POVERTY AND CONFLICT IN OIL PRODUCING COMMUNITIES: A
CASE STUDY OF UGHELLI NORTH

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PG/MSC/09/50664

A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITY OF
NGIERIA, NSUKKA IN A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS OF SCIENCE
(MSC) OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

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DEDICATION

To my parents for their guidance and financial support and to my supervisor Dr. (Mrs.) M.A.O. Obi who made this research a reality. Furthermore, to God Almighty who gave me the strength and grace to carry out this work successfully.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The researcher remains greatly indebted first and foremost to Almighty God who kept me alive and equally made it possible for me to complete this work.

My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor, Dr (Mrs.) M.A.O. Obi for her attention, availability, excellent advice, suggestions and corrections throughout the duration of this work. Thanks for your assistance.

Also, my sincere appreciation goes to my parents for their care and supports both financially and otherwise.

Finally, my immeasurable handshake gratitude extends to my lovely ones and friends by name; Eze Ukamaka, Eze, Chioma, Eze Ada, Eze Emeka, Eze Ifeoma, Mrs. Okafor (PALG) and Mr. Chuka.
ABSTRACT

This study explores and critically analyzes Poverty and Conflict in the Oil Producing Area, a case of Ughelli North of Niger State. The researcher employs conflict theory to analyze this study. The data for this study are collected through secondary and primary method. Oral interview was used to collect data for the study. The population of the sample size is 1000. Furthermore, simple percentage and weighted mean statistics was employed to analyze the data collected while chi-square was used for hypothesis testing. On the bases of findings, it was discovered as follows; that the government and Oil Companies should create employment and provide basic amenities to resolve the problem in the area, poverty and conflict in Oil Producing Area has a positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region and that perpetual conflict and wont on destruction of property persists in the area as a result of the inability of the Government and Oil Companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the communities. The study concluded that there can be no solution to the simmering poverty and conflict in the area until the people gain their right. However, there is lack of legal redress for damage to the environment and the resulting loss of livelihood/property, and the sheer disregard of human rights by both parties. Finally, there is a growing likelihood that unless corrective measures are taken, protests and conflict will persist in the area and will become more violent. Based on the findings, the researcher recommended solutions to the identified problems in Ughelli North Local Government of Delta State.
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CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the beginning, the very idea of poverty in Niger Delta was seen as a far fetched dream things could fall so much apart for poverty to become the ultimate guarantor of the elusive national unit and desperately sought magnimity of purpose among the Niger Delta people. Niger Delta was believed to be one of the richest regions in Nigeria. The main reasons for such belief begin that she earned much foreign exchange from export of crude-oil products. As a matter of fact, she is naturally endowed with resources which could be harnessed and the process used to improve the people’s living standard.

According to Fubara (2006), the Niger Delta covers an area of well over 70,000 square kilometers, and accounts for 7.5 percent of the total land mass in Nigeria, which extends from APOL to Bight of Benin. The region also covers as coastline, 560km. The states that comprises of Niger Delta includes; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Edo, Delta, Rivers, Abia and Imo states. The region consists of 40 different ethnic groups speaking 250 different languages. Their major occupations is farming and fishing.
Consequently, the Niger Delta in recent times has become a strategic region in Nigeria’s social, political and economic framework due to the huge endowment in hydrocarbons. Thus, the region now commands a dominant position in the Nation’s political economy. This land brought about various levels of confrontations between the oil producing communities’ members and the oil multinational companies and between them and the government on the other hand. (Van Buren 2001)

However, the development profile of the Niger Delta presents a paradox despite the abundant natural resources prevalent in the region. The area is undermined by endemic poverty and its people are ranked among the poorest in the world. Since the 1990’s, the Niger Delta has degenerated into a dangerous threat of violent conflicts which are sustained by ethnic militants, ethnic war wards and misguided youths.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to Obi (2005), statement of the problem is a brief concise specific statement of what you intends to do.

The discovery of oil in Nigeria’s Niger Delta region in 1957 triggered a chain of events that has lead to the political
and economic marginalization of inhabitants. Indeed, it has been argued that oil in Niger Delta has been more of a course than a blessing to people who have been at the receiving end of horrendous government oppression and brutality, often resulting in fatalities.

The most valuable mineral (crude oil) is derived from the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, yet, it was confirmed that the development profile of the Niger Delta presents a paradox despite the abundant natural resources prevalent in the region. The area is undermined by endemic poverty and its people are ranked among the poorest in the world.

The demand for the control of oil wells by the people is more pronounced in Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers. Most of the oil wells are located in the three states and so they experience more oil drilling activities, including their effect on the people and the environment. This has generated to killings, kidnappings and setting of car bombs.

The Niger Delta is underdeveloped in all ramifications, despite the fact that it is the bread basket of Nigeria. The oil region in Nigeria seems too stunk in a time warp, with little real change since oil was discovered 45 years ago.
Since the 1990’s, the Niger Delta has degenerated into a dangerous threat of violent conflicts which are sustained by ethnic militias, ethnic warlords, and misguided youths. Socio-political and ethnic strife in Niger Delta, including violence, kidnapping, vandalism, sabotage and seizure of oil facilities has become a reoccurring decimal in the unfolding tragedy in the region.

The youths (militants) in Niger Delta now make use of sophisticated weapons to fight government which create tension and loss of life and property in the region.

The problems posed in the attempt to examine the nature of poverty and conflict in oil producing communities in the Niger Delta, is to effectively find good and workable answers to the cause and impact of poverty and conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta, it is important to ask and answer the following questions in the course of the study.

- What are the root causes of poverty and conflict in Niger Delta?
- What impact has poverty and conflict on the host communities?
• Why has the conflict become more violent and destructive in recent times?
• What are the best ways of curbing the poverty and conflict or problem?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This objective provides focus to the problem statement by dealing with theories or questions that are to be answered as a result of the research. Obi (2005).

The following objectives are to be achieved in the course of the study.

(a) To ascertain the root causes of poverty and conflict in the oil producing areas in Niger Delta region.
(b) To find out the impact of poverty and conflict in the study area.
(c) To ascertain why the conflict has turned so violent and destructive.
(d) To investigate how best to curb this high rate of poverty and conflict in the region.

1.4 Significant of the Study

According to Ogonu et al (2006), Significant of the study is mainly about the perceived or expected importance or contributions of the study.
The study on poverty and conflict in oil producing communities in particular the Niger Delta region is an update on the state of knowledge in poverty and conflict in oil producing communities. Hence the work is of great significance to other researchers.

It will help academically to fill the lacuna that other researchers have left fallow in this field as regards to poverty and conflicts in oil producing communities in Niger Delta.

Also, it will serve as a practical tool for researchers in the field of poverty and conflict for clarity and understanding of recent trends therein.

Finally, it will also help in suggesting ways or approaches of resolving the conflict as well as creating an enabling environment for the people of Niger Delta to register their displeasures without resorting to violence.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study.

Poverty and conflict in oil producing communities in Niger Delta as a research heralds a wide scope of coverage but as it is impossible to cover all the oil producing communities in Niger Delta and their impact felt, we will have Ugbelli North as our Scope.
While carrying out this research, some sets of impediments were observed, ranging from the facts that responses to my interview from the public were disrupted by unreliability, as some people could not actually provide required answers to the questions been asked.

In most cases, people became afraid of going straight to the questions for fear of being identified as having said so.

Also, financial problem or handicap constitute a barrier to the progress of this work hence as a student, it is not easy to achieve all that were needed to justify the reality of this work due to lack of fund.

Furthermore, there was a problem of language differences. It was difficult for the interviewer to understand their languages or dialects.

Finally, internet failure is most time frustrating on the side of the researcher and therefore impedes the success and progress of the work. This is because of the inaccessibility of the internet at times. But in all, these constraints were overcome and the work was a success.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter will examine and review some of the already existing literature concerning poverty and conflict in the Niger Delta.

2.1 Poverty and conflicts in oil producing communities in Niger Delta: an overview

Among economists, poverty has been often defined as a situation of low income or low consummation. Poverty refers to lack of physical necessities, assets and income (Chamber, 1998:28). According to him, it is a subset of the general condition of deprivation whose dimensions include poverty, social inferiority, isolation, physical weakness and vulnerability, seasonality, humiliation, and powerless. This implies that the poor are almost living in squalor, and do not have access to basic needs of life, such as food, clothing and decent shelter. All these factor leads to conflict in the Niger Delta.

Nevertheless, literature and empirical researchers on conflict in the Niger Delta intractable and often controversial depending on the perspective form which one looks at the phenomenon. However, in this review, I will take a sample of
literature concerning the causes and impact of conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta.

According to Jedrezi, (2001:1) poverty and conflict between oil multinational companies and members of the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta have lasted for several decades, but during the 1990s, it has escalated further and has received international coverage.

