

## **THE EFFECT OF MILITANCY ON DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMY OF A COMMUNITY: A STUDY OF ACTIVITIES OF MILITANTS IN NIGER DELTA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Community Development issue has taken centre stage in the development needs of rural communication in the Niger delta. The federal government and multinational oil companies operating in the zone failed to fulfill its obligation of development to the people of Niger delta. However, it was observed that the issue of community development was relegated to the background as the people focus was shifted from that of the good of the community to themselves, waiting for government to provide the needed social and economic infrastructure. The study focuses on the effect of militancy on development and economy of a community in Niger delta. To better understand this, I anchor the theoretical framework on development on development theory of Dudley Seers. The theory states that development is that situation of the living standard of individuals within a given society has improved. The theory is relevant to this study because it underscores the underlying causes of violence in the region, the research methodology adopted exploratory and explanatory approach while questionnaire and personnel observation were used in retrieving required data from the public. 92 respondents were selected randomly from the groups namely: Traditional rulers, council of elders, youth's movement and women leaders. Single percentages were used to analyze the data and also chi-square method was used in solving the hypothesis. The reliability coefficient for the effect of militancy on development and economy of community participation Questionnaire (EMECDAQ) was found to be positive. Four research questions and four hypotheses were raised in the study. The findings reveal that politics of oil, underdevelopment, environment degradation, Gas flaring and Economic are the root causes of militancy operations in the Niger delta. The study recommends that the south-south zone should be adequately funded and its projects should be increased alongside other developmental responsibility. The multinational co-operation and government should come up with special plan for the zone to enable them have a good relationship.

**KEYWORDS:** MILITANCY, NIGER-DELTA, ECONOMY, NIGERIA, DEVELOPMENT

## INTRODUCTION

In 1956 when oil production began in Oloibiri in Ogbia local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria, about 45 miles (72km) East of port-Harcourt in the Niger delta region, the people's joy was without limit, their joy knew no bounds because of the perceived benefits that oil exploration and revenues could bring to the people, later lamented and declared as quoted by Okonta&Oronta (2001) thus:

*Our joys have become sorrow because the oil production activities have completely destroyed the ecological systems of our clan. Aquatic life is almost completely destroyed, the soil completely eroded, flora and fauna badly affected; almost extinct. In addition, oil exploration and production activities have subjected us to devastating erosion and Permanent pollution, forcing us against our will to lie permanently to toxic atmosphere. With the discovery of oil we had hoped that all our needs would be met and our towns could be "that most beautiful; but with time, we discovered that the more we saw the oil men, the less they spoke until the hot winds arising from the hazard of oil exploration began to move within our spine. It finally dawned on them that they shared no common interest with the oil firms.*

Oil, as expected according to Usang (2014) has not brought prosperity, better living condition and government attention and development. Rather, it has been accompanied by instability, insecurity, conflict, violence, crime and social tensions. The Niger Delta is characterized by the absence of infrastructure, social services, non-oil industries and even petroleum products. There is widespread neglect social and economic underdevelopment. The region is one of the least developed in the nation, with only 2% of the federal roads and less than 30-40% of settlements with electricity supply. In the same vein Usang (2014) posit that God has satisfaction with all that he created, he gave this part of the universe graciously to the good people of the Niger Delta region comprising of Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Imo, Abia and Ondo states.

Research has shown that the standard of living in the region has become so difficult as women hardly fetch ordinary clean water from their streams and rivers or even fish in them. The people suffer undue impoverishment and dissatisfaction ranging from poor environmental sanitation, poor living condition, unemployment, unimproved farm yield, bad roads or poor health care delivery, and squalid housing condition (Okonta and Oronta, 2001). Imobighe et al (2002) maintained that the "sad" experience suffered by the people is caused by the impact of hydro-carbon exploitation which often ends up in discharging into the environment, drilling fluids and mud cuttings which are hazardous, contain contaminant such as salts and soluble trace element, (e.g. Zinc, lead, copper, calcium, nickel, arsenic, hydro-sulphide) as well as toxic metals which are harmful to the community, man and the environment as a whole.

In line with above postulations Usang (2014) maintained that the effective exploitation of oil or valuable non-renewable natural resources is associated with increased social unrest and

youth *restiveness* in the region. This high land of marginalization and neglect by the government has resulted to militancy, taking of hostages and kidnapping of expatriate workers, destruction of oil pipes and the likes, which has harvest influenced the Nigeria economy negatively.

The fundamental purpose of the study is to investigate the Nexus between oil, militancy, development and political opportunities in the Niger Delta. It is targeted at addressing whether militancy has enhanced development, political opportunities in the Niger Delta, in terms of attainment and maintenances of political power, and would further determine how the activities of the said militancy has affected the economy development of the region. And lastly, suggest possible ways of resolving militancy, agitation and crises in the region.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The Federal Government which controls the vast resources in the Niger delta, failed to provide for the socio-economic needs of its citizenry. Akpan (2012) asserts that Nigeria government has failed woefully to keep faith with the social contract between it and the people of the Niger delta. This is because the several billions of oil revenues the Government has generated from the backyard of the people for the past 48yrs have not impacted positively on the region and its people. Scholars have argued that there is a social contract between a government and its people and that the contract collapses when government fails to meet the basic needs of the people who may lead to a situation of conflict between the government and governed (Nwagboso, 2002).

