



# **Influence Of Youth Restiveness On Community Development In Andoni And Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas Of Rivers State**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study was a descriptive survey design that focused on Influence of Youth Restiveness on Community Development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area of Rivers State. Four research questions and four null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The population of the study was 1,686 members of community-based youth organizations in the study area. The sample size was 500 youth which was made up of 276 male and 224 female youth. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the sample size. The instrument for data collection was the questionnaire titled Influence of Youth Restiveness on Community Development Questionnaire (YRCDQ). The instrument was validated by three research experts using face and content validity. The reliability index of 0.82 was obtained using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Statistics. Mean and standard deviation were the statistical tools used to analyze the data obtained and z-score was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed among others that the types of youth restive activities in the study area include kidnapping, raping, killing, violent protest, cult group clashes and public harassment of citizens by cultist. Causes of youth restiveness are poverty, unemployment, bad governance, economic exploitation, etc, the implications of youth restiveness on community development are insecurity, abandoned projects, rural-urban migration etc, and the strategies for curbing youth restiveness are skills acquisition programme, educational opportunities for all, basic infrastructure, good governance, peace education, employment opportunities, religious tolerance and punishment of perpetrators of youth restive activities. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that youth should denounce and decrease from all forms of restive activities and seek for peace, human capital development social and economic development through peaceful and coherent processes in order not to destroy lives and properties in the quest for positive change and community development in their communities.

**Keywords:** Youth, restiveness, community, development

## **INTRODUCTION**

Youth restiveness has been on the increase in almost every community in Nigeria, most especially in recent past. The incessant restive activities of Nigerian youths made it a contemporary issue, worthy of discussion. Since the inception of transition from military to civilian regime, there has been a mass proliferation of unraveled violence, killing of innocent people, and most recently the bomb blasts, kidnapping and abduction, (Yusuf, 2014). Iwoke (2011) explained that the word youth and restiveness have gained notoriety in usage especially in the Nigeria context as related to matters of agitation by youths of the Niger Delta region. Youth restiveness is a despicable act being perpetrated by a significant proportion of the youth in various communities that can no longer be ignored. As the name implies, (Ofehe, 2010) noted that it is a combination of any conduct or action that constitutes unwholesome socially unacceptable and unworthy activities engaged in by youths in any community. He further

explained that it is a phenomenon which in practice has led to a near breakdown of law and order, low productivity due to disruption of production activities, increasing crime rate, inter and intra ethnic hostility and harassment of prospective developers and other criminal tendencies.

Uriah, Egbezor and Ololube (2014) documented that youth restiveness has been a prominent issue in recent times. There has been an increase in the occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness, including things like hostage taking of prominent citizens and expatriate oil workers, as well as oil bunkering, arms insurgency, cultism etc., especially in the Niger Delta region. Nevertheless, (Anasi, 2010) pointed out in support of the opinion of Uriah et al that youth restiveness is not a recent phenomenon. Various forms of youth restiveness that are economically, politically or religiously motivated have existed for a long time.

Youth can be seen as young men and women who are no longer children, but young adults. Others however, have given definite age bracket to youths as those within the age range of 15-30. In fact, in some cultures in Nigeria, it may not be out of place to see people (especially men) of even 40-45 years of age claiming youth membership. This is the reason why Uriah, et al (2014) described it as a relative one, saying that a person is a youth if he or she believes so. On the other hand, youth retentiveness refers to a plethora of activities expressed in the form of hostage taking of foreign nationals, local oil workers and citizens for ransom, oil pipeline blow ups, illegal bunkering, peaceful or violent demonstration, bombing of public places etc in the Niger Delta of Nigeria (Epelle, 2010).

While the World Health Organization (WHO, 2015) viewed youth as anybody between the age bracket of 15 and 24 years; the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2004) officially placed the age bracket of youths between 16-30 years. What this means is that youth can be found in the primary, secondary, schools, tertiary institutions, dropouts and even graduates. Sieder (2000) opined that rural youth make up a large segment of the total rural population; however, they are often neglected and overlooked by government policy makers and international agency development strategists. This can be attributed to the overwhelming concerns for immediate solutions to problems of national development with accompanying inaccurate perception that youth are not yet productive and contributing members of the society (Uriah et al, 2014). But against the above wrong assumption it is observed that millions of young people living in rural areas are a significant and untapped resource available to assist in rural development process. Supporting this, (Adesope, 2000) reported that the youths because of their sizeable portion in the entire population are useful engines for development.

