

# EVALUATING THE PHENOMENON OF PSYCHO-SOCIOECONOMIC TRAUMA OF OILEXPLORATION AND ITS CHALLENGES ON THE PEOPLE OF NIGER DELTA REGION IN NIGERIA

<sup>1</sup>ISMAILA M. YAKUBU, <sup>1</sup>UKPERE HENRY O., <sup>2</sup>KUTTU ALFRED MUSA,

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology

Plateau State University Bokkos, Nigeria.

E-Mail: [ismailayakubu9@gmail.com](mailto:ismailayakubu9@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Departments of Arts and Social Sciences

Waziri Umaru Polytechnic, Birnin Kebbi, Nigeria

E-Mail: [amkfred@yahoo.com](mailto:amkfred@yahoo.com)

## ABSTRACT

*This study examined the phenomenon of psycho-socioeconomic trauma of oil exploration and the challenge it pose to the people of Niger Delta region as well as the Nigerian State. A total of 150 participants were drawn from the River State, Akwa-Ibom and Bayelsa State in Nigeria and a structured and a complete questionnaires used in collecting the data for the study. Of these, 49.3% were males while 50.7% were females. Hypotheses were stated and tested with results revealing that there is a significant mean difference in the socio-economic trauma level of Niger-Delta people in Niger-Delta;  $F(8, 141) = 9.029, p < 0.05$ ; There was no significant relationship between Psycho-trauma caused by oil exploration in Niger-Delta. ( $r = .160, p < 0.05$ ); Gender has no influence on both trauma [ $F(1, 148) = .211, p = .646$ ]. Conclusively, it was recommended that Government should enact environmental law that guarantees right to resource control, good governance should be advocated in the region to bring about an all-round development of Niger-Delta, there should be measures to integrate evidence-based trauma treatment and lastly, government should develop a comprehensive and pragmatic national oil spill contingency plan to complete the formation of the Clean Nigeria Association by the oil companies.*

**Key Words:** Exploration, Trauma, Psycho-Socioeconomic, Niger-Delta.

## BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The Niger Delta region is a geographical entity covering the entire south-south geopolitical region of Nigeria and some riverine communities in the south-east and south-west regions of Nigeria (Udoudoh, 2008). The region includes core oil producing States of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, River, Delta, Cross River and Edo and the neighbouring states of Abia, Imo and Ondo. Oil exploration in these region has a massive and destructive effect on the lives causing unavailability of drinking water, the air they breath is no longer pure and health implication (Obaji, Judith & Ukamaka, 2012). The environment in this region through frequent spills, pipeline explosions, pollution, sabotage, gas flaring and effluent emission has made life excruciatingly difficult and meaningless for the people in this region.

Oil production and consumption has probably brought out the both the best and worst of modern civilization in Nigeria. It has contributed enormously to the country's economic growth

and on the other hand, has left profound adverse spin-offs on the natural environmental and has generated a number of psychological trauma and socio-economic concerns including human right issues.

Conflict in oil producing areas between the communities and the oil companies is not merely a side issue that can be ignored by the development list. It needs to be understood, accounted for and tackled if sustainable development goals are to be achieved. To date however, there have been empirical research which examines the nature of the relationship between oil exploration or oil extraction and conflict in the study area. The exploration of oil carries with it a lot of risks and also uncertainties that have both ecological and social dimension. Some of these risks such as oil spillage and gas flaring know no boundary and hold great uncertainties for sustainable development for the inhabitants as well as the environments where the extraction or the exploration take place.

Thus, it has provoked sharp reactions from communities where such extraction are carried out, leading to severe and protracted conflicts between the communities in oil producing areas and the oil companies over reward or compensations, land ownership and questions relating to domination and social justice (Aiyede, 2002, Graf, 1988, Obi, 1997 & Lewis, 1997). These conflicts have resulted in social instability, loss of working hours by farmers, loss of lives and properties and poor living condition. This scenario does not guarantee improved or sustainable agricultural production.

Bunker (1985) argues that when natural resources are extracted from one regional ecosystem to be transformed and consumed in another, the resource exporting region losses values that occur in its physical environment. The losses eventually declare or decelerate the extractive region's economy, while the resource consuming communities gain values and their economic accelerate. Currently, several host communities are up in arms against these oil companies actions such as oil spillage, gas flaring and other externalities of oil exploration pose to their livelihood and survival (Iyayi, 2000 & Osaghare, 1995).