The frustration of the youths, occasioned by the deprivation by the government from benefitting for the natural endowment of crude oil had led to the aggression and the resultant orgy of violence in the region (Bot, 2008). In line with Afinotan & Ojatorolu (2009) who stated that the quest for emancipation which lies at the heart of the Niger delta struggle is not as yet directed towards secession from Nigeria state but merely a protest against criminal neglect, marginalization, oppression and environmental degradation as well as economic and socio-political hopelessness and in one word frustration in the Niger delta.

This work intends why the Niger Delta Youths went into militancy? Why they decided to take up arms and attack oil installations and oil explorations in the region? What are the possible implications of militancy in the region on the development and economy of the region? How can we mitigate the effects of militancy on the development and economy of the region?

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The Objectives of the study was to examine the effect of militancy on the economy and development especially in the Niger Delta region where the oil companies are situated.

### **HYPOTHESIS**

HO: There are no reasons for the militants attacking the Nigeria economy in the zone.

H1: There are reasons for the militants attacking the Nigeria economy in the zone.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will contribute to the existing literature on the Niger delta question, the departments of peace and conflict studies and political science in general. It will further generate agitation in the minds of leaders and spur further research works on this subject. The findings and recommendations of this study would also improve the management of conflicts-related development challenges in the Niger delta Region and other flash-point in Nigeria and help Government of Nigeria to looking inward in doing the right thing.

## SCOPE:

To achieve the purpose of this research work, the study will Endeavour to:

1. Highlight the immediate and remote reasons of militancy in the Niger delta of Nigeria.
2. Identify the effect of militancy on the Niger Delta development and economy

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**MILITANCY:** The term “Militancy” can be understood as the acts of individuals, groups or parties displaying or engaging in violence, usually for a cause, whether religious, political, ideological, economic or social (Quamruzzaman ,2000).Quamruzzaman (2000) states that the contemporary sense of the term Militia as paramilitary force motivated by religious or political ideology, especially one that engages in rebel or terrorist activities in opposition to a regular army is associated with the U.S usage in the early 1990s as applied to a number of right wing groups opposed to gun control and distrustful of the federal government. Abraham (2011) asserts that militancy and youth restiveness in the Niger delta manifest in the forms of disruption of activities of multinational oil companies, vandalizationof oil pipelines, illegal bunkering and more recently hostage-taking of both expatriates and Nigerians alike and destruction of oil installations. Ashimolowo and Odiachi,2012) note the motive is that people want their rights and if they are not going to get it by negotiation, they will have it by violence against the powers that be. Ebienfa (2010) asserts that Nigerians is the jewel in the African oil crown but oil and militancy in the Niger delta has become a subject of discussion just like the British weather. In line with Afinotan and Ojakorotu (2009) affirms that oil produced in the Niger delta is the life blood of the Nigerian economy, oil has failed to translate to regional prosperity development in the Niger delta. Militancy as defined as a violent response by an individual, group or sect in a region, community, state or nation due to claims of underdevelopment, political oppression, religious beliefs and segregation (Nwankwo, 2012). The agitation by the people of the Niger delta for the fair share of the wealth generated in the region and deprivation neglect of the region by the government had caused and fuelled the militancy (Abraham, 2011). The militant groups unleashing the orgy of violence in region and the activities of these groups have led to several shut-in of oil facilities by the Multinational oil companies and caused disruption in the production of oil (Ebienfa (2010).In modern times, various movement seek to apply militancy as a solution, or use militancy to rationalize their solutions for issues.

**DEVELOPMENT:**

The human development proponents are interested in the factors that affect the growth and development of the human person integrally. In line with Todaro (1982) defines development as a process of improving the quality of all human lives; which is believed to be taking place when the people's living levels are raised, their self-esteem promoted and their freedom to choose and the range of their choice variables enlarged. UNDP( 1990) similarly, defines development as the improvement in the quality of life of the people as measured by longevity of life, nutrition, literacy and access to health care and education with the appropriate measures being the human development index based on life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate and purchasing power in lieu of GNP. Walter Rodney (1986) feels that development takes place when members of a given society jointly increase their capacity for dealing with their environment in order to use the products of such endeavors to cater for their welfare and build an integrated society. Rodney (1986) emphasizes that the goal of development is to create a total man who would not only be useful to himself but also to his environment:

Development in human society is a many-sided process. At the level of Individual, it implies increased skills and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well being at the level of Social groups, it implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and External relations (Rodney, 1986:9)

In view of Ezeayika (1999) asserts that development goes beyond the confines of economics and includes more than the material and financial well-being of people and the social respect of lives. He defines development as a multifaceted process encompassing the organization and redirecting of the entire economic, political and social systems, embodying radical changes in administrative, institutional and structures, popular attitudes and sometimes customs and beliefs.

