabilitation by prospecting oil companies increasing the spate of international damage to petroleum facilities by host communities. The Damage caused by oil spillage from rupture blowout or affluent discharge on biodiversity, vegetation , health, psycho-social and physio-economic integrity of the victims is beyond human description and the non-challant attitude of most oil companies and appropriate government authorities in ameliorating the plight of victims lead to frustration, incessant conflicts, crisis, military and high youth restiveness in host communities.

Oil, one of the greatest blessings God has showered to our nation has turned out to be a curse. It has become an instrument sounding the death knell of such key principles of good governance as democracy, federalism, transparency, accountability and national growth. (RTD Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, Chairman of the Oputa panel on the investigation of human right abuses made this remark in a preliminary report to former president Olusegun

Obasanjo in August, 2002). Nigeria may not be on the global list of disaster hotspots as experienced in such location as Bangladesh, the Pacific, India and Japan. However anthropogenic disasters such as oil spills, flood, and Erosion on a scale are prevalent in Nigeria especially the Niger delta region.

The federal government in an effort to protect the environment and host communities through the federal ministry of environment (FEEMV) and National Emergence Management Agency (NEMA) among others has tried to subdue the tension generated over uncompensated spills by issuing directives to Oil producing companies to effect appropriate and effective clean-up (remediation measures on oil spilled or polluted sites). The effectiveness of clean-up measures adopted by these oil companies is doubtful judging from the retarded growth of plants and low agricultural yield in such oil spilled soil and unclean drinking water which still manifest many years after the recorded incidence and purported clean-up . It is against this background predicated by the increasing spate of oil spill disasters and its attendant consequences that has led to massive destruction to lives, properties, livelihood, environment, aquatic, terrestrial devastation as well as ground water pollution and the way by which oil prospecting companies operating in the region reduces its negative impact on the people that this paper addresses.

THE NIGER DELTA CRISIS

The exploration and explanation of crude oil in the Niger Delta has resulted to a number of environmental problems for the region. The Niger Delta environmental is unique as it harbours immense deposit of organic hydrocarbon on which the economy of Nigeria depends. The exploitation of these hydrocarbon has no doubt influenced human activities within these environment while also generating conflict in land use, disequilibrium in the natural-physical-biogeochemical processes as well as environmental degradation caused by incessant oil spillages and sometimes resultant fire outbreak from the oil facilities that criss-cross its terrain.

It is disheartening to note that despite contributing to about 80% of the country's revenue. The great majority of the people have not been able to derive many benefits. Poverty, unemployment,

environmental decay, little or no infrastructural development, corruption at high level, misery, lack of basic human needs, lack of income or sustainable livelihood, health hazards sometimes leading to death and loss of properties to fire resulting to oil spills. This has made the people to channel their anger to the oil companies operating in their region over their inability to properly clean up oil spillages in order to safeguard their environment and reduce health risks.

OIL SPILLS DISASTER: CAUSES AND IMPLICATION FOR THE NIGER DELTA REGION.

Oil spill disaster is the most common and controversial of all environmental impacts of oil exploration. It is the uncontrolled release of any product related to oil production including crude oil, chemicals or waste caused by equipment failure, operational mishaps, human error or intentional damage to facilities (CBN, 1999). Oil Spillage occurs during the drilling of oil wells and as a result of oil pipeline leakage or during the loading of oil into tankers. (Adewuyi, 2001). Spills are potentially the most devastating on agricultural land and water resources. Oil companies usually contribute the cause of oil spills to the deliberate of sabotage while in reality it may be due to the use of decrepit pipelines which criss cross oil host communities. The UNDP (2006) reports that environmental pollution is as a result of human error and equipment failure.

The gravity of oil spill disasters and the probability of large volume leakages and discharges occurring in these oil operational zones is the Niger Delta region means that there should be a constant state of preparedness in consonance with boy scout adage to meet any exigency. There is therefore a need for oil producing companies to ensure that their contingency plan spells out the state of preparedness for anticipated threats in their various areas of operation. In order to stop the leakage, restrict the quantity of oil spillage and to contain and guide the slick in recovering as much as possible and prevent pollution of coastal areas so as to minimize damages to the environment.