The psycho-socio and economic trauma of oil exploration in Niger Delta therefore, develop as a result of the conflicting factor of oil extractions since the discovery of petroleum oil by shell in Oloibiri, Bayelsa in 1958 and the subsequent flurry of prospecting activities by other multinational companies, much damage have been done to both the natural and the built environment in Niger Delta. Ever since Natural environment has been severely breached by the deleterious consequences of oil exploration, flora and fauna have been adversely affected; cash and subsistent crops have had more than a fair share of defoliation as a result of incessant oil spillage and the attendant toxicity of the soil. As a consequence of the foregoing, the food chain has been partially truncated by hybrid crops that are a caricature of their former selves. Thus, yam tuber has become everything but sweet. Aquatic life has not fared much better. Some species of fish have migrated and others have become virtually extinct as a result of oil spillage and industrial effluents that are wantonly disposed in mangrove swamps and fresh waters across the Niger Delta. Part of the problems or traumatic experience of oil and gas exploration on the Natural environment is transposed to the built environment in several forms. For example, it has been empirically established that corrugated iron sheets age much faster and depreciate more rapidly in the Niger-Delta than in other parts of Nigeria as a result of gas flaring.

Been victims to hazards of oil spillage, several cases of psycho-socio and economic trauma is noted. From the beginning of this study, several hazards such as fire accident, odors, discomfort from the oily slick, and total discoloration and lots of water illumination value of the aesthical water body is likely to result, decline in visibility rate of this tidal stream during major and medium oil spills, makes the river become very dark and hazardous for human consumption (domestic uses), agricultural uses and industrial use have been proved abortive as this water is considered toxic to man and all other homosapien. Beside this devastation at the detriment of abiotic and biotic life, the communities have over the year suffered for an increasing intimidation and threat by the gun-point oil exploration within the Niger Delta Areas as such case of legal suits in several courts of law, over oil pollution and economic hardship arising from severe oil spillage and exploration at the time, is no longer a new issue as such, then the study is also accounting in details, how and why, will their working relationship between oil companies (Shell, Total, Exxo Mobil, Shevron, AGUP, etc) and her host communities be like "cat and dog". The youths within the community under investigation, also have suffered for severe traumatic

stress, especially post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), agoraphobic stress, soma to forms of stress, affective stress disorder, and even post-traumatic stress cases (PTSD), as the multinational oil companies had caused some psychological imbalance in the affective domain and emotional state of the people of the Niger Delta communities. Nwankwo (1982). This kind of physiological illness, have caused a lot of self-maintainable degree of mental illness, such as schizophrenia, delirium, dementia. When viewed psychological, this is also seen manifesting in the faces of those disappointed fishermen, the sharp sand excavators in Niger Delta communities whose damages to their canoe have caused a lot of physiological imbalances as was destroyed in 2009 and 2011 midyear oil spillage, a situation where most of them are seen talking alone, with the subject matter "on the post oil spillage and socio-economic damage in their life".

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There is a long and terrible record of environmental destruction, Psycho-socio trauma and human rights violations in the oil-producing region of Nigeria. The gross level of environmental degradation caused by oil exploration and extraction in the Niger Delta has gone unchecked for the past 35 years. Evidence shows that oil companies operating in Nigeria have not only disregarded their responsibility towards the environment and have acted in complicity with the political repression of Nigeria citizens in Niger Delta. The profit-driven collusion between multinational oil companies and the past and present, Nigeria government has cost many lives and continues to threaten the stability of the peace of the region.

Tension in the Niger Delta continue to erupt into violence as natural resources vital to local communities survival are destroyed by oil operations and the people are left with trauma of exploration without benefits. Environmental and social justice for the people of the Niger Delta remains central issues for achievement or for achieving peace in the region.

Several Researches have suggested that there is a solid connection between oil exploration and socio-economic development (Goodland and Hume, 1999; Obi 1997; Osagbare, 1995; Bunker 1985; Collier, 2000, Iyayi, 2000; Graf 1988, Aiyede, 2002; & Francis; 2004). This suggestions have not being recorded and given the desired attention.

However, studies connecting to psycho and socio-economic trauma in Niger Delta are timely to expose the ills of oil exploration for an urgent attention.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To investigate the socio-economic implications of oil explorations on the lives of people in the Niger Delta region.
2. To examine impact of oil exploration on the socio-economic development of the region.
3. To examine the predisposing trauma that comes with oil exploration in Niger Delta.

### CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

UNEP (2009) report indicates for that the exploration of natural resources, specifically petroleum exploration, has the tendency to engender health risks and that this health risks is more acute in developing countries. UNEP report on the Niger Delta indicted that in the local communities, disease such as respiratory diseases, skin rashes, coughing out blood, tumors, gastrointestinal problems, different kind of concerns and malnourishment were not uncommon. Hurting and Sebastian (2005) stated that the incidence of hematopoietic diseases tend to increase the closer one resides to oil fields and the overall incidence of cancer is significantly higher in both men and women in the countries where oil explorations and exploration has been going on for over 20 years. He noted after his studies that cancer was observed in the population under 10 years in both males and females exposed to oil exploration.

According to Hurting and Sebastian (2005), woman living in communities near oil field are at a higher risk of spontaneous abortion than other woman who do not live close to exploration area. He stated in his research that women living in communities near oil field reported higher rates of skin Mycosis, tiredness, itchy nose, sore throat, headache, red eyes, ear pain, diarrhea and gastritis.

A study by OLujimi Julius Ajiowo Bode, Emmanuel Adebayo Adewunmi and SogbonOdunwole (2011), on environmental implications of oil exploration in the coastal region of Ondo state, Nigeria: A Regional Planning Appraisal. A total of 1200 stake holes/participant form the survey

department in the ministry of Land and Housing, Ondo state, indicate the magnitude of negative impacts of oil exploration in the coastal region in Ondo state. The finding proved that 920 (76.7%) has high or very high negative impact of explorations and exploitations, 109 (9.1%) have high, 163 (13.6%) fairly high, 8 (0.6%) have not high or no negative impact of oil exploration, this is because 0.6% far away from the explorative environment. While, 76.7% feel the trauma of exploration in their environment. 9.1% also feel the trauma but not as high as those from the 920 participant or respondents.

Theophilus (2012), from the department of agricultural services, ministry of agriculture and natural resources, Asaba, Delta State examine the relationship between crude oil extraction, conflict and sustainable agricultural production. Systematic random sampling method was used to select 104 respondents from two local governments selected from two state, (Delta and Bayelsa) state. Burutu, Isoko south, southern Ijaw and Ekweremore which were used as the population sampling the result indicate that the age of respondents ranges between 27 and 71 with the mean age to be 52 years while the modal age group shows 45-53 years age bracket from the implication, one infer from the result that the farmers in the study are aging. The respondents shows a result of 65.4% and 34.6% of male and female respectively, the majority of the farmers (66.3%) in the study area are without former education, while 16.3% 14.4% and 2.9% had primary, secondary and tertiary education respectively. Theophilus noted that this could have negative impact on the adaption of new techniques on production. The intensity of agricultural production show direct relation to household size. Most farmers in the study area are small scale farmers as 79.8% report farm size of less than a hectare while 20.2% had between 1.1 and 2.2 hectare of land. Annual farm income ranged between N19,000, - N82,000. Through about 70.2% of the farmer earned income of between N19,000 – 50,000 from farming operation annually which is very low. The result indicate the average farm income of N48,177.89 per annum. From the regression result, shows that value of output of the farmer was best estimated using the log function, which explained 91.6% of the total variation in the values of output of the farmers. However, the coefficient of farm size, soil degradation, occurrence of conflict and oil spill was negative and significances at 1% and 5%. All the items adversely affect agricultural production. The research proves the negative effect of oil exploration and conflict on agricultural production which also affects the socio-economic status of a single farmer.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### ***DEPENDENCY THEORY***

The Dependency Theory derives its tradition from the Maxism. The Marxists argue that the developing wealth and poverty of nations result from the global process of expatriation and explorations resources. The theory argue that the underdevelopment of third world countries is neither as a result of cultural backwardness nor poor technological and mental development, rather it is as a result of unequal economic and social relation between the rich and the poor in the Niger Delta. This is the situation that Andre Gunder Frank refers to as “the development of underdevelopment”. The major problem of the Niger Delta is not the lack of technological know-how, cultural traits conducive to development, or modern institutions, but they have been subjected to the exploitation and exploration of the international capitalist system and its special imperialist agents, both domestic and foreign. The infiltration of western capitalist mode of operation into the poor countries has resulted in situations characterized by economist as “growth without development” as we have now in the Niger Delta region.

