

CHAPTER IV

THE ANALYSIS ON THE EFFECT OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AS THE DRIVEN FACTOR OF THE CONFLICT IN NIGER DELTA

Chapter II has described about the Niger Delta along with the oil exploration. Earlier, the conditions in the Niger Delta are conducive in spite of the oil production activities. Chapter III explains that the oil industry's activities resulted in the existence of a conflict in the Niger Delta. The emergence of the militant group adds the long list of the uprisings conducted by the citizen against the Government through industry and oil companies operating there.

Therefore, this chapter will explain about the underlying reason for the existence of violence and conflict in the Niger Delta. The violence and conflict in the Niger Delta were caused by the grievances of citizens due to the industrialization of oil operations in the region where they live. When it became the largest oil-producing region, the people are expecting revenues from the oil sector to bring changes to the development in the Niger Delta. However, it is not in line with the reality, in fact, the inequal distribution of economic, land ownership rights violation, and environmental damage exist.

A. The Economics Factors

The conflict in the Niger Delta is a social conflict over natural resources. A variety of militant groups forming and launching its action is to have an access to natural resources. When examined further the motive of violence and conflict going on is no other than the relative deprivation. The militant groups

that are located in the Niger Delta will obstinately continue to implementation of the action of tampering. It is because until now they did not get the justice from the Federal Government of Nigeria as the parties who have the authority towards the revenue gained from the oil industry. The Federal Government does have full authority to move the industry in the Niger Delta. This is an evidence from the management of the oil industry under the national oil company of Nigeria overshadowing the foreign companies working in the oil industry.

Some decades ago, after oil has been found and Nigeria becomes a producing oil country, the economy of Nigeria experienced growth. The petroleum reserves that belong to Nigeria is able to make Nigeria as a country rich in oil and produce the income of about 80 billion US dollars. The huge amount of the revenue from the oil industry brings expectations of the Niger Delta people for changing a better condition and development. A benefit of this industry is extremely useful if used for the construction of infrastructure and public facilities such as education, health, road repair, and also for electricity. Besides for the development, people in Niger Delta would also have an opportunity to apply and find the jobs easily. Ironically, the expectations did not fit with the reality. The changes and development never happened and it coupled with poor economic conditions, poverty, and unemployment becoming a problem that often occurs along the absence of the problems solutions in the Niger Delta.

According to Ukiwo, there are some factor which become the high

perception of relative deprivation issue in Niger Delta. These factors include the effect of high inflation in oil industry revenues, decreasing job opportunities for youth for the oil industry, as well as the high number of corruption committed by the public officials and oil companies. The research that was leveled by Ukiwo later reinforced with a report from the World Bank stated that the view of the relative deprivation in Niger Delta based on the discrepancy between Niger Delta's people expectations and reality (WorldBank, 2008).

1. The Poverty in Niger Delta Region

When further analyzed, the factors that trigger the onset of conflict and violence in the Niger Delta from 2006-2016 are the chaos triggered by the level of poverty that has already happened since a long time ago. The poverty levels in the Niger Delta are rated very high when compared to the income and expenditure of their daily needs. In the area of this southern zone , it is also about 77 percent of the population living below the poverty line if it is compared to the standard poverty figures which is in the number of 35 percent (WorldBank, 2008).

The existence of poverty occurs due to the result of the injustice committed by the Federal Government. Since 1980, the poverty in the Niger Delta area began to increase year to year. Despite experiencing fluctuations, the poverty levels continue to be increasing until 1996. The National Bureau of Statistics has summarized the data of the poverty level from 1980 until 2004

as the table below:

Table 4.1 Poverty Data in Niger Delta Region

Zone	1980	1985	1992	1996	2004
Nigeria	28.1%	46.3%	42.7%	65.6%	54.5%
Delta	19.8%	52.4%	33.9%	56.1%	Delta 45.35%
Edo					Edo 33.9%
Cross River	10.2%	41.9%	45.5%	66.9%	41.61 %
Imo	14.4%	33.1%	49.9%	56.2%	Imo 27.39% Abia 22.27
Ondo	24.9%	47.3%	46.6%	71.6%	42.15%
Rivers	7.2%	44.4%	43.4%	44.3%	Rivers 29.9% Bayelsa 19.98%

Source: (National Bureau of Statistic, 2007)

