



NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ROLE ON HUMAN  
SECURITY ISSUES IN NIGER DELTA**

OLUWADARE ADEDOKUN SALAKO

MASTER'S THESIS

NICOSIA  
2019

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THESIS SUPERVISOR  
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2019

## **ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL**

We as the jury members certify that the 'Civil Society Organizations Role on Human Security Issues in Niger delta' prepared by Oluwadare Adedokun Salako defended on 13/06/2019 has been found satisfactory for the award of degree of Master

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## DECLARATION

I Oluwadare Adedokun Salako, hereby declare that this dissertation entitled 'Civil Society Organizations Role on Human Security Issues in Niger delta' has been prepared by myself under the guidance and supervision of 'Assist. Prof. Dr. Emine Eminel Sulun' in partial fulfilment of the Near East University, Graduate School of Social Sciences regulations and does not to the best of my knowledge breach the Law of Copyrights and has been tested for plagiarism and a copy of the result can be found in the Thesis.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to the almighty God who has been my strong pillar throughout the entire programme. I also dedicate this work to my wonderful parents Mr/Mrs Waheed & Rachael Salako whose financial support and words of encouragement has made it possible for me to give all my best to complete that which i started. My final dedication goes to my siblings Olalekan Salako (Brother), Oluwashola Salako (Sister) and Damilola Salako (Sister) who have always affected me in all positive ways. May God in his infinite mercy continue to be with you all.

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ROLE ON HUMAN SECURITY ISSUES IN NIGER DELTA**

As Nigeria continues to grow in the production of oil and revenue, the people especially those from the Niger Delta are getting poorer and poorer. This is because inhabitants of Niger Delta have been a victim of environmental degradation since the exploration of crude oil and the mastermind behind the degradation is oil spillage. Oil spillage has made this region suffer in great deal especially on two main areas Land and Water. The worst form of environmental pollution is Oil Spillage which stands as a severe danger to the lives of people and the inhabitant of the natural environment. This region has suffered from oil spillage in decades as a result of damage done to their farmland, rivers, streams and these has caused most people from this region to flee to another part of the country in search of safe haven. The active involvement of civil society in governance in this region is growing high in recent time and showing considerable success and influence on government policies. Activities and participation of civil societies especially the environmental civil society has increased and attracted significant concern and support from both local and global actors. Civil society can help instigate environmental programs and activities in states where there are low government activities and programs on environmental issues. The outcomes of the study have identified the missing puzzle and need for civil society to intensify their effort to further improve the management approach to oil spillage and environmental protection. This study has addressed the need for the Nigerian Federal government to improve and upgrade its laws on environmental protection. The study suggests the need for CSO to influence the Nigerian Federal government to impose punishment on local offenders and violators of pipeline and channel regulations.

**Keywords:** Environmental Security, Human Security, Oil Spillage, Niger Delta Region, Civil Society Organizations

## ÖZ

### SİVİL TOPLUM ORGANİZASYONLARI, NİJER DELTA'DA İNSAN GÜVENLİĞİ KONULARINDA ROL

Nijerya petrol üretimi ve bu anlamda elde ettiği gelir anlamında büyüyor olsa da, özellikle de Nijer Deltası'nda yaşayan insanlar daha da fakirleşmektedirler. Nijer Delta'sında yaşayan insanlar bölgelerinde petrol çıkartılmaya başlandığından bu yana bir çevre felaketinin ortasında kalmış durumdadırlar. Bu felaketin arka planında petrol sızıntıları yer almaktadır. Özellikle de toprak ve su analmında petrol sızıntıları büyük sıkıntılara yol açmaktadır. Hem bölge insanların hem de bölgede yaşayan diğer tüm canlıların hayatları tehlike altındadır. Çiftlikler, nehirler ve su kanallarının tahrip edilmiş olması petrol sızıntılarının ana sebeplerindendir. Bu nedenle bölgede yaşayan insanların bir çoğu göç etmek zorunda kalmıştır. Son dönemlerde sivil toplum örgütlerinin giderek artan düzeyde yönetime katıldıkları gözlemlenmektedir. Bu anlamda devlet politikalarını etkiledikleri görülmektedir. Özellikle de çevre ile ilgili sorunlarla ilgilenen sivil toplum kuruluşlarının aktivitelerinde bir artış söz konusudur. Aktiviteleri ile hem yerel hem de küresel aktörlerin dikkatini bu çevre felaketine çekmeyi başardıklarını söyleyebiliriz. Kendilerinden bu anlamda devletin geri kaldığı noktalarda çevre ile ilgili programlar ve hareket planları geliştirmeleri beklenmektedir. Bu çalışma bir anlamda bu alanda nelerin eksik olduğunu ve sivil toplumun petrol sızıntıları ve çevre korunması ile ilgili yapabileceklerini ortaya koymaya çalışmaktadır. Çalışma, Nijerya Federal Hükümeti'nin çevre korunmasına ilişkin mevcut yasaları gözden geçirmesi gerekliliğini vurgulamaktadır. Sivil toplum örgütleri, özellikle de Nijerya Federal Hükümeti'nin boru hattı yasalarına uymayanlara ilişkin gerekli cezaları uygulaması anlamında baskı ortaya koymalıdır.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Çevre güvenlik, İnsan güvenliği, Petrol sızıntıları, Nijer Delta Bölgesi, Sivil Toplum Örgütleri.



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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>UNDP</b>	United National Development Programme
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>AI</b>	Amnesty International
<b>MOSOP</b>	Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People
<b>ND</b>	Niger Delta
<b>MNCs</b>	Multinational Corporations
<b>SDPRIO</b>	Security Dialogue and Peace Research Institute, Oslo
<b>MEND</b>	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta
<b>NDVF</b>	Niger Delta Volunteer Force
<b>ADB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>FEPA</b>	Federal Environmental Protection Agency of Nigeria
<b>C.N.A</b>	Clean Nigeria Association
<b>N.N.P.C</b>	Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation's
<b>DPR</b>	Department of Petroleum Resources
<b>CSD</b>	Commission on Sustainable Development
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>GEO</b>	Global Environment Outlook
<b>UNF</b>	United Nations Foundation
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>JIV</b>	Joint Investigation Visit
<b>CEHRD</b>	Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development
<b>HYPREP</b>	Hydrocarbon Pollution and Restoration Project
<b>UNPO</b>	Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization

## INTRODUCTION

According to Worldometers (2019), the current population of Nigeria is over 199 million people. Nigeria is often known and acknowledged as the giant of Africa and the cradle of black civilization. The country is blessed with different natural resource especially the crude which is a major source of the nation's revenue. When the crude oil was found in Nigeria in the 1950s, the country after two years started extracting the mineral and this created great opportunities for the Nigeria people. The breakthrough of crude oil and natural gas in country and the independence of Nigeria in 1960 have contributed to a large extent to the growth of the country. However since this period, Nigeria has been faced with different crisis ranging from ethnic conflict to tribal war, religious conflict, environmental hazard, climate change and even struggle for political power. Causes of the crisis may be attributed to poor governance, poor security administration, issue of revenue allocation, exploitation of oil by foreign state actor especially in the Niger Delta region which is the major base for oil extraction. Six years after Nigeria gained independence from the British, a tribal war ensued that lasted for three years from 1967 to 1970. This was took millions of Nigerian lives. In 1999 and 2007, Nigeria lost over 15,000 lives in religious battle as well as ethnic disagreement. According to Andrew Ovienloba (2009) about 70% of these lives were lost in the Niger Delta areas which include River State, Bayelsa State and Delta State. These areas are predominately occupied by the Urhobo's and Isoko's, Ijaw's, Itsekiri's and the Ogoni's. The exploitation of oil from this area led to the rise of Militant activities who were involved in kidnapping of oil workers for ransom (Africa Report September, 2006).

For the past couple of decades Nigeria has recorded sad stories that have come in the form of ethnic politics, tribal and religious confraternity, monopoly of political and resource power by the elites and ruling class. The monopoly breeds unfair competition thereby concentrating more power and resource in the hand of a few individual. Nigerians in the face of this unfair competition and monopoly has caused frustrations and lack of trust in the government by the Nigerian people. The Nigerian state institution's inability to respond to the

day to day needs of the people and caring for their security has led to the formation of these militant groups especially in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The activities of oil extraction have led to different forms of environmental damages. Environmental pollution is the foremost damage and challenge the people of the Niger Delta are faced with, resulting from the oil activities in the region. The militant groups have reacted in different forms and manner by attacking the oil workers and blaming their activities as a result of the constant oil spillage which has not been attended to by the state institution and exposing the people in the region to health risk. The activities of this militant group rose to the stage of bearing arms, this way they believe the government can respond to their challenges and come to their aid. In 1996 the World Bank has described the Nigerian state in Irony, saying that the Country is rich with natural resource but the people remained poor. The organization stated that Nigeria has riches in land, human capital, natural gas and oil but the proceeds from these resources are not directed to the development of the country nor the individual. If these were done and resources properly directed to the right point, the country will be better than it is today (Awe, December, 1999, p.3).

As Nigeria continue to grow in the production of oil and revenue, the people especially those from the Niger Delta are getting poorer and poorer. This is because the wealth of the nation is not equally distributed or because some people at the helm of affairs have refused to allow the development drop down to the people. The growth of national wealth and inequality among the people has breed acrimony in the heart of the neglected causing for the formation and consolidation of militant groups with different definitions of cause. There is a believe and understanding that the other part of the country which is the Northern Nigeria that do not produce oil is well attended to socially and economically, but the major part of the county producing the nation's wealth remain "dead" and unaddressed. According to Ikelegbe (2001) and Shaw(1984)the Niger Delta region of Niger account for a major revenue for the country reaching about 96% of foreign currency but it is paradoxical to know that the region remains in abject poverty and unattended to. According to the geopolitical settings of Nigeria, the Niger Delta consists

of South-South and South-East (Rivers, Cross Rivers, Delta, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Abia and other States respectively. According to the population settings in Nigeria, the Niger Delta is the minority in the country. The unfair distribution of the nation's revenue based on area that produces the major source of revenue has always caused conflict between indigenes of this region and the Nigeria state institution since the beginning of the 1990s after the discovering and extraction of oil. The major debate and argument is that the part of the country that produces the major source of revenue should be well catered for and the environment should be cleaned up. This can help avoid mitigation and the environmental damages that the activities of extracting oil could cause to the people living in the areas and the environment. The Isoko, Ogoni, Ijaw and Itsekiri people are the main receiver of the negative effect caused by oil drilling. The environment is degraded and damaged as a result of the oil extracting usually in high density, oil spillage and the neglect to attend to the economic and social wellbeing of the people.

According to Osuji (2004), Niger Delta has been a victim of environmental degradation since the exploration of crude oil and the mastermind behind the degradation is oil spillage. Oil spillage has made this region suffer in great deal especially on two main areas Land and Water. According to Osuji (2004), the worst form of environmental pollution is Oil Spillage which stands as a severe danger to the lives of people and the inhabitant of the natural environment. This region has suffered from oil spillage in decades as a result of damages done to their farmlands, rivers, streams and these has caused most people from this region to flee to another part of the country in search of safe haven. Thousands of lives have been lost as a result of the effects of oil spillage. According to Akpomuvie (2011), the height of oil extraction activities going on in the Niger Delta is huge however, "the poisonous consequence of oil contamination and habitant trouble create huge environmental impact" (Akpomuvie, 2011). According to Akpomuvie (2011), the people of the region have suffered economically as a result of the oil extraction activities, the spill has caused poverty, killed crops and fisheries are damaged. Nwilo and Badejo (2001) states that oil spillage is the uncontrolled discharge of oil chemicals and wastes which occurs through



equipment failure, operation error or willful damage. This has been identified as the major reason and sources of damage done to the environment in that region for a long time. Even though the Nigerian state institution has the major blame on the damages done to the environment during oil extraction; the people are still not innocent from causing harm to themselves. The people on some occasions engage in oil sabotage and in this process they destroy the channel(s) of this oil so that they can take from it for sale or for personal use. Groups also embark on these illegal activities by deliberately damaging the pipelines and installation devices so that they can be paid to rebuild and reconstruct it and therefore they can make money from it (Mba, 2013.).Sabotaging oil pipes and channels has become a major activity for some people. They are of the view that the only way to benefit from the money gotten from the sales of oil is by destroying the pipelines and channels to cause spillage and then they get the contract of a cleanup activities and compensation from the MNCs or the government.

In the cause of this activity, International laws according to Imobighe (2011) have not been seriously adhered to by the MNCs operating in the ND and this has led to the continuous damage of the pipelines and channels. The Gas flaring has destroyed the biodiversity of that region causing loss of wildlife, health degradation, global warming and this has also caused the country economic and social misfortune. The awareness and reactions from the people of this region can be said to have flamed resulting from reports and commentaries made by Civil Society Organizations and some locals following the excess activities of oil explorations from MNCs and the Nigerian state institution negligence to scrutinize the activities of this MNCs which has caused damage to the lives of people in that region.

According to Watts (2008), there is fraud among the people who control the oil revenue and this has compounded the problem prevalent in the oil rich region of Niger Delta, putting the security of people and the region at risk. Nigeria is at the top of the list of country with oil spillage and toxic gas resulting from activities of oil exploration. This excessive oil exploration has devastated the region and the people because unlawful oil extraction is the

order of the day in the region and this has consumed thousands of lives resulting from fire. According to Ikelegbe (2005) this abnormal activity is a direct consequence of the actions from the elite class who collide with the west and supported by local leaders. This anomalies has created overtime a total break-down of cultural heritage in the Niger Delta region leading to abject poverty, hunger, disease, lack of medical facilities, the cultural and traditional foundation upon which the people of the region where rooted in have collapsed (Kuku, 2012). The Nigerian state neglect of administrative affairs, social hardship, disintegrating infrastructure services, poverty, high rate of unemployment, rottenness, filth and endemic clash has been a big problem for the people of Niger delta. The agitations and confrontation of people of the region on the Nigeria Federal government and its western partners had led to the formation of Niger Delta Volunteer Force headed by Isaac Adaka Boro. In 1990s another group emerged under the leadership of Ken Saro-Wiwa who was later assassinated. In 2000s another challenger Asari Dokubo emerged with a full revolt against the status quo (Osah, and Alao, 2014). The Nigeria Federal government saw this agitation as a challenge to its developmental strategy and plans to amass capital for the nation so they used military to launch an attack on the group. According to the World Summit Outcome document in 2005, the "preservation of human dignity is very important to human security, human rights and human development" however, the situation of Nigeria is been a failure of management to effectively handle the crisis in the oil producing region, therefore making the possibility of reaching peace difficult (cited in Osah and Amakihe, 2014).

### **Problem Statement**

Human security in its own entity remains a huge concern for both the local, national & international community because of the aim to stabilize the economic, political and environmental issues so to preserve human lives and sustain development but unfortunately less attention has been given to the Nigeria's Niger delta region which has a lot of ongoing crises which majorly includes oil pollution due to the activities of shell oil. This study would

examine the role & impact of civil society organization in addressing environmental degradation..

Since the discovery of oil in 1958 and the extraction of oil in 1960s, regions where oil is produced have been denied and neglected the right and opportunity to benefit from the proceeds from the sale of the oil. This denial and neglect has resulted into different forms of conflict between the Nigerian State Institution and locals in the region. Conflict has ensued between host communities and the Federal government, the communities and the MNCs, even between two communities as to the rights and regional boundary ownership.

Paradoxically, since 1958 when oil was found and the extraction began few years later in the Niger Delta regions, the regions still remain underdeveloped even in the present time. Because of this underdevelopment in the region, there has been conflict that threatens the security of the region and the Federal government has been addressing the issue with the direct use of the military who in the process kills innocent people having no direct connection with the activities. The Nigeria Federal government has used different tools like proscribing the group as terrorist in order to deter them from making request, thereby depriving them of their fundamental rights as citizens of the country. The above is just a tip of the iceberg, the region have suffered different forms of pollution caused by oil spill during the activities of oil explorations. This oil spillage has resulted in the death of species, aqua habitants, farm lands are no longer fertile to grow crops, and rivers are polluted by chemical substances as well as the spill of oil from the extraction process. The atmosphere is not free from the pollution, the flare and toxic gas carbon dioxide and hydro carbon causes the climate to warm and change. According to Leton(1990), "the substances generated into the air in form of vapor, carbon monoxide are innumerable". Leton added that only regions where oil exploration takes place, environmental degradation of oil activities are felt as a result of negative effects such activities have on survival of living beings.

Because of the agitation and conflict rising from the locals, many MNCs have been forced to leave the country and some have closed their production stations in some parts of the region just to stay alive. The agitators are armed and their protest sometimes if not properly coordinated usually lead to killing of anyone who comes their way. No doubt, this activity has created platforms for some unscrupulous individuals with criminal mindset to hide under this umbrella and perpetuate their criminal activities some have been involved in kidnapping, illegal oil extraction, cobbering of high tech.

The people of the region have accused the government of not having any clear cut plans or policies to raise the standard of living of the people in that region. They believe that the Federal government has not made any plans to secure their lives and properties or maintain the environment in a situation of degradation or pollution, people are not rewarded or granted any form of assistance having suffered from the effect of the toxic and contaminated environment.

The government in its bid to have absolute control of the resource in the region without direct interference of the locals of that region promulgates different laws and decree which include the 1978 land use Act, petroleum decree No. 51 of 1969, petroleum production and distribution decree of 1975, oil terminal dues act 1965 and oil royalties, rent and revenue allocation among others without effort to amend any of the acts to suit global practices and demand. All these and many others have been the challenge to human security in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

From the above stated situation, there is a direct relationship between security and the activities of oil extraction and distribution in the Niger Delta region. This activity has been a major challenge to the communities in the region and little or no effort has been done or guaranteed from the Federal government to come to the aid of the communities. These communities are forced out of their will to suffer from activities of the Nigerian state institution that they do not benefit from. The environment is polluted, local industries shutdown, lives are lost, all because of the extensive oil extraction activities going on in the region.