By dependence in this work, we mean a situation in which the economy of certain countries is conditional by the development and expansion of another economy to which the former is subjects. Dependency theory explains the underdeveloped status of the third world countries of the world. The theory also focuses on the explanation of the economic dependence of third world state on developed countries of the world.

This theory is adopted to explain the underdeveloped status of the Niger Delta states in particular. The argument of scholars of dependency theory is that capitalist penetrate of Africa has developed metropolitan-satellite relationships. Useful explanation of this theory is the “center-periphery” of Johan Galtung. Center here connotes the developed states while periphery connotes the underdeveloped states. The center periphery model focuses on the dependence relationships that exit between the underdeveloped states and developed state of the world. It is

argued that the presently developed countries got to their present state as a result of the underdevelopment of satellite countries. The bottom line here is that dependency theory stresses explorations.

According to Gilpin (1987), there is a hierarchical structure of domination between the industrial core and dependent periphery of the world capitalist economy. The center-periphery model under the dependency theory maintains that the third world is poor because it has been systematically exploited. Gilpin asserts that the underdevelopment of the third world is functionally related to the development of the core and the modern world system has permitted the advance core to drain the periphery of its economic surplus, transferring wealth from the less developed capitalist economy through the mechanism of trade and investment.

The role of oil multinational corporation in Nigeria's economy cannot be downplayed, knowing fully well that the oil sector alone contributes about 85% of the nation's foreign income earnings in our bid to consider the environmental degradation, atmospheric pollution and victimization by the environmental condition in Niger Delta, being an aftermath of oil multinationals operations there, the dependency theory explain the relationship that exist between the multinational corporations and the host communities of the Niger Delta.

The dependency theory will assist in understanding why much wealth is generated from the resources of the Niger Delta region by the oil multinational corporations for their parent companies and government source of revenue for growth and sustainability, yet the region suffers from chronic poverty and environmental degradations, socio-economic trauma and victimization. This confirms the assertion by Rodney (1972), that "there is a relationship of explorations which allows capitalist parasites to grow fat and impoverish the dependence".

## **HYPOTHESES**

1. There would be a significant difference in the socio-economic trauma level of Niger-Delta people based on community level.
2. There would be a significant difference in trauma and victimization level based on gender of people living in the Niger Delta communities
3. There would be a significant relationship between trauma caused by oil exploration and victimization.
4. There would be a significant difference in victimization and trauma experience of participant based on gender.

## **METHODS**

### ***PARTICIPANTS***

The population of this study comprised of men and women who are domiciled in selected oil communities in Niger Delta area and are within 18-78 years. The purposive sampling and the simple random sampling methods was employed to picked respondents across different occupations. 150 participants were drawn some communities within riverine area of Akwa-ibom and Bayelsa. Of these, 49.3% are male while 50.7% are females.

### **INSTRUMENTS**

#### ***NEIGHBORHOOD DISORGANIZATION- ROCHESTER YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCALE (RYD)***

Victimization and oil exploration was measured using the Rochester youth development scale (RYD). A-12 item scale developed in (2003) by Thornberry, Krohn, Lizotte, Smith and Tobin. These items measure a respondent's perception of crime, dilapidation and disorganization in his/her neighborhood due to poor socio-economic status.

The scale was adopted and validated through pilot study to measure victimization and oil exploration. The reliability statistics yield a Cranach's Alpha of .916 with 12-items.

#### ***TRAUMA CAUSED BY FEAR OF CRIME- CHICAGO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SCALE (CYD)***

The socio-economic trauma of oil explorations was measured using a 10-items scale developed by Gorman-Smith, Tolan, and Young, (2000). These items assess a subject fear of being the victim of a violent crime in their home or neighborhood and the impact of such fear on the places they go. They also assess the measure taken to protect oneself from crime. The reliability statistics for fear of crime has a Cranach's alpha of .574 with 4-items while the reliability statistics for measure taken to cope with fear of crime, that is, items 5-10, has a Cranach's alpha .686 with 6 items.

**PROCEDURE**

150 copies of the aforementioned instrument were used to conduct the main research work. Seven research assistants help in to distribute the questionnaire to volunteer participants across the (9) nine communities in Niger Delta. Two assistants were from Akwa-ibom, three (3) from Bayelsa, and four (4) assistants from River state.

The administration of the questionnaire lasted for four (4) weeks due to the volatile nature of the Niger-Delta region (communities and neighborhoods).