Table 4.2 Poverty in Niger Delta in 2010

State	Poverty Rate	Estimated Population living in property
Abia	42.2	1,587,986
Akwa Ibom	46.2	1,799,490
Bayelsa	53.0	1,055,760
Cross Rivers	47.1	1,501,077
Delta	36.4	1,523,704
Edo	34.0	1,195,440
Imo	49.3	1,919,742
Ondo	53.9	1,899,436
Rivers	49.4	2,795,546

Niger Delta	45.7	15,362,512
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Source: (Ibaba, 2006)

From the data in the table 4.1 the rate of poverty in Niger Delta region has mostly increased from year to year although in 2004 the poverty rate decreased. However, from the data in the table 4.2, the poverty rate increased along with the data of estimated population living in poverty. It is very clear, though this country is rich in natural resources and has a large revenue, the Federal Government is not able to provide the economic justice. The Nigerian Government also does things that are unfair in sharing the wealth of oil. The civilians are increasingly chained by poverty while another civilian in another part of Nigeria are increasingly richer. It is not surprising if the emergence of the militant groups is considered as a way to reach justice. The poverty which has been going on for a long time becomes the source of the frustrated people living there. They then transmit their frustration by joining the existing militant groups.

2. Corruption

In addition to the injustices committed by the Government, there are another factors that drive the insurgency related to the conflict. Corruption has become the part of the system that exists in the Government of Nigeria. Corruption could happen easily because the funds from the oil income are not transparent and could not be published. Corruption practice that happen in

Niger Delta is usually between the political elite who got the illegal money from the director of the oil companies operating in the area. The practices corruption committed by political elite along with director of oil companies happen with the aims that the oil companies can explore more widely than the oil resources outside of the agreement which has been determined by the Government. As the result, the political elites who did corruption using the revenues from oil industry for personal purpose and they also received bribes for their private funds instead of using the funds for regional development.

According to Guardian:

While government coffers collect windfall oil revenues, ordinary Nigerians derive precious little benefit from this tremendous wealth. Abject poverty in Rivers State ranks among the worst in the world. Oil revenues that could have been spent on improving health and education for Nigeria's citizens are instead squandered and embezzled by the political elite. According to British investigators, some of this oil wealth has made its way to the UK. In 2007, a British court froze some \$35m in assets belonging to former Delta State governor James Ibori. His official salary while in office was around \$25,000 (2008).

From the above statement, it proves that the political elites committed a corruption practices by stockpiling some funds from the oil revenues. The funding which should be allocated to regional development such as education, healthcare, and other social developments were misused. Another reliable source, the Independent Corrupt Practices (ICPC) stated that the Ministry of Niger Delta has committed fraud and embezzlement of \$100.000 or equivalent to N655 million as it was known from the Ministry account (Premium Times, 2015). In addition, Nigeria's Information Minister, Lai Mohammed stated that the corruption case involving 55 State Ministers, the Governor of the State,

public officials, bankers, and businessmen causing Nigeria to lose 1.34 trillion Naira or equivalent to Rp92,9 trillion in public funds for seven years (CNN, 2016).

Definitely, the practice of corruption that occurs caused the people to suffer and it also clearly contributed to the increasing of poverty and inequality along with the high violent actions. The practice was also influential on the development of economic development. The Government should further improve the control and act decisively toward the corruption practices.

3. The Unemployment

Besides corruption, the low opportunities of employment also drive the insurgency. Since the operation of the oil industry in the Niger Delta, the livelihood of the people in the Niger Delta has slowly changed. In the past, the livelihood of the people is in agriculture sector. Unfortunately, the agriculture industry should be moved and replaced due to the presence of the oil industry. Some or even most of the people lost their jobs. The jobs in the oil industry is very slightly opened for the original residents living there. This is because most of the workers in the oil industry comes from the outside areas of the Niger Delta. There are even many workers coming from abroad. Thus, it results in unemployment. According to Trading Economics, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is averaged 9.52 percent from 2006 until 2016 (Trading Economics, n.d.).

The unemployment and underemployment in the Niger Delta are rated

high compared to the other region in Nigeria. According to Aderoju Oyefusi, “the lack of available and appropriate work limits the possibilities for young people to move out of poverty. Limited employment also reduces the opportunity cost of turning to violent forms of struggle and criminal activities” (2007).