The United Nations report published in August, 2011 shows that there has been severe environmental devastation in the last five decades by oil producing companies in the study area. This means that

prevention, preparedness and mitigation strategies being adopted by the company as well as its emergency response to an oil spill disaster in the region deserves a closer look.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theory of Environmental Sustainability, Sustainable Development, Poverty and Resource Dependency is considered most appropriate for this study as it reflects poverty dynamics and fears of insecurity in the midst of plenty in Niger Delta Region.

The Environmental Sustainable theory seeks to understand who is responsible for the ills of oil exploitation. Is it the Government? Oil company? Youths who vandalize pipeline or the global community? MDG goal 7 recognizes the need for environmental sustainability to the development of the nations. This theory emphasizes that the environment is fundamentally important to people living in poverty not only because their existence to a large extent depends on subsistence endeavors which depends on natural resources but also because their perceived wellbeing is tied to their environment in terms of livelihood, health, vulnerability and their ability to control their lives (Okpukri and Ibaba, 2008). Moreso, poor people are more vulnerable to changes within their environment in part because social, political and economic exclusion means they always have fewer choices about where they live (Adoki, 1998) and as a result bear the runoff natural hazards, biodiversity loss, the depletion of the forests, pollution on air, water and soil and the negative impact of industrial activities. Environmental sustainability explains the Niger Delta crisis and will help to proffer a lasting solution. This is because environmental sustainability is important to Ogoni people as their existence to a large extent depends on natural resources. While there have been many intricate poverty alleviation strategies that has been implemented in the Niger Delta region, it has not mitigated the crucial problem of exclusion and human deprivation of vulnerable host communities. This is because their source of livelihood which is tied to the environment is in danger of oil company exploit the ecosystem for resources beyond the level of sustainability. The implication is that the people being made poor as a result of environmental

degradation without any reparation and compensation payment to cushion its effect on their livelihood resort to violence and youths become restless.

Thus sustainable livelihood and healthy living of oil facility host communities hinge on job creation, sustainable development and high value products that yield income for the poor and vulnerable groups including reducing environmental pollution by oil companies (Aneag, 2004) as well as paying compensation that will enable victims recover some of their loss. It is important to note that people are threatened by hazard because if their social, economic and environmental vulnerability. More lives are lost in poor countries and more poor people lose their lives in poor countries than their richer neighbors. The underlying causes of disaster vulnerability lie in inequality, discrimination and exploitation. In Nigeria, this statement has proved to be true especially in the case of the Niger Delta that has been severely exploited and their rights abused by the multinational oil companies operating in their localities. The governments with its weak enforcement power and poor development policy decision have not been able to aid them. The action of these oil companies and sometimes the government lead to frustration and incessant conflict, crisis, militancy and high youth restiveness in host communities. Sustainable livelihood and development is necessary for Niger Delta to become economically viable, socially stable, economically regenerative and politically peaceful (UNDP,2006). This theory acknowledges a balance between economy growth and development on one and environmental resources exploitation on the other. This means equal development that emphasizes a balance between rural and urban, between environment and economic development for managing the environment.

Based on the foregoing it is the researchers opinion that sustainable economic development is a precondition for the sustainable environmental resources exploitation in Ogoniland. Failure to address the issues of poverty, unemployment and continuous neglect of infrastructural development in the region can only breed social instability, youth restiveness and militancy among the jobless youths of the region (Dompedro, 2006)

This study is also built on the resources depending theory. Resource dependency is gotten by measuring

the percentage of commodities whose production is reliant on a particular natural resource and income generated from extractive activities like forestry, oil and gas, mining, agriculture (fishing inclusive) and the subsequent effect (positive or negative) on the wellbeing of these communities. The thrust of resource dependence theory is the explanation of the relationship between social and natural resource systems. It reflects the extent to which the social system is reliant on one or more natural resources. Resource dependency relates to communities and individuals whose social order, livelihood, resilience and stability are a direct function of their resources production and localized economy (Roberts and Hite, 2000). It reflects the proportion of action in the resource sector activities that contributes to a community's basic economic and social activity. It depicts a place where a natural resource accounts for a substantial part of the local economy or attracts population. The resource dependency theory as well as the theory of poverty is used interchangeably in this study to understand the situation in Ogoniland. The resource dependency theory helps us to understand the extent to which Niger Delta communities depend on natural resources for their livelihood and how the exploitation of such resources by oil companies affect the natural balance of the eco-system. It explains the reliance of social systems on natural resources and stipulates that any threat to natural resources invariably affects the natural fabrics of the society which aptly describes the Niger Delta crisis.

