



Hypothesizing the Activities of Oil Companies on Sustainable Community Development in Kula Kingdom of Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This research study hypothesized on the activities of oil companies on sustainable community development in Kula Kingdom. It is a descriptive survey study. One hypothesis was formulated to guide the study. Both primary and secondary sources were used in gathering data for the study and the data obtained was interpreted by means of mean statistic tools such as table, frequency and chi-square. Table analysis was adopted for an in depth understanding of the information presented in the data. Finding of the study revealed that activities of oil companies affect the people of Kula Kingdom is several factors including youth restiveness and environmental degradation, soil erosion, greenhouse effect, loss of biodiversity, community leadership and sabotage activities. It was also revealed that oil companies' response to the problems of the activity leaves much to be desired by the people of the affected areas. It was recommended that prompt attention should be given in payment of compensation alongside the creation of a good working relationship between the oil companies and the people of Kula Kingdom and the establishment of adequate developmental projects to enable them contribute meaningfully to national development.

Keyword: oil companies, Kula Kingdom, community development

INTRODUCTION

According to Karl and Gary (2003), Oil companies in Nigeria have been severally reported as the largest oil producers in Africa and the eight largest in the world, a fact which since the 1970s when oil was discovered has changed the country's political economy, oil have been seen in many instances as accurse as well as blessing, however, in which ever perspective it is viewed, the truth remains that it contributes about 90 percent of Nigeria's revenue. The importance of oil to the country's economy has made it the interest of everybody, those with positive and negative motives alike.

Kula Kingdom, Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers state is a major oil producing community in Nigeria and have seen its share of the conflicts that has bedevilled oil exploration in Nigeria since the oil boom. These conflicts have not gone unnoticed as it affects all the stakeholders in oil production, and being the backbone of the Nigerian economy, any conflict that disrupts its production directly affects the economy and therefore, affects the life of the citizenry. These have attracted the interest of the stakeholders and that of researchers to the cause of the conflicts which specifically is always between the host communities of the oil companies and the companies which the youths of these communities see as government allies. These communities have accused the

government together with the oil companies of exploring and exploiting natural resources in their environment, in the process of which they destroy their sources of livelihood

METHODS

Design: The design of this research was descriptive survey method design because it elicited information from the respondents

H₀ There is no significant relationship between activities of oil companies’ and the economic condition of the people of Kula Kingdom.

Table: 1Analysis of activities of oil companies’ and the economic condition of the people of Kula Kingdom

Responses	Observed	Expected	O-E	(O-E)²	(O-E)²
Strongly Agree	281	333.6	-52.6	2766.76	8.29
Agree	202	230.8	-28.8	829.44	3.59
Disagree	251	233.2	17.8	316.84	1.36
Strongly Disagree	596	512.4	83.6	6988.96	13.63
Undecided	350	370	-20	400	1.08
	1680	1680			27.95

Decision: testing the significance of the hypothesis at 0.05 confidence level, degree of freedom (4). The table value of X² for 4 degree of freedom at 0.05 level is found to be 9.49. While the calculated value of X² is (27.95). Since the calculated value of X² 27.95 is greater than the X² table value of (9.49), we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. Therefore we concluded that there is a significant relationship between oil companies’ activities and economic condition of the people of Kula Kingdom.

DISCUSSION

Findings of the study based on the analysis of hypothesis (table 1) showed that indeed there is a significant relationship between oil companies’ activities and economic condition of the people of Kula Kingdom. This indicates that the activities of oil companies had very devastating effect on sustainable community development in Kula Kingdom, based on the research and findings that were made.

Educational Implications

This study has hypostasized and alerted the people of Kula Kingdom in particular and Rivers State at large about the effects of the activities of oil companies on sustainable community development and that government should properly address the effects of oil companies’ activities. The import is to keep the people abreast of the effects of oil companies’ activities so that they will continue to dialogue with the oil firms and government to chart a lasting blue print for the development of their communities.

CONCLUSION

This work fully convinced and can succinctly conclude that activities of oil companies had negatively affected on the people of Kula Kingdom to the extent that it hampers their overall development. The researcher infers also that oil companies have not down enough as behoves them in spreading development to Kula Kingdom which suffer from their exploration, exploitation and extraction activities, therefore Kula Kingdom is cut off from the mainstream of national development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the findings from the study, the following recommendations were made:

- ❖ Oil companies should provide or create job opportunities for unemployed people to stem the tide of oil pipeline vandalizaion.
- ❖ Developmental projects should be cited even in the affected oil bearing communities to enable them contribute meaningfully to national development.

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