

**WELFARE ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN NIGER DELTA REGION**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
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CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned hereby, certify that this project work titled **WELFARE ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGER DELTA REGION**” was carried out by Obioma Glory Chekwube with Mat No. Ssc210584 under our supervision and is adequate in scope and quality for partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Public Administration.

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Date

Date

DEDICATION

This work is Dedicated to the Almighty God and his mercy which projected me through this course.

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I am deeply grateful to God Almighty for His divine guidance, mercy, and love, which have sustained me throughout my journey of study at the University of Benin. His presence has been my rock, and I remain thankful for His unwavering support.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
Certification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Dedication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Acknowledgement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	v
Table of content	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	vi

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background to the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
1.3	Objectives of the study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.4	Research questions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1.5	Scope of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1.6	Significance of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
1.7	Definition of terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1	The presidential Amnesty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
2.2	Implementation Structure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
2.3	The History of crisis in Niger Delta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
2.4	The political dimension of the Niger Delta Crisis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
2.5	Amnesty in the Niger Delta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
2.6	Multinationals and corporate social responsibility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
2.7	Conflict resolution and public relation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20

2.8	Community relations and the Niger Delta crisis	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
2.8	Theoretical framework	-	-	-	-	-	-	23

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
3.1	Research Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
3.2	Population and Sampling	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
3.3	Sample Size	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
3.4	Sampling technique	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
3.5	Sources of data	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
3.6	Instrument of data collection	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
3.7	Technique of Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	29

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATIONS AND ANALYSIS

4.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
4.2	Demographic information of respondents-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
4.3	Answering Research Questions	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
4.4	Discussion of Findings	-	-	-	-	-	-	40

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	Summary of Findings	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
5.2	Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
5.3	Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
	REFERENCES	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
	APPENDIX	-	-	-	-	-	-	52

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the impact of welfare policy on Niger Delta region. To achieve the purpose of the study, three (3) research questions were raised and answered. The sample size for the study was made up of 100 respondents. The data collected was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage. The study revealed that marginalization is the caused of the unrest and that the Niger Delta minorities have being agitating since the 1950 that they have been marginalized by the federating units of the Nigeria federation. It was concluded that the hope of the oil multi nationals for a peaceful resolution of the unrest suggests that the basic effort is to create dialogue and positive engagement in a transparent manner with the numerous ethnic nationalities in the region and to formulate an action plan for continuous and sustainable pragmatic intervention to end the conflict. The study recommended among others that Dialogue should be embrace by all while the use of force should be de emphasized. The federal government should go into dialogue with all stakeholders to end the unrest.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to The Study

Crisis is a feature of every society and this exist in multiple forms and dimensions across the globe (Ajodo 2011). For several decades now, the Niger Delta region of Nigeria has been a hotbed of conflict in the Nigerian state. The conflict is between the Niger Delta Militants and the Nigerian Government and their Collaborating Multinational Oil Companies. The core issues in the conflict are socio- economic deprivations and denial of resource control. The people of the region suffer untold ecological destruction which has lasted for more than five decades and it is as a result of oil operations which destroy lands, forests, and farms and contaminate the seas which are the means of livelihood of the oil producing communities who are mostly famers, hunters and fishers. An ecological destruction that World Life Fund observed and reported in its 2006 annual report that Niger Delta is one of the most polluted places on the face of the earth.¹ The attendant impact of the destruction became poverty, diseases, illiteracy, and unemployment and in most cases lack of shelter as search for oil literally displaces many people from their homes. Thus the oil business pauperizes the people of the region to the extent that the Niger Delta region is the poorest region in Nigeria today.

As a result of this, the Niger Delta people whose region was once flourishing agricultural and trade centre of west Africa before the discovery of oil felt dissatisfied

with the statusquo and expressed their feelings through various non-violent social movements at various times demanding for improved socio-economic condition and resource control. However, the approach of the Nigerian Government to the plight, legitimate demands and aspirations of the Niger Delta people was always that of indifference and violent repression. Hence the continued degradation of the Niger Delta region by the Multinational Oil Companies and constant human right violations in forms of unremitting brutality, arrests, extra- judicial killing, incarceration and rape by successive Nigerian Governments. Consequently, the people of the region felt that the successive Nigerian Governments and their collaborating Multinational Oil Companies have systematically and effectively marginalized and deprived them of their socio-economic and political rights to an extent that they have little or no control over their land, resources and lives. The implication became that non-violent social movement became violent in the face of the violent repressive approach of the Nigeria Governments, hence the militancy in the region.

The region's economy is donated by the operations of the oil and gas sectors which are mostly operated by the International Oil Companies (IOCs). In the process of exploring and producing the oil and gas which provides the bulk of the nation's revenue, the Niger Delta environment is constantly contaminated by oil pollution which necessitates the request for an assessment of the damages suffered as a result. The assessment is undertaken by valuers who are the only legally authorised professionals to place value of any kind on any property in Nigeria. In undertaking the valuation, each

contaminated land poses a special problem that requires a special consideration in proffering a solution. In a typical rural contaminated land might exist both dry agricultural land and some wetlands with various species of crops and trees.

Faced with the violent situation in the region, Nigerian Government under the leadership of late President Shehu Musa Yar'dua took an urgent but different approach which is non-violent this time, in his quest to resolve the violent conflict in the region. Consequently, in June 2009, he announced the amnesty policy which was targeted at the militants who were to lay down their arms. Since the announcement of the policy and its implementation, the Niger Delta region has for the first time enjoyed relative peace since the agitations in the region became violent.

However, years down the line, there is renewed militancy in the region and effort is once again geared towards finding lasting peace. This article assesses the efforts made by the Federal Government of Nigeria to address conflicts in the region from the early 1960s to date. It is based on a literature study and on the author's knowledge of the issues in the Niger Delta. Findings from the work show that the Federal Government's approach to resolving conflict in the region has not been successful because it has not adequately addressed the issues that gave rise to the conflict, and because of its emphasis on the use of force.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

In 2009, the Federal Government interceded with an amnesty programme under former President Musa Yar’adua and his deputy, Goodluck Jonathan. The amnesty, which was proposed to last for five years, required that repentant militants surrendered their arms in return for unconditional national pardon. This exercise witnessed a total of 26 808 militants surrendering their arms and ammunition and being granted amnesty, which involved co-opting or integrating them into the society as well as training them (Ajodo- Adebajoko 2016). While amnesty lasted, there was some reprieve as militants sheathed their swords. However, there has been recourse to arms in the region in recent times as new militant groups emerged in 2016 with various demands. While the new names that emerged this time differ from the past ones, there is no doubt that this was old wine in new bottles. The new militants are still insisting on resource control and bombing of oil installations, which is re-immersing the country in conflict once again. The Federal Government in its bid to check this has been returning fire for fire by constituting a military operation code-named operation ‘Crocodile Smiles’, which the militants and many analysts feel is not the answer to the problem of conflict in the region.