Poverty is classified into major categories, namely abject, relative and material poverty (Ihenetu, 1998:66) under the abject poverty are those who are unable to provide for physical subsistence especially basic things like food, clothing and shelter. According to him, their lives are characterized by real malnutrition, inadequate care for children, illiteracy, poor sanitation, disease and a zero propensity to save money.

The second category of poverty, which is the relative poverty, is the category of people who can afford three square meals a day but are unable to fully satisfy their needs as others in their social status. In his own view, kellick (1981) asserts that, relative poverty is about people ability to furnish themselves with a serious acceptable minimum standard of living. However, they see some problem in poverty as relative deprivation.
Equally, the material groups are those who are able to feed well but would not acquire properties as their poor (Ihenatu 1998:67). He concluded that among all groups, object is more critical for the government to find immediate solution, at least, in the short while implementing the long-term measure.

According to Mamby (1999:77), The Niger Delta has been engulfed with oil induced conflict which has resulted into major confrontations between the people who live there and Nigerian Government security forces. This has culminated into extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, and draconian restriction, association, and assembly in the region. These violations of civil rights have been committed principally by the Government through its security forces in response to protest about the activities of oil multinational companies that produce Nigeria’s oil and the use of oil revenue by the Nigeria Government.

Furthermore, as the conflict spreads across to other oil producing communities coupled with ineffective response of the Government, the various communities began to form various unions, movements and groups to protest against multinational companies operating in their areas for better
conditions and other benefits. To this end, this led to the formation of various groups and associations which serve as an umbrella through which the people of the oil producing community within the Nigeria Delta region operate from. There is no community that does not have at least one group or association through which protests are carried out.

Moreover, as the conflict spreads to other oil producing communities, it assumed different form and dimensions at the same time. According to Ohlsson (2002:57), “when communities in the volatile region were not in conflict with oil multinational over land rights or compensation for environmental damage, they were in dispute with Government over more access to oil wealth, or locked in conflict with one another over claims to ownership of areas where oil facilities and accompanying benefits are sited. To this end, conflict in the Niger Delta region is multifaceted in that, it has involved various people and groups over the years. It could be stated here that the involvement of Government is either to quell the protest or to dislodge militant groups and to provide security for the oil multinational companies to operate in a safe environment.”
2.2 ORIGIN OF THE CONFLICT

As it has been stated earlier, conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region is not a new phenomenon. It could be dated back to two or three decades ago. The first major protest or confrontation took place in the 1990’s in Ogoni community against Shell Company by the leaders of Ogoni community led by late Ken Saro-Wiwa, (Minter, 2005), the Clamor for peaceful, democratic alternative was led throughout the 1990’s by the movement for the survival of the Ogoni people (MOSOP) headed by late Ken Saro-Wiwa. Thus, they pointed out that the struggle of Niger Delta people received international oil attention when late Ken Saro-Wiwa was hanged along with eight of his colleagues on the 10\textsuperscript{th} of November 1995 by the military junta that was set up by the then Head of State, General Sani Abacha. Frost (2002) believed that conflict in the Niger Delta region started in early January 1966 when Isaac Borro led a revolt against the Nigeria military government in response to the disenfranchisement of the Niger Delta people. This according to Frost (2002) was the first significant attempt at using violence to change the situation in the Niger Delta region. However, he noted that the first real escalation of armed
conflict in Niger Delta occurred in Warri in 1997, and continued often and on until 2003 (Frost, 2002). This tri-ethnic conflict cost thousand of lives, immense human sufferings and led to extensive losses to material assets and investments.

Okoro (2005:2) believed that conflict in the Niger Delta region could be traced from the federal system of Government that has been practiced since independence from the very beginning; the federal system has been at variance with the expectation of money minorities in the nation. He contends that the federal constitution that was drafted suffered from two fundamental and destabilizing setbacks. The first was the classification of the country into unequal region. The second is the political and demographic domination of the Northern Western and Eastern region, being the majority ethnic groups and the marginalization of the minority ethnic groups.

With regard to the origin of the conflict, Onuoha (2005) stated that enabling environment for the later widespread crises situation that today, resulted in the state of insecurity in the entire region of the Niger Delta. Thus, he reports that the conflicts has been intensified in recent times by the attempts to gain advantage from oil and gas activities in the region by
unscrupulous government officials and individuals in the region.

Ikelegbe (2001:23) reported that conflict in the Niger Delta region arose in the 1990’s as a result of tension between foreign oil multinational companies and members of the Niger Delta minority ethnic groups. He traces the origin of the conflict to the early 1990’s when people from the oil producing communities began to revolt against the activities of oil multinational companies operating in their area.

Nevertheless, it could be deducted from the above that conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region began in the early 1990’s. However, the early revolts against oil multinational companies were in form of peaceful demonstrations and petitions in a situation of the exploitation of oil and subsequent neglect of the area in masters of development. This took a violent dimension in the late 1990’s. To this end, it could be said that conflict in the oil producing communities arose in reaction to assumed cases of marginalization and lack of development to match with the exploitation.

2.3 NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE CONFLICT
The conflict that had engulfed the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region had taken different forms at various points in time. According to Croft and Concannon (1996:1), the current conflict in the Niger Delta is driven by oil politics. They report that the vast wealth available to those who control the power structures of the state has led to a significant shift in the underlying dynamics of the conflict. They concluded that the rising of global oil prices and growth in critical activities in the country’s economy are the factors that resulted to the conflict which has put all the stakeholders, especially the Niger Delta people at risk.

Haruna (2006:13) believed that the most visible features of the conflict are hostage taking, abduction of oil worker, and loss of lives, extortion, and vandalization of oil pipelines or installation, sabotage and increasing wave of restiveness among youths in the area. Thus the reports that the conflict has reached to an alarming extent and its nature is getting more dangerous by each passing day.

According to Zalik (2004:401), the Niger Delta is a region that has been marked by history of state and petroleum collusion both in social repression and environmental destruction. She believes that the federal Government and the
oil multinational companies are responsible for the conflict and other confrontations in the Niger Delta region. Zalik (2004), further pointed out that the resultant effect of the conflict is social repression of the Niger Delta people and environment degradation of the region.

In his own contribution, Wee (2006:5), reported that the conflict in the Niger Delta was as a result of the formation of resistance movements by members of the various oil producing communities. Thus, the major objectives elopement and more equitable distribution of oil revenue. However, Wee (2006) further reported that recent year; the situation has become more violent and destructive that it has led to violent confrontation between the various movements and the Government as well as the kidnapping of oil workers and vandalization of oil pipelines as well as oil installation within the region.

Basina (2005: 3), observed that, conflict in the region has degenerated into a dangerous and violence conflict which had brought about series of hardship to the people of the region. According to him, the conflict has resulted into the kidnapping of oil company workers, and vandalization of oil installation, and in extreme cases, it had led to bloodshed
between members of the community and members of different communities or two different ethnic groups within the region.

Frost (2006:7) stated that until 1999 and the return of a nominal democratic government in Nigeria, violence as a political phenomenon in the Delta tended to be limited to intra communal conflicts, carried out with rudimentary weapons like machetes and bottles. However, he observed that the situation had changed in the last Nine Years and there is a profusion of sophisticated weapons and the increasing number of armed youths, now seriously challenging the state’s monopoly of force. To this end, he believes that the conflict has assumed a dangerous nature and dimension over the years.

According to the Department of Energy (2002), conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta region has taken the form of violence confrontations between members of the communities or ethnic groups fighting against themselves or Government security forces, kidnapping oil company’s workers, sabotage and seizure of oil facilities in the region. The report stated that this violence is sustained by ethnic militancy, ethnic warlords, misguided youths as well as corrupt community leaders and Government officials.

2.4 FACTORS/CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT
The discovery of oil in Nigeria’s Niger Delta Region in 1957 triggered a chain of events that has lead to the political and economic marginalization of inhabitants. Indeed, it has been argued that oil in Niger Delta has been more of a curse than a blessing to people who have been at the receiving ends of horrendous government oppression and brutality, often resulting in fatalities. The factors responsible for the crisis are discussed as follows.

**Structural Deficiency of the Nigerian Federation:** it has always been discussed at fora both national and international, that one of the factors responsible for the Niger Delta crisis is the structural injustices that led to the marginalization of the Niger Delta region in the Nigeria federation. Historically, the Nigerian federation has been dominated by three large ethnic groups; the Yoruba, Igbo and the Hausa-Fulani. The British colonial government exploited this situation by ruling through the existing aristocracy, thereby reinforcing the historical imbalances already present. The smaller groups in the Niger Delta have been systematically excluded from positions of power. Furthermore, under the 1999 constitution, mineral rights in Nigeria are held by the federal government, a structure which has been unresponsive
to the Niger Delta grievances. As a result, the people of the Niger Delta region have through various declarations like the Ogoni Bills of Rights, made request for self determination and resource control for example, the demand for self determination was brought to the force in a statement issued by the Niger Delta women at the end of their meeting held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, from 25-27 November, 1999.