In understanding resource dependence theory, the concept of environmental decay is very important as it stresses the emerging consensus that the natural environment is more stable and productive some golden age in the past. Ecologists criticize resource depletion while economists fault man's perception of resource accounting which they say culminated into decay or shrinking of resource potentials (World Bank, 1996). Notwithstanding, certain human activities resulting in banal consequences on the total environment is a view shared by all the proponents of the concept of environmental decay. Certain human activities geared towards production presages massive activities which lead to environmental deterioration for instance mining activities which involves oil exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon resource normally lead to oil spillage

and pollution thereby summarily rendering the entire environment useless. When this happens, the socio economic activities of the inhabitants such as farming, fishing, palm wine tapping and distillation hunting etc. are adversely affected with far reaching consequences on their health, livelihood and vulnerability in extreme cases the people do require re-settlement as a solution in order to survive a spillage. The concept of environmental decay is very important as any discussion of man's relationship with his environment and its problems is incomplete without reference to it particularly in view of the extreme emotions it arouses among interested professionals and policy makers.

It is important to note that the Niger Delta region is a typical example of a resource dependent community. The resource dependence theory helps us to understand the extent to which Niger Delta communities depend on natural resources for their livelihood and how the exploitation of such resource by oil corporations affect the natural balance of the ecosystem. It explains the reliance of the social system on natural resources and stipulates that any threat to natural resources invariably affects the social fabrics of the society which aptly describe the Niger Delta crisis. This is explicable both within the pre-oil context and post oil context. During the pre-oil era, the people lived off the supporting systems of their natural environment such as fishing, farming, crafting and soon the discovering of oil in the region actually increased their hope for a better livelihood. However, this was to be short lived as oil production did not just only not keep up with livelihood needs of the people but it also complicated existing sources of economic livelihood systems. This generated great discontent which has metamorphosed into serious conflict and insecurity in the region.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS; In attempting to achieve the study objective, the following hypothesis was postulated.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between effective reparation response plans and successful operation of SPDC in its host communities.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between oil spill disaster compensation to victims and militancy in Khana L.G.A. of Ogoniland.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant relationship between environmental pollution caused by oil spill disasters and poor standard of living of host communities in Khana L.G.A.

Presentation and Discussion of Results:

The data is gotten from field work and summarized in simple percentages and frequency tables. The chi-square (X²) statistical tool was used to test and analyze the research hypothesis at 5 Percent (0.05) level of significance.

Distribution of population on district basis: The study population was drawn from twelve randomly selected communities in the study area based on their political and administrative set. The study area is divided into four district/zones; namely: Nyo- khana, Ke-khana, Babbe and Bori-urban.

| District/Zone | 1991 population projected to 2012 | Percentage of population |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nyo – Khana | 107,589 | 32.7 |
| Ke – Khana | 68,769 | 20.9 |
| Babbe | 71,397 | 21.7 |
| Bori – Urban | 81,141 | 24.7 |
| TOTAL: | 328,896 | 100 |

Source: 1991 population figure (National population commission) Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Source of data: Data was gathered from primary and secondary source as well as the administration or a structured questionnaire and interviews.

Sampling: The sample fraction of 14% was used which is twelve communities out of the 84 communities in the study area. A sample size of 240 respondents was drawn from the four districts that make up Khana Local Government Area.

Analysis of Research Questions.

1.The remediation measures and procedures adopted by SPDC on oil spilled sites were still found to be polluted several years after the clean-up.

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Agree | 60 | 27.3 |
| Disagree | 128 | 58.2 |
| Undecided | 32 | 14.2 |
| TOTAL: | 220 | 100% |

Source: field work, February, 2012.

Majority opinion is that the remediation method adopted by SPDC on impacted sites was still contaminated many years after the supposed clean up.

2.SPDC pays Compensation, Relief, Medical Rehabilitation and Reparation to affected victims in Khana L.G.A communities.

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Agree | 27 | 12.3 |
| Disagree | 173 | 78.6 |
| Undecided | 20 | 9.1 |
| TOTAL: | 220 | 100% |

Source: field work, January, 2012.

Majority opinion is that any compensation payment from SPDC goes to the members of the cartel and not the real impacted people.

3.The extent to which SPDC contributes to militancy in Ogoniland.

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Large extent | 160 | 72.7 |
| Moderately | 36 | 16.4 |
| Low | 14 | 6.4 |
| Undecided | 10 | 4.5 |
| Total: | 220 | 100% |

Source: field work, January, 2012.

