

## **The impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta (Egbema Local Government, Imo State Nigeria)**

Nwokorie Chinedu Nehemiah

*Department of Sociology, Imo State University, Owerri Imo State Nigeria.*

---

### **ABSTRACT**

This study centered on the socio-economic implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region (Egbema Local Government Area in Imo State). The aim is to explore the impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people, taking into consideration the need to develop the capacity of the indigenes of the host communities. The research methodology was anchored on a structured questionnaire, which was administered to the indigenes of the selected Niger Delta region to elicit the necessary information needed for this study. For the relevance of this study, Karl Mark theory of economic determinism was used as the theoretical frame work; and At the end of this study, it was observed that Oil bearing communities in the Niger Delta region have incurred losses/damages with regards to oil exploration; the people of the Niger Delta region have not benefited much from the oil exploration, compared to the amount that accrued from the region on daily bases. The researcher also observed that oil spillages and other harmful chemicals are washed into the rivers, creeks and farm lands by the oil companies, thereby, polluting the river and equally destroying aquatic lives as well as making the water unhygienic for human consumption. Equally, it was observed that there is the need for oil companies in the Niger Delta area and Federal government to help in building the capacity of the youths, develop skills and entrepreneurship in the Niger Delta area.

**KEYWORDS:** socio-economic implications, Oil exploration, Niger Delta

---

Date of Submission: 17-10-2020

Date of Acceptance: 02-11-2020

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Oil occupies an important place in the social, political and economic existence of Nigeria. Eighty percent survival of the contemporary man is tied to the use of power and energy. Oil was discovered in Nigeria in 1956 in Oloibiri, in the present Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State by Shell BP. Nigeria joined the ranks of other oil producers in 1958 when its' first oil field came on stream producing 5,100 barrels per day (Adebowale, 1998).

After 1960, exploration rights in on-shore and off-shore areas adjoining the Niger Delta were extended to other foreign companies. The strategic position of oil industry in national development and the Niger Delta which is said to have the highest deposit of crude has been well recognized since the period between 1962 -1962 when the first national development plan was launched. The journey which started with one oil company (Shell BP) has seen almost 50 firms operating about 159 oil fields and 1,481 oil wells in the Niger Delta, From inception to date, Nigeria has earned about 600 billion dollars as revenue from oil, even though the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) could not say how much the country spent to fetch this tidy sum of money (Asobie, 1986)

Nigeria is the world's 11<sup>th</sup> largest oil producer, and the largest oil producer in Africa. Nigeria is the 10<sup>th</sup> world largest holder of proven reserves at 36 billion barrels, and aim to raise proven reserves from 36 to 40 billion barrels by 2010 across the Nine States of the Niger Delta region (Cross River, Akwa-Iborno, Rivers, Bayelsa, Edo, Delta, Imo, Abia and Ondo) (Akpan, 2001).

Nna (2001:8) opined that with the location of oil wells, flow stations and export terminals on the land and swaps of the Niger Delta region, it has brought social, economic, political and environmental problems on its host communities. Oil exploration has displaced the people of the Niger Delta region, dislocated their lives, polluted their waters, damaged their farm lands and has exposed the people to debilitating health hazards. He went further to say that the people of Niger Delta have almost lost all sense of belonging due to neglect, marginalization, deprivation, poverty, disempowerment and underdevelopment of the Niger Delta region.

According to Marcuailey (2005), despite the presence of the Oil companies in the Niger delta region, the hardship and poverty prevalent in the Niger Delta Area appear to have a psychological grip and a feeling of hopelessness on the people of the region. The indigenes of the Niger Delta feel that the community they cherished and which used to provide for their forefathers has become unsafe and dehumanized. The chain of

events is assumed to have been responsible for the gradual displacement of routine traditional economic activities of the people. Other sources of livelihood were affected as land could not be farmed on again and the sea bereft of fishes and other sea-foods as a result of oil spillages. In a related issue, oil exploration and spillage have displaced the people of Niger Delta region, dislocated their lives, polluted their waters, and damaged their farmlands. The Delta people are exposed to debilitating health hazards occasioned by oil spills, hydrocarbon pollution, gas flaring and other forms of environmental degradation. Some of the activities in the oil industry that caused environmental degradation include oil drilling, pipe-line transportation and oil refining, neglect, underdevelopment and pollution in the Niger Delta region (OKorji, 1999)