**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Generally, there are many theoretical approaches that could be used in explaining the impact of conflict on socio-economic development. Although different and sometimes in ideological, political and methodological orientations; they all seek to develop general principles, image and even laws for the analysis of development. The conflict and seers theories of development will be employed to explain the effect of militancy on the development of the Niger Delta region in the South-South zone of Nigeria and on Nigeria economy in general.

**CONFLICTS THEORIES OF DEVELOPMENT**

Conflicts theories basically assume that conflict is inevitable and exorable in the affairs of men and the effects on society are both positive as they are negative. The scholars agree that there are times when conflicts can positively result in healthy competition for growth; but most often, conflicts retarded growth and bring friction in the situation where there should be progress. Some of the proponents argue out rightly that conflict in its final analysis is an instrument of peace and development.

John Burton one of the theorists in his book “World Society” (1972:136) affirms that conflict is “essentially social phenomenon, with both creative and destructive manifestations” Lewis coser (1956:21) asserts that in some respect, conflict can itself be functional for society. He argues that in hands of a groups of people who desire positive social change and development, conflict is a reliable agent but for those who want to stagnate conflict can facilitate their ruins.

## SEERS THEORY ON DEVELOPMENT

Many development economists have accepted that fact in the third world, it amounts to sheer waste of time to see and measure development through the prism of birth-death-rate and such other indices, but through the qualities of facilities of life. Consequently, the reality of the situation is that for the current and most practically measures of development, the best way is to see how far the living standard of individuals within a given society has either improved or deteriorated. Therefore, it is on better health care delivery, long life span expectancy, better nutrition, abundant supply of food and energy, good shelter, more and better schools and opportunity to participate in the political and spiritual life of the community. A summary of this new trend in development economics was given by Dudley Seer (1963:3) who says that:

*The questions to ask about a country's development are therefore what have been happening to poverty? And what has been happening to unemployment? What has been happening to inequality? If all three of these have declined from high levels then beyond doubt this has been a period of development for the country concerned. If one or two of these central problems have been growing worst especially if all three have, it would be strange to call the result development even if per capita income is doubled.*

WCED (1987:47) argue that development is conceptualized holistically, both at the levels of the individual and society. It encompasses economics growth manifesting in both economics and human development. Human development is taken as a process of enlarging the range of people's choice from sound physical environment to economic and political freedom. It means providing infrastructural facilities, increasing the people's opportunity for education, health care resulting in low birth, death, literacy and infant mortality rates; political participation, individual and ethnic freedom, employment and equal justice. It requires investing in people; and people contributing to GNP growth. To achieve the goals and conditions associated with development, mankind must exploit nature or the environment in a sustainable manner. In other words development must be sustainable, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs''

The Social Humanistic Dimension of Development: Some commentators and writers rose objections to the economic perspective but with time the strongest criticism came from the state of Latin American countries which were dominated by Military rule. Analysts were thus troubled by the impact of political coercion on the social life of the Country. According to Gandhi, the realization of the human potential is the way toward development. From this view of development deprivation, degradation, poverty all indicate underdevelopment wherever they are found and it is crucial to do certain things in order to reduce poverty. Development therefore seeks to remove the (3) central challenges which are outline in Dudley Seers definition. Thus poverty, unemployment, and inequality must all be on a decline if not mitigated. Thus much of the concern of this dimension is to bring about visible and significant change in people's circumstances. The implication here is that development entails high degrees of capacity, equity, empowerment, sustainability and interdependence (Bryant and White,1982). Other indicators of development are decrease in human mortality, material mortality, high doctor-patient ratio, high life expectancy rate, low infant mortality and adult literacy among others.

In a broader sense the motion of human development incorporates all aspects of individuals' well-being from their health status to their economic and political freedom. According to Human development Report 1996, published by the United Nations Development program, human development is the end –economic growth a means”. It is true that economic growth by increasing a Nation's total wealth, also enhances its potential for reducing poverty and solving others social problems. But history offers a number of examples where economic growth was not followed by similar progress in human development. Instead growth was achieved at the cost greater inequality, higher unemployment, weakened democracy, loss of cultural identity, or overconsumption of natural resources needed by future generations. As the links between economic growth and social and environmental issues are better understood, experts including economists tend to agree that this kind of growth is inevitably unsustainable that is it cannot continue along the same lines for long. First, if environmental and social/ human losses resulting from economic growth turn out to be higher than economic benefits (additional incomes earned by the majority of the population), the overall result for people well-being becomes negative. Thus such economic growth becomes difficult to sustain politically. Second, economic growth itself inevitably depends on its natural and social /human conditions.

To be sustainable, it must rely on a certain amount of natural resources and services provided by nature, such as pollution, absorption and resource regeneration. Moreover, economic growth must be constantly nourished by the fruits of human development such as higher qualified workers capable of technological and managerial innovations along with opportunities for their efficient use; more and better jobs, better conditions for new business to grow and greater democracy at all levels of decision making.