Popular belief is that the activities of SPDC is the main reason for the militarization of the study area.

4.Compensation/Reparation payments reduces youth restlessness and militancy in the study area.

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Agree | 172 | 78.12 |
| Disagree | 20 | 9.1 |
| Undecided | 28 | 12.7 |
| Total: | 220 | 100% |

Source: field work, January, 2012.

Majority agreed that payment of compensation by multinational oil companies reduces youth restlessness and militancy in the region as the people can evolve an alternative income rather than engage in militancy.

Test of Research Hypothesis

The study made use of Chi-Square statistical tool. This statistical tool allows us to draw relationship

between variables depending on the X2 calculated value and its table value.

Research Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between effective reparation response and successful operation of SPDC and militancy in its host communities in Khana L.G.A. This will be tested using the Chi square Statistical technique Chi= Square X2= (O-e)2.

Table 1: Effective reparation response ensures successful operation of SPDC in Khana L.G.A

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Agree | 173 | 78.6 |
| Disagree | 35 | 15.9 |
| Undecided | 12 | 5.5 |
| Total: | 220 | 100 |

Source: field work, January, 2012.

Table 1.1: Calculation of expected value for Hypothesis:

| Respondents | Agree | Disagree | (Undecided) | Total |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Females | 73(82.57) | 24(16.70) | 8(5.73) | 105 |
| Males | 100(90.43) | 11(18.30) | 4(6.27) | 115 |
| Total | 173 | 35 | 12 | 220 |

$$\text{Chi-Square } X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-e)^2}{e} = \frac{(73-82.57)^2}{82.57} + \frac{(100-90.43)^2}{90.43} + \frac{(24-16.70)^2}{16.70} + \frac{(11-18.30)^2}{18.30}$$

$$+ \frac{(8-5.73)^2}{5.73} + \frac{(4-6.27)^2}{6.27}$$

$$= 1.11 + 1.01 + 3.19 + 2.91 + 0.90 + 0.82 = 9.94$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom} = (r-1)(c-1)$$

$$= (2-1)(3-1)$$

$$= 1 \times 2$$

$$\text{DF} = 2$$

At 2 DF, the table value of X2 at 0.05 level of significance = 5.991.

Decision Rule: The general acceptable decision rule for the application of Chi - Square test states: Accept the null Hypothesis if the calculated value is less than the table value and reject the hypothesis if the calculated is greater than the table value. Consequently since the calculated value of X2 is 9.94 and table value is 5.99, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between effective reparation response plans and successful operation of SPDC in its host communities in Khana L.G.A is hereby rejected meaning that the alternate hypothesis which is that there is significant relationship between effective reparation and

response plans and successful operation of SPDC in its host communities is accepted.

Research Hypothesis 2: There is no significant relationship between oil spill disaster compensation to victims and militant crisis in Khana L.G.A of Ogoni land.

Table 2: Lack of oil spill disaster compensation real affected victims is the reason for youth restlessness in Khana LGA.

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Agree | 142 | 64.5 |
| Disagree | 53 | 24.1 |
| Undecided | 25 | 11.4 |
| Total: | 220 | 100 |

Source: field work, January, 2012.

Table 2.1: Table calculation of expected value for hypothesis 2:

| Respondents | Agree | Disagree | (Undecided) | Total |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Females | 61(69.06) | 35(25.78) | 11(12.16) | 107 |
| Males | 81(72.94) | 18(27.22) | 14(12.84) | 113 |
| Total | 142 | 53 | 25 | 220 |

Source: field work, 2012 From tables 2 and 2.1, the Chi-Square X2 calculated value for hypothesis 2 is?

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-e)^2}{e}$$

$$= \frac{(61-69.06)^2}{69.06} + \frac{(81-72.64)^2}{72.64} + \frac{(35-25.78)^2}{25.78} + \frac{(18-27.22)^2}{27.22} + \frac{(11-12.16)^2}{12.16} + \frac{(14-12.84)^2}{12.84}$$

$$= 0.94 + 0.89 + 3.30 + 3.12 + 0.11 + 0.10 = 8.46$$

Chi-Square X2 calculate, the value =8.46.