### **1.1 The Challenging Problem**

The presence of oil companies has recorded a significant impact on the lives of, the Niger Delta people. More especially in the socio-economic aspects, which include, provision of some infrastructures like building of schools, hospitals, recreational centers and their likes, provision of employment to reduce unemployment, agricultural schemes, and construction of roads to make movement easy in the Niger Delta region.

Upon these remarkable impacts of oil companies on the lives of the Niger Delta people, one still notices that the relationship between oil companies and their host communities is not cordial. The rate of attacks on the staff of the companies, oil-pipe-line vandalism, environmental pollution, kidnapping and hostagetaking, underdevelopment, killing, etc are on the increase. The host communities have continued to ask for more and better compensation from the oil companies, because the social amenities as provided by the oil companies don't seem to be equated to the damages caused by the oil exploration and exploitation. It is observed that oil exploration and spillage have displaced the people of Niger Delta region from their traditional occupation of farming and fishing.

Iheriohanma (2016) and Dode (2007) posited that oil exploration has heightened the level of economic hardship in terms of hunger in the Niger Delta, due to the problems associated with oil exploration which has affected aquatic lives, trees and plants. The impacts of oil exploration are heavily observed on the helpless rural people in the oil producing rural communities, hence these are suspected as cause of youth restiveness and the poor socio-economic down turn in the Niger Delta region.

### **1.2 Objective of the study**

The general objective of this study is to investigate and analyze the socioeconomic implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region (Egbema Local Government Area).

This can be ascertained this, the specific objective is: To explore the impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people, taking into consideration the need to develop the capacity of the indigenes of the host communities.

### **1.3 Research Hypothesis**

With respect to the operations of the oil companies in Egbema community in Imo State, the following hypothesis was stated for test.

There is no relationship between improved socio-economic lives of the NigerDelta people and oil exploration in the region.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study can be viewed from two dimensions: Practical significance and theoretical significance.

**1.4.1 Practical significance:** The findings of this study will serve as a guide to the oil companies, government, and host communities in relation to management and policy formulation as well as understanding themselves more maturely in handling any conflict and developmental situation that may arise.'

**1.4.2 Theoretically significance:** This study will increase the volume of existing knowledge on 'oil exploration and exploitation. It will serve as a reference material to oil companies, host communities and students who may be interested to research on the same topic and or other related issues. These findings can also be used in solving related social problems.

## **II. Some Contemporary Issues in Literature on the impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta (Egbema Local Government, Imo State Nigeria) and the need to develop the capacity of the indigenes of the host communities**

### **2.1 Oil Exploration and Socio-economic Development of Niger Delta Region**

(a) Oil has tremendously improved the socio-economic and cultural conditions of many petroleum-producing nations of the world. For instance, it has transformed the political structure of Nigeria and enhanced a massive expansion in the bureaucracies of Federal Government (Oiorode, 1998; Jimoh&Aghalino, 2000). While the exploration of oil has no doubt enhanced socio-economic transformations in many oil-producing states, the accompanying fallout remains tragic and disturbing in several states and oil-producing communities of Nigeria.

(b) Aghalino (1998) observed that the impact of oil exploitation, which is both on land offshore, has strong implications not only on the ecosystem but also for the health of people who rely on untreated water for domestic use in those areas. The impact of oil exploration and exploitation on the oil-mineral producing communities is three-fold. First it leads to environmental pollution; second, it destroys the ecosystem and the traditional socio-economic life of the people; and third, it further impoverishes the oil-producing communities.

(c) According to Osaghae (1995) and Aghalino (1998), oil exploration and exploitation have over the last four decades impacted disastrously on the socio-physical environment of the Niger Delta oil-bearing communities, massively threatening the Niger Delta people's economy and the environment; hence the entire livelihood and basic survival of the people. When a people's socio-cultural context is not taken into consideration during socio-economic activities such as oil prospecting and production, it implies, therefore, that individuals living within those areas in which such socio-economic activities are taking place may be marginalized in their own locality.

