

OIL, GENDER AND UNEMPLOYMENT

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE
NIGER DELTA**

By

OGBANGA, MINA MARGARET (Ph.D)

*Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction and Development Studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port-Harcourt*
Mina.Ogbanga@uniport.edu.ng

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Introduction

Though there have been studies on the economics and politics of violent conflict relations between and/or among the state, petrobusinesses and diverse oil-bearing communities of the Niger Delta, this present study is devoted to research on the socio-cultural consequences and the implications of environmental change on Niger Delta communities; an area vastly neglected by researchers of the Niger Delta and its crises. Therefore, this study is a pragmatic shift from previous studies and a bridge in knowledge production. It also addresses current issues on the social, economic, political and theoretical dilemma of the human society and its significance with regards to development and policy related issues both locally and globally.

For decades, the economic and political dimensions of environmental governance and change has been at the centre of national and international public policy and academic debates; nevertheless, the social impacts of environmental change and the inadequacy of policies addressing them have remained at the margins of academic research. Though its relevance has been emphasized and reaffirmed in the Brundtland Report (1987), the Millennium Development Goals (2001), the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002), they remain fringe issues in the global discourse on sustainable development. Hence, much should be done to conceptualize and interrogate the social dimensions of environmental change in mainstream socio-economic analysis. However, social dimension

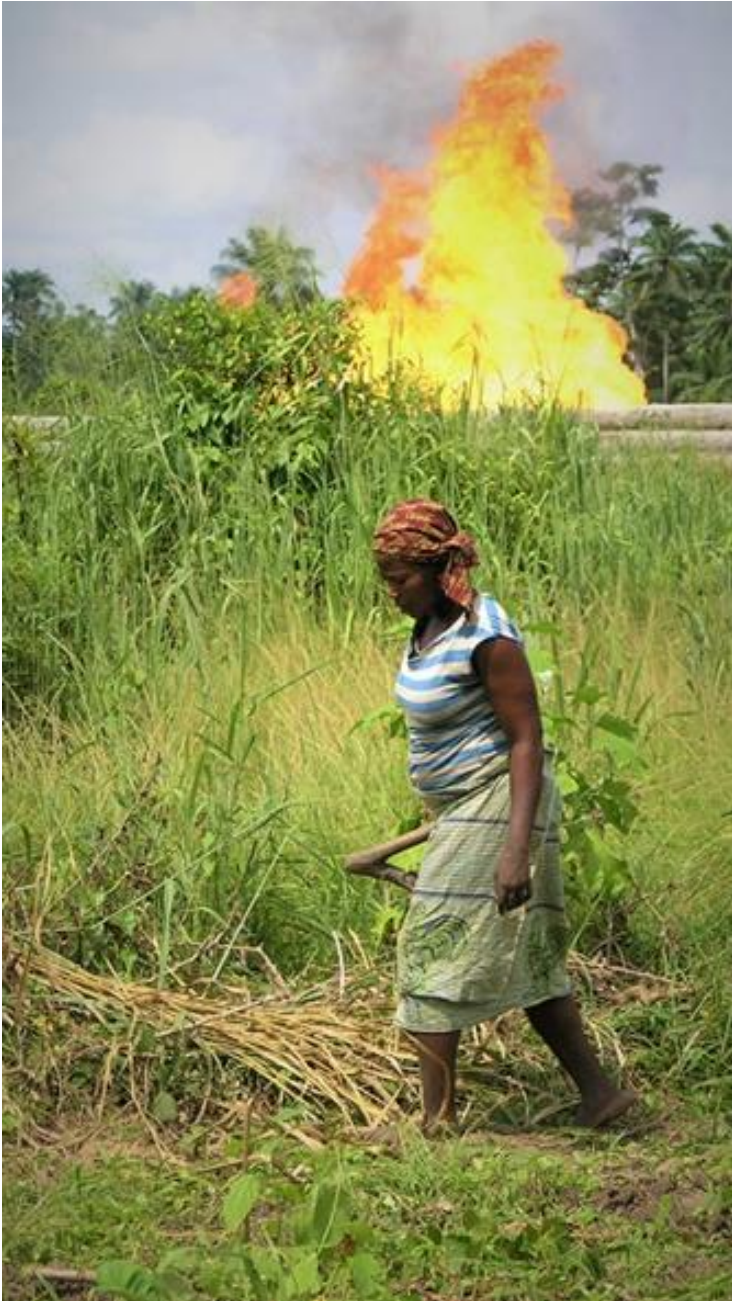
issues should not be overlooked as societies face potentially dramatic environmental changes thus have to undergo fundamental transformations to achieve sustainable development. Environmental change is principally caused by anthropogenic activities such as petrobusiness explorations and its consequences to human society are negative. It alters the normalcy of the environment and forces the inhabitants of the affected area into new ways of life and adaptations. The Niger Delta is highly susceptible to adverse environmental changes because it is an oil producing community located in the coastal region of the world; little wonder why reports on the environmental state of the community are conclusive that the area is rapidly becoming an ecological wasteland (Uyigie and Ogbeibu, nd:2).

Geo-Ethnography of the Niger Delta

The Niger River Delta lies in the Atlantic Coast of southern Nigeria, and "within the Ibo Plateau and the Cross River Valley" (Willinks Commission Report, 1957:9). It is between latitude 3°N and 6°N, and longitude 5°E and 8°E (Ndubuisi & Asia, 2007:18). A watery maze of intricate marshland, creeks, tributaries and lagoons flung across approximately 70,000 square kilometers, the delta has an extremely delicate and sensitive ecosystem. It is Africa's largest wetland and the second largest in the world after the Mississippi (Nseabasi, 2005:165). About 2,370 square kilometers of the Niger Delta area consist of rivers, creeks and estuaries while stagnant swamp covers about 8,600 square kilometers. The region's

ecosystem is highly diverse and supportive of numerous species of terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. As a result of its delicate nature, it is susceptible to adverse environmental change. Politically, the Niger Delta is a panoply of geographically contiguous area currently cutting across nine states in southern Nigeria namely Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers states. It has 185 Local Government Areas (LGAs) divided into more than 2,000 communities (Tamuno, 2000; Chinweze and Abiola-Oloke, 2009). Also, the Niger Delta has several minority ethnic groups with a population of over 40 million people. The area accounts for more than 23% of Nigeria's total population (NPC, 2006), and has one of the highest population densities in the world, with 265 people *per* square kilometer (Balouga, 2009; Nyananyo, 2007). The Niger Delta is Nigeria's richest region; this is as a result of the products from crude oil existing in the area which makes Nigeria the largest petroleum producer in Africa and the sixth in the world. Resources (oil and gas) from the region are the main sources of revenue in Nigeria. Since the early 1990's petroleum production have accounted for more than 25% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), oil exports have accounted for over 95% of its total export earnings and about 75% of government revenue (Balouga, 2009:8). Despite its privileged endowments, the Niger Delta is still largely a rural area. This was underlined by the Willinks Commission (1957:5) about fifty-three years ago which described it as "poor, backward, and neglected." This description has not yet changed till date. Since the

time of the constitution of the Willinks Commission in 1956, 'the Niger Delta' has been a major problem at local and international levels due to its strategic position in national and international economies. Closely linked to this are issues of environmental change and human development, sustainable development, petroleum resource conflicts, self-determination, resource ownership and control as well as peace and conflict management which have become current global phenomena in national and international public policy, academic debates and discourses.



Enormous Energy Reserves Of the Niger Delta

Despite the enormous energy reserves of the Niger Delta, government and private enterprise meet less than 10 per cent of the energy needs of the region. The high cost of running generators and lack of sustainable alternatives is a significant obstacle to economic diversification of the Niger Delta. This energy poverty reinforces unemployment, limits social mobility and fuels militancy. For the people of the Niger Delta this is particularly grating as vast amounts of oil and gas are taken daily from beneath their feet and gas flares burn billions of dollars worth of useful gas over their heads that could easily provide electricity.

Oil theft and illegal oil refining are seen by many as simply fulfilling domestic demand for fuel products that would otherwise be shipped abroad.

Poor democratic institutions and practices

The democratic transition in Nigeria remains incomplete. Weak and dysfunctional institutions lack legitimacy, while the vast majority of citizens in the Niger Delta are structurally excluded from democratic participation. Unaccountable politics and lack of capacity of institutions to deliver development, protect justice, ensure due process and security have resulted in collective public frustration that at times contributed to cycles of violent conflict.

Oil spills and gas flaring

Poor operating practices, weak law enforcement and an active illegal oil economy contribute to hundreds of oil spills a year in the Niger Delta. This environmental disaster destroys traditional livelihoods, breeds

mistrust and resentment and undermines the operational security of oil companies and Federal Government.

Gas flared every day in the Niger Delta is equivalent to the daily gas consumption of Brazil. This multi-billion dollar waste not only leaves communities without effective energy solutions, but is the single, biggest contributor to CO₂ emissions in Africa. The utilisation of waste associated gas has the potential to address Nigeria's acute domestic energy crisis and stimulate economic diversification and growth in the Niger Delta. In addition, the utilization of flared gas to address energy poverty is an important part of creating an enabling environment in the Niger Delta. Provision of localised and reliable electricity will also reduce one of the primary drivers of illegal oil refining.

Poor governance and service delivery

Essential services such as power, sanitation, healthcare and primary education have not been delivered to communities. Corruption, patronage and weak governance have led to underdevelopment and significant unrest. Over past decades, government has failed to meet the most basic needs of communities. A dominant patronage system ensures that government representatives do not have to rely on citizen led accountability or their own performance to remain in office. Hundreds of billions of US dollars of oil receipts have been squandered with limited public scrutiny and accountability. Governance failure has resulted in the substantial resources being squandered for personal gain, rather than used to improve health, education and developmental

infrastructure. The patronage system, lack of transparency and accountability also affect private contracting and frontline service providers which results in corrupt practices around contract implementation and poor quality of services delivered. Performance of frontline professionals is plagued by high absenteeism, low motivation and insufficient quality.

Land clearances and displacements

79% of Nigeria's urban population live in slums. 'Slum clearance', leading to mass displacement and social dislocation, is too often the government's response to the complex challenges of cities. SDN's Urban Justice programme brings together communities, planners and politicians to create sustainable solutions that move away from policy based on mass clearance and demolition towards partnership-driven development.

Subjugation of women

Women in the Niger Delta suffer from many forms of discrimination and exclusion. Their inequality in political, economic and societal sphere prevents them from achieving their full potential in promoting peace and acting as constructive agents of change at all levels of society. This is despite their unique and proven talents as peacemakers and community developers. In line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the Niger Delta can become more stable if obstacles are removed that prevent the participation of women in decision-making and peace building processes and their needs, perspectives and experiences are

considered in policymaking and incorporated into all stages of programming.

The richness of oil in the Niger Delta

The richness of oil in the Niger Delta made Nigeria one of the major oil producing nations. Nigeria as a member of the Africa Union (AU), NEPAD, and ECOWAS, plays a prominent role as a peace keeper in West African sub-region. Ironically, in the Niger Delta, Nigeria has not been able to maintain peace. The area has not known peace but chaos, abduction, killing, armed robbery, prostitution and kidnapping. The effect of this, is devastation, sabotage, unemployment, militancy, lack of amenities and abject poverty. The traditional occupation of the people is mainly fishing and farming, and therefore the Delta have a high dependency on the river and their land for survival. The rivers and the land are polluted by oil spillages and pollution. (Ukoko 2005). The women and the children are the ones mostly hit by this devastation. The men have either fled the area for greener pastures or away on combatant duty. The situation leads to a shift in gender roles with a dramatic increase in the number of women heads of households McAskie 2003, in Erin 2005. This happens because the women in the absence of their husbands fend for their families. As the women are the ones that feel the pinch more, they ought to be included in peace building and also women possess the natural ability to maintain peace and tranquility. (Ekiyor 2009). This paper exposed the natural abilities of women in conflict resolution and implore the appropriate authorities to always include them in any

agenda for conflict resolution such as the case of the Niger Delta.

Women of Niger Delta

Women of Niger Delta face many tragedies due to the oil richness of their land. They live in fear, poverty, deprivation, degradation, environmental destruction, flowing from irresponsible oil exploration, chemical Pollution, gas flaring, high infant mortality rate, rape, dehumanization etc. The Delta woman is not different from any other African woman in terms of the numerous "hang over" the men and society have about them. Women appear to be inferior to men due to largely to their ascribed and acquired role. Women are accentuated by socio-cultural orthodoxy with a concomitant Vulnerability to deprivation, intimidation and extreme suffering, (Nkamebe 2009). The Delta women inspite of the violence in the area still carry on these ascribed roles. According to Ijere, (1991) "Women are the back bone of rural development, they are found in Agriculture and outside it, they hold an unassailable pre-eminence, tending the children and even the husbands. The degree in disorganization and chaos that occurs when they are absent in the house confirms the extent of their importance". (P.1) Delta women suffer from mental torture from the killings of their sons and husbands. Ukoko (2005) wrote that in 1995, "the women of the Niger Delta watched in agony and helplessness as ogoniland was attacked and occupied by Nigeria's military forces ... In the process Ken Saro Wiwa and his colleagues were hanged ... the world was outraged but the tragedies continued unabated". (P.3)

The women continue to suffer the effect of military evasion of their land. He went further to say that a soldier was caught on camera as he raped a woman in the bush. Multinational corporation's expatriates appear to be among the clientele that patronize women whom poverty has turned into prostitutes. Four years after the attack on Ogoniland, the Federal Government of Nigeria ordered a military attack on Odi in Bayelsa region. As Odi was destroyed many mothers buried their sons, brothers and fathers while the women of the re-region watched helplessly. In August 8th 2002 the Delta women organized themselves and went on a peaceful protest at the gate of Shell Nigeria. Shell called in their military partners, the military force who then converted a peaceful protest to into a painful experience for the women.

Women in the Niger Delta have used and continue to use a variety of forms of resistance. According to Green 1999 "*Women have used dancing, singing demonstrations, strikes, testimonies, silence and the use of culturally specific responses such as stripping naked. Refuse to alter work routines and habits such as opening up market stalls, collecting water participating in women's meeting'* (P.7). Despite the chaos and violence that surrounds them; they were undaunted in carrying on with their daily routines.

SECTION ONE

**OIL EXPLOITATION
AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NIGER
DELTA**

Chapter 1: OIL EXPLOITATION AND ECONOMIC PRODUCTION

Abstract

It is understandable that whatever has prospects must also have its contradictions and problems as well. The prospects in this respect, is the tremendous financial positive implications to the Nigeria economy, while the precarious problems associated with it, it the hazards of such exploration on the environment and socio-economic lives of the Ogoni people. The study revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between oil exploration and exploitation on the rural economy of the indigenous people of Ogoni – which the present of oil pollution and environmental degradation poses grave threat to the people in terms of accessibility of their traditional means of livelihood, which is farming and fishing activities. Indeed, there is no doubt that oil exploration and exploitation activities played major role in terms of source of revenue for the Nigerian economy. The study shows a positive significant relationship between oil exploration and economic production in Ogoniland such as farming and fishing activities, the source of their livelihood. It is discovered that their farmlands and creeks have been corrupted which are manifested in their economic meltdown. Therefore, it is questionable that oil exploration, exploitation and its related activities have impacted

Introduction

It is said that agriculture forms a major economic activity in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region as well as Ogoniland. According to CBN (2010), the overall contribution of agriculture to real GDP was ₦ 316, 728, 70 million, of this total, crop production accounted for about 89%. Thus, in attempting to an environmentally sustainable economic and social order, we have to be virtually concerned about safeguarding the life-support systems of the oil bearing communities of which crop farming is one of such life support systems. It is therefore, imperative to create a broad understanding and awareness of the actual or potential hazards threatening the subsistent peasant economy and the environment – hence the entire livelihood and basic survival of the people. As mentioned earlier, no much emphasis has been placed on how oil exploitation and its related activities have impacted economically or otherwise on small scale crop farmers in Ogoniland, in that nothing practical has been done so as to curtail, ameliorate or eradicate the said problems. The researcher, therefore, believes that this study will enable the companies appreciate the extent of damage done through their production activities on the agricultural resources of the Niger Delta region, especially the Ogoni people and to take the appropriate step(s) to medicine or remedy such situations.

Significance Of The Study

It is said that agriculture forms a major economic activity in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region as well as Ogoniland. According to CBN (2010), the overall contribution of agriculture to real GDP was

₦ 316, 728, 70 million, of this total, crop production accounted for about 89%. Thus, in attempting to an environmentally sustainable economic and social order, we have to be virtually concerned about safeguarding the life-support systems of the oil bearing communities of which crop farming is one of such life support systems. It is therefore, imperative to create a broad understanding and awareness of the actual or potential hazards threatening the subsistent peasant economy and the environment – hence the entire livelihood and basic survival of the people.

Oil Exploration and Its Impact on the Rural Economy of the Ogoni People

From all indications; research has shown that there is a clear nexus between oil exploration and its impact on the rural economy of the Ogoni people. That oil exploration has profound impacts on the rural economy, partly because of the processes involved in its preliminary phases (Ayuba, 2012). But the critical question here is, to what extent has oil exploration impacted negatively on the economy of the Ogoni people? And if it is true that oil exploration has impacted negatively on their economy, what are the measures that have been put in place by the drivers so as to revitalise their economy? Prior to the discovering of oil at Ogoniland in 1958, the people made their living from the exploitation of resources on the land, water and forest as farmers, fishers and hunters. The discovering of oil, understandably brought much joy and hope to the people with the belief that it will at least provide basic amenities such as tap water, electricity, healthcare facilities, good roads, good schools, jobs etc. In their innocence, they

believed that the state and the oil companies were equally interested in bringing development to their communities. This, they later found out, was not the case. The primary interest and agenda of the oil companies has never been that of development of the communities but to ensure that they maximize their profit in the communities (Ayuba, 2012). The custodians of state power in Nigeria also view their position as the shortest route to wealth, power, influence and privilege which must be achieved at all cost. The oil companies and custodians of state power share a common interest in the maximization of profit in order to achieve their objective of capital accumulation. To this end, every other thing is subordinated including the lives and livelihood of the people, as well as the environment. Ibeanu (2000), argued that the extraction and production of oil by large oil companies in accordance with the federal government of Nigeria, has caused environmental damage in this extremely sensitive ecosystem, as well as exacerbated tensions between the petrol-business and the government on the one hand and the local ethnic communities of the Niger-Delta, particularly the Ogoni on the other hand. Since the country began exporting oil in large quantities in the 1950s, the oil-rich southern region of the Niger-Delta has been a source of revenue for the federal government. Nigeria is the sixth largest oil producing country; currently export about 2.5 million barrels of oil per day. With the oil exploration in Rivers State, Ogoniland in particular there has been large environmental degradation and oil spillage destroying underground water, farmland, forest, water, ecosystem, killing animals and endangering human life. The people

suffer strange sicknesses to a polluted environment, and the government has not shown any concern on the environmental degradation caused by the oil companies in Ogoniland. According to MOSOP (2017), the toxicity level in Ogoni today is such that we can conclude that Ogoniland is currently awaiting its formal burial. The death of everything –farmlands, fishes, seas, vegetation, men, women and children are expected as pollution has turned everything including foods and water into toxic products. This is not the best of times for the communities of four local government councils of Khana, Gokana, Tai and Eleme, all in Ogoni area of Rivers State, as farming and fishing activities have become a nightmare for thousands of them because of the effects of oil pollution. Ogoni, one of the largest ethnic nationalities in Rivers State has suffered large-scale environmental pollution wrought upon it by the activities of multinational oil companies operating in the region (Nubari, 2004).The Ogoni have over 500,000 rural population according to the 1980 census. The Nyor-Khana has the largest landmass with thick forest reserve for farming activities. The entire Ogoniland has great potential for agricultural activities which include farming, fishing, tapping and distillation of palm wine into local gin. But the activities of petroleum exploration companies which started in 1958 have contributed to the environmental despoliation which polluted streams, creeks as well as farmlands in the area (MOSOP, 2005).

According to Aworawo, (2000), the Ogoniland is blessed in soil fertility but which in recent times has been tampered with such that cropping and other

forms of agriculture are essentially exploitive because of nutrients removal. And with the advent of mineral oil exploitation, the entire farms within the oil drilling locations have been affected, thereby, causing low crop yield and avidity which changes crop adaptability. Oil pollution, according to researchers, also generates air-borne diseases which not only affect human beings but also contributes to scarcity of fish and other marine animals. Recent research has revealed that within a few weeks of taking oil pollutant, the tilapia groups of fish die. It was also learnt that oil destroys the gills of catfish and also kills embryos thereby decreasing their population. Residents of Ogoni communities and indeed the entire Niger Delta have been complaining of poor crop yield, animal production and shortage of food.

"Many communities in the oil producing areas have always complained of poor crop yield, animal production neglect and hardship. Many have left their homes because of the harsh economic effects of oil pollution on them. The communities can no longer fish, farm or hunt because oil production has polluted their rivers and made farmlands unproductive. Oil spills from outdated oil equipment have driven fish into off-shore water where the Ogonis are not equipped to embark on fishing. The people of the area now buy foodstuffs because acid rain has destroyed much of the land," stated Aworawo (2000).

In Ebubu Eleme, farmlands and streams were destroyed by oil pollution which occurred several years ago. A resident of the community, Ollor Chujor, said oil pollution has affected farming in the area.

"We are having very serious issues in terms of

farming and other agricultural activities in Ebubu. The land destruction caused by oil exploration activities is at unimaginable proportion. Our land is not yielding crops any more.