At 2 DF, the table value of X2 at 0.05 level of significance = 5.991. Consequently, the hypothesis which state that there is no significant relationship between oil spill disaster compensation to victims and youth restlessness/ militancy in Khana L.G.A is hereby rejected and the alternative hypothesis which is that there is significant relationship between oil spill disaster compensation to victims and militancy in Khana L.G.A of Ogoniland.

Research Hypothesis 3:

There is no significant relationship between environmental pollution caused by oil spill disaster and poor standard of living of host communities in Khana L.G.A.

Table 3: Environmental pollution caused by oil spill disaster is the reason for poverty in host communities

| Answer Alternatives | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Agree | 165 | 75 |
| Disagree | 36 | 16.36 |
| Undecided | 19 | 8.64 |
| Total: | 220 | 100 |

Source: field work, January, 2012.

Table 3.1: Table calculation of expected value for hypothesis 3:

| Respondents | Agree | Disagree | (Undecided) | Total |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Females | 63(72.0) | 24(15.71) | 9(8.29) | 96 |
| Males | 102(93.0) | 12(20.29) | 10(10.71) | 124 |
| Total | 165 | 36 | 19 | 220 |

Source: field work, January, 2012. From the above table 3 and 3.1, the Chi-Square X² calculated value for hypothesis 3 is as follows: For hypothesis 3 is as follows:

$$\text{Chi-Square } X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E} \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{(63-72.0)^2}{72.0} + \frac{(24-15.71)^2}{15.71} + \frac{(9-8.29)^2}{8.29} + \frac{(102-93.0)^2}{93.0} + \frac{(12-20.29)^2}{20.29} + \frac{(10-10.71)^2}{10.71}$$

$$= 1.172 + 4.37 + 0.06 + 0.15 + 0.15 + 0.15 = 9.87$$

Chi square (X²) calculate value = 9.87.

A 2 DF, the table value of X² at 0.05 level of significance = 5.991. Consequently, since the calculated value of X² is 9.87 and table value is 5.991, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between environmental degradation caused by oil spill disasters and poor standard of living of host communities in Khana L.G.A is hereby rejected, meaning that the alternate hypothesis which is that environmental degradation caused by oil spill disaster is the reason for the poor standard of living of host communities in Khana L.G.A of Ogoni land is accepted.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the foregoing, it can be seen that youth restlessness and militancy in the Niger Delta Region is caused by issues such as poverty, environmental degradation, bad governance, unemployment and most importantly payment of compensation to a selected few rather than the real victims of oil spill disasters has contributes to this menace.

This is because post disaster rehabilitation compensation is paid to community representatives who are supposed to distribute it to affected persons but they rather convert it to their personal use and by so doing the youth being deprived of their livelihood resort to violence in order to claim what he thinks is rightfully his due through illegal means such as kidnapping, illegal bunkering, vandalizing, indiscriminate killing and destruction of properties.

This study also revealed that multinational oil corporations has exploited the natural resources of the people without any positive feedback effect hence the people as a result react with violence towards the oil companies and the state.

It is also revealed that the birth of youth restlessness is linked to the fact that the compensation from oil spillage by oil producing companies do not get to the layman whose farm has been devastated, the hunter who can no longer hunt because vegetation is contaminated and poisoned the animals leading to extinction as they move to safer grounds or the fishermen who can no longer fish as a result of contaminated streams, rivers and water courses. All these culminate into poverty for members of the communities who have no other means of sustainable livelihood. It was discovered that oil firms in the region do not adhere to the “polluter pays” principle contained in the Nigeria National oil spill contingency plan where it stipulates that the polluter pays for the spill irrespective of cause. Noteworthy is the fact that the United States BP deep water oil spill disaster that led to loss of aquatic life and coastal areas compensated affected people with \$20 billion while making spirited effort to clean the environment. It also set aside \$100 million to assist oil rig workers who cannot find work as a result of the memorandum on drilling in the golf. Driving this home, the oil companies and government have done nothing to ameliorate the suffering of the people in terms of compensation and reparation payment nor has the environment being properly cleaned. This study discovered that this situation coupled with the threat of pipeline fires kills them in thousands while trying to siphon oil from pipeline in other to reduce poverty has not help militancy and youth restlessness in host communities.