Because of this various challenges especially human security, the Niger delta people are not willing to have oil production platform setup in their communities. They are of the opinion that setting up this production platform will only amount to more suffering for them than good. However, jobs at these various oil production companies are allocated in an unfair manner. There is no equal opportunity of the chance of getting a better position in the oil companies especially indigenes of that community. Lucrative and highly paid position jobs are reserved for the foreigners while positions that do not attract better remuneration are given to indigenes which include gate post attendant. The communities suffer from lack of good road, water system are polluted, the health sector is left unattended to, schools are not equipped with recent books, electricity supply is not guaranteed and all these poses as threat to the communities and causes upraise among the people leading to the breakdown of security in the region.

The continued spillage of oil leading to constant pollution of water bodies, farmlands and forest system is a threat because animals loss their lives on a daily bases and the gas flame remain toxic as they continue to be the order of the day. According to Phenson Ufot Akpan (2014) "In Akwa-Ibom State of Nigeria, communities like Ikot-Ada Udo in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area, Ikot Ebidang in Onna Local Government Area, Ibeno in Ibeno Local Government Area, Esit Eket Local Government Area, Eket in Eket Local Government Area and communities along the coastal oil belts of Eastern Obolo Local Government Area and the Bonga off shore oil wells of Mbo Local Government Area, are experiencing similar protracted security challenges arising from oil-related security and environmental problems". One can willingly say that the human security and insecurity in the Niger Delta region has an intrinsic relationship with the oil exploitation going on in the region.

### **Aims and Objective**

The purpose of this study is to explore how environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria affects human security and the role of civil society organization in addressing these issues. According to Andrew Ovienloba (2009),"human security risk in the Niger Delta is created by the

years of intensive oil spillage". Different scholars have argued that as the continued oil exploration gains momentum, as the natural environment continues to degrade. The uncontrolled activities of oil MNCs in the region have had devastating effect on the lives of the people in Niger Delta. The objective of this study is to explore various scholarly materials and available documents and fact to examine what civil society organizations are doing or has done to address this human security challenges faced by the people of Niger Delta in Nigeria.

### **Significance of Study**

"Oil, Blood and Fire", 1996 in the history of Nigeria and Oil exploration in the Niger Delta saw a different range of activity, this time it was the government of Nigeria under the military dictatorship of later General Sani Abacha. A high profile violent attack ensued between members of the Ogoni community who are part of the ethnic minority in oil rich Niger Delta region and Shell Petroleum Development Company. The government of Nigeria supported the Shell Company and executed nine human rights activists in Ogoni land after undue trial. The government thought that by killing the activists, there will be silence in the region but this only worsened the problem. After the death of Abacha, angry individuals in the region took up to bear arms and took control of major oil wells and drilling stations in the region, killing thousands of oil workers both foreign and local. The oil production plant in Nigeria was in total shutdown, foreign workers of the oil companies were abducted for ransom, this caused some of the oil companies to begin to withdraw their activities in the region and relocating back to their home. At this period of time there was "Less Oil, More Blood and More Fire".

This conflict and crisis lasted for over seven years. During this period of oil exploration by the oil companies, environmental system has been damaged, the government nor the oil cooperation showed little or no interest in addressing issues of oil spillage and how they affect the livelihood of the people in the region, this has made a lot of people fled from their ancestral place to seek shelter elsewhere as strangers. Some portion of the region is not conducive for human to live in and the state of the environment is

devastating and poorly maintained. Amidst all this happenings, neither the government nor the oil cooperation took it upon themselves to address these issues or compensate the people for haven suffered as a result of damage done on the place of habitation.

After the death of military dictator Sani Abacha, in 1999 a newly formed civilian government who was believed would address the present anomalies in the region took to direct the military force to storm the region, incarcerated community leaders and killed over one hundred civilians both women and children especially, properties were destroyed in millions of dollars and the community was brought to valley and unbearable for inhabitation. This study will investigate what role the civil society organization has played in addressing such critical issues. The outcome of the study will help to address some of this root causes, also it will show if the civil society organization are playing active role in addressing human security issues resulting from environmental degradation and become one of the agents who can bring lasting peace to the region.

### **Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study is the oil spillage that has degraded the environment in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria and what role civil society organization like CLEEN Foundation, Amnesty International, Friends of the Earth International, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) have played in addressing this issue of environmental degradation. The research is important at this material moment following the high and continuous oil exploration activities taking place in the region. Also in this time and age of climate change and global warming; excessive oil exploration has forced people from villages to migrate to the city, causing over population of the city and lack of development at the rural areas. According to Akpomuvie (2011), the people of the Niger delta region have suffered economically as a result of the oil extraction activities which has caused poverty, killed crops and fisheries are damaged (Akpomuvie, 2011). According to Ekwugha (2014),

“About 2,370 square kilometers of the Niger Delta area consist of rivers, creeks and estuaries with stagnant swamp covering about 1900 sq. km. This is largest Mangrove swamp in Africa; the region also falls within the tropical rain forest zone. The ecosystem of the area is highly diverse and supportive of numerous species of terrestrial aquatic flora and fauna in addition to human life. The Niger Delta region cuts across nine states in Southern Nigeria which includes Bayelsa, Abia, Cross-River, Akwa-Ibom, Imo, Delta, Edo, Rivers, and Ondo States. The region has emerged as one of the most ecologically sensitive regions in Nigeria”.

### **Research Question**

Niger Delta has suffered from environmental degradation in different faces, farmlands, water bodies, ecosystem, health risk have put people in that region in difficult times since the activities of oil extraction began in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. Chemical substances are released into water bodies, toxic gas flames are emitted into the atmosphere causing for unclean air to breathe. The activities of oil drilling are responsible for oil spillage and the environment is exposed to huge amount of hydrocarbon released during this activity. During oil extraction activities, there is a long period of air pollution that affects the ecological system, making it dangerous for man to live in that region. These activities are responsible for degrading the environment and causing human security threat in the Niger Delta region. At this point, the question that arises is that

Have civil society organizations in the Nigeria's Niger delta region been instrumental in tackling with the human security threats resulting from environmental degradation?

### **Research Method**

The study adopted a qualitative research design methodology. This method used secondary sources. The secondary sources include Acts of Parliament, Government Gazettes, Online source, Print media and other relevant sources



related to the study. According to Marczyk et al (2005) qualitative method include both primary and secondary data but this study only relied on Secondary data. In the view of Biggam (2008); the qualitative research methodology involves a detailed analysis and exploration of a character especially when there is believe that robust and rich data could be extracted. The main method of analysis used in this study is the case study of two civil society organizations, Amnesty International and MOSOP. The researcher selected these two CSO following their antecedence on issues concerning human security and environmental protection; Amnesty International has been active and proactive in Nigeria especially in the Niger Delta region concerning issues of environmental degradation, they have conducted several studies and presented reports to the government and also to the public. Amnesty International has on several occasion written to the various oil corporation about their findings concerning the pollution that happens during oil exploration, while MOSOP is an indigenous civil society organization that is made up of the local people of the Niger Delta region who are the direct victim of the pollution and they have played a major role in protecting the environment and ensuring that oil spillage are properly cleaned when they occur. MOSOP has been active against the government and its nonchalant attitude towards probing oil corporations about polluting the environment. Upon these understanding, the researcher thought it was wise to select these two CSO from among others like CLEEN Foundation, Friends of the Earth etc. The case study method is a form of qualitative analysis which involves an in-depth investigation and observation into a selected event(s). However, critics of this study method argues that the analysis of a limited number of cases may offer no much ground for making general conclusions but in many cases, this remains the only method possible to observe and give details of the process. The qualitative method is descriptive in nature. Secondary sources of data will include textbooks that are relevant to the study, Journals, Online sources, Government publications, unpublished materials, Acts of Parliaments and various international laws relevant to the study.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.1 HUMAN SECURITY**

The issue of security has been a topical issue over decades. However, among the most debated topic on security, human security leads the chart. The new focus of security called human security can be attributed to the transforming nature of the international system and globalization. According to Richard (2006) human security called for more attention to be paid on man's existence as a fundamental issue. Human security is an instrument to safe guide 'individual' security and not the security of state. Restoring the security of the persons and group is paramount. Ramesh (2004) emphasizes that human security is "human centric" and "security oriented"; its human centric nature means that attention is on the protection of individuals and groups, and also to ensure that there is "freedom from fear".

##### **1.1.1 Approach to Human Security**

The quest of more attention to be given to the security of human and not state spurred in the recent years by research made by United Nations Development program. According to Taylor Owen (2004), Mahbub UI Haq is the foremost scholar to have worked on the concept of human security whose frame of work had great influence several other scholar like Ramesh Thakur and Edward Newman (2000) etc. Issues of human security are not just the concern of scholars; other actors like NGOs, states, research institute/center have also made contribution to this area of human existence. In 2004 a research program was organized by "Security Dialogue and Peace Research Institute, Oslo (SDPRIO)". During this program experts of security

issues shared their profound views on what security and human security should entails, and the importance of both.

Issues of human security are broad and these scholars shared the same view on the difficulty in arriving at a particular architecture of human security. However, they all accept the concept that human security must focus on the security of people or individuals. Even at this clear meeting point of similarity, there is a difficulty in justifying what parameters should be taken to achieve a successful human security. Under this uncertainty of lack of clarity, Taylor Owen (2004) argues that human security can be viewed from two angels, "Broad versus Narrow School of thought".

**Broad versus Narrow Schools of Thought:** in understanding these schools of thoughts, different criteria must be outlined for a comprehensive understanding of this approach. Broad approach to human security can include an extensive number of actions that poses threat to man like, war, poor health, poverty and issues of environmental degradation (Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy 2007), while the narrow approach will include other minor aspect of human security like intra-state disputes. According to Owen, scholars like Mack, Krause, Macfarlane and others have argued that violence is also a threat to human security and should be included in the list. Other scholars like Alkire (2003), is of the strong view that human security means more than the outright safety from violent threat of people or individuals. Owen explanations made a clarification that their reasoning is contrary to the narrow school ideology not just by highlighting the substantive significance of a more extensive scope of issues which include destitution, poverty, and environmental catastrophes, illness, yet in addition by contending that in moving the referent of security, these issues essentially fall under the human security umbrella. To them, the consequent diagnostic and regularizing challenges are heartbreaking yet unavoidable outcomes of expanding the security worldview past dangers to the state.

**Narrow School Approach Defense:** The main aspect of human security is physical violence when war ensues. The interpretation of this is that there will be security concern only when there is violence, however it is not true that all

violence can lead to threat to human security. In the words of Andrew (2004)"In the event that the term 'insecurity' grasps practically all types of mischief to people, from insults to poise to destruction, it loses any genuine distinct power. Human Security should be differentiated from human development, and should not be interpreted in the situation of difficult human conditions like hunger, malnutrition. According to the Human Security Report (2005), there is a political part of security, because government has a role to play in maintaining security.

**The Broad School Approach:** Issues of security are wide and need wider strategy and extensive approach. Society must do well to be inclusive in the fight against human insecurity and proper enlightenment must be incorporated. Broad school approach argues that not only the threat from violence can constitute human insecurity, but the threat of socio-economic deprivation. According to Owen, dangers to human security can't be removed distinctly by changing the conduct of different actors, in spite of the fact that this might be a vital condition for development. Likewise, there are adequate conditions for change that should be met such as the rebuilding of lawful and political establishments.

### **1.1.2 Attributes of Human Security**

**Human Centric Nature of Human Security:** This is the pivotal point of human security. It is human centered and have human concern. The idea is give the people a sense of security and confidence on their security and existence.

**Indivisible Nature of Human Security:** According to the UNDP reports, human security is an issue of global concern and relations. There are numerous dangers that are never again affirmed to the individual, local or national yet are becoming global. Security of individuals is very important because the insecurity of one individual can lead to the insecurity of hundreds, and so it is an idea of concern for the issue of human security to be given necessary attention. With the impact of globalization where the rate of interdependence, free trade and free movement of people is on the high, the insecurity of one becomes the insecurity of all.

**Dynamism of Human Security:** The issue of human security is dynamic, because societies are different from each other. According to the Commission of Human Security, people hold different values very important compared to others and these values vary from border to border. On issue of globalization, advance countries take it as an opportunity to open choices, while in the developing countries, it has caused a lot of socio-economic problems. The dynamics of human security cannot be over emphasized because society holds crucial ideas and norms that are inherent to their existence. There is another argument by scholars that indicate that issues that have to do with individuals never share an objective view. Under this perception of lack of objectivity on issues related to human, one can say issues of human security are subjective from society to society and this makes human security a dynamic issue.

**Human Security is tied to State Security:** Human security is tied to state security and vice versa. Both forms of security are complimentary in nature. This concept of a complimentary nature can be understood in four different aspects. Human security is concerned with the security of individual and a community who makes up the state. Threats to individual will spill over to become threat to the state. To achieve human security it does not only include providing logistics for security institutions but also to empower the people to be able to leave a better life and care for themselves. Despite the importance of human security, it cannot 'overthrow' the security of the state. State security is not complete until there is human security; this means both forms of security are supportive to one another.

**Human Security not Human Development:** According to UNDP report, sometimes there is a misconception between the concept of human security and human development. Human development is the concept of making available different choices for human to choose from, while human security is the means by which people can make choices freely and under a safe condition. The report of the Commission on Human Security composes that advancement in one area tends to upgrade the chances of advancement in the other. Thus, disappointment in one region likewise uplifts the danger of disappointment in the other.

### **1.1.3 Criticism of Human Security**

The idea of Human Security has attracted a lot of criticism too. These criticisms have majorly come from neo-realist scholars, who argue that security issues cannot be shifted from the state to individual security. According to these scholars, the idea of shifting security concern from the state to the individual is meaningless. Stephen M. Walt, a professor of international affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government argues that security is always viewed from the event of war, and this can be studied as the use of force, military operations. According to Stephen, widening the scope of security to encompass human security is a breach of the concept of security and that will make it more difficult to handle and striving for security solution will become even more difficult and challenging. Others have come to argue that human security concept is just a campaign of ideology. According to K. Krause "human security ideology comes from the way that the human security agenda seems to be compatible with neo-liberal standards which paved way for neo-colonialist forces to seek after their very own national advantages at the expense of feeble states following the Second World War. According to neo-realist, human security lacks a clear definition and meaning, and when a concept cannot be defined, possibility is that difficulty will emerge in trying to resolve issues surrounding such concept. According to Andrew Mack (2002), any definition that conflates reliant and independent factors renders causal examination for all intents and purposes inconceivable.

### **Applying the approach to the situation in Niger delta**

According to Osah (2013), over 2.6 million barrel of oil is produced in Nigeria daily. After the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria in 1956, and exploration of oil began few years later; these attracted many MNCs in Nigeria, who engaged in the business of oil extraction and exploration. In 2013, there are over 600 oil fields and over 400 oil production and storage complex in the region. People will believe and say that the gains from oil will be sprinkled on the faces of all Nigerians, the standard of life of an average Nigerian will be reasonable, and life will be enjoyable, but this has never

been the case in the Nigeria situation after the discovery of oil. Only a few individual conceded with western partners to benefit extensively from the fruit of the oil meant to be a blessing to the nation. This disparity has caused a lot of negative and positive reactions in the region; coupled with the extensive oil extraction activities going on in the region, the effects is one that has displaced thousands of community residence, and even killed people in their hundreds (Watts, 2008).

The Niger delta region has been devastated and endangered as a result of the extensive oil exploration activities going on there. Community members have been forced to forego farming because their farm lands have been destroyed due to oil spillage, water bodies have been polluted, fishes are dying, not better water for the people to consume (Adekanye, 2007).

In the words of Ikelegbe (2005), this situation is masterminded by the Nigerian elites and ruling class in collaboration with MNCs who come from Europe and America. No doubt, when the environmental system is damaged and endangered, there will be collapse and failure of some industries and grass root activities, these collapse and failure at the grass root has led to abject poverty among the people, disease without proper medical care, lack of basic social needs (Kuku, 2012).

#### **1.1.4 Human Security and Development**

In the relationship between two actors, individual and community or community and the state, conflict may ensue; this conflict may with be violent conflict or non-violent conflict. In the situation where the conflict is violent; this hinders development. Human insecurity has a way of destabilizing society, the peace is lost and development becomes endangered species. The damaged to peace and development as a result of human insecurity cannot be quantified in term of monetary value, however even if economist do qualify the monetary value of it, the human security threat level remains a big issue. Where human security is at threat, nothing may seem to work in the state; human activities will be cut short. According to Goodnews Osah, and Rachel Oluseye lyanda (2016),the human security challenges comprises of its ability

to square, disintegrate, or destroy the social and political organizations, and related participatory components, that are so imperative to tranquil administration of social, political and economic change. Threats to human Security are accordingly the human advancement problem (Faleti, 2012). Naidoo (2000) also acknowledges that government's responsibility is to provide security for its citizens, protect its territories and guarantee peace of the state. Without human security development would be elusive in any society. The major concern for any responsible government has to be human security. According to Sato (2004), there is a bond between peace and development instigated by human security. In 1995 during the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the UNDP stated that human security acknowledges social disparity and injustice as a problem that is structural in nature and this poses as nightmare to development. Only the state that's capable of making reasonable deals with her citizens and takes into appropriate thought the exigency to give power supply, water supply, and correspondence systems, value in income portion, great environmental condition, and protection and give business openings that will win her citizens trust (Enu and Ugwu, 2011).

#### **1.1.5 Achieving Human Security**

It is seen that achieving full scale human security is a complex effort. One must identify the various security threats, only then can a possible solution be carried out to achieving it. Threat to individual has a spillover effect on the community in so many ways. Personal threat are sometimes caused by how the regime operate which may include; direct attack, criminal activities, ethnic dispute. According to a report by Human Security Centre, act of criminal attack, terrorism, and wars are the highest form of threat against security of individual. People are deprived from basic needs, food, water, primary education. This denial of basic needs cause for movement of people from their location to another in search of better life, and this migration puts pressure on the receiving society.