This is the reason why any society or community should take as a matter of necessity to harness and tap their (youths) numerous physical and mental resources as part of a whole in community development process of any society. On his part, (Obuh, 2005) gave reasons such as low level of exposure, poor leadership and lack of cooperation among youths, lack of encouragement from elders, as problems affecting their involvement in community development. Defying these obstacles (Adesope, 1999) in his study of "evaluation of youth participation in community development projects in Rivers State" declared that youths have been found to have moderately high participation levels in community development and also favourable attitude towards community development. Adesope, Asiabaka and Angba (2003) added that youths are involved in community development because they want to help their communities, to be recognized, to interact with peers, and to gain personal benefits. This is a manifestation of their meaningful contribution to the development process (Adesope, Agumagu, Matthws-Njoku and Ukpongson, 2010).

The place of community development in African society is best revealed in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) lecture series of 1986 as cited in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008) thus: one of the enduring and flourishing heritages of traditional societies in Africa is their involvement in community development. It has been the indigenous mechanism and technique developed and employed by the people to identify their felt needs, choose what they want and take co-operative action to satisfy the needs. Long before the introduction of the science of development planning and studies, many rural communities in Nigeria had learnt to pool their resources and provide both functional and physical facilities for themselves. Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008) corroborating Cambridge Summer Conference

(1948) defined community development as a movement designed to promote better living with the active participation and if possible, on the initiative of the community but if this initiative is not forthcoming spontaneously, by the use of techniques for arousing and stimulating it in order to ensure its active and enthusiastic response to the movement". The above discuss implies that there has to be an enabling environment for a people through the process of community development to achieve sustainable community development.

The Niger Delta region is characterized with bad roads, low infrastructure development, high level of unemployment, female prostitution, low industrialization and defiled natural bodies (Land and Water) from oil spills in the region and particularly in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. This is why Iwoke (2011) highlighted that it grieves and naturally energizes conflicts as the youths watch the treasury being looted by government officials. The agitation of youth is that, what are the restitution of their depleted land and sea environment caused by oil spillage or gas flaring, global warming experienced where oil flared, causing green house effect, the ozone layer depletion leading to sun burn and cancer, acid rain and many more. The import of the above submission is the unending crises in the Niger Delta region which Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas are not exceptions. This is caused by lack of understanding between stakeholders in the oil rich region. The unemployment and sufferings among youth of the Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas and even among those with university degrees should be addressed spontaneously, as the increase in armed robbery, hostility to company's staff and properties, prostitution among the female youth, ritual killing, cultism and killing among different cult groups in the areas are becoming too alarming. These activities are carried out by youth who after seeing the high level of unemployment and suffering even among university and polytechnic graduates, after spending years in educational institutions, still roaming the streets and many still staying with their parents, resort to these vices for quick money making (Iwoke, 2011).

The obvious youth restive activities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas are loss of lives and properties, which constitute a major threat to security, and community development activities, as well as corporate existence. It also discourages genuine economic and democratic development. Strategies employed include mass agitations, protests, demonstrations, looting, vandalism cultism, ethnic militia, political thuggery, kidnapping, rapping, and killings among others. For example, report has it that renowned political erudites were killed by youths in the just concluded 2019 presidential election in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Against this backdrop, the study seeks to investigate the implication of youth restiveness on community development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

### **Statement of Problem**

Education is an indispensable agent of development, progress and prosperity. This is because it is used to tap and modify the cognitive, affective and psychomotor talents, potentials, possibilities possessed by man. Many youths (skilled and unskilled) are unemployed in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro areas. There is no relative peace, no security, and instability of economic activities owing to incessant killings in the Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State perpetuated by youths (Vanguard, 2019). Youths, the proverbial leaders of tomorrow have ironically turned to become destroyers of societies because of their involvement in conflicts and violence which have grave consequences on the country's quest for sustainability of community development.