(d) Suffice it to note that while oil exploration has caused negative socio-economic and environmental problems in the Niger Delta, the Nigerian state has benefited immensely from petroleum since it was discovered in commercial quantity in 1956 in Oloibiri, in the present Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. There is no doubt that the Nigerian oil industry has affected the country in a majority of ways at the same time. On the other hand, it has fashioned a remarkable economic landscape for the country. However on the negative side, oil exploration and production have adverse effects on fishing and farming which are the traditional means of livelihood of the people of oil producing communities in the Niger Delta, Nigeria.

### **2.2 Implications of Oil Exploration in the Niger Delta**

There are both positive and negative implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region.

#### **2.2.1 Positive impacts of Oil Exploration in the Niger Delta**

According to Doris and Marcus (2012), since the operation of oil companies in the Niger Delta region, it has yielded a lot of positive impacts in developmental process, which has led to massive improvement of the region and the betterment of the living standards of the inhabitants of the region. The development project that has been classified as social impacts include education, health, community, roads rehabilitation and construction, vocational training schemes, scholarship schemes etc and economic impacts such as improvement in agriculture, micro credit facilities, industrial, development etc.

##### **(1) Social Impact**

**(a) Education:** It is now about 45 years since oil companies began their educational programme to improve literacy level in their host communities. The programme has been expanded to include scholarship awards, youth development training, a science teacher's scheme, adult literacy programme and the provision of education infrastructure.

According to Omagbemi (2003) Shell Petroleum Development Company (SDPC), during the 1999/2000 school year, awarded 21, 600 secondary and 583 University scholarships, and some 75 disabled students in post-secondary schools were also awarded scholarship. Through such scholarships, the company was supporting nearly 13,000 secondary schools and some 1,900 University students. Oil companies also continued the provision of building, and equipment to improve the teaching and learning environment, where 65 classroom blocks were constructed for over 15,000 students in 16 host communities.

**(b) Vocational Training:** In 2000, oil companies maintained emphasis on reducing youth unemployment in their host communities by boosting their income generation capabilities. This was done through their

skill acquisition programmes Which provide training, business start-up, support and educational development scheme for community youths. During the year, Niger Delta training scheme was restructured to train young men and women in selected centers at Orlu (Imo State) and Bori (Rivers State).

**(C) Water and Sanitation:** According to SPCD's report 2000 by Omagbemi (2003), oil companies raised the success rate of water projects in their host communities' from a low point of 18% in 1997 and 35% in 1999 to over 80 per cent in 2000. This significance improvement was achieved through the communities' involvement in the maintenance, management and operation of their facilities, the rehabilitation of water projects dating back to the early 1990's and the use of simpler facilities. Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) precisely, has performed creditably in the provision of water and sanitation throughout her host communities.

#### **(2) Economic impact**

**(a) Agriculture:** Oil companies' focus in the year 2000 continued to be on tackling the twin problems of poverty and unemployment in her host communities. Accordingly, Shell Company emphasized on agricultural income-generation and employment creation projects, supported by micro-project schemes to enhance family schemes. For instance, in partnership with her host communities, Shell established eight oil palm processing mills, 25 hectares of commercial oil palm plantation, a nursery and integrated fish hatchery, six off-shore fishing ventures and 10 creek fishing ventures in the Niger Delta regions.

#### **b) Employment**

According to Shell Petroleum Development Company's (SPDC's) report by Omagbemi (2003), the operation of oil companies in the Niger Delta Region has created a divers job opportunities for the host communities and the entire Nigerian nation. Due to Shell Company's vast area of operation, it has given the people of the Niger Delta different opportunities to ease the problem of unemployment in the area.

**(c) Transportation:** According to Omagbemi (2003), the problem of transportation has been tackled since the operation of oil companies began in the Niger Delta. Swamp zones and water logged area have been provided with bridge and boats to ease transportation and link communities. Buses are provided for inter and intra city movement to convey people and goods produced in the area. In area such as Nembe in Bayelsa State, Shell provided about fifty speed-boats to ease the problem of transportation.