"Before now, we were having bumper harvests through aggressive farming activities. We cultivate all kinds of crops ranging from vegetables, cassava, yam and all kinds of food crops but the land is no longer fertile to make good yield. Our aquatic life is equally affected as no serious fishing activities are going on in our area," Chujor stated(Daily trust limited, Thursday, April, 26th 2018).

Another Ogoni indigene, BarineeKoba, said farming activities have been badly impacted as a result of oil exploitation and exploration.

"Oil exploration has done great harm to agriculture in Ogoniland. There is no part of Ogoniland that is not impacted by one form of pollution or the other. Oil exploration devastated our communities and left it in ruins. We cannot farm and get good yield. Our farmland was polluted, and our aquatic lives were destroyed. The soil was greatly impacted as a result of high effects of hydrocarbon pollution. We can no longer go for fishing expeditions and this has affected us in no small measure. We are solely dependent on farming and now that our source of livelihood is being threatened what are we going to do," Koba lamented.

Rivers State government had established lots of agricultural projects in Ogoniland given its rich arable land mass. Some of the agro farm projects established included the Banana plantation and the Songhai farm projects. The residents of Ogoni are into subsidiary farming as every household has large portions of land for farming but oil pollution has done

great harm to large proportion of arable land in the area. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) released its environmental assessment in Ogoni on August 2011. The report according to Shell bulletin was commissioned by and delivered to the Federal Government of Nigeria. It makes recommendations to the government, the oil and gas industry and communities to begin a comprehensive cleanup of Ogoniland, restore polluted environments and put an end to all forms of ongoing oil contamination in the region. The UNEP has assessed that the environmental restoration of Ogoniland would require coordinated efforts on the part of government agencies at all levels, industry operators and communities. It also presented its recommendations as a major opportunity to bring new investments and employment opportunities and drive improvements in the environmental and health situation on the ground. Majority of the Ogonis believe that on completion of the cleanup exercise by the present administration, their environment would be restored and serious farming activities would commence.

"We are hopeful that at the end of this clean up, our land will be restored and serious agricultural activities will commence. We need something urgent to be done towards this direction because majority of the Ogonis will like to go back to farming which is our primary trade," stated a resident of Bomu, (TombariDekor).

Summary and Conclusion

Indeed, there is no doubt that oil exploration and exploitation activities played major role in terms of

source of revenue for the Nigerian economy. However, it is understandable that whatever has prospects must also have its contradictions and problems as well. The prospects in this respect, is the tremendous financial positive implications to the Nigeria economy, while the precarious problems associated with it, is the hazards of such exploration on the environment and socio-economic lives of the Ogoni people. The study shows a positive significant relationship between oil exploration and economic production in Ogoniland such as farming and fishing activities, the source of their livelihood. It is revealed that their farmlands and creeks have been degraded which are manifested in their economic meltdown. Therefore, it is arguable that oil exploration, exploitation and its related activities have impacted negatively on the socio-economic and cultural lives of the indigenous people of Ogoni.

Recommendations

This study would not be complete except when certain recommendations are made geared towards the amelioration or perhaps eradication of the matters under reference of this study.

Therefore, based on this, the following recommendations are postulated:

- The Nigerian State should deem it necessary to develop Ogoniland as one of the resource base of her economic power.
- The Nigerian State should strengthen the various policies in relation to standards best practices by oil companies so as to avoid subsequent oil spillages in Ogoniland as well as in the Niger Delta region.

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Chapter 2: OIL EXPLOITATION AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE OGO NI PEOPLE

Abstract

Over the years, emphasis has always been placed by the State on increased of crude oil exploration without giving enough attention to how the environment and agricultural productivity are affected and ways to curb oil spillage and other forms of pollution by the exploring companies concerned – this has been the case of the Ogoni people. It should be noted that in Nigeria, as in other developing countries in the world, a key policy objective targeted at achieving sustainable human development and ecological protection is to establish energy development paths that are economically affects the small scale crops producers in the Niger Delta communities. Thus, there is the need to undertake a detailed economic study of the impacts of oil exploitation and other related activities on rural economy (farming and fishing) in Ogoniland with a view to improving the living standard of the people.

Introduction

Nigeria is one country in Africa that is endowed with abundant natural resources, a greater part of these are found in the Niger Delta region, especially Ogoniland which could be exploited for nation building and development. However, yet with these arrays of resources, including oil, the country is still poorly developed. Severally, it has been classified by World Bank and international organizations as one of the ten least developed States in the world (Nyong, 2000). Nigeria by natural endowment is an agricultural country. By 1950, it was estimated that about ninety percent of Nigeria relied on agriculture for their livelihood (Ikerionwu, 2013).Ogoniland has a

population of close to 832,000, and a population density of 1250 km². The region administratively has four L.G.As, namely: Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana. Covering around 100'000 km² in Rivers State, Ogoniland is one of the prominent areas in the Niger Delta, and has been the site of oil industry operations since the late 1950s. It has a calamitous history of pollution from oil spills, gas flares and oil wells of which has brought their economic power to the very background (Yakubu, 2016). The area is naturally endowed with an abundance of rivers, creeks, and streams. Consequently, it has predominantly traditional farmers and fishers. In the past, it was referred as the "Food basket of the Niger Delta" because it produced cash crops for neighboring Niger Delta region as well as subsistence agriculture. This traditional practice enhanced sustainable management of the abundant natural resources. The present paper is on the influence of oil exploitation and its related activities on the economic development of the Ogoni people.

Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to the four administrative local government of Ogoni, which comprises Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana. Contextually, the study looks at oil exploration and environmental degradation, the interest of Nigerian state, oil exploitation and the politics of divide and rule, oil exploration and its impact on the rural economy of the Ogoni people.

Theoretical Framework

In every research endeavour, the importance of an articulated theoretical framework cannot be overemphasized. This was made evident by Garrod and Willis (1999). "He emphasised that theoretical orientation is crucial and necessary aspect of every research process" it provides the perspective within which hypothesis are raised, questions are asked and the whole intellectual understanding involved in the research ground, and that is what this segment of this project work is poised to examine. Among other theoretical perspective, the Marxist political economy approach which in terminology mean the same thing as dialect materialism (Ake,1981, Farnham and Onimode 2000) whose approach is originated from the social analysis of Karl Marx and Fredrick Engel's, it explains life in terms of practical material conditions surrounding human existence. Its sees material conditions, such as physical environment, availability of food, water, and shelter as the fundamentals in human existence. It contends that material conditions not only shape human social relations, but also impinge on human thought unlike the idealists, that ideas are not self-generating, but arise as responses to the material and social conditions already established (Sanderson S.K. 1998} as cited in Girigiri, 1998).The political economy has been chosen for this research work. The term political economy was first used by a French economist, Antonie De Montchrestie in his book Trait De economic politique the political economy approach stresses also that man must eat before he can do anything else before he can worship, pursue culture, politics or become an economist. The methodological implication of this for student of society is that, it must pay particular

attention to the economic structure of society and indeed use it as point of departure for studying other aspect of society. Once we understand what the material assets and constraints of a society are, how the society produced goods are distributed and what type of social relation arises from the organization of production! We have come a long way to understand the culture of that society, its laws, religious system, political system, and even its mode of thought. The subject matter of political economy is therefore, the production (economic) relations between people. These include the terms of ownership of the means of production; the social relations of men in production, with the social system of production and the basis of the development of society. It also gives account of the inter-links between the productive forces and relations of production (Nikitin, 1983).The political economy also emphasises that a society where high degree of economic inequality exist must necessarily be repressive. This repression arises from the need to curb the meritable demand of the have not for distribution (Ake, 1981). The capitalist (bourgeoisie) class that owns the means of production is rich because they appropriate more than their fair share of society's wealth. The second group (wage earners/proletariat and peasants) are largely deprived, marginalised, exploited and frustrated. This disadvantage position overtime may attain a boiling point and give rise to conflict.

Ogoni people- Rivers State and Niger Delta region as a whole

Though, most sociologists believe fervently that they can apply the consensus perspective concomitantly.

However, for the purpose of this study, we have the political economy approach for the theoretical framework. The capitalist (Bourgeoisie) class that owns the means of production is rich because they appropriate more than their fair share of society's wealth. The second group (wage-earners/proletariat and peasants) are largely deprived, marginalised, exploited and frustrated. This has led the boiling point and gave rise to conflict which has brought about destruction. The political economy is therefore the production (economic) and relations between people. The activities of the multinational oil companies have caused overt havocs to the economic base of the Ogoni people and in turn have failed to remunerate the affected communities. For example, the ordinary farmers and fishermen could not have anything because the source of their income had been destroyed. No portable water to drink - left in abject poverty and nothing profitable to them. But what is known to be the game of the day, is exploitation which has given rise to incessant conflict for decades - because their need are not met and they are deprived of their basic means of survival. As was earlier mentioned, rural-economy is synonymous with agriculture. And the greater numbers of people who dwell in this social milieu are poor farmers whose source of income is agriculture. However, as at today their economic source is brought to the background resulting from oil exploration and production related activities. Arguably, the people are said to push to the wall to steal because they have been alienated from their means of livelihood- their lands totally destroyed without compensation of any kind (Danadum, 2017). Decades of oil exploration, exploitation and

production activities in the Niger Delta and Ogoni in particular have led to severe environmental degradation that has created complex problems in the region. Environmental exploitation has been a major point of contention between the Nigerian government, multinational oil companies (MOCs) - the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in particular - and the communities affected by oil pollution particularly Ogoniland. Many years of struggle between Ogoni communities and Shell to clean up oil spills from their operations have brought practically no change. Ayuba, (2012) averred that oil exploration and exploitation has been on-going for several decades in the Niger Delta, Ogoni in particular. It has had disastrous impacts on the environment in the region – particularly Ogoni communities and has adversely affected people inhabiting in the region. The Niger Delta (Ogoniland) consist of diverse ecosystems of mangrove, swamps, fresh water swamps, rain forest and is the largest wetland in Africa and among the ten most important wetland – main ecosystems in the world – but due to oil pollution the area is now characterised by contaminated streams and rivers, forest destruction and bio-diversity loss in general the area is and ecological wasteland (Twumasi and Merem 2006). Uyige and Agho, (2007), contended that this affects the livelihood of the indigenous people of Ogoni who depend on the ecosystem services for survival leading to increased poverty and displacement of the people. World Bank (1995) observed that Nigeria is confronted with a number of serious environmental problems including land degradation estimated to cost US billion annually as a result of oil exploration and

exploitation. Others are poor environmental health and urban waste, pollution, climate change and ozone depletion crude oil exploration activities resulted in pollution hazard, from accident oil spillage or oil pipeline vandalisation. With the increased production of oil and continued pollution and degradation of the environment and development neglect.

Ken Saro-Wiwa and the movement for the survival of Ogoni people (MOSOP), intensified the struggle against the oil companies and brought their plight to the attention of the international community. As they intensified agitation against the oil companies assumed an international dimension, the state responded with a mixture of intimidatory tactics in which the federal and state government set up a special internal security taskforce, which terrorized and burnt down entire villages, stilled, raped and looted Ogoniland. It was also during this period that the founding spokesman for MOSOP, the late KenuleSaro-Wiwa, was tried and executed by the military government under the late General Sani Abacha regime on the charge of murder of four prominent Ogoni men who were killed by angry Ogoni youths. The Ogoni youths accused the four men of treachery in the course of the struggle of the Ogoni people against oil companies and the federal government. Another problem is that in the early 1990s, when Ogonis were in the forefront of the struggle for environmental restoration, they involved in a serious of conflicts with their neighbors such as the people of Okrika, Andoni and Ndoki etc. most of their clashes are seen as sponsored by either the oil companies or state itself to keep them in a perpetual

state of conflict so that they will be too busy fighting among themselves not to think of confronting the oil companies. The oil industry located within this region has contributed immensely to the growth and the development of the country which is a fact that cannot be disputed, but in turn unsustainable oil exploration activities has rendered the Niger Delta environment, especially Ogoniland one of the five most severely petroleum damaged ecosystems in the world (Uyigue and Ogbeitu, 2007). Studies have shown that the quantity of oil spilled over 50 years was a least 9-13 million barrels, which is equivalent to 50 Exxon Valdez spills (Ayuba, 2012). According to Vanguard Newspaper (Friday 18th May, 2001) the Yorla oil well in Ogoniland 16 oil spillages, which about 20,000 barrels of crude oil was spilled in 1999. The Comet (Tuesday May, 2001, the Nigerian Tide Publication, 10th April 2000) also recorded the oil spillage in Ogoni of KegbaraDere and the subsequent one with their neighbor's communities with about 7,500 barrels of crude oil was spilled through their land and neighbouring farmlands. The toxicity level in Ogoni today cuff such that we can conclude that Ogoniland is currently awaiting its formal burial. The death of everything - land fishes, seas, vegetation, men, women and children are expected as pollution has turned everything including foods and water into toxic products (MOSOP, 2017). One study by MOSOP (Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People) reveal that 4 out of every 10 child born in Ogoni will die in 90 days resulting from oil related activities. Another study by a Swiss professor shows the death rate is as high as 70 percent within 3 months (FegaloNsuke, Jan, 22, 2018). Restoring

environmental degradation and justice in Ogoniland is a serious task that needs accomplishment. Ogoniland is facing terrible environmental degradation (Nwilo and Badejo, 2005). The Ogoni people have sought more political autonomy and compensation for environmental damage to their land by oil companies since 1990. Their campaign against Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) which has extracted an estimated Us \$ 30 billion dollars of oil exploration from Ogoniland since 1958 has been met with force and existence violence by Nigeria's military(Bakwuye, 1993).

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Chapter 3: THE NIGERIAN STATE; OIL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN OGONILAND

Prologue

To best understand the impact of oil exploration on Ogoniland and its people, it is imperative that we understand how far the Ogoni people have come in terms of oil exploration. In 1958, Shell struck oil in Bomu in Ogoniland. This was their second successful oil discovery after Oloibiri until 1993 when protests by the Ogoni people against Shell caused the company to shut down its operations in Ogoniland(Onosode,2000).Although Shell operated in Ogoniland for 35 years, where they mined oil which represented a meagre 3% of their total production, in the 15 years period from 1976 – 1991, there were approximately 3,000 oil spills in Ogoniland alone, accounting for 40% of the total spills by Shell in its operation worldwide. The Ogoni issue peaked in 1995 when the leader of MOSOP, the Ogoni socio-cultural group, Ken Saro-Wiwa and 8 Ogoni activists were executed by the military government of General Sani Abacha (Ibeanu, 2005). The Ogoni people are said to be rich in agricultural production, partly because of their fertile and arable lands when compared to their neighbors' such as the Okrika, Andoni etc. The upland areas varies in height from 10 to 45 metres above mean sea level, but the majority is interspersed by small ridges and shallow swamp basins, as well as by gently sloping terraces intersected by deep valleys that carry water intermittently (Omoweh, 2005). The South part is subject to tidal influences and is highly susceptible to recurrent inundation by riverine flooding. The flow patterns are responsible for the deposition of fine-grained sediments in the Delta. Its topography is mainly characterized by rivers, lakes, creeks, lagoons and swamps of varying dimensions. The land surface can be grouped into three main divisions from

North to South: The fresh-water zone, mangrove zone, swamps and the coastal sand ridge zones. Actually, crude oil was said to be discovered in Ogoniland in 1956, at the time when oil was struck at Oloibiri in commercial quantities, the then Rivers State but present day Bayelsa State. According to Ken Saro-Wiwa(1990) cited (MOSOP, 2008), Ogoniland contributed greater quota to the first 22 thousand barrels of crude oil that was exported from Nigeria to Europe in 1958. The four administrative local government of the Ogoniland is largely an agrarian society mainly depending on agriculture for their survival. As a rural society, it's known to be an agricultural based subsistent milieu. They live large on agriculture, and it is the primary source of their economic power.

Significance Of The Study

It is said that agriculture forms a major economic activity in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region as well as Ogoniland. According to CBN (2010), the overall contribution of agriculture to real GDP was ₦ 316, 728, 70 million, of this total, crop production accounted for about 89%. Thus, in attempting to an environmentally sustainable economic and social order, we have to be virtually concerned about safeguarding the life-support systems of the oil bearing communities of which crop farming is one of such life support systems. It is hoped that the research will draw the attention of the trans-national oil companies, especially Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), environmental activists and every other stakeholder in the oil industry to be aware of the hardship being suffering by farmers vis-à-vis oil exploitation so that policies could be tailored toward alleviating the suffering of these people. This study will also help to support advocacy for the urgent implementation of the Ogoni clean-up.

The Interest Of Nigerian State, Oil Exploitation And The Politics Of Divide And Rule

The concept refers to a strategy orchestrated by an authority to break up existing power structures, and especially prevents smaller power groups from linking up, causing rivalries and fomenting discord among the people (Nwoke, 2008). Divide and Rule (or divide and conquer, from Latin word, *divi et impera*) in politics and sociology is gaining and maintaining power by breaking up large concentrations of power into pieces that individually have less power than the one implementing the strategy. (www.slideshare.net). Traditionally, the concept is linked to Philip of Macedonia: in Ancient Greek. - Divide and Rule. The use of this technique is meant to control subjects, empower the sovereign to control subjects, populations of different interests who collectively might be able to oppose his rule (Magun, 2002). According to Fagulo, (2002) Machiavelli identifies a similar application to military strategy, (advising in Book vi of *The Art of War* (dellaguerra) that certain captain should endeavour with every art to divide the forces of the enemy, either by giving him cause that he has to separate his forces, and, because of this become weaker. The politics of divide and rule is a technique and strategy employed by an authority to alter justice and in order to achieve its selfish interest at the expense of a group or people (Wiwa, 2000). Thus, the Nigerian State and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) have devised the politics of divide and rule in subjugating the Ogoni people and deprived them of their human rights. To this end, it is integral to this study to show an

understanding in how this tactics had been used on the Ogoni people. The question is, where are the evidences to show that indeed, the Ogoni people have been subjugated through the tactics of divide and rule? To some persons, it would not be logical by merely stating that the Ogoni people had been deprived and de-humanised through divide and rule or conquer tactics without being factual. Therefore, it is key to driving this understanding on the basis of relevant literatures. Conversely, as asserted above, Ken Saro-Wiwa (1994), has earlier accused the Nigerian State and its cohort Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), of employing the principle of divide and rule to frustrate the struggle of the Ogoni people on the acute environmental degradation. He argued that Nigerian State and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) have employed this principle so as to alter, silence and drive the Ogoni people to total extinction. Ken Saro-Wiwa Associates (KSA) under the leadership of Chief GaniTopba, (Vanguard, 2017) averred that the Federal Government of Nigeria and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has adopted the tactics of divide and rule in the past and still operating on that basis as at today, thereby causing the incessant crises in Ogoniland. He said that as at today, the Ogoni people are divided in consistent crises, partly because of the stick and carrot approach employed by Shell (SPDC) and the Nigerian State in marginalising the Ogoni people. According to Newsnigeria.com, (2017) the Ogonis have remained sharply divided over the resumption of oil exploration in the land – this is as foremost Environmental activists, Celestine Akpobari had declared that those

advocating for the resumption of oil exploration activities were enemies of Ogoni who had been paid to sabotage the Ogoni People.

Akpobari said that it was foolish of individuals and groups drumming support for oil exploration when devastated areas were yet to be cleaned. That nothing in the Bill of Rights, which late Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders died for, had not been achieved, just as he emphasised that no crude oil activity will resume in Ogoniland until polluted areas were cleaned- that those you heard talking about exploration have taken money. And they are working for their money, partly because you cannot explain why they are agitating when clean-up is yet to start.

Most recently Shell's allies in the Nigerian oil industry particularly Belema Oil Producing, RoboMicheal Limited Shell Petroleum (SPDC) and the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Ltd (NPDC) had been vigorously sponsoring local actors and groups to cause division in Ogoni. One major strategy of the oil industry and the groups they sponsor is deceit. Currently there is a battle between the supporters of Robo-Micheal and those of Belema Oil. Those who are sponsored by Belema Oil see nothing good in those sponsored by Robo-Micheal and vice versa. Government and the oil industry in Nigeria hopes that their divide and rule tactics will defeat the collective wishes of the Ogoni people which MOSOP insists must be respected (MOSOP, 6th Feb, 2018). The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni people (MOSOP) has prescribed a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving the three principal parties to the conflict namely, the federal government of Nigeria, Shell and MOSOP

(representing the Ogoni people). This process has to be driven by a negotiator. But the government prefers a divide and conquers approach driven by the oil industry notably Shell, Belesa Oil, the NPDC and Robo-Micheal Limited. MOSOP insist that the Ogoni struggle is not just about oil. It is about the rights of the Ogoni people as a distinct ethnic group within Nigeria whose resources have been plundered by the government and Shell overtime. It is about the Ogoni people who have made significant contributions to national budget, a people whose oil revenue is been shared among the majority ethnic groups in Nigeria and nothing goes back to the people (MOSOP, 2018).MOSOP insists that the rights of the Ogoni people as Nigerians must be respected and we must function within Nigeria as Ogoni people. This must begin with the creation of an Ogoni state that guarantees that a fair portion of our resources must be used for Ogoni development. Government on the other hand is earnestly attempting to trivialize the Ogoni issue and reduce it to the environmental question playing down on the demand for political rights to self-determination which guarantees our dignity as Nigerians.This has only always ridiculed the human rights records of the Nigerian government and prolonged the conflict. Nigeria must face the realities about the Ogoni situation and understand that the continuous denigration of political, economic and environmental rights of the Ogoni people with an attempt to sponsor discordant voices through the oil industry operators has only aggravated the problem and moved us miles away from whatever progress had been achieved towards a peaceful settlement (MOSOP, 2017).