As a matter of fact, the government is not folding her hands on the face of this awful phenomena but the strategy adopted in curbing incidences of restiveness in Nigeria could be viewed as reactive instead of proactive as government's answer is the development of military and police to curb the menace. According to the Joint Report by World Wildlife UK, the World Conservation Union and representatives from the Nigeria Conservation Foundation concluded that the Niger Delta region is one of the most polluted locations on the planet. Entire ecosystem has been destroyed (Brown, 2006; UNEP Report,

2013), land and water bodies polluted and means of livelihood lost (Clyde, 2010; Okonta, 2008). This exacerbated the already bad poverty situation in the region (Clyde, 2010).

The government used reprisal means to suppress the restiveness in the area (Usoro, Essian & Williams, 2017). Again, the development commissions, boards, and ministry established by the government in response to the developmental demands of the people never made any meaningful contributions rather; they serve as avenue for self enrichment and corruption at the expense of the poverty-stricken masses of the region (Chukuezi, 2009).

Despite government efforts to curb youth restiveness, there still exist youth restiveness in the area. There is therefore need for more committed effort to tackle this monster effectively. In a bid to tackling this challenge, motivated the researcher to conduct the study on the influence of youth restiveness on community development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of youth restiveness on community development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. Specifically, the purpose of this study was to:

- (1) Determine the causes of youth restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
- (2) Identify the implications of youth restiveness on community development activities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas.
- (3) Suggest the strategies for curbing restive activities among youths of Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

### **Research Questions**

From the purpose of the study, stemmed the following research questions to guide the study:

- (1) What are the causes of youth restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State?
- (2) What are the implications of youth restiveness on community development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State?
- (3) What are the strategies for curbing restive activities among youths of Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

### **Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youth on the causes of youth restiveness in the study area.
2. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youth on the implications of youth restiveness on community development in the study area.
3. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the strategies that will help reduce to the barest minimum the restiveness activities among youths in the study area.

### **Significance of the Study**

Theoretically, the findings of this study will be significant to researchers and experts in community development because it can help in providing empirical information in identifying and explaining the various restive variables and the influence of the variables on community development. Practically, the findings of the study will be useful to the following: the community youths, government, company management board, and the society at large. The findings will be of immense help to the youths as they will realize that their lives are on the line of death, that instead of violent means, there are peaceful and legal processes of achieving desired goals from the government and companies residing in their areas. Also, that without peace in an area there cannot be meaningful development.

The findings of the study will be of immense importance to the government as she will realize that these youths are grieved because of their being neglected and deprived of their benefits as citizens and hear

their plea and solve their problems which will bring about relative peace. The findings of this study will help companies that are resident in the areas to employ the skills of youths in the areas. And to the society at large, it will serve as a check on other communities experiencing restive activities of the youths which does not encourage developmental programmes and projects in the community, distort peace and order, destroys relationship and peaceful co-existence among members of a community and among communities, and thereby adopt formulated strategies identified in this study to avoid occurrences of youth restiveness.

### **Scope of the Study**

The study was delimited to youths in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The content scope of this study was delimited to the implications of youth restiveness on community development activities in the study area.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Concept of Youth Restiveness**

According to Yusuf (2014) youth restiveness is an extreme form of deviant behavior among youths which is socially unacceptable in any society. Youth restiveness involves the combination of actions, behaviours and attitudes exhibited by youths which are socially unacceptable and wholesome in the society (Igbo & Ikpa, 2013). They argued that youth restiveness has been a device through which youth use to obtain what they want from relevant authorities. Similarly, Elegbele (2005) viewed it as a protest embarked upon to enforce desired outcome from a constituted authority by organized body of youth which most times is accompanied by disruption of law, and order, brings conflict and violence. The common features of these organized bodies of youth are the resort to violence. One would agree that their activities posed great challenges to the security of the nation (Yusuf, 2014). Literature reveals that no economic and community development activity can thrive in an environment full of violence, killings, destruction of valuable infrastructure and disruption of electoral processes.