**Poverty/ Deprivation of the means of livelihood:**
The government Nigeria has made hundreds of billions of dollars of oil revenue in last 40 years of oil production in the Niger Delta. Despite this huge amount of money, the local people remain in object. Poverty and deprivations as they lack basic things of life like water and electricity. Life in the creeks of Niger Delta is anything but rich and prosperous. The region, According to Mukagbo, cable network News (CNN) anchorman for inside Africa, is a region where times seems to have stood still and where people live the most meager of existences, leaving them bitter and angry from not having benefited from the black gold that makes Nigeria Africa’s largest producer”

**Environmental Damage:** According to Ken Saro-Wewa (2007), the social and environmental costs of oil production have been very extensive. They include destruction of wildlife
and biodiversity, loss of fertile soil, pollution of air and drinking water, degradation of farmland and damaged to aquatic ecosystems, all of which have caused serious health problems for the inhabitants of areas surrounding oil production. As a result, oil companies often evacuate inhabitants from their homelands, further marginalizing them. The system of oil production in Nigeria is skewed in favour of the multi-nationals and government elite who are the direct recipients of oil production revenue.

**Lack of Development and Unemployment**: According to Whittington (2001), the Niger Delta region is under development in all its ramifications, despite the fact that it is the bread basket of Nigeria. He aptly described the economic dilemma of the region when he stated that “the oil region in Nigeria seems to be stuck in a time warp, with little real change since oil was discovered 45 years ago. Away from the main town, there is no real development, no roads, no electricity, no running water and no telephone”. This is why many of the youths of the region have resorted to militancy in an effort to focus national and international attention to their plight. Furthermore, unemployment is very high among the people of the Niger Delta as the oil companies do not hire their
employees from the region that produce oil, but from the non-oil producing communities in Nigeria. The situation was aptly described by a leader of a protesting women’s group “our children and our husbands have never been employed by the company (shell). We want to know why they should continue to be operating here”. Brisibe (2001) said that “Majority of the youths from the region is unemployed and majority of the beneficiaries are from other parts of Nigeria”.

**Distortions in the social and Economic fabric of the local societies:** According to Hutchful (1985), “shell and other oil companies have perpetuated regional and class inequalities by creating oil colonies in local areas where oil executives live quite lavishly in comparison to the impoverished conditions of the local communities”. Because of the oil industry requires highly-skilled workers, local villagers are either forced to migrate to the urban centers after being economically displaced, or to become low- skilled workers depends on the oil company. The nonchalant attitude of the oil companies to the development of their areas of operations breeds resentment and hostilities. The Governor of Bayelsa state, Chief Timpire Sylva, confirmed this assertion when he declared at a national seminar in Abuja, Nigeria, that”....... only in
Nigeria is oil production cut off from community development. Oil companies never saw themselves as part of community development in Nigeria. This has given rise to hostilities..........

**Bad Governance/Corruption:** According Brisibe (2001), the Niger Delta region is riddled with bad governance/corruption on the parts of government officials, both at state and local government levels. He argued that if government officials in the Niger Delta region have utilized judiciously their monthly allocations, to better the lots of the ordinary people, through the creation of jobs, and embark on infrastructural development of the region, the situation would have been better than this current sorry state. Rather, the jumbo monthly allocations are spent on frivolous things that have no corresponding bearing on the life of the people.

**Access to small and light weapons:** Ibeanu (2006) is of the view that conflict in Niger Delta has been given more impetus by the access to small and light weapons by the militants. This has emboldened them to confront the military and the police, and also carry out all other acts of violence against oil companies and individuals. The violence which is perpetrated through the use of highly sophisticated weapons seems to confirm with schubert’s hypothesis that, “oil
dependent countries tends to be highly militarized”. He equally noted that when oil wealth is concentrated in secessionist areas, the likelihood for a prolonged and bloody war skyrockets.

**Resource curse:** According to Punch News paper, 2008, resource curse can be cited as one of the underlying factors responsible for the Niger Delta crisis. This is a problem that is peculiar with countries that are blessed with minerals and other valuable resources. The orgy of violence and wars going on in countries like Congo (DRC) etc is traceable to the control of natural resources. Nigeria is therefore, no exception. It is for this reasons that conflict and wars in counties rich in mineral resources especially in developing countries, is blamed on resource curse as the leaders are not interested in economic development of Niger Delta, rather they prefer to loot the resources for their personal aggrandizements. Supporting this view, the Chairman of the open society Institute for West Africa, Mr. George Soros opinioned that resource belong to the people but are run by leaders who do not put the people’s welfare ahead of their own, thereby given rise to resource curses. It is a problem of many counties that are rich in natural resources which Nigeria is not an exception.
**Bridge of contract:** Ovuzourie (2005), was of the view that the conflict in the Niger Delta region arose as a result of the inability of oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOD) they signed with the members of the various communities. He stated that the oil companies in the haste signed the memorandum of understanding with members of the oil producing communities in the bid to ensure that their operations are unhindered. But the situation later took a new dimension when the people insisted that the companies should implement the memorandum of understanding to the later, a demand which the companies refused thereby creating as statement that later culminated in conflict.

**2.5 IMPACT OF THE CRISIS**

The crisis in the oil producing communities through the activities of the different militant group operating there, have brought about some negative impacts on oil and economic activities, and on government in general. The sense of relentless crisis has deepened when Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) and other groups intensified attacks on oil platforms and pumping stations, attacked and killed soldiers, kidnapped foreign oil workers, set
off car bombs. A kind of insecurity has been created in the minds of people, thus bringing about some negative impacts with it. What are these impacts?

**Economic Impact**

This will be viewed from different perspectives: Government, oil companies/ corporate bodies and individuals.

**Government:** The Guardian News paper of August 3, 2006, is of the opinion that government of Nigeria relies solely on the earnings derived from the sales of oil to be able to carry its obligations. The crisis which began since December 2005 has at times forced oil production shutdowns of up to 800,000 barrels per day, threatening Nigeria government plans to nearly double production to four million barrel a day by 2010. This crisis is said to have cost the country an annual loss of 4.4 billion dollars (3.2 billion euros). Onduku (2004) is of the view that experts predict that if the violence continues, oil companies operating in the area will be forced to leave, sending Nigeria’s economy into a nose dive. Should it happen and its is beginning to look possible with increased kidnappings and pipeline bombing in the area, MEND, would
have succeeded in their campaign to bring Nigeria’s oil
dependent to its knees.

**International supply of crude oil:** According to a
report by international Herald Tribune, the Niger Delta crisis
since it began has rippled across energy markets, contributing
to higher prices and tighter supplies. Attacks on oil platforms
in the region usually push oil prices up. The report further
stated that an attack by gunmen, on the boat carrying oil
workers to an off share rig in the delta on Friday, 8th June,
2007, pushed up oil prices by more that $ 1.50, to $63.38 a
barrel.

**Downsizing of oil companies Employees:** According
to Punch News Paper, Sunday, June 10, 2007, stated that, “As
the crisis in the Niger Delta is hampering operations of the oil
companies, some of them have stated laying off their workers.
Anglo/ Dutch oil firm, shell Development Company, retrenched
3,500 workers before September 2007. A similar action was
taken in 2004 when about 1,500 shell workers were
retrenched. The Punch News Paper further state that the idea
was conceived in order to reduce operational costs, in view of
the worsening security situation in the Niger Delta region. The
management of shell opted for the measure in response to the
cut in production, especially in the Western operation in Bayelsa and Delta States since February 2006. A production shut in over 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day is being recoded in the Western operation since fresh crisis erupted in the Niger Delta in February 2006.

**Dull is Business Activities:** Takirambudde (1999) observed that since the start of the crisis, particularly hostage taking and attack on oil instillations in the Niger Delta, there has been dearth of business activities. Restiveness has reduced growth in the business sector in the past six years. In River State alone, the situation has assumed a wearisome dimension to the extent that about 80 percent of companies in the state have stopped operations as expatriates have either gone to their countries or have taken cover in other areas. This development, has in turned, increased the unemployment ratio among the youth. Furthermore, the Deputy Governor of River State, Engr. Tele Ikuru, said of the situation “River State has become a carcass of itself; go to Trans- Amadi and you will see that about 80 percent of companies have closed down, not because of their inability to manage business properly, but because of the demonic activities of our youths”. He specifically mentioned that indorama Petrol Chemicals has shut
down operations there by rendering over 3,000 youth’s jobless and aggravating the unemployment situation.