The Ogoni cleanup report by the UNEP had offered a window for dialogue. The government, if truly concerned about progress and development of Ogoni should have used this opportunity to open discussions on the issues of political and economic rights. But unfortunately, there had been more lies than truth coming from official government circles. On the other hand is a campaign of calumny targeted at MOSOP the only credible and legitimate representation of the Ogoni people. The oil industry knows that MOSOP remains the only voice of the Ogoni people with a history and knowledge about the Ogoni persecutions and clear documentation on the Ogoni struggle and demands. MOSOP remains the hope of the Ogoni people and for the government and the oil industry MOSOP's obstinacy need to break through the sponsorship of local actors and groups. While the government and the oil industry continues to disregard the call for a dialogue, Shell alone has spent on image building, over 50 million dollars which should have gone a long way in building the confidence of the Ogoni people in the lazy-loaded clean-up programme being frustrated by lack of funds. Belema oil is doing the same thing, donating loads of rice and money to buy favour from perceived key local actors. Robo-Michael and the NPDC are not different. Very recently, MOSOP uncovered a fraudulent communication from a group sympathetic to Robo-Michael attempting to misrepresent its position and had to disown the falsified statement averred (MOSOP, 2017). Belema Oil and Robo-Michael are currently the principal actors sponsoring crises in Ogoniland and should be held responsible for

any breakdown of the peace currently prevailing in the area. But this is in sleek alliance with Shell, the NPDC and a tacit endorsement and support from the Nigerian government who's military is continually deployed to repress any resistance seeing to project the true wishes of the Ogoni People. One behavior which characterizes the groups sponsored by these oil industry operators is that those in favour of Belema Oil will focus their media war against Robo-Michael while those in favour of Robo-Michael are critical of the pro-Belema group (MOSOP, 2017). The Nigerian government and Shell appear not to have learnt from the past. They still probably believe in the recommendations of Major Paul Okuntimo, the then executioner of the Ogoni people, who suggested "Wasting Operations" as a way of securing Shell's reentry into Ogoniland. Okuntimo's wasting operations meant divide and rule, causing inter and intra-communal crises, shooting indiscriminately and killing the Ogoni people. Unfortunately over eighteen years of democratic rule has not shown that Nigeria is willing to respect human rights and allow peace to reign in Ogoniland. For the Ogoni, it's been a costly struggle in which a generation of leaders have been lost. But we are more hopeful than ever before... I repeat, we are more hopeful than ever before. Freedom is coming but all Ogonis must remain peaceful standing for non-violence. Freedom is coming (FegaloNsuke is the Publicity Secretary of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP, 22nd Jan, 2018). He wrote from Port Harcourt, Nigeria).

Throughout the year the masterminded attacks of neighbouring ethnic groups against the Ogoni continued and so did the violence against protesters by the government security forces. In October 1993, two Ogonis were wounded, and one killed by soldiers, who had been transported by Shell, in the company's words, to "dialogue" with the community. These soldiers from the 2nd Amphibious Brigade, under the control of the notorious Major Okutimo, were paid "field allowances" by Shell, although Shell expressed "doubt as to whether any member of the community was shot or wounded". SaroWiwa's brother, Owens, who is a medical doctor, carried out the autopsy, (Ashton-Jones, 1996) that confirmed that people were actual shot and killed by soldiers. Harassment of other key MOSOP members continued too and in December 1993 Owens Wiwa and a senior MOSOP official, Ledum Mitee were arrested and detained without charge until the 4th of January 1994 (Boele, 1995). All these while, the military (representing the state) in collaboration with Shell had been scheming on how to silence the movement for Shells impunity to continue. Some eight months after being arrested, in January 1995 Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogonis were finally charged with the murder of the four Ogoni leaders. It was clear that the charges were concocted. The following month an affidavit was signed by one of the two chief prosecution witnesses - Charles Danwi, it alleged that he had been bribed by Shell and others to testify against Saro-Wiwa. Birnbaun wrote:

"He was told that he would be given a house, a contract from Shell and OMPADEC (an agency responsible for the development of the oil producing

regions) and some money. Another affidavit from the other Chief prosecution witness, NayoneAkpa, was signed alleging that he was offered 30,000 Naira, employment with the Gokana Local Government, weekly allowances and contracts with OMPADEC and Shell" if he signed a document that implicated Saro-Wiwa too (Birnbaur, 1995).

Ken Saro-Wiwa and the movement for the survival of Ogoni people (MOSOP), intensified the struggle against the oil companies and brought their plight to the attention of the international community. As they intensified agitation against the oil companies assumed an international dimension, the state responded with a mixture of intimidatory tactics in which the federal and state government set up a special internal security taskforce, which terrorized and burnt down entire villages, stilled, raped and looted Ogoniland. It was also during this period that the founding spokesman for MOSOP, the late KenuleSaro-Wiwa, was tried and executed by the military government under the late General Sani Abacha regime on the charge of murder of four prominent Ogoni men who were killed by angry Ogoni youths. The youths accused the four men of treachery in the course of the struggle of the Ogoni people against oil companies and the federal government. Another problem is that in the early 1990s, when Ogonis were in the forefront of the struggle, they were involved in a serious of conflicts with their neighbors such as the people of Okrika, Andoni and Ndoki etc. most of their clashes are seen as sponsored by either the oil companies or state itself to keep them in a perpetual state of conflict so

that they will be too busy fighting among themselves not to think of confronting the oil companies.

Summary

The study has also revealed that the noticeable rhythm in Ogoniland as at today, is that of hardship, food scarcity and abject poverty owing to the fact that they can no longer engage in their hitherto traditional economic activities in the light of oil pollution and environmental degradation – that it is an irony that even in the midst of tremendous oil revenue contributed to the Nigerian State's the people are still suffering advert neglect and wallowing in poverty in terms of developmental projects, provision of social amenities, physical infrastructure, health-care services etc. The study has shown that there is no significant relationship between Nigerian State's interest on oil exploration and exploitation in Ogoniland based on hypothesis 3 that says that the value of $\text{tab } X^2 = 3.81 > \text{cal } x^2 = 1.4652$.

Conclusion

The implementation of Government policies in relation to standards best practices in oil exploration and production activities should be taken seriously – and that the ineffectiveness of Government policies to compel oil companies to hold tenaciously to their standards best practices in operation has led to oil spillages in the Niger Delta, particularly in oil producing communities in Ogoniland. The study has also made us to understand, that the delay in response by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to oil spillages had worsen the condition of Ogoni environment.

Recommendations

- The Nigerian State's and its cohort Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) involved in oil pollution and environmental degradation in Ogoniland should provide portable water while waiting for the clean-up as postulated by UNEP'S REPORT.
- The Nigerian State's should allow subsequently oil companies that would engage in oil production activities in Ogoniland to negotiate with oil producing communities before operations.

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Chapter 4: OIL EXPLOITATION AND THE CURRENT MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD OF THE Ogoni PEOPLE

Prologue

Generally, before the discovery of oil in 1956 in Ogoniland, even as at today, agriculture was indisputably the main-stay of her economy – providing employment for the bulk of her population and bearing the physical mark of economic development. In Nigeria, as a share of GDP, agriculture output (crops, livestock, forestry and fishery) accounted for 41.5 per cent, compared with 41.5 per cent in 1999 (CBN, 2000). This corroborated the report of Njoku (2000), that agriculture is the most important enterprise in the country employing over 60% of the total force and providing over 40% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The exploration of oil in the Niger Delta region and Ogoniland in particular, without adequate plans for the protection of the people and environment, has led to the continued damage and degradation of the natural environment, people's health, and their means of livelihood. There has been continuous and uncontrolled activity in the exploration and extraction of crude oil, which involves uncontrolled gas flaring, use of worn-out oil pipes, pipe blow outs, oil well/pipe leaks, and numerous oil spillages, all of which have contributed to environmental degradation that has led to the death of many people, including women and children (Adalikwu, 1995). Toluyemi (2010) asserts that the small scale farmers constitute the bulk (about 60%) of the Nigeria's farmers. These peasants, operating at the low level of resource

inputs are constrained by many factors. These factors, Olatunbode(1990), are technical, socio-economic organizational and institutional problems. However, in recent years, the oil exploration and exploitation has compounded the problem of agriculture. According to Onyiye (1996), the euphoria that followed the revenues from oil among other things, not only led to the neglect of other sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture, but also to a neglect of the effects oil exploitation on the areas in which oil exploration has affected agriculture is through pollution. As a matter of fact, in 1990, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) under the leadership of Ken Saro-Wiwa, drew the attention of Nigerian State to the acute environmental degradation in Ogoniland (Saro-Wiwa, 1990). When no attention was given by Nigerian government, he further proceeded to international organizations on environment seeking for help in addressing the precarious environmental degradation of Ogoniland (Saro-Wiwa, 1995). Research has shown that in 1997, about 256,000 hectares of land were rendered useless and infertile for agriculture resulting from oil spillage, the K. Dere oil spills and the Yorla oil spillage all in Ogoni (Ukpong and Akpabio, 2003). The impacts of oil exploration and exploitation on the economy of the Ogoni People cannot be over-emphasized, because it is all encompassing. The K. Dere oil spills and the Yorla oil spillage have in turn impacted negatively on the development of agriculture in Ogoniland. This paper is on oil exploitation and its impact on the current means of livelihood of the Ogoni people.

Impact of Oil Exploitation on Water and Aquatic Lives Of The People

It is imperative to this discourse to interrogate the impact of oil exploitation on water and the aquatic lives of the people. As people who resides in the rural social milieu, it is assumed that water is key to the understanding of their survival, because virtually everything they do depend upon water. It is noteworthy to say that water played an important role to the means of their survival. In the light of this basic understanding, it is crucial to examine the extent to which oil exploitation has impacted negatively on water and the aquatic lives of the Ogoni people. Oil spills end up in the environment including water, contaminating water-ways, imparting a significant detriment to marine life and sources of water for domestic use. Further, discharged oil often sinks into ground water, contaminating it. It has been established that such polluted ground-water are usually difficult to remediate, and the process of remediation can take many years. Once ground water, the polluted water system is transported within and between water systems that end up in wells and streams that the supply the surrounding communities. These communities depend on such water resources for their only source of drinking water. According to UNEP'S (2011), the ground water in Ogoniland is contaminated, especially for the people of Nsioken Ogale community in Eleme, whose drinking water is detected to have been contaminated with benzene at levels 900 times above World Health Organization's (WHO's). Thus, as result recommendations are made that potable water should be supply to the people of Ogale community. The danger posed by hydrocarbon

pollution of water cannot be over-emphasised. Scientists have revealed that one person dies every six seconds from drinking contaminated water (The Guardian, 2002). The gaseous products, particulate matter and petrochemical smog released into the atmosphere every second by gas flaring in the Niger Delta constitute a definite threat to human and animal life in that region. As reported on the Editorial column of Safety Record, July, 2004, one of the implications of pipeline vandalization is the environmental and water pollution of the area and their rivers which at times might threaten the collective existence of the host communities. Femi, (2004), while recounting the reports of the president of fisheries protection and propagation coalition (Fishcareplus), a non-governmental organization, posits that when there is oil spill, it covers the surface of the water. This reduces oxygen and ultimately destroys the chain of basic nutrients that fishes live on in the water. According to him, crude oil is such a crude thing that it penetrates the body of the water, and remains at the bottom for years. It exhumes dangerous substances and destroys the biodiversity of the water. Moreso, the use of dynamite and other explosives, by oil companies, during the process of searching for oil destroys eggs of the fishes. The worst part of it is that the locals, fully aware that dynamite kills fishes have also adopted the strategy to catch and eat fishes (Femi, 2004). Further reports on the effect of oil exploration and production activities on aquatic lives showed that an oil spill can directly damage the boats and gear used for catching or cultivating marine species. Floating equipment and

fixed traps extending above the sea surface are more likely to become contaminated by floating oil.

Ukpong and Akpabio, (2003), while reporting on hydrocarbon pollution of water identified the following as some of the effects:

- I. Spawning grounds become polluted.
- II. Aquatic vegetation, many of which have economic values degenerate in productivity.
- III. Organisms (sea bottom/river bed and other crustaceans) including planktons degenerate in the toxic environment.
- IV. Fish, crustaceans and molluscs become carriers of toxic hydrocarbon substances along the food chain.
- V. Fishing as an economic activity is lost or threatened.
- VI. Human health in these areas deteriorates proportional to the level of water pollution. The high water tables in the polluted Delta region often carry films of hydrocarbon due to sub-surface seepage and intrusion of contaminated water inland.

United Nation Environmental Programme (UNEP, 2011), averred that hydrocarbons can enter through direct spills or from a spill originally occurring on land and subsequently reaching water bodies through the effects of wind, rain, surface or sub-surface flow. That regardless of the means of entry, there will be adverse impacts – thought that nature and severity of such impacts is dependent on the specific chemical composition and chemical characteristics of the hydrocarbon involved and the

degree of concentration /dilution. Hydrocarbons can cause both physical and chemical effects on water; even prevent oxygen transfer in the water column, thus affecting aquatic life support systems. The presence of mere traces of a highly toxic hydrocarbon, such benzene, may render water unfit for human consumption. Oil spills can affect wild-life, both aquatic and terrestrial, in many ways. The severity of change will depend on the type(s) of hydrocarbon involved, the quantity spilled, and the temperature at the time to incident, and the season. Dissolved or emulsified oil in the water can contaminate plankton, algae, fish eggs and invertebrate larvae.

Summary and Conclusion

Conversely, it would be necessary to seek for some words with which to do justice to the state of economic production of the Ogoni people under oil pollution and environmental degradation. Therefore, it is said that the socio-economic lives of the Ogoni people, it in a state of disguise resulting from the thirty-five (35) years of oil exploration and exploitation in the light of oil spillages. Thus, it is obviously argued that the means of livelihood of the indigenous people of Ogoni is greatly undermined through oil pollution and environmental degradation. Hence, the study of the impact of oil pollution and environmental degradation in Ogoni are critically examined so as to understand the extent to which their social and economic power of the people has been degraded. It is noticeable that there's food scarcity in Ogoniland owing to the fact that they can no longer engage in farming activities in the face of

oil pollution and environmental degradation. Based on the diagnosed of hypothesis, the study has revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between oil exploitation and the current means of livelihood of the Ogoni people. Ogoni is a social milieu, a subsistence based economy which solely depends on farming and fishing activities for their survival. However, as at today, their farming and fishing activities are greatly conditioned by oil exploitation and its associated problems. Thus, the people of Ogoni could no longer engage in farming and fishing activities as was known hitherto as a result oil of pollution and environmental degradation. Indeed, as a matter of fact, based on this study, it is understandable that the impact of oil exploitation on the current means of livelihood of the indigenous people of Ogoni cannot be overemphasised in that they are trapped in the orbit of food scarcity and poverty as well.

Recommendations

- The Nigerian State's should protect the interest of the indigenous people of Ogoni as its citizenry against external exploiter such as Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).
- Development and increased in standards of living should be taken seriously by the Nigerian government and oil companies that would subsequently operates in Ogoniland. For further studies, examine the interest of Nigerian State's in oil exploration and production activities in Ogoniland.

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Chapter 5: INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS BEST PRACTICES, OIL POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: A CASE STUDY OF Ogoniland

Prologue

There is therefore, no doubt that the Nigerian oil industry has affected the country in a variety of ways. On one hand, it has fashioned a profound economic landscape for the country. However, on the negative view, oil exploration and exploitation also have adverse effects on farming and fishing which are the basic means of the livelihood of the people of the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria, especially Ogoni-land. Adati (2012), posits that oil exploration and exploitation had over the last four decades impacted dangerously on the socio-physical environment of the Niger Delta oil bearing communities, massively threatening the subsistent peasant economy and the environment- hence the entire livelihood and basic survival of the people. In consonance with the above assertion, (Gbadegesin, 2008; Girigiri, 1999; Hutchful, 1984 and Hutchful, 1985), asserts that oil exploration and exploitation in South-east Nigeria, has inimically affected peasants agriculture, the basis of sustenance of millions of rural inhabitants through a complex web of interaction of several dangerous environmental factors. Such factors include contamination of streams and rivers, the problem of oil spill, forest destruction and bio-diversity loss – the environmental effect of gas flaring, effluent discharge and disposal. Oddly enough, if the oil industry is considered in regards to its enormous contribution to foreign earnings, it could be argued that it has achieved a profound success. However, in another view, when considered in respect of its negative impacts on the socio- economic life and environment of the immediate oil bearing local communities and their habitants, it has left a balance sheet of ecological and

socio-physical disaster. This rightly provides a framework to carry out an assessment of the study on oil exploitation and its impact on the current means of livelihood of the Ogoni people.

International Standards Best Practices, Oil Companies and Environmental Degradation

As a matter of fact, it is necessary to interrogate the practices of multinational oil companies in relation to pollution so as to ascertain the root cause of environmental degradation. Virtually every human endeavour has said to have its best practices or that virtually everything that man does has its best way of doing it. Studies have shown that there are standards with which oil exploitation is done. And history has also shown that companies who engaged in oil production have their standards with which exploration is done. However, does Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) known to have employed the international standard best practices in the course of oil exploration and exploitation in Ogoniland? Does Shell has its standards, and if it has how effective is it? When there is compromise in terms of international standards practices what comes in result? In the absence of adequate environmental laws and enforcement in emerging economics, there have been calls for oil companies to voluntarily adopt best practices through their endorsement and national and international oil industry association guidelines, and when adequately implemented, reduce the negative impacts of oil exploration and production. According to the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the Tide Newspaper, Tuesday, December (4, 2012) a number of Ogoni people in Rivers State blame the mass

unemployment, poverty and lack of sustainable infrastructure in the area on the decades of oil exploration and exploitation in the joint ventures operation of the shell petroleum development company and Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). This situation, they claim, destroyed their aquatic life and the entire ecosystem leaving the people dislocated and devastated. It is evident from the UNEP Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland 2011, that SPDC, post-oil spill clean-up of contamination does not achieve environmental standards in accordance with Nigerian legislation, or indeed with SPDCs own standard. Shells protection strategies in Nigeria especially its treatment of waste resulting from oil spills as well as handling of gas was severely criticized by BOPP Van Dessel, a Dutch, who, in fact, resigned in protest as the head of the environmental study unit in shell. He accused shell of using different standards in Nigeria as compared to its practice in other parts of the world. To ensure an adequate protection for the land on which the spill occurred, shell generally provides incinerators in which the waste is burnt. But shell has refused to use this method in Nigeria, instead the cleaning of crude oil spills in Niger Delta, particularly Ogoniland is a buckets and spade job (Owugah, 20010). With regard to international best practices on gas flaring, Van Dessel argued that in other countries of their operation, the practice was for shell to inject sufficient air and oxygen into the pipeline system. As a result, what emerges is a bluish orange flame almost like the flame of the cooking gas. But, shell does not adopt this practice in Nigeria, Niger Delta and Ogoniland in particular. Ibeanu (2003), argued

that despite the environmental awareness by Nigerians as well as local and international, non-governmental organization (NGOs), no systematic study has been done on the impact of oil production on the Niger Delta, in that concrete solution is brought to the table. One major reason for this neglect is that the Nigerian environmental protection agency is still in its infancy, has limited financial and technical capacity, and is susceptible to corruption. Eze(2009) and Mba (2000), argued that oil corporation from industrialized nations have the resources and power to influence the Nigerian government concerning issues of environment and oil production. A typical example of such influence can be seen in the outcome of the court case between Mr. Gbemre and Shell in 2005, over gas flaring in his community. The case ended that the judge was forcefully transferred to another court and case files got missing and finally shell was ordered by government to continue production (see <http://www.climatelaw.org/cases/country/Nigeria/media> 2007; May 21).Africa does not have a significant energy law. Energy law governed the use and taxation of energy both renewable and non-renewable. These laws are primary authorities (such as case law, statutory rules, regulations) related to energy. On June 26, 2005, an oil spill at shells facility in Oruma, shell first appeared in the community four days after the spill to begin a clean-up, but it quickly outsourced the responsibility to a contractor who dug pits near the polluted spots and buried the dark and sticky oil, leaving the byproducts to lead into the ground water at the first rain. This crude method of

clean-up damages local agriculture and can lead to fatal illnesses.