According to Ejumudo (2014) Youth restiveness, is a situation of the inability of youths to be still or quiet and difficult to control, especially when they are unsatisfied with something. It relates to matters of agitation by youths over issues of deprivation, neglect, marginalization, and other feelings of dissatisfaction. It can also be viewed as the engagement by youths in agitation for the restoration of their rights and dignity or self-seeking and criminal activities. In a similar vein, youth restiveness refers to the reactions by youths, both constructive (positive) and destructive (negative) to the “use and dump” mentality and attitude of those considered to be involved in acts of oppression and repression against their interests. It is equally a deliberate instrument of organized response to perceived grievances that has an increasing potency and capability for destruction. Essentially too, youth restiveness is a manifestation of anxiety that encompasses the dysfunctional effects of anxiety on human body and the description of the psychological activities of the body that give vent to anxiety. It is, in fact, a sustained protestation embarked upon with an eye to enforcing a desired outcome from a constituted authority by an organized body of youths. It is thus an excess behavior attribute that is commonly marked by violence and disruption of lawful activities. The usage of the word “youth restiveness” became ubiquitous in Nigeria since the wake of the activities of youths in the oil-bearing communities of the Niger Delta. The phenomenon is usually associated with adolescents because of the fact that they confront a host of new, varied, and difficult problems of adjustment that make the search for identity and a place in society imperative. Ogbefun (2007) categorized youth restiveness into three categories—namely, genuine agitation, self-seeking and criminal activities, and youth on vengeance mission. Although the term has gained notoriety in usage, particularly in the Nigerian parlance, it has gradually assumed a global configuration, despite the fact that a standard and generally acceptable definition is yet to evolve.

### **Concept of Community Development**

Community development is a cherished ideal in the contemporary world, hence the strong stress on the need to explain the holistic nature of community development by experts. Community development is a process which involves many activities, both physical and psychological, which combine towards the improvement of the standard of living, values, perception structure and functions of a community (Amirize, 1998). Scholars have defined community development in three ways (as a movement, a process of social action and as an educational method or programme) which have received wide range of acceptance.

As a movement, Cambridge summer conference in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008) defined community development as a movement designed to promote better living with the active participation and if possible, on the initiative of the community, but if this initiative is not forthcoming spontaneously, by the use of techniques for arousing and stimulating it in order to ensure it active and enthusiastic response to the movement. According to Amirize (1998) development as a mass movement aims at releasing the people from a state of hopelessness and helplessness so that they throw aside fear-complex and then learn to take the initiative in the transformation of their circumstances and environment. Rather than accept a continuing deterioration of their living conditions, health and real income, they should be able to see their conditions as deliberately created, being trapped as helpless people, by the decisions and actions of fellow human beings who have economic and political power. This implies that development is that which builds an individual into a critical conscious person. This is in agreement with Freire in Kobani and Alozie (2016) who referred to development as conscientization. He defined conscientization as the process by which man, not as a recipient but as a knowing subject reaches a deeper awareness both of the socio-cultural reality on which his life is built and of his ability to transform that reality. Conscientization was derived from the Brazilian word "conscientizasao" meaning learning to perceive social, political and economic contradictions and to take action against the oppressive elements of reality.

As a process of social action, community development is defined as a social action in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action, define their common and individual needs and problems, make group and individual plans to meet these needs and solve their problems; execute these plans with maximum reliance upon community resources and materials from governmental and non-governmental agencies outside the community (USICA in Onyeozu, 2007). Community development as a process of social action emphasizes a recognition of some unacceptable situations by the people of a community, a unanimous rejection of such situation by the people and a determination to organize themselves and work jointly with team spirit to overcome or eliminate this unwanted situation.

As an educational method, community development is that which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation, to enable them to contribute fully to national progress (UNESCO in Onyeozu, 2007). As an educational process, community development highlights the fact that the most distinguished characteristics of community development is the educational process by which people change themselves and their behaviour and acquire new skills and confidence through working in co-operation.

A careful consideration of the above definitions given by organizations and individuals, Kobani and Alozie (2015) asserted that community development in contemporary times has gone beyond the traditional role of improving the social, economic and physical conditions of individuals but includes improvement in their emotional and psychological dispositions. Based on this, they (Kobani and Alozie) aver that community development is a process by which the people with or without external help take steps to improve on the social, economic and physical standards as well as the emotional and psychological positions of community members relying mostly on local initiatives, leadership and resources.