## **CAUSES OF THE NIGER DELTA CRISIS**

The causes of the security situation in the Niger delta could be classified under the impact of oil activities and the federal Government of Nigeria insensitivity and long years of neglect to developed the zone.

## **POLITICS OF OIL IN NIGER DELTA REGION**

Nwagboso (2012) opined that the Niger Delta crisis is the Nigeria state that is its policy in respect to natural resources and mode of surplus extraction from the mining sector. He further explained that the crisis is political and its origin can be traced to the type of capitalist development in the mining sector especially in Niger Delta region. However, he described the Nigerian state as lacking in political leadership with a tiny fraction of the hegemonic political class, controlling state power, which is aimed at perpetuating itself and reproducing its class rather than thinking of the people and their wellbeing.

Okonta and Douglas (2001) agreed that oil-related activities have increased the people's level of participation in local politics since these elite are politicians and being members of different parties they take the benefits from oil activities down to their supports. Paki and Inokoba (2006) maintain that politics is an integral class (political date) which dominated the political scene since the political elite are in control of the state structure, the tendency is that they will always capitalized on their access to the instruments of the state to make decisions that will benefits the upper class to the detriment of the lower class, especially in the region.

## **UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF THE NIGER DELTA REGION**

The absence of any meaning development in the Niger Delta region has necessitated the control of resources that are within the region as expected, the youths by way of various ethnic militia have become restrain in their bid for greater control of their national endowment, Ote and Mexander (2012) defined development as a process which concern with the people's capacity in a definite area over a defined period to manage and induced positive change, namely to predict, plan, understand and monitor change and reduced or eliminate unwanted change. Eze (2005) is in the opinion that a society, which is helpless, cannot meaningful embarking on genuine development without first achieving successful emancipation. Whereas, Okoko and Ibaba (1997) asserted that conflict in Africa arises as a result of various cycle of poverty and domination, which is aggravated by local conflict for power and wealth. This seems to hold true in the Niger Delta, since the Nigerian state lacks autonomy, it's simply expropriates coercive instruments to sustain its dominance; this led to penury acute environmental degradation and gross underdevelopment in oil producing area. Moreover, Sulieman (2012) maintained that the Niger Delta communities have remained grossly socio-economically underdeveloped and pauperized amidst the immense oil wealth owing to systematic disequilibrium in the production exchange relationship between the state and the multinational companies operating in the Niger Delta region, which has encouraged several land degradation, socio-economic disorganization, increasing poverty, misery, military occupation and bloody violence. The oil producing communities have basically remained dependent and underdeveloped, persistently disempowered, socio-culturally marginalized and psychologically alienated as Ogege (2013) puts



it that wealth derived from oil resources does not benefit the oil communities rather the bureaucratic in government and multi-national co- operations only.

### **ENVIRONMENT DEGRADATION IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION**

The environment degradation resulting from oil and gas production in the Niger Delta has attracted the attention of environmentalists and other experts, who both at the region within the larger context of globalization (UNDP Report, 2006). The issue of environment sustainability cannot be over-emphasized in the Niger Delta as this is fundamental to the overall well-being and the development of the area especially the well-being of the future generation which is an important aspect of environment economics(UNDP, 2006). UNDP report (2006) the Niger Delta region is dominated by rural communities that depends solely on the natural environment for subsistence living more than seventy percent of the people depend on natural environment for their livelihood, Aluko (2004) poor people are vulnerable to environmental dynamics because social, political exclusion indicates they are left with few choices about where they live. Opukri and Ibaba (2008) posit that oil bears the adverse effects of natural hazards, biodiversity loss and forest depletion, pollution and negative impact of industrialization which is the concern of communities in the Niger Delta as it is a major cause of productivity losses.

Aluko (2004), the elasticity of environmental degradation with respect to oil production in the region every day is inelastic, these include among others; degradation of forests and depletion of aquatic fauna, the long-term impacts are also possible as in cases where mangrove swamps and ground waters are harmed induced environmental disaster and its numerous effects are divesting. Uchia (2005) opined that oil exploration and exploitation has not been friendly to Niger Delta region thereby negatively impacting on it. Orubu (2002) linked oil production activities in the Niger Delta to the poverty observed among inhabitants in the region.

Jike (2004), espouses the fact that the Niger Delta region (prior to oil exploitation and production) has always had a special attraction for entrepreneurs and foreign investors. Jike (2004) further explained that, these occupations comes under severe threat with subsequent pollution of both their lands and the air by actions that result to oil spillage, gas flaring and deforestation to mention but a few. Orubu (1999) maintains that it has negative effect on the immediate environment particularly on plant growth and wildlife. Ebiefa (2010) in another development, said that the analysis presented corroborated the fact that, the effect of militancy on the Nigerian economy is multi-dimensional and constitutes an enormous negative development to the economy and the brass liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project and the Gbaran – Ubie gas gathering projects and some vital economic development projects whose progress has been hindered by the activities of militants. Ebiefa (2010) in another development, said that the analysis presented corroborated the fact that, the effect of militancy on the Nigerian economy is multi-dimensional and constitutes an enormous negative development to the economy and the brass liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project and the Gbaran – Ubie gas gathering projects and some vital economic development projects whose progress has been hindered by the activities of

militants life as well as human health, which is also one of the greatest contributors to climate and global warming.