Achieving human security requires multiple tools. There are a number of ways to achieve human security. According to the Commission on Human



Security, there is a need to build up interdisciplinary methodologies; fortifying of huge alliances attempting to facilitate human security, at the multilateral and national levels, and specifically at the grass root level including all society actors; reinforcing organizations rules both at state and international level and all the more significantly reinforcing global ability to embrace harmony bolster tasks. In the table shown below, for example, one can see different forms of human threat, possible measures and agencies responsible to handle such threats;

**Table 1. Human threat, possible measures and agencies responsible to handle the threat**

<b>Security Threat</b>	<b>Measures Possible</b>	<b>Agencies Responsible</b>
<b>Personal Security</b>	Possible measures in achieving personal security include, peacekeeping mission, post conflict peacebuilding mechanism, disarmament of people, legal actions, Judicial protections of minority, women and children.	Civil Society, State, International Organizations
<b>Security from Poverty</b>	This measures includes job creation, open market mechanism, poverty alleviation program, encouragement for self-employment, and empowerment programme.	Civil Society, State, International Organizations, Private Organizations, Financial Institutions
<b>Political Security</b>	Promote a more inclusive type of government, encouraging the principles of the rule of law, doctrine of separation of power, protection of rights of	Civil Society, State, United Nation, International and region multilateral institutions

	individuals.	
<b>Health Security</b>	Protection against diseases, provision of medicines and basic access to health care	NGOs, State, United Nations, International Health Institutions
<b>Environmental Security</b>	Disaster control, capacity building, environmental management policy	Civil Society, State, Multinational agencies.

The above mentioned security threats are paramount for a sustainable human security. It is seen that environmental security is among those security threats which requires multiple measures to be taken such as disaster control, capacity building, and environmental management policy. As shown in the table, alongside state and multinational agencies, local civil society organizations can be seen as one of those actors who can be instrumental in addressing environmental degradation. This is what the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) stands for in trying to ensure environmental security and the well-being of the Niger delta people.

## **1.2 HUMAN SECURITY ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (Civil Society Organizations)**

Policy makers have deemed it necessary to incorporate civil society organizations on issues that affect the society; more importantly the environmental issues (Gemmill et al, 2002). Before describing the impact of civil society in a country, it is important to explain the meaning of a society, and who a society is and what consist of a civil society in a country. According to Meidinger (2001), a civil society is a circle of public activity that is open yet rejects government involvement. Michael Bratton (1994) indicated that civil society is a social connection between the state & households which includes community participation, structures of voluntary affiliation, and systems of open correspondence. The name civil society is usually used to

categories agencies, individuals or institutions that possess the idea and vision to achieve common purpose usually humanitarian goals (Cohen, Arato, 1992).

Civil society is made up of individuals, groups, religious bodies that share common ideas and purpose to influence government policies or decisions. Civil society are setup not for profile making and are non-governmental in nature, they are not attaché of any government ministry. According to Charnovitz (1997), civil society are likeminded people organized under common ideology and purpose, either to the crusade of humanitarian purpose like fundamental human rights, or they will be involved with the purpose of executing a humanitarian project in ways like aid, relief in cases of disaster or hazardous situations. The membership of civil society is without limit, it is open to global participants and even local individuals, groups or institutions.

Civil society are usually concerned with issues that affect human and their existence, this life threatening issues maybe as a result of actions of the government of multinational cooperation operating in the country. The duties of civil society are expanded in nature, it include issues pertaining to the environment, poverty, human security and many other related issues. The assorted variety of civil society and its incentive to official intergovernmental forms on the environment are recognized in Agenda 21, the far reaching sustainable advancement blueprint embraced at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The record does not utilize the term civil society, in spite of the fact that it explicitly perceives the individuals from civil society as a noteworthy body electorate. According to the "Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), saddled with the responsibility of enforcing "Agenda 21", civil society can be classified into certain groups as;

- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples and Communities

- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Business and Industry
- Farmers

Pace(2002), stated that all the above mentioned groups are fully and legitimately accepted by the UN through an a process of accreditation or licensing.

### **1.2.1 Civil Society, Duties and Involvements**

The active involvement of civil society in governance is growing high in recent time and showing considerable success and influence on government policies. The current growth of NGOs is significant. In 1948, the UN enlisted 41 "consultative groups" but in 1998, the number tripled by more than thousand to one thousand five hundred civil societies with different purposes and idea (Simmons, 1998). According to Conca (1996), the reason for the tremendous growth in the number of civil society can be linked to the growth of technology and "global interdependence" and the proliferation of free market and rule of the people. Support to the civil society has greatly been influenced by the United Nations; there has been financial and material support to civil societies. This is evidence in situations where the United Nations get civil societies actively involved in disaster relief programs, issues of human rights and electoral activities in some countries. Conca (1996) said that because of the certainty in the manner and purpose of civil society objectives and vision, they have been "critical partners" to the United Nations, especially on issues that concern the environment and its protection.

In the past and even in recent times, the activities and participation of civil societies especially the environmental civil society has increased and attracted significant concern and support from both local and global actors.

Through the procedure which paved way to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, environmental organizations started extreme inward capacity building endeavors to acquire modern comprehension of the international policy making process (Conca, 1996).

The support for civil society and their purpose on issues of the environment also gained support during the Earth Summit in 1992. During the summit, it was stated that the certifiable association of non-governmental actors are critical to achieving practical development objectives. During the early 1990s civil society began to pay more attention to the United Nations policies and decisions on issues of environmental protection and human right concern. And this active participation of civil society has influenced and sharpened government's policies and deliberation. Civil society also sorts to lobby government's personnel, organize symposiums and forum to address government delegates on different issues of human concern. In recent time, civil society forms parts of government delegates at international seminal and summits and they form part of the policy making bodies. The 1996 "United Nations conference on Human Settlements" was actively organized alongside civil societies. Civil societies were involved in the drafting of the "Declaration and Programme of Action" the "United Nations conference on Human Settlements".

### **1.2.2 Civil Society and Their Challenges**

As discussed above, civil society organizations can be regarded as important stakeholders in the management of environmental issues. As also highlighted by Wapner (2000), the effective policy making on issues concerning the environment, civil society should play a role. It is seen that there is a consensus on the important role of civil society among the literature but the puzzle remains on the matter of how or in other words through which mechanisms they can actually play this role? On this aspect, it is generally discussed that civil society is involved in different forms in environmental policy making which include:

**Expertise Function:** Civil society can act as experts in different areas. They provide expert advice to government and strategies that can help solve problems.

**Competent challenge to the government:** Civil societies are better equipped with skills and tools to handle and respond to issues faster than the government would do.

**Public Influence:** Civil society has the capacity to influence the public because they are made up of mostly members of the public who share same idea. Through this manner, civil society organizes outreach programs, public mobilization, and free tutorial to the public.

**Voice of the common-man:** Common-man on the street does not have the capacity to attract government attention. Civil society through its channels and support can act as a voice to the common-man who is suffering as a result of government actions or inactions. Civil society uses their platform to represent the common-man and influence government decisions during policy making.

**Watchdogs:** Civil society plays the watchdog role on issues of international policies. Civil society ensures that government implements the content of the policy. They can monitor the compliance and assess the effort of the government in regards to its actions.

According to Hemmattic (2001), the involvement of civil society has broadened government's policies and expanded the areas of focus. Civil society extends government concern to areas or region that ordinarily the government may not pay so much attention to. With the involvement of civil society on policy making, the idea of decisions and policy has become more "global" than it used to be.

For some scholars the involvement of civil society causes more setbacks than progress. Several arguments have arising from both ends on the issue of civil society and their benefits to government. Some argue that civil society form groups that act in such a manner that disturbs government policy

making and implementations. According to Nichols (1996), civil society are not necessarily accountable to representatives of any constituent region or people, and so their involvement in governments policy making may slow down the process and this may have direct effect on the people. Some scholars also argues that civil society with the height of their involvement in government activities may indirectly overtake government functions and start to act in the capacity of a government.

It is clear that all this arguments maybe over stretched, considering the height of success achieved with the involvement of civil society on humanitarian activities. Civil society can assist in the construction of political will for alternative ways to deal with development that coordinates environmental and social objectives Nichols (1996). Civil society in states where there is low government activities and program can help instigate programs and activities. Promote inclusive democracy and improve social activities. Through the activities of civil society, constructive dialogues are produced and information is shared among people and the public, issues of international concerns that have local implications are addressed and solutions are sometimes put forward to help the people. At the global level, civil society play a crucial role by providing current information on issues that are critical to humanity. In some situations, the government will consult the civil society for advice and to conduct research on critical issues. NGOs like World Resources Institute World Conservation Union have played active role by providing credible data and information that has help solve humanity problem. The above mentions civil society is involved in conducting research and providing accurate data that can be solution to environmental problems. In certain situations government and its agencies are usually slowed down by red-tapism to act swiftly on issues of humanitarian needs, however civil society are more direct and empowered to take up the issues and act swiftly to addressing the problem.

### **1.2.3 Funding of Civil Society**

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) of UNEP and the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that was recently are genuine instances of

formalized non-state appraisal forms and inter-organizational administrative systems. These network groups collaborate to work effectively and efficiently. At this level of corporations, civil society and other non-profit bodies like "academic and research institution" plays a major role by drafting reports and analyzing data. On issues of data assessment and analysis, it requires large funding. Civil society are always bedeviled by funding and support from some organizations like the UNF (United Nations Foundation), this foundation support civil society activities on issues on research that concerns the global environment and their support has gone a long way in achieving success on issues bothering the environment.

Funding the numerous activities of civil society has always been an issue for both the organization and the authenticity of their work. Some scholars argue that the funding barrier can cause their work to be compromised and freedom to carry out their research on a fair ground becomes an issue of doubt. There is huge concern that the financial dependence of the civil society on government is not an issue that can be separated. But other argues that even if the dependencies exist, there should be freedom and transparency in their job.

#### **1.2.4 Empowering Civil Society Activities in International Environmental Issues**

Civil society has the potential of working in active relations with the government and contributing positively in assisting the government to solve issues of humanitarian concerns. Civil society is always driven by strength, will, flexibility, vision and ability to think outside the box, these and many more has distinguished civil society from government agencies and makes it indispensable in government programs and policy consultant. Civil society can contribute immensely to the revival of global environmental problems. The contribution that civil society can provide on global environmental issues can be discussed below;

Data Base Function: civil society has a lot to bring to the table by way of data analyses and distribution. Previous reports have seen that civil society can



provide relevant data that can be helpful. A good example is displayed by the Global Environment Outlook and Millennium Ecosystem Assessments. Another immense contribution of civil society is on "Conferences of Parties, involving multilateral environmental treaties such with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change". During the course of the conferences and meeting, discussions are always carried out on the bases of data and information provided by civil society. That is, the data provided by civil society form the bases of deliberations and conclusion are reach based on available information provided by civil society. The wide usage of the information provided by civil society can be improved with the following factors;

***Acceptability of civil society;*** Civil society should be widely acceptable. They should be consulted on a long term bases. "Short-term consultation" may not provide the necessary information needed to bring success. So it is advisable that civil society be engaged for a long term project, this means that there will be enough time for them to consult all necessary data to reach the best conclusion.

***Civil Society should be supported to form networks;*** Networks are important in data gathering and analyze. Civil society should be empowered by governmental organizations to form networks of relevant stakeholder. When this is done, it becomes easier for civil society to access important information that will be beneficial. Also civil society should be given access or connections with expertise and scientist on different fields of study.

***Feedback Mechanism;*** In the course of any research or study conducted by civil society, there should be room for a feedback in order to strengthen the work done. Government should provide the opportunity where works of civil society are read and relevant feedbacks are set to the organization for adjustments and correction. This will help to ease any unnecessary dialogue that may delay the progress of work done.

***Contribution to Development of Policies;*** According to Porter (2000), civil society has played a pivotal role in setting agendas and development of

policies. The watchdog function of civil society must not go unnoticed. They have been on the top of informing the government on any issue of global concern. Issues of the environmental and human related have been made public and loud through the help of civil society, and these issues are made prominent to the general public. According to Humphreys (1996), issues of forest and forestry and the cut down of trees was made a concern through the help of civil society, by provide inherent human and environmental dangers of deforestations.

***Investigating and Checkmating:*** Gaer (1996) said that civil society are engaged in investigating and check mating performances of government on environmental issues and this could lead to holding decision makers accountable for their actions or inactions. According to Thomas Weiss, civil society have the capability to contribute sensitively on crucial matters that concern the environment, Weiss believes that government agency maybe not be able to contribute in the magnitude that the civil society would, because of the over dependence on different government institutions for support or resources.

***Crusade for Justice on issues that affect the environment;*** for the past years, civil society especially in developing countries, have advocated effectively on issues of environmental degradation. They highlight the sector of the society that bears the more consequences of environmental effect. Also, civil society has been active on issues of justice and litigation. Several cases on environmental issues have been taken to court for readdress and enforce of the law.

***Civil Society can build strong capacity among local people;*** Civil society plays a major role in creating strong capacity within the local people so that they can have the courage and skill to care for their environment within government guidelines and regulations. According to Banuri et al (2002; 27), for any suitable growth to be achieved, the people of the community must be educated, so that they will actively partake in the cleaning and protection of the environment. Civil society in the past has provided expert knowledge to educate and empower the local communities. On ways of protecting the

environment, they have also influence government decisions and policies. It is believed that they have in their struggle with the government, acknowledged better means of resolving and handling environmental issues without violating human rights. Managing the environment is very important for live and civil society has been on the front to provide tools for this management, through training, campaigns, seminar and many others. According to Agenda 21, education was to be perceived as a procedure by which social orders can achieve their fullest potential, thereby improving capacity to address environmental and development related issues (Nhamo & Inyang, 2011:17)".

***Influencers***; Civil society can serve as influencer, making people do something, especially in regards to the environment and how to preserve the resource of nature. According to Banuri et al (2002:12), the main idea of civil society was to stand against lobbying, this was because the level of education is high in those countries and the people can stand to defend themselves in any area. But in the developing countries, civil society has the role to influence for better governance for the people, ensuring that there is open governance and the people are treated equally as stipulated by law.

***Enforcement of Government policy***; Civil society has play major role in enforcing government policy on issues of the environment. For environmental policies to be a success, it is important that civil society is actively involved, so that the people at the grassroots will partake in the process and gain knowledge on how to do things themselves. Part of civil society role in 'pulling' environmental change alleviation strategy is no less significant in light of the fact that civil society can pull policy activity by filling the holes and giving policy services which includes policy research, policy advice and in a couple of cases, genuine improvement of policies; for example, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] evaluation process itself is a voluntary knowledge community trying to sort out the condition of information on environmental change for policy makers. Example is that of the Mineral Act (CAP 121) of 1958, has made provision for protection of ecosystems, the petroleum Act of 1969 as amended Decree No 16 of 1973,

No. 49 of 1976 etc has remain major law that make provision for the protection of inland waters, rivers, water courses etc by oil or other fluid or substance that may contaminate the waters.

***Promote Cordial relationship among stakeholders***; civil society has been active in ensuring that stakeholders maintain a cordial relation in other to promote better result of actions. Civil society has the capacity to promote good link and developmental management intervention. Recently, civil society is engaged in new relations with private cooperatives, to ensure for effective implementation of government plans on issues of the environment. Multi-stakeholder model is essential for sustainable growth in any society on issues of the environment, and civil society is ensuring that this partnership is kept alive and strong.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Scholars have discussed a lot on issues concerning human security and environmental degradation. This issue has been discussed from different angles based on history and records. According to Phenson Ufot Akpan (2014), security is a state of having a sense of security that's free from harm or risk and the protection of basic beliefs of an individual or a given society. State or the government has the basic assignment of ensuring the security of its citizens (Magstadt, 2006). According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution as amended in 1999, the duty of the state is to ensure adequate security for its citizens and maintain a secured society for the well-being of its people. The state must ensure that lives and properties are safe and that there is law and order in the society. At all cost and in any situation, the state should be held responsible for the security failure of its state, the government must account for the breakdown of laws and orders in the state, this is an obligation of the state to provide to its people (Gana and Omelle, 2006).

Other scholars argued that the state alone cannot provide security for its people, other players and organizations must join the state in providing security. Collins (2007) approaches security as a multidimensional issue. According to Yergin (1991), attaining security demands collective efforts. Buzan (1983), said that security is a multi-disciplinary issue and cannot be treated as a single entity by in a holistic manner. This multidimensional approach to security, gives prominence to the idea of collective security, which has taken predominance in the international community. Collective security involves the collaboration of private organizations, civil society, the

state and even individuals to collectively partners as one to ensure the safety of lives and property.

According to Okowa (2007), the oil industry generates a huge amount of Nigeria's revenue and contributes to the foreign exchange in the country. This reason could make the government of Nigeria to enable the protection of the foreign companies who are involved in the oil extraction exercise that are operating in the region. In Nigeria today, oil generate public revenue for the country through various means, "royalties, rents, direct sales of government equity oil" (Abali, 1996). "All stages of oil production from exploration, drilling to transportation, results in destruction of natural environment and the livelihoods of the local host communities who depend on the land, fishing and the often polluted rivers and creeks for their survival" (Osuoka, 2003). The people in the Niger Delta region in Nigeria are emasculated and have been deprived of the benefit of their gift from God. They are expected to be rich in human endeavors; paradoxically they are the poorest and remained vulnerable to all dangers of environmental degradation. 'Resource curse' can best be used to describe the situation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. This has stir the criminal minds of some people in the region. Different social groups have been formed all in the name to protect and preserve their rights. These social groups are Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF) Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). These groups in different instances have launch resistance campaign against the Nigeria government, in bid to gain control of their resource which they think should be a blessing to the region and not a curse as it is today (Ekpenyong, 2010).

According to Agbu (2005), lack of maintenance and proper attention to the regional challenges resulting from oil spillage has always been the foundational causes of the human security challenge faced by people in the Niger Delta region. Pipelines and well heads are not adequately maintained or care for because the government does not pay attention to the negative effects caused by the activities of oil exploration. According to a report of the UNDP (2006) " oil spillages and gas flaring are common occurrences in the

Nigerian oil industry and that there were 6,817 oil spill incidents in Nigeria between 1976 and 2001 and over 70% of the spilled oil were not recovered and very few of these spill sites were not remediated till date".