### **2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The explanation of the socio-economic implication of oil exploration in the Niger Delta Area can be based on the contextual framework of Marxist theory on conflict, John Forley (1994:565) Modernization theory, and Karl Marx's theory of Economic Determinism. The objective analysis of the activities of the oil companies and Niger Delta region would best be explained by Karl Marx's theory of Economic Determinism.

#### **Karl Marx Theory of Economic Determinism**

This theory explains the kind of relationship between the oil companies and the on-bearing communities in the Niger Delta region as it relates to the economic and socio-political conditions in the region. Marx believed that the primary cause of tension or class antagonism is chiefly defined by economic factors. Marx was of the view that if one understands the economic structure of a given society, the relationship between production processes will be easily understood by the nature of politics, national security and ideological inclination. Marx is of the view that economic factors directly affect and influence people's socio-economic life. This is premised on his belief that man is dominantly motivated by economic needs. Labour is the very essence of material existence. The economy is the pivot upon which the superstructure (Education, Polity etc) rotates.

From the above theoretical stand point, the reward of the Niger Delta people remains absolute poverty and environmental degradation while the oil companies strive to maximize profit, and undermine the socio-economic needs of the Niger Delta and the hardship associated with oil exploration and exploitation. The core interest of the oil companies is profit maximization and their goal is profit oriented. Poverty in capitalist system can only be understood in terms of system inequality generated by a capitalist economy. Wealth is concentrated in the hand of the capitalist (oil companies) that have the technology and forces of production, while the Niger Delta people who own the natural resources which the oil companies exploit are left in abject poverty, underdeveloped and the youths unemployed. It is based on this that the researcher strongly asserts that the theory of Karl Marx best explains the kind of relationship between the oil companies and the oil-bearing communities in the Niger Delta region as it relates to the economic deprivation and socio-political conditions of the Niger Delta region.

### **III. MATERIALS AND METHOD**

#### **3.1 Research design**

This research study is designed to examine the socio-economic implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region. The aim is to attempt an in-depth analysis of the impacts of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region. A survey research method has been designed and employed for the study; the survey method was employed because of the following advantages: Surveys help to accumulate information from individuals at relatively low cost; when properly articulated and conducted, they permit generalization to be made to the wider population from which it was drawn; surveys are also flexible to permit the use of variety of data collection techniques such as interview, questionnaire, and observation.

#### **3.2 Sources of Data**

Two basic sources of information namely, primary and secondary sources were employed in this study to generate information or data for the study.

#### **Primary Data**

In collecting data for this research, questionnaires were administered to the respondents. The questionnaire explored the impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people, taking into consideration the need to develop the capacity of the indigenes of the host communities.

It also explored ways of avoiding conflict in order to promote cordial relationship<sup>1</sup> between oil companies and their host communities so as to identify the areas that lead to conflict between oil companies and their host communities. It ascertained the positive and negative impacts of oil exploration on the Niger Delta Area and its inhabitants.

The structured questionnaire was in two sections. Section 'A' dealt with the biographical data of the respondents, while section 'B' looked at the socio-economic implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region.

#### **Secondary Data**

The review of available and relevant literature was undertaken with a view to familiarizing the researcher with the subject area of the study. Therefore for the purpose of this study, journals, books, articles, Internet materials were consulted.

#### **3.3 Target Population**

There are five oil producing communities in Egbema community, which include, Obokofia, Obiakpu, Mrnahu, Abachcke and Abaezi. Hence, the communities and the target population of the three (3) oil producing communities that were used for this research are; Abachcle - 3,588, Obokofia— 2/127, and Obiakpu - 522. Therefore the target population for this research is six thousand five hundred and thirty-seven (6,537).

#### **3.4 Selection of sample size**

In selecting the sample for the study, 5% is used on each of three (3) oil producing communities which gave the sample size as follows; Abacheke - 179, Obokofia-12.1, and Obiakpu-26 people. A total of three hundred and twenty six (326) questionnaires were administered, and out of these sixteen (16) copies were not returned leaving the sample size at three hundred and ten (310). Due to time constraints, the research went into analysis with the returned questionnaires since the returned questionnaires are up to 95 percent.