Evo (2002) further noted that this stance tends to encourage gas flaring unlike in the west where stringent laws and change has discouraged these oil conglomerates to look for an alternative. Ojeifa (2005) notes the next effect of these and other consequences of oil exploration in the Niger Delta have been to produce weak societies that are characterized by a high degree of fragmentation, levels of social solidarity and a great deal of anomie behavior. Akinola (2008) agrees with the above assessment by saying that the Nigerian states relies on oil as the main stay of its economy, where as the communities where it is extracted generally suffer; poverty, neglect, environmental degradation and even the denial of their human rights. In agreement with Akinola postulation, Nafzinger (2009) enumerated the Niger Delta environment problems as a result of the oil industry as follows:

1. Damage to the mangrove system: This engendered the loss of fuel wood, fish and other aquatic host organisms. This led to the reduction of control and protection against floods, storms and erosion.
2. Destruction of lowland, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas: Natural water courses were blocked and there and there and the disruption of seabed and river canals as a result of dredging for pipeline installations and the construction of oil wells. Air pollution, surface water and ground water, these includes the destruction of forest and farm land as well as vegetation and human settlement due to the oil companies wells, fields, pipelines, flow stations, refineries and destructive practices, such as gas flaring and increase vehicle exhaust emission.
1. Decreased water from safe source, less than half of the communities, have access to safe drinking water due to increase in pollution of rivers, lakes, ponds and other untreated surface water, including unprotected wells and boreholes.
2. The effects of pollution on the diversion to marginal farms, fishing waters and also the cutting down of forests.

According to Amnesty International Global (AIG) (2009) the report proves that shell have had a terrible negative impact in Nigeria, for decades, falsely claiming that they work to the best international standard.

## **GAS FLARING IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION**

The effect of gas flaring on the health of the people of the Niger Delta cannot be quantified (Ejumud, 2012), Ejumud (2012) says in the location where gas is flared for example in Oghara and Egbede both in Delta state, the people suffer immeasurable hardship resulting from intense heat, strange diseases and respiratory problems. Ajayi and Ikporukpo (2005) maintained that the percentage of gas flaring in Niger Delta is about three times the OPEC average and about 16 time the world average. Evo (2002) noted that this stance tend to

encourage gas flaring unlike in the west, where stringent laws and charges have discouraged the oil conglomerates to look for an alternative.

Evo (2002) have taken to genuine stand to terminate gas flaring in the Niger Delta region, which currently places the country as one with the second highest percentage of gas flared globally. World Bank (WB) (1995) shows that gas flaring has been known to be the singular highest contributor to the problem of global warming climate change. The recent research has estimated that about ninety five percent of waste gases from the product fields and operation are flared and gas flaring pollutes the air. Uyigue and Agbo (2007) recorded about 123 flaring sites in the region making one of the highest emitter of greenhouse gases in Africa. Aaron (2006) reported that some 45.8 billion kilowatts of heat are discharged into the atmosphere of the Niger Delta from 1.8 billion cubic feet of gas every day. World Bank (WB) (1995) (2000) (2001) it has estimated that the total emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from gas flaring in Nigeria especially in Niger Delta amounts to about 35 million tons per year and it is on record that Nigeria flares the highest amount of gas in the world .In line with Ibeanu (2000) who indicated that Nigeria exceeded the world average for natural gas flaring by seventy-two percent in 1999.

### **MILITANCY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION**

The militant uprising in the Niger Delta which has been simmering for years and has assumed a dangerous dimension as regards to the Nigerian economy (Ebienfa,2010). According to IRIN (2006), the daily buffet of violence served by militants to protest the lack of development and marginalization in the region has serious economic implications for the nation's economy, for instance, the movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) in recent years almost succeeded with its threats to cripple the Nigerian oil industry.

Punch (2009) opined that, operation of militants in the oil region almost grounded oil business in Nigeria and made the country to cede her position as the foremost oil exporter in African to Angola. According to Mba (2008) Niger Delta militants have carried out series of preconceived attacks on the oil industry after the expiration of deadlines, notable example is the executions of "operation climate change" and Hurricane Barbarossa". According to Opukeme (2008) Hurricane Barbarossa commenced on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, with heavily armed fighters in hundreds of war boats filing out from different MEND bases across the Niger Delta in Solidarity to carry out destructive and deadly attacks on the oil industry. Opukeme (2008) the massive disruption of oil production with attacks on pipelines, pumping stations and platforms which hinder the free flow of oil production activities and causes negative implication on the Nigeria economy. Eseduwo (2008) the Nigerian government, so alarmed by this development, as it severally threatens its rent-collection and mono-cultured economy, in the face of a fast paralyzing oil industry resorted to unleash further violence on the oil bearing people of the Niger Delta in assuring the petro-business of maximum security of personnel and oil installations. According to international crisis group (ICG) (2006) the activities of militants has at times forced oil production shuts down up to 800 barrels per day, threatening the Nigerian government plans to nearly double productions to four million barrels a day by 2010. ICG (2006) further states the