Nwoke (1987), in his historical analysis of multinational corporations in Nigeria, noted that the systematic exploration and exploitation of the natural resources that began long before the Nigerian flag independence still resist, although formal sovereignty over natural resources now rest with the government of Nigeria. The argument being put forward here is that MNCs dominate the host countries because their host government is usually behind them. They may not be able to fulfill the provisions of international practices, but the home government of the MNCs will do everything possible to see that rules are flexible, for instance, the guidelines as provided by Nigerian laws on environment are being violated by shell in Ogoni land with impunity, but the Nigerian government cannot expel them because of corruption and their interest in tax collections. Nsirimovu (2003) argued that efforts are made in the oil and gas industry to protect and control environmental pollution through well designed pollution abatement policies, personnel and equipment. There are several laws regarding the protection of international, environmental standards in the oil industry in Nigeria but implementation and enforcement of these laws are by arbitration (Amnesty International, June, 2009). Environmental groups accused the oil companies of operating double standards of allowing practices in Nigeria that would never be permitted in North America and Europe. However, the companies deny this, although shell for example, has defined the idea of national rather than international

environmental standards. Oil companies have the resources and power to shape the outcome of any promulgated law. In Nigeria the oil companies are too powerful to be subjected to obeying gas flaring regulation, and they have power to influence the government agencies to dance to their drum beat. But if any refuses to dance to their tune and go ahead to enforcing and prosecuting the oil companies, the job of the person in charge of that agency will be threatened or terminated (Ojo, 2002). The national policy goals on the environment are to achieve sustainable development in Nigeria, and in particular to restore, maintain and enhance the ecosystems and ecological processes essential for the functioning of the biosphere to preserve biological diversity. The strategies for implementation of these goals must be vigorously pursued by oil companies. These include setting up of adequate environmental guidelines and standards in line with statutory requirement, monitoring and evaluation of changes in the environmental impact studies before and after project, basic data acquisition and baseline studies, risk assessment including other ecological assessment and studies, pollution control outfits. From the various studies so far reviewed, the general agreement is that, there is environmental degradation resulting from the activities of oil companies in Niger-Delta, particularly in Rivers State of Nigeria. The environmental degradation and oil spill in the area are causing damage to the forests, farmlands, underground water and bringing economic hardship on the indigenes of oil bearing communities. However, scholars like Dada (1996), Nwogu (1985), Nnamani (2004), Adibe and Essagha (1996), among

others who studied poor implementation of government policy and environmental degradation in Niger Delta, Ogoniland in particular have linked their studies on the interference of multinational corporation (MNCs) in the policy formation and implementation of their host countries particularly in Ogoni where the unity of interest between shell petroleum development company (SPDC) and the ruling class is prevalent.

Secondly, no effort was made to pin down their studies to non-compliance of international best practices by oil companies in Ogoni land, which hitherto would go a long way towards reducing deforestation, oil spill, gas flaring and oil blowout. Oil and gas exploration and production has the potential to cause severe environmental degradation, not only to physical environment, but also to the health, culture and economic, and social structure of local and indigenous communities. However, environmental laws in emerging economics are often ineffective because they are substantively inadequate and are ineffectively enforced. This has led to calls by academics, practicing lawyers and human rights and environmental activists for transnational oil companies to voluntarily adopt best practices and improve their performance in terms of exploitation in countries with inadequate environment laws. Therefore, environmental practices can be seen as best practice through their endorsement in national and international oil industry association guidelines, and which will, when adequately implemented, reduce the negative impacts of oil exploration and production. In the international oil exploration and production

industry, the guidelines and standards of the international association of Oil and Gas Production (OGP) formally known as the oil industry international exploration and production forum) and the American Petroleum Institute (API) are particularly influential. The OGP represents oil and gas companies from around the world, and API, through the history of dominance of US oil companies in the international oil industry, has a strong influence in the industry. The guideline of various NGOs and IGOs are influential, including the World Conservation Union (WCU), the United National Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Standard Organisation (ISO), the World Bank, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). World Bank defines environment as the natural and social conditions, surrounding all mankind, and including future generations (Okotoni, 2004). The oil companies and government failed to handle the environment in Ogoniland with care. Investigation revealed that, there are people in Ogoniland who do not have farmlands anymore because of the way oil companies grab these lands for oil exploration and production. The oil companies refused to pay attention to what happens to the land as long as they are mining oil. Alagoa (1999) notes that, the degradation of the environment from the activities of the multinationals prospecting for oil ensures that local resources are depleted; apparently, the nature of environmental practice of key stakeholders is at the centre of their economic survival. It was observed in 2004 by stakeholders in the Niger Delta that governments signed international treaties and protocols and do not

implement at home. For example, due to the ozone layer depletion, gas flaring should have been stopped. What we have today is constant dilly-dallying and shifts, not guarantees. Government corporations should show the way by complying with the rules first

Summary and Conclusion

The study has revealed that there is a positive relationship between international standards best practices and oil pollution and environmental degradation in Ogoniland – that when the international standards best practices as regards to production safety are not employed effectively, it in turn in most cases leads to oil spillages. That if Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) had held tenaciously to their standards of operations they ought not had had many cases of oil spillages in Ogoniland. That failure in the part of Shell to exert the standards best practices as stipulated in their right of operation has led to oil spillages, which has degraded Ogoni environment. The implementation of Government policies in relation to standards best practices in oil exploration and production activities should be taken seriously – and that the ineffectiveness of Government policies to compel oil companies to holds tenaciously to their standards best practices in operation has led to oil spillages in the Niger Delta, particularly in oil producing communities in Ogoniland. The study has also made us to understand, that the delay in response by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to oil spillages had worsen the condition of Ogoni environment.

Recommendations

- A call for urgent clean-up of Ogoniland as earlier recommended by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP REPORT 2011) before any other oil production activities will commence in Ogoniland.
- The companies, particularly Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) should remunerate the indigenous people of Ogoni on the \$ 30 billion petro-dollars that had been exploited from their land as acclaimed by Ken Saro-Wiwa.
- The Nigerian State's and its cohort Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) involved in oil pollution and environmental degradation in Ogoniland should provide portable water while waiting for the clean-up as postulated by UNEP'S REPORT.

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Chapter 6: OIL EXPLOITATION AND THE POLITICS OF DIVIDE AND RULE: THE Ogoni EXAMPLE.

Prologue

The concept refers to a strategy orchestrated by an authority to break up existing power structures, and especially prevents smaller power groups from linking up, causing rivalries and fomenting discord among the people (Nwoke, 2008). Divide and Rule (or divide and conquer, from Latin word, divi et impera) in politics and sociology is gaining and maintaining power by breaking up large concentrations of power into pieces that individually have less power than the one implementing the strategy. (www.slideshare.net). traditionally, the concept is linked to Philip of Macedonia: in Ancient Greek. - Divide and Rule. The use of this technique is meant to control subjects, empower the sovereign to control subjects, populations of different interests who collectively might be able to oppose his rule (Magun, 2002). According to Fagulo, (2002) Machiavelli identifies a similar application to military strategy, (advising in Book vi of The Art of War (dellaguerra) that certain captain should endeavour with every art to divide the forces of the enemy, either by giving him cause that he has to separate his forces, and, because of this become weaker. The politics of divide and rule is a technique and strategy employed by an authority to alter justice and in order to achieve its selfish interest at the expense of a group or people (Wiwaw, 2000). Thus, the Nigerian State and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) have devised the politics of divide and rule in subjugating the Ogoni people and deprived them of their human rights. This paper is the interest of Nigerian state, oil exploitation and the politics of divide and rule.

Ken Saro-Wiwawview

To this end, it is integral to this study to show an understanding in how this tactics had been used on

the Ogoni people. The question is, where are the evidences to show that indeed, the Ogoni people have been subjugated through the tactics of divide and rule? To some persons, it would not be logical by merely stating that the Ogoni people had been deprived and de-humanised through divide and rule or conquer tactics without being factual. Therefore, it is key to driving this understanding on the basis of relevant literatures. Conversely, as asserted above, Ken Saro-Wiwa (1994), has earlier accused the Nigerian State and its cohort Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), of employing the principle of divide and rule to frustrate the struggle of the Ogoni people on the acute environmental degradation. He argued that Nigerian State and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) have employed this principle so as to alter, silence and drive the Ogoni people to total extinction. Ken Saro-Wiwa Associates (KSA) under the leadership of Chief GaniTopba, (Vanguard, 2017) averred that the Federal Government of Nigeria and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has adopted the tactics of divide and rule in the past and still operating on that basis as at today, thereby causing the incessant crises in Ogoniland. He said that as at today, the Ogoni people are divided in consistent crises, partly because of the stick and carrot approach employed by Shell (SPDC) and the Nigerian State in marginalising the Ogoni people.

Resumption of oil exploration

According to Newsnigeria.com, (2017) the Ogonis have remained sharply divided over the resumption of oil exploration in the land – this is as foremost

Environmental activists, Celestine Akpobari had declared that those advocating for the resumption of oil exploration activities were enemies of Ogoni who had been paid to sabotage the Ogoni People.

Akpobari said that it was foolish of individuals and groups drumming support for oil exploration when devastated areas were yet to be cleaned. That nothing in the Bill of Rights, which late Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders died for, had not been achieved, just as he emphasised that no crude oil activity will resume in Ogoniland until polluted areas were cleaned- that those you heard talking about exploration have taken money. And they are working for their money, partly because you cannot explain why they are agitating when clean-up is yet to start.

Most recently Shell's allies in the Nigerian oil industry particularly Belema Oil Producing, RoboMicheal Limited Shell Petroleum (SPDC) and the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Ltd (NPDC) had been vigorously sponsoring local actors and groups to cause division in Ogoni. One major strategy of the oil industry and the groups they sponsor is deceit. Currently there is a battle between the supporters of Robo-Micheal and those of Belema Oil. Those who are sponsored by Belema Oil see nothing good in those sponsored by Robo-Micheal and vice versa. Government and the oil industry in Nigeria hopes that their divide and rule tactics will defeat the collective wishes of the Ogoni people which MOSOP insists must be respected (MOSOP, 6th Feb, 2018).

MOSOP Intervention

The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni people (MOSOP) has prescribed a multi-stakeholder dialogue

involving the three principal parties to the conflict namely, the federal government of Nigeria, Shell and MOSOP (representing the Ogoni people). This process has to be driven by a negotiator. But the government prefers a divide and conquers approach driven by the oil industry notably Shell, Belema Oil, the NPDC and Robo-Micheal Limited. MOSOP insist that the Ogoni struggle is not just about oil. It is about the rights of the Ogoni people as a distinct ethnic group within Nigeria whose resources have been plundered by the government and Shell overtime. It is about the Ogoni people who have made significant contributions to national budget, a people whose oil revenue is been shared among the majority ethnic groups in Nigeria and nothing goes back to the people (MOSOP, 2018).MOSOP insists that the rights of the Ogoni people as Nigerians must be respected and we must function within Nigeria as Ogoni people. This must begin with the creation of an Ogoni state that guarantees that a fair portion of our resources must be used for Ogoni development.

Government's Role

Government on the other hand is earnestly attempting to trivialize the Ogoni issue and reduce it to the environmental question playing down on the demand for political rights to self-determination which guarantees our dignity as Nigerians. This has only always ridiculed the human rights records of the Nigerian government and prolonged the conflict. Nigeria must face the realities about the Ogoni situation and understand that the continuous denigration of political, economic and environmental rights of the Ogoni people with an attempt to sponsor

discordant voices through the oil industry operators has only aggravated the problem and moved us miles away from whatever progress had been achieved towards a peaceful settlement (MOSOP, 2017).

Ogoni Cleanup Report

The Ogoni cleanup report by the UNEP had offered a window for dialogue. The government, if truly concerned about progress and development of Ogoni should have used this opportunity to open discussions on the issues of political and economic rights. But unfortunately, there had been more lies than truth coming from official government circles. On the other hand is a campaign of calumny targeted at MOSOP the only credible and legitimate representation of the Ogoni people. The oil industry knows that MOSOP remains the only voice of the Ogoni people with a history and knowledge about the Ogoni persecutions and clear documentation on the Ogoni struggle and demands. MOSOP remains the hope of the Ogoni people and for the government and the oil industry MOSOP's obstinacy need to break through the sponsorship of local actors and groups. While the government and the oil industry continues to disregard the call for a dialogue, Shell alone has spent on image building, over 50 million dollars which should have gone a long way in building the confidence of the Ogoni people in the lazy-loaded clean-up programme being frustrated by lack of funds. Belema oil is doing the same thing, donating loads of rice and money to buy favour from perceived key local actors. Robo-Michael and the NPDC are not different. Very recently, MOSOP uncovered a fraudulent communication from a group sympathetic

to Robo-Michael attempting to misrepresent its position and had to disown the falsified statement averred (MOSOP, 2017). Belema Oil and Robo-Michael are currently the principal actors sponsoring crises in Ogoniland and should be held responsible for any breakdown of the peace currently prevailing in the area. But this is in sleek alliance with Shell, the NPDC and a tacit endorsement and support from the Nigerian government who's military is continually deployed to repress any resistance seeing to project the true wishes of the Ogoni People. One behavior which characterizes the groups sponsored by these oil industry operators is that those in favour of Belema Oil will focus their media war against Robo-Michael while those in favour of Robo-Michael are critical of the pro-Belema group (MOSOP, 2017). The Nigerian government and Shell appear not to have learnt from the past. They still probably believe in the recommendations of Major Paul Okuntimo, the then executioner of the Ogoni people, who suggested "Wasting Operations" as a way of securing Shell's reentry into Ogoniland. Okuntimo's wasting operations meant divide and rule, causing inter and intra-communal crises, shooting indiscriminately and killing the Ogoni people. Unfortunately over eighteen years of democratic rule has not shown that Nigeria is willing to respect human rights and allow peace to reign in Ogoniland. For the Ogoni, it's been a costly struggle in which a generation of leaders have been lost. But we are more hopeful than ever before... I repeat, we are more hopeful than ever before. Freedom is coming but all Ogonis must remain peaceful standing for non-violence. Freedom is coming (FegaloNsuke is the Publicity Secretary of the

Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP, 22nd Jan, 2018). He wrote from Port Harcourt, Nigeria).

Ogoni Harassment

Throughout the year the masterminded attacks of neighbouring ethnic groups against the Ogoni continued and so did the violence against protesters by the government security forces. In October 1993, two Ogonis were wounded, and one killed by soldiers, who had been transported by Shell, in the company's words, to "dialogue" with the community. These soldiers from the 2nd Amphibious Brigade, under the control of the notorious Major Okutimo, were paid "field allowances" by Shell, although Shell expressed "doubt as to whether any member of the community was shot or wounded". SaroWiwa's brother, Owens, who is a medical doctor, carried out the autopsy, (Ashton-Jones, 1996) that confirmed that people were actual shot and killed by soldiers. Harassment of other key MOSOP members continued too and in December 1993 Owens Wiwa and a senior MOSOP official, LedumMitee were arrested and detained without charge until the 4th of January 1994 (Boele, 1995). All these while, the military (representing the state) in collaboration with Shell had been scheming on how to silence the movement for Shells impunity to continue. Some eight months after being arrested, in January 1995 Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogonis were finally charged with the murder of the four Ogoni leaders. It was clear that the charges were concocted. The following month an affidavit was signed by one of the two chief prosecution witnesses - Charles Danwi, it alleged that he had been bribed by

Shell and others to testify against Saro-Wiwa. Birnbaun wrote:

"He was told that he would be given a house, a contract from Shell and OMPADEC (an agency responsible for the development of the oil producing regions) and some money. Another affidavit from the other Chief prosecution witness, NayoneAkpa, was signed alleging that he was offered 30,000 Naira, employment with the Gokana Local Government, weekly allowances and contracts with OMPADEC and Shell" if he signed a document that implicated Saro-Wiwa too (Birnbaun, 1995).

Summary

Ken Saro-Wiwa and the movement for the survival of Ogoni people (MOSOP), intensified the struggle against the oil companies and brought their plight to the attention of the international community. As they intensified agitation against the oil companies assumed an international dimension, the state responded with a mixture of intimidatory tactics in which the federal and state government set up a special internal security taskforce, which terrorized and burnt down entire villages, stilled, raped and looted Ogoniland. It was also during this period that the founding spokesman for MOSOP, the late KenuleSaro-Wiwa, was tried and executed by the military government under the late General Sani Abacha regime on the charge of murder of four prominent Ogoni men who were killed by angry Ogoni youths. The youths accused the four men of treachery in the course of the struggle of the Ogoni people against oil companies and the federal government. Another problem is that in the early

1990s, when Ogonis were in the forefront of the struggle, they were involved in a series of conflicts with their neighbors such as the people of Okrika, Andoni and Ndoki etc. most of their clashes are seen as sponsored by either the oil companies or state itself to keep them in a perpetual state of conflict so that they will be too busy fighting among themselves not to think of confronting the oil companies.

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Chapter 7: THE LAND USE ACT AND TRANS-NATIONAL OIL CORPORATIONS IN OGOILAND

Prologue

Oddly enough, it is necessary to examine the activities of the trans-national oil corporations in Nigeria, within the context of Land Use Act in relation to rents and royalties collection. There have been speculations on the role in which the Land Use Act played on the activities of the multinational oil companies in Nigeria. The Land Use Act has said to pioneer the contradictions between multinational oil companies and the oil producing communities. Thus, there will be need to pose some questions with which we are to examine and investigate the various contentions. Historically, the Land Use Act in Nigeria has been contentious and debatable by scholars for decades. As a matter of fact, time has shown that the various Land Use Acts (LUA) enacted in Nigeria were the exploitative mechanisms employed by the state which alienates the people from their traditional rights over land. To this end, we will pose these questions with which to exploring and clear the above assertion. It is also necessary to reflect on the role played by the Land Use Act (LUA) in the discourse of the impact of oil exploitation on the rural economy – because it is understandable that the Land Use Act has contributed negatively to the exploitation of the people of the Niger Delta region– particularly the Ogoni people. Thus, it is integral to this discourse of the impact of oil exploration and exploitation to interrogate the Land Use Act (LUA) in relation to the extent to which oil exploitation has taken place over the years in the Niger Delta – Ogoniland in particular. What role does the Land Use Act play in relation to oil exploration and exploitation on oil producing communities? Are the various Land Use Acts favourable to the oil producing communities? Why are the Land Use Acts (LUA) viewed as exploitative mechanisms to the oil producing communities? The

present paper is on the interest of Nigerian state, land use act and the activities of trans-national oil corporations in Ogoniland.

Applying the principle of derivation

Sociologically, there is an obvious nexus between the various Acts such as: the Petroleum Act 1969, oil pipelines Act 1959, Oil in Navigable Waters Act 1968, Federal Environmental Protection Agency Act 1988, and the Land Use Act 1978 enacted in Nigeria, in relation to multinational oil companies and the oil producing communities in terms of its negative roles and impacts. Instinctually, for the fact that the Ogoni People are located or occupied the area of land in which they live- it is assumed that they owned the lands. The struggle for resource control, which is also synonymous with the call for the application of the principle of derivation in revenue allocation, has a long history. Applying the principle of derivation as a basis of revenue allocation is an extremely sensitive issue fraught with controversy that had sometimes threatened the very existence of the Nigerian federation. For example, to ensure political stability in the run up to Nigeria's independence when the regional governments were controlled by the three major ethnic groups and their parties, the principle of derivation was applied on the basis of 100 percent on all non-oil products. In the immediate postcolonial period when the impact of crude oil on the Nigerian economy was beginning to manifest itself, Section 134(1) of the 1960 Constitution allocated 50 percent on the basis of the principle of derivation. This figure was retained in Section 140(1) of the 1963 Republican Constitution until the entry of the military into the political arena in 1966 and the introduction of a

unitary system of government, coupled with the outbreak of the civil war in 1967. This sounded the death knell for the derivation principle in the revenue allocation formula. In regressive fashion thereafter, the share of revenue allocation based on the principle of derivation continued to witness a downward trend. It was reduced to 30 percent in 1975, to 25 percent in 1977 and 5 percent in 1981. It reached the lowest level of 1.5 percent in 1984 before it was slightly increased to 3 percent in 1992. As if the consequences of these reductions on socio-economic conditions in the Niger-Delta were not enough, the control and management of this minuscule amount was concentrated in the hands of a presidential committee composed mainly of political appointees outside of the Niger-Delta. The plight of the people of the Niger-Delta, Ogoni in particular was further compounded by the promulgation of the Land Use Decree (LUD) of March 1978, which in principle vested the control of all land area within the country in the hand of the government (Agbola and Olurin 2003). The Decree, which was later enacted as an Act in the 1979 Constitution, vested all lands comprised in the territory of each state, except land vested in the Federal Government or its agencies, solely in the Governor of the State, who is to hold such lands in trust for the people. In specific terms, Section 14 of the Act gave the exclusive rights of land for prospecting for minerals, mining and passage of oil pipelines to the Federal Government.

Effect Of The Acts On The People Of The Niger Delta

In effect, these provisions ruled out the ability of the people of the Niger Delta, Ogoni in particular to seek appropriate compensation for the negative consequences associated with oil exploration and production. In time, it became a paradox that the oil-bearing area of Nigeria also became one of the most environmentally degraded, wretched and poverty-stricken region of the country. Although the oil revenue derived from the area was used to build all the paraphernalia of modern statehood, including a brand new capital city in Abuja, the entire Niger-Delta region was left to rot and decay with the people living in the most abject poverty, penury, squalor and backwardness. It was the cumulative effect of the deprivation and exclusion inflicted on the people of the Niger-Delta that resulted in the eruptive violence of the 1990s, especially in Ogoniland(William, 1996) cited MOSOP 2008. Oil activities at Oloibiri in 1956, initiated the process of massive exploitation of natural resources in the Niger Delta with resultant stress to the environment and the traditional livelihood patterns of the Niger Delta people (Basse,1999). Oil activities allied stress has been exacerbated by oil-related laws enacted by the state in the region. The most relevant is the Land Use Act (1978) that monopolised the state access to all land in the Niger Delta. It is not in doubt that the main intent of the Act was to curtail all traditional barriers to land acquisition under customary laws, to provide easy access to land for oil activities. For the Act makes all land in the region property of the Nigeria state, with delegated powers to State governors. Thus, in Section 28 of the Act, the governor was empowered to revoke the right of occupancy to any land for reasons of

"overriding public interest". In regard of oil activities, the most significant development following the introduction of the Land Use Act is its implication for compensation for land in the Niger Delta. For instance, the rents or transfer fees that landowners hitherto received from the oil companies for the acquisition of their land, no longer applied to post-1978 Act land acquisitions. Instead all such revenues generated now go to the state, its officials and their cohorts.