**RESULTS**

The inferential statistics using SPSS was used with results presented below. The alpha levels of .05 were selected a priori for both the t-test and the analysis of variance.

**TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

| AGE            |                    | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| Age            | MALE               | 74        | 49.3    |
|                | FEMALE             | 76        | 50.7    |
|                | Total              | 150       | 100.0   |
| INCOME LEVE    |                    | Frequency | Percent |
|                | LESS THAN N100,000 | 62        | 41.3    |
|                | N101,000- N200,000 | 14        | 9.3     |
|                | N201,000- N300,000 | 1         | .7      |
|                | N301,000-N400,000  | 1         | .7      |
|                | N401,000 AND ABOVE | 1         | .7      |
|                | NO INCOME          | 71        | 47.3    |
|                | Total              | 150       | 100.0   |
| MARITAL STATUS |                    | Frequency | Percent |
| Valid          | SINGLE             | 51        | 34.0    |
|                | MARRIED            | 78        | 52.0    |
|                | DIVORCED           | 1         | .7      |
|                | WIDOWED            | 20        | 13.3    |
|                | Total              | 150       | 100.0   |
| EDUCATION      |                    | Frequency | Percent |
| Valid          | PRI                | 10        | 6.7     |
|                | SEC                | 36        | 24.0    |
|                | DIPLOMA EQVLT      | 34        | 22.7    |
|                | UNIVERSITY         | 69        | 46.0    |
|                | OTHERS             | 1         | .7      |
|                | Total              | 150       | 100.0   |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD  |                    | Frequency | Percent |
| Valid          | OGONILAND          | 28        | 18.7    |
|                | AKALA ULO          | 21        | 14.0    |
|                | KOLO CREST         | 12        | 8.0     |
|                | EREMA AND OBAGI    | 14        | 9.3     |
|                | ROKPOKWU           | 15        | 10.0    |
|                | AKASSA             | 10        | 6.7     |
|                | RUMUEKE            | 12        | 8.0     |
|                | OLOIBIRI           | 25        | 16.7    |
|                | EKET               | 13        | 8.7     |
|                | Total              | 150       | 100.0   |

**INFERENCIAL STATISTICS**

**HYPOTHESIS I**

Stated that there would be a significant difference on the socio-economic trauma level of Niger-Delta people based on community level, was tested for, using the one-way ANOVA.

**TABLE 2. TRAUMA SCALE**

|  | Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|--|----------------|----|-------------|---|------|
|--|----------------|----|-------------|---|------|

|                |          |     |         |       |      |
|----------------|----------|-----|---------|-------|------|
| Between Groups | 2707.918 | 8   | 338.490 | 9.029 | .000 |
| Within Groups  | 5286.222 | 141 | 37.491  |       |      |
| Total          | 7994.140 | 149 |         |       |      |

From the result of the one-way ANOVA table above, it is seen that there is a significant mean difference in the in the socio-economic trauma level of Niger-Delta people based on community level;  $F(8, 141) = 9.029, p < 0.05$ , hence accepting the alternate hypothesis. Result of the Post Hoc test shows that respondents within the Oloibiri community reported significantly lower levels of socio-economic trauma as compared to the other neighborhood with a mean score of 20.64 and a SD of 3.76.

**HYPOTHESIS II**

States that there would be a significant difference in trauma and victimization level based on gender of people living in the Niger-Delta communities

**MULTIVARIATE TESTS**

**TESTS OF BETWEEN-SUBJECTS EFFECTS**

| Source          | Dependent Variable  | Type III Sum of Squares | df  | Mean Square | F         | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|-----------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model | TRAUMA SCALE        | 11.406(a)               | 1   | 11.406      | .211      | .646 | .001                |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | .026(b)                 | 1   | .026        | .002      | .967 | .000                |
| Intercept       | TRAUMA SCALE        | 127730.340              | 1   | 127730.340  | 2368.122  | .000 | .941                |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 194223.386              | 1   | 194223.386  | 12867.385 | .000 | .989                |
| SEX             | TRAUMA SCALE        | 11.406                  | 1   | 11.406      | .211      | .646 | .001                |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | .026                    | 1   | .026        | .002      | .967 | .000                |
| Error           | TRAUMA SCALE        | 7982.734                | 148 | 53.937      |           |      |                     |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 2233.947                | 148 | 15.094      |           |      |                     |
| Total           | TRAUMA SCALE        | 135715.000              | 150 |             |           |      |                     |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 196490.000              | 150 |             |           |      |                     |
| Corrected Total | TRAUMA SCALE        | 7994.140                | 149 |             |           |      |                     |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 2233.973                | 149 |             |           |      |                     |