Table 4.3 Unemployment Rate in Niger Delta (2009)

States	Urban	Rural
Abia	8.70%	10.8%
Akwa-Ibom	29.8%	37.1%
Bayelsa	20.7%	24.1%
Cross Rivers	7.30%	18.3%
Delta	23.5%	19.0%
Edo	24.0%	11.8%
Imo	23.8%	32.8%
Ondo	14.0%	19.8%
Rivers	27.5%	35.2%

Source: Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa 2009

From the above data table, the unemployment rate in the region of Akwa-Ibom features 37.1%, Bayelsa 24.1%, and Rivers 35.2% in the rural area. Whereas, these three areas are the main oil-producing region. The high level of unemployment experienced by youths has affected the high level of criminal actions across the region in the Niger Delta. By looking at the rate of the unemployment, it can be found that the high rate of unemployment in Niger Delta region has a critical connection amongst the unemployment and youth turmoil in that area. Thus, this idea can be connected to find the reason for insurgency and the formation of the militancy group.

B. The Loss of Land Ownership

Nigeria embraced the federal state system in which the country is divided into several states. The structure of Government in Nigeria are divided into 3 layers starting from the local government and the state along with the federal that is in the highest levels.

The Nigerian Federal Government has full authority toward the existing oil industry in Nigeria. The full authority owned by the Federal Government of Nigeria toward the oil resources has set based on the Petroleum Act 1996 published by the Federal Government of the Nigeria Constitution. In the Petroleum Act, the Government designates the Minister as the holder of the main resource in controlling the regulations of natural resources (DPR, 1979). The content of the Petroleum Act begins with the preamble as follows:

An Act to provide for the exploration of petroleum from the territorial waters and the continental shelf of Nigeria and to vest the ownership of, and all on-shore and off-shore revenue from petroleum resources derivable therefrom in the Federal Government and for all other matters incidental thereto (NRGI, 2010).

Furthermore, in the Petroleum Act Chapter P10, it is stated that in the section 1 the entire ownership and control of all petroleum in, under, or upon any lands to which this section applies shall be vested in state. The word state here is referred to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Section 1 is applied to all land including the land covered by water which:

- a) Is in Nigeria; or

- b) Is under the territorial waters of Nigeria; or
- c) Forms the parts of the continental shelves; or
- d) Forms the parts of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Nigeria.

The act above clearly shows that there is nothing new in the agitation for the control of these resources that is experienced by the people in the Niger Delta. The Federal Government of Nigeria hoards all the privileges of access to oil fields.

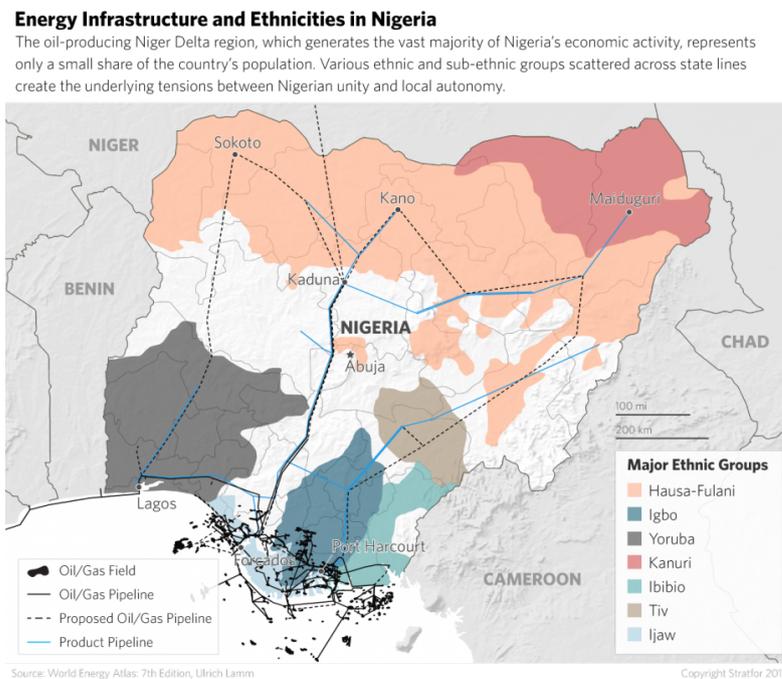


Figure 4. 1 Map of Ethnic Groups live in Niger Delta
 Source: (Stratfor, 2016)

Another deprivation experienced by Niger Delta people is their rights to the ownership of land which belongs to them. Beside the Petroleum Act, the government was appointed The Land Use Act. The purpose of the establishment of the Land Use Act is to advise on future land policy. With the

presence of the Land Use Act, it totally stripped the Niger Delta people's entitlement to their ancestral land. Thus, it gave negative impacts for the Niger Delta people (NDRDMP, 2016).