Land Use Act Of 1978

The land use act of 1978 vested all land comprised in the territory of each state of the federation in the Governor of the state and such shall be held in trust and administered for the use and common benefit of all Nigerians in accordance with the provision of the Act. Hitherto the promulgation of the Land Use Act (LUA) in 1978, land required by oil companies was acquired through negotiation with the land owners. However, under Land Use Act (LUA), the control and the management of land now shifted to the Governor of a state in the case of urban areas and in the appropriate local government in the case of a rural of land. The oil companies are protected in Act by the following provisions.

SECTION 6 (3) (d) of the Act states that:

"It shall be lawful for a local Government to enter upon, use and occupy any land for public purposes with the area of its jurisdiction which is not the subject of any laws relating to minerals"

The earlier scenario of on this kind was first witnessed in 1914 in Nigeria under the colonial rule.

SECTION 12 (1) of the Act states that:

“shall be lawful for the military Governor to grant a license to any person to enter upon any land which is not subject of the statutory right of occupancy of a mining license granted under minerals Act or any other enactment ‘

The menace of the Land Use Act

In general, the Land Use Act as observed by CRP (Constitutional Right Project) (1999) has compounded problems in the producing communities by wholly denying the communities their rights to earning adequate and reachable compensation on their land and fishing area. Tudos (1983) has argued that there has been no stringent environmental law to oil producing environment. It is noteworthy to make mention that there are many agencies and policies in Nigeria with which to tackled environmental problems –but functionality and effectiveness is the encountering question. Ken Saro-Wiwa (1995), has argued thatthe Nigerian State had continued in dealing with and depriving the Ogoni peopleof their rights to have a fair share in the oil money, which he referred to as domestic colonisation and exploitationof a people by his brother of the same skin.According to Unrepresented Nations andPeoplesOrganization (UNPO 2008), Although the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, Chapter II, Section 17 (2) (d), calls for the prevention of any “exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons, other than the good of the community” the Nigerian Government fails to fully adhere to this principle.

Drastic implications

Leaks from oil pipelines and the building of roads and canals accompanied by deforestation have harshly disrupted the wetlands. In effect the fishing industry has collapsed and the quality of drinking water and soil has drastically declined, decreasing agricultural yields considerably and threatening the livelihood of the Ogoni. Burning wells are sometimes extinguished only after months. Gas flaring continues to release toxins into the air causing acid rain. As a result, local people suffer from respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis. Despite these problems there is no governmental policy of environmental rehabilitation, more oil fields are opening with government permission, and laws limiting gas flaring have not been effectively implemented. Most recently, the main contract holder Shell has announced it couldn't meet the then latest target of 2008 for the elimination of gas flaring. Furthermore, the safety of the operations within the petroleum industry is currently not being scrutinized by an independent oversight body. UNPO therefore recommends that the Nigerian government will ensure appropriate environmental and social impact assessments for any future oil development, as well as establish independent oversight bodies that are to assess the safety operations in the petroleum industry.(Nwoke, 1987; Nyong, 2000; Odu, 1981;Ojo, 2000 and Ojo, 2002).Furthermore, UNPO urges the State of Nigeria to provide information on health and environmental risks as well as meaningful access to regulatory and decision-making bodies to communities likely to be affected by oil operations. In light of this, UNPO also urges Nigeria to extend an invitation to the Special Representative of the Secretary General on human

rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises to investigate the possible human rights violations resulting from the aforementioned activities in the Niger Delta (UNPO, 2008).

The Nigerian Land Use Act divests the people of their rights of ownership and possession of land and its resources. The Petroleum Decree denies consultation and participation of the local Niger Delta population in the exploitation of the natural resources, placing this right only in the hands of foreign corporations in collaboration with the Nigerian federal government. Section 25 (1) (a) of the 1969 Petroleum Act empowers the government to take over and re-award oil fields that are inactive.

Summary and Conclusion

As the Petroleum Decree 1969/1996 and Land Use Act 1978 are depriving the Ogoni and Niger Delta Peoples of their right to self-management and their natural resources, and as they are in contravention with the ICERD, UNPO:

Stresses the recommendations of the CERD of 2005 and urges the State of Nigeria to repeal the Petroleum Decree 1969/1996 and Land Use Act 1978. Insists that the State of Nigeria offers compensation for the take-over of land by the oil companies (in transparent and easy procedures) and guarantees the inclusion of the Niger Delta people in the sale of crude oil. Chapter VI, Section 162 (2) of the 1999 Constitution states that "Provided that the principle of derivation shall be constantly reflected in any approved formula as being not less than thirteen per

cent of the revenue accruing to the Federation Account directly from any natural resources.” This gives the producing region only 13 percent of the oil revenue while the federal government earns the remaining 87 percent. Therefore UNPO calls upon the government to adopt a revenue allocation formula that is just and fair to the producing regions, providing more than 13 percent of the revenue and therefore increasing local compensation for resource development. UNPO further recommends that these revenues should be administered by a regional trust fund that would promote education and economic development. UNPO calls upon the Nigerian government to comply with their announcement made on 3 June 2008 and finally release an official notice calling for Shell to suspend their activities and leave the Ogoni inhabited Niger River Delta (UNPO, 2008).

Indeed, as a matter of fact, studies have shown the roles played by Land Use Act (LUA) in that it alienated the people of Niger Delta, Ogoni in particular from their traditional rights over their land. The Land Use Act (LUA) enacted created a horrible background in which the people could not seek and demand neither rents, nor royalties from multinational oil companies because it in turn meant that is the federal government of Nigeria who owned the land and not the local people. To this end, it is understandable that these have been the contradictions between multinational oil companies, Nigerian state and the oil producing communities, particularly the Ogoni people. Thus, as aforementioned by Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization—has demanded that there

should be a redress to the Land Use Act (LUA) which has been seen as the very root of contradiction amongst the parties, so as to bring justice to the people, medicine their plight and eradicate the incessant crises in the Niger- Delta region, especially Ogoniland.

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Chapter 8: OIL EXPLOITATION AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT; AN ASSESSMENT OF Ogoniland

Prologue

Over the years, the concept of development and underdevelopment have been that of contradictions, contentious and debatable in that there have not been agreement amongst scholars to a greater extent about what it is, and what it should actually be based on diverse of understanding in its conception. However, some scholars have said based on their tenet philosophy that the development of one society leads to the underdevelopment of another (Frank Gunder, 1975 and Paul Baron, 1957). Thus, it is noteworthy to argue that oil exploitation and development in Ogoniland has led to their underdevelopment. In considering and analysing the issue of underdevelopment in the Niger Delta and Ogoniland in particular, Steve Azaiki posed the following questions: why has the Niger Delta remained underdeveloped for decades despite the fact that it contributes about 90 percent of the nation's wealth? Why is there stagnation in the mode of life and living standards of the people for decades? Are there concrete signs that the communities and rural dwellers in the Niger Delta are moving further away from the zone of underdevelopment? (Azaiki, 2003). In answering the above questions posed by Azaiki, some scholars and environmental experts have linked the problem of underdevelopment in the Niger Delta region to oil exploitation and environmental degradation in the region. Worgu (2000), Opukri e tal (2008) and Onyige (1996) have argued that the underdevelopment of the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region is a direct consequence of oil exploitation and environmental degradation in the region. To them, underdevelopment has largely been understood in the context of lack of social amenities such as pipe-home water, good roads, hospitals, schools and employment opportunities. Corroborating the

above assertion by the trio, Duru (1999) opined that "experience of the area has shown that even when shell provided these amenities, they only facilitate the exploitation of the communities as evidenced in the construction of its access roads that link up its various oil and gas fields and not necessarily to develop the host communities" Osaghie (1998), in similar vein, recounted that the neglect and underdevelopment is the plight of every community in the Niger Delta region, especially Ogoniland due to oil exploration which has resulted to adverse environmental degradation. Thus, corroborating with the above assertion, it is indisputable to argue that the development of oil exploitation in Ogoniland has in turn led to the underdevelopment of the areas. Development has to do with the improvement in the living standards of a people, both socially, politically, economically and culturally. But the question is that, is there any evidence to show that Ogoni communities have been developed as a result of oil exploitation on their land? Also, the issues of underdevelopment and unemployment made members of the Akwa Ibom House of Assembly to launch a protest against Mobil Producing Company in May, 2001. Mobil is the largest oil company in that part of the Niger Delta with a major facility at Eket. I will conclude this part by drawing attention to the observation made at the World Conference on Environment and Development in 1978. The participants at the conference observed that "environment and development are not separate challenges; they are inexorably linked. The present paper is on oil exploitation and underdevelopment in Ogoniland.

Development versus Environmental Destruction

According to them, "development cannot subsist upon deteriorating environmental resource base; the environment cannot be protected when growth leaves out of account the cost of environmental destruction.

Fragmented institutions and policies cannot trace these problems separately. They are linked in a complex system of cause and effect." For decades, there have been speculations and claims by the Nigerian government and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) particularly about the development of the Niger Delta and the Ogoniland in particular in many bulletin across the globe. However, it is necessary to interrogate the extent to which the so called development has indeed improved the living standards of the Ogoni people and the Niger Delta at large. Development, according to Okpara (2004) refers to a process of bringing about fundamental and sustainable change with society. He notes that development transcends as well as encompasses growth and embraces or (welcome) aspects of quality of life such as social justice, quantity of opportunity for all citizens, equitable, distribution of income and democratisation the of development process. However, in the light of the above assertion, we can deduce that as at today, the development of the Ogoni people has been that of human rights violations, marginalisation and marked with political exclusion. And those Ogoni communities are underdeveloped because there is no social justice, and lacking equality in the distribution of the petro dollars accrued from their land.

Development a Key to Understanding People's Living Conditions

Development is key to understanding the living conditions of any given people, because improvement in terms of infrastructure, well-functioning health-care, good roads, qualitative and quantitative

education etc. are greatly needed in order to live a meaningful life by a people (Saro-Wiwa, 1992 cited MOSOP, 2009). In the light of the above understanding, it is necessary to argue that there is high rate of underdevelopment in Ogoni communities because there is absence of well-functioning health-care system, good roads, qualitative and quantitative education. Based on the argument made by some scholars, development is a quantitative and qualitative improvement in the lives of the people. Soyombo, (2005) whilst explaining national development, defines it as qualitative and quantitative in the living conditions of people of a state in line with national objectives, as indicated in its national developmental plans. He argued that rapid improvement of the standard of living of the average Nigerian has always been a major objective of the country's national development plans. According to him, other key objectives of the development plans include: reduction in the level of unemployment; equitable distribution of income; reduction in the incidence of poverty; improvement in the quality of life of the people; more employment opportunities; greater access to basic necessities of life such as qualitative health services; potable water, education and electricity. It is when these are achieved that we can talk of development for a people.

The woes of the Ogonis

However, the discrepancies to the above assertion are overt as at today in Ogoniland, because as a matter of fact, the health-care centre in Ogoni is dilapidated, no better schools, high rate of unemployment, no potable drinking water etc. According to UNEP, (2011)

the people of Nsioken Ogale community in Eleme are drinking water contaminated with benzene of about 900 times above World Health Organization's (WHO's) approved drinking water. This in turn showed the acute environmental conditions in which the people of Ogoni are facing rather than development. Regrettably, the environmental challenges in which the Ogoni people are facing is alarming, in that their arable farmlands which were useful in the past for agricultural production are now degraded and oil pollution has contaminated virtually everything rendered unproductive. The problems associated with oil exploration and extraction activities are all encompasses, because there is dead of everything in Ogoniland such as farmlands, creeks, fish ponds, trees, water etc. (UNPO, 2008, MOSOP, 2017). Lamentably, a comparative research carried out by Wiki, (2009) which compared Oloibiri community in Bayelsa state, where oil was first struck in 1956, with Abuja the Federal Capital of Nigeria in terms of socio-economic, political and cultural development. In his report, oil has been a curse to the people of Oloibiri and as a blessing to the Nigerian state with which she had built a glorious city, and in turn left the people of Oloibiri with a deep sense of loss and deprivation day in day out. The above report actually reflected the current socio-economic, political and cultural conditions of Ogoni communities and in no sense quite nuance to the Ogoni people in terms of development.

Multi-faceted Problems Associated With Oil Exploration and Exploitation

The multi-faceted problems associated with oil exploration and exploitation activities have generated all kind of diseases to the Ogoni people and placed them in abject poverty (Pyagbara, 2003). Therefore, it is necessary to argue that oil exploitation in Ogoniland has in turn led to the underdevelopment of the region. Ogoniland, is an agrarian society, a social milieu whose means of survival solely depend on agriculture. Agriculture plays an important role to their survival Saro-Wiwa (1990 cited UNPO, 2008). However, as at today, the scenario is quite nuance in that they are faced with environmental degradation resulting from oil pollution. The case of environmental degradation in Ogoniland has and still acutely because nothing has been done to ameliorate its impact when juxtaposing it in the level of concretibility. Since 1990, the daily bulletin has been the environmental problems facing the people. According Ugoh and Ukpere (2010), it depends on the extent to which government is perceived and accepted as being legitimate; responsive to the needs of its citizens; competent to guarantee law and order; able to deliver public services; enabling a policy for environment for production activities; and is equitable in its conduct. In relation to the Niger Delta and Ogoni people in particular, the statement made by the former Governor of Rivers State, Sir Dr. Peter Odili is suitable. He averred that if the federal government has realised its responsibility and has sufficiently focused on the neglect of the Niger Delta, its difficult environment and the needs of its people, should have been transformed into sustainable development. This implies that Nigerian government has neglected the people of Niger Delta and the Ogoni in particular

despite its great importance in terms of national economic contributions; its environmental challenges resulting from oil spillages and have not in turn meet the basic needs of the people.

Shell, Nigerian Government and Development of Ogoniland

Eze (2005) refers to development as a goal that should precede development actions, whether it concerns people, organisations, or actions. That when it concerns people, the goal is human development: when it concerns Organisations, the concern is organisational development, and, when it concerns societies, the goal is national development. But in this subject, the focus of the researcher is on the people of Ogoni. Here, the question to approach is that, are there evidences to show that the Nigerian state and Shell have made some concrete efforts as regards to development actions with which to tackle poverty, unemployment, lack of social amenities facing the Ogoni people? According to Ross (1999), conflicts arises as a result of a global economic system that keeps the continent locked in a cruel circle of poverty and domination, which is aggravated by local conflict for power and wealth. This perhaps holds its strong root in the Niger Delta, particularly the Ogoni people. Since the Nigerian state lacks autonomy, it simply expropriation by using coercive instruments to sustain its dominance. This leads to penury, acute environmental degradation and gross underdevelopment in oil producing communities. Pyagbara (2003), opined that Ogoni and other indigenous and minority communities have also been deprived of the benefits of development in other key

areas – infrastructure, health-care, and education. That the absence of even basic infrastructure creates a daily threat to life and livelihoods of the Ogoni region.

MOSOP-led (2003) the views of representatives of Ogoni communities interviewed by its researchers were consistent with the SPDC commissioned survey data showing that, in areas such as water provision, over 50 per cent of projects were deemed non-functional, although these were listed as completed in 2000. "This suggests to the communities that the companies do not care about the consequences of such failure that despite overt threats to water supplies from both oil pollution and population pressures. That as regards health, there is a direct correlation between the intensity of oil production and its negative impact on health. "When oil operations discharge toxic effluents into rivers and onto farmlands, harmful elements such as mercury and chromium enter the food chain. The discharge of effluents also contaminated underground water and makes it unfit for consumption; yet this remains the only source of water for the local people. The argument has been that projects repeatedly suffer from extend periods of renovations without any clear prospect of a service that is effective, or will address local needs. There are fundamental failure which have said to had undermined other areas; the Terabor General Hospital in Gokana, for instance, is dilapidated, despite heavy investment by SPDC, still has a faulty of water supply; leaving the hospital dependent on a supply known to be contaminated.

Summary and Conclusion

The issue of education would be critical to this analysis because as a matter of fact, education at all levels in Nigeria is a cause of widespread concern. Nigeria politicians, have left our educational system in the state of no return or disguise, whereas sending their children to abroad for better studies at the expense of the poor masses who could not afford the cost of such level of education (Wiki, 2009). Thus, problems are exacerbated in the case of the Ogoni environmental degradation of the land upon which the local economy depends erodes the economic power of most Ogoni families, making it doubly herculean for them to put their children through school. To this end, it is clear that oil exploitation has led to the underdevelopment of the Niger Delta, Ogoniland in particular in that despite the acclaimed \$30 billion dollars accrued from oil production in Ogoniland -there is nothing to show in return. That the underdevelopment of Ogoniland is linked to oil exploration and environmental degradation in the view of multi-faceted problems associated with oil spills and pollution. That the problems associated with oil exploration and production activities are detrimental in terms of socio-economic political and cultural development of the Niger Delta, particularly in Ogoni communities. Thus, the impact of oil exploration and environmental degradation has undermined the development of Ogoni people in many ways.

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SECTION TWO

GENDER ISSUES
AND
UNEMPLOYMENT

Chapter 9: GENDER MARGINS

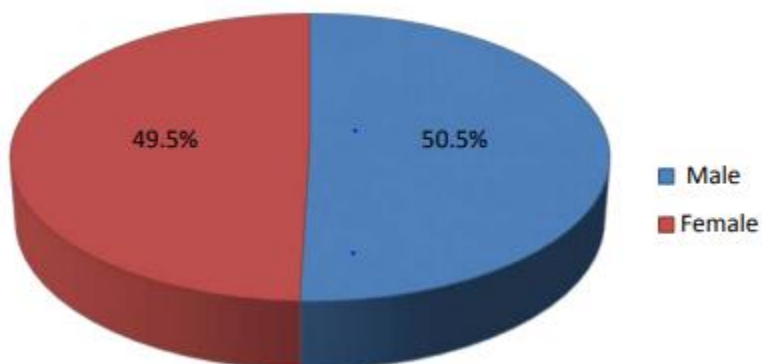
Prologue:

Gender discrimination in work structure, employment system and empowerment framework in the society has become intricate and entrenched that it has, in recent times, attracted international attentions, research interests and scholarly discourses (Oluwunmi, Emeghe, Oluwadamilola, Fulani, Peter, and Akinjare, 2017; Crawford, 2000; Gray, 2001). The present paper is on issues in gender margins: male and female in comparative view.

Women and Nigerian Population

In spite of the fact that women constitute a large proportion of the Nigerian population, they are heavily discriminated against in the society. Out of the 100% of Nigeria's population, as at 2015, female population was about 49.5% while, male population was about 50.5%. The proportion of women is enough to facilitate economic growth. The 49.5% is an indication that women might be a force for productivity if given the opportunity. Below is a diagram of population distribution based on sex:

Fig 1: 2015 Population Distribution Data Based on Sex:



Source from: *National Bureau of Statistics (2016).*

The data above gives a percentage sample of Nigeria's population figure in 2015, which was projected at 13 million people. From the 183 million populations, about 90, 989,254 are females and about 92,387,474 are males. And this gives the ratio of 102 against/per 100 women.

Gender Impediments Imposed On Women

As a result of the gender impediments imposed on women, research document that women are more likely to experience poverty, diseases such as HIV/AIDs, and high mortality rate. Women also have been documented to have died of several terrible diseases as a result of exposure to discriminations. The statistical data from the National Bureau of Statistics (2016) showed that women are more prone to HIV/AIDs terminal disease than men. This may have been as a result of the high level of impoverishment imposed on them by society. See below:

Table 1: Distribution of Deaths and Causes – years (2010-2015) and sexes (male and female).

Disease	2010			2011			2012			2013			2014			2015		
	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%
Malaria	52895	52505	50.1	71546	71040*	50.2	1710617	1131186	60.2	433317	384579	51.0	451665	323738	50.2	511887	384439	57.1
Pneumonia	31065	38666	44.5	49468	51043	49.2	67390	64736	51.0	19471	19465	50.0	22319	20460	52.2	25295	24296	51.0
Tuberculosis	8977	8783	50.5	10273	11491	47.2	11464	12448	47.9	7075	6633	51.6	5039	4630	52.1	5710	5498	50.9
Yellow Fever	401	526	43.3	514	429	54.5	56120	62370	47.4	334	335	49.9	7649	7489	50.5	8669	8894	49.4
Diarrhea Water Without Blood	59120	70306	45.7	71277	67198	51.5*	59188	64686	47.8	68353	66309	50.8	34392	31588	52.1	38977	37511	51.0
Diarrhea with Blood	20099	23205	47.1	11210	25814	30.3	34507	36415	48.7	79982	84541	48.6	19520	19997	49.4	22122	23747	48.2
Hepatitis B	1143	1172	49.4	3025	3067	49.7	16925	72715	30.9	3987	3032	56.8	3344	9410	26.2	3790	11175	25.3
Measles	3960	3889	50.5	9694	8604	53.0	86336	92442	48.3	33376	30051	52.6	17782	15881	52.8	20153	18858	51.7

Source: Ministry of Health

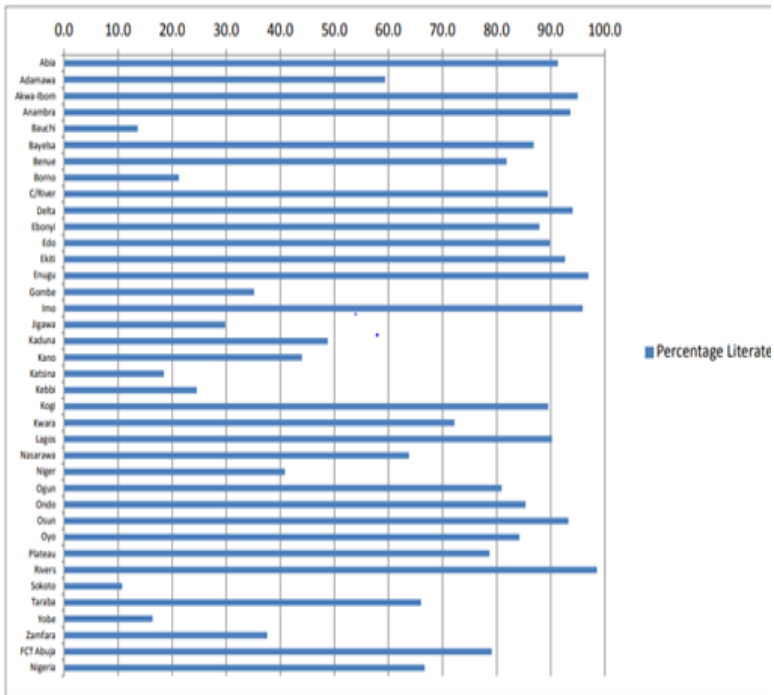
The margins from the HIV/AIDS disparity amongst women and men

According to the Ministry of Health, by 2010 a proportion of 16,449 males and 24,931 females lived with HIV/AIDs. The figure increased more in 2014 where data available indicated that about 13,692 men lived with HIV/AIDs and 19,754 females had the disease. By 2015, it was documented that 15,003 (44.8%) males and 18,459 (52.2%) females had the disease contracted.