A one-way between-groups multivariate analysis of variance was performed to investigate differences in score on both in trauma and victimization level based on gender of people living in the Niger-Delta communities. Two dependent variables were used: trauma and victimization level scale. The independent variable was gender. Preliminary assumption testing was conducted to check for normality, linearity, univariate and multivariate outliers, homogeneity of variance-covariance matrices, and multicollinearity, with no serious violations noted. There was no statistically significant difference between all participants in the various groups on the combined dependent variables table 4.4c :  $F(2, 147) = .106, p > .05$ ; Wilks' Lambda = .900; partial eta squared = .001. When the results for the dependent variables were considered separately, none of the dependent variables achieved significant levels, even with the using of a Bonferroni adjusted alpha levels of both -.005, (socio-economic trauma scale:  $F(1, 148) = .211, p > 0.05$ , partial eta squared = .001) and -.007, (victimization scale:  $F(1, 148) = .002, p > 0.05$ , partial eta squared = .000). Hence rejecting the alternate hypothesis.

**4.3.4 HYPOTHESIS III**

There will be significant relationship between trauma caused by oil exploration and victimization.

**CORRELATIONS**

|                     |                     | TRAUMA SCALE | VICTIMIZATION SCALE |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| TRAUMA SCALE        | Pearson Correlation | 1            | .160                |
|                     | Sig. (2-tailed)     |              | .051                |
|                     | N                   | 150          | 150                 |
| VICTIMIZATION SCALE | Pearson Correlation | .160         | 1                   |
|                     | Sig. (2-tailed)     | .051         |                     |

|  |   |     |     |
|--|---|-----|-----|
|  | N | 150 | 150 |
|--|---|-----|-----|

Table 4.4 indicates the relationship between trauma caused by oil exploration and victimization. Although relationship between trauma caused by oil exploration and victimization was moderate ( $r = .160, p < 0.05$ ). The significant level was not significant, hence rejecting the alternate hypothesis

**4.3.5 HYPOTHESIS IV**

There will be a significant difference in victimization and trauma experience of participants based on gender

**Table 4.5 Manova summary table on victimization and trauma experience based on gender.**

| Source          | Dependent Variable  | Type III Sum of Squares | Df  | Mean Square | F         | Sig. | Partial Eta Squared |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|-----------|------|---------------------|
| Corrected Model | TRAUMA SCALE        | 11.406(a)               | 1   | 11.406      | .211      | .646 | .001                |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | .026(b)                 | 1   | .026        | .002      | .967 | .000                |
| Intercept       | TRAUMA SCALE        | 127730.340              | 1   | 127730.340  | 2368.122  | .000 | .941                |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 194223.386              | 1   | 194223.386  | 12867.385 | .000 | .989                |
| SEX             | TRAUMA SCALE        | 11.406                  | 1   | 11.406      | .211      | .646 | .001                |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | .026                    | 1   | .026        | .002      | .967 | .000                |
| Error           | TRAUMA SCALE        | 7982.734                | 148 | 53.937      |           |      |                     |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 2233.947                | 148 | 15.094      |           |      |                     |
| Total           | TRAUMA SCALE        | 135715.000              | 150 |             |           |      |                     |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 196490.000              | 150 |             |           |      |                     |
| Corrected Total | TRAUMA SCALE        | 7994.140                | 149 |             |           |      |                     |
|                 | VICTIMIZATION SCALE | 2233.973                | 149 |             |           |      |                     |

Results from the table 4.5 above revealed that the hypothesis is rejected. Gender has no influence on both trauma [ $F(1, 148)=.211, p=.646$ ] and victimization scale [ $F(1, 148)=.002, p=.967$ ]. The result also revealed from the mean table 4.6 that there was no significant difference in mean score of both males and females on both scales.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

Analysis of the data obtained indicates that there is colossal damage to the ecosystem and its services of the Nigeria environment, particularly the Niger Delta region where the oil and gas exploration activities is taking place. This has severe consequences on the livelihood of the host communities who have to daily co-exist with the un-abating anthropogenic perturbation of their environment.