People who live in Niger Delta have a strong belief to their ancestor's customs. For example, they have a strong inner tie to the ancestral lands. According to the beliefs they embraced, the land is highly precious for them. The land also reflects the culture, religion, and also norms for life. Through the land, the people in the Niger Delta are also able to maintain their ties with the deceased ancestors hundreds years ago.

When the activity of the oil has taken the land belonging to the people, it was began in 1956 when was known that the oil industry had been exploited the natural resources existing in Niger Delta palpably without considering the fate of the origins living in those abundant natural resources. It obviously forces the people to leave the land where they live to be used for oil industry activities. The losing of a very valuable land results in the public indignation. The indignation is compounded by the existence of The Federal Government's law stating that the state have access to all of the land in the Niger Delta. The purpose of this legislation is of course to facilitate the activities of the oil industry because oil has taken an important role for the advancement of Nigeria.

The implementation of the Land Use Act becomes the source of conflict in Niger Delta because this Land Use Act causes the agriculture sectors to lose

its functions and also the economic prosperity which has become extinct which then turns into poverty. The Land Use Act 2004 is made up of eight parts of fifty-one sections. The General principles of the Act state that:

The subject to the provisions of this Decree, all land comprised in the territory of each State in the Federation are hereby vested in the Governor of the State and such land shall be held in trust and administered for the use and common benefit of all Nigerians (Guardian, 2015).

It is important to note that the provisions of the Land Use Act of 2004 have been enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This implies that the provisions of the Act cannot be amended or expunged, altered or repealed except as it is provided by the stringent conditions stated in the constitution for the alteration of its provisions.

The Ijaw ethnic living in the Niger Delta regions is the people who suffered from the loss of their land. These people who later joined the militant group. They were believed that the lands and natural resources that were in the places where they stay were theirs. They continued to fight to preserve their land and tried to restore their rights. Nevertheless, the President would vigorously crack down on anyone who tried to interfere with the course of the activities of the oil industry.

The Act has also removed the control and management of lands from family and community heads/chiefs and vested the same in the governors of each state of the federation (in the case of urban lands) and in the appropriate local government (in the case of rural lands).

C. The Environmental Degradation

The problems of the environmental degradation in the Niger Delta are very closely related to the oil industry operating in the region. The environmental degradation are the conditions in which the ecosystem experiences declination. This ecosystem includes the water resources, the air, and also the soil.

The Niger Delta has a very beautiful environment and endows with a very rich biodiversity. There are many fish populations in abundant amounts. There are also a variety of animal species and plants. The oil production activities are believed to be the cause of the major problems of the environmental damage. The environmental damage inflicted can be derived from the exploration and the production activities. Due to oil exploration and production industry, the Niger Delta condition slowly become deteriorated. The following will explain the environmental damage as the result of the activities of the oil industry:

1. Oil Spills

Oil spill jobs often occur in Nigeria as the part of the consequences of the oil industry. As much as 50% of the oil spill occurred due to the corrosion and leakage accident of the pipeline and tanker to reserve oil. The oil spill has led to a multitude of the environmental damage. The impact of the oil spill has degraded the environmental conditions. This degradation conditions had fallen upon the agricultural lands. Before switching into the oil producing industry,

the land areas in the Niger Delta is very rich and fertile but now the area has been polluted. The pollution due to the oil spills, and the land becomes infertile because of the microorganisms contained in the land have been destroyed. The agricultural sector productivity has now diminished rapidly; farmers were forced to abandon their farmland used for the oil industry area. Another impact of oil spill in Niger Delta is the mangrove forest. The mangrove forest has been degrading, and the fish along with the sea-water ecosystem were dead.

The followings are the list of the number of oil spill happening in Niger Delta.

Table 4. 4 - The Number of Agip Company's Oil Spills: Onshore Sectors

Year	Number of oil spill
2007	180
2008	235
2009	258
2010	323
2011	400
2012	474

Table 5.5 – The Number of Shell Company's Oil Spill: Onshore Sectors

Year	Number of oil spill
2007	171
2008	95
2009	118
2010	188
2011	207
2012	207

Source: National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency database

(NOSDRA, 2013)

From the above data, it is known that the amount and frequency of oil spills in the Niger Delta are in very large numbers. From year to year, the oil spill continues to occur and increases.