**Losses to the Region:** The Punch News paper of July 1\(^{st}\), 2007, is of the view that, besides the trillions of naira that have been lost by the country due to the crisis, the Niger Delta states are suffering as a result of the lingering problem. All these states of the region have been failing in their oil production quota and that means lower 13 percent derivation fund. Furthermore, one of the governors cried out recently that it was as if this state was no longer oil producing. The oil companies are on tenterhooks, as their operations were being carried out in fits and starts and the environment is not safe for business. For more than a year, shell had not produced oil in its Western operation area due to the damage of its facilities in the creeks and kidnapped of their staff by militants (Ibeanu, 2006). Some companies have relocated from Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa State following the rising cases of banditry by militants.

**Security Implication of the Crisis**

The conflict has brought about serious security implications for the country. This is manifested in the various ways:
Confrontations with the Military: Torulagha (2007) observed that the Nigerian Military, under the aegis of the Joint Military Task Force (JTF), have been fighting with the militants since 2006 when the movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) started its violent activities. MEND and other militia groups have been able to withstand the military is several actions they have had. They have been able to do this because of their access to sophisticated weapons which they use in attacking oil platforms and facilities. According to a security expert, the type of weapons available to the different militia groups in the Delta area are so overwhelming, that something should be done, to arrest the situation, before it turns to a high level civil war. She further stated that Nigeria Security is being undermined by the militants, for the military to have not been able to tame them. In her words, “the militants appear to be operating with almost impunity. To make matters worsen, the militant’s tactics and weaponry are increasingly sophisticated.

Kidnapping and Hostage Taking: Amazie (2007), opinioned that Kidnapping and hostage taking has become the other of the day with oil workers and individuals becoming the target, thus worsening the security situation. He further state
that, in January 11, 2006, hostage taking of oil workers started in Bayelsa state after the declaration of operation Orido Danger’ by MEND with the kidnapping of four set of hostage namely: Mikko Wicheri (Bulgaria), Harry Ebuuks (Honduras), Arnold Laundry (American) and Nigel Waster Clark (Briton). About 200 expatriate had been kidnapped since the commencement of the ugly incidence, although most have been released within weeks in exchange for ransoms, typically hundreds of thousands of dollars. According to the International Herald Tribune, “Oil companies find themselves in an uneasy position, stuck in a crisis that they, in a sense, helped create for years, human rights groups accused them of turning a blind eye to the corruption of Nigeria’s successive military regimes while damaging the environment in the Delta” Every Nigerian and international community are greatly disturbed by the insulations development. This made Simeon Kolawle to observe in his writing in This day News paper that, “Kidnapping expatriates, workers and toddlers may just be a child’s play. Something more barbaric may be in the offing if we do not find a solution as soon as possible”.

**Illegal Bunkering Activities:** The international Herald Tribune is of the view that the crisis had mad illegal bunkering
of oil to thrive, which is also the source of funds for the militants operating in the creeks of Niger Delta. According to a report of the Brussels based international crisis group, Nigeria losses anywhere from 70,000 to 300,000 barrels per day to illegal bunkering, the equivalent output of a small oil producing country. In its annual report in late August, 1996, Shell Nigeria estimated illegal bunkering losses at 20,000 to 40,000 barrels per day in 2005, down from 40,000 to 60,000 in 2004. The Washington based council of foreign Relations Independent Task Force calculated that a loss of just 70,000 barrels a day at a price of $60 barrel “would generate over $1.5 billions per year-ample resource to fund arms trafficking, buy political influence, or both”. Kolawole (2007) further pointed out that illegal bunkering has been a key source of fund for antigovernment militant groups. Several militant war lords have either publicly or privately admitted involvement and others said they consider the practice a defensible means of providing income for aggrieved and impoverished residents of oil producing communities.

However, it must be noted that the activities of these blunderers have become a serious threat to the security well being of the Nigerian nation.
2.6 Attitudes of Oil Producing Communities Towards Conflict Resolution.

Writing on the people’s attitude to conflict resolution in the troubled region, Mamby (200:162) believed that the people’s response is always negative. According to her, the people responds to the resolution of the conflict negatively base on the manner in which the Government responds to the issue. She believed that solution to the issue is not the drafting of security operatives to the affected areas. Thus, the presence of uniformed security personnel in the area infuriates the people’s more rather that solving the problem.

Minter (2005:4) observed that though, the oil bearing Niger Delta area provided revenue for the country yet they have been denied a proper share of that revenue. He maintained that this is unjust, immoral unnatural and ungodly. Thus, the Niger Delta communities to him see little of Nigeria’s oil revenue with vast stretches of the region having erratic electricity supplies, poor water quality, and few functioning schools, health centers among others. Thus he sees the conflict as arising from exploitation of the people of the region. In addition, he reports that the only visible Government presence in many parts of the area is heavily-armed security
apparatus and this has made the people to resort to more violence rather than working together to resolve the issue.

2.7 Major International Oil Companies Operating In Oil Producing Communities In Nigeria.

The entire oil producing communities of Nigeria has been particularly attractive to major oil international, including shell, chevron, Exxon Mobil, TatalfinaElf, Agip and Texaco. These major oil companies have all been involved in joint ventures with the Federal Government of Nigeria in connection with oil exploration, exploitation and production. The profiles of the companies and countries of origin are discussed below;

**Royal Dutch Shell (British/Dutch):** According to the Joint Ventures Companies, accessed in March 7, 2008, shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC), operates a Joint venture which accounts for fifty percent of Nigeria’s total oil production output of 899,000 per day (bpd) from more than eighty oil fields. The Joint venture is composed of NNPC (55%), shell (30%), Total finaElf (10%) and Agip (5%) and operates largely onshore on dry land or in the mangrove swamp in the Niger Delta. Furthermore, the company has more than 100 producing oil fields, and a network of more than 6,000 kilometers of pipeline, flowing
through 87 flow stations. SPDC operates two (2) coastal oil export terminals. The Shell Joint Venture (JV) produces about 50 percent of Nigeria’s total crude. Shell Nigeria owns concessions on four companies, they are: Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO), Shell Nigeria Gas (SNG), Shell Nigeria Oil Products (SNOP), as well as holding a major stake in Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG). Furthermore, Shell formerly operated alongside British Petroleum as Shell –BP has since sold all its Nigeria concessions. Most of Shell’s operations in Nigeria are conducted through the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).

**Exxon –Mobil Producing Unlimited (American):** It is the operator of a joint venture that is now the second largest operation in the Country. The JV has the only condensate operation in Nigeria, and is owned by NNPC (60%), AND Mobil oil (40%). Most of Mobil’s production is from shallow water off shore fields, with its operating unit based in the southeast Location of Eket (Akwa-Ibom State). The company operates a crude oil terminal there known as the Qua Iboe Terminal (Q.I.T.). The company’s total daily production is now in the region of 52,000 barrels of crude oil per day (bbis/day). The
company’s output was also boosted by the development a few years ago of the “OSO” condensate field, now producing about 100,000 bbls/day. Furthermore, the Joint venture Company is of the view that an aggressive exploration/development policy is currently in place, with a view to boosting production to about 900,000 bbls/day. With its production facilities off share, the company has not suffered from the ongoing community related problems that have plagued the shell/Agip operations.

**Chevron (American):** The joint venture is owned by NNPC (60%) and chevron Texaco (40%). The JV has its head office in Lagos, while its operational base is in Escravos, producing a crude stream of the same name. Chevron’s operating unit is based in Warri (Delta State), and its crude oil terminal is located at Escravos, also in Delta State. The company’s head office is located in Logos. The Joint Venture operates 25 fields, covering an area of 5.180 square kilometers on share. Current daily production is about 420,000 bbls/day. Furthermore, chevron has also made signification investments in the area of gas utilization, with the development of the Escrovas Gas Gathering project, which commenced first phase operations in 1997. The project currently processes 180 million cubic feet of associated gas per
day. A third phase to this project is currently under development.

**Total FinaElf (French):** The JV between NNPC (60%) and Total FinaElf (40%) produces about 125,000 bbls/day, from 12 onshore and off share fields. ELF has its operational base in Port Harcourt, River state. The company has no export terminal, and operates with a floating production unit. Currently, production is split evenly between offshore and onshore fields, and ELF plans to shift most of its production offshore with the development of number of offshore concessions acquired by the company.

**Texaco Overseas (Chevron-Texaco):** Texaco is the operator and owner of a 20% interest in Six (6) oil mining leases covering an area of 606,000 acres offshore in the Delta basin. The other Joint ventures partners are the NNPC (60%) and chevron (20%). Texaco, (now chevron Texaco) has been involved in exploration and production of Nigeria crude oil resources since 1961. Over 473 million barrels of oil have been produced since operations commenced. Texaco has its operational base at Warri, and its headquarters in Lagos. All these major oil companies have played a significant and Nominate roles in the Nigeria’s oil business. The major
challenges being faced by them is the perception of their host communities that they have derived no benefits from their operations, thus bringing about the violence and conflicts that pervades the Niger Delta where it is being explored. To the people of the Niger Delta, oil is more of a curse than a blessing.