Most importantly, the researcher adopted proportional stratified sampling method, in the proportional stratified sampling; the representation of each stratum of the population into the sample is based on their numerical strength in relation to the population.

#### **3.5 Method of data analysis**

The collected data were analyzed using some statistical tools. The analysis indicates the socio-economic, implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region.

In analyzing the data, the raw scores were converted to reflect the different views of respondents in percentage and chi-square statistics. Five (5) questions tested the hypothesis. Some degree of interviews and observation was used in gathering data for this study on salient issues to back up the questionnaire, and were also qualitatively analyzed.

### **IV. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS**

This chapter presents the results of the data collected. The results were analyzed according to the research questions posed and the hypotheses formulated. The hypotheses were analyzed using chi-square at 0.05 level of significance.

#### 4.1 Presentation of data

**Table 1:** Demographic characteristics of respondents

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage %
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	226	73
Female	84	27
<b>Age</b>		
18-30	97	31
31-44	168	54
45 and above	46	15
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	179	58
Single <sup>11</sup>	131	42
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
Primary	11	4
Secondary/O' Level	235	76
Tertiary	64	20
<b>Occupation</b>		
Farming	86	28
Fishing	59	19
Civil Servant	14	6
Trading	72	23
Politician	28	9
Self Employed	26	8
Students	25	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>

The table 1 above shows the sex distribution of the respondents in the three selected oil producing communities. It is seen that 73 percent were males, and 27 percent were females.

The Age distribution shows that respondents between 18-30 years constituted 31% in the distribution; those between 31-44 years represent 54%; while 45 years and above represent 15%. This indicates that majority of the respondents are within the ages of 31-44yrs.

It was observed from table1 above that 58% of the respondents were married while 42% were single.

The occupational status of the respondents shows that majority of the respondents constituting 28% are farmers, while 7% are students.

#### 4.3 Testing of Hypothesis I

There is no relationship between poor socio-economic lives of Niger Delta people and oil exploration in the region.

Question 1: Oil companies operations have improved the socio- and economic development of Niger Delta people.

**Table 2: Improved Socio Economic Development of Niger Delta People by Oil Companies.**

Options	No. of respondents	Respondents (%)
Agree	37	12
Strongly agree	15	5
Disagree	162	52
Strongly disagree	96	31
Total	310	100

From table 2 above, it is observed that 5 percent of the respondents strongly indicate that oil companies' operations have improved the socio-economic development of Niger Delta people, while 52 percent of the Niger Delta people indicate that oil companies' operations have not improved the socio-economic development of the Niger Delta Region.

Question 2: Scholarships as provided by oil companies have increased the literacy level of their host communities.

**Table 3: Level of Literacy in the Niger Delta since the inception of Oil Companies' Operations.**

Options	No. of respondents	Respondents (%)
Agree	137	44
Strongly agree	106	34
Disagree	46	15
Strongly disagree	21	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>

From table 3 above, it is observed that majority of the respondents representing 44 percent indicate that scholarships as provided by oil companies have increased the literacy level of their host communities, while 7 percent of the respondents strongly disagreed that scholarships as provided by oil companies have increased the literacy level of host communities.

Question 3: Most restiveness in oil producing communities is as a result of underdevelopment.

**Table 4. Relationship between Underdevelopment and Restiveness in the Niger Delta.**

Options	No. of respondents	Respondents (%)
Agree	112	36
Strongly agree	147	47
Disagree	32	10
Strongly disagree	19	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>

From table 4, 47 % of the respondents strongly agree that most restiveness in oil producing communities is as a result of underdevelopment of the area, while 7 percent of respondents strongly disagree.

**Question 4:** The presence of oil companies have led to the decrease in crime rate in her host communities.

**Table 5: Impact of Oil Companies on Crime Rate in the Niger Delta**

Options	No. of respondents	Respondents (%)
Agree	58	19
Strongly agree	44	14
Disagree	109	35
Strongly disagree	99	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>

It is evident from the above table that 35 percent of the respondents disagree that the presence of oil companies has led to the decrease in crime rate communities, while 14 percent of the respondents strongly agree.