According to the data taken from National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, the estimated number of the oil spill occurred in Niger Delta from 2006 to 2015 has reached as many as 5000 to 9000 oil spills. Another data taken from the available statistic reported that in the last 30 years, there is more than 400.000 tons of oil spilled into the creeks and soils of southern Nigeria. About 70 percent of the oil total amount has not been recovered (UNDP, 2006).

2. Disposal Waste

The exploration and production activities of oil produce a variety of the hazardous chemical waste. This chemical waste results from the production processes. The chemical wastes in the Niger Delta have been polluting the land and water. The fish and agriculture get some impacts from chemical and disposal waste. At the point when oil is pumped out of the ground, a blend of oil, gas and water develops.

Another waste coming from the oil industry is through drilling. In drilling process, it produces a huge number of mud and dry cuttings. The results of drilling wastes are often dumped anywhere, and it causes polluted the drainage and waterways. As a result, the water quality is worsened and furthermore the quality of the land earmarked for agricultural land has also worsened.

3. Gas Flaring

In the Niger Delta, where the vast majority of the flaring takes spots, the occupants living close to the gas flares grumble of respiratory issues, skin rashes, and eye disturbances. It also harms the farming because of the corrosive rain. Doctor Nabss Imegwu has indicated that the people in Niger Delta are likewise compelled to live with consistent clamor, warmth, and light that can be prompt to lack of sleep which can deteriorate into a systemic sleeping disorder. Since flaring contains carbon dioxide and sulfur yields, in the more extended term, the heart and lungs can be influenced prompting to bronchitis, silicosis, sulfur harming of the blood, and cardiovascular entanglements.

The Niger Delta region are known to have about 123 gas flaring sites (The Energetic Solution, 2004). Every year, Nigeria has flared 17.2 billion m³ of natural gas related with the exploration of crude oil in the Niger Delta. The Nigerian government has not implemented the environmental regulations properly. However, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) has had the authority to issue gauges for water, air, and land contamination and has made the regulations for oil industry.

The implication of gas flaring on human health are all related to the exposure of those hazardous air pollutants emitted during the incomplete combustion of gas flare. These pollutants are associated with a variety of some adverse health impacts including cancer, neurological, reproductive and

developmental effects. The deformities in children, lung damage and skin problems have also been reported.

4. Water Pollution

The Niger Delta is characterized by wetlands. The life of the people living in the Niger Delta cannot be detached from its relationship with the environment. The ecosystem is interconnected with another object system in Niger Delta. For example, the river existing in the Niger Delta are usually used for fishing, harvesting, bathing, and even for drinking. The ecosystem existing in that region is really amazing.

Ironically, the ecosystem and wetlands that exist in the Niger Delta are no longer beautiful and useful as they were used to be. According to the research conducted by the Amnesty International, the water systems such as the rivers have been polluted by the oil spills and waste resulting from the activities of the oil industry. Many rivers are experiencing the canalization and dredging. The damages to the water system that occur in the Niger Delta is the impact of the oil industry. The damages of water systems also have nothing to do with the sabotage perpetrated by the people who are not responsible, but purely because of the impact of industrial activities.

In Niger Delta, water contamination or pollution happen when poisons are released specifically or in a roundabout way into water bodies without the satisfactory treatment to expel unsafe compounds. The water contamination happens in rural and urban areas across the Niger Delta regions. In the

provincial zones, drinking water from the common sources, for example, waterways and streams is generally contaminated by the natural substances from the upstream clients utilizing water for farming exercises. Many oil companies that operate in Niger Delta are located on the river banks and use the rivers as the waste disposal channels. Obviously, the petroleum industry presents the greatest threat to water quality.

Since the water system suffered damage and pollution, it makes the Niger Delta people find trouble of getting clean water for drinking and other needs. Although the river water they use for their ordinary daily life is polluted, there is no other way but keep consuming the polluted water from the river consuming contaminated water can lead to health problems. Many people are already affected by having to consume unsafe drinking water. Thousands of people lose access to their main sources of drinking water after an oil spill, and some children are reported to suffer skin and eye problems after diving in the oil-contaminated rivers.

Nigeria is under an obligation to ensure the availability of sufficient, safe, and acceptable water for personal and domestic uses. The right to water includes the right to maintain access to existing water supplies necessary for the enjoyment of the right, and the right to be free from the contamination of water supplies.

The Oloibiri and the Ijaw people are the most suffered people. Oil operations are expanding, so are the large expanses of polluted arable land,

rivers, mangroves and, swamps. The livelihood security has become a matter of concern to local communities and people in the Niger Delta (Ogon, 2006).

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