



# **The Activities of Oil Companies on Sustainable Community Development in Kula Kingdom of Rivers State, Nigeria**

<sup>1</sup>AMADI, Eric Chikweru (Ph.D) & <sup>2</sup>ATIEGOBA Tamunomieibi Tamuno-Ngo

<sup>1</sup>Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Technical & Science Education,  
Rivers State University, Port Harcourt-Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Technical & Science Education,  
Rivers State University, Port Harcourt-Nigeria

\* [amadi.eric@ust.edu.ng](mailto:amadi.eric@ust.edu.ng); [joesac2000@gmail.com](mailto:joesac2000@gmail.com); [joesac2000@yahoo.com](mailto:joesac2000@yahoo.com),+2348035452254

## **ABSTRACT**

This work focused on the activities of oil companies and the measures adopted by oil companies to ameliorate the problems faced by the people of Kula Kingdom. It is a descriptive survey study. Two research questions guided 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 tables, frequency and chi-square. Finding of the study revealed that activities of oil companies affect the people of Kula Kingdom are several ways including youth restiveness and environmental degradation. 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.

**Keywords:** environmental degradation, community, development, oil companies

## **INTRODUCTION**

A community is said to be in a progressive state when there is development in the community. The term 'development' means different things to different people thus Balogun (2002) noted that development is concerned with change but it is not simply the same as change. Community Development Exchange (2013) sees community development as a set of values and practices which play a special role in overcoming poverty and disadvantages, knitting society together at the grass roots and deepening democracy. Community development is often linked with community work or community planning, and may involve stakeholders, foundations, governments, oil companies or contracted entities including non-government organisations (NGOs), universities or government agencies to progress the social well-being of local, regional and, sometimes, national communities. More grassroots efforts, called community building or community organizing, seek to empower individuals and groups of people by providing them with the skills they need to effect change in their own communities. These skills often assist in building political power through the formation of large social groups working for a common agenda. Community development practitioners must understand both how to work with individuals and how to affect communities' positions within the context of larger social institutions. Public administrators, in contrast, need to understand community development in the context of rural and urban development, housing and economic development, and community, organizational and business development.

Therefore, to curb the restiveness which is becoming a part of life for the youths of these communities, the stakeholders have seen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) from the oil companies as one major method. This is with believe that CSR programs and projects will go a long way in developing the communities where these oil companies live in to do business. Believing that these CSR programs and projects will tackle some developmental issues which these communities cry wolf of.

## RESEARCH METHODS

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

**Research Question 1:** *What are the effects of the activities of oil companies on sustainable community development among the Kula people?*

**Table 1 Responses to effect of oil companies activities on sustainable community development**

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	UD	TOTAL	MEAN	REMARK
16.	Increase number of elites	2 (10)	10 (40)	20 (60)	70 (149)	10 (10)	260	2.3	Rejected
17.	Peaceful co-existence	3 (15)	2 (8)	17 (51)	80 (160)	10 (10)	244	2.2	Rejected
18.	Improved social amenities and infrastructure	90 (450)	12 (48)	3 (9)	2 (4)	5 (5)	516	4.6	Accepted
19.	Un-interrupted electricity power supply	5 (25)	10 (40)	12 (36)	15 (30)	70 (70)	201	1.8	Rejected
20.	Improved standard of living	2 (10)	3 (12)	7 (21)	10 (20)	90 (90)	153	1.4	Rejected
21.	High level of economically empowered citizens	3 (15)	7 (28)	30 (90)	60 (120)	12 (12)	265	2.4	Rejected
	Total mean score							14.7	
	Grand mean score							2.5	

Table 1 illustrates that the effect of oil companies' activities on sustainable community development had negatively affected the people of Kula Kingdom in terms of elites, peace co-existence, un-interrupted electricity power supply, standard of living etc.

**Research Question 2:** *What are the challenges faced by oil companies activities in Kula Kingdom?*

**Table 2: Responses to challenges faced by oil companies in Kula Kingdom**

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	UD	TOTAL	MEAN	REMARK
22.	Youth restiveness	90 (400)	20 (80)	3 (9)	2 (4)	7 (7)	500	4.5	Accepted
23.	Kidnapping oil companies workers	12 (60)	70 (280)	15 (45)	5 (10)	10 (10)	405	3.6	Accepted
24.	Unnecessary demands from communities	40 (200)	30 (120)	7 (21)	5 (10)	30 (30)	381	3.4	Accepted
25.	Destruction of oil pipelines	30 (150)	20 (80)	25 (75)	12 (24)	25 (25)	354	3.2	Accepted
	Total mean score							14.7	
	Grand mean score							3.7	

Table 2 illustrates that oil companies face lots of challenges in carrying out their activities in Kula Kingdom, such challenges are; youth restiveness, kidnapping oil companies' workers, destruction of oil pipelines etc.

## **DISCUSSION**

Analysis of research question 1 (table 1) showed that the responses of the respondents to all (6) items, this means that the activities of oil companies affect sustainable community development among the Kula people because of the poor number of elites, no peaceful co-existence, poor standard of living, etc. Analysis of research question 2 (table 2) showed that the responses of the respondents to all (4) items this also means that the oil companies activities face challenges in Kula Kingdom because of the high rate of youth restiveness, high level of kidnapping oil companies workers, destruction of oil pipelines. The findings of the study revealed that the activities of oil companies had very negative effect on sustainable community development in Kula Kingdom, based on the research and findings that were made.

### **Educational Implications**

Adult and community education also deals with environmental issues, thus creating awareness amongst the people about environmental hazards unleashed by daily economic activities such as oil prospecting. This study has 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**

The 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 done 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**

- ❖ Oil companies should see to it that a good working relationship exists between them and their host communities such that acts of sabotage will be eliminated and also end youth restiveness, kidnapping of oil companies workers and pipeline destruction.
- ❖ Oil companies should endeavour to involve the people in the programmes, which they feel will be beneficial to them from the conception to implementation stage.

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