### **Causes of Youth Restiveness**

Youth Restiveness may be caused by a number of factors. Authors have expressed opinion based on their experiences, research and current happenings. Chukwuemeka (2008) observed that composite unemployment in Nigeria increased from 3.8% in 2006 to 4.2% in the first half of 2011. He further asserted that structural unemployment results in talents not being used where they are available, hence idle mind is definitely the devil's workshop. Similarly, Coleman (1996) observed that psychological variables and deprivation is the basic product of conflict and restiveness of any kind. He further explained that, the more-wide spread and intense deprivation is among members of a population, the greater is the magnitude of violence in one form or the other. From the foregoing, Igbo and Ikpa (2013) asserted that the unequal socio-economic development of the various ethnic groups in Nigeria led to inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic conflicts. Similarly, Chukwuemeka, Anazodo and Nzewi (2011) in their study "social conflict in the south-south Nigeria: Implications for foreign investment" found that dissatisfaction of the people of south-south especially the youths on the level of attention given to development of their region and the damages to their ecology by oil spillage are the major causes of the alarming rate of youth restiveness.

Elegbeleye (2005) identified three major factors as causes of youth restiveness, peer motivated excitement of being a student, the jingoistic pursuit of patriotic ideas and perceived victimization arising from economic exploitation. Lack of humanitarian and social welfare, lack of good governance, corrupt practices of government officials, inadequate training programmes, unemployment, inadequate recreational facilities lack of quality education and so on were identified by (Oforn and Ajayi, 2008) as the reasons for incessant youth restiveness. Anasi (2010) identified six factors causing youth restiveness, which include: bad governance, unemployment, poverty, inadequate educational opportunities and resources, lack of basic infrastructures and inadequate communication and information flow. Causes of youth restiveness in Nigeria are many, ranging from individual to societal factors such as marginalization, unemployment, exuberance and the role of politicians in employing youths against perceived enemies (Chukuezi, 2009). Similarly, Snapps and Hamilton (2011) identified such factors as economic, political and socio-cultural as the causes of youth restiveness.

Nigerian legislation on petroleum predated exploration activities or efforts in Nigeria. The first piece of legislation was the Petroleum Ordinance of 1889 that was followed by the Mineral Regulation (Oil) Ordinance of 1907, both of which provided the basic legal framework for the development of petroleum and its natural resources (Omorogbe, 2001). To a very significant degree, the nature of the colonial and post-colonial Nigerian state is largely structurally the same, for the broad spectrum of laws and accompanying actions of the Nigerian state on the country's oil industry have been no less an extension of the 1914 Mineral Act that vested all powers over resources (solid and liquid) on the state as Omoweh (2006) rightly articulated. For instance, the post-colonial state like its predecessor has the exclusive right to issue mineral prospecting and mining licenses and the sole power to collect royalties, rents, and fees from the oil companies. Both the Petroleum Act of 1969 and the Land Use Decree of 1978 are complementary and designed to strengthen the instrument of oppression, suppression, marginalization, dispossession, deprivation, and disempowerment of the Niger Delta people by the state in collaboration with its allies, the multi-national oil corporations, and the local bourgeoisie. The origin of the law in Nigeria is traceable to a similar law enacted by the British in Northern Nigeria, inspired by English tradition that vested all land on the English Crown (Constitutional Rights Project [CRP], 1999). The law can therefore be described as one of colonial inspiration and feudal inclination. Arguably, no where else in Nigeria has the impact of the Land Use Decree manifested in all its ramifications and inequities as in the Niger Delta, Nigeria's main oil producing region. The Land Use Decree also sought accommodation for the oil companies who need land for virtually all its operations. In fact, the oil giants need land for exploration, production, transportation of crude oil by pipeline, construction of oil terminal stations, flare sites, airstrips, offices, and staff quarters. This partly explains the logic behind the content of the Land Use Decree that also provided a buffer for the oil giants to be more reckless in their operations. This may also be a part explanation for why Shell, for instance, can afford to flare gas on a daily basis since 1956

when it discovered oil in the Niger Delta and yet be shielded by the state over litigations on land where oil is explored or produced (Omoweh, 2006). Land protection in the light of sustainability was, as a result, and is still not of any interest to the state that gradually rendered the Niger Delta people into paupers through successive legislation including the Petroleum and Land Use and squatters in their own land. Thus, the entire structure of the macroecological climate in which the Niger Delta is embedded and that has seriously stifled its development or facilitated its underdevelopment is predicated and premised on the legal environment that is the root cause and foundation of youth restiveness in the region (Ejumudo, 2014).