The neglect and negligence of the Nigerian Federal government and oil companies operating in these communities in the Niger Delta region has stirred mixed feelings of anger, these have resulted into violent reactions from youths in this region, calling on the government to address the root causes of the human security challenges they face as a result of the oil extraction activities undertaken by the oil companies, of which only the government and a few individuals enjoy the proceeds from the oil. According to a 2005 report of Amnesty International, oil companies operating in these communities where oil spillage threatens human security have refused to take responsibilities of the human security challenges faced by host communities and are not willing to pay restitution to these communities for damages they face. As a form of defense by some oil companies in the Niger Delta region Exxon Mobil Nig. and Shell Producing Development Company have come to air to reject responsibilities of oil spillage, they claimed that the challenges are as a result of deliberate damages done on the oil channels by the host communities. However, the host communities who continue to suffer the brunt of the oil spillage have denied the claim against them by the oil companies, linking them to be damaging the oil pipes which caused the oil spill, these communities in their quest continue to demand compensation from the Nigeria government and the various oil companies for having caused harm to their farmlands and water bodies. These harms, they claim, have made some members of their communities flee from their homes, some have died as a result of the poor environmental conditions, the economic situation in the region has deteriorated and it has affected farming and occupation in the region.

Karl (1991) argues that accountability is the acknowledgement and assumption of responsibility for actions, decisions and policies, including administration, and implementations, the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences". Karl believes that in the Nigeria oil

sector, the administrative body lacks the principle of accountability. Nigerian citizens have in their minds and thinking that there is lack of transparency in the oil sector, the production and sales of the oil have never been transparent, and so the citizens see the administrative operative of the oil industry as a 'dark chamber' filled with monsters. In the opinion of Pezerworski (1998), the pivotal fact of any true democratic state is the ability to have all institutions of state cultivate the spirit of transparency and accountable to the people. By this, the leaders can be held responsible for their actions or inactions while in control of public affairs, the citizens can also use the power of the ballot to remove such a leader from public affairs. Pezerworski (1998) also argues that especially in Nigeria, the oil cooperation's operating in the country does not account to host region or communities where they operate. Pezerworski (1998) believes that corruption and conniving with some top government personnel who lacks dignity caused the lack of oil cooperation's been accountable to their host communities. In 2009 Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in its year report made public that Shell Cooperation made a profit of \$31 billion dollar. According to the report, 10% of the cooperation's global revenue comes from oil exploration in Nigeria oil industry.

As at 2000, the World Bank Report on unemployment rate in Nigeria claims that there huge amount of unemployment rate in Niger Delta region among graduates. According to Karl (2007) Venezuela, Nigeria and Angola who rely on revenue generation of crude oil, always have huge unemployment and corruption in the state system. Oil exploration and production have induced environmental degradations that have had consequences on oil loss; exacerbated poverty and caused occupational dis-orientation, social conflicts, population displacement and violations of human rights amongst indigenes of oil producing communities in the Niger-Delta region and elsewhere in the world (Ikporukpo, 1983; Ikein, 1991; World Bank Reports, 1995). Okaba (2005) argues that crude oil cooperation in the Niger Delta have been under the high protection of the Nigeria government, and this has permitted the cooperation's a huge playing ground to flout environmental protection laws and operate without due process thereby affecting the lives and properties of



people living in that region. These affected people who suffered from the act of impunity and illegal operation in the oil rich community do not compensate the affected people or provide relieve materials or remedies to help their poor situation.

Awosika (2008) opines that the laws in Nigeria concerning oil rich states and the operations there have empowered the government to have total control of the resource thereby leaving the people with nothing but peanuts from the government. Awosika (2008) argues that this power given to the government by laws led to a deprivation of oil rich communities in terms of the control of their resource. These resulted with violent conflicts among communities and government, communities and oil cooperation's, and at most of the time inter-community clashes. The state laws and legal procedures have disempowered the oil rich communities and leave them deprived.

Revenues generated from oil exploration and the allocation of these generated revenues is a pivotal element in any federal state. However, most of the led down laws available in Nigeria concerning revenue allocation has always been at war with oil rich communities. These laws in some situation violate some fundamental human right and public moral principles. These laws out rightly deprived the oil rich communities the right to mine the oil for their personal benefit. However, this may not trigger human security challenges or threat, but the weak manner or attitude in which the Nigerian Federal government uses in handling and addressing the issue has been the major factor of human security challenges in the region (Okabu, 2005). Phenson (2014) argues that the oil cooperation's operating in the region do not make available compensation policies or remedy system to help lift the damage or danger faced by the oil rich host communities, instead these cooperation's live the Shell Petroleum, Exxon Mobil and a host of others, use the judicial system to force the host communities into acute frustration, leaving them with no other option but to react through riot, sometimes violent protest.

It is important to state that in the Niger-Delta which Akwa-Ibom State is part and parcel, a total of eleven oil companies are operating with 159 oil fields

and 1,481 wells. In a report titled, “Ways of Using Oil Boom for Sustainable Development”, published by the African Development Bank (ADB) (1997) Nigeria had generated up to at least \$600 billion (or about 84 trillion) from crude oil in the past years.

CSOs play political roles but are not political organizations. They are in the third sector of civil society and generally independent of government influence and non-profit. Adonis & Abbey (2017) observes the role of the civil society organizations in the Nigeria’s Niger delta region due to the oil going conflict of resource allocation, control and exploitation. The study found out they made lot of progress and urge the Federal government to provide them with a conducive environment in order to carry out their functions effectively and efficiently. Okechukwu Ibeanu (2006) highlighted the role of the civil society organizations in managing conflicts within the Nigeria’s Niger delta region, the challenges they faced and made recommendations on the way to better ensure peace in the region. Obi, C. (2017) explains the role that the civil society organizations & pro-democracy groups such as Revenue Watch International (RWI), the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) and the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) plays in influencing the oil policy in Nigeria by setting debates through public statements, newspaper announcements, television programmes, public demonstrations, press releases, presentations at workshops and position papers presented to government agencies and international organizations, through social media such as Facebook, and by mobilizing people through public demonstrations. Kponee, K.Z., Nwanaji-Enwerem, J.C., Fu, X., (...), Weisskopf, M.G., Jia, C. (2018) Explained the effort of the United Nations Environmental Programme to (UNEP) report to monitor Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) across water, soil and air in Ogoni-land and found out several health condition and predicated cancer risk and hazards due to inhalation exposure to VOCs. The study concluded that corruption and mismanagement of oil continues to limit the influence of the masses despite the huge effort and grievances expressed by the civil-society organizations through activism and the media. Anugwom, E.E., Anugwom,

K.N. (2009) examines the effort of women in fighting against socio-economic privation by pooling together in groups and associations to tackle the everyday challenge of living in the Niger delta region despite the structural and cultural limitations imposed on women. The study shows that women plays a significant & active socio-economic role in the Niger Delta environment in sustaining group and individual development but their associational life as seen in the formation of their various socio-economic groups has not been valuable in the Niger delta region development.

Their role and "doing good" has been both romanticized and strongly questioned. This study presents a critical investigation of the role of civil society organizations in ensuring stability, how they operate within the Nigeria's Niger-delta region and their limitations amidst the Human security challenges in the area.

## **2.1 OIL SPILLAGE**

Oil spillage has been a devastating problem especially in areas where oil extraction activities takes place. In Nigeria today, the Niger Delta region suffers from oil spill, and this has resulted with different forms of damages and challenges. Oil spillage can cause different forms of damages like environmental damage, health damage, and economic damage. According to Worgu (2009), the environment is usually being affected as a result of Oil spill coming from oil exploration activities which is a great risk to the biological, physical and aesthetic value of the economic life as well as the indigenous people's health.

### **2.1.1 Environmental Damage**

Oil spillage in the Niger delta region in Nigeria has caused grave damage to the environment and this has affected the people living in that region. When oil spillage occurs, the soil is damage, the suitability of the soil been able to be used for farming is reduced, the land becomes infertile for cultivation (Worgu, 2000). When this oil spills on the top layer of the earth which is the soil, the toxic from the crude affects or contaminates the oil and renders it

useless by reducing the nutritious value of the soil for farming (Chindah, 2000). Oil spill does not only affect the top soil or renders the soil infertile but it also affects the crops that are planted. The productivity of the soil is also affected by the toxic of oil spills. According to Badejo and Nwilo (2005), The Niger delta has suffered shortage in food security due to oil spill incidents.

The effect that oil spill has caused on farmlands in the Niger Delta region, has forced a lot of people especially people who rely on farming as a means of livelihood to migrate to another area where the soil is fertile. This migration could cause a lot of harm to the new community and unnecessary pressure on the limited fertile land. Also some may decide to have a change of environment; this could be migrating to the urban areas in search of a means of living.

According to Hassan et al (2002), some of these communities are faced with an already existing challenges ranging from poor soil, limited capital to increase productivities and limited farmland for extension farming. When these communities already faced with such problems encounters oil spillage the problem becomes even worst and problem control becomes more complicated.

The toxic that affects the farmlands and other water bodies could affect the chemical composition in the soil and even water bodies, other parts of the environment are also affect where the top layer of the earth is affected, this could cause deforestation and encourages erosion. When situation like this occurs, the level of productivity will be reduced.

### **2.1.2 Economic Threat**

Oil spillage does not only affect the environment by damaging farmlands or soil, but there can also be economic effects and social effects as well. According to Gbadegesin (1997), he said that oil spill though affects the farmers and traders of fishes, this also have a direct implication on the society where this spillage occur. The economic effects of oil spillage are numerous, people who are involved in resort centers and other forms of sporting activities like sea diving cannot do business because the seas and

water bodies have all been affected by the oil. When resort centers are close and not functioning, this will in turn affect the tourism in that region. Tourism is a source of revenue for both the government and the people operating tourist resort centers. The beaches are polluted; the rivers are polluted so no one would want to risk his or her life to visit a region with polluted environment and facilities. When the environment is polluted and water bodies are contaminated as well, it becomes very difficult to attract tourists into the region. Individuals who had business intention of setting up resorts and hotels cannot afford to do so because the pollution done to the environment will ruin their business, and this is a major loss to the government.

According to Owabukeruye (2009), people living in regions where there is oil spillage are always at the fear of survival, because the environment and water bodies are means of their livelihood, and so if these facilities are in danger or damaged as a result of oil pollution there they face grave danger. The damage done by oil spillage has caused the people living in that communities to struggle for portable and clean water, some people even lost their jobs and have to take up another job that is not of interest to them.

In a situation where no remedies are done by either the government or the oil co-operations, the people in the communities will have no option but to consume the contaminated water and will have to live in the environment that is polluted with toxic gas. When situation like this becomes the order of the day, members of the affected communities take up to protest and criticize the government, asking for remedies and redress but when the government or the oil co-operations does not act in a manner to help their situation, they may result to security breach.

### **2.1.3 Threat to Health**

The importance of health cannot be over emphasized, in situations where there is oil spillage, a lot of species and living organisms are affected. When oil spill pollutes the environment the land, some plants cannot survive, when it pollutes the water bodies, some living organisms that are important to the water

may not be able to survive and stand the risk of extinction. There are reports about people who suffer from some forms of diseases and physical damages. Health evidence has proved that these damages are consequences of polluted environment (water and air). In the Niger delta region of Nigeria, the prevalent sick or disease in that region are Malaria, Typhoid, Cholera, and all these diseases are caused by polluted water.

When the people in the communities do not get clean portable water to drink or use for cooking, they are left with no choice than to consume what is left for them, which is the polluted water. In some communities in the Niger Delta, the river is the only source of water for them, they demand on the river to get water for their daily use, under the river is the channel of oil pipes transmitting oil to another destination, in a situation where there is damage to the oil pipe, the river is contaminated and the people are in danger of been exposed to different forms of disease should they consume the water. Oil spillage that affects the environment can also cause skin diseases, like skin irritations and dermatitis. So the people living in the region even the oil cooperation workers stand the chance of been affect too, the air they breathe and the direct contact of their body to the weather can affect their skin.

## **2.2 ADDRESSING OIL SPILLAGE**

According to Salu (1999) there are different measures that have been put in place to address the issue of oil spillage especially in the Niger Delta region affected areas. Different laws have been enacted, and different civil society organizations have been set up and some have come from outside the country to assist the community and also advice the government on better measures to manage and address the problem. Nigeria has a law called Federal Environmental Protection Agency of Nigeria (FEPA). This agency is empowered by law to oversee the protection of the environment and how oil corporations operating in the country carry out their activities. FEPA has in it power different laws which include;

- a. Endangered Species Decree Cap 108 LFN 1990, b. Federal Environmental protection Agency Act Cap 131 LFN 1990, c.

Harmful Waste Cap 165 LFN 1990, d. Petroleum (Drilling and Production) Regulations, 1969, e. Mineral Oil (Safety) Regulations, 1963, f. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971, g. Convention on the Prevention of Marine pollution Damage, 1972, h. African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1968, i. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for the Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971.

According to the Nigeria system, FEPA is a branch of the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment has the obligation to maintain the Nigeria environment, ensure that the environment is clean and safe for people to live in. In 1981, because of the constant oil spillage and environmental damage caused by the oil spill, group of Oil corporations in Nigeria formed an association called Clean Nigeria Association (C.N.A). This association was form by eleven oil cooperation operating in Nigeria and it included Nigeria's on oil cooperation, Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation's (N.N.P.C).

The main objectives of C.N.A was to ensure that waste are properly disposed and that their oil convening pipelines are safe from been sabotaged. In 1992, another decree was promulgated called "Environmental Impact Assessment decree No 86 of 192". This decree was promulgated to help ensure that the environment is well protected and threat to the environment is adequately dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the law. According to Ntukekpo, and Olagoke (1996), the EIA was obliged to oversee oil activities that may have serious damage on the environment. The decree will also ensure that activities of oil cooperation do not affect the people and the environment and that oil cooperation act within the frame work of law obliged to them by law. In 2002, the government of Nigeria directed all oil corporations operating in the country to adhere restrict to the provisions of the law guiding oil extraction activities and the protection of the environment.

These regulations include “Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Oil Industry”, which was passed by an agency of the NNPC “Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR)”. According to the regulations, any corporation that fails to adhere to the guidelines will be punished by the Nigeria government in accordance with the provision of the law guiding oil operation in the country.

Available records for the period of 1976 to 1996 indicated that approximately 6%, 25%, and 69% respectively, of total oil spilled in the Niger Delta area, were in land, swamp and offshore environments. Also, between 1997 and 2001, Nigeria recorded a total number of 2,097 oil spill incidents (Nwilo and Badejo, 2005, p.5). Some scholars have argued that the bulk of the issue on environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is not much on the oil spillage, but how the various laws put in place regulates and guides the activities of oil cooperation to avoid oil spill and in situations where there are oil spill, the mechanism for a cleanup. The inability to proffer a better management plan for oil spill and cleanup have created in the minds of the communities a bias treatment on them by the government and the oil cooperation, and these has led to several human security threat in the region. For a long time in the Niger Delta region, ethnic groups like the Ogoni and Ijaw have grouped and regrouped themselves to fight the course on human security threat posed by the oil extraction activities of oil cooperation and the inability of both the government to effect strategize a plan to redress their problem. These ethnic groups have taken to arms to protest against the oil cooperation.<sup>1</sup>The more recent travails of the Ijaw, the largest oil minority ethnic group are yet to be broadly captured. Yet, their case also exemplifies the pattern of demands for restitution being ignored by the state and its “partners” the oil multinationals. Ultimatums for redress given by aggrieved oil minorities popular movements have been met by state repression, violence and extraction, thus feeding into a cycle of increasingly popular protests and resistance by these social movements which themselves express pent up

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rage and frustrations arising from the contradictions spawned in the local context by national and global forces (Obi, 2001, p. 7).<sup>2</sup>

### **2.2.1 Managing Environmental Degradation**

Managing the menace caused by oil spillage has been very difficult especially in the Niger delta region. The community stakeholders are always pointing fingers at the government for lack of concern, and the oil cooperation for their wickedness act of oil exploitation, leaving the local people in poverty and suffering from the outcome of their activities. This different situations and factors have made managing the environmental degradation a challenge for the government and even the people.

#### **2.2.1.1 Technical Control**

Different tools can be used to control and contain the devastating effects caused by oil spillage in the Niger Delta region. Technical control mechanisms can help reduce the health risk oil spill cause on human and the environmental challenges. According to Badejo et al(2003), this technical control mechanism include; Skimmers, Synthetic Sorbents materials, and booms and barriers.

##### ***Skimmers Technique***

This is a technique created to locate oil and can help in oil management in situation where there is disaster or damage. Skimmer technique is a technology that can extract oil particulars from contaminated surface.

##### ***Booms and Barrier Technique***

This technique is utilized in oil management procedure and is built on “solid-floatation unit”. Booms have control and save cylinder for rapid reaction and suppression when a spill occurs. Oil leaky booms are intended to exclusively soak up oil from any surface, both on land and water-bodies.

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### ***Manner Technique***

According to Adelana et al (2011) this is a technique that can manage water's edge if pollution occurs. This technology involves vanishing, corrosion that can instigate the oil management and control process when a spill occurs.

## **2.3 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN NIGER DELTA**

The idea of preserving the environment includes managing the interactions that exist between humans and their environment. This means both living and non-living things of the environment can live while human needs are been catered for every day. The word environment include both bio-physical and human components; the biophysical components are "climate, air, topography, geology, soils vegetation, ground water and surface water, while the human components include; land, people, socio-political and economic needs" (Nhamo & Inyang, 2011). The relationship between living beings and the environment should be adequately sustained and managed, in order to preserve the gift of nature available to us. For a healthy and sustainable environment for living beings, there must be what is called environmental sustainability.