Nigeria is West Africa’s biggest producer of petroleum and the sixth largest supplier of oil in the world, thanks to oil from the Niger Delta. Oil wealth has been instrumental to Nigeria’s emergence as a leading player in world and regional politics. Specifically, Nigeria has been playing a leading and dynamic role in African politics as a member of several regional organisations, such as the Africa Union (AU) and the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and an active role in global politics under the United Nations. With the oil boom in the early 1970s, Nigeria began to assert her influence around the globe and to date whatever influence Nigeria has, is credited to the discovery and exploration of oil.

The effect of oil spills and gas flares has been death to aquatic lives and waste to farm lands. It is on record that more gas is flared in Nigeria than anywhere else in the World (Nore and Turner 1980). It is on record that the oil industry in the Niger Delta is one of the worst cases in the world of gas flaring. Nigeria is the second largest offending country, after Russia, in terms of the total volume of gas flared and the resulting emission of about 70 million tons of CO₂ a year, higher than the emissions in Norway (Worgu 2000). The World Bank however believes that the amount of oil spills could be ten times higher than the officially released figures. Erosion, canalisation, intra- and inter-communal conflicts between host communities are also some effects of oil explorations in the region.

With the relative peace enjoyed by the oil region since the announcement and implementation of the policy, many Nigerians as well as international agencies applaud the policy a success. Even though the policy seems to be a success, no attempt has however been made to interrogate the feasibility of the policy engendering genuine and lasting peace in the region since the policy has no potentiality of attending to the root cause of the crisis but instead focused only on disarming, rehabilitating and reintegrating the militants into the Nigerian state.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of welfare policy on Niger Delta region. The specific objectives are:

1. To find out the factors that prompted Nigerian Government to propose the amnesty policy as a way of resolving Niger Delta crisis
2. To examine the impact of amnesty welfare policy in addressing the social injustice in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria
3. To find out if the Demobilization of Niger Delta militants reduce the violation of human right and kidnapping in the Niger Delta region

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the factors that prompted Nigerian Government to propose the amnesty policy as a way of resolving Niger Delta crisis?
2. what is the impact of amnesty welfare policy in addressing the social injustice in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria
3. Does the demobilization of Niger Delta militants reduce the violation of human right and kidnapping in the Niger Delta region

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research work is an empirical investigation the impact of welfare policy on Niger delta region with specific focus on amnesty programme in Nigeria. The study shall be restricted to Niger Delta region of Nigeria for the period of 1999 – 2015.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The research will benefit both the federal government and the members of the militant groups. To the federal government, this research will give them the means to make policies that will not only ameliorate the problems and sufferings of the militant groups and that of the general Niger Delta people, but will proffer lasting solutions. The research will enable members of the militant groups to seek redress of their grievances through the non violent manner.

1.7 Definition of Terms

1. **Hostage taking:** This is an act where the militants members will illegally take and Keep their target victims in an hidden spot, in order to use their release to achieve An objective.

2. **Kidnapping:** This is the act in which the militant members will forcefully abduct their target against the persons own wish, to achieve an objective with their release.

3. **Environmental Degradation:** This means the change of the environment from its ideal state to a worse condition because of the activities of the oil foreign oil Corporations.
4. **Militarization:** Militarization of the region means a situation whereby soldiers, army, police forces occupy the region with arms to provide security and protect the breakdown of law and order.
5. **Militants:** Militants could be individuals poised to apply strong or violent action to achieve an objective or a change.
6. **Oil spillage:** This means the flow of oil onto the environment, which changes the ideal state of the environment.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Presidential Amnesty Programme: Implementation and Performance

The Presidential Amnesty Programme

The Amnesty programme is traceable to three major incidents. First is the South-South Legislative Retreat convened by Vanguard and sponsored by the governors of South-South States in Port Harcourt, August 2008, whose communiqué anchored on abrogation of some petroleum laws as they affect the region and Amnesty for Militants, was presented to the president. Chaired by Justice Karibi- White(RTD) and attended by eminent persons like Chief E.K. Clark, the conference was declared open by then vice president Goodluck Jonathan, who facilitated the presentation of the communiqué to president Yar'Adua (Mavua,2014). Second were the efforts of the Security and Peace Committee headed by then vice president Goodluck Jonathan, who through 2007 and 2009 embarked on peace missions to the militant camps in the region to convince them on the need for cessation of hostilities and embrace of peace. Third was the Niger Delta Technical Committee which was chaired by Mr. Ledum Mitee. Among others, the committee recommended an Amnesty Programme for the militants.

2.2 Implementation And Implementation Structures

Militants were expected to embrace the Amnesty within a 60 day moratorium between 6th August and 4th October 2009. A Presidential Panel on Amnesty and Disarmament of Militants in the Niger Delta was set up to manage the process. At the expiration of the 60-day grace period on October 4, 2009, a total of 20,192 militants surrendered their arms and ammunition to the Federal Government and accepted the offer of amnesty. In fact, most of the militant group leaders and members embraced the amnesty and came out of their camps to surrender arms and ammunitions at arms collection centres, designated for arms collection in Edo, Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Ondo and Rivers. However, further opportunities were instituted for those who accepted amnesty after October 4, 2009. Thus 6,166 persons were enlisted into the second phase in 2010 and another 3,642 in October 2012. The third phase was a product of a verification exercise conducted by a committee set up by the Chief of Defence Staff and chaired by Air Vice Marshall James Gbum (Ameh, 2013).

The subsequent inclusion of more ex-militants into the programme between October 2009 and 2012 was a result of agitations for participation. There could be several reasons for this. First is that the genuineness or sincerity of programme intentions became clearer as progress was made. It has been argued that some militants were wary of PAP and stayed out of it. Some may have stayed back as part of organized back up force in the event of failure of PAP. Second, is that hitherto disarmed groups from previous state

government driven peace projects such as the Itsekiri National Youth Command (500 ex militants) sought inclusion.

Third is that those who were excluded initially such as some followers of late John Togo and the Latu group from the Bakassi Peninsula had to be incorporated. To be sure, there have been attempts to incorporate some community youth into PAP particularly at the reintegration stage. In the second phase, about 842 youths who were non militants were selected from communities impacted by armed violence and oil pollution, and included in PAP. This also further proves that non armed youth has been part of PAP either surreptitiously or by deliberate policy actions.