2.8 Review of Conflict Theory.

Conflict Theory: Conflict theory argues that society is not about solidarity or social consensus but rather about competition. Society is made up of individuals competing for limited resources (e.g. religion, government etc). Some people and originations have more resources (i.e. power and influence) and use those resources to maintain their positions of power in society Colin (1974:56-610).

According to Erving (1961) society is constantly in conflict over resource. He stated that competition over scarce resources is at the heart to fall social relations and that inequality in power and rewards are built all social structures. Individuals and group that benefit from any particular structured strive to see it maintained. Nevertheless, change occurs as a result of conflict between competing-interests
rather than through adaptation change is often abrupt and revolutionary rather than evolutionary.

Erving (1961) went further to emphasis that each individual is basically pursuing his own interest and most of the time those intending antagonistic. He went further to states that there are three stands in the issue. First, men live in self constructed subjective worlds. Second, that others pull many of the stings that control one’s subjective experience and finally that there are frequent conflicts over control. Therefore, life is basically a struggle for status in which no one can afford to be oblivious to the power of other around them.

2.9 Theoretical Framework

In every social or administrative research there should be a theory that will guide and explain the results of research. The conflict theory is assumed the best theory among all others theories that could have existed in trying to find out the problem(s) confronting the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta.

According to Erving (1961), the society is made up of individual competing for limited resources that exist in the society. He observed that it is the competition for scarce resource that breed conflict or violence between members in
the society using this assumption or exertion to explain conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta. It could be said that the conflict is a resultant effect in the clamor of the people to be rewarded for the oil and gas that is extracted from their land.

Relatively, Collins (1974) a conflict theorist stated that each individual is basically pursuing his own interests while at the same time competing with others with the scarce resources in the society. The basic insight is that human beings are sociable but conflict-prone animals and this is what generates conflict and tension is the society. He thinks of people as animals maneuvering for advantage. Susceptible to emotional appeals, but steering a self interested course towards satisfaction to sway away from dissatisfaction.

According to Bernard (1978) competition for scarce resources results in inequalities which make the dominant party to take advantage of the less dominant involve conscious calculation but also a basic propensity which propel people toward the area of the greatest immediate reward.

Consequently, it could be said that the confrontation in the oil producing communities is as a result of the competition between members of the communities to benefit from the
revenue that is gotten from oil that is extracted from the area. Therefore, the members of the oil producing communities are rarely trying to protect their interest when they engage in protest or confrontation between themselves, the oil companies or the Government to this end, the people of the Niger Delta are trying to bridge the inequality and to fight the injustice that is being done to them while at the same time trying to protect their self interest in the society.

2.10 Hypothesis

The hypotheses, which have been generated in reference to the expositions above for this study on poverty and conflict in oil producing communities, are as follows:

(I) Poverty and conflict in the oil producing areas of Niger Delta has a positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region.

(ii) Poverty and conflict has impacted negatively on the people of Niger Delta.

(iii) Perpetual conflict and wonton destruction of property persist in the region as a result of the inability of the Government and oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the communities.
2.10.1 Operational Definitions of the Key Concepts

**Poverty.**

World Bank defined poverty as the inability to attain minimal standard of living. Furthermore, Nnadozie (2010) sees poverty as the totality of state of being wherein individuals, households or community are unable to afford or fulfill the basic necessities other social and economic obligation.

**Conflict**

Cpser (1956) defines conflicts as a struggle over claims to scare status, power and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure, or eliminate their rivals.

**Oil**

Adam et al (2009) sees oil as a thick dark liquid from under the ground from which oil and petrol are produce.

**Community**

According to Ndukwe (2004), community is a group of people interacting among themselves in a geographically defined spaces and time. The defined environment could refer to as a village, a town, a city, a neighborhood or even state.
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

This chapter contains the details of the procedures used in carrying out the study. These are arranged under the following headings: Areas of the study, Population of the study, Target population of the study, Instrument of data collection, Method of data collection, Sample size, Information on data distribution and collection, Validation of instrument, Administration of questionnaire, Sample technique and Method of data analysis.

3.1 Area of the Study.

The area of this study is focused in Ughelli North Local Government Area in Delta State, Nigeria. Ughelli North is made up of many communities namely: Ogar, Irri, Isoko south, Oleh, Olomoro and Uzere. Out of the six oil producing communities selected for the study, Oleh, Olomoro, Ogar and Uzere have functional flow stations, while the fourth flow station in Irri community is under construction.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population for the study is 10,000 people living with the jurisdiction of Ughelli North Local Government of Delta State. Thus, the segment of the population that was selected for the study consists of all the community elders, youth
leaders, women leaders and Agip/Shell foremen in Ughelli North of Delta State.

**Table 1: Population Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/no</th>
<th>Target groups</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Community elders</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Youth Leaders</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Women Leaders</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shell &amp; Agip foremen</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nigerian Congress online (2007)

**3.2.1 Target Population of the Study**

The population of the study is 10,000 which include community elders and youth’s leaders which were selected to represent the men and youths. While women leaders, shell and Agip foremen and other senior officer/staff were targeted to represent the women and oil companies respectively.

Out of the 10,000, 1000 respondents were selected i.e 10% using the Stratified technique after which the simple random technique was applied to select the target population which is 1000.
Table 2: Distribution of Target Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/No</th>
<th>Target Groups</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sample (10%)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Community elders</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Youth Leaders</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Women Leaders</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shell &amp; Agip foremen</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2011

3.3 Sample Size

For convenience and accuracy, the researcher used stratified technique to selected two hundred and twenty (220) men, five thousand youth (5000), one thousand eight hundred (1800) women and one thousand (1000) oil company staff from the two oil companies that are operating in the area. Among the groups ten percent (10%) of the population were selected from each group for even representation. To this end, the samples size of 1000 persons was selected for the study to represent the entire population.

3.3.1 Method of Data Collection

The two sources of data collection used in this study are: Primary method and secondary method.
Primary Method

Primary data are data collected from the field (Iyiogwe 2002). The oral interview was the major instrument used for data collection in this study. The interview survey will be held with youth leaders, elders, women leaders and shell and Agip foremen and other senior officer/staff. The researcher will personally visit Ughelli North to extract information necessary for the study.

Secondary Method

These are documented materials according to Ogonu (2006). Apart from the use of oral interview, we shall rely on documented materials such as texts, Journals, Newspapers, Magazines, Term papers, Projects, Library and internet that have dealt on the issue.

3.4 Instrument for Data Collections

The main instrument used for data collection was oral interview. The oral interview enables the researcher to have face to face interaction with the respondents or the people that were interviewed in the course of the research (Iyiogwe, 2002).

However, the interview questions covers all areas as regard to the causes and impact of poverty and conflict as well
as the role of the indigenous people, the Government and Oil Multinational companies on the study. Nevertheless, the type of interview used was structured interview. This does not mean that the unstructured method was not applied. Unstructured questions were applied to get additional information for the various respondents.

3.5 Information on Data Distribution and Collection

The researcher constructed an oral interview on one thousand (1000) respondents at the designated area of study. Each respondent had its own time and date of interview. The interview was done by the researcher personally and the data were collected on the spot.

3.6 Validation of Instrument

The instrument was scrutinized for content validity by a specialist in the area. This procedure will ensure that the items in the oral interview questions strictly address the research questions and Hypothesis for the study. This process ensured the validity of the instrument.

For the purpose of reliability, a pilot test was conducted using twenty five (25) youths, twenty five (25) men, twenty five (25) women twenty five (25) oil company staff, which form the sample size of 100 people in Eleme community in
Eleme Local Government Area of River State. The later has the same characteristics with that of Ughelli North Local Government Area. The interview was conducted and the response of the respondents was the same with the response of the respondents in Ughelli North.

3.6.1 Administration of Questionnaire

The researcher conducted an oral interview personally and the data needed for the study were collected and recorded as the interview goes on.

3.7 Sampling Technique

In selecting the sample, the non probability sampling technique was applied for convenience and accuracy due to the nature of the issue. Consequently, in applying the non probability sampling technique in gathering the data, the stratified sampling technique was applied after which the simple random sampling technique was equally applied. In order words, the segment of the population that possesses some unique characteristics was targeted to this end, community elders and youth leaders were selected to represent the men and the youths. While women leaders, shell and Agip foremen and other senior staff were targeted to represent the women and oil companies respectively.
3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The statistical computation used in analyzing data gathered through interview include: simple percentage, weighted mean and Chi-square. Simple percentage will be used to analyze the data collected on the respondents personal characteristics while weighted mean will be used to analyze the other information gathered. Furthermore, the chi-square will be used to test the hypothesis.

The analyses were done using the following formula:

Simple percentage;

\[ \% = \frac{f}{n} \times 100 \times \frac{1}{1} \]

Where \( f \) = Frequency
\( N \) = Number of respondents
\( \% \) = Percentage

Weighted mean;

\[ \bar{x} = \frac{\sum x}{\sum f} \]

Where \( \sum x \) = Total Score
\( \sum f \) = Total Frequency
\( \bar{x} \) = Mean score
In order to determine the degree of agreement or disagreement in each of the scaling statement in the questionnaire, values were allotted to different scaling as follows:

- Strongly Agree (SA) = 4
- Agree (A) = 3
- Disagree (D) = 2
- Strongly disagree (SD) = 1

The cut off point was calculated as follows: $\frac{10}{4} = 2.5$

This figure (2.5) was used to establish a cut off point. The response whose mean score is below 2.5 is not accepted as agree and the response from 2.5 above is accepted as agree.

Chi-Square:

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-e)^2}{e}$$

Where; $O =$ Observed Frequency
     $e =$ Expected Frequency
CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the researcher presents analyzes the data collected. Analysis was done using the procedure stated in chapter three.

Data collected with respect to research question 1-4 which is the personal characteristics of the respondents were analyzed with simple percentage.

Question 1: What Is Your Age?

Table 4.1: Age Range Of The Respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>36-50</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>51 and above</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 4.1 above shows that age range between 51 and above of the respondents which constitute 100 (10%) is the lowest followed by 36-50 age that have the frequency of 180 (18%). 220 (22%) which falls within the age of range of 18-25 is the third lowest while the age range between 26-35 years of the respondents with 500 (50%) are in the majority.
**Question 2: What Is Your Marital Status?**

**Table 4.2: Marital Status.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Widowhood</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

The above table 4.2 shows that 500 or 50% of the respondents are married while 400 or 40% are single. The members in the state of widowhood are 70 or 7% while the divorced are 30 or 3%. The table indicates that the married members are more than the single ones.

**Question 3: What Is Your Occupation?**

**Table 4.3: Occupation Of The Respondents.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oil Staff</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Banker</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Student</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Trader</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Transporter</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

Table 4.3 above presents the occupational profile of the respondents from the table above, it was found out that the respondents who are Traders are the highest in number with 240 (40%). This group was followed by respondents who are students that constitute 200 (20%). Transporters constitute
170 (17%) while Teachers constitute 120 (12%). Lawyers constitute 100 (10%) while oil staff constitutes 90 (9%). The least is Bankers who finally constitute 80 (8%) of the respondent.

**Question 4: What Is Your Highest Educational Qualification?**

**Table 4.4: Educational Qualification.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Educational Status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FSLC</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>WAEC/GCE/NECO</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NCE/OND</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DEGREE/HND</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

Table 4.4 above shows that 400 (40%) members of the respondents are holders of Degree/HND certificate, 250 (25%) of them are NCE/OND certificate holders while 150 (15%) of them are WAEC/GCE/NECO holders. Those who have FSLC are 130 (13%) and those of other qualifications are 70 (7%). In the table, those with Degree/HND certificate take the majority.
Question 5: What Do You Think Is The Reason For The Protest Of Violence Confrontation In The Community?

Table 4.5: Reason For The Protest Of Violence Confrontation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lack of basic amenities</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3900</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bridge of contract</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3200</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey 2011

From table 4.5 above, it can be deducted that corruption is the least with mean score of 3.2 while unemployment is 3rd position with mean score of 3.7. Furthermore, poverty and Bridge of contract possesses the same position (2nd) with 3.8 respectively. Lack of basic amenities proved to be the 1st with mean of 3.9 it can be concluded from the table that all the variables are accepted but lack of basic amenities proved to be the main reason for the protest of violent confrontations.
Question 6: Who Do You Think Is Responsible For The People’s Revolt?

Table 4.6: Reasons For The People’s Revolt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oil Companies</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Comm.. members</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bad leadership</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

From the table 4.6 above, it can be seen that Government took 1st with mean score of 3.8 while the oil companies took the second (2nd) position with mean score of 3.7. Furthermore, Bad Leadership took the 3rd position with mean score of 1.9 while community members took 4th with mean score of 1.1. It can be concluded from the table above that Government is the main reasons for the peoples revolt in the community followed by the oil companies.

Question 7: What Do You Think Is/Or Are Responsible For The Conflict?

Table 4.7: Reasons For The Conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Marginalization</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lack of basic amenities</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bridge of contract</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3900</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**
From the table 4.7, it can be seen that Bridge of contract took the 1st position with mean score of 3.9 while lack of basic amenities took the 2nd position with the mean score of 3.7. Marginalization and unemployment took the 3rd position respectively with mean score of 3.5. Finally, poverty took the 4th place with mean score of 2.8. Thus, it can be concluded that the Bridge of contract is the main reason for the conflict in the area.

**Question 8: What Is The Root Cause Of Conflict In The Area?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bridge of contract</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3300</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Marginalization</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lack of basic amenities</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3400</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

**Table 4.8: The Root Causes Of Conflict In The Area.**

From the table 4.8 above, it can be seen that marginalization took 1st position with mean score of 3.7 while lack of basic amenities took the 2nd position with mean score of 3.4. Furthermore, Bridge of contract represents the 3rd position with mean score of 3.3 which was closely followed by corruption with mean score of 2.4. Finally, poverty took the
5th place with 2.0 mean score. Therefore, it can be concluded from the table that marginalization is the main root causes of conflict in the area followed by lack of basic amenities and bridge of contract.

**Question 9: What Do You Think Will Solve The Problem In The Area?**

**Table 4.9: Suggestion On How To Solve The Problem In The Area.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Provide employment</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3950</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poverty alleviation</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Honor of contract</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3300</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Provide basic amenities</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3400</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Equity and Justice</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1630</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

From the table 4.9 above, it can be deducted that provision of employment took the 1st place with mean rating of 3.9 while the provision of basic amenities took the 2nd place with mean rating of 3.4. Furthermore, Honor of contract occupied the 3rd place with 3.3 while Poverty Alleviation Programme occupied the 4th place with 2.8 mean rating. And finally, Equity and Justice occupied the bottom place with 5th position and 2.4 mean rating. From the table above, it can be
concluded that the provision of employment is the major solution to the problem encountered in the area followed by provision of basic amenities, Honor of contract and Poverty Alleviation Programme.

**Question 10: What Do You Think Are The Negative Effect Of The Conflict?**

**Table 4.10: Negative Effects Of The Conflict On The Government And Oil Companies.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Illegal bunkering</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Retirement of worker</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Deadly confrontations</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3900</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dull business activities</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

From the table 4.10 above, it can be deducted that deadly confrontations took the 1st position with 3.9 mean rating followed by kidnapping with 3.8 mean rating. Furthermore, Illegal bunkering occupied the 3rd position with 3.7 mean rating while retirement of workers occupied the 4th position with 2.2 mean rating. And finally, dull business activities occupied the last position which is the 1.6 mean rating. It can be concluded from the table above that the people believe that Deadly confrontations is the major
negative effect of the conflict, closely followed by kidnapping and Illegal bunkering.

**Question 11: What Impact Do You Think The Conflict Could Have On The Government And Oil Companies?**

**Table 4.11: The Impact Of The Conflict On Government And Oil Companies.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Negative Impact</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2970</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Positive Impact</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

From the table 4.11 above, it can be seen that negative impact possesses the 1<sup>st</sup> position with 2.9 mean rating while positive impact possesses the 2<sup>nd</sup> position with mean rating of 2.3. It can be concluded from the table that the respondents believe that the conflict will have negative impact on the Government and Oil Companies.
Question 12: What do you think the Government and Oil Companies could do to resolve the problem?

Table 4.12: Means of resolving the conflict by Government and Oil Companies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>UD</th>
<th>No of resp.</th>
<th>Total score</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Create employment</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3496</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Provide basic amenities</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>3400</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Send security agents</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Create poverty alleviation programme</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Award scholarship</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**

From the table above, it can be seen that the creation of employment and provision of basic amenities took the 1st place with mean rating of 3.4 respectively while award of scholarship occupied the 2nd place with the mean rating of 2.2. Furthermore, the creation of Poverty Alleviated Programme occupied the 3rd position with the mean rating of 2.0 and finally, sending of security agent possesses the 4th position with mean rating of 1.8. It can be concluded from the table that the people believe that for Government and Oil Companies to resolve this problem, they must create...
employment and provide the basic amenities to the communities.

**Hypothesis Testing:**

In order to use our x2 table in the formular, we first derive the expected frequently (ef) by dividing the N (total number of the respondents) by total categories of responses and this is 1000/5=200 (which in this type of hypothesis testing becomes a constant ef).

**Question 13:**

**H0:** Poverty and conflict in oil producing areas of Niger Delta has no positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region.

**H1:** Poverty and conflict in oil producing area of Niger Delta has a positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region.

**Table 4.13: The Relationship Between Poverty And Conflict With The Marginalization And The Exploitation In The Region.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Observed (O)</th>
<th>Expected (e)</th>
<th>(0-e)</th>
<th>(0-e)^2</th>
<th>(0-e)^2 E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>90000</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-130</td>
<td>16000</td>
<td>845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-170</td>
<td>28900</td>
<td>144.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td></td>
<td>X2=779.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Field Survey 2011**
The df = (r-1) (c-1) = (5-1) (2-1) = 4

At a 0.05 level of significance, the tabulated x² = 7.78

**Decision:** Since the computed value of x² at 779.1 is greater than critical value of x² at 7.78, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, poverty and conflict in oil producing area of Niger Delta has a positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region.

**Question 14:**

**H0:** Poverty and conflict has not impacted negatively on the people of Niger Delta.

**H1:** Poverty and conflict has impacted negatively on the people of Niger Delta.

**Table 4.14: The Impact Of Poverty And Conflict On The People Of Niger Delta**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/ N</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Observed (O)</th>
<th>Expected (e)</th>
<th>0-e</th>
<th>(0-e)²</th>
<th>(0-e)² e</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>200</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-20</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-180</td>
<td>32,400</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>1000</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Field Survey 2011

The df = (r-1) (c-1) = (5-1) (2-1) = 4

At a level of 0.05 significance, the tabulated x² = 7.78

**Decision:** Since the computed value of x² at 464 is less than the tabulated value of x² at 7.78, we do not reject the null
hypothesis (H0). Therefore, poverty and conflict has not impacted negatively on the people of Niger Delta.

**Question 15:**

**H0:** Perpetual conflict and wont on destruction of property do not persist in the region as a result of the inability of the Government and oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the communities.

**H1:** Perpetual conflict and wont on destruction of property persist in the region as a result of the inability of the Government and oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the communities.
Table 4.15: The Reasons For Perpetual Conflict And Wont On Destruction Of Property in The Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/ N</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Observed (O)</th>
<th>Expected (E)</th>
<th>0-e</th>
<th>(0-e)^2</th>
<th>(0-e)^2 E</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>-130</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>153.12</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-195</td>
<td>38025</td>
<td>190.12</td>
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<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
<td>X2 = 145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \chi^2 = 2.79 \]

Source: Field Survey 2011

The \( \text{df} = (r-1) (c-1) = (5-1) (2-1) = 4 \)

At a 0.05 level of significance, the tabulated \( \chi^2 = 7.78 \)

**Decision:** Since the computed value of \( \chi^2 \) at 1452.74 is greater than critical or tabulated value of \( \chi^2 \) at 7.78, we reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, perpetual conflict and wont on destruction of property persist in the region as a result of the inability of the Government and oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the communities.
CHAPTER FIVE

Findings, Discussion of Findings, conclusions And Recommendations

In this last chapter, the interpretation and discussion of results are based on the analysis of data obtained in the previous chapter. They were handled according to the order in which the research questions were set.

5.1 Findings

- The highest number of the respondents belongs to the age range of 26-35
- Mostly the respondents were married
- Majority of the respondents were traders
- The respondents with NCE/OND certificate were the majority
- Based on the findings, table 5 indicated that lack of basic amenities has the highest degree of acceptance as the major reason for the protest of violence confrontation in the community.
- The government is responsible for the people’s revolt. Followed by oil companies.
- Table 7 indicated that the Bridge of contract signed with the community is responsible for the conflict in the area.
Table 8 indicated that marginalization is the root cause of conflict in the area.

Table 9 indicated that providing employment will solve the problem in the area.

Table 10 indicated that deadly confrontations are the major negative effect on government and oil companies.

It was also deducted from table 11 that the conflict will have negative impact on government and oil companies.

Table 12 indicated that government and oil companies should create employment and provide basic amenities to resolve the problem.

Table 13 indicated that poverty and conflict in oil producing area of Niger Delta has a positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region.

Table 14 indicated that poverty and conflict has no negative impact on the people of Niger Delta.

Finally, table 15 indicated that perpetual conflict and want on destruction of property persist in the region as a result of inability of the Government and oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the member of the communities.
5.2 Discussing of findings

The various vital findings which have surfaced as a result of the present investigation are placed within the framework of the study. It has been considered logical to tackle the discussion of the result in line with the problem that the study sought to solve. Hence, the major findings are considered with respect to the group of determinant variables/responses in the study.

In terms of the age range of the respondents, age range within 26-35 was the majority. This indicated that in Ughelli North LG of Delta State, the youths are majority that was involved in the conflict of with the Government and oil companies in the area.

Among the respondents, married ones were more in number than the unmarried ones, widowhood and divorced ones. This indicates that the people of Ughelli North of Delta State are very mature in fighting for their right and fulfilled the natural phenomenon of adulthood. Obe, (1996).

Among the respondents, majority of them are traders, others are teachers, oil state, Bankers, Students, transporters and Lawyers.
That literacy education helps to fight against oppressors, as indicated in the findings is in agreement with Okpoko, (2000) who asserted that “the upliftment of the status of marginalized community in most third world countries could only be achieved by provision of knowledge and skills acquired through education. Since the majority of the respondents are educated, it will enable them to utilize their potentials to fight the marginalization witnessed in Ughelli North of Delta State for their well being.

Furthermore, the people believe that lack of basic amenities is the main reason for the protest of violence confrontation in the community. The youths are the most visible and vibrant group in the conflict. The youths are involved in the conflict due to lack of basic amenities which is the major, unemployment, poverty, bridge of contract and corruption Mr. Olori Efetobere, a shell staff in Oleh/ Olomoro flow station pointed out that in spite of influences of other factors like unemployment, poverty, bridge of contract and corruption etc lack of basic amenities influences youths more to engage in conflict. He concludes that the provision of basic amenities for the area will reduce the conflict to a considerable extent.
Also, it was discovered that the government is responsible for the people’s revolt followed by the oil companies. According to a respondent, Mrs Helen Igedegbe, a trader in Uzere Community, the Government and oil companies are responsible for the conflict while the people are those who are engaged in the conflict. She pointed out that though it is the people that carry out the conflict their decisions are largely influenced by the roles of the oil companies and Government. She concluded that the people engage in violence to protest for development project in their communities.

The bridge of contract according to the finding is the main reason for the conflict in the area which they signed with the community. Ovuzourie (2005), was of the view that the conflict in the Niger Delta region arose as a result of the inability of oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the various communities. According to him, the oil companies in their haste signed the memorandum of understanding with the members of the oil producing communities in the bid to ensure that their operation is unhindered. But that situation later took a new turn when the
people insisted that the companies should implement the memorandum of understanding as agreed. A demand which the oil companies refused thereby creating misunderstanding to both party which later culminated in conflict.

Similarly, the people believe that marginalization of the area is the root cause of conflict in Ugbelli North of Delta state is due to the level of marginalization and degradation done to the region. Thus, he attributed the conflict to external forces like Government and Oil multinational corporations that are operating in the region. However, he stated that Government and oil companies will hardly admit to this fact and so they blame it on the people. Furthermore, subair, (2003) believed that the Nigerian’s oil belt, the Niger Delta region, is embroiled in resistance against the Nigerian state and the oil companies to the decades of oil exploitation, environmental degradation and state of neglect of the area. They reported that the youths are major vanguard of the resistance.

Furthermore, it was discovered that the people believe that creating employment will solve the problem in the area. Efetobere (2000) opinioned that youth are the most visible and vibrant group in the conflict. He believed that the youths are involved in the conflict due to lack of employment. Similarly,
Oviemo, (1999) maintained that high level of unemployment is what propel the youths to go on rampage at any slightest excuse. He further, points out that youths will not have time to engage in conflict if employment is provided for them.

Also, it was discovered from the research that deadly confrontations is the major effect witnessed by Government and oil companies. The nature and extent of the conflict in Ugbelli North of Delta State had taken a dangerous dimension in recent times. Similarly, the effect of the conflict is mostly negative. Thus, as the conflict took the form of deadly confrontations, illegal bunkering, and kidnapping of oil workers. These deadly confrontations manifest between security forces and armed militias or violent confrontations between groups and between communities, so has the causalities increased. Therefore, the conflict had increased suffering, poverty, and underdevelopment and in extreme cases it had led to loss of countless lives and property worth billions of naira.

Similarly, it was also deducted from the research that conflict would have a negative impact on the Government and oil companies. Most of the respondents especially community members believe that without the roles of the Government and
oil companies there would not have been any conflict in the area. Majority of them believe that the role played by the both parties sometimes have negative impact in the relationship between the indigenous people and Government or oil companies which most times result into intense confrontation.

From the first hypothesis testing, it was deducted that the Government and Oil Companies should create employment and provide basic amenities to resolve the problem in the area. According to Alakrigo, (1999), he agreed that lack of job opportunities and basic amenities in the area is what motivates the youths to be involved in violence. He report that any time the youths engage in violence confrontation there are some financial rewards either in form of looting, stealing or payment from either the leaders of the communities or their sponsors as well as ransom which is paid for the release of kidnapped workers. He further stressed that youths are involved due to idleness and that meaningful employment could not provided for them because some of them did not have the educational requirement for the jobs.

Furthermore, it was deduced from the second hypothesis testing that the respondents believe that poverty and conflict has no negative effect on the people of Ughelli North of Delta
State. Whenever conflict arises in the area, lives are often lost and properties worth millions of naira destroyed, houses, cars and business premises are also burnt and in most cases business are interrupted and stagnated for a long period of time. To this end, oil production is interrupted which cut down production and thereby reducing the daily quota for oil production which further reduces daily earning from oil production. This situation adversely bears on the national economy and development. Oil installations and government properties are burnt which took millions of dollars to be rebuilt.

Finally, the last hypothesis testing testified that perpetual conflict and wont on destruction of property persist in the region as a result of inability of the Government and oil companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of communities. Ovuzourie (2005), was of the view that the conflict in the area persist as a result of the inability of Government and oil multinational companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the community. According to him, the oil companies in their haste signed the memorandum of understanding with the members of the oil producing communities in the bid to ensure that their operation is
operation is unhindered. But the situation later took a new dimension when the people insisted that the companies should implement the memorandum of understanding which they signed with the communities. They refused to fulfill which later culminated in conflict. This triggered to reoccurrence of violence against the Government and Oil multinational companies operating in Ughelli North of Delta State.

5.3 CONCLUSION

There can be no solution to the simmering poverty and conflict in the oil producing areas communities of the Niger Delta until its people gain the rights to participates in their governance and until the protection of the rule of law is extended to their communities. Moreover, the injustices facing the Niger Delta people are in many ways facing all Nigerians after decades of rule by successive military regimes and corrupt civilian, regions, hence in the oil producing region’s there are suppression of political and social activities.

However, there is lack of legal redress for damage to the environment and the resulting loss of livelihood, and the Sheer disregard of human rights abuses by the region’s security forces. Consequently, this has generated greater protests, in turn generating greater repression and heightened poverty
and conflict in the various communities in the region. Nevertheless, despite death of General Abacha and the succession of General Abubakar and the eventually civilian Government led by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Umar Yar’ Adua and more recently President Goodluck E. Jonathan, the situation of the Niger Delta remains fundamentally unchanged as the recent escalations of protest and kidnapping of company staff had demonstrated.

Furthermore, the first responsibility for resolving these poverty and conflicts lies with the Nigerian Government. Yet the multinational oil companies operating in Nigeria cannot deny their own share of their contribution to the problem. It is not enough simply to say that the political environment in Nigeria is as difficult for the oil companies as it is for anyone else, and that the oil industry does not have the power to alter Government policy towards the oil region. Thus, the oil companies contribute to the poverty rate and conflict in many ways. Therefore, all hands should be on deck to resolve the discontent in the Niger Delta region and also to resolve the conflict within and between communities that results in repressive Government responses. To this end, the oil companies must take steps to ensure that oil production does
not continue at the cost of their host communities because of the threat or actual use of force against those who protest their activities.

Finally, there is a growing likelihood that, unless corrective action is taken, protests and conflict will continue and become more violent in the region. Consequently, this will bring untold negative consequences to both the people of the region and the Government who acquire over ninety percent (90%) of its revenue from oil production. To this end, all stakeholders including the community members should work together to resolve the poverty rate and conflict to avoid further damage.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

As regards the problems of poverty and conflict in the oil producing communities in the Niger Delta, the researcher wishes to make the following recommendations. Hence, the recommendations will be addressed to the federal Government, the oil multinational companies as well as the people of the region and the international communities/agencies.

The Government should ensure that the ethnic groups resident in the oil producing region are above to make their
voices hard in the Nigeria’s political system. Also, the Government should respect the right of those in the oil producing communities ranging from freedom of expression, association and assembly to respect of human dignity.

Again, the Government should cease from harassment of individual and organizations that engage in research into oil industry, but should be compliance with the environmental, international and industrial standards for oil exploitation and activities. The Government should seek to hold oil operators to those standards. Moreover, the Government should ensure that conditions for detention and imprisonment are in full compliance with international standards.

Also, new poverty alleviation programme should be initiated to significantly reduce the miserable living condition of the poor oil producing communities and Nigerian at large. Federal Government should equally, as a matter of urgency, state clearly the modalities for disbursement of all monies collected or allocated in their governments should be made to know if money collected in their state would be solely used to benefit residents of the state or not.

Furthermore, the Government should allow members of the movement for the survival of Ogoni people (MOSOP) and
other organizations formed to challenged the operation of the oil industry in Nigeria to organize, meet and express their protest in accordance with international standards as well as in accordance with convention 87 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), and decrees and Laws restricting these rights.

Finally, the Government should established committee composed of representatives of minority community in the oil producing region for the purpose of resolving the long standing disputes in communities as well as between communities over claims of land among others. Therefore, the Government should ensure that various communities are adequately compensated for any damage done to them either through conflict or environmental damage by oil exploration.

The oil companies in the Niger Delta should accelerate community development by alleviating poverty and promoting social equity. They should also adopt best practices approaches to oil exploration and producing to minimize oil spillage and abolish gas flaring.

Also, the oil companies should employ security forces with good conduct and who have respect for human rights to provide security for staff and oil installations. In addition, the
oil companies operation in the area should honour the memorandum of understanding (MOU), they signed with the various communities to avoid confrontations with the indigenous people.

Furthermore, the oil multination should provide employment for the people in the communities that they operate. Also the oil companies should ensure the widest possible consultations with the people who will be affected by oil installations in their planning and show the greatest possible transparency in what is planned to ensure that the oil operators have the consent of those who will suffer the negative consequences. Moreover, compensations should be paid without delay for any damage done in the process of oil exploration.

Finally, the Economic and Financial Control Commission (EFCC) should discharged their duties effectively in this region to make sure that the top government officials, individuals that divert fund meant for development in this region are apprehended and sent to the appropriate place.
APENDIX

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS
Tick (✓) In the Appropriate Box

1. Age Range
   (a) 20-25 (b) 26-30 (c) 31-35 (d) 36-40
   (e) 41-45 (f) 50 and above

2. Marital Status
   (a) Single (b) Married (c) Divorce (d) Widowhood

3. Occupation
   (a) Teacher (b) Oil staff (c) Banker (d) Student
   (e) Trader (f) Transporter (g) Lawyer

4. Educational Qualification
   (a) FLSC (b) WAEC/GCE/NECO (c) NCE/OND
   (d) DEGREE/HND (e) Others

5. What do you think is the reason for the protest of violence confrontation in the community?

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<th>SD</th>
<th>D</th>
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<td>Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of basic Amenities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge of contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
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6. Who do you think is responsible for the people’s revolt?

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<th>SD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oil companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comm. Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bad leadership</td>
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7. What do you think is /or are responsible for the conflict?

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<td>Marginalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of Amenities</td>
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<td>Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge of contract</td>
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</table>

8. What is the root cause of conflict in the area?

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<tbody>
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<td>Bridge of contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marginalization</td>
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<td>Corruption</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of Amenities</td>
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9. What do you think will solve the problem in the area?

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<th>A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty alleviation Programme</td>
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<td>Honor of contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide basic amenities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity and Justice</td>
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</table>
10. What do you think are the negative effects of the conflict?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illegal bunkering</td>
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<td>Kidnapping</td>
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<td>Retrenchment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadly confrontations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dull business activities</td>
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</table>

11. What impact do you think the conflict could have on the government and oil companies?

<table>
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<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative impact</td>
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<td>Positive impact</td>
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12. What do you think the government and oil companies could do to resolve the problem?

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<th>Options</th>
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<td>Create employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide basic amenities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Withdrawal of security agents</td>
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<td>Create poverty alleviation programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Award scholarship</td>
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</table>

13. Poverty and conflict in the oil producing areas of Nigeria Delta has a positive relationship with the marginalization and the exploitation of the region.
   (a) Strongly Agree  (b) Agree  (c) Disagree
   (d) Strongly Disagree  (e) Undecided

14. Poverty and conflict has impacted negatively on the people of Niger Delta.
   (a) Strongly Agree  (b) Agree  (c) Disagree
   (d) Strongly Disagree  (e) Undecided
15. Perpetual conflict and want on destruction of property persist in the region as a result of the inability of the government and oil companies to fulfill the memorandum of understanding (MOU) they signed with the members of the communities.

(a) Strongly Agree [ ] (b) Agree [ ] (c) Disagree [ ]
(d) Strongly Disagree [ ] (e) Undecided

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