It is pertinent to note that of the fourteen oil producing countries in African (Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea,

Gabon, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, South African, Sudan and Tunisia) Nigeria's Niger Delta is the only region where there is endemic social instability, massive environmental denudation, impoverishment, Chronic poverty, unemployment, decay in societal values etc. Furthermore, among the world top ten oil producing countries among which is Saudi Arabia, Russia, Libya and Nigeria, Nigeria is the tenth with the least oil reserve of 24 billion barrels and the most volatile in terms of agitation and resource based conflicts as well as the only country which has so cruelly plundered its oil producing districts without any genuine policy of compensation and reparation. These problems were traced to the inability of the oil companies to compensate oil spill victims and low government enforcement will. The Nigerian domestic legislation of section 21 Federal Environmental Protecting Agency Act 1988 known as the "Polluter Pays" principle should be enforced. It provides that "Except where an owner can prove that a discharge was caused by natural disaster or an act of war or by sabotage, such owner or operation or vessel or onshore or offshore facility from which the hazardous substance is discharged shall be liable for the cost of removal thereof and cost to third parties in the form of reparation, restoration or compensation as determined by the agency from time to time. The polluter pays principle is marred with exceptions which the polluter latches on to avoid liability. This promotes youth restlessness and militancy in the study area as host communities do not accept oil company verdict of sabotage and illegal bunkering but see it as ploy to evade responsibility. This situation gave birth to militancy in the host community.

The government has tried to help the situation by composing strict liability for operator to bear the cost regardless of fault; one of which is to establish NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) to proactively prevent, mitigate and embark on post disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction for disaster victims. Despite all these, militant activities are on the increase as witnessed by the incessant pillaging of oil wealth. The belief is that if oil wealth cannot be amazed by the configuration of Nigeria's political economy, you can steal it or even undermine it. This leads to sabotage and illegal bunkering thereby further degrading the environment. Most importantly the finding from this study drives us to the collusion

that militant activities such as oil bunkering, kidnapping of oil workers and persistent conflict between rival militant groups leading to the destruction of lives, properties and years of development efforts and lack of compensation payment to affected persons is a fallout of the activities of oil corporation. However the greatest obstacle to peace still lies in the lack of transparent development initiative in the region by the Federal Government. The forces associated with the proliferation of oil spill disasters and its attendant consequences are complex and a holistic attempt is required to deal with them. Based on the foregoing, the researcher postulated the following recommendation:

1. The solution to the problem of oil spill disasters and militancy in host communities can be found within a legal framework that incorporates disaster risk management strategies at the federal, state and local levels of government.
2. Disaster risk management measures as it affects oil spill should be integrated into the country's Federal budget plans. This is necessary because conflicts emanating from oil spill crisis usually culminates into severe destruction of not only the environment but also lives, properties and infrastructures with a negative impact on government development effort.
3. A rapid transformation of the Niger Delta region is likely to motivate the restless militant youth to lay down their arms and create a peaceful environment for corporate activities
4. The amnesty provision of the federal government notwithstanding, youth restlessness and militancy in Niger Delta region cannot be stopped unless a genuine attempt at reducing poverty, unemployment and infrastructural development is carried out.
5. The payment of compensation/reparation to the real victims of oil spillage and not to their traditional rulers or community representatives by oil producing companies for health, livelihood and environmental devastation will reduce conflict over ownership.
6. Effort should be made by oil multinationals to improve on existing methods of oil spill cleanup. Factors such as oil pipeline facility maintenance should be top priority.

7. The policy of derivation which stipulates that the region or state where the natural resource that sustains the economy is derived from should have priority in terms of infrastructural development should be implemented in the region.
8. Establishment of a private sector agency independent of both the federal government and multinational oil companies that will be charged with the responsibility of discovering oil spill in host communities, making the extent and damage of the spill publicly known and ensuring that the responsible oil facility properly cleans up the environment by conducting an independent post clean-up assessment in determining if the supposed clean-up is properly done.
9. The government should device a workable environmental policy that will regulate oil operation in the region, setting up environmental agencies is not enough, effective machinery should be put in place for strict enforcement of such laws.
10. Multinational oil companies should be more responsible to local people in their operations.
11. Government should not compromise the welfare and survival of its citizens because of oil profit motivated partnership with oil companies
12. Provision of credit facilities agricultural inputs, extension services and empowerment through micro finance banks to the people by oil corporations in order to boost the people financially.
13. A lasting solution goes beyond employment creation for the youth. The youths need to understand the evils of violence through public awareness, education and advocacy. effort should be made to install in the restless youth an understanding that violence and destruction lead to the annihilation of years of development effort while actively encouraging them to participate in peace building and developmental initiatives.

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