**Question 5:** Land dispute has decreased since the inception of oil exploration in the Niger Delta?

**Table 6: Rate of Land Dispute since the Inception of Oil Exploration in the Niger Delta.**

Options	No. of respondents	Respondents (%)
Agree	18	6
Strongly agree	8	3
Disagree	178	57
Strongly disagree	106	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>

From table 6 above, it is evident that 3 percent of the respondents indicate that land dispute has decreased since the inception of oil exploration in the Niger Delta, while 57 percent of the respondents disagree that land dispute has decreased since the inception of oil exploration in the Niger Delta.

**Further Analysis of the data and test of Hypothesis**

This section deals with statistical test of hypothesis and chi-square statistics will be used. This is because chi-square statistics can test the independence of hypothesized variables; it describes measures the discrepancy existing between the observed and the expected frequencies when applied in testing a hypothesis. The decision rule states that the null hypothesis is rejected if  $X^2_{cal} \geq X^2_{tab}$ .

**Table 7: Using Chi-Square Statistics to Test Hypothesis**

Responses	Ques. 1	Ques. 2	Ques. 3	Ques. 4	Ques. 5	Total
Agree	12(26.46)	44(24.39)	36(17.78)	19(22.33)	6(26.05)	117
Disagree	52(37.54)	15(34.61)	7(25.22)	35(31.67)	57(36.95)	166
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>283</b>

Expected frequency

$$= \frac{\text{Row total} \times \text{column total}}{N}$$

$$\frac{64 \times 117}{283} + \frac{59 \times 117}{283} + \frac{43 \times 117}{283} + \frac{54 \times 117}{283} + \frac{63 \times 117}{283} + \frac{64 \times 166}{283} + \frac{59 \times 166}{283}$$

$$\frac{43 \times 166}{283} + \frac{54 \times 166}{283} + \frac{63 \times 166}{283}$$

$$X^2_{cal} = \frac{\sum(O-E)^2}{E}$$

$$\frac{(12 - 26.46)^2}{26.46} + \frac{(44 - 24.39)^2}{24.39} + \frac{(36 - 17.78)^2}{17.78} + \frac{(19 - 22.33)^2}{22.33} + \frac{(6 - 26.05)^2}{26.05} +$$

$$\frac{(52 - 37.54)^2}{37.54} + \frac{(15 - 34.61)^2}{34.61} + \frac{(7 - 25.22)^2}{25.22} + \frac{(35 - 31.67)^2}{31.67} + \frac{(57 - 36.95)^2}{36.95} +$$

$$7.90 + 15.77 + 18.67 + 0.50 + 15.43 + 5.57 + 11.11 + 13.16 + 0.35 + 10.88 =$$

**99.34**

**Decision Rule**

Reject H if  $X^2_{cal} \geq X^2_{tab}$ .

$$Df = (r - 1)(c - 1) = (2 - 1)(5 - 1) = 4$$

Where a, at 0.05 = 9.49

**V. CONCLUSION**

Since  $X^2_{cal} \geq X^2_{tab}$ , we reject  $H_0$ :

From the above statistics, the calculated chi-square (99.34) is greater than the chi-square table 7 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the chi-square calculated is greater than the chi-square tabulated at 0.05 level of significance, therefore the null hypothesis which states that there is no relationship between improved socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people and oil exploration in the region is rejected. Thus, this means that oil exploration and exploitation have affected the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people.

**4.6 Discussion of Findings**

The hypothesis states that there is no relationship between improved socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people and oil exploration in the region.

The hypothesis was rejected because there is a relationship between improved socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta people and oil exploration. The calculated chi-square value 99.34 was greater than the chi-square table 9.49 at O.C.H level of significance. Thus, this hypothesis indicates that there are poor socio-economic -lives of the Niger Delta people as a result of oil exploration. Hence, the first and second questions in the interview schedule conducted on the town leaders from the three selected oil producing communities support the findings of the first hypothesis.