cost of militancy to the Nigeria economy is enormous and put the total cost of the Nigerian economy from stolen crude oil (bunkering) and disrupted oil production between 2003 to 2008 at 14 trillion naira, approximately \$100 billion dollars. Ebienfa (2010) revelation that from a peak production of an average of 2.1 million barrels per day by May, 2009, again with the retaliatory attacks by militants in June same year due to the military onslaught in Gbaramatu Kingdom in Delta state, oil production hovers between 800,000 barrels and 1.2 million barrels per day till November, 2009. Ebienfa (2010) said the degree of shut-in production, also vary from company to company, exploring and extracting oil in the region, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), which accounted for about 60 percent of Nigeria's oil and gas production suffered the most disruptions in its operations. Also, Ebienfa (2010), on the other hand, maintained that disruption in oil production and uncertainty in government source of revenue impedes economic activities in the country. From another perspectives, due to the festering crisis situation in the Niger Delta, numerous foreign companies are pulling out daily, foreign workers are retreating to their native countries, for example in the case of Julius Berger, one of the foremost foreign construction firms in the country abandoned most of its contract jobs due to the persistent cases of kidnapping and abduction of its workers/staffs.

According to Adeyemo (2009) this is attributed to the fact that, from a previous production capacity of about one million barrels per day, shell's production delivery drastically reduced to an alarming 140,000 barrels per day as at June, 2009 due to production shut-in which amounted to about 85.9 percent drop in production output. Adeyemo (2009) the fact remains that, whereas oil production in the pre-amnesty 2009, peaked in April at the average of 2.2 million barrels by day, it paradoxically declined to 1.2 million barrels per day with the face off in June, between the militants and the military joint task force (JTF) I the Niger Delta region. Agbo (2009), this attributed to the fact that when the joint task force of the Nigeria military sacked the Ekpemopolo – led MEND faction from CAMPS (one of the most potent and sophisticated militant camps); in Delta State in June, the militants in their anger blow up every pipeline on their ways as they faded into the Creeks. Agbo (2009), consequently, oil production plummeted to less than one million barrels per day the above action by the militants almost paralyzed oil production in the western Delta, punctures the revenue profile of Nigerian government, logically, uninterrupted production of oil and gas in the Niger Delta implies dependable source of revenue for the rent seeking Nigerian government.

Agbo (2009) some of such abandoned road projects include; the Kakama – Port Harcourt axis of the East-West road; the Yenagoa-oporoma road, Ogbia – Brass road, Amassoma – Ekeremor road, among other. Julius Berger company pulled out of the contract of the construction of the all important East – West road simply because militants kept kidnapping their workers and in one year, the company was alleged to have paid as much as about 430 million naira in ransom; at the rate they feared that bulk of the contract sum would be paid out as ransom, outside some staff could be killed.

Bot (2008) say, some foreign partner companies are reneging on contracts which are attributed to the militant activities in which creates a hostile environment that is not conducive

for capital investment. Ebienfa (2010) stated that 30 million dollars oil deal with China national offshore oil, have not been actualized due to insecurity in the region, again, oil services firms, which handle the bulk of oil and gas production have been turning down new contacts, worried that their workers could be kidnapped by the militants.

Bot (2008) said these companies are increasingly looking to Angola, Gabon, and other Gulf of Guinea countries deemed to be less volatile for business; the Nigerian government the majority shareholder in the joint ventures with the oil companies, now pays out for more escalating costs including picking up the bill for foreign security companies retained by the firms to protect their workers. Ebienfa (2010) further opined that the activities of the militants led to the abandoning of road projects in the area to have only increased the plight of oil marketers and other transporters that depends majorly on the pot-hole infested roads to transport their products. Ebienfa (2010) in another development, said that the analysis presented corroborated the fact that, the effect of militancy on the Nigerian economy is multi-dimensional and constitutes an enormous negative development to the economy and the brass liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project and the Gbaran – Ubie gas gathering projects and some vital economic development projects whose progress has been hindered by the activities of militants.

Bot (2008), Electricity (power) supply and transportation are crucial sectors of the Nigerian economy, considering the fact that Niger parades deplorable road network especially in the southern part of the country, where the Niger Delta is located, the execution of road contracts would have boasted the transportation sector but funny enough, government neglect her civil responsibilities