In Nigeria, the presence of unpopular governments for more than 20 years has been a major reason for the emergence of non-state organizations that aims to challenge the wrongness of policy, programmes and ultimately the existence of this government. It is important to point out that the existence of these organizations gave room for people that has been regarded as the voiceless to express their opinions but on the other way round, some civil society organizations who seem to be opportunistic and self-centered have also taken advantage of this character negatively whereas the significant assumptions that imply legitimacy to the emergence of civil society organizations is that they are expected to be knowledge driven which simply means that actors must be able to investigate the problems of the society,

recommend solutions and develop plans to facilitate buy on, by other segment of society and government. The Civil society organizations CSOs can be described as set of voluntary organizations outside of the family in which people get to organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public. These organizations range from small, informal and community-based organizations to the large, high-profile, INGOs such as village associations, environmental groups, women's rights groups, farmers' associations, faith-based organizations, labour unions, cooperatives, professional associations, chambers of commerce, independent research institutes and the not-for-profit media operating through local partners across the developing countries with governance and direction that are coming from citizens which are free from the control of the government and management. The Civil Society Organizations basically serves as the spokesperson for the citizens on fundamental issues that are affecting the society at large, mostly in the case of policies and ideas that might poses threats to the peaceful co-existence of the people and the socio-political underdevelopment of the society. However, civil society organizations (CSOs) play an important role in making it possible for people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, in shaping policies that will enable development and partnerships, and also supervising their implementation. In some democratic setting, these institutions introduce things like voting and help citizens shape their politics, economies and culture. Despite the fact that CSOs have a common focus on how to empower the citizens to decide their own future development, they seem to be heterogeneous in nature with different views and clashing interests and their structures of governance varies from each other. The development body of CSOs critical studies observed that certain CSOs doesn't even aim to support or actively encourage the common good by serving as representatives for the citizens that has been regarded as voiceless. Non state actors such as CSOs are active social entities with agency or ability to act. Yet, drawing on critical realism, I see the social world and its processes not only as results of human perceptions and action but also and mainly produced in interplay of mechanisms and the context. Some parts of the social world and some mechanisms may exist independent of subjective thinking or actions. Another relevant trend that could be thought to

have touched the CSOs that had international funding and all CSOs through the Programme was the trend of human rights. All CSOs were doing human rights work or increasing its share. Human rights are said to have become a hegemonic political idea, part of the prevailing rhetoric and a widely accepted standard of political legitimacy, although consensus on the human rights system is relatively controversial. Human rights norms and values penetrate increasingly many national societies, with governments and their opponents referring to human rights more frequently than before. A key difference of CSOs and private organization's is CSOs' stronger political connection and usually their wider social purpose and goals.

Friends of the Earth Nigeria today report (2016) reports that the people of Ogoni-land have lived for decades with pollution linked to the oil and gas industry. Niger Delta urgently needs a resolution to the ongoing impacts on their access to water, health, livelihoods and the environment.

Ikelegbe (2001) stated that civil society organizations working in Niger delta have encountered series of difficulties in its agitation for the democratic reforms of the state. According to him, the civil society organizations has flowered, dominated and also heightened the battle against the role of MNCs and developed itself into a strong arrangement of regional opposition. Also, civil groups have reconstructed the agitation into an expansive, participatory, very prepared and facilitated battle and diverted it into a battle of self-determination, equity and civil and environmental rights.

Augustine Ikelegbe (2001) stipulated that because to the corporate activities and potentially unethical practices linked with MNOCs, the host communities as well as human rights organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Niger delta usually initiate social protests against them. He argued that the crude oil issues and exploitation of gas caused by the MNOCs in the Niger delta region is such an event that keeps repeating and the MNOCs to do their operational demonstration of crude oil exploration without assuming liability for their activities have been portrayed by related environmental effects that include, but also not constrained to the debasement of environment, serious contamination, biota poisonous quality, ecological

impacts, loss of biodiversity, effect on human health and gross maltreatment of human rights. The main cause of agitation is for the MNOCs to adopt a proper frame of mind towards nature, human health and rights in regards to MNOCs and the protection of environment in the Niger Delta.

According to Ndifon Neji Obi (2018) the Niger Delta has been the focal point agitations that have compromised socio-political economic procedures in Nigeria. He argued that civil society have developed as a focal power in peacebuilding and is adding to the reframing of talk around the idea. CSOs are basic characters in the management of conflict and merging peacebuilding endeavors in the Niger Delta. He presumed that regardless of the enthusiasm for civil society organizations (CSOs) towards their peacebuilding activities, just a little has been done to recommend a structure for powerful civic engagement.

Ikporukpo, C.O. (2004) argued that the Niger delta happens to be most affected region when it comes to the issues of environmental degradation which is as a result of oil spill. According to him this circumstance raises issues concerning environmental justice. There have been clashes in between two school different school of thought regarding their perspective of reasoning. The first one is advocated by governments and individuals in the oil producing zone, with the dynamic support of Environmental NGOs, which contends that significantly increasingly budgetary assets from oil income ought to be distributed to the region so as to make up for natural hazard and harm caused by oil.

Felix Tuodolo<sup>1</sup> (2009) posited that Transnational Corporations (TNCs) as well as numerous establishments teaming up with them have been the objective of a few negative or anti-corporate campaigns orchestrated by civil society groups including hostile to corporate campaigners, anti-capitalists, anti-globalists, greens, and academics regardless of their appearing commitment to the advancement of society. However, the present decade the present decade has seen another pattern in the connections between these TNCs and civil society groups. Some civil society keep up extremely warm association with them and in actuality, partners work together and work

with the supposed enemies in the oil and gas segment the reason for which seems to profit business picture more than the society. Following to the 2011 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report which revealed how polluted and degraded the Niger delta environment is, the Environmental Rights Action, Amnesty International, and Friends of the Earth Europe (2017) called for the urgent clean-up of the area in line with recommendations made by UNEDP

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **ANALYZING CIVIL SOCIETY ROLES ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN NIGER DELTA**

#### **3.1 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Amnesty International is a standout amongst the most persuasive Civil Society Organizations in the field of human rights. It advances learning of the estimation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and mediates in specific instances of infringement of fundamental, civil and political rights. Restricts maltreatment by resistance gatherings, including prisoner arrest, torment and killings of prisoners and other conscious and subjective killings; helps shelter searchers who are in danger of coming to a nation where they will be in danger of infringement of essential and crucial human rights; coordinates with other non-legislative associations, the United Nations (UN) and with provincial intergovernmental associations; battles to build responsibility in universal military, security and police relations; composes human rights training and mindfully raising projects. Oct (2002), propelled overall battle to feature disparity between human rights security which those living in the Russian Federation have in universal and national law and the truth of far reaching human rights misuses submitted in an atmosphere of exemption. During 2003, delegates visited many nations and regions to meet casualties of human rights infringement, watch preliminary and meeting nearby human rights activists and authorities. Together with Oxfam International and IANSA, propelled an arms control crusade requiring a 'Global arms exchange settlement' - a draft goals for International Arms Trade Treaty affirmed by the United countries in 2006 - and for neighborhood

activity to shield regular folks from equipped savagery. Propelled 'Request Dignity Campaign', in 2009 to stop and avoid the human rights manhandles that drive and develop destitution. Standard exercises incorporate both restriction to and upbraiding of infringement of common and political human rights and furthermore protection human rights work, for example, human rights mindfulness and human rights education programs.

Methodologies: This have included campaigning to guarantee consolidation of human rights into authority, educational program for schools, colleges, military and police foundations, common administration and other expert preparing programs; guidance on educational program; workshops and preparing programs for targeted gatherings.

Features: Conference for the Abolition of Torture (1973), Gathering for the Abolition of the Death Penalty (1977), Global Conference on Extrajudicial Executions (1982). Universal Conference on Disappearances and Political Killings (1992), Request for the foundation of an International Criminal Court continuously (2000), propelled Oct (1996) in 1977 got the Nobel Peace Prize for its commitment to "verifying the diary for opportunity, for equity and in this way, likewise for harmony on the planet". In 1978, on the 30th commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, granted the United Nations Human Rights a Prize for remarkable accomplishments in the field of human rights.

The objectives of Amnesty International is to add to the recognition of human rights all through the world as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Also to acquire the arrival of all prisoners of inner voice, a reasonable preliminary inside a sensible time limit for political prisoners, to nullify capital punishment, torment and cruel other treatment of prisoners, to end political killings, to restrict grave infringement of the privilege of each individual to the physical and mental trustworthiness, freely of any political thought, to fight against the infringement of individual privileges in expressing their feelings and also be free from any form of separation in terms of sex and race, to build up its work on the frequency of financial factors on the human rights, to provide for security agencies the way to act, to battle against exemption, to



build up its activity for the security of the displaced people and reinforce the aggressor base of its association.

### **3.1.1 Amnesty International Circle of Actions**

The circle of activity of Amnesty International is unmistakably characterized and alludes to the security of human rights all over the world. Explicitly this association battles i.e. key regions of activities:

1. Women Protection;
2. Protection of children;
3. Ending the torment and execution of individuals
4. Protection of prisoners of still, small voice (opportunity of inner voice and opportunity of articulation, furthermore, the arrival of all detainees of still, small voice);
5. Protection of displaced people;
6. Protection and defeating the phenomenon of human rights infringement that are identified with his physical and mental uprightness;
7. Annulling capital punishment, torment and other savage treatment towards prisoners.
8. (Reasonable and quick) preliminaries for prisoners
9. Defeating the phenomenon of separation on any grounds: sexual orientation, race, religion, language, political supposition, national or social root, and others.
10. Guideline of the worldwide arms exchange.

Other than the exercises in these areas, Amnesty International represents security in zones of furnished strife, ending political killings and guaranteeing jail conditions by worldwide human rights measures, giving free education to all children on the planet, breaking enrollment of youngster fighters. Amnesty international goes about as a defender of human rights everywhere

throughout the world and its activities are supercilious for governments as well as and for all non-legislative associations, foundations and people. It doesn't bolster and contradicts any administration or political framework. Amnesty International as mass development for the human rights protection works on the standards of worldwide solidarity, worldwide security, human rights comprehensiveness, unprejudiced nature, freedom, popular government and common regard. Amnesty International act through her deliberate participation, which represents the suspension of human rights infringement, by putting weight on governments, equipped gatherings, government associations, to regard the law and to apply universal measures of human rights, sorted out an arrangement of instructive exercises on human rights and energizes all non-administrative associations, people and social foundations to help and regard human rights. It is their work to find the infringement of human rights by utilizing cluster strategies, for example, by sorting out different activities running from open exhibitions to composing letters, from human rights education to shows to expand assets from individual interests for assistance for explicit cases to worldwide battles for some specific models. In spite of every single expressed direct research association actualities, orderly and fair individual cases, examples of human rights infringement through talking unfortunate casualties, watching preliminaries, working with human rights activists and every one of these discoveries it distributed in the media, in letters or its site, It additionally issues a periodical, reports, instructive materials for the privileges of man and other rights-defensive writing. In these distributions are distributed instances of infringement of human rights in the world and their peruses. By taking the above activities by Amnesty International give great outcomes in the battle for human rights. Amnesty International on its work and exercises submits authority reports at the end of each year and through them send messages to all the world's administrations to guarantee better than average, tenacious, regard and acknowledgment of human rights at anyplace on the planet.

### **3.1.2 Amnesty International on Environmental Degradation Issues in Niger Delta**

According to a 2018 Amnesty International report titled "Negligence in the Niger Delta", The Niger Delta region of Nigeria suffers from serious damaged occasioned from oil spillage. Lives of people are endangered in their large numbers, and the environment is left unattended to. These negligence according to AI is because of the high level of oil extraction activities going on in the region, and neither the government nor the oil giant are ready to attend to this devastating incident that the people are suffering. According to the report, the Niger Delta region in Nigeria is regarded as the most polluted region in Africa resulting from the cumulated impact of years of contamination.

In the Niger Delta region, there are two large oil companies operating in the region, the Anglo-Dutch Company, Royal Dutch Shell (Shell), and Eni oil from Italy. According to the operational regulations by the government of Nigeria, the oil corporations alongside the Nigeria government, with representatives from the communities shall visit every oil spillage in order to be aware of the height of spill in that area, and at the end of the investigation a Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) report is prepared and published. According to AI report 2018, Shell reported 1,010 spills in 2011, with 110,535 barrels or 17.5million liters as oil spill while in 2014 Eni Oil reported an oil spill of 820, with amounted to 26,286 barrels or equivalent to 4.1 million liters of oil spill during its operations. According to the JIV reports these spill are as a result of operational faults or poor maintenance culture on the part of the oil corporation.

According to the oil corporations, the spill is as a result of "third party" interference called sabotage also known as "bunkering" in Nigeria. The oil corporations have argued that the oil spill is as a result of the oil thief caused by third party and not as a result of their operations or poor maintenance culture during operations. According to Shell report, more than 80 percent of the oil spills were as a result of oil thief; Eni oil also reported same claiming that oil spill was caused by oil sabotage. That means that the majority of oil

spillage in the region of their operation and the pollution cannot be attributed to them. However there is no legitimate claim to their actions or report. In a situation where their reports or claims are true, the Nigeria laws on environmental issues and oil extraction activities, has stipulated that oil companies operating in the region should use the best technology available and standard practice while conducting their operations in the region.

What this means is that, the oil companies should ensure the protection of their pipelines from been damaged or attack by any third party. According to the Decoder project report conducted by AI, these oil spillage have occurred severally on areas where both Shell and Eni Oil are operating, and these areas are repeatedly been affected. Since these act where predicted and noticeable, Shell and Eni oil should have boosted its security and taken necessary measure to increase the protection of their pipelines.

A section of the Nigeria's National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Act stipulated a N500,000 daily charges as penalty towards any Oil corporation that refuses to publish the incidents of Oil spill within a period of 24 hours. Furthermore, the Act also specified a N1m sanction on the companies if they refuse to initiate a proper cleaning of the affected areas. According to Udo Udoma & Belo Osagie (2019), the license of pipelines is required based the Oil and Gas Pipelines Regulations in order to carry out plans during the cases of emergency so as to ensure prompt and remedial action towards environmental protection.

According to the UNDP 2006 report, majority of the people living in the Niger Delta area get their wellspring of occupation from the environment. The land, the water bodies and some products of the forest constitute their major sources of food. And when the environment is polluted or degraded because of gas flare resulting from the exploration of oil; it poses great challenge and danger to the environment and putting the people in this region at risk.

According to a 2015 AI report, oil spillages have a destructive effect on the human and the environment. It contaminates the water bodies and makes the people vulnerable to different kinds of diseases. AI has also indicated that the

act of preventing and protecting the environment must be priorities for everyone especially people whose activities have a direct effect on the environment. AI report indicates that it is necessity to prevent oil spillage, but in situation where it occurs, a clean-up and rehabilitation of the affect environment is paramount for the human lives and rights protection. According to Amnesty International Report (2015), in situations where contamination and damage of the environment frequently occurs, so is the right of humans being violated, hereby driving people into a deeper level of poverty which is as a result of a long due damage that has affected their health and wellspring of occupation. According to a Amnesty International & the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) report, with reference to the Nigeria law, any company that operates any oil well or pipeline and there is any form of oil spill, such company is responsible to initiate a clean-up of the spill within 24 hours. It is the duty of the oil to restore and rehabilitates the affected environment to its normal state. According to Amnesty International and CEHRD reports, there is a claim that Shell Petroleum has always default in this function. There are indications where areas claimed to be clean-up are still visible with some restitute of pollution. AI and the CEHRD reported that it is the duty of the Nigeria Federal government to institute a disciplinary body to regulate and investigate clean-up regions, and where a proper clean-up is not done, the government shall invoke the proper law against any of the defaulter, AI believes that the Federal government has failed in this regard.

Amnesty International and CEHRD have made several efforts to conduct different research study on the degradation of the environment in the Nigeria's Niger Delta region, and exclusive research conducted in Ogoni land which is a part of the region in 2015 indicates that waterlogged areas were spotted by researchers including an oily sheen as well as black soil which is encrusted with oil. This is coming barely 45 years after a fire and oil spill occurred at a Oil well being operated by Shell in Bomu town which the Oil company claimed to have not only cleansed and both also remediated both in 1975 and 2012. However, the regulations of the Nigerian state specified the non-appearance of oil in the water within 60 days after any recorded event of

spill. Subsequent to this observation by AI, an alternative efforts was made to ensure that the observations are collaborated with evidence, AI and CEHRD gathered information from one of the oil companies and analysis them, however based on the evidence available, one of the oil companies claimed to have clean-up those areas it operate and that are polluted but the investigation and evidence gather proved that the claim by the oil company was false.

### **3.2 MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE OGONI PEOPLE (MOSOP)**

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) is a Nigerian indigenous, non-regulatory, non-political zenith affiliation supported by Kenule Beesom Saro-Wiwa commonly called Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1990 with the order to fight calmly to propel vote based care; secure the Ogoni People's environment; search for social, money related and physical improvement for the region; guarantee the social rights and practices of the Ogoni people; and search for appropriate benefits of confidence for the Ogoni people. He was a writer, distributor, operator and human rights crusader. MOSOP was the principle formed and the most strident quiet intellectual of the Nigerian Federal government's dismissal of the oil-making Niger Delta region, particularly the tolerant Ogoni people whose interests it addresses. Saro-Wiwa transformed into an image of the human and common rights development in Nigeria. He was similarly famous all-inclusive as a ecological lobbyist, for his steady fight towards an unrivaled life and a cleaner environment for all. Saro-Wiwa won a couple of honors at home and abroad during his life time. He was also given grant after his death due to MOSOP's serene method to manage & fix the regular contamination in Ogoni land principally brought about by Shell activities in the region. MOSOP transformed into a family name over the globe when he and eight other men were hanged by the Nigerian Federal government. MOSOP continues going about as a genuine model for an elective method to manage authoritative issues firearms. MOSOP is a representative of the Ogoni people's right to pick the usage of our property and its advantages. They have suffered being

disparaged and included by the state into the new time of Nigeria's fragile and imperfect vote based framework.