The margins from the Education disparity amongst women and men

Apart from the margins from the HIV/AIDs disparity amongst women and men, education circle also presents some marvels. Women are becoming enlightened and literate as seen in Rivers State and their enrolment in education is highly increasing, yet their opportunities in socio-economic and political opportunities are low. The literacy ratio and percentage of states is shown below to support the study.

Fig: 2 summary of literacy level amongst states in Nigeria.



Source: NBS/FMYD 2012 National Baseline Youth Survey

The margin as shown in Rivers State indicates a positive development that women are becoming literate. In fact, in recent findings, women make an impressive turn out from the university than men. They are recorded more in number in the tertiary learning environment than the men.

Fig 3: Distribution of Students Enrolment and Out-come in Tertiary Institutions

Year	College of Education						Polytechnics						University					
	Enrolment			Out-turn			Enrolment			Out-turn			Enrolment			Out-turn		
	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%	Female	Male	%
2010	345667	311495	47.4	29320	25547	46.6	52470	36761	41.2	29147	22625	43.7	70792	49411	41.1	24345	12341	33.6
2011	327592	317274	49.2	19006	18767	49.7	52596	38237	42.1	31685	21423	40.3	65823	49107	42.7	19437	8864	31.3
2012	353072	153017	30.2	26164	25863	49.7	65994	44911	40.5	35412	22997	39.4	83266	61684	42.6	21968	10418	32.2
2013	682564	328642	32.5	18714	13860	42.5	40828	27711	40.4	21201	15607	42.5	59143	46292	43.9	48864	9068	15.7
2014	341282	264321	43.6	23239	16553	41.6	59104	44018	42.7	32104	24018	42.8	62416	49002	44.0	56149	28812	33.9
2015	396017	290633	42.3	32017	18633	36.8	69759	55217	44.2	39759	29217	42.4	65444	52825	44.7	65992	36973	35.9

Source: NCCCE/State Polytechnic/State University

The puzzling question against this high literacy level is that if such development is holistic. This directs attention to the fact that women are not given much room to study higher and gain degrees such as PhD; hence, they are limited to certain areas of employment. For instance, primary and secondary school teaching have a good record of female teachers. This is not the same with the tertiary institutions.

Employment Chances and Disparity amongst Women and Men

Female employment counts in almost all sectors of life. Female employment is encompassing, and ranges from the employment level given to women in a workplace, the appointment position in the political structure, the promotion framework in institutions, the employment pattern and structure in public and private sectors. The employment opportunities of women are still not equated to the men in all aspects of life. This is in spite of the tremendous roles of the woman in sustainable development. UN Women (2016, p5) remarked that "Women make significant contributions every day from bringing an income to her household as an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders. However, a woman farmer" as

they drew for instance, "may not be able to make her crops thrive like a man can because she doesn't have the same access to seeds, credit, technology and extension services". Oluwunmi et.al. (2017, p 4367) hinted that, "Gender structure in the workplace environment is based on differences rather than the individual characteristics of men and women. The general assumption is that women are less expert than men; hence, women tend to be at disadvantage in gender-neutral context". Employment chances of women at this level are poor, because they lack the prerequisite high qualifications for tertiary teaching? The qualifications amongst women are TC II, NCE, HND, B. Ed, B. Sc., and low record of Masters and less record of PhD. This might have been as a result of pregnancy which might, as seen in some studies, be impacting on the time of women in pursuing higher quality of education, or the poor paid salary.

Women and Politics

On the other hand, the political system of Nigeria has not been a welcoming business for women. The polity is male-dominated, and this situation reduces the chances of women in occupying sensitive and attractive positions. The Beijing Declaration which subscribes to 30% affirmative action for female equity is not yet achieved in the Nigerian political landscape. The margin between men and women in the political structure is large. Women are being abused on election grounds, they are humiliated through the process and above all, the political culture has been antagonistic to women. Husbands rebuke their wives from participating in political affairs; the society assumes a woman, who tries to resist the norm by

participating in election by seeking to be voted for, a woman-man, a metaphor given to a woman whom is assumed stubborn and uncultured. These impediments inferiorize the woman in the Nigerian political landscape, thereby impacting negatively on her chances of economic empowerment (Odozi, 2012;Roth, 2013;Tzannatos, 1999; LEDAP, 2003; Lips, 2003 and Klasen, 2003.The political seats at the legislative arm of government are clear testimonies of the gender margin in the political realm. See data below:

Fig 4: distribution of seats occupied in National Assembly – Type, Seat No. percentage, Sex and Years.

LEGISLATORS	2007		2011		2015	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Senate						
Male	100	91.7	101	92.7	100	91.7
Female	9	8.3	8	7.3	9	8.3
Total	109	100	109	100	109	100
House of Reps.						
Male	334	92.8	338	93.9	337	92.8
Female	26	7.2	22	6.1	23	7.2
Total	360	100	360	100	360	100
Both Houses						
Male	434	92.5	439	93.6	437	92.5
Female	35	7.5	30	6.4	32	7.5
Total	469	100	469	100	469	100

Source: INEC

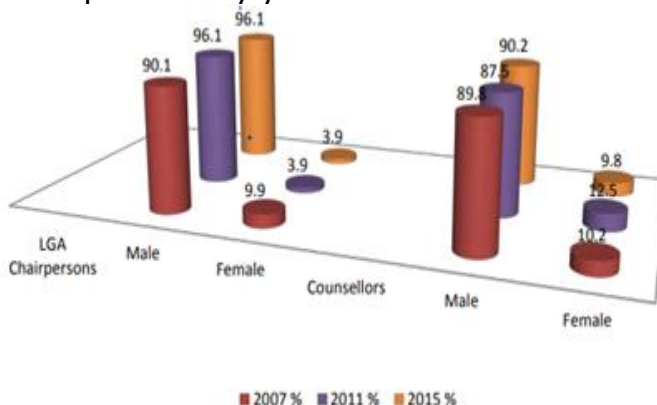
Type	2007		2011		2015	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Hon. Members						
Male	933	94.2	835	94.1	935	94.4
Female	57	5.8	52	5.9	55	5.6
Total	990	100.0	887	100.0	990	100.0
Committee Chairpersons						
Male	933	94.2	626	90.2	935	94.4
Female	57	5.8	68	9.8	55	5.6
Total	990	100.0	694	100.0	990	100.0

Source: INEC

The margin of men and women at the local government

The position of women at the local government has also been appalling and excruciating. By 2007, data by INEC indicated that about 510 (90.1%) of men and 56 (9.9%) of women occupied the chairpersonship positions in the country. This makes the margins for men far higher than the women's. In 2011, as some data showed, the proportions of 738 (96.1%) for men and 30 (3.9%) for women were recorded also for the chairpersonship. In 2015, a number of 740 (95.6%) of men were recorded chairpersons and only a poor ratio of 34 (4.4%) of women were recorded chairpersons in the country. In 2015 also, 6,828 (90.2%) were male councillors and 740 (9.8%) were female councillors. See diagram:

Fig 5: Statistical distribution of LGA chairperson and councillor positions by year and sex

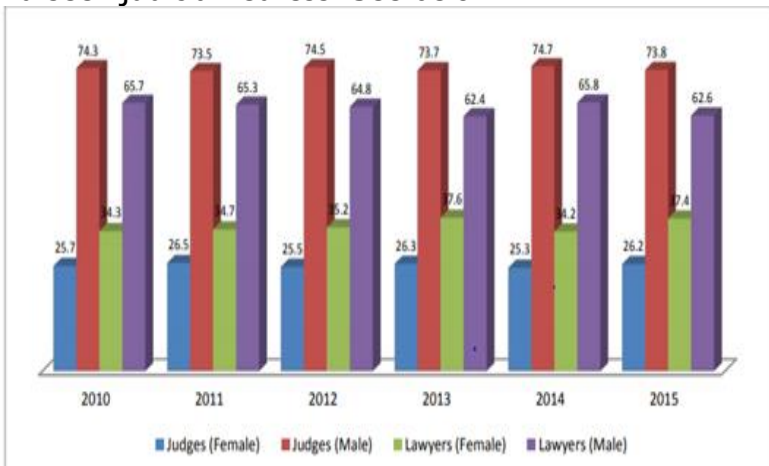


Sourced from: National Bureau of Statistics (2016)

Women in the judiciary

Women in the judiciary have not also recorded success looking at the high margin of the proportion

of men against theirs. Men have a large proportion than women in the number of lawyers and judges around the country. The diagram below shows that women are yet to key into the socio-political positions and the judicial system. The judiciary is key for the woman's empowerment and emancipation. It is the very arm of government that if occupied, women can address their issues of gender discrimination legally and seek judicial redress. See below:



Summary and Conclusion

Gender discrimination is perpetuated in different modes; which include: the use of sexist language against a person's gender identity, unfavoured system of employment against a particular person, due to his/her gender background, domestic violence, cultural impediments, socio-religious marginalization against persons, political violence, prejudice and social discriminations, male or female chauvinism, and impoverishment of a particular gender of people. The woman at home is considered a dependent fellow, whose sole responsibility is to take care of the

children, sew the children and husband's clothes, cook for the family, wash dishes and carry out other home chores, and above all, satisfy the husband's sexual desires. These poor roles apportioned to the woman are indicators that she is not yet a full-fledged being in the society. And these all inform the relegation of women in the economic realms of affairs, and encourage the high rate of poverty amongst women in rural and urban places.

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Chapter 10: MALE AND WOMEN SEGREGATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Prologue

In spite of the several conventions ratified by Nigeria; regardless of the local laws protecting women's rights amongst other international policies and bodies such as International Labour Organization (ILO), gender imbalance in Nigeria and other parts of Africa, as well as the world, is still experienced excruciatingly. Odozi (2012, p. 3) opined that "reducing inequality in relation in human capital and employment amongst others is a pressing global concern". Gender inequality is a global trend and the concerted efforts in addressing its challenges calls for international concerns and research investigations. The word gender may imply the naming of female and male attributes and qualities that may be used for qualification of the male or female sex (see; Kemi and Ojenyo 2016) Gender suggests an arbitrary way of decoding and perpetuating discrimination based on either femininity or masculinity. The term gender finds its earlier ethnographical root in anthropology where it was seen as a key index in discussing how cultural differences and practices are observed within male and female margins. The word 'gender' could be traced etymologically as a Latin word, 'genus' which means 'birth, family and nation'; but with its earliest meaning denoting 'kind, sort, type, genus, class' et cetera being words that also give the sense of gendreau old French word that etymologically means gender. Within this linguistic space, gender means 'grouping'. The term 'gender' gradually crept into other disciplines such as sociology when feminist of all brands took much interest into studying the social constructivist shapes of gender issues. Gender and sex are sometimes misconstrued as identical elements in sociological discourses. However,

they are intertwined in gender-centred discourse. The study investigates the effect of male segregation on women's employment opportunity in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Empirical Review

From all the research's knowledge, there are no adequate related empirical literatures on the correlativity between female discrimination and their empowerment. Klasen and Lamanna (2008, p.3) observed that "A subject that has not been investigated in great detail is the impact of gender inequality in employment and pay on economic growth. The relatively small theoretical literature on the subject yields conflicting results". Scholars have produced conflicting results as regards this area of research. However, some related empirical studies on the impact of female empowerment, and the relativity of female discrimination with economic growth still exist. Cavalcanti and Tavares (2007) explained that through the use of demographic model, the argument that gender disparity in employment structure can hamper economic growth, can be sustained. Blecker and Seguino (2002) posed a substantial argument that gender discrimination could lead some countries into suing the services of cheap, uneducated women for trans-national businesses, and thereby unknowingly reducing economic growth. Another argument raised in some literatures is the importance of female employment on families. There are some existing literatures that capture such argument lucidly that female earnings increases female roles and worth at homes. This bargaining power which women might possess if they earn money might help them reduce poverty and make them have higher personal savings.

For instance, if the employment margin favours the men against the backdrop of women, some parents might assume that female education will yield little or no results. Hence, there may be some correlativity between female employment opportunities and female education? Existing literatures document that the gender margin/divide in the educational system affects the growth of a nation. King and Hill (1993) and Knowles et al. (2002) are researchers who used the Solow-growth framework to observe that gender gaps in the educational system might highly impact negatively on a country's GDP. In the light of the above, most of this discussed empirical studies used data and econometrics approaches to document the correlativity between gender disparity in work place and economic growth. Just a hand few had been identified to have focused on the impact of gender disparity on female employment opportunities as a single hypothetical statement on its own, being a scholarly lacuna that this study intends to fill.

Discussion of Finding

That women are marginalized in the patriarchal society. It was found that segregation against women still exists in the society, and which contributes to women economic challenges faced.

Summary

The research is designed to focus on critical issues affecting the employment of women in the society. It discussed how domestic male segregation can affect the opportunity of women. The research identified key factors that may impede women. It explained that the society has been structured to favour men; it

also has pointed out that men segregate against women and that women themselves develop attitude that are inimical to their development and employment. From the findings that emerged from the study, it was indicated that male segregation is one major factor that impedes women's employment opportunity in the society. Women are being discriminated against in several ways.

Conclusion

The study has identified that women have potentials and are blessed with values; however, that such values and potentials have not been harnessed properly as key valuables for their development and employment because of some impeding factors. It has equally identified that factors such as male segregation on women's employment opportunity is key to the impediment of women. The study therefore concludes that this factor can be addressed and overcome if only the society realizes the true potentials of women by giving them equal opportunity with men.

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Chapter 11: FEMALE SELF-DENIGRATION AND FEMALE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Prologue

Gender discrimination is perpetuated in different modes; which include: the use of sexist language against a person's gender identity, unfavoured system of employment against a particular person, due to his/her gender background, domestic violence, cultural impediments, socio-religious marginalization against persons, political violence, prejudice and social discriminations, male or female chauvinism, and impoverishment of a particular gender of people. The woman at home is considered a dependent fellow, whose sole responsibility is to take care of the children, sew the children and husband's clothes, cook for the family, wash dishes and carry out other home chores, and above all, satisfy the husband's sexual desires. These poor roles apportioned to the woman are indicators that she is not yet a full-fledged being in the society. And these all inform the relegation of women in the economic realms of affairs, and encourage the high rate of poverty amongst women in rural and urban places. Gender discrimination in work structure, employment system and empowerment framework in the society has become intricate and entrenched that it has, in recent times, attracted international attentions, research interests and scholarly discourses (Oluwunmi, Emeghe, Oluwadamilola, Fulani, Peter, and Akinjare, 2017; Crawford, 2000; Gray, 2001). Female employment counts in almost all sectors of life. Female employment is encompassing, and ranges from the employment level given to women in a workplace, the appointment position in the political structure, the promotion framework in institutions, the employment pattern and structure in public and private sectors. The employment opportunities of women are still not equated to the men in all aspects of life. This is in spite of the

tremendous roles of the woman in sustainable development. UN Women (2016, p5) remarked that "Women make significant contributions every day from bringing an income to her household as an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders. However, a woman farmer" as they drew for instance, "may not be able to make her crops thrive like a man can because she doesn't have the same access to seeds, credit, technology and extension services". Oluwunmi et.al. (2017, p 4367) hinted that, "Gender structure in the workplace environment is based on differences rather than the individual characteristics of men and women. The general assumption is that women are less expert than men; hence, women tend to be at disadvantage in gender-neutral context".

Nigeria in Focus:

Nigeria is a complex country with diverse ethnic group that share divergent interests. Based on its geographical information, the country is located in West Africa, bounded by Benin in the west, Cameroon and Chad in the east Niger in the north. The country has 36 states with its Federal capital in Abuja. The country gained independence in 1960, and became a republic in 1963. However, the country's peoples had been in existence before the intrusion of the colonial masters. There were the early settlers around 11000BC, far before the whites stepped on the soils of the African continent. The Nri Kingdom, Benin Empire Oyo Empire and Hausa States had been in existence long ago. The Country had experienced series of colonial and external invasions. The first to be experienced is the Islamic crusade in Nigeria during the 11th century before the coming of Christianity, which followed around the 15th century. The colonial British master later conquered and

became the official colonial masters of Nigeria. So, by 1851, Lagos was already invaded by the British, by 1901 Nigeria became British protectorate. And in 1914, Lord Lugard amalgamated Nigeria. The colonial rule started about 1851 and ended in 1960. The country has also experienced military coups, which was first launched in 1963 and brought in Aguiyi Ironsi to power. The nation is complex looking at its linguistic, cultural, economic, political and religious landscapes. The country is rich in mineral resources and is recorded one of many in Africa, as a fast growing economy by 2015, and topped the economy of South Africa by 2014. The Nigerian environment is patriarchal in construct; the citizens are more religious and rational. The Nigerian society interprets every aspect of life from the male perspective. Man is assumed the bread-winner and the Head of the family. The role the Nigerian society ascribes to the man is much more favourable than that accorded to women. Women are relegated to the 'Kitchen'. Another area that explains men's superiority in the Nigerian context is the celebrity of a male child at birth. The complexity of these situations encourage gender imbalance in the Nigerian society.

Concept of Gender

Gender is a socially constructed pattern of role apportioning in the society based on people's male and female personalities. In recent findings, gender has become an interesting sociological discourse due to the issues underpinned in it. The term gender may give some misconception to some people, that whenever it is mentioned, they assume it is women that is focused and talked about as the marginalized

group. Odekunle (2008, p.52) explained that "Gender is a concept used to analyze the roles, activities and responsibilities of men and women in any society". Gender is a condition of role assignment conditioned by how society has viewed it. Onabu (2006) opined that gender refers to social roles allocated respectively to men and women in particular societies and particular times. Such roles and the differences between them are conditioned by a variety of political, economic, ideological and cultural factors, and are characterized in most societies by unequal performance in their activities. In a gender-blind society, poverty is an element used to strengthen gender marginalization against the antagonized gender. Hence, gender, on another aspect, becomes a determinant to how poverty can be experienced. LEDAP (2003) hinted gender constitutes one of the determinants of how poverty is experienced and of wealth creation. Rights and entitlements of men and women to opportunities, resources and decision making are based on socio-cultural norms rather on human rights or the respective development capacity of men and women. CIRDDOC (2001) explained gender as a system of roles relationship between women and men that are determined not biologically but by the social, political and economic context. In CIRDDOC's perception, gender is the enforcement of society's perceived ideology and tenet on a person.

In discussing gender, issues surrounding equity and equality come to mind. In some respects, some researchers argue that gender equality may be an unachieved looking at the height gender discrimination against persons is entrenched in the

society. Gender equality is the proposition that women and men can have a chance of 50-50 existence in every affairs. On the other hand, gender equity seeks to propose for fair distribution of resources, opportunities, employment amongst men and women, in the fact that women will be considered along side in affairs; gender equity is not of 50-50 school f-thought, as it realizes that female subjugation and discrimination may not stop to exist. Odekunle (2008, p.53) explained that "Gender equality is the proportion of shared resources between men and women, which a school of thought believes might not be achieved in this generation because of some cultural, economic, political, psychological and social factors". Gender equity implies fair sharing of resources, status, positions, etc. between men and women".

Summary and Conclusion

The research discussed valuable issues of cultural practices can affect the opportunity of women. The research identified key factors that may impede women. From the findings that emerged from the study, it was indicated cultural practices affect the way women develop capacity for employment opportunity. These cultural practices as indicated are constructed by the society which favours men. It has been identified that factors such as cultural practices against women is key to the impediment of women.

Recommendation

That the women themselves should hold a positive interpretation of their sex and personality and develop

higher capacity that will make them resourceful and competent for employment.