Bot (2008) said the impact of militancy on the Nigeria economy is also felt in the area of electricity as opened earlier, electricity power supply plays a vital role in the economy, it is a fact of history that the wave of industrialization in the globe is sustained by the advent of machine that depended on electricity for the production of goods and services Amaize (2006) stated , that the dredging of the River Niger was another project designed to enhanced economics development that has suffered setback due to militant activities in the Niger Delta, the dredging of the river Niger from Lokoja in Kogi State to Warri in Delta State was earmarked to facilitate the movement to small ships to the hinter land of the country, due to the glaring congestions at the nation’s seaports, the dredging of the river Niger was perceived as a panacea of decongestion of the seaports, and equally prompting inland waterways transportation. The crisis in the Niger Delta region arising from the activities of the different militant groups operating in the region has brought about some negative implications, not only on oil production and other economic activities but also on governance in general, Ejibunu (2007).Ejibunu (2007) maintained that the activities of the militants have impacted on the Nigerian economy in various ways; kidnapping and hostage taking has been a major tactic of the militant groups with foreign nationals working with oil companies as primary targets. In January, hostage taking of oil workers started in Bayelsa after the declaration of “operation oriod Danger” by MEND with the kidnapping of four set of hostages, over two hundred expatriates had been kidnapped , although most have been released within weeks in exchange for ransoms, typically hundreds of thousands of dollars,

(Amaize,2006).In line with punch newspaper of Saturday (2007), the implication of the kidnappings involving mainly foreign workers and development partners on Nigeria's economic development has been enormous. Amaize (2006) says although causal figures from kidnapping by militants operating in the Niger Delta has been low, reportedly put at about fifteen. However, the operations of militants in the Niger Delta and the insecurity has made it impossible for security agencies to adequately cover locations of various oil facilities, which has created a veritable ground for illegal oil bunkering to thrive in the region; Oudeman (2006). Akpan (2010) says the activists succeeded in scaring away potential development partners who has robbed the Nigerian state of the benefit to such development alliances and opportunities. The state of insecurity such has led to a reduced volume of investment and capital flows to the region.

### **GAP IN LITERATURE**

**There** are good literatures on the effects of militancy activities in the Niger Delta on the Nigeria economy. However very little attention has been paid to the effects of militancy in the Niger Delta on the economy and development of the region itself. It is not only the Nigeria economy that suffers from the activities of militants in the region. The activities of militants in the region have virtually driven away potential investors who would have contributed immensely in the development and economy of the region. This is the point of departure for this work: to examine the effects of militancy on the development and economy of the Niger Delta region.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

The researcher adopted exploratory and explanatory approaches. Exploratory was used to help the researcher find out more about exploration and exploitation activities of prospecting oil companies open the Niger delta. Robson (2002) cited in Saunders et al (2007) described exploratory study as a valuable means of finding out what is happening in order to seek new insights to ask questions and assess phenomenon in a new situation. Thus, a combination of this approach with in-depth interviews and the use of questionnaire as data collection techniques were very useful in the study effect of militancy on the Nigeria economy in the Niger delta region of Nigeria. Explanatory study approach was employed to establish how exploration and exploitation activities of prospecting oil companies operating in the Niger delta effect on sustainable development of the South-South zone in Nigeria, Saunders et al (2007) indicated that explanatory studies establish the casual relationship between Government, oil companies and Niger delta communities in Nigeria. The study attempted to look at the implication of exploration and exploitation activities on the sustainable development of the South-South zone, using Odukpani local Government area of cross-rivers state as case. The survey method was employed so that a large population likes South-South geo -political zone of Nigeria is described using the probability proportionate to technique.

## RESEARCH SAMPLE

Nworgu (1991) affirms that the group of items of which the study relates (population) may be small enough to warrant the inclusion of all in the study. This assertion is supported by Qnwioduoki (2000) maintains that “a sample can be of any size as long as it contains less than the total number of possible observation of any given type”. The sample population for this study was the elder’s forum of four randomly selected communities, young youth movement in Odukpani local Government area of cross-rivers state. The sample was carefully selected because its size was large enough to be used as a basis for generalizations of inference about the population. This is in agreement with Obasi (2016) who maintains that if a population is too large it will be cumbersome, unnecessary or even impossible to examine every member of the population and when this is the case, a portion of the population is selected and the information obtained from this is used to describe the entire population.

## INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

The main instruments used in the research were the questionnaire and interviews. The questionnaire was designed on the four-point likert scale ranging between “Agree (A) and Disagree (D). The questionnaire and the interview schedule attempted to identify the effect of militancy on the Nigeria economy of the South-South zone of Nigeria. The questionnaire was divided into two section A and B. Section A contains the demographic data showing sex, marital, tribe etc, while section B consist of two scales of four and seven item respectively. The respondents were asked to indicate their extent of agreement or disagreement with the statements contained in the questionnaire.

## DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

The data collected from the seven items questionnaire were analyzed using simple percentage (SP) and frequency. The data were scored using the likert scale rating. A score of 80 was assigned to all “Agree responses, while “Disagree” responses were assigned 40 scores respectively. Based on this, a cut off scores of 30 representing 25% was computed as follows:

$$M = \frac{80+40}{2} = 30; SP = \frac{30 \times 40}{120} = 25\%$$

This mark obtained formed the standard of accepting or rejecting any item of the questionnaires as any item that attracted a mark response of 25% and above was accepted while those below the mark were rejected.

## DATA PRESENTATION

The Seven item questionnaires were used to obtain from a total of 92 out of the proposed 120 respondents. The 92 respondents representing 27% was the overall achieved response of the study and presented in Table 4:1. The results were scored using the likert-type rating of Agreed (A), and Disagree (D). The percentage respondents are in table 4.2. The entire achieved response provided answers to the questions.