In this new period, MOSOP remains a primary sponsor for trade, value and simply quiet change. MOSOP gains ground toward a future where all partners in Ogoni's human and normal wealth can experience congruity and flourishing, as comparable associates. As indicated by the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) an indigenous civil society organization working in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria, it is important to raise the attention to the damaging impacts caused by the oil extractive partnerships on the environment, climate, and communities. The movement argued that Natural resources ought to be utilized economically and decently for the improvement of humankind, Also, the practices and norms overseeing the utilization of Natural resources ought to be satisfactorily implemented to guarantee that these resources are not a revile but rather a blessing to mankind.

### **3.2.1 MOSOP on Environmental Degradation Issues in Niger Delta**

The emblematically battle against the Nigerian Federal government and the oil organizations started when MOSOP published the Ogoni Bill of Rights in 1990. The bill featured the Ogoni individual's absence of social administrations, their political marginalization and the abuse they experience from the Shell Oil Company. The bill requested protection of environment for the Ogoni area, self-assurance for the Ogoni community, social rights for the Ogoni individuals, portrayal in Nigerian organizations, and a reasonable extent of the income from the closeout of the locale's oil.

Ken Saro-Wiwa and MOSOP during the year of paving way for the peaceful clash in 1992 & 1993 endeavored to pick up the help of worldwide non-governmental associations. At an opportune time MOSOP united with the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), which aided MOSOP international recognition and worldwide consideration, both through the media and through gatherings with the United Nations. As the UN's Year of Indigenous People in 1993 drew closer, MOSOP arranged protest

activities to keep on pushing for the requests that had been spread out in the Ogoni Bill of Rights. The contention heightened in 1992 following two years of little advancement focusing on a lethargic national government. In this regard, MOSOP chose to rather concentrate its vitality on the three oil organizations working inside the locale: Shell, Chevron, and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC). Of the three, Shell effectively had the biggest offer in the region and all things considered was MOSOP's essential target. The gathering exhibited the organizations with a final offer requesting 10 billion dollars in harms and sovereignties to the Ogoni individuals, and also quick end to every one of the three organizations brutality against the Ogoni locale's condition. MOSOP compromised that if its requests were not met it would rally the Ogoni individuals in boundless prominent resistance to the presence of the organizations. The Nigerian Federal government in a quick response declared that all unsettling influences of oil generation were culpable as injustice and restricted every single open gathering and congregations due to a late experience progression of military takeovers and wild election that the Ogoni had boycotted. Regardless of the prohibition on open congregations toward the start of the Year of Indigenous People, MOSOP composed a monstrous tranquil challenge that more than 300,000 Ogoni's took an interest in January 4, 1993. As a major aspect of the march and other rallies all through Ogoni-land, the Ogoni non-conformists and Greenpeace eye witnesses held green twigs as an image of the environment. With more than three-fifths of the Ogoni's in Ogoni-land amassed together, challenge pioneers and the non-conformists requested their essential rights to nature and to self-assurance. This occasion has since been alluded to as the First Ogoni Day. Not long after the First Ogoni Day, MOSOP set up the One Naira Ogoni Survival Fund, to which men, women and children contributed cash so as to help the Ogoni Bill of Rights and the future battle against Shell Oil. MOSOP proceeded with its activities by holding flame lit vigils and further gatherings of protests. All MOSOP protests were peaceful, except in one particular situation where aggravated protesters beat up a Shell worker in 1993. After the January 4 activities and further dissents consistently, Shell Oil hauled out of the locale. This definitely brought down the measure of oil being extricated from the district and slice benefits to the



oil organizations working in the zone by 200 million dollars in 1993. In light of the First Ogoni Day's prosperity and Shell's withdrawal, the Nigerian federal government ventured to compellingly stifle Ogoni protests by bringing in military men who fired live at people. In the process where ammunition clashed with the 10,000 protesters, about 10 people lost their lives. The issue became more complicated as the roads to or from Ogoni region were sealed by the Nigerian Federal government, while began to crash whole towns. Also In December, the people of Ogoni living in Port Harcourt were killed, and on Easter Sunday in 1994 Ogoni towns around a farm were attacked and their occupants killed by the Nigerian Federal government. An investigation was later conducted which uncovered that mortar bombs and NATO bullets were used in the massacre. As of mid-June (1994), 30 towns and villages had been pulverized.

The Nigerian Federal government on July 30 expelled all Ogoni police from the area, and after five days which it depicts as an ethnic conflict between the Ogoni and Adoni individuals, although investigation infer that the contention was manufactured and "Adoni" warriors were speaking a language other than Adoni. The town of Kaa was assaulted and its occupants were slaughtered. An estimated 750 individuals lost their lives in the offensive attack on Ogoni towns, and 30,000 were left destitute. Regardless of this, far reaching dissent proceeded with unabated all through the locale. Additionally a World Ogoni Week was organized by UNPO (1994). As constraint inside the nation expanded, global help and information of the Ogoni battle kept on developing. Because of rehashed captures of Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1993 and 1994, Greenpeace and Amnesty International drove global battles for his release. Be that as it may, a disagreement occurred within MOSOP which led to a separation between its leader Ken Saro-Wiwa and other movement pioneers. While Saro-Wiwa was out of the nation sometime in 1994, four Ogoni chiefs who had couldn't help contradicting Saro-Wiwa were killed. Saro-Wiwa was captured at 1 am the following day alongside eight different activists and was held without charges, lawful portrayal, or medicinal consideration for various months. He was in the long run permitted lawful portrayal. In spite of the fact that the legislature did not create any proof

against Saro-Wiwa, he and his eight co-litigants were condemned to death on October 31, 1995.

In November 10, Ken Saro-Wiwa alongside eight different activists were hanged, with riot police and tanks administering the execution. In light of the killings and continuous mistreatment of the Ogoni individuals, that equivalent day Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth of Nations. This suspension was energized by Nelson Mandela, who spoke to South Africa in the Commonwealth. Supporters of the Ogoni people held challenge marches at Nigerian embassies and Shell workplaces around the globe. Numerous world heads required an oil ban, financial authorizes, and bans on arms deals.

In 2015, MOSOP called on the attention of the Nigeria government to show the needed commitment and concern towards environmental justice towards human security. According to a report made by the MOSOP leader, Legborsi Saro during the 2015 "World Environment Day", Development in the Niger delta's agricultural sector and sustainability have tentatively been traded off by environmental degradation hereby adversely affecting other circles of the community's prosperity. He argued that the continuous and heavy exploration of oil activities going on in the Niger Delta has not only presented a devastating human security threat but also to the survival of green land vegetation, water bodies and also economic activities. This pollution has caused major problems like food insecurity, decline in the standard of living, and these threat amounts to serious threat to the right to life that every person is entitled to. The MOSOP leader argued that even if the Federal Government of Nigeria has showed willingness to find a solution the pollution taken place in the region by explaining concern based on the UNEP reports on the pollution in the region, the leader argues that the government has not supported their concern with action. The leader "warned that politicizing issue of environmental degradation would be opposed the general population of the Niger delta, because substantial evidence have been unveiled that the moribund Hydrocarbon Pollution and Restoration Project (HYPREP) was about to be restored which is completely contrary to the of wish of the people

living within the area. Report also showed that there have been resistance between the Federal government and the people of the Niger Delta; government in some cases have decided to implement some measures without prior consultation with representatives of the community in the Niger Delta, and this has resulted to clash and conflict between both party. According to a media report in 1999 as cited in a reported by the "Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Canada" MOSOP is still in the fight for economic justice in the Niger Delta region also the right to their land and the resource control and an environment free from pollution. According to the former MOSOP acting leader, Ledum Mittee, shell Oil Company should either find a solution to the result of their Oil drilling affair which has caused a lot of damage to the environment and human health or peacefully vacate the domain. Furthermore, the organization published the establishment of the Ogoni Development Board in 1999, whose main aim was to create strategy for the advancement of Ogoni as well monitoring the projects which would have both the undertaken of the foreign and neighborhood partners. As of August in the same 1999, the leadership of MOSOP presented 3000 cases of human rights abuses melted on the occupants of the Niger Delta region who react against the pollution created by the oil corporations as a result of the oil extraction activities in the region.

The pollutants released into the air during the extraction process have a devastating impact on the quality of air; and this has destructive repercussion on the people living in that region. Several studies have shown that legislations passed by the Nigeria government have not been effective in regulating the activities and actions of this oil corporation. According to Okhumode, the gas released during the process can either be disposed by venting or flaring. Venting process, is releasing the gas into the air without burning it; while gas flaring involves burning the gas during oil exploration before they enter into the environment. According to Emam (2016), flaring is the controlled combustion of unprocessable (due to technical or economic reasons) natural gas that may otherwise be sold or used. Both practices involve atmospheric discharge of hazardous substances and are therefore environmentally unfriendly, constituting major source of air pollution that has

had very severe environmental and public health consequences in the Niger Delta". Studies indicates that over the past years, about 75 percent of gas produced during exploration were been flared; and this represent about 45 million tons of "carbon dioxide daily.

According to the website of "Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization" UNPO,"MOSOP's sees its mandate in the protection and promotion of the environmental, socio-economic, developmental, cultural and political rights of the Ogoni people (and other Niger Delta peoples) by non-violent means. MOSOP pioneered the campaign for environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and indigenous rights in Nigeria.

According to the comments made by UNPO a civil society organization that MOSOP is registered to, UNPO condemned in totality the exploration activities of natural gas taken place in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. UNPO argues that in a situation where oil exploration activity poses threat to the environment and the livelihood condition of the people living in that region, then it is in total violation of the people's right to good health. "UNPO roundly condemns the destruction caused by Shell's activities in the area, for instance by the development of canals, roads and pipelines which have infiltrated the streams and creeks of the Niger Delta, and denounces the Nigerian Federal government continually ignoring the Ogoni's hardships". Furthermore UNPO works with MOSOP to raise awareness for the need to protect the land rights of the Ogoni and other indigenous communities and supports their efforts to hold accountable those individuals and companies who are responsible for the damage done to the Ogoni's' environment, culture and society.

**Table 2:- Dangerous Gases harmful to the environment and human**

S/N	NAME OF CHEMICAL	EFFECT
1.	<b>BTEX</b>	This is a poisonous chemical with the risk of causing cancer. When this chemical is inhaled, it damages the blood forming organs and the nervous system.
2.	<b>Carbon monoxide</b>	This chemical is potent and has the capacity to

		cause high amount of damage to the brain and affect the heart. Children who are exposed to these chemical will potentially suffer from mental disorder. Pregnant women are likely to experience miscarriage or even die in a situation where they are exposed to Carbon monoxide
3.	<b>Nitrogen dioxides (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	This chemical affects the sense organs including the lungs causing irritation and malfunctioning of these organs. Constant exposure to this chemical could lead to tiredness and even affect the respiratory system making breathing very difficult. Nitrogen dioxides can cause reduction of oxygen in the body tissues and can cause death.
4.	<b>Sulphur dioxide</b>	Patients of Asthmatics are likely to die if exposed to Sulphur dioxide. This chemical blocks the lungs and throat, making breathing very difficult.
5.	<b>Alkenes: ethylene, propylene</b>	This chemical can cause inflammation, swelling and itching of the body. Alkanes affect the skin and caused skin diseases like eczema and serious swelling of the lungs.

*Sources:-Okhumode H. Yakubu (2017) Department of Public Health Sciences,  
College of Health and Social Services Building, New Mexico State University*

MOSOP's protest and campaign towards environmental degradation goes beyond the Ogoni-land problem. The movement basically frowned at the activities of Oil corporation companies within the Niger delta in general and international regime that supports their arrogant behavior in the places occupied by local people. Even though MOSOP is an indigenous civil society organization, it also situated in a wider context which can be described as global frame of the Ogoni problem.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DATA ANALYSIS & FINDINGS**

#### **4.1 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Through the use of Decoders, an Amnesty International noteworthy research project uncovered genuine proofs of Shell Oil and Eni Oil carelessness in dealing with oil spill issues in Niger delta which continues to constitute environmental emergency. The Decoder is an Amnesty International inventive idea which aims to render assistance to researches that concerns the issue of human right. In achieving this, proponent supporters as well as activist were recruited in large numbers by AI, to enable them collect relevant oil spill information in the region. The organization also had specialists who examined their evidences and verified by oil pipeline experts named Accufacts.

The conducted research made Amnesty International to discover that Shell and Eni were always taking a longer timeframe before taking action towards oil spills reports hereby publishing false reports about the reasons and the level of spills impact, which may end up hindering the communities from getting compensation pay. According the Amnesty International, "Shell and Eni false-fully claim to be doing all that they could in order to avoid oil spills incidents yet the Decoders research proved the opposite site. It was also discovered that the Oil corporations frequently disregard oil spills incident reports for a considerable length of time and on one event it even took Eni Oil over a year to react. According to Mark Dummett, a business and human Rights Researcher at Amnesty International, the Niger Delta is a one of the most contaminated places on earth yet the organizations responsible for the

act are still showing a high level degree of carelessness. By making an already difficult situation even worse is how the two Oil giants appear to release information about the justification of spill and level at which it has degraded the environment.

### **What Decoders did**

Decoders gathered data about the substance of the reports that Shell and Eni publish whenever they visit any of the oil spill site. These reports detail the reasonable reason, affected areas and damage level, and are regularly followed by photos as proof. They are significant on the grounds that oil companies pay remuneration to people living in an affected area as a result of this data. A research carried out in the past by Amnesty International uncovered that the data in Shell & Eni reports are usually erroneous. In the case of Bodo, Amnesty International revealed that Shell greatly downplayed the measure of oil spill but with their assistance, the Bodo people group in the long run made lawful move, constraining Shell to concede the genuine sum and pay £55 million in remuneration. In order to assist other various affected communities & towns like Bodo, Amnesty International decided to break down and made the information about oil spill report freely accessible to the people and enrolled activists from around the globe to help. A sum of 3,545 individuals, from 142 nations, participated in Decode Oil Spills. They responded to 163,063 individual inquiries concerning reports and photos and worked 1,300 hours which is what might be compared to somebody working all day for eight months.

### **What Decoders found**

Decoders work helped Amnesty International affirm two major things

1. Shell and Eni were publishing deluding information about Oil spill & the damage degree.

Based on investigation, it was gathered that the oil company only revealed 1,010 incident of spills, including oil that vanished in the pipelines system which amounts to 110,535 barrels (or 17.5 million liters) as well Oil-wells where it works while a total of 820 oil spills incidents was only revealed by

Eni since 2014, alongside the loss of 26,286 barrels or (4.1 million liters) of oil. The two oil giants guarantee that in most cases, the issues of spill in Nigeria are as a result of robbery and bunkery.

However, the communities that are prone to losing compensation if the oil companies keep attributing the issue of oil spill to third parties came out to challenge the claims. In Amnesty International previous research, they uncovered situations where the organizations have wrongly named spills. Thus, Amnesty International requested that Decoders audit and portray every one of the photos of oil spills cases that was revealed by the two Oil companies and to feature whatever seemed bizarre and about 89 cases of oil spills which includes 46 by Shell, and 43 by Eni were identified which tend to spring up sensible questions encompassing the reason the oil organizations gave. For instance, Decoders featured photographs where spills which seem to have been brought about by consumption were ascribed to burglary.

## 2. They are not reacting rapidly enough to reports of spills

The Nigerian state institution regulations stipulates the visit of oil companies to the site of a spill within a period of 24 hours of its report but the analysis of shell demonstrates that they have only reacted to cases of spill occurrence within that given period on the scale of 26% of events, contrasted with Eni Oil which took to action on a 76% scale. The gathered information additionally demonstrates that the reaction of Shell's to Oil spill incidents has turned out to be slower after some time, despite the fact that the Oil spills quantity it is announcing had decreased. In one case, it took the company about 252 days before deciding to visit an Oil leaking site. Amnesty International argues that the Nigerian laws are created for reasons therefore it is imperative for the oil companies to always take a quick action towards oil spills cases because the more delay in their reaction, the greater is the chances of foods and water bodies being contaminated by oil, and they believe the Oil company is very much aware of that. According to Mark Dummett, the companies wouldn't have been nonchalant if their oil were slowly leaking into the European land therefore the same rapid response is expected of them in the Niger delta situation. Amnesty international recorded that the slowest reaction was



discovered was when it took Eni Oil a mind boggling 430 days before taking action to one event of Oil spill that occurred in Bayelsa state but the company disclosed to AI that the reason for their delay was due to the fact that the local community refused to grant them the permission to visit the affected site. At the point when the organization at long last appeared, it determined the measure of oil spilled by estimating the region that was obviously tainted adding up to four barrels. Amnesty International contacted Accufacts, a pipeline specialists for the verification of this information and found that the figure is incredible, featuring the issue with the manner in which spills are estimated. AI argued that claims by Eni Oil that within a year, only a total of four barrels of oil were spilled simply exhibits the pressing requirement for better regulations. Oil that spreads into swampland and waterways rapidly ends up undetectable, however this does not mean it ends up innocuous. A brisk visual evaluation isn't a precise estimation of contamination, and all things considered, this methodology is bringing about modest representation of the truth no matter how you look at it (Mark Dummett). AI considers that both Shell and Eni Oil are purposely rash and in this way, they are willfully careless in their tasks in Nigeria. Their inability to work in accordance to the Nigerian law and best practice standard is devastatingly affecting the human rights of Niger Delta people. AI's says Decoders is the power of the people at its best and hereby gave credit to activist who assisted them to bring these oil companies to book.

#### **4.1.1 Action Mobilization**

On the Amnesty International 50 years human rights activism in 2011, a total of about 1,000 activists gathered in San Francisco to celebrate, the most recent project was propelled by the US chapter of the organization in its spearheading effort to uncover and battle the issue of human right abuses by making use of satellite and geo-spatial technologies. The most current task which rises up from the noteworthy of the organization happened to be Eye of Nigeria (<http://www.eyesonnigeria.org>) and the science of Human Rights program which sees to uncover and envision the cases of human right abuses and other related issues as well as the observation of the hurtful gas flaring problems dynamically by using modern technological advancements in

the Niger delta are in danger. According to Amnesty International, the complain of the Niger delta region occupants concerning the issue of gas flaring which genuinely tends to harm their personal satisfaction and also present a hazard to their wellbeing is something long overdue, yet nothing have been done by both the Nigerian state and the Oil companies to address and take a gander at people's wellbeing.