Oil explorations on land, damage soil fertility, affects farmland, accounting for low agricultural yield among host communities. The Niger Delta region is a food producing zone in Nigeria. The issue of oil explorations and oil pillage also challenges food security in the region. Explorations and spills into aquatic environment affect the costal marshes, mangroves and wet lands. The mangrove is the habitat and nursery for numerous fish species including fin-fish and shellfish among other that are of commercial value in the region. The destructions' and contamination of the mangrove not only destroys the fishery and livelihoods of the host community, but exposes the sandy- beach to sea waves and coastline erosion, increasing the possibility of inundation of the region due to sea level rise (Chinweze, 2012).

There is over 192 flare sites in the Niger Delta region, most of which have been burning for over seven decade. Flare contains heat, toxins and particulates that adversely affect vegetation, humans, soil, water, and livelihood of the host communities. The impact of gas flares on the health of the host communities increases the risk of respiratory diseases, asthma, cancer and premature death, reduced crop yield and acid rain has been attributed to the gas flares due to large volumes of carbon dioxid, methane, oxide of nitrogen and sulphur it emit to the



environment together with carcinogenic substances such as benz(a)pyrene dioxin.

The aforementioned indicate the causes of socio-economic trauma and victimization owing to oil explorations in Niger Delta region. Due to land use abuse and extreme contamination of vast land and residential environment, people migrate to less space area where oil exploration and contamination has not destroyed to transact businesses and creates atmosphere for social and economic interaction. Over the year, the Niger Delta region has experience extreme over congestion of people and properties in socio-economic environment where there is less environment/space for business and residential. This has therefore induced intra and inter-communal conflict and individuals in communities resulting from trauma in social and economic activities of the individuals and her ancestral land or communities. Trauma has become a bone of contention between/ within individuals in communities and there environment. Although, as indicated in hypothesis 1 which state the significant difference in socio-economic trauma level of Niger Delta people based on community level explain the level of trauma in each community. Hence, accepting the alternative hypothesis and reject null hypothesis. See 4.3b. Oloibiri community is said to have lower level of socio-economic trauma as compared to other neighborhoods with a mean score of 20.64 and a SD of 3.76. This findings support the findings by Abouserie, (1994), revealing that people with high self-esteem are less stress than those with lower self-esteem in an environment. Also, higher trauma level is generally related to greater symptomatology, including low trauma (Abouserie, 1994). This means that there is a trauma difference in social and economic status between people in communities. Areas with high explorations experience more trauma and victimization than those with low or less oil explorations. Other findings indicated that as life event increases, the level of socio-economic trauma and victimization also increases (Young & Rathge, 1990).

However, according to Ferraro(1995), emotional distress as the result of crime in oil exploration site is a recurring theme for all victims of crime, oil spill and petroleum exploration. The most common problem affecting three quarters of victims were psychological problems including fear of kidnapping, anxiety, nervousness, self-blame, anger, shame and difficulty sleeping. These problems often result in the development of chronic posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Post crime distress is also linked to pre-existing emotional problems and socio-demographic variables.

Hypothesis II state that there would be a significant difference in trauma and victimization level based on gender of people living in the Niger Delta .However, using a one-way between groups multivariate analysis, it was discovered that there is no significant difference in trauma and victimization level based on gender of people living in Niger Delta region. They all faces equal level of trauma and victimization, irrespective of gender. Hence, rejecting the alternative hypothesis and accepting the null hypothesis. Understanding the individual based on gender as stipulated by the life style/exposure theory (LST) which is a model of victimology that posits that the livelihood an individual will suffer a personal victimization depend heavily upon the concept of life style. Life style determines the livelihood of personal victimization through the intervening variables of exposure and association. In Niger Delta, people are not equally exposed to high risk places and times, and they vary in the degree to which they associate with high risk persons. This translates to a person's lifestyle influencing the exposure and association with high risk persons. People who are exposed to high risk of oil explorations experience high level of trauma and are likely to experience exposure to victimization.

However, the gender-politics model (GPM) is attention an attempts to schematized abuse on women as attempt by males in general to maintain there position of power over female in terms of compensation and treatment. Hypothesis II show a significant difference in trauma and victimization level based on gender of people living in the Niger Delta communities. However, the preliminary assumption testing was conducted to check for normality, linearity, univariate and multivariate outliers, homogeneity of variance, covariance matrices, and multicollinearity with no serious violations noted. There was no statistically significant difference between all participants in the various groups on the combined dependent variable. When the result for the dependent variable (victimization and trauma) was considered separately, none of the dependent variables achieved significant levels. These shows and prove that irrespective of gender (male or female), stemming from their environment where there is high or low exploration all experience equal level of socio-economic trauma and victimization.

