

**YOUTH RESTIVENESS AND OIL SPILLAGE IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND EFFECT ON THE
SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OYIBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA,
IMO STATE**

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Abstract

In giving the synopsis of this study, the study examined the seemingly intractable causes and effect of oil spillage and youths restiveness on the security and economic development of Oyibo Local government area of Rivers State, Nigeria. In doing so the study looked at the resultant processes inherent in the display of restiveness, conflict and violence by the youth especially as it affect the security and economic development of Oyibo Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. Adopting a descriptive research design, the study randomly selected 200 respondents from 10 communities out of 18 communities in Oyibo L.G.A. Using two research questions and a research questionnaire titled “Youths restiveness, causes and effects on the security and economic development of the society questionnaire”, the study was able to make some of the following findings: the oil spillage causes the destruction of the soil texture therefore denying the people farming activities, the polluted weather or environment of the people causes them health imbalance hence, the federal government lack of political will to provide mush basic infrastructural facilities in the area that generates most of the revenue used in steering the affairs of the country. The study recommended that the government and the multinational oil companies unite in the promotion of local and national peace as it concerns the economic and security development of the people. The government and multinational companies at various levels empower the youth through skill acquisition with grants to them for entrepreneurship in order to keep maintaining peace and avoiding conflicts; thus the study recommended for the application of structural functionalism as an approach to curb youth restiveness in the society.

Keywords: *Youth Restiveness, Oil Spillage, Security, Economic Development*

INTRODUCTION

The youths being restive could be rooted to production relations generating to capitalism and developing into imperialism. This development saw that growth of international monopoly of power, finance, capital, economic divisions and territorial division of the world. This imperialism is linked to economic, political, cultural and territorial expansion and has become one of the sets of foreign policies of metropolitans of democratic bourgeoisie states of Italy, Great Britain, France etc. With the new capitalism (imperialism) becoming international, saw an alliance between these imperialists with the national government. These imperialists as represented by multinational oil companies as Chevron, Shell BP, EXXON, AGIP, ELF formed partnership with the national government agencies as in Nigeria with Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC), OANDO, Con Oil, and some other joint ventures to control and utilize the natural resources of the nation. The government thus becomes an agent or instrument of exploitation of its own populace. Policies formulation of the national government becomes teleguided by these external imperialists. For Nigeria, the discovery of oil brought in amazing wealth to the country. Even the World Bank report in the 1960's noted that this region is capable of feeding the West African sub Region. This oil greatly transformed the economy of Nigeria state and these external imperialist (the multinational oil companies).

It enhanced the nation's capability in the field of human resources military infrastructural, industrial and technological development.

For Rivers State in the Niger Delta, the goose that laid the golden egg, it is misery disease, unprecedented oil spillage, environmental degradation, gas flaring, smoke, pollution, poverty. Economic deprivation, unacceptable and unconducive weather and climate etc, due to oil exploration and production activities. These contradictions brought about crisis that tend to impinge on the national unity and political stability of Nigeria as evidence of crisis ranging from census, power struggle, revenue allocation and derivation trigger into issues of restructuring Nigeria fiscal federalism.

Being peasant farmers, their streams were polluted, affecting fish farming, their lands deprived from them for oil exploration, production and exploitation; their farm crops damaged by oil spillage and their economic crops pulled down; all without adequate compensation which highlighted frustration and restiveness of the youths. No alternative means of livelihood was created. The result is that the youth becomes unemployed, hunger upon hunger (Opurum, 2018). This is because the vast money gotten from oil sales from the region are distributed to other regions while on their own parts, there are covered with spillage and no critical infrastructures are developed in the area by either the federal government or multinational oil companies.

After Nigeria's independence, this anger was laid bare by Isaac AdakuBoro, with others who founded the Delta volunteer force with the aim of creating a distinct political region for them to allay fears of ethnic domination by the more populous groups in Nigeria and Prominently harness and control the resources in their area, or for the least get adequate compensation from oil multinationals operation in the area. The oil multinationals have taken advantage of some of the laws of Nigeria to avoid responsibility for the damages done while communities explain, they allude the spills to oil sabotage. Because of Nigeria state partnership with the external imperialists, litigations on these got delayed and in some cases, no reprieve. The gas flared contributed to global warming. Many lands acquired and used to burrow pits for dumping industrial wastes. As a result by 1980's, the native youths have formed various social groups to resist environmental degradation like Ijaw National congress, movement for survival of Ogoni people, movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Deltas movement for payment of reparation to Ogbia etc. as a result of these, the youths engages in sorts of agitation, militia resulting to damages to oil pipelines, kidnapping of oil workers and keeping them hostage, shutting down oil productions, demanding total control of the land etc.

This is a result of government neglect and no alternative provision for source of living. The area have become devastated by external imperialists with their Nigeria cohorts, based on these, there will only be peace in the security and economic development of the areas if the government and the multinational companies at various levels empower youths through education funding, skill acquisition with grants to them for entrepreneurship and, provision of much basic infrastructural facilities in the area. Ewona (2016) argued that, this would not only prepare ground for economic and security progress of the area, but will enhance capital and human development of the entire nation.

This study would be highlighted the causes and effects of oil spillage and youth restiveness on the security and economic development of Oyibo Local Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria.

For several years, the Rivers State of Nigeria has suffered neglect from imperialist and Nigeria Government. The area has crisis of environmental degradation, gas flaring, oil spillage, devastation of farm, crops destruction Fauna and Flora, oil pipelines explosion, change in climate due to heat waves, actually, the people are left with no land to farm with their polluted leaving no fishes along the rivers. The people have their means of livelihood destroyed.

The Federal Government of Nigeria lacks political will to provide the basic amenities that can generate revenue, assuage the people condition of living etc. at the same time the oil multinational companies could not pay adequate compensation for the damage done to the rivers people of environment. The youths are happy with the amount of revenue allocation given to them vis-a-vis environment damage done and loss of livelihood. Unemployment rates high in this area despite oil wealth.

The people have contributed their own quota towards social political and economic development of the country yet lacks adequate power supply, good drinking water, good roads etc. what government and oil multinational companies provided appear to scanty when the compared to revenue generated from the area. Hence, the youths are forced to take up arms to press home their demands for better economic

and political living which the government considered militancy and pay them back with massacre done in various communities. It is in view of the above that the study intends to look at various economic and social-political facets that gives rise to youth restiveness in the area, causes and the effect on the development of the country. The main purpose of the study is to determine the causes and effects of the youths restiveness and oil spillage on the economic and security development of Oyibo Local; Government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study aims at investigating the causes of youth restiveness and oil spillage in Rivers State of Nigeria as well as examining the effects of youth restiveness and oil spillage on the economic and security development of Rivers State.

The following research questions were developed to guide the study:

1. To what extent could exploration of oil cause youth restiveness and oil spillage in Rivers State of Nigeria?
2. What are the effect of youth restiveness and oil spillage on the economic and security development of Rivers State of Nigeria?

METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey was employed for this study because the study seeks to investigate the causes and effect of youthsrestiveness and oil spillage on the economic and security of Oyibo Local Government Area Of Rivers State, Nigeria.

The population of the study consists of the 125,331` males and females that made up of Oyibo Local Government Area Rivers State as reported by 2006 census which stated that it has a population estimate of 125,311 comprising 63,434 males and 61,897 females. And the Oyibo has its headquarters at Afam which is about 30km from Port Harcourt carved out from khnan Local Government Area of Rivers State in 1991 and made up of 18 communities.

These communities are: Oyibo, Asa, KomKom, Obeama, Afam, AfaUku, AfANta, Azuogu, Egberu, Mgboji, Obeakpu, Obeta, Obumku, Umuosi, Okoloma, Okponta and Umuagbai.

The sample for the study was two hundred (200) respondents of Oyibo Local Government area of Rivers State. The sample was arrived at using random sampling techniques.

The instrument used for data collecting was a well structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated by experts in education measurement and Social Sciences from the University of America, California in terms of clarity of items, appropriateness of words and expression to the understanding of the respondents and to the actualization of the purpose of the study. Their corrections and contributions were adequately incorporated into the final copy of the instrument used and it was distributed normally to all respondents in the sampled communities with the permission of the youth leaders of the sampled communities. The administration and retrieval of the questionnaire was carried out by the researchers which ensured accurate retrieval or return of the 200 questionnaires administered.

The Data collected from the research questionnaire was descriptively analyzed by the use of mean and rank order. The criterion mean upon which decision were made in the study was 2.50. Any score below 2.50 was rejected while scores at 2.50 or more were accepted.

RESULTS

Table I: Mean rating of respondents on the extent to which exploration of oil could cause youth restiveness and oil spillage in Rivers State.

SN	ITEMS	X	RANK	REMARK
1	Parental neglect and control have been listed as contributing to youth restiveness	3.59	1 st	Accepted
2	Unemployment and suffering among the youth brings about youth restiveness and increase in	3.55	2 nd	Accepted

	armed robbery			
3.	Negligence on the development of the state by the federal government has contributed to youth restiveness	3.38	3 rd	Accepted
4.	Negligence on the development of the state by the federal government has contributed to youth restiveness	3.24	4 th	Accepted

Table 1 shows the causes of youth restiveness and oil spillage in Rivers State, in the table, it was revealed that Federal Government negligence on the development of the state has contributed immensely to the growth of the youth restiveness in the area. And, unemployment and suffering among youths brings about youth restiveness and manifests to increase in armed robbery, hostility to companies staff and families etc. the rank order used indicated that 3.59 is the highest mean score followed by 3.38 and criterion mean 2.50.

This is therefore, an indication that Federal government negligence on the Development of the state and unemployment has caused youth restiveness in the area.

Table 2: Mean rating of respondents on the effects of youth restiveness and oil spillage on the economic and security development of Rivers State.

SN	ITEMS	X	RANK	REMARK
1	The state has been underdeveloped through the exploration of oil by the federal government and multinational oil companies	3.59	1 st	Accepted
2	The state has been affected by youth restiveness by having and increased unemployment, and drop-out youth	3.54	2 nd	Accepted

3.	Restiveness has caused brain-drain among the youth	3.75	3 rd	Accepted
4.	Restiveness has affected the state of increase in increase in crime	3.12	4 th	Accepted

Table 2 shows the effects of youth restiveness and oil spillage on the economic and security development of Rivers State.

As observed in table ii, youth restiveness has caused brain-drain among the youths, it has also caused unemployment in Rivers State while crime rate has been on increase.

The mean ranking order indicated that 3.75 is the highest mean score followed by 3.59, 3.45 and 3.12 respectively. These mean ranks were all accepted because they are greater than the criterion mean 2.50.

This is therefore to show how youth restiveness has affected the economic and security and security development of Rivers State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study examines youth restiveness and oil spillage as concerns the social vices and its effect on the economic and security development of Oyibo Local Government Area of Rivers State. The study was therefore embarked upon so as to examine empirically the causes and effects of youth restiveness in Rivers State. It also investigated the implication of this Restiveness on the development of River State. It has been noted that federal Government and the Multinational oil companies has a lot to do in curbing youth restiveness in Rivers State. Youth Restiveness constitutes one major social vices in Nigeria today because of the harmful consequences on the graduates and employable youths, there is every need to control it. The problem appears to be endemic in Nigeria to the extent that scholars, professionals, social workers, academia, psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, educationist as and researchers have been trying to find solution to the problem. This finding also agreed with that of Chukwuemeka and Aghara (2010) that incidence of marginalization, denial of social right,

environmental degradation and economic devastation activities by the Government of Nigeria had Triggered off the rate youths in Nigeria Universities engages in all sorts of social vices. Moreover, it is observed that justice is administered without fear or favour but there is need to call for sovereign conference that will help in the restructuring of Nigeria. This conference will help for every ethnic groups in Nigeria to contribute their mind whether to continue with Federal system of Government or to say “to your tent oh Isreal”.

It should also be observed that the socio-economic and security well being of any nation depends on the government who has to see to the good welfare of the people. Youth restiveness in Rivers State erupted as a result of the Federal Government failure to provide the much required infrastructural development and provision of adequate Jobs for teaming youths. Hence, oil exploration has destroyed the Rivers State environment/climate that made it impossible for fishermen and farmers to carry out their daily activities. The implication is that a lot of youth will be jobless and without a source of income for livelihood. Thus, causing crises in order to make both ends meet.

CONCLUSION

The study posited descriptively youth restiveness and oil spillage” causes and effects on the economic and security development of Oyibo Local Government Area Rivers State, Nigeria.

It can be observed that in the course of this study that the problem of youth restiveness in Rivers State among others is a symptom of the security which constitutes moral decades and institutionalized social violence that has become a way of life in Rivers State. Realizing the havoc which the youth restiveness has caused Rivers State people and federal Government of Nigeria, all hands must be on desk to combat the social vices. However, to curb these vices, government agencies, multinational oil companies and the media should step up their campaigns against youth restiveness.

The consequences of the youth restiveness on the society through Civic Education, Sensitization, seminars, workshops, symposium, posters, handbills, public lecturers, churches, crusades and internet. Federal government should provide a conducive environment for the people of the society and create job opportunities for the teaming youth. Looking at this, the multinational oil companies should deem it fit to give free education. This will contributes immensely in returning peace and managing youths conflict in the society of Rivers State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

Federal government, the state government and multinational oil companies should unite in the promotion of Local and national peace, Economical and security of Riverians.

Government at various levels should set up a commission of peace and conflict management for continuous dialogue with the youth, militant and community leaders to curtail youth restiveness in Rivers State.

All the children for Riverians should be given free education from their childhood top the university level where they will fully understand the need for education and collective effort to avoid youth restiveness in the area. And, structural functionalism as an approach should be adopted in curbing youth restiveness.

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