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Chapter 12: CULTURAL PRACTICES AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Prologue

The place of women in ensuring sustainable development of any nation cannot be overemphasized. They constitute a large proportion of the population index of Nigeria, meaning that the rating of Nigeria as the most populous country in Africa cannot be achieved without the counts of women population. Gberevbie, Osibanjo, Adeniji and Oludayo (2014, p. 101) stated that "Nigeria, like other countries in Africa, has almost equal number of males and females that make up the total population. For instance, the last Nigeria's national population census that took place in 2006 showed that females were 68.3 million, which is about 48.78 percent and males constituted 71.7 million, which is 51.22 percent of the total population of about 140 million." And as regards the labour force of the country, women, although not often recognized, due to gender insensitivity and blindness of the society, (Ogunlela and Mukhtar, (2009), have facilitated the labour force and productivity that expand the economy. Gayawan and Adebayo (2015, p.2) contributed that, "The Nigerian women have continued to prove their worth even in the midst of the male-dominated professional congregation. The steady advancement of women in contributing to the nation's economic development and their progressive prominence in the national scheme of affairs have, to a large extent, impacted on governance at all levels and government has responded positively in diverse ways". The poverty level of women in Africa might be considered as one most pronounced factor impeding the continent in meeting the demands of global development. Women are fast growing in population, but not expanding economically due to lack of financial empowerment given to them. The

impediments meted against women through cultural, religious, political aegis might have correlativity with their employment opportunities? While segregation against women's gender takes different and new modalities in the society, research interests are being channeled towards gender discourse on women employment opportunities considering that gender equality in employment structure is the hub for true national development in Africa. Thus, constituting the salient issues that have precipitated this study on how gender disparity mutilates female access of employment systems and structures.

Female Cultural Discrimination and Self-Denigration

Cultural discrimination against women is a strongly felt in the African society considering the fact that cultural practices influence the perception and belief system of the people. Cultural discrimination involves several aspects of tradition. The girl child is not given much importance in most African traditional communities as seen. Mofoluwawo (2014, p. 172) stated that "In the cultural and traditional environment in Nigeria, as male child grow up, he finds out that his sex confers something extra on him. Women are deprived of basic rights using culture and tradition to justify the abuse in the following practices: husbands are the heads of families and their decisions are final. Women must respect and obey their husbands at all times. Also most women spend their lives with marriage. The cultural divide amongst female child and male child is manifest in celebration of welcome. The male child is often given priority and a better welcoming ceremony than the female child. This action echoes discrimination and has a way of affecting the child's psychology. Abara

(2012, p.8) stated that "Traditionally, most parents prefer boys to girls, thus, right from birth women are viewed and treated as inferior or second-class citizens. It is a calamity for a woman to give birth to only girls. The consequence is that the husband must marry another wife so as to ensure that his lineage does not go into extinction". Abara (2012) further observed the dimensions cultural discrimination has been perpetuated against women:

1. Husbands are the Head of the families and their decisions are final. Women must venerate, respect and obey their husbands at all times.
2. Most women spend their lives within marriage. They are therefore constructed in the minds of men as dependents and inferiors who need to listen to and follow their spousal leadership and instructions.
3. Whereas men listen humbly to their mothers, aunts and older sisters, they would not display the same attitude with women, not in blood relationship with them.
4. Some educated men have internalized the stereotype that women are emotional and not given to rationality like men.
5. Wholesale adoption of gender ideas from fundamentalist religions subordinating women to men.
6. Such attitude has now become a way of life. They affect the way we run the family, implement development projects and practices including national governance.
7. In the cultural setting, traditional belief is strong that for the continuity of the family lineage, preference of male children to females should be encouraged.

8. In similar vein, inheritance laws deny females any inheritance, since she is considered to belong to her husband, on marriage. In rare cases, when 10 considered for inheritance, female children get less than their male siblings. (9-10)

Another impediment is early marriage imposed on the girl child by parents and the society. Culture has been constructed to favour the men against the backdrop of men.

Considering the weight of the discrimination against them, most women assume that it is an order for them to be placed as victimized individuals. The society brainwashes them to internalize their experiences as an acceptable order by God and the society.

Theoretical Framework

Dorothy Smith's Standpoint Theory

The research is anchored on Dorothy Smith's Standpoint Theory, which emerged within the 1970s and 1980s as "a feminist critical theory about relations between the production of knowledge and practices of power" (Harding, 2004, p.1). It attacked the Marx's theory of Marxism for being male-centred. Male in Marxism is defined as the proletariat. Scholars such as Lukács and Gramsci who believe in Marxism have also been criticized using the Standpoint Theory. Cockburn (2015, p.3) "Women do not feature in Marx's account of the creation of surplus value, the heart of his economic theory", and emphasizing how Lukács and Gramsci described proletariat as male, some women such as Smith attempted infusing feminist orientations into Marxism and sociology. Such

feminists accuse Lukács and Gramsci of using masculine nouns and pronouns in referring to proletariat, and rarely allude to female workers or female family members of male workers. They define proletariat and history from the a male-centred view: 'From this standpoint alone does history really become a history of mankind. For it contains nothing that does not lead back ultimately to men and to the relations between men' (Lukács 1968:186). Standpoint theory also explains how emerging knowledge of what we know can be a determinant of how we view the world. It attempts to rebrand Marxist school of thought by criticizing how the Marxists and their supporters define proletariat from a male perspective, thereby denying the existence of women. Standpoint theory assumes that feminist issues are integral parts that underpin any human discussion, whether political, economic and social; and must be considered as a standard point for human discourses. Harding (2004, p.2) posited that standpoint theory "insisted that feminist concerns could not be restricted to what are usually regarded as only social and political issues, but instead must be focused on every aspect of natural and social orders, including the very standards for what counts as knowledge, objectivity, rationality, and good scientific method. Thus feminist issues could not be pigeon-holed and ignored as only women's issues, but instead had to be seen as valuably informing theoretical, methodological, and political thought in general".

Smith used the standpoint theory to explain that what one knows is influenced by where one stands,

implying that knowledge is conditioned by one's standpoint. However, Smith does not narrow it that one cannot view the world differently from one's standpoint, but she explained that standpoint is based on the following principles that: "(1) no one can have complete, objective knowledge; (2) no two people have exactly the same stand- point; and (3) we must not take the standpoint from which we speak for granted. Instead, we must recognize it, be reflexive about it, and problematize it. Our situated, everyday experience should serve as a "point of entry" of investigation" (Smith 2005, p.10). It is from this perspective that Smith draws attention on standpoint superiority. Smith pointed out that the male's standpoint seems to be more dominating and acceptable in the society than the female's. She explained that life has been interpreted from the male's experience, hence making man monopolize knowledge, and which leads to female relegation. Standpoint theory dethrones these male-dominating assumptions and rather argues for the recognition of every one's standpoint. This theory relates to the study because female gender discrimination is increasingly perpetuated and entrenched due to how the society has continuously defined almost everything from the male perspective to the detriment of women. Women's experiences are only used to guide policy, but are not given attention in scholarly discourses, not used as the standard for defining things and not given much conceptual background in sociological discourse. This is discrimination against the standpoint of women. The study seeks to encourage a gender sensitive and responsive society, and to achieve this, the standpoint of women must be

integrated and respected in every affairs of life. Thus, the implication of this theory to the study is to authenticate that women's views are viable, and should be recognized and respected and that their roles in contributing to life is indispensable, hence, since no man can monopolize knowledge, women's standpoint must also be given adequate attention in society, whether in political, religious, social, economic or educational realms.

Table 1: Response on the extent cultural practices deter women's employment opportunity.

S/N	Description	No. of Responses	Percentage (%)
	Segregation against women in terms of they not holding certain sensitive traditional positions limits their employment opportunities.	50	27.3
	Culturally placing taboos on women should do or not affects the way they see employment opportunities.	39	21.3
	Culturally making child-bearing a most for women affects their employment opportunities.	33	18.0
	Making it the sole responsibility of the woman to care for the needs of the man in cultural context affects their employment opportunities.	30	16.4
	The demeaning burial process and rites affect women employment opportunity	31	17

1832	100%
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Summary and Conclusion

The research is designed to center on serious issues affecting the employment of women in the society. It thrashed out how issues of cultural practices can affect the opportunity of women. The study recognized key features that may obstruct women. It clarified that the world has been prearranged to favour men. Self-denigration is established on religious and cultural assumptions. The findings that cultural practices affect the way women develop capacity for employment opportunity. The study acknowledged that cultural obstacles influence women's employment. This cultural performance is constructed by the society which favours men. It has equally identified that cultural practice against women is key to the impediment of women.

Recommendations

The research concludes as follows:

1. That the society should create equal opportunity that favours women and men in the political realms.
2. That the universities in Nigeria should include gender studies as a compulsory course in all disciplines.

References

Chapter 13: PREGNANCY AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Prologue

Women constitute more than half the population of Nigeria, and would have been considered a formidable force in the labour market system (see: Women and Work Commission, 2005). Available statistical index show that they are poorly represented in the employment structures of countries in Africa (Boateng, (2006); Adu-Oppong and Arthur, (2015) and hence increasing the poverty level amongst women in African societies and in Nigeria in particular (British Council Nigeria, (2012). The British Council Nigeria (2012, p. iii) reported that "Nigeria's 80.2 million women and girls have significantly worse life chances than men and also their sisters in comparable societies". They go further to explain that, "Nearly six million young women and men enter the labour market each year but only 10% are able to secure a job in the formal sector, and just one third of these are women". Considering these excruciatingly poor conditions of women in the employment and economic structure, one would develop some critically puzzling questions: What is responsible for the impediment women face in their employment opportunity level in the society? And to what extent has this impacted negatively on their well-being and socio-economic identity and independence?

Gender Inequality

Having noted above, that gender equality is not akin to gender equity, gender inequality suggests the

opposite of gender equality. First, we ask: What constitute gender equality? Kemi and Jenyo (2016, p.3) noted that "Gender equality refers to a situation where women and men have equal conditions for realising their full human rights and potentials; are able to contribute equally to national, political, economic, social and cultural development and benefit equally from the results". Elegbede (2012) posited that equality is therefore understood to include both formal equality and substantive equality, and not merely simple equality to men. Equality suggests being as relevant, respected and opportune as another in all aspects and not being discriminated against due to some social mode of operations. This further indicates that the structure and system of policies and labour framework, recognizes equal production, participation and development for men and women. Gender inequality implies not being equal to the other person because the society made it so. It further suggests that women, being the victimized in the context of the study, are not allowed equal participation in political, economic and religious issues. It suggests that their roles in development are not felt and not recognized. Gender inequality is a socially constructed limitation imposed on women by society. In a society ever gender balance is not recognized, the economic activities and employment opportunities are one-sided and therefore, endangering. In this scenario, men are given better opportunities than the women in workplace, religious centres, politics, and so on.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy is the maternal stage whereby a woman carries a fetus for about nine (9) months. It is a period that could make the woman prone to any kind of disease. Some medical reports show that this stage has some risks. However, within this period as in the Nigerian socio-economic environment, the woman is not fully given employment. Most employers do not employ pregnant women in their firms. In places where the woman is already employed, she is relieved of her job. This is a predicament faced by women in a society that is male dominated. The maternity leave given to some women is often at times replaced with another male or female employee. The period of pregnancy is heavily challenging to the economic life of a woman

Summary and Conclusion

The paper is designed to focused on pregnancy can affect the opportunity of women. The research identified key factors that may impede women. It explained that the society has been structured to favour men; it also has pointed out that men segregate against women and that women themselves develop attitude that are inimical to their development and employment.

From the findings that emerged from the study, it was indicated that cultural practices affect the way women develop capacity for employment opportunity. The study has identified that women have potentials and are blessed with values; however, that such values and potentials have not been harnessed properly as key valuables for their development and employment because of some impeding factors. It

has equally identified that cultural practices against women is key to the impediment of women.

Recommendation

That the women themselves should hold a positive interpretation of their sex and personality and develop higher capacity that will make them resourceful and competent for employment.

Chapter 14: DOMESTIC ACTIVITY AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Prologue

Gender is a socially constructed pattern of role apportioning in the society based on people's male and female personalities. In recent findings, gender has become an interesting sociological discourse due to the issues underpinned in it. The term gender may give some misconception to some people, that whenever it is mentioned, they assume it is women that is focused and talked about as the marginalized group. Odekunle (2008, p.52) explained that "Gender is a concept used to analyze the roles, activities and responsibilities of men and women in any society". Gender is a condition of role assignment conditioned by how society has viewed it. Onabu (2006) opined that gender refers to social roles allocated respectively to men and women in particular societies and particular times. Such roles and the differences between them are conditioned by a variety of political, economic, ideological and cultural factors, and are characterized in most societies by unequal performance in their activities. In a gender-blind society, poverty is an element used to strengthen gender marginalization against the antagonized gender. Hence, gender, on another aspect, becomes a determinant to how poverty can be experienced. LEDAP (2003) hinted gender constitutes one of the determinants of how poverty is experienced and of wealth creation. Rights and entitlements of men and women to opportunities, resources and decision making are based on socio-cultural norms rather on human rights or the respective development capacity of men and women. CIRDDOC (2001) explained gender as a system of roles relationship between women and men that are determined not biologically but by the social, political and economic context. In CIRDDOC's perception, gender is the

enforcement of society's perceived ideology and tenet on a person.

Gender

In discussing gender, issues surrounding equity and equality come to mind. In some respects, some researchers argue that gender equality may be an unachieved looking at the height gender discrimination against persons is entrenched in the society. Gender equality is the proposition that women and men can have a chance of 50-50 existence in every affairs. On the other hand, gender equity seeks to propose for fair distribution of resources, opportunities, employment amongst men and women, in the fact that women will be considered along side in affairs; gender equity is not of 50-50 school f-thought, as it realizes that female subjugation and discrimination may not stop to exist. Odekunle (2008, p.53) explained that "Gender equality is the proportion of shared resources between men and women, which a school of thought believes might not be achieved in this generation because of some cultural, economic, political, psychological and social factors". Gender equity implies fair sharing of resources, status, positions, etc. between men and women".

Domestic Works

Domestic work is an impediment when it is not balanced with the rights and privileges of the victim gender (woman in this context). Women in the African constructed society are often confronted with the challenges of keeping the home, preparing food for the day, washing children's clothes and taking care of the husband. These activities have a way of affecting the social and economic productivity of the woman in showcasing her talent and skills. According to Rai (2017) women find it hard to participate in politics due to limited time available to them because of their duties in the productive and reproduction spheres. Women as mothers and wives are confronted with competing domestic work and responsibilities. Hence, they are left with little time to participate in politics.

Data Presentation

Table 1: How domestic activity affects women's employment opportunity.

S/N	Description	No. of Responses	Percentage (%)
	Cooking delays my attendance to work and thereby hinders my promotion.	25	13.7
	Caring for the needs of my children affects the kind of job I engage in for employment.	53	28.9
	I take less serious jobs since I have to take responsibility of washing my husband's clothes.	41	22.4
	I take my children to school and return them home and this causes my poor performance and lateness at work.	36	19.7
	I go to the market to buy food stuffs and this hinders my preparation of materials for work every new week.	28	15.3
		183	100%

Computed X²

Data Analysis

In table 1 about 21 (13.7) participants responded to the research question item 21. 53 participants ticked either SA, A ,D, or SD in response to item 22. And 41 (22.4%) participants responded to item 23. 28 participants responded to item 25 at 15.3%.

Discussion of Findings

Women are marginalized in the patriarchal society. It was found that segregation against women still exists in the society, and which contributes to women economic challenges faced.

Another was that cultural practices are still used as tools of female marginalization as the African society still records high

rates of female subjugation, which impedes the employment opportunities of women.

Summary and conclusion

The research is designed to focus on critical issues affecting the employment of women in the society. It discussed how domestic activities can affect the opportunity of women. From the findings that emerged from the study, it was indicated that women are most engaged in domestic activities at home and that these activities affect their job performances in workplaces. Some of the women as shown in the study, face promotional challenges because of delay in delivering out their job due to much domestic engagement at home. The study has identified that women have potentials and are blessed with values; however, that such values and potentials have not been harnessed properly as key valuables for their development and employment because of some impeding factors. It has equally identified that domestic activity is key to the impediment of women. Self-denigration in women comes as a psychological defeated imposed on them by the society that has defined them as weak, and second in the society. The study therefore concludes that these factors can be addressed and overcome if only the society realizes the true potentials of women by given them equal opportunity with men.

Recommendations

The research concludes as follows:

1. That the government should design employment frameworks that will be gender sensitive to keeping good employment balance between males and females.
2. That the women themselves should hold a positive interpretation of their sex and personality and develop higher capacity that will make them resourceful and competent for employment.

References

CIRDDOC (2001) LEDAP (2003)

Rai (2017)

Odekunle (2008, p.53)

Onabu (2006)

Chapter 14: UNEMPLOYMENT AND NIGERIAN YOUTH: ASSESSING THE SOCIAL IMPACT

Prologue

New graduates lacking work experience often find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle. They lack the experience needed to fill a job opening, which prevents them from getting employed. As such, their job-searching period becomes considerably longer than for experienced workers, which leads to gaps in employment history, loss of skills and productivity, and future work prospects are harmed. Young people struggling to find permanent jobs are bound to accept temporary positions and these types of positions are not always considered 'real' work experience by employers and having these experiences listed on a CV, does not necessarily ease the process of finding work. (Lauren D. and Brendan P. 2015). Moreover, temporary jobs are less protected, often pay less and do not offer job-related training and social benefits. As a result, unemployed young people face the worst possible career opportunities. High youth unemployment has a negative impact on economic growth and productivity that can't be ignored. There is a risk of loss of talent and skills, since a great amount of university graduates are unable to find a job and put their knowledge and capabilities into producing innovation and contributing to economic growth. Furthermore, having a large share of the young workforce unemployed, not only leads to reduced productivity and gross domestic product (GDP), it also increases the economic costs for the country.

Concept of Unemployment

Unemployment is experienced in every human society, but it is more endemic in some than others. Unemployment is defined as situation where someone of working age is not able to get a job but would like to be in full time employment. (Tejvan P. 2017).The

concept of unemployment, like others in the field of human endeavour has received various definitions and descriptions. This is because human beings view things from different perspectives. Therefore this subsection is meant to review some of the definitions of employment given by scholars and then try to agree on a working definition of unemployment. According to Carol Woods (2018) unemployment represents the number of people in the work force who want to work but do not have a job. Salami (2013) defined unemployment as when people are without jobs and they have actively sought work within the past five weeks. Youth Speak Community (2017) unemployment is defined as the part of the labor force that is without a job and has been seeking employment within the last four weeks. The extent to which unemployment occurs is usually measured by the unemployment rate. It is derived by simply dividing the number of unemployed people by the total labor force. According to the legal definition of unemployment taken from the 19th International Conference of Labor Statisticians in Geneva (2013) unemployment is defined in the standards as comprising all persons above a specified age who during the reference period were:

- I. "without work", i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment;
- II. "currently available for work", i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and
- III. "seeking work", i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period to seek paid employment or self-employment.

The examples listed of active steps to seek work include: registration at a public or private employment exchange; application to employers; checking at worksites, farms, factory gates, markets or other assembly places; placing or answering newspaper advertisements; seeking assistance of friends or relatives; looking for land, building, machinery or equipment to establish one's own enterprise; arranging for financial resources; applying for permits and licenses, etc.

Also unemployment stems from steep increase in productivity, major shift in consumer demand arising from the introduction of a certain new product, changes in track and growth of competition from imported commodity etc.

Furthermore, an unemployed person as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2016 is a person of working age (conventionally 15 or over) who meets the following three criteria:

1. Has not worked, not even for one hour, in the course of the reference week,
2. Can be available for work within two weeks,
3. Has actively looked for a job in the previous month, or has found one starting within the next 3 months.

The share of the unemployed is the ratio of the number of unemployed to the number of people in a considered population; this is different from the unemployment rate, which is the ratio of the number of unemployed to the active population (in employment or unemployed). Similarly, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU), defines the unemployed as those persons age 15 to 74 who

are not working; haven't looked for work in the last four weeks, and is ready to start work within two weeks. An unemployed person is defined as someone who does not have a job but is actively seeking work in order to qualify as unemployed for official and statistical measurement. The individual must be without employment, willing and able to work, of the officially designated working age and actively searching for a position. Youth unemployment rates tend to be higher than adult rates in every country in the world. According to this report there are over 1.2 billion youth in the world aged between 15 and 24, accounting for 17% of the world's population while 87% of them live in developing countries. Unemployment in Nigeria is pervasive, the increasing level of unemployment and poverty were compounded by over two decades of political instability, macro-economy policy inconsistencies, low capacity utilization in industries and the massive turn out of school leavers and graduates by our education institutions. The overall situation now is that most Nigerians go hungry because they have no job in which they can make their living. Nwokuwu, M. (2013). The nation's agricultural, industrial and the public services sector were able to effectively absorb most labour force, the agricultural sector for instance generally created about 70% of the nation's employment opportunities and accounted for about 80% of gross domestic product (GDP) with the advent of petroleum in the mid-70s, the economy was further strengthened as it grew at an average of 1% per time. Governments during these periods were able to achieve much through oil revenue, the ensuring political instability and inconsistencies in the socio-

economic policies of successive government emerged as major factors that lead to the manifestation of high level of joblessness in Nigeria and the Niger Delta especially Obio-Akpor local government Area of Rivers State. It has also been reported that youth unemployment in Africa has a geographical dimension as it is generally higher in the urban areas than rural areas (Nwanguma E. I. E., O. E. Araboh, and J. James (2012). Nigeria and indeed Africa is not the only developing country struggling with increasing unemployment because it is a global social challenge. It has become a major problem for most countries across the world but a little bit more stable in the developed countries rather than the continuously rising trends as experienced in most developing countries.