Fortunately, hypothesis III states that there will be a significant relationship between trauma

caused by oil exploration and victimization. Using Pearson correlation to correlate the relationship between trauma caused by oil explorations and victimization, it was indicated that, the significant level was not significant. The relationship between trauma caused by oil explorations is moderate (hypothesis III), hence rejecting the alternative hypothesis and accepting the null hypothesis. This is because other factors could be a reason for victimizing people. For example, colour differences (black or white) and religion (Islam or Christianity).

It should be understood that psychological trauma is a type of damage to the psyche that occur as a result of severely distressing event. Trauma which means "injured" is often the result of overwhelming amount of stress that exceeds one's ability to cope or integrate the emotions involved with that experience. A traumatic event involves one experience, or repeating events with the sense of being overwhelmed that can be delayed by weeks, years or even decades as the person's struggles to cope with the immediate circumstances, eventually leading to serious long- term negative consequences.

However, trauma differs among individuals or communities by their subjective experience and not to objective facts. People and community will react to similar event differently. In other words, not all communities and persons living in Niger Delta who experience a potentially traumatic event will actually become psychologically traumatized. This discrepancy in risk rate can be attributed to protective factors; some community may have that which enable them to cope with trauma. Example, are mild exposure to oil explorations and spillage which induces or create stress early in life, resilience characteristics and active seeking help.

Deprivation of ancestral land, community and environments, rivers, clean water, good life farmlands, social and economic relation which confirmed the testimonies that lead to conflict and victimization in the Niger Delta region. The realistic conflict theory (RCT) also known as realistic group conflict theory (RGCT) is a social psychological model of intergroup conflict (Itsekiri and Ijaw over oil fields). The theory explain how intergroup hostility arises as a result of conflicting goals and competition over resources as well as offers an explanation for the feelings of prejudice and discrimination toward the out-group that accompanied the intergroup hostility. For example, the conflict between River state, Bayelsa state and Akwa-ibom, over oil fields and oil wells which was later claimed by Akwa-ibom after several court injunctions in 2011/2012. Groups may be in competition for a real or perceived scarcity of resources such as political power, military and government protection or social status. Feelings of victimization and resentment can arise in the situation, that the group see the competition over resources as having a zero sum fate, in which only one group is the winner (obtain the needed resources) and the other loses (unable to obtain the limited resources). The length and severity of the conflict is based upon the perceived value and shortage of the given resources.

These conflicts has lead to the formation of the Niger Delta militants group who are responsible for most of the kidnapping cases, vandalism/ vandalization of oil pipes, oil bunkery and abduction. These chronic level of trauma has caused a major deformities and deformation of the socio-economic development of the nigeria oil sectors as the percentage of oil exploration and production is dropping from population feed level to a less fit level of public satisfaction.

In Niger Delta, many reasons have been given for the prevalence of socio-economic trauma and victimization. These include inadequate funding of environmental degradations (Maduabum&Maduabum, 1998), laxity in prosecuting offenders in oil region (Uwadiae, 1997), inability of Niger Delta people to cope with environmental activities due to pollution. Other reasons include individual factors, quota system, inadequate resources, and corruption in the society which is caused by the rich and leaders in politics. These factors are multi-dimensional and the society, the Niger Delta people are involved.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the outcome of the study and on the bases of the foregoing, it is therefore recommended that:

1. Government should enact environmental laws that guarantee property right and above all good governance should be entrenched in the region to bring about development.
2. The amnesty granted by the government is in fact a step in the right direction. The creation of the Niger Delta ministry has also been applauded. Government should

however ensure that the functions of the ministry do not in any way override or doilies by the Niger Delta development commission (NDDC).

3. Addressing socio-economic trauma, practitioners should know the available measures to assess organization readiness to integrate evidence-based trauma treatment.
4. Government should develop a national oil spill contingency plan to complete the formation of the Clean Nigeria Association by the oil companies.
5. Expert should evaluate how trauma informed the community is. For example, with an emphasis on trauma awareness, safety, rebuilding control and empowerment, and strengths-based approaches. They should also mobilize the strength of clients and systems to enhance individual, family and community resilience.

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