The objective of Eyes on Nigeria was to make a move focusing on the Nigerian state and the Oil companies by organizing up to 3 million activists across the globe in order to have the accessed gas flares that are unchecked to be permanently closed down because this for quite a long time have not just affected the Niger delta people's health but also the entire environment.

The science for Human rights program chief, Dr. Scott Edwards posited that the general Nigerian population is being confronted by lots of squeezing issues regarding human right abuses therefore the project of Eyes of Nigeria is a comprehensive one. He hoped that what they discovered during their request for a fundamental respect for human by working together with the Nigerian individuals through the Eyes on Nigeria project will enlivened individuals on the other parts of the world. He believes that other activist across the globe will as a result of this dispatch be courageous to take a step towards the Commencement to Flares Out. In these regard, the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Geospatial Technologies and Human rights project, a nonprofit, objective logical association rendered a specialized help. However, every occurrence of gas flares was found and mapped in the district by the Eyes on Nigeria project. It also had the effect on encompassing communities with high temperatures, exhaust and raised level of sound brought about as a result of flared gauged. According to Susan Wolfinbarger, the senior program partner at AAAS, the Eye on Nigeria project worked on the day by day information that was gathered in each districts where there's flares through the use of satellite sensor to decide the expanded air temperature influencing occupants as well as rural generation within a couple of kilometers. According to the AAA's exploration, it was confirmed that about 41 gas flares were dynamic toward the finishing of 2010 in the Niger delta.

As indicated by the AI weighty report on poverty, petroleum and Pollution in Niger delta (2009), the issue of gas flaring had been denied by the Nigerian state institution since 1984. According to the report, gas created at the point where oil was siphoned from the ground became isolated with its large portion being scorched as a waste through enormous flaring and this particular act is something that had been going on for up to 50 years. The devouring of this associated gas has for quite some time been recognized as a potential harm ecologically. In recent time, communities and NGOs have expressed their worries about the effect of gas flaring on the health of humans.

Amnesty International's work continued with the effort of Eye on Nigeria as it utilizes propelled devices and technological advancement to record human rights emergencies that are difficult especially with those happening in places like Sudan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and different nations. According to (Bassey, 2008), the fact that Nigerian state law had prohibited gas flaring since 1979, through the Associated Gas Reinjection Act, which was organized in light of the fact that the innovation was accessible to re-infuse the gas as opposed to enable the harmful synthetic concoctions to enter the air is the intriguing aspect. (Bassey, 2008: 3) also pointed out that although one major part of the Act gave room for companies to flare gas but just on the off chances that they acquired a field-explicit, legal, ecclesiastical declaration. As of January 1, 1984 a due date for zero flares was set for and the punishment for continued flaring began at a large portion of a Naira (under 1 USD today) per million cubic feet which led to an increment in the penalty to \$3.5 for each 1000 cubic feet of gas flared (Bassey, 2008: 7). It was reported by the Nigerian Federal Government that all flares would be killed by January 2008 because of the elevated endeavors from the global and local communities, and after that it was later changed to December 2008. According to (Ndubuisi and Asia, 2007: 20), a few researchers had stipulated that zero gas flaring may not be attainable by 2015. In 2006, a declaration was made by Shell Oil Company that they would quit flaring at all their sites across the globe excluding Nigeria until 2009 in light of the fact that it would be a \$1.85 billion investment (Bassey, 2008: 5). In the long run, gas

flaring kept occurring Shell and ExxonMobil blamed their inability to accomplish zero flares on the insecurity and violence going on within the Niger delta region. According to (Bassey, 2008: 2; ERA, 2008: 2; Dung et al., 2008: 297) because of the fact that Nigeria had not invested enough in infrastructure such as Liquefied Natural Gas projects to re-inject the gas for energy use, the country lost over \$2.5 billion yearly between 1970 and 2006. According to (Ibeanu, 2000: 22), the exportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) started in 1999 in Bonny, however this action is as yet debasing the environment with bad health effect on the people. Ibeanu believed that aside the loss of income, they deliberately cause environmental damage which tends to affect the health of people in the process.

According to (Ndubuisi and Asia, 2007: 20; Nkwocha et al., 2008), gas flares in the Niger Delta which is described as a major source of carbon, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and particulate issue emanations all have broad climate change contributions and implication on the human respiratory system. According to an interview carried out by (Benson and Etesin, 2008) with a group agent of the Iduwini people in July 2009, Acidic downpour is also connected to gas flares with occupants griping about consumed rooftops, lower quality soils for agriculture, surface and ground water, and skin irritation.

#### **4.1.2 Expertise Function**

One of the significant impacts of the Amnesty International in addressing the issues of human security within the Niger delta region was by filling in as an expertise by giving beneficial advices to the Nigerian Federal government after series of investigations. For example, in 2015 Amnesty international prompted the Federal government to initially attempt a critical audit of how NOSDRA operates to remediation. Build a dedicated website that will be like that of the "Nigerian Oil Spill Monitor" site that conveys data on oil spills cases in order to host this information. AI also implore the Nigerian state institution make all reports uninhibitedly accessible to any individual who solicitations them until the websites are available. Furthermore, they included the following advices.

-To empower NOSDRA the more so that the organization can perform excellently and professionally and also make sure that staffs are made to be responsible.

-There should be an increment in the organization's allocated budget in order for the agency to independently carry out oil spill assessments on the affected areas and also recruit staffs that are qualified.

-Impose it on the operators of oil to exercise preventive means of avoiding theft cases and any company that refuses to adhere to the regulation should be penalized.

-Make it compulsory for all Joint Investigation Visits (JIV's) to be released by oil operators as well as related videos and photos. Clear and visible pictures of the site should also be made available by the companies.

-A fixed way of reporting should be established for the oil companies to trend in the case of JIV's and oil spill. AI suggested that the in the case of late (JIV), the cause of the delay and also the period at which a stop was put to a particular spill should be included in the report.

-In accordance with the Nigerian constitution, a fair and sensible effort should be made towards ensuring the carrying out of JIV's by Oil companies within a period of 24 hours of a spill report and make the violators of this regulation to pay a penalty.

-The adoption of international practice by the companies and availability of findings should be imposed on them. Also how they come into conclusion in their oil spill degree evaluation should be reviewed.

According to Amnesty international, NOSDRA has all it takes to make sure that a fair and sensible measures are being taken by oil operators in the Niger delta towards oil spill prevention and a quick eradication whenever it accidentally happens as the Nigerian law stipulates therefore It is important for the Nigerian Federal government to build up on its oil industry laws. AI advised Shell and Eni Oil to bring about professionalism in their operations and also implored that the cases of untrue, irrelevant statements and false

information concerning the causes and oil spill impact being published by them should be put to an end.

#### **4.1.3 Human Right Education**

Another role that Amnesty International plays in addressing the issue of human security in Niger delta is the education of people about their rights which had prompted people to sue the companies. For instance, four farmers in the Niger Delta made a court move against Shell Oil Company, subsequent to having their occupations decimated by oil spill but only one of them was favored. AI believed that this at least brought about some victory although it still underlines the real challenges that are being faced by the victims of environmental pollution and the abuse of human rights which involve multinational companies.

At the court hearing, Shell blamed the pollution on pipeline sabotage but they were unfortunately found guilty of the charges by the court, expressing that the Oil Company had broken its obligation by not putting in place as sensible and preventive measure in addressing the tampering of oil wells by third parties which then causes oil spills. In this regard, Shell was instructed to pay some money to the affected farmer as compensation. According to AI, while the damaging of pipelines in the Niger Delta seem to be one reason for contamination, it's also not the main problem as the company public relation officer likes to use as an excuse for failing their duties because lots of spills are as a result of leakages from oil pipelines that are very old and not maintained properly.

AI believed that the court decision is a great way to success because Shell can never use the sabotage of pipelines as an excuse in way to make it look like the organization is not liable for the said problem. Furthermore, AI stated that the degree which the organization has reacted to avoid harm should be intently observed, with specific scrutiny given when oil spills are ascribed to the sabotage of pipelines. They also stipulated that the court decision was, in any case, a blow for the three farmers whose cases were expelled, and uncovered the considerable obstructions confronting the general population

of the Niger Delta in their progressing battle to get equity after more than half a century of contamination.

According to AI, great deficiency exist in the procedures of carrying out investigation about oil spill incidents in Nigeria and as a matter of fact, investigations concerning oil spill is driven by shell itself from its facilities hereby making a conspicuous irreconcilable situation.

#### **4.2 THE MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE Ogoni People (MOSOP)**

Since the early 1990s, protest and repression in the Niger delta community's conflicts have signaled activism. The rise of MOSOP especially as a peaceful movement brought about positive developments in the area which makes it more important. The approach of MOSOP towards the handling of critical issues is a tactical one which resulted into positive outcomes in accomplishing their goals through campaigns and negotiations. Several other movements who carried the same ideology with MOSOP began to emerge but these movement coupled with their youthful component seem to poses more radical approach in their demands as well as decision making process. Even though these organizations have included both men and women, the disputes and antagonism that have existed for a long time among the communities didn't just return but came with whole lots of violence in the area. The challenging and questioning of the status quo can be regarded as the basic nature of these conflicts. Under the distressing economic conditions of the post adjustment era, the common people under the distressing economic conditions of the post-adjustment era wished to bypass the mechanism of resource distribution as sustained by governments and those in power. In the Niger delta, both the local and the youth have made the oil companies the main targets of their direct actions in an attempt to gain direct access to the source of wealth. Oil company's personnel were held hostage by activists and also had their production facilities occupied. As a result of this, a statement was issued by the Nigerian federal government stating its strong commitment towards ensuring the protection of oil companies and

their production facilities even if it requires the use of force. The state established a special security unit in addition to the existing regular arrangement of security based on the initial agreement between the Federal government and companies which came under the initiative pretext of protecting the oil company's facilities. Furthermore, A paramilitary force which had a brutal reputation towards activist named "The Rivers State Internal Security" was establish in order to deal with MOSOP. According to Human Rights Watch (1999, p. 121 j, the youth have been labeled as economic saboteurs by several security outfits and maltreated them during any kind of demonstration. Some of the most abusive security organizations in Nigeria and these security groups seem to share similar reputation. Although violent situation tends to occur on two different levels which includes a situation where members of the communities took to the street to demand for compensations from the companies as a result of their activities which has damaged the environment and other cases which is a random harassment of community members and the latter's response to the harassment. But on many occasions, protests by the local people of the communities has been described as being criminal by the oil companies making allegation that the protests were just an avenue being used by the youth to extract what is not entitled to them from the companies. In return, the youth and members of the communities that are part of the struggle over the oil also describe the same incident which meant that both the youth and the communities tend to denounce each other from divergent standpoint. Of course, different agents can frame the same event in different ways within the bounds of what we take for reality; our perceptions can frame an event in different ways.

Based on antecedent, the study found that one of the major components which aided the international recognition and success of MOSOP in the Niger delta was the capacity of Ken Saro-Wiwa to accomplish a massive mobilization of people. Whilst the environmental narrative was made to spread internationally, as well as both at the national and local political levels. According to Taylor and Whittier, MOSOP improved on several years of various past organizations that tried to utilize the Ogoni identity as a resource



which can be used by community to change their members into being political actors. The successful mobilization of 300,000 Ogoni's for the Ogoni Day March in 1993, which was pioneered when MOSOP got a non-satisfying response to the demands notice that they had requested in December to various oil companies operating in the Niger delta region (including the SDPC) seem to portray the fact that the organization had a great leadership that was capable of bringing the entire community together to achieve a common goal and that Ogoni's doesn't seem to be interested in taking further environmental exploitation that would last for several years. This successful coordination of several protests and actions against the Oil companies including Shell and the Nigerian state was an integral cause of what could be regarded as the one of the greatest critical achievement of MOSOP, which led to the withdrawal of SPDC drilling activities from Ogoni-land in 1993. SPDC admitted that in the course of the political and social unrest which speaks high volume, they could no longer assure the safety of their workers. As putting an end to the continuous production of environmental degradation and the expropriation of the oil-rich Ogoni ecology was a key goal of MOSOP, the SPDC withdrawal from the region can be described as the organization goal been partially achieved, especially when Shell announced in 1998 that it will not return to produce oil from Ogoni-land until it has the permission of the communities to do so. However, it is important to point out that that this recorded success only lasted for a limited period of time. After the MOSOP's leader was executed alongside other prominent members of the organization by the Nigeria Federal government, measurable successes are both the continued existence of MOSOP post-Saro-Wiwa, and the resulting spread of anti-oil activism and organization by other tribes as well as communities in the Niger Delta Region, who have suffered the same exploitation such as the Ogoni Mobilization of Ijaw, Ekwerre and Ogbia communities to pressure both the local and state. Haven said that, the study uncovered that MOSOP actually received funds from not only SPDC but also the Nigerian state, and this include community development projects, investment and government grants to counteract environmental degradation and constitutional marginalization. In 1992 Shell built a water project of 5,000 gallons for of 100,000 capacity who are occupying a constituency but

unfortunately there were allegations of funds mismanagement that were allocated for community projects. According to Shell the company spent more than \$2 million in building projects for the community in the Ogoni area between 1987 and 1992, yet it could be argued that although without decades of Ogoni action these gestures were unlikely to have been considered, the inadequacy of the provisions since 1992 in relation to such widespread environmental exploitation supports the claims that SPDCs humanitarian activities in Ogoni-land are merely 'token gestures' as part of communities. Those who are not in support of the MOSOP's bill of right, and other instances of legislation passed in response to the organization's protest, argue that these are ineffective actions by a government which still represses civic protest, and that the fragile relationship between the state and local communities is exploited by oil companies in an attempt to blame the problems in the region on conflicts among the tribal & ethnic groups. The Nigerian state made further efforts by establishing the Niger Delta Development Commission and the production of several reports. However, the then outgoing MOSOP's president, Ledum Mitee argues that there is a history of reports, which he believe are enough to provide solutions to critical issues in Nigeria, rather than gathering dust on the shelves. Despite the initial resurgence in the numbers of MOSOP supporters in response to violent state repression, and the continued existence of MOSOP as an organization, numerous analysts accept that the organization has never recouped from the inner factionalism among radicals and conventional reformists that prompted Saro-Wiwa's capture and execution, and the ensuing outcast of a considerable lot of the initiative after 1995. Also, whilst the baton of resistance has indeed been passed to other Niger Delta communities, in some places the failures of several years of peaceful engagement resulted to violent resistance, such as the creation of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which propelled an activist crusade against oil against giants operating in the delta. Given Ken Saro-Wiwa's emphasis on peaceful direct activity, the usage of violence by another Niger Delta group is not the responsibility of MOSOP. But for those who believe in the power of non-violent movements to cause effective change, MEND's actions could be a disappointing development in the anti-oil struggle.

Examining the issue of environmental degradation and the activities of Oil Corporations in Niger delta today, it is easy to say that MOSOP somewhat failed to prevent the pollution of the land from the extraction of resources. Despite the continued global attention from environmental and human rights NGOs on both the geographical area and the legal cases against Shell, the efficacy of the company's responses to pollution has been woefully inadequate. According to a report by the UNEP, it identified that pipelines in Ogoni-land which are no longer used but are yet to be decommissioned are not properly maintained, which has led to deterioration and spillages, and calculated that in the last five decades, the Ogoni-land have experienced over 546 million gallons of oil spill. Also, to the existing pollution from the previous history of oil extraction prior to the cessation of activities in 1993, in 2011 the Ogoni Star announced that the Nigeria Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) planned to commence production from the 30 oil fields belonging to the SPDC in Ogoni-land. Despite the response from the community of opposition to this planned production, the announcement symbolizes that there is a far greater appetite for resource extraction than environmental protection (as it has been possible to move far more swiftly to re-start production in Ogoni-land than mobilizing efforts to clean up the existing degradation). It also demonstrates that the value of Niger Delta oil reserves to the Nigerian state is greater than the value of the Delta people's livelihoods.

Furthermore, the study founded the success of individuals involved with MOSOP which include the financial settlement from a couple of court cases filed against SDPC in the United Kingdom and the United States for their alleged involvement in the execution of the Nine Ogoni people and other human rights abuses to bow down Ogoni anti-oil activism. According to the complainant, the case can be described as a step ahead towards bring the Oil corporations that are operating in Niger delta to book for the sake of complicity in the violations of human rights wherever they may be committed and part of the settlement fund which amounts to \$15.5 million will be used for the development of the community in Ogoni-land. The above stated successes can be said to have been limited in their scope or longevity. At this

junction, it can be said that the violent repression of Ogoni activities and citizens in the wake of widespread peaceful mobilization strengthened MOSOP's case against the state and contributed to mobilization by breeding resistance described as the "paradox of repression", but ultimately the repression resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of people.

The success of MOSOP stirred interest of other local CSO's in the Niger delta region which includes the Movement for the survival of the Izon Ethnic Nationality (MOSIEND) that was set up by the Ijaw speaking people in 1992. MOSIEND seemed to follow the example of MOSOP quite conscientiously. According to the Human Rights Watch (1999, p. 129), irrespective of sharing similar name with MOSOP, it is imperative to say that MOSIEND proclaimed an 'Izon People's Charter' which was directed at the Nigerian Federal government and the people. However, since national independence and the allocation of revenue formulae depended on the income from oil, part of the charter objective was an extensive discussion in creating a state. In the favor of the Ijaw speaking people's territory, it also demanded compensation for the oil revenues that's being generated based on agreement in the course of constitutional discussions which led to independence as well as on pre-colonial agreements with the British. The Ogbia, an Ijaw subgroup made a similar attempt. In November 1992, due to the concerns of the traditional rulers of the communities they signed the Charter of Demands of the Ogbia People. Part of their demands was the constitutional repeal provisions giving ownership of mineral resources to the Nigerian federal government and a restoration of Ogbia people's rights to a minimum of 50 percent of the Oil revenues that's being derived from their land. However, they also demanded the payment to the landlords of the area of all rents and royalties from the revenue the Nigerian institution generated from their crude oil since 1956 when the first Nigerian oil well started production on their land.