Justifying the pervasiveness of youth unemployment in Nigeria was the Nigerian Immigration Test conducted on Saturday 15th March, 2014 which later turned sour. Stampede at five of the six different stadia used across the country for the aptitude test claimed the lives of about 20 applicants and left thousand others injured. During the stampedes, 8 applicants were feared dead and about 50 fainted several others injured at the National Stadium Abuja, 5 at the Liberation Stadium Port Harcourt, 3 in Ibadan, 1 in Benin and 3 in Minna (Vanguard Newspaper, March 16th, 2014). At Abuja National Stadium alone, over 125,000 applicants came for the test occupying a 60,000 capacity stadium, chasing only 4,500 vacancies available in the Nigerian Immigration Service. Anxious 125,000 applicants sat in a 60,000 capacity stadium without much crowd

control strategy arranged, the result was a deadly stampede. Stampedes were also reported in Akure, the Ondo State Capital where though no life was lost, but thousands of certificates were allegedly lost. Port Harcourt Liberation Stadium is of a capacity of 16,000 but 23,000 turned up for the exercise at the venue. It was also reported that applicants were charged an application fee of #1000 each turning the organisers of the test to sudden millionaires while the unemployed are left impoverished. This is just a true picture of how endemic unemployment is in Nigeria. Unlike what obtains in most developed countries; in Nigeria, there is no social security system in place to cater for the unemployed. Thus, as the unemployed do not receive unemployment benefits from the government, most, if not all, are unable to fend for themselves. Many have thus resorted to engaging in activities that constitute security challenge. Such security-threatening activities common in Nigeria include political thuggery, armed robbery, area boys, pipelines vandalization, oil bunkering, prostitution, etc., thereby constituting a nuisance to the society, rather than being agents of change and meaningful development. Some of them engage in these criminal activities because they seem to look like the most attractive options for them after years of joblessness and frustration. Universities and other tertiary institutions in Nigeria produce an average of 120,000 graduates each year while another 500,000 school leavers or college graduates are turned out each year, without the hope of any job (NAPEP, 2003) cited in Olaiya (2013:23). According to Okafor (2011), the ever expanding educational growth and the desperate desire on the part of youths to acquire university

education irrespective of course and course contents add to the scourge of unemployment in Nigeria. As a result, a number of skills acquired from the university appear dysfunctional and irrelevant (Okafor, 2011). This has called into question again quality of Nigerian graduates.

Types of Unemployment

There are many categories of unemployment and here are a few types of unemployment with details.

1. **Structural Unemployment:** exists when shifts occur in the economy that creates a mismatch between the skills workers have and the skills needed by employers. An example of this is an industry's replacement of machinery workers with robots. Workers now need to learn how to manage the robots that replaced them. Those that don't learn need retraining for other jobs or face long-term structural unemployment. Bakare B. (2013)
2. **Frictional Unemployment:** Ojo, (2014:225) also discussed frictional unemployment as the continuous flow of people from one job to another (in and out of employment). It is a situation where a person is out of one job and in search of another job. The time the person is staying without job is frictional unemployment which may be long or short. The major cause of frictional unemployment is normal labour turnover. For instance, new graduates spend some period or time searching for the right job that leads to frictional unemployment. Changing employment is not particularly easy especially

where the level of unemployment is high such as Nigeria where the labour market is saturated.

3. Cyclical Unemployment: This is the type of unemployment that is caused by changes in business conditions or during recessions and depressions. In other word, cyclical unemployment occurs due to disequilibrium that leads to insufficient aggregate demand to purchase full- employment output in a country. It is against this background that cyclical unemployment is called, "demand deficient" unemployment. During recession and depression many employees usually lose their jobs.Ojo, (2014:225)
4. Seasonal Unemployment: This kind of unemployment is based on the dictate of the season. Seasonal unemployment comes and goes with the seasons of the year that dictates the demand of certain jobs. Seasonal unemployment usually concentrates in a particular season of the year which cease at another season. For example, the demand for agricultural labour increases during the rainy season- planting, cultivation and harvesting. In addition, road construction is always out of place in the rainy season, albeit it depends on the terrain of the areas. Therefore, some workers are relieved of their work during the prevailing season. Ojo, (2014:225)
5. Casual Unemployment: it is when the worker is employed on a day-to-day basis for a contractual job and have to leave it once the contract terminates. Simply, the inevitable time

delay when a worker transits from one job to another due to the expiration of previous job contract is called as the casual unemployment, such as building construction, agriculture, etc. where the workers are hired on a day-to-day basis and leaves the company on the accomplishment of the work. Bakare B. (2013)

6. Technological Unemployment: it is caused when the individuals lose their jobs due to the technological advancement. Simply, the substitution of manpower with technology results in technological unemployment, time-saving technology and improved methods of production. Typically, the technological unemployment occurs with the introduction of new machinery, and it said to be temporary or short-lived. Bakare B. (2013)
7. Chronic unemployment: according to Bakare B. (2013), it is caused due to the long-term unemployment persisting in the economy. Often, the underdeveloped economies suffer from the chronic unemployment because of one of the following major reasons: slower economic growth, rapid population growth, immobility of workforce, fall in the cottage industries, defective education system.
8. Disguised Unemployment: it refers to the work area where surplus manpower is employed out of which some individuals have zero or almost zero marginal productivity such that if they are removed the total level of output remains unchanged. Bakare B. (2013).

Causes of Unemployment in Obio Akpor Local Government Area

Highlighted below are some major causes of unemployment in Obio/Akpor:

1. **Over Population:** Rivers State is home to major multinational oil companies in Nigeria as well as other industries and institutions with Obio/Akpor (particularly Port Harcourt City) housing over 85% of these companies and industries. As a result it has attracted people from all works of life and from every nook and crannies of Nigeria and this has led to Obio/Akpor being over populated leading to this large number of persons to scramble for the few available. Jobs and vacancies leaving lots of persons unemployed. AllWell Ome-Egeonu, Samuel, Paul Kinikanwo (2014).
2. **Lack of skills:** another problem closely related to that of over population as a cause of unemployment in Obio/Akpor Local Government is lack of skills. Over the years youths in Obio/Akpor have strong interest and will in their search for White Collar jobs owing to the presence of companies and industries situated within their geography. Skill acquisition has greatly been neglected; people do not see the need to be properly skilled so as to fit into a desired job when the opportunity is available. AllWell et al (2014).
3. **Over reliance on land/landed properties:** Obio/Akpor local government area has a land mass of 263,017km² and it is the industrial hub of Rivers State, particularly it houses, the Trans-Amadi industrial area, which

is situated, in Obio/Akpor. As a result of this, the purchase of land/demand for land has been on a rampaging increase over the years based on the customary land heritage system obtainable in Obio/Akpor, most youths rely heavily on the proceeds made from land sales for their sustainability. More also, these youths also rely on landed properties (estates, buildings) for their survival and as a result. They neglect efforts to equip themselves to become employable e.g acquiring education, when these properties are not properly managed and goes into liquidation they are left with nothing for their survival and as such left unemployed. AllWell et al (2014).

4. **Negligence of Agriculture and other natural resources:** Nigeria as a country is blessed with many unutilized resources which are enough to gainfully engage every unemployed person. But the craze for quick oil money has made both government and individuals to direct all attention to only the oil industry.

Summary and Conclusion

The study investigated the social impact of unemployment on youth development in Obio/Akpor local government area of Rivers State. Having conducted a field survey on the subjected matter and analyzing the data using simple percentage method the following are the findings made. This study has succeeded in bringing to light the problem of unemployment, the problem can only be solved when

the Nigeria Socio-economic and political imbalance is fundamentally restructure

Recommendations

1. Government should diversify the economy in a manner that is not oil based. The four refineries should also be revitalized to perform in full capacity so as to generate more employment opportunities. Other areas such as solid minerals and agriculture are potential areas that need to be explored not only to generate employment but also to contribute to sustainable development of Nigeria.
2. Government should give more priority to the provision of infrastructure in the rural areas such as good roads, electricity, water, schools and small scale industries. This will go a long way to make the youth to reside in the rural areas and resort to farming. This is because; experience has shown that absence of social infrastructure encourages rural- urban drift.
3. Government should intensify efforts to create more vocational skills acquisition centres to enable our young men and women to acquire skills for them to be self-employed and also employ others. Skills acquisition is a strong instrument for empowerment of youth in areas like tailoring, carpentry, automobile mechanic, ICT, metal work, to mention but a few.

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Chapter 16: UNEMPLOYMENT ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: CAUSES AND EFFECT

Prologue

In sub-Saharan African, Nigeria is the largest Black African country in the world. Nigeria is a country that is endowed with enormous resources, both human and material. These resources are scattered across the six geo-political zones which are: North-West; North-East; North-Central; South-West, South-East and South-South. Presently, its citizens are struggling to survive due to economic hardships or difficulties. It is believed by many that Nigeria as a country in the West African sub-region is blessed with huge resources. However, it is the least in terms of comfortable standard of living. This cannot be unconnected with the level of unemployment the Youth of Nigeria are faced with. Unemployment has assumed a high proportion and it is also seen as one of the causes of poverty in the country. This monster has been on the increase or is getting worse on daily basis as the numbers of graduates are increasing annually. Danjos D. and Ali S. (2014). Premium Times Mobile (2013) noted that, "the rate of unemployment among Nigerians (started to get) worse when President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan assumed office" in 2010. According to the report, unemployment rate in Nigeria as of 2010 was 21.1%. This figure, within the shortest time possible increased to 23.9% in 2011 even with the government poverty alleviation programmes such as National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and Subsidy Re-Investment and Employment Programme(SURE-P) to mention but a

few. The rate of unemployment is alarming and scaring, because of the disastrous consequences that accompany it. The rise in the level of unemployment is an indication that the measures adopted by President Goodluck Jonathan are not yielding the desired objectives. For instance, according to the National Commission Population report (2012), there were 51.18 million Nigerians unemployed in the economy in 2011. This is a large population that could constitute a threat to the Nigeria's economy, and thus requires adequate government attention.

Social Impacts and Consequences of Unemployment

Unemployment is a major life event. It can have a devastating impact on people's lives. It affects not just the unemployed person but also family members and the wider community. The impact of unemployment can be long-lasting. As unemployment becomes more long-term, its impact becomes more far reaching, often affecting living standards in retirement. The loss of income by the parents can damage the prospects of the next generation. It has numerous impacts and consequences to the society it visits; the high wave of crime, robbery among youths has been traced to unemployment. Iwayemi, Akin (2013) observed that since 1999, Nigeria has experienced unprecedented rise in crime wave, armed robbery, political assassinations, religious riot, inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic clashes, communal clashes due to the increasing unemployment rate as observed in the course of this research the following are the consequences and impact of unemployment on youths this includes but not limited to:

- I. **Youths as Political Thugs:** Even with various enlightenment initiatives, as well as the impact of social media, it is sad that many youths still willingly embrace being political thugs, putting their lives on the line for selfish politicians who do not care about their future. This is as a result of high rate of unemployment/lack of employment opportunities forcing the unemployed youths to accept whatever is offer to them by the politicians just to carry out dubious acts in favour of the politician involved. Iwayemi, Akin (2013)
- II. **Insecurity amongst employees:** the prevailing unemployment and the plight of the unemployed people and their families may create fear and insecurity even in the currently employed people. An implication can be drawn from here that some difficulties do arise as to how to manage the meager finance of the working force also. It can be implied that a grossly lowered standard dissatisfaction and insecurity. Atkinson, A. B. and Fleming J. S. (2014).
- III. **Youths as a tool for ethno-religious clashes:** more often than not youths, mostly the unemployed are grossly engaged in ethno-religious clashes. In fact the uneducated ones are cajoled, instigated towards believing that fighting ethno-religious wars have some religious/spiritual rewards and that fighting for

material things (e.g job opportunity) is irrelevant. AllWellet al (2014).

- IV. **Low standard of living:** in times of unemployment the competition for jobs and the negotiation power of the individual decreases and thus the living standard of the people with the salary packages and income reduced. Sturdy, B (2009).
- V. **Increase in domestic violence:** in public discussion of domestic violence, there is a widespread perception that its incidence varies with the economic cycle and that rising unemployment could provide a 'trigger' for violent situations in the home. Unemployment influences domestic violence in the way that many researchers suggest that there are significant gender differences: high or rising unemployment among men is associated with fall in domestic violence, while high or rising unemployment among women is associated with increase in domestic violence. Cincotta, R.(2005)
- VI. **Employment gaps:** according to World Bank (2014).to further complicate the situation (youth unemployment) the longer an individual is out of job the more difficult it becomes to find one. Employers find employment gaps as a negative aspect. No one wants to hire a person who has been out of work for some time even when it's no fault of the individual per say.

VII. **Jeopardized access to health care:** unemployment is associated with unfavourable health and access to care among adults in the labour force over and above the loss of health insurance. Unemployed persons are likely to delay or not receive needed medical care and needed prescriptions due to cost, in Nigeria for example the employed are enrolled under the national health insurance scheme, and this scheme makes health service and care affordable and accessible. Once an individual is not employed these scheme/health care become almost inaccessible. Brandon Routman, John M. (2014).

VIII. **Increase in armed robbery and other related crimes:** most crimes are committed by individuals who are unemployed and living in poverty. When the unemployment rates increases crime rate tends to rise. According to the Quantitative Criminology U.S.A (2016), individuals who are unemployed for socially unacceptable reasons and don't wish to seek out job opportunities are more likely to engage in burglary or robbery and other related crimes.

IX. **Social cost:** rising unemployment is linked to social deprivation. For example there is a relationship with crime and social dislocation including increased divorce rates, worsening health and lower life expectancy. Regions that suffer from persistently high long term unemployment see falling real incomes and

widening the inequality of income and wealth.
Geoff R. (2011)

- X. **Loss of skill Usage**: the unemployed, as a result of not having their dream job, is not able to put his/her skill to use and in a situation where it goes on for too long the person may have to lose some of his/her skills as most skills learned requires constant practice to avoid losing/forgetting the basics. Geoff R. (2011)

From the above consequences highlighted, it can be deduced that youths unemployment is considered to be a menace in Nigeria, which has a negative impact on our youths and constitutes a bottle neck to the democratic and developmental process of our contemporary Nigeria society and particularly Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Implication of Unemployment On Youths

It is pertinent to highlight some of the implications of unemployment youth development. This is because unemployment has left much to be desired. One of the obvious implications of unemployment in Nigeria is poverty. Poverty has become an order of the day in Nigeria because of the high level of unemployment among the youth. Poverty is a serious problem that has a lot of implications for lives of individual's families and nations. Most of the unemployed youth cannot meet the basic needs of their lives that. Saanu (2013) observed that: Many Nigerians cannot meet the basic needs of life because they have no jobs. Graduates are being churned out yearly in various institutions with dimmed prospect of getting jobs. The few jobs available are not based on merit or

competence, rather on favoritism. The implication of unemployment on Nigeria's therefore cannot be overemphasized because unemployed people cannot afford their basic things of livelihood. For example in the course of the disruption of oil production because of pipeline vandalism and associated crimes by Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND-2012) fighting for resource control. Production could not continue because the pipelines were vandalized or destroyed aside the number of people that died while struggling to siphon oil from broken pipes. (Dalhatu, 2012:89). These resources could have been used in other areas of development particularly the provision of infrastructure. No wonder, Ojo (2014:232) observed that, "the returns to the various types of investment in human resources are unnecessarily minimized by unemployment". Absence of social security in Nigeria also deprives the unemployed a share in the national income that makes the life of the unemployed miserable. Utilization of labour after investing a lot of resources on training is a colossal lost to the country. Unemployment is a condition where the available labour force is not used or utilized for the country to derive the benefit in national development. Therefore, in Nigeria as a whole, "the productive capacity of a significant portion of the labour force is unutilized" (Ubochi, 2013). It is imperative to note that the essence of manpower training is to be able to make effective use of it so as to add value to the development of the country. Anything less than this is absolutely a waste of resources. Emergence of "area boys" or political thugs in so many parts of Obio/Akpor who are used as agents of harassment

and intimidation of political opponents. It is pertinent to state that the emergence of these "area boys" cannot be unconnected with the high level of unemployment being experienced in the country. The unemployed are ready to be employed for any kind of assignment as long as they are paid for it, because the unemployed also have needs which need to be met. This attitude is detrimental to the survival of the country because it is one of the major social problems affecting the growth and development of this country in terms of sustainable development which of course we are yearning for (Saanu, 2013). No young man who has acquired Western education without a job would remain himself without engaging in one thing or the other for him to survive. What he does matters a lot to the development of the country positively or negatively. Emergence of insurgency groups such as Boko Haram, Niger Delta boys, Ombatse Cults to mention but a few. These deadly organizations came into existence as a result of unemployment the country is going through. Vanguard Newspaper (2013) noted that, "violence linked to Boko Haram insurgency has left some 3,600 people dead, including killings by the Security Forces". Niger Delta boys have also vandalized many oil pipelines resulting to the loss of \$15.8 billion, aside from the people killed and kidnapped for ransom (Dalhatu, 2012:89). There is no doubt that this negative attitude has directly affected the socio-economic development of the country.

Marxian Political Economy Approach

Political economy approach is a theory which originated from Marxian literature. Its major focus is

on the understanding of a society on the basis of its economy (mode of production) according to (Aja A. A. 1998:4) Marxian viewed political economy as a comprehensive social science of change from the profitable and exploitable and public property system. Marxian political economy approach seeks to explain the society on the basis of the mode of production is responsible for the polarization of the society into two internal classes such as the bourgeoisie class and the proletariat class. According to Marxism, the bourgeoisie or the ruling class are the owners of means of production and distribution while the proletariats are the workers who enrich the ruling class through their labour power in the production sector. Karl Marx further elucidates the peril of unemployment via the Marxian theory of unemployment, as contained in his work: *Theorien uber deinmehrwert* (theories of surplus value). Marxist share the Keynesian (John Maynard Keynes) viewpoint of the relationship between economic demand and employment, but with the caveat that the market system's propensity to slash wages and reduce labour participation on an enterprise level causes requisite decrease in aggregate demand in the economy as a whole, causing crises of unemployment and the periods of low economic activity before the capital accumulation (investment) phase of economic growth can continue. According to Karl Marx, unemployment is inherent within the unstable capitalist system and periodic crises of mass unemployment are to be expected. He theorized that unemployment was inevitable and even a necessary part of the capitalist system, with recovery and regret also part of the process. The function of the

proletariat within the capitalist system is to provide a 'reserve army of labour' that creates downward pressure on wages. This is accomplished by dividing the proletariat into surplus labour (employees) and under-employment (unemployed). This reserve army of labour fight among themselves for scarce jobs with lower wages. John, M.K (1936). At first glance, unemployment seems inefficient since unemployed workers do not increase profits, but unemployment is profitable within the global capitalist system because unemployment lowers wages which are costs from the perspective of the owners. From this perspective low wages benefit the system by reducing economic rents. Yet, it does not benefit workers; according to Karl Marx, the workers (proletariat) work to benefit the bourgeoisie through their production of capital. Capitalist systems unfairly manipulates the market for labour by perpetuating unemployment which lowers labourers' demands for fair wages. Workers are pitted against one another at the service of increasing profits for the owners. As a result of the capitalist mode of production, Marx argued that workers experienced alienation and estrangement through their economic identity.

According to Marx, the only way to permanently eliminate unemployment would be to abolish capitalism and the system of forced competition for wages and then shift to a socialist or communist economic system. For contemporary Marxist, the existence of persistent unemployment is proof of the inability of capitalism to ensure full employment. According to Swinburne P. (2013) Marxist theory is rooted in materialistic conception of history. This

stand points holds that man is a material being. Therefore man must drink and eat in order to survive and live. Therefore capitalist for instance, the bourgeoisie exploits the proletariat. This stems from the fact that the bourgeoisie own and control the means of production while the proletariat has to sell its labour which is the only thing it has in return for wages. To really understand the political economy of Nigeria, one has to first of all know that Nigeria is a peripheral capitalist society, Nigerian leader and policy maker are merely agents and comprador formulating programmes for their benefits and those of the foreign capitalists. The above statement has resulted in the exploitation to and its dependence on the metropolitan countries. This has critically shaped Nigerian social fabric with its attendant social problem identifiable in the Nigeria exploited economy. There is a low formation of forces of production; therefore under-utilization of labour, hence making unemployment inheritable. Political economy approach is therefore the most veritable theoretical explanation of locating youth unemployment in Nigeria, with the approach unemployment will not be a major challenge in the country, state and local government at large.

Conclusion

Various researchers have conducted research works on unemployment and its effect on youth in the society. For instance, International Labour Organization (2010) found out that 35 countries for which data exist, nearly 40% of job seekers have been without work for more than one year and therefore run significant risks of demoralization, loss of self-esteem and mental health problems. More importantly, young people are disproportionately hit by unemployment. There is four (4) out of ten (10) Nigerian who want to work but unable to find a job. The situation is particularly affect the citizens who have been out of work for a long time and have therefore lost unemployment benefits that have expired.

Recommendation

1. Government should give more emphasis to entrepreneurial and vocational education that is meant to expose our young men and women to self-reliance. Therefore, the review of curricula in our educational institutions is imperative, so as to be in line with the present demand to empower our youth with skills and make them more employable in the labour market or to be self-reliance.
2. Employers should be more concerned about employing people who would bring development to their company rather than people they know and Government should put more efforts in the area of agriculture to generate employment opportunities because it has a lot of potentials and if proper investment

is made, can go a long way to transform the economy, aside transforming the people engaging in it. Thus, all the required support for the unemployed to engage in agricultural business should be made available to them like credit facilities, farm inputs at subsidized prices and accessible land for cultivations. New farming technology should be used to attract youth into farming because the old methods are not encouraging.

3. The N-power scheme is a laudable project embarked on by the federal government which is steadily providing employment, if such scheme continues, more Nigerians become beneficiaries and thus the level of unemployment would be on the decline.

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