The above result supports the findings of Iheriohanma (2016) and Dode (2006) that oil exploration has heightened the level of economic hardship in terms of hunger in the Niger Delta, due to the problems associated with oil exploration which has affected aquatic lives, trees and plants.

A considerable amount of literature has been reviewed all through this research, to examine the socio-economic implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta communities.



The sample comprised three oil producing communities out of the five oil-producing communities in Egbema, in Imo State, Consequently, the population of three selected oil producing communities is six thousand five hundred and thirty-seven (6,537), but sample size of three hundred and twenty seven (327) was used for this research.

The frame work of analysis adopted for this study is the conceptual framework of Karl Marx's theory of economic determinism because of the objective analysis of the activities of the oil companies which leave no one in doubt that the crises and poor social relationship between the oil companies and the oil-bearing communities in the Niger Delta Region is informed by the economic and socio-political conditions in the region.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In this research, particular attention was given to the socio-economic implications of oil exploration (positive and negative). The null hypothesis formulated to explore the socio-economic implications of oil exploration in the Niger Delta region was tested and rejected as a result of the findings. Based on these rejections, the conclusion drawn from the hypothesis indicates that there is a relationship between poor socio-economic lives in the Niger Delta region and oil exploration.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above, and based on the analysis of the identified problems, this study makes the following useful recommendations:

There is the need for the provision of more social services like hospitals, roads and school buildings by the oil companies to make life more meaningful to the people.

Secondly, the government and oil companies should build the capacity of the youths, encourage entrepreneurship and provide employment of the teeming youths who roam the streets for non-existent jobs and also, create alternative employment opportunities for any one that is displaced by their activities.

## REFERENCES

- [1]. Agbaiino, S. O. (1998): Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in the isokoUrhobo Area of the Western Delta State Nigeria (1958-1995). Unpublished Ph. D. Thesis, University Of florin, Nigeria.
- [2]. Akpan, E. (2001): *Why They Cry*, Newswatch Magazine .12.
- [3]. Asobie, H. A. (1986): The Influence of Multinational Corporations on the Management of Public Enterprises in Nigeria; African Development, London Press.
- [4]. Dode, C. (2007): Incident of Hostage Taking and the Niger Delta Crises in Nigeria *South-South Journal of Culture and Development* Vol.9 pp 162-167.
- [5]. Doris, D. and Marcus, B. (2012): *Shell in Nigeria*, London; Logos and Collogue press
- [6]. Iheriohnmnia, f B J. (2016): *Youth, Politico! Violence and Crises Management in South East ' of Nigeria*. A Sociological Review Paper Presented at a Four-Day Conference of the Nigerian Political Association, South East Chapter
- [7]. Jirnoh, li. I. arid Aghaiino, S. O. (2000): Petroleum Exploitation and Environmental Degradation in Nigeria, in Jimoh H. & Aghalino (eds) Contemporary Issues in Environmental Studies, Ilorin; Hlaytee Press and Publishing Company Limited. 7.38-244
- [8]. Marcauley, O. S. (2005): Degradation and Weathering of Crude Oil under Tropical Conditions. Port-Harcourt Apex Mill Ltd...
- [9]. Nna, N. C (2001): Case Studies on the Environmental Impact of Oil Production and Marketing in Nigeria; University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- [10]. Okorji, A. (1999): The Impact of Petroleum Exploration in Ogba/Egbema District, a Seminar Paper Presented At a Work-Shop on Youth Restiveness and Vandalization of Oil Company Installation at Ohaji/Egberna L.G.A., Headquarter, Mbeh..
- [11]. Omagbemi, O. (2003): *Shell Sets the Pace in Community Development*, SPDC Magazine. 7, 3-6.
- [12]. Osaghae, E. (1995): *The Ogoni Uprising*; Oil Politics, Minority Agitation and the Future of the Nigerian State in African Affairs.

Nwokorie Chinedu Nehemiah. "The impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic lives of the Niger Delta (Egbema Local Government, Imo State Nigeria)." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 25(10), 2020, pp. 32-40.