A rough estimate of the money they demanded amounted to €226.5 billion. Also, an extra payment of €35 billion was demanded as restitution for their environment damages, and for any further development as well as protection that might be required to be done as regard oil exploitation that might occur in future. At this point, it is not difficult to find similarities between these

movements because ethnically based organizations, the charters, and the demands directed at the Nigerian federal government and the oil companies were common attributes among the movements that followed the Ogoni and MOSOP. They also seemed to share a historical legacy from the nationalist movement during the struggle for independence. Each of the movement's establishment involved a set of goals and priorities, together with the strategy required to attain them therefore there's no doubt that that MOSOP and its activities had eventually become the frame of reference for these subsequent movements and that MOSOP had positively impacted to the organizational structure in the formation of these movements.

## RESULTS

The effort of Amnesty International in combating the issues of human security (Environmental degradation) within the Niger delta region yielded positive outcomes. One of the steps taken by AI which is to educate the people about their rights brought about success as people began to stand up for their rights and sue the Oil companies to court over their activities in the region which has caused a huge damage to their water, farmlands and health. A major spill which occurred in Bodo area landed Shell in a UK court which resulted in favor of the occupants of the area. Shell Oil was driven to make a settlement of about £55m out of court following a legal action taken against the company in the UK six years after a two Bodo area oil spill occurred which damaged livelihoods of thousands of people occupying the area. This settlement was made in order to have the individuals and communities involved compensated. Of the total amount, about 15,000 people had a share of £35m while the remaining was remitted to the community.

The long awaited payment took a heavy toll on Bodo residents, due to the fact that lots of the victims farming and fishing business which is their source of livelihood had been destroyed as a result of the spill. Unfortunately, many have entered into abject poverty because they can't work and they also had to continue persevering by living with the environmental condition which is such a bad experience. According to Amnesty International's Director of Global Issue, Audrey Gaughran, despite the justice she was finally given to the people of Bodo that ended up losing their source of livelihood due to Shell exploration activities in the area, the people deserve more than what they got in getting a fair compensation because 6 years is way too long considering what they went through however, the settlement is a welcome development. He argued that, Shell was aware that the Bodo accident was something that would happen but out of the company carelessness, they never took any effective action to stop it instead; they went ahead to make claims that are misleading concerning the estimated oil that was spilt. According to him, the Bodo people would have been deprived of their rights

by the Oil Company if they were not made to bring out this information as part of the legal action that was taken against them in the UK.

Styvn Obodoekwe, the Director of Programmes of the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), postulated that it is only when Shell Oil takes it upon itself as a responsibility to have the degraded and swampy areas cleaned up that justice can be said to have prevailed so that fishers and farmers who rely on that as source of livelihood may start building their lives, although the settlement also remained a great move in the course of achieving justice for the Bodo people.

Pastor Christian Kpandei, a Bodo resident and fisherman expressed his relief as Shell finally admitted to be responsible for their actions. Although the Oil Company have always admitted that the two Bodo oil spills that occurred in 2008 were as a result of the company's pipelines fault, yet misleading claims were often made publicly that the both spills were approximately 4,000 barrels of oil joint together despite the fact that it stayed continuously for a couple of weeks.

Another success by Amnesty International was in 2012 when the first oil spill in Bodo was estimated through the use of an independent video footage assessment and it was discovered that the spill outlay a hundred thousand barrels. This proof made Shell to admit to their false publication during the legal action in the UK. However Shell still refused to confirm the exact amount of oil that was actually spilt but the court ordered them to compensate the affected community.

Furthermore, they were made to also make confessions that they were not only aware of the fact that majority of the company's pipelines were already old since 2002 but some part poses great risk that's hazardous. Even though a published document by AI in 2002 pointed out that Shell's pipelines were due for a replacement and its imperative to act fast in changing them as soon as possible, the company ignored despite the fact that these information has been known to them years before the Bodo leaks. Investigation also revealed that one of Shell's internal email from 2009 contained information which

proved that they knew about the exposure to oil spills in Ogoni-land where Bodo happens to be located.

According to Audrey Gaughran, Shell Company's refusal to replace pipelines that are dilapidated is a great risk for thousands of people because there are tendencies for future oil spill that would degrade the environment.

MOSOP did a great job in bringing the Oil giant to book through legal actions taken against the SDPC both in the UK and United States over their alleged involvement in the execution of the nine Ogoni victims by the Nigerian state institution as well as other related human right abuses which was aimed to suppress activism of Ogoni people about Oil pollution in the region. As a result, the Oil Company was forced to pay a sum of 15.5 million dollars to the families of those executed including the family of Ken SaroWiwa. The affected community representatives described the success as a way forward to holding the powerful corporations responsible for their actions especially towards the violation of human right. Shell Oil Company facilities have remained idled since 2008 because of the Ogoni people's demand for their activities to be put to an end despite the fact that it still has license for oil extracting operations in the area. In support of the people, the Nigerian Federal government stipulated that whenever it's time to drill again, the discovery of an entirely new company will be a perfect option. Both Amnesty International & the Movement for the survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) recorded certain success in their plight towards tackling human security issues in the Niger delta region by making the Oil giants compensate the affected communities but that's basically not enough because despite the fact that Shell no longer operates in Ogoni-land, the pollution is still going on till date in several parts of the Niger delta. Finally, a sort of relieve came at the end as Shell's active presence in Ogoni-land was suspended, although their pipelines still run through the communities.



## CONCLUSION

This study investigated the role of two Civil Society Organizations operating in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, Amnesty International and MOSOP. According to Osuji (2004), Niger Delta has been a victim of environmental degradation since the exploration of crude oil, and the mastermind behind the degradation is oil spillage. Oil spillage has made this region suffer in great deal especially on two main areas land and water. Osuji further said that the worst form of environmental pollution is oil spillage which stands as a severe danger to the lives of people and the inhabitant of the natural environment. This region has suffered from oil spillage in decades as a result of damage done to their farmland, rivers, streams, and these has caused most people from this region to flee to another part of the country in search of safe haven. Thousands of lives have been lost as a result of the effects of oil spillage.

Even as the government has the major blame on the damages done to the environment during oil extraction, the people are still not innocent from causing harm to themselves. The people on some occasions engage in oil sabotage, in this process they destroy the channel(s) of this oil so that they can take from the oil for sale or personal use. Groups also embark on these illegal activities by deliberately damaging the pipes and installation devices so that they can be paid to rebuild and reconstruct it, and therefore they can make money from it (Mba, 2013.). These groups engage in this act all in the name of fighting for the equal wealth distribution of the nation. At first, the Nigerian state made use of force by sending troops to combat the people of Niger delta but instead, it resulted into more violence. In order to put an end to the violence that comes with the behavior of these groups, the Nigerian Federal government introduced the Amnesty Program in 2009 by engaging the Niger delta militants who basically destroy pipelines. The main objective of the programme was centered on the empowerment of the people, bringing about development economically and helping the ex-militants to be of positive use in their respective communities with a hopeful result of bringing peace to the Niger delta. However, this programme brought about peace in

the region as the people stopped damaging pipelines and oil channels but it didn't address the issue of Environmental degradation. The awareness and reactions from the people of this region can be said to have flamed resulting from reports and commentaries made by civil society organizations and some locals following the excess activities of oil explorations from MNCs and the government of Nigeria's negligence to scrutinize the activities of this MNCs which has caused damage to the lives of people in the Niger Delta region.

Civil society are usually concerned with issues that affect human and their existence, this life threaten issues maybe as a result of actions of the government or multinational cooperation operating in the country. The duties of civil society are expanded in nature, it include issues pertaining to the environment, poverty, human security and many other issues.

Civil society in states like Nigeria where there is low government institutional activities and program can help instigate programs and activities. Promote inclusive democracy and improve social activities. Through the activities of civil society, constructive dialogues are produced and information is shared among people and the public, issues of international concerns that have local implications are addressed and solutions are sometimes put forward to help the people. By and large, the contribution of civil society to sustainable development is huge, they contribute in research that concerns the environment, map out techniques to combat crucial crisis and threat, and some of them make resources available to carry out government functions effectively and efficiently.

Civil society organizations operating in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria have been effective on issues pertaining to environmental degradation in Nigeria. On several occasions they have conducted field investigation to see in practical terms how this oil spillage occurs and the height of damage it has done to the environment, like the lands, the water bodies and crops and food. Civil society organization in the Niger Delta region have also made effort to create awareness with the people of the region on issues regarding the pollution caused by the spill and educate the people on how to deal with such pollution when they occur.

In the Niger Delta region the level of harm done to the environment as a result of oil exploration is alarming therefore attracting the attentions of foreign civil society organization like Amnesty International. Amnesty International has been effective in ensuring that companies involved in this oil extraction that causes oil spillage are brought to book and adequate compensation is awarded to the victims in the region who suffers from the effect of damage.

Amnesty International which is an International civil society Organization with the aim to fight human right abuses across the globe played a critical role in addressing human security issues in Niger delta especially environmental degradation which occurred as a result of Oil spill and gas flaring. The organization carried out series of research to expose the true cause of environmental degradation in the region using Decoders, an AI innovative tool which monitors oil spill and determine the level of damage it has done to the soil and water bodies. After doing their investigation, they also served as expertise by giving the Nigerian state Institution advices that would be a way forward to solving the issue of environmental degradation in the region and also mobilize people by educating them about their rights which has brought about a huge success. With the help of Amnesty International, communities like Bodo were able to take legal action against the oil giants which they won. The study found that despite the great progress made by the organization, it is Important to mention that they have limitations which to a large extent affected their progress. Firstly is the fact that Amnesty International is a nongovernmental organization therefore most of their suggestions to the Nigerian state Institution on how resolve environmental degradation problems in the Niger delta region can only be expressed and not implemented if the state is not willing to do anything about it. Another issue is that critique of civil society organization have also expressed their opinion that AI doesn't seems to know its boundary because they believe that the organization was already acting more like the Nigerian state institution by taking up certain responsibilities upon themselves.

MOSOP which is an indigenous civil society organization also did a wonderful job in its battle against the human right abuse & environmental degradation problem in Niger delta by confronting both the Oil companies and the Nigerian Federal government. The organization created grass root awareness with its people and organized massive protest which drew the attention of the International community to the issue of Oil spillage in the Niger delta region. Part of the success recorded by the organization was the lawsuit filed against SDPC in the UK and US by the Ogoni's which earned the affected community \$15.5m after a court order.

Haven talked about the positive side of MOSOP it is Imperative to also say that the organization also have some flaws and it suffered some set back. No doubt that MOSOP did very well under the leadership of Ken Saro-Wiwa but since the Nigerian state Institution executed him alongside eight others who were regarded as very strong and vocal in the struggle, all in the aim to silence a good course, it seriously had a big effect on the activities/agitations of MOSOP as well as other nonviolent movements in Nigeria who has similar ideology with the organization but notwithstanding, the message that MOSOP brought to the people still spread like wild fire.

Despite the fact that the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa affected MOSOP, that's not the major problem with the organization as some people claim because it also lack of some leadership problems which include Vision, Choice and Resolve. Even prior the execution of Ken SaroWiwa, the Vice President of MOSOP at that time, Mr. Ledum Mitee, was given an appointment by the Federal Government after he was released from prison as well as the son of Saro-Wiwa himself who became a Special Adviser to the President including many others who ended up becoming government contractors. This whole action is absolutely against the philosophy of MOSOP and as a result, the organization leadership began to crack. Even though MOSOP couldn't do much in preventing the continued environmental degradation of Ogoni-land, and the lack of serious political reform or radical state policies to address minority concerns, the study regarded MOSOP as being a successful environmental social movement. Rather than being an overly-optimistic view

of the inspiration MOSOP has provided to other movements around the world. As MOSOP still remains an active part of a bigger struggle towards ending the exploitation of the Niger delta people, MOSOP has not completely failed, but yet to achieve its major goals. In these regard, other civil society organizations and movement has a challenging battle to fight.

The government of Nigeria has been reluctant in dealing and handling this oil spillage. Several cases have shown how nonchalant the Nigerian state institution could be when it comes to issues of oil spillage. The institutions of government created to oversee situations of oil spillage and ensure that a clean-up exercise if carried out within the stipulated time always compromise in their functions. The longer in delay to respond to the damages, the higher the level of damage caused. Although the Federal Government of Nigeria has been making series of pronouncements over the years with respect to specifically develop Ogoni-land as well as the Niger Delta as a whole but unfortunately the entire announcements were just used for political campaigns to gain the attention and votes of the people. The Nigerian state institution doesn't seem to be in any way concerned about the issue of oil spills which has resulted to the degradation of the Niger delta environment over decades. Based on report, about 1.5 million tons of oil has been spilled in the Niger Delta in the last fifty years with Ogoni-land being the most affected area, which by far supersedes the amount of the Exxon Valdez Disaster that occurred in 1989. According to the United Nations Environmental Development Programme, it would take nothing less than 30 years to clean up Ogoni-land with the financial implication of \$2 billion dollars annually. Investigation also shows that the life expectancy of an average individual in the rural areas of the Niger delta has reduced to as low as 40 years in the last three decades and it won't stop to decline due to the effect of the oil spills, still the Nigerian Federal government doesn't seem to care of take these problem serious. Amidst all these problems, this study concludes that since the Oil companies won't stop polluting the Niger delta region and Nigerian state institution is serious about taking action to resolve the environmental degradation problem in the region, the civil society organizations operating in the Niger delta such as Amnesty International and

MOSOP's effort would be limited in bringing about development. Therefore the only way to end the violation of fundamental human rights that has continued for a long time is to keep taking legal actions against the oil companies involves and getting compensated.

### **Recommendations**

Following the findings of the research, the researcher outlines the following recommendations to civil society organization in the Niger Delta region, the Nigeria government and the people;

- Civil society organisation, should intensify their effort to enlighten the people of the Niger delta region of the danger of oil spillage and how it has and can affect their life. They should also be educated on the negative effective that will be brought to them, when they engage in sabotage of pipeline. CSO should organise constant seminar at the local level with the local people using a medium of communication that the people can understand to teach them on the importance of the environment.
- CSO should work with the government to ensure that oil corporations operating in the region, uses the adequate technological equipment in the course of their extraction. CSO organisation should also ensure that the government builds infrastructures that are used in oil production. In a situation where there is pipeline leakage, there should be quick responsive measures, this should be encouraged and maintained in the oil production field, a more proactive measures to manage oil spillage should be a culture in order to prevent incidents of oil spillage.
- CSO should work hand in hand with the Nigerian state institution to train individuals that can manage issues of oil spillage using contemporary approach. Also CSO should organize workshops to educate individuals to engage in voluntary services in managing oil spillage and protecting the environment. CSO should also ensure that the departments of government responsible for managing oil spillage

conduct their inspectoral duties and enforcement with dignity and high level of competency.

- CSO organisation should implement an emergency call line that can enable individual's phone in, in-cases where there is oil sabotage or thief. This service should be cost free in order to give people the willingness to call even when they do not have call credit. This emergency call line is paramount in checking pipelines and events where there is damage or leakage.
- CSO should ensure that these emergency call line centres are controlled and handled by experts who can respond quickly in cases of pipeline damage. CSO should influence the government to ensure that the various agencies in charge of petroleum and environmental protection agencies are well educated on issues concerning oil spillage, and every agency should have an emergency team with clear duty and responsibilities. Involving the oil corporations on issues of clean-up should be a secondary issue, firstly there should be an emergency response team to maintain control of any pipeline damage, before the oil corporations can provide the resources for the clean-up. With this the damage will be reduced as in the case where all is left to the government and oil corporation to handle.
- Issues of oil spillage usually occur at the local areas, so CSO should influence the government to implement laws that can create agencies at the local and state level to enforce contingency plans when there is oil spillage.
- CSO should ensure that the government implements stiff punishment against oil saboteurs and damagers of pipeline. Punishment should include, fines, jail terms after trial, and compensation to affected regions.

When these recommendations are implemented, inhabitants of Niger Delta region will benefit a lot because there will be reduced oil spillage in the region which is mainly caused by damage done to pipeline because of poverty, these will save the environment and factors of the environment can be beneficial to the people of the region to use. When there is reduced oil

spillage, management of oil spillage in the region will be enhanced, and this will also save cost, and excess money allocated for clean-up can be used for infrastructural development in the region.

### **Recommendation for Future Study**

As a result of certain conditions and limitations during the course of preparing this study, there is need for further study to be conducted on areas of oil spillage that will help in managing the difficulties encountered by actors addressing issues related to human security in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Further study regarding environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region should ensure to deal on the following issues;

- The Role of the Nigeria Government in addressing issues of Oil Spillage in the Niger Delta Region
- The role of Oil Corporation in managing oil spillage and conducting clean-up exercises
- The difficulties encounter in managing oil spillage in unsecured areas of the Niger Delta Region.

Further study in this aspect will help manage issues of oil spillage and address environmental degradation because the demand for oil is expanding and on the increase, and this means that oil exploration activities will increase to meet demands. Further studies can also be handled in measuring the impact of civil society organizations' activities on shaping state policies and increasing public awareness in relation to environmental security issues.



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29.05.2019

Dear Oluwadare Adedokun Salako

Your project **“The Role/Impact Of Civil Society Organizations İn Addressing İssues Related To Human Security İn The Nigeria's Niger-Delta Region.”** has been evaluated. Since only secondary data will be used the project it does not need to go through the ethics committee. You can start your research on the condition that you will use only secondary data.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Direnç Kanol

Rapporteur of the Scientific Research Ethics Committee

**Note:**If you need to provide an official letter to an institution with the signature of the Head of NEU Scientific Research Ethics Committee, please apply to the secretariat of the ethics committee by showing this document.