**Table 4.1 Percentage of Achieved Response**

Serial	Response	Proposal	Achieved	Percentage (%)
1	Traditional Rulers	30	28	30
2	Elders Forum	30	25	27
3	Youth leaders	30	23	25
4	Women leaders	30	16	17
<b>Total</b>		120	92	27

SOURCE: RESEARCH SURVEY:2015

**Table 4.2 Percentage of Respondents**

Serial	Statement	A	D
1	Niger Delta Communities suffer from oil spillage	28 (30.43%)	18 (19.57%)
2	The government has shown little or no concern	29 (31.52%)	15 (16.30%)
3	The Living condition of Niger Delta is poor without adequate attention	25 (27.17%)	17 (18.48%)
4	The environment of the Niger Delta is degraded daily without adequate care by both government and multinationals	22 (23.91%)	14 (15.22%)
5	When the government becomes more responsive to the grievances and needs of the region, the militants would lay down their arms.	19 (20.65%)	7 (7.60%)
6	The activities of Militants are seriously affecting development and economy of the region	32 (34.78%)	5 (5.43%)
7	Niger Delta youths should embrace peace if the government becomes more responsive	21 (22.82%)	3 (3.26%)

SOURCE: RESEARCH SURVEY: 2015

**DATA ANALYSIS**

The entire variable response data were analyzed using the simple percentage and frequency methods to examine the hypothesis formulated to guide this study.

**HYPOTHESIS: Ho:**There are no reasons for the militants attacking the Nigeria economy in the zone.

**Ho1:**There are reasons for the militants attacking the Nigeria economy in the zone.

27.17% agreed while 18.48% disagreed. Since the(A)is greater than and (D) is less than 25%, the null hypotheses are rejected. There significant relationship between sustainable environment of the Niger delta design and execution of community projects.

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

The result from the analysis of data on the hypothesis reveals that the Niger Delta youths did not constitute themselves into a militant group just because they love violent, but due to environment degradation, underdevelopment, gas flaring and politics of oil producing communities were the major causes of militancy attacks on the Nigerian economy. This is in agreement with the literature that the people of the region have always expressed their desire to



manage and control the natural and human resources in their land as obtained during the regional government.

Ogege (2013) which maintain that the “sad experience suffered by the people is caused by the impact of hydro-carbon exploitation which often ends up in discharges into the environment, drilling fluids and mud cuttings which are hazardous contaminants such as salts and soluble trace elements.

The testing of the research hypothesis reveals that oil bears the adverse effects of natural hazards, biodiversity loss and forest depletion, pollution and negative impact of industrialization which is the concern of communities in the Niger Delta as it a major cause of productivity losses. The testing also reveals that the militants’ access to small arms actually provided them with the needed combat capability to engage the oil multinationals and indeed the Nigeria nation in a prolonged combat and thus cause tremendous insecurity in the area.

The Niger Delta militants engaged the Federal Government of Nigeria in a prolonged battle in the creeks and high seas, adopting techniques of terrorism. Nwagboso (2012) observe that in concrete terms and statistics, the Nigerian economy suffered an astonishing blow. By calculated scale of losses between 2000-2014, Nigeria would have lost close to \$200billion in the Niger Delta was actually for the failure of the Federal Government of Nigeria to develop the area.

## **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **SUMMARY**

This research study was an exploratory and explanatory approach. The main purpose of the study was to examine effect of militancy on development and economy of Niger Delta region. To achieve this, the study considered the background of the militancy, underdevelopment, security; the causes of the Niger Delta crisis, the impact of environmental degradation, gas flaring, and politics of oil in the south-south geo-political zone using Odukpani local Government Area of Cross-River state as a case study.

The Data collected were analyzed using frequency and simple percentage methods. The results of the analysis revealed that long years of federal government neglect were the cause of Militancy attack on economy in the south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria. The research instrument was both primary and secondary data. The primary data was a seven –item questionnaire while the secondary data was unstructured interview and development records from the ministry of the Niger Delta.

### **CONCLUSION**

The result of the field survey that examined the effect of militancy on development and economy of Niger Delta region, it identified some of the causes of the militancy/revolt. Niger Delta development and economy are frontline victims of prolonged internal strife occasioned by militants.

The continued activities of the militants in the Niger Delta have not only affected the production of crude oil and economy of Nigeria, they have driven away prospective investors

and developers. This in turn has increased the level of unemployment among the youths. The result is that poverty has continued to increase and multiply both vertically and horizontally.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

From the field survey, it was observed that to save the south-south zone from perennial destruction, the study therefore revealed the following:

1. The south-south region should be adequately funded and its projects should be increased alongside other developmental responsibilities.
2. The multinational co-operation and government should come up with special plan for the zone to enable them have a good relationship.
3. The government should enforce law on spillages and oil degradation in the Niger delta region.
4. The government should be more responsive to its developmental obligations to the Niger Delta region.
5. There can be no meaningful development except the militants embrace peace and lay down their arms.

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