Evident in the opinions of scholars above, on the causes of youth restiveness spells negative implications and therefore, the need for strategies and policies to reduce or curb the occurrences of youth restive activities in the areas and Nigeria at large calls for concern.

### **Implications of Youth Restiveness on Community Development**

With the amnesty programme of the Yar'Adua administration the restive youth in the Niger Delta region where the bulk of Nigeria's crude oil comes from no longer witness kidnapping of oil workers and the vandalization of pipelines. But with some misgivings in the implementation of the amnesty programme some restive youths who could not be accommodated in the programme are back to the creeks. Millions of naira in oil revenue has been lost due to disruption in prospecting and production. This has a negative impact on the economy of Nigeria (Japa, 2015). The current kidnapping going on in most parts of Eastern Nigeria is a sad development. Foreigners and foreign workers are withdrawing and this will definitely tell on investment. Political office holders, public servants and wealthy ones from that part of the country are no longer interested in visiting home or their constituencies. Ethnic tribalism as championed by ethnic militias such as Oduwa People's Congress (OPC), MASSOB, Egbesu Boys, Bakassi Boys, Arewa People's Congress (APC), Ijaw Youth, Niger Delta Youth, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) just to mention a few posed great treat to national unity and national development. Development will certainly be a dream away in an atmosphere where there is no peace and security (Japa, 2015). The activities of cult members on campuses have grave implication for national unity and development. The activities of these cult members create tension, disruption of academic programmes, loss of lives and properties especially during clashes by opposing rival cult members. The image of Nigeria is dented badly especially with the activities of the Boko Haram whose targets are not limited to Nigerians alone but foreigners alike. Such activities portray the government as incapable of taking care of its primary responsibility – that of safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens. Another implication is the impediment to the free movement of people, goods and services through mounting of road blocks on the highways. This has also affected the economy badly and scares away the much-expected investors that Nigeria desperately needs. The high rate of politically motivated killings cannot be divorced from the proliferation of firearms in circulation in Nigeria. The politicians who armed these hoodlums just for political scores find it difficult to retrieve these firearms thereby paving the way for violent crimes. Accordingly, Ifeanyichukwu and Yeseibo (2018) opined that youth restiveness in Nigeria has risen to become a major threat against the development of the Nigerian society. Youths are known for using violence in expressing their pain in order to create change among themselves and the society to which they belong. This violence through agitation for change has resulted to loss of lives and properties in the regions where it is prevalent. On a general note, the issue of youth restiveness carried out through violence creates fear, pain, suffering, hunger, death and lack of development in regions such as the North East, South South, South West and the South East. It is also affecting the other regions of Nigeria. Painfully, from the sporadic exploits of the blood thirsty Sharia zealots of the North West and North Central Region, to the incessant display of violence by the angry mafia of the armed bandits that paint the political landscapes in the South South, with blood, and from the hot headed ethnic militia known as the O.P.C. in the South West, and MASSOB in the South East, to the murderous secret cultists in nearly all our universities and polytechnics, it has been an orgy of violence and a season of blood and tears in which the very foundation of the nation is threatened. Precious human lives have been destroyed in their



thousands and properties worth hundred and millions of naira have been set ablaze (Yusuf, 2014).