The actual implementation of the programme began with the disarmament component of the Amnesty programme, which was managed by the Amnesty Implementation Committee. This was essentially a military exercise conducted by the Nigerian Armed forces. The arms surrendered included 287,445 different types of ammunitions, and about 2,760 assorted arms and 18 gunboats among others (Ifeatu, 2010). Disarmament was concluded in December 2009 but the arms and ammunitions collected were stored at the 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu and in compliance with extant DDR codes as spelt out by the United Nations, were destroyed by the Nigerian Army in Lokpanta, Enugu State on May 25 2011 under the watch of the Amnesty Office (Nigeriamasterweb.com, 2012).

The demobilization exercises involved the identification, registration and documentation of militants in designated camps. In December 2011, the Amnesty Office

completed the Demobilization component of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (Ugbolue, 2012). The rehabilitation of ex-militants began in June 2010 at the Obubra camp in Cross River State in batches. The programme entailed biometric documentation, wellness check, nonviolence transformational training, and series of counselling and career classification of the ex-agitators. The transformational and reorientation activities in the Camp were tailored to destroy the belief of the ex-agitators in violence and provide them the more powerful alternative of nonviolence.

2.3 The History of Crises In Niger Delta

The struggle for relevance in the Niger Delta dates back to the pre-colonial era. According to Ikalama (2006), the Niger Delta struggle did not start with the discovery of oil in 1957; but rather due to the region's difficult terrain. Ibaba (2005) observes that almost three quarters of the area are submerged under water made of lagoons, creeks, rivers and lakes. What is left is largely swampy land, which is flooded for about four months in the year as a result of lower Niger overflow. The Niger Delta crisis, therefore, dates back to the early 19th century when the people agitated for trade terms fair to their communities. It is noteworthy, however, that the last quarter of that century was characterized by aggressive European imperialist economic philosophy of free trade (Alao, 2005). That led to several conflicts between the Niger Delta people and the Europeans on the coasts of the region because of the communities' determination to maintain their middlemen status. Prominent among those crises were the Jaja of Opobo's

clash with the British, leading to his eventual exile in 1886; King Koko of Nembe's famous Akassa raid on the depot of the Royal Niger Company in 1895; and the crisis between Nana Olomu, the then Itsekiri Governor of Benin River and the British in 1895.

According to Alao (2005), during the colonial era, virtually all the resources of the colonized people were controlled by the colonial state. The agitation of the Niger Delta people was principally focused on drawing attention to their environmental peculiarities and their requirement for basic infrastructural amenities. Colonialism, however, curtailed the initial dominance of the Niger Delta on the Nigerian economic scene by abolishing the middleman advantage hitherto enjoyed by the region. Moreover, cash crops emerged in other parts of the country, such as the groundnut pyramids in the Northern Region, and cocoa in the Western Region, further reducing Niger Delta's economic relevance. According to Sir Willink (as cited in Alao, 2005), due to its ecological make-up, the Eastern Region is the poorest of the three regions, and this has engendered the lackadaisical attitude of both the federal and regional governments towards the lack of development in the Niger Delta.

Ikalama (2006) explains that in 1914, after the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates, Southern Nigeria was administered on the basis of provinces. Hence, the Niger Delta people were divided among various provinces. Davis (2005) (as cited in Ikalama, 2006) adjudges that the amalgamation was like a forced marriage that entrapped the Niger Delta people. For colonial administrative convenience, the western

Ijaws were in Delta Province and the eastern Ijaws were in Owerri and Calabar Provinces. This classification was, however, not acceptable to the Ijaws of the Niger Delta who began to request the creation of a separate province for themselves. In order to put up a formidable front, The People's League was established in 1942. The League later metamorphosed into a full-fledged association which spearheaded the struggle. The efforts of the association were rewarded when a Rivers Province was created in 1947. In 1957, the struggle was taken to the constitutional conference in London. According to Alao (2005), the people demanded for a separate state within the federation, arguing that there was:

No other area in the whole of West Africa with a physical configuration like that of Rivers area. It was unfair that such an area should not have its own separate government to harness the energies of the Rivers and develop its unique resources in the interest of the people who live there (p. 57).

The people further argued that the administrative headquarters of various regions to which the Niger Delta belonged could not appreciate their peculiarities and needs because they were too distant. The request was, however, denied. A fresh dimension to the crises emerged after Nigeria's independence. On February 23, 1966, Isaac Adaka Boro, in a bid to protest the injustice against the Niger Delta people, led one hundred and fifty one comrades to Tontouban, in the present Bayelsa State. From that location, he launched a guerrilla war against the then federal military government (Ikalama, 2006). Boro had earlier, in January 1966, declared the Niger Delta People's Republic, with

himself as the Head of State. The Nigerian Police was engaged and humiliated in a bloody confrontation. The Armed Forces of Nigeria, however, went into the war, and after being held up for a while, defeated Boro and his men on the 12th day. Today, the rebellion is known in Nigeria's political history as "The 12 Day Revolution" (Watts, 2009). Nwajiaku (2006) notes that Boro was succeeded, in the struggle for self-determination and resource control, by Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni people. Though the federation's revenue allocation has been continually revised since 1967, the increase has been far below the demand of the Niger Delta (Mustapha, 2000).

2.4 The Political Dimension Of The Niger Delta Crisis

According to Omoweh (2010), the Niger Delta crisis is the crisis of the Nigeria state, that is, its policy in respect to natural resources and the mode of surplus extraction from the mining sector. He explains that the crisis is a political one and its origin can be traced to "the path the state took to development inclusive of its type of capitalist development in the mining sector" (p. 12). Omoweh (2010) describes the Nigerian state as the political leadership of the country. He considers it ironic that the tiny fraction of the hegemonic political class, which lead the nation's development and controls the state political power, is naturally interested in perpetuating itself and reproducing its class rather than thinking of the people and their wellbeing. Consequent on the need for the state to survive before pursuing development, it devised some strategies to protect itself,

which includes the adoption of defensive radical posture that is driven by pretence to be interested in the wellbeing of the people, whereas, it is to side with capital to exploit them.

The crisis ensued as a result of the contention between the dominant class, which struggled for power and resources to survive, and the subordinate groups in the society who also claimed their right to survival. Omoweh says that the crisis is made more pronounced by the state's mode of extraction of surplus from the mining sector. He explains that the state uses its political power "to amass wealth, because of its weak productive base" (Omoweh, 2010, p. 14). The individuals entrusted with the management of the state use the political office to accumulate profit, rather than to invest in entrepreneurship and development.

2.5 Amnesty in the Niger Delta

On the 25th of June, 2009, the President of Nigeria, late Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, announced the Federal Government's plan to grant amnesty to Niger Delta militants ("Will Amnesty Bring Peace," 2009). The plan was to help restore peace to the region, which had been volatile with militancy since 2006. It was a 60-day plan, lasting from June 25th to October 4th 2009, and it was to see the militants disarm and accept presidential pardon. At the initial stage, the militants did not seem to trust the government. In fact, some groups argued that amnesties were only offered to convicted criminals and their members could not be described as such. There were also some internal contentions

among the militants as to who would accept the government's offer and why. Gradually, the militants started to respond to the offer; first the commanders and then their loyalists.

The amnesty period expired on October 4th without an extension of time, even though the militant pressed for this. If the reports of the government and media were anything to go by, the programme was a success. In fact, the Nigerian government had already started to count the dividends of the amnesty programme. For instance, militant attacks in the region since 2006 reduced oil production from Nigeria's OPEC quota of 2 million barrels per day to 1.3 million. But Nigeria's Defence Minister between 2009 and 2010, Godwin Abbe, reported that barely a month after the amnesty programme, production rose to 1.8 million barrels per day. Zimbio (2010) reports that as at October 4, 2010, more than 5,000 former militants, who had embraced the Federal Government's amnesty in 2009, had been rehabilitated.

2.6 Multinationals And Corporate Social Responsibility

Seitel (2007) observes that more and more organizations are beginning to acknowledge their responsibilities to the community. Those responsibilities include helping to prevent pollution, providing jobs for minorities, enforcing policies that are in the interest of all employees and generally enhancing everyone's quality of life. Hence, social responsibility can be defined as a concept whereby organizations consider the interests of society by taking responsibility for the impact of their activities on stakeholders such as customers, employees, shareholders, communities, and the

environment. An aspect of corporate social responsibility that has, in recent times, gained attention in academic discuss is community involvement. Bronn (2006) explains that community involvement is all about building a relationship between an organization and its immediate environment.

There are two general descriptions of community, and they are the narrow and the broad descriptions. Carroll & Buchholtz (2000) describe community in terms of the immediate locale of the organization, which includes the town, city or state in which it operates. Cannon (1994), on the other hand, not only equate the state with the community, but also acknowledges that the community of an organization has been broadened, sometimes to include the region, nation, and even the world. This current study will, however, associate with Carroll and Buchholtz's description of community, since the major focus is the host communities of the oil companies.

Carroll and Buchholtz (2000) opine that firms have positive impact on the community in two major ways. First, they donate the time and talents of their managers and employees for community service, and second, they contribute to the communities financially. Grunig and Hunt (1984), in their early work, define a firm's community activities as either expressive, used to promote itself and show goodwill, or instrumental, used to improve the community or to make working there easier. Bronn (2006, p. 310) states that the community is often the headquarters of the firm and it "Provides the labour force, suppliers of other raw materials, utilities, and infrastructure, and regulates the

activities of the organization.” He further explains that the appearance of community involvement in corporate reputation rankings instruments, such as the Reputation Quotient, is an evidence of its recognition as a tool for reputation building. He also observes that some large organizations also have special communication departments, with the specific responsibility of dealing with community relations.

According to the reports of a Conference Board on senior communications executives (as cited in Argenti & Forman, 2002), over 60% of hundreds of America’s largest firms list community relations as part of their responsibilities. Adkins (2000) also reports a study conducted by Business in the Community/Research International (UK) Ltd, in which it was discovered that 3/4 of marketing and community affairs directors dedicate at least a segment of their budget to cause marketing. This involves forming alliances with typically non-profit agencies to market a service, product, or an image for mutual benefit. McIntosh et al. (1998) (as cited in Bronn, 2006) observes that once a company bases its headquarters in a single city or town, it usually concentrates its community involvement exclusively in that location. He also observes that many contemporary firms have multiple headquarters, and this, therefore, raises the question as to whether community involvement activities accepted in one country would be accepted in others. Considering that this specifically applies to multinationals, it is suggested that, while practicing their corporate social responsibility in the form of community involvement, they should also consider the implication of doing the same things in all countries in which they operate or make sales, as well as consider accommodating local

norms and practices. Consequently, Gardberg & Fombrum (2006) advice firms that operate in diverse foreign contexts to adopt models of corporate citizenship that would acknowledge their peculiarities.

2.7 Conflict Resolution and Public Relations

Conflict resolution has been a part of human experience for centuries. Although this is factual, Burton (1993) argues that it is relatively recent in scholarly discourse. He points out that some scholars interchange “dispute” with “conflict.” According to him, settlement refers to the negotiated or arbitrated results of disputes while resolution refers to the result of a conflict situation. Hence, there is “dispute settlement” and “conflict resolution”. He, however, goes on to say that though dispute and conflict may refer to different conditions and scope of human relationships, they operate on the same principles and can be used interchangeably. According to Wilmot & Hocker (1998), there are several modes of intervention and they include facilitation, mediation, counselling and therapy, conciliation, quasi-political procedures, informal tribunals, arbitration of different types and criminal and civil justice systems. In practise, these modes are usually combined for conflict resolution. Otite (2001) states that conflict resolution carries out a healing function in societies. This occurs by providing the opportunity for parties involved to examine alternative pay-offs in the situation. By so doing, normalty is restored to the society thus facilitating discussion. It also places the parties in the conflict in a situation in which they can choose alternative positive means for resolving their

differences. Otite further explains that consensus-building, social-bridge reconstructions, and the re-enactment of order in the society are achieved through conflict resolution.

The process of conflict resolution focuses on the rebuilding of broken-down relationships, and this falls within the purview of public relations. Public relations practice has become well known in recent times because of the great assistance it offers in crises resolution. Because of the complexities of the world today, it is certain that organizations and people cannot avoid trouble and violence. Wherever there is violence and trouble, wise counsel is required (Seitel, 2007). Conflict is the outcome of unchecked degeneration in human relationships, and according to Folarin (1998), it evolves in stages; first we have an issue, then it evolves into conflict, and finally into a crisis.

2.8 Community Relations And The Niger Delta Crises

According to Baskin, Aronoff & Lattimore (1997), some sociologists and political scientists have taken the stand that our communities are dissolving in the face of increasing mobility and communication. Nevertheless, the community cannot be declared dead. In recent times, individuals and agencies have begun to pay special attention to the reality of the community. They emphasize that though organizations may be preoccupied by regional, national, and international community relations programmes, they must not forget their immediate communities, i.e. their host communities.

Baskin et.al observe that in the 1990s, most organizations began to understand that their community relations efforts must become more organized and proactive. They

state that the key to any effective community relations activity is positive and socially responsible action. This will help the community on behalf of the organization. The organization must, at all cost, guard against negative acts and also work to preserve existing relationships. For this to be possible, proactive and positive actions are crucial so that the organization can achieve its goals.

Effective community relations can only be achieved when an organization recognises its interdependence with other institutions. When the management recognises the many ways its organization can impact on the local community and the extent of reciprocal dependence, it will help to establish social balance. The practice of good community relations assists the organization in securing its needs from the community while it also provides what the community expects. Also, it helps to secure the company's investments, increase sales of products, the value of stocks, and improve the general operating climate of business.

It has been erroneously believed by several scholars that the crises in the Niger Delta are beyond what community relations can handle. The view is also held in some quarters that community relations does not address the core problem in the Niger Delta. This view, however, fails to appreciate the essence of community relations. If the oil companies carry out their activities in the interest of the host communities and adhere to quality ethical practices, the conflicts would focus on the government, thereby excluding the companies. Community relations is not about window dressing; rather, it is about

protecting the host community. As Baskin et.al (1997) point out, even the staff of the organization would be productive when proper community relations are carried out. Considering the fact that most of the staff of any organization live in that community, any improper or inconsiderate attitude displayed by the management can endanger their lives, as can be seen in the kidnap cases in the Niger Delta.

2.10 Theoretical Framework

The significance of theories in shaping this study cannot be overemphasized. Lewin (1958) states that good theories enable researchers to put facts in perspective and to hypothesize what will happen, even before they do happen (as cited in Folarin, 2005). Folarin (2005) also says that theories help researchers to manage reality. Hence, some theories have been selected to provide focus for this study, and they are the Conflict Theory, Situational Theory, and Stakeholder Theory.

2.10.1 Conflict Theory

Conflict theory posits that in a society or an organization, each individual participant and/or group struggles to maximize certain benefits and this inevitably contributes to social change. This change may include political struggles and revolution. The theory focuses on the idea that personal or group's ability has a role to play in exercising influence and control over others in producing social order. Hence, conflict theorists believe that there is a continual struggle between all different elements of a particular society.

According to Wallace & Wolf (2006), conflict theory evolved as a major alternative to the functionalist approach to analyzing a society's general structure. Ritzer (2003) also observes that apart from the theory's origination in reaction to structural functionalism, it also has other roots that include Marxian theory and works of Georg Simmel on social conflict. Conflict theory provided an alternative to the functionalist approach in the 1950s and 1960s. Although it was superseded by a variety of neo-Marxian theories after the 60s (Ritzer & Goodman, 2004), it has become increasingly popular and relevant in modern sociology (Wallace & Wolf, 2006).

Functionalists consider societies and social institutions as systems in which equilibrium is created through the interdependence of all the parts. They do not deny the existence of conflict; however, they believe that the society evolves means of controlling it. This forms the basis of functionalist analysis. Conflict theorists, on the other hand, perceive the society in a different light. Contrary to functionalists' view of the existence of interdependence and unity in the society, conflict theorists view the society as an arena where groups contend for power. For conflict to be controlled, one group must be able to, at least temporarily, suppress its rivals. Conflict theory focuses on the shifting balance of power among competitors in the society, rather than the creation of equilibrium through interdependence and cooperation (Wallace & Wolf, 2006).

This Marxist perspective has been specifically applied to international organizations/multinational corporations, which are the focus of this study. According to

Pease (2003), Marxists argue that international organizations are products of hegemony. However, traditional Marxists and Gramscian Marxists have two separate notions of hegemony, thereby leading them to different conclusions on the nature of international organizations. While traditional Marxists tend to equate hegemony with military and economic dominance, Gramscian-inspired Marxists claim that it is the relation of consent to political and ideological leadership (Simon, 1982).

Both the traditional and the Gramscian Marxists perspectives can be applied to this study, though in varying degrees. The notion of the traditional Marxists is applicable, more so when we consider that the Multi-national companies (MNCs) actually dominate the economy of the countries (e.g. America and Japan), but particularly the communities, in which they operate. This they do by taking over the means of production of the communities, while the people live on compensations. The oil companies, however, did not dominate the Niger Delta through the use of force, at least at the initial stage. Military force was introduced much later with the rise of vandalism and militancy.

On the other hand, the Gramscian Marxists' argument is also very fundamental to the study. The relevance of their own argument is embedded in the question: "How does the ruling class get subordinate classes to consent to their own domination and exploitation?" (Pease, 2003, p. 79). Pease presents the answer; it is by linking the dominant class' interests to the interests of the subordinate classes. This involves the

development of a coherent set of values that transcends both class and national boundaries without compromising the dominant class' position.

According to Saiyou (2006), the initial reaction of the Niger Delta communities to the discovery of oil in their territory was that of joy and anticipation of development. At that initial stage, the goals of the oil companies were linked with those of the communities. However, as the communities began to realize that the goals of the oil companies were being realized while theirs were abandoned, conflict began to develop. Marxists believe that MNCs are tools of exploitation and mechanisms of domination that promotes underdevelopment. According to Pease (2003), MNCs seek out states with lax environmental and labour standards under the guise of drive for market efficiency. Many of them locate areas where labour is not represented by unions so as to keep labour cost low. It is obvious that the oil companies in the Niger Delta are taking advantage of the inconsistency of the Nigerian Government to increase their profit. Several deadlines have been set for the termination of gas flaring, yet, it is still being flared. A vast majority of the Niger Delta residents increasingly face child respiratory diseases, asthma, cancer, and premature deaths as a result of the massive flaring (Rizvi, 2005). From the foregoing, it is obvious that the conflict theory is pivotal to this study. The theory has enabled us to identify the sources and nature of conflicts as well as how they relate to the Niger Delta. Nevertheless, it does not identify the nature and stages of human response to conflicts. Hence, the Situational Theory has been included to cater for these aspects of conflicts.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

Methodology in a research work basically refers to the methods, procedures or modalities which the researcher employs to achieve the objectives of the research (Agbonifoh and Yomere, 1999: 106). The methodology used in this study comprises of;

3.1 Research Design

This study adopt the survey research design. According to Tonwe et al (2007), survey research has become popular in modern times as a scientific method of discovering the impact and inter – relationships of social and psychological variables from given populations.

More so, survey research studies large and small populations by selecting and studying samples drawn from the population to discover the relative incidence, distribution and inter – relations of sociological and psychological variables (Tonwe et al, 2007).

3.2 Population of Study

The population for this study comprises the entire adult population of Oredo local government area of Edo State, which is estimated at 339,899 consisting of both males and females (National Population Commission; 2006).

3.3 Sample size

The sample size for this research work is 200 respondents, selected at random in Edo State, the respondents are selected without preference to sex or educational level.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

The study adopted the convenience sampling method. This enables the researcher administer questionnaire to sampled respondents based on respondent's availability and accessibility.

3.5 Sources of Data

Data for this study were generated from two sources; the primary sources which depend mainly on the design and administration of questionnaire to elicit information from respondents while the secondary source involves the use of archival materials such as books, journal, publications conferences, newspapers government gazettes and internet materials.

3.6 Instrument of Data Collection

The main instrument for data collection in this research is the questionnaire. This will enable the researcher to obtain data that are relevant to actualizing the research objectives and testing the hypotheses.

The questionnaire were structured into part A and B. Part A of the questionnaire deals with the bio-data of the respondents, while part B covers questions that are relevant to the research topic.

3.7 Techniques of Data Analysis

Data collected from the administered and retrieved questionnaire were analyzed with simple percentage and the chi-square (χ^2). The simple percentage is a descriptive statistical tool of analyses which will be used in analyzing the data as postulated in the research questions.

The formula for the computation of the simple percentage is given as follow:

$$\% = \frac{PC \times 100}{N}$$

Where;

PC= Percentage compliance

N= Total number of respondents

100= Common base of simple percentage

(Ogbeide, 2011:186).

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1. Introduction

The researcher made use of Likert scale question to gather his information from respondents. The major aim of this research study is to examine the impact of welfare policy on Niger Delta region with a focus on amnesty programme.

The questionnaire was designed to capture the demographic data of the respondents and their opinions with respect to the research question/statement, the questionnaire was divided into two (2) parts. Part I sought to obtain information on demographic details of respondent while Part II consisted of items measuring the respondents' perceptions.

In all a total of hundred (100) questionnaires were administered to officials of the State Independent Electoral Commission and officials of the State political parties' secretariats in the study area and ninety nine (99) were retrieved, one (1) was wrongly filled and nine.

The response are presented in tables and percentages which were used to illustrate the responses received.

$$\frac{\text{Number of Responses}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times 100$$

Data Presentation Part I

In this chapter, the researcher presents and analysis the data collected from field survey. Deduction/findings are also made.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

TABLE 1: SEX DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

Sex	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Male	63	63.6%
	Female	36	36.4%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table indicates that 63.6% of the total respondents are male and 36.4% re females.

This shows that there are more male respondents.

TABLE 2: AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS.

Age group	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	20-30yrs	73	73.7%
	31-40yrs	16	16.2%
	41-50yrs	8	8.1%
	51 and Above	2	2.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The age group distribution of the sample population shows that majority of the respondents falls within the age group of (20-49), while 16.2% represent age group of 31-40yrs, 8.1% for age group 41-50yrs and 2.0% for 51 and above.

TABLE 3: EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

Educational Qualification	Responses	Frequency	Total
	WAEC/GCE	12	12.1%
	OND/NCE	29	29.3%
	BSC/HND	58	58.6%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The analysis of findings as shown in table 3 reveals that 12.1% of the respondents had WAEC/GCE, 29.3% of the respondents had OND/NCE while 58.6% of the respondent had BSC/HND degrees.

TABLE 4: OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENTS

Occupation	Reponses	Frequency	Percentage
	Civil servant	14	14.1%
	Private Employee	35	35.4%
	Self Employed	47	47.5%
	Retired	3	3.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table above shows that 14.1% were civil servant, 35.4% were private employee, 47.5% were self-employed and 3.0% are retired.

TABLE 5: RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF RESPONDENTS

Religion	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Christian	87	87.9%
	Muslim	9	9.1%
	ATR	3	3.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The religious affiliation of the respondents in the table above shows that 87.9% of respondents were Christians representing the highest percentage, while 9.1% are Muslims and 3.0% are African Traditional Worshippers.

TABLE 6: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS.

Marital Status	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Single	87	87.9%
	Married	9	9.1%
	Divorced	3	3.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The findings shows that 87.9% of the respondents were single, 9.1% were married and 3.0% of the respondents were divorced.

4.3 Answering Research Questions

TABLE 7: The amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has help in reducing unemployment in the region

The amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has help in reducing unemployment in the region	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	21.2	21.2%
	Agree	45.5	45.5%
	Disagree	21.2	21.2%
	Strongly Disagree	8	8.1%
	Undecided	4	4.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

From the findings above, 21.2% of the respondents are of the opinion that The amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has help in reducing unemployment in the region, while 45.5% also agree to that, 21.2% of the respondents disagree with the opinion and 8.1% strongly disagree while 4.0% responds were undecided.

TABLE 8: Due to the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta youths in the area has been trained in various entrepreneurial skills

Due to the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta youths in the area has been trained in various entrepreneurial skills	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	14.1	14.1%
	Agree	47.5	47.5%
	Disagree	22.2	22.2%
	Strongly Disagree	7.1	7.1%
	Undecided	9.1	9.1%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table above shows that 14.1% of the respondents are of the opinion that due to the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta youths in the area has been trained in various entrepreneurial skills, while 47.5% also agree to that, 22.2% of the respondents disagree with the opinion and 7.1% strongly disagree while 7.1% responds were undecided.

TABLE 9: The amnesty programme has facilitated the educational programme of some ex - militants

The amnesty programme has facilitated the educational programme of some ex - militants	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	55	55.6%
	Agree	32	32.3%
	Disagree	6	6.1%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3.0%
	Undecided	3	3.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table above shows that 55.6% of the respondents are of the opinion that the amnesty programme has facilitated the educational programme of some ex - militants, while 32.3% also agree to that, 6.1% of the respondents disagree with the opinion and 3.0% strongly disagree while 3.0% responds were undecided.

TABLE 10: The establishment of the Niger Delta Development commission has helped to shapen the welfare of Niger Delta Region

The establishment of the Niger Delta Development commission has helped to shapen the welfare of Niger Delta Region	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	53	53.5%
	Agree	36	36.4%
	Disagree	3	3.0%
	Strongly Disagree	4	4.0%
	Undecided	3	3.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

From the table above 53.5% of the respondents strongly agree that The establishment of the Niger Delta Development commission has helped to shapen the welfare of Niger

Delta Region, while 36.4% agreed. 3.0% disagree, 4.0% strongly disagree while 3.0% respondent are undecided.

Table 11: Welfare policies of the Nigerian government has reduced the Niger Delta Crisis.

Welfare policies of the Nigerian government has reduced the Niger Delta Crisis	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	41	41.4%
	Agree	43	43.4%
	Disagree	8	8.1%
	Strongly Disagree	5	5.1%
	Undecided	2	2.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table above shows that 41.4% of the respondents strongly agree that Welfare policies of the Nigerian government has reduced the Niger Delta Crisis, while 4.4% agree also to that, 8.1% disagree, 5.1% strongly disagree while 2.0% of the respondents responses were undecided.

Table 12: The administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has been effective to some extent.

The administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has been effective to some extent.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	21	21.2%
	Agree	47	47.5%
	Disagree	15	15.2%
	Strongly Disagree	5	5.1%
	Undecided	11	11.1%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table above shows that 21.2% of the respondents strongly agree that the administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has been effective to some extent., while 47.5% agree, also to that, 15.2% disagree, 5.1% strongly disagree while 2.0% of the respondents responses were undecided.

TABLE 13. Nepotic activities still affects the effective administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta..

Nepotic activities still affects the effective administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	53	53.5%
	Agree	38	38.4%
	Disagree	4	4.0%
	Strongly Disagree	3	3.0%
	Undecided	1	1.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

From the table above, 53.5% strongly agree that Nepotic activities still affects the effective administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta., while 38.4% also agree to it respectively.

TABLE 14. The issue of financial misappropriation is a factor militating against the smooth administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta

The issue of financial misappropriation is a factor militating against the smooth administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	41	41.4%
	Agree	42	42.4%
	Disagree	8	8.1%
	Strongly Disagree	6	6.1%
	Undecided	2	2.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

From the table above, the result shows that 41.1% of the respondent strongly agree that the issue of financial misappropriation is a factor militating against the smooth administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta, 42.4% agree that economic recession brings about unemployment, 6.1% strongly disagree while 2.0% undecided.

TABLE 15: There exist inadequate monitoring and supervision of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region.

There exist inadequate monitoring and supervision of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	52	52.5%
	Agree	38	38.4%
	Disagree	4	4.0%
	Strongly Disagree	2	2.0%
	Undecided	3	3.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023.

The table shows that 52.5% strongly agree that There exist inadequate monitoring and supervision of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region., 38.4% agree, while 4.0% disagree, 2.0% strongly disagree while 3.0% undecided.

TABLE 16: Ex – militants’ monthly disbursement is to a great extent paid as stipulated.

Ex – militants’ monthly disbursement is to a great extent paid as stipulated.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	41	41.4%
	Agree	49	49.5%
	Disagree	5	5.1%
	Strongly Disagree	2	2.0%
	Undecided	2	2.0%
Total	99	100	

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

From the table above, 41.4% strongly agree that Ex – militants’ monthly disbursement is to a great extent paid as stipulated. , while 49.5% also agree to it respectively.

TABLE 17: The administration of the amnesty programme has brought about desired peace to some extent in the Niger Delta region.

The administration of the amnesty programme has brought about desired peace to some extent in the Niger Delta region.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	51	51.5%
	Agree	42	42.4%
	Disagree	2	2.0%
	Strongly Disagree	2	2.0%
	Undecided	2	2.0%
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The table shows that 51.5% strongly agree that The administration of the amnesty programme has brought about desired peace to some extent in the Niger Delta region, 42.4% agree, while 2.0% disagree, 2.0% strongly disagree while 2.0% undecided.

TABLE 18: Kidnappings relating to oil activities has been reduced drastically in the Niger Delta region.

Kidnappings relating to oil activities has been reduced drastically in the Niger Delta region.	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
	Strongly Agree	55	55.6%
	Agree	38	38.4%
	Disagree	5	5.1%
	Strongly Disagree	1	1.0%
	Undecided	-	-
	Total	99	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

From the table above, the result shows that 55.6% of the respondents strongly agree that Kidnappings relating to oil activities has been reduced drastically in the Niger Delta region., 38.4% agree to it, 5.1% strongly disagree while 1.0% strongly disagrees.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

In discussing the findings, it was revealed that the marginalisation of the area producing the oil has been the causes of the militant unrest. This is in accordance with Ikelegbe (2005), who examines the economy of conflict in the resource conflict in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and assert that, the Niger Delta minorities have been agitating since 1950s that they have been marginalised by the federating unit of the Nigeria federation.

He identifies two stages of the struggle first it was against marginalisation, neglect and the politics of exclusion by the ethnic majority based ruling political parties and government of the Eastern and western region.

The findings also revealed that the creation of amnesty programme by the federal government is the effort the federal government has made to manage the unrest. This is supported by Ilaboya and Ohonba (2013) who assert that, by the year 2011 there was a Sharp improvement to 81%, due to the presidential amnesty which restored peace in Niger Delta.

The findings further revealed that the militant unrest has affected Nigeria's economy through the relocation of many external companies to other countries. The Niger Delta region has become very volatile in recent times, resulting to insecurity of lives and properties. Militancy, kidnapping, killings and other vices have become frequent. Multinational companies are spending so much Money hiring security agents to protect their facilities and personnel, leading to the relocation of these companies to other countries. This findings agrees with previous studies such as Akeem and Erhun (2010) and Thomas (2008).

The last revealed that the civil society organisation has played a role through their agitation for something to be done about the human right abuses and environmental degradation problems. According to Eghosa O. Ekhaton (2011) two categories of civil groups contributed to the development of Niger Delta through advocacy and substitution. The community based group like MOSSOP succeeded in sensitizing the Ogonis on issues relating to the oil industry, their environmental and human right as well as providing other communities and ethnic group with a template to replicate their activities. The civil and environmental right groups includes organisation with the objective of promoting civil and environmental rights such as friends of the Earth, Amnesty International. This subset of CSO includes local and foreign groups that not only form Alliance with themselves, but also with CBO to achieve their objectives.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The Niger delta unrest had began in the 19 century. couple of complex factors provoked responses to the pressure for the control and distribution of resources by the people who felt they have being marginalize by the federal government and the foreign oil companies . competition for oil wealth has fueled violence in the region. the exploration of oil by the foreign oil companies has caused havoc of environmental degradation and pollution, gas flaring. there is lack of compensation for these havocs by the federal government and the oil companies. the people felt that with oil exploration, pollution and neglect they faced extinction. this led to the formation of militant movements like mend, MOSOP who had risen to go against the injustice and inequity by the federal government and the multi national companies.

The federal government towards the management of the unrest had engaged in several measures to address growing restiveness .such measures includes the creation of agencies, like the NDDC, OSOPADEC, ministry of Niger delta affairs and the presidential amnesty programme. all to address the socio

economic difficulties and the developmental challenges bedeviling the Niger delta region.

The objectives of the study are set on examining the efforts the government has done to manage the militants unrest. to assess the effects of the militants unrest to Nigeria economic and political development. to examine the extent to which the militants unrest has affected Nigeria economy as well as, to examine the role of the civil society organization in the militants unrest.

The study scope is set on Warri South Local Government area of delta state. The L G A has a land of about 1,520 square kilometers. It has a population of 303,417 at the 2006 census. Data had been gotten through primary and secondary means. The sample size of 120 respondents were considered for this study. The expert Judgment Approach was applied for the instrument validation. A test retest reliability was conducted on 120 respondents to ascertain the instrument reliability. Tables and percentages was used to analyze the data. The findings shows that marginalization is the caused of the unrest and is in accordance with Ikelegbe,2005, who asserts that the Niger Delta minorities have being agitating since the 1950 that they have been marginalized by the federating units of the Nigeria federation.

Other findings revealed that government has made efforts to manage the unrest by amnesty programme and is supported by Iiaboya and Ohonba, (2013) on

their position that, by 2011, 81% improvement prevailed due to the presidential amnesty, restoring peace in Niger Delta.

The findings as well shows that, the unrest has affected Nigeria economy by the relocation of many external companies to other countries. This findings agrees with past studies of Akeem and Erhun (2010) and Thomas (2008), that the Niger Delta region have in recent times, becomes very volatile resulting to insecurity of lives and property. Militancy, kidnapping, killings and others are frequent. Multi National companies are spending so much money hiring security agents to protect their facilities and personnel. Many of these companies have relocated to other countries.

The findings lastly revealed the civil society organizations have agitated for something to be done about the human rights abuses and the environmental degradation problems. According to Eghoas O. Ekhatator who categories civil groups into categories. The Community Based Group like MOSOP, succeeded in sensitizing the Ogonis on oil industry issue, their environmental and human rights as well as providing them with a template to replicate their (MOSOP) activities. The civil and environmental right groups like Amnesty International, have promoted civil and environmental rights.

Recommendations are made on the need for dialogue, involvement of host communities in decision making, among others to end the unrest.

5.2 Conclusion

The iron fist approach by the federal government designed to deal with the waves of struggle for self actualization, increase in revenue allocation and later, resource control by the oppressive indigenes of the Niger Delta region became bloody and murderous through the repressive actions by the police, military or judicial murder.

Since 1999, citizenship contestations have persisted in the Niger Delta basically because of the nature and content of the 1999 constitution that laid the foundations for ethnic hegemony and internal colonialism in Nigeria. There is therefore the need to find answers to the Niger Delta question through the process of constitutional reforms and political restructuring. In the region, the lack of respect for human right has resulted in torture, arbitrary killings and the massacre of civilians by the security forces of Nigeria. All these have resulted in human right abuses against the people of the Niger Delta.

Another approach by the government in responding to the crisis is the agency approach, which began before independence. Such approach includes, the Niger Delta Development Board in 1962, but the short lived board did not make any impact because the problems of the minorities then were overshadowed by the grim power struggle among the major ethnic groups. Other agencies that were created after NDDB, includes: the Niger delta basin development authority in 1976,

the oil minerals producing area commission in 1992, the panel on options for the development of the Niger delta in 1998 and the Niger delta development commission in 2002 etc, all to address the chronic developmental problems facing the region. At different stages, the agency approach would appear to have failed to prevent a further deterioration of the Niger Delta situation.

The creation of states and local governments in the region was also calculated by government as a means of administrative empowerment of the people, but the exercise was not exclusive to the region as new states and local governments were created in other parts of the country. The exercise of state creation and recreation did not result in greater political autonomy and control over resources nor did it attempt to restructure the system of revenue allocation on the principle of derivation. Rather, the state functioned as administrative agencies of the federal government. The resistance movement in the region took roots within the context, which explains their demands for democratization and state reconstitution.

In conclusion, the hope of the oil multi nationals for a peaceful resolution of the unrest suggests that the basic effort is to create dialogue and positive engagement in a transparent manner with the numerous ethnic nationalities in the region and to formulate an action plan for continuous and sustainable pragmatic intervention to end the conflict. Thus, due to the strategic nature of the Niger

Delta area to the geo political and international corporate existence Nigeria and its core economic relevance to the MNOC, it is important for the political economy of Nigeria that the government acts in proactive terms to do that which is right to address the demands of the Niger Delta people.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made as a means of resolving the militants unrest;

1. Dialogue should be embrace by all while the use of force should be de emphasized. The federal government should go into dialogue with all stakeholders to end the unrest.
2. A community relations approach involving the host communities who will initiate projects, discussing them with the community liaison officers of the foreign oil companies who would then harmonize them with the local and state governments as well as NNDC master plan should be instituted.
3. Effort should be made by the Nigerian governments and the foreign corporations to meet the genuine needs of the people.
4. The militants should sheath their swords permanently to enable government to concentrate on issues on ground and proffer lasting solutions.

5. MNOC operating in the region should ensure that oil production does not continue at the cost of violations of the right of those who live in the Niger Delta region.

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APPENDIX

SECTION A: BIODATA

Please, kindly tick the box that best fit the information given below:

1. Sex: Male , Female
2. Age: Below 30 years 30 – 60 , 61 and above
3. Marital Status: Single Married , Others
4. Occupational Status: Farming , Trading , Civil Servants
Others
5. Educational qualification: Primary/less Secondary Tertiary

SECTION B:

Please, tick the space that best fit your view.

Keys: SA – Strongly Agree; A – Agree; UN – Undecided; D – Disagree; DS – Strongly Disagree

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	UN	D	SD
1	The amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has help in reducing unemployment in the region.					
2	Due to the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta youths in the area has been trained in various entrepreneurial skills.					
3	The amnesty programme has facilitated the educational programme of some ex - militants.					
4	The establishment of the Niger Delta Development commission has helped to shapen the welfare of Niger Delta Region					
5	Welfare policies of the Nigerian government has reduced the Niger Delta Crisis					
6	The administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta has been					

	effective to some extent.					
7	Nepotic activities still affects the effective administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta.					
8	The issue of financial misappropriation is a factor militating against the smooth administration of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta.					
9	There exist inadequate monitoring and supervision of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region.					
10	Ex – militants in the Niger Delta region are not given proper monitoring in their various institutions of learning.					
11	Ex – militants’ monthly disbursement is to a great extent paid as stipulated.					
12	The administration of the amnesty programme has brought about desired peace to some extent in the Niger Delta region.					
13	Kidnappings relating to oil activities has been reduced drastically in the Niger Delta region.					