### **Strategies for Curbing Youth Restiveness in Nigeria**

Youth restiveness today has become devastating and has constituted one of the major security challenges to both individuals and the society in general. Youths which are considered as leaders of tomorrow are turned to be society destroyers since they were mostly involved in all conflicts and violence that the country suffers. According to Yusuf (2014) it is obvious government has not been reluctant to the phenomenon, but the strategy adopted in curbing most restiveness in Nigeria was more of repressive and violent acts through the deployment of military and police to curb the menace. This is evident in Chukuezi (2009) who asserted that in Niger Delta despite the amnesty declaration, the government continues to use reprisal means to suppress the restiveness in the area. He further stated that the development commission boards and ministry established by government as the responds to the demands of the people never made any meaningful achievements rather it serves as avenue for self enrichment and corruption at the expense of the poverty-stricken masses of the Niger Delta region. According to Anasi (2010) youth restiveness can be curbed through information and libraries. As leaders in the Niger Delta keep lamenting the harm youths' restiveness has done to the region, a council chief has identified education as one of the key factors that will bring about the much-needed peace. The chairman of Okirika Local Government Area of Rivers State, Mr. Tamuno Williams made the observation in Port Harcourt during the lecture at the inauguration of the Rivers State chapter of Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP). He said government should design educational system that would enable the youth to acquire skills that would make them useful both to themselves and the society. Williams, who spoke on the theme: Youth Restiveness in the Niger Delta: Challenges and the Way Forward," also said that if government would make any effort to curb restiveness in the region, then they should design skilful educational system that would enable the youth to be useful to the society after they graduate. The council chief regretted that corruption and unemployment are some of the cause of youth restiveness in the society, even as he stressed that the Federal Government should ensure that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria addresses the needs of the people. He further stated that to fight against youth restiveness which has become somewhat a menace in the society; it demands genuine commitment from all Nigerians.

In his address, the National President of SPSP, Dr. Willie Eselebor said that Nigeria is seriously experiencing high rate of insecurity, which he attributed to the inability of various levels of government to adopt conventional approaches to solving restiveness as a destabilizing phenomenon. As Eselebor also said that re-orientation of the people on the issue of violence would go a long way in proffering solution to the problem. "Violence is violence in any form of shape. Unless both victims and perpetrators are transformed, there will be no end to violence," he stated. In his address, Professor Olawale Albert urged members of the newly inaugurated chapter of the organization to promote the culture of peace through practice of peace, education and advocacy. He also advised them to collaborate and build relationship with identifiable key stakeholders in peace-building (The Nations, 2013).

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study adopted the descriptive research design. It involves making a survey aimed at determining the implications of youth restiveness on community development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. According to Maduabum (2007) descriptive research design is one directed toward determining the nature of situation as it exists at the time of the study. In other words, it means to determine the present status of a given phenomenon. This study was carried out in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State, Nigeria. The Local Government Areas formed a federal constituency in Rivers South-East Senatorial District. Andoni Local Government is one of the 23 Local Government Areas in Rivers State and it is purely a riverine area it was created in 1991 from Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area by the Babangida led regime. Andoni Local Government

Area covers an area of 233km<sup>2</sup>. The area is bound in the north by Khana Local Government Area, in the east by Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area, in the south by Atlantic Ocean and in the west by Bonny Local Government Area. The Local Government Area has eleven political wards and 26 functional health facilities with one General Hospital and one private clinic or hospital now at Ngo the Local Government Area headquarters. There are 218 scattered settlements, separated by rivers and creeks which made them difficult to reach. Fishing and trading are the main occupation of the people who speak Obolo Language. Opobo/Nkoro Local Government is among the 23 Local Government Areas in Rivers State and also a riverine area created at the same time with Andoni. The Local Government location on the Atlantic Ocean, has surrounded the people with more brackish water than saline, this due to the volume of runoff fresh water into Imo Rivers estuary from the hinterland and large rainfall of over 3000mm per annum. The people are mainly traders and fishermen. They are speakers of Defaka and Ibani Languages. While Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area has eleven political wards and covers an area of 130km<sup>2</sup>. The local government is bounded in the north by Khana Local Government Area, in the west by Andoni Local Government Area, in the east and south, water (National Population Census, 2006). The population of the study comprised of 905 male youth and 781 female youth which consisted of 1,686 members of community-based youth organizations obtained from the register of each selected organization in the study area. The composition of the study population is shown in table 3.1 as contained in appendix 1, page 88. The sample size of the study was 278 male youth and 230 female youths which consisted of 508 members of community-based youth organization which represented thirty percent (30%) of the population of each of the community-based youth organization. The proportionate sampling technique was used to select the sample size of the study. The instrument for data collection was a self-designed questionnaire. The questionnaire was titled Influence of Youth Restiveness on Community Development Questionnaire (IYRCDQ). A total of 508 copies of the questionnaire were administered by the researcher to the respondents and the questionnaire was retrieved at the spot. The questionnaire was constructed based on the modified Likert rating scale of Strongly Agree (4-point) Agree (3-points), Disagree (2-points) and Strongly Disagree (1-point). The instrument was validated by the researcher's supervisor and two other research experts in the Department of Measurement and Evaluation, Rivers State University. The suggestion and modifications of the experts helped in validating the research instrument using face and content methods of validity. The reliability of the instrument was established using 20 youths outside the study areas as respondents. The test-retest method of statistic was adopted to administer the questionnaire instrument. Two weeks after the first administration of the instrument, the same instrument was administered again to the same respondent. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to analyze the collected data and reliability coefficient of 0.82 was obtained which indicted a positive reliability of the instrument at 0.05 level of significance.

The researcher with the aid of two research assistants administered the instrument to the respondents in their various meeting venue. 508 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents and 500 copies were retrieved due to invalid response of 6 copies and unreturned copies of the questionnaire. The retrieved copies were comprised of 276 and 224 complies for male and female respectively. The instruction guided respondent's responses were explained and the questionnaire was retrieved at the spot. The mean and standard deviation was adopted to analyze the data from the research questions. The criterion mean score of 2.5 and above was accepted while the mean score below 2.5 was rejected. Z-score was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis was accepted if the value of calculated z-score is less than the table value and rejected if the value of calculated z-score is greater than the table value.

**ANALYSIS OF DATA AND RESULT**

**Research questions 1:** *What are the causes of youth restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area of Rivers State?*

**Table 4.2: Mean Responses of Male and Female Youths on the Causes of Youth Restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area of Rivers State**

S/N	Item	Male n=276		Decision	Female n=224		Decision
		$\bar{X}$	Std		$\bar{X}$	Std	
1.	Poverty	2.85	1.03	Agreed	2.98	0.96	Agreed
2.	Unemployment	3.13	0.89	Agreed	3.08	0.95	Agreed
3.	Peer motivated excitement	2.72	0.93	Agreed	2.74	0.98	Agreed
4.	Economic exploitation	2.67	1.01	Agreed	2.62	1.10	Agreed
5.	Bad Governance	2.84	1.04	Agreed	2.78	1.06	Agreed
6.	Inadequate educational opportunities and resources	2.23	1.01	Disagreed	2.09	0.94	Disagreed
7.	Lack of basic infrastructures	2.82	0.93	Agreed	2.95	0.87	Agreed
8.	Inadequate communication and information flow	2.22	0.96	Agreed	2.50	0.96	Agreed
9.	Marginalization of the less privilege	2.83	0.97	Agreed	2.96	0.89	Agreed
10.	Role of politicians in employing youth against perceived enemies	2.96	0.92	Agreed	2.98	0.90	Agreed
11.	Inadequate training (skilled) programmes	2.99	0.89	Agreed	2.96	0.97	Agreed
12.	Lack of recreational facilities	1.98	0.90	Disagreed	2.04	0.89	Disagreed
13.	Unequal socio-economic development in the areas	2.83	0.94	Agreed	2.88	0.91	Agreed
14.	Using outsiders alone to execute community projects	2.27	1.05	Agreed	2.41	1.02	Agreed
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.67</b>	<b>0.96</b>	Agreed	<b>2.71</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

The table above showed that the mean and standard deviation response of male youths are 2.67 and 0.96 respectively on the causes of youth restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area while the mean and standard deviation response of female youths are 2.71 and 0.96. It also shows that both male and female agreed that youth restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State are caused by poverty, unemployment, peer motivated excitement, economic exploitation, bad governance, inadequate lack of basic infrastructures, marginalization, the use of the youth against perceived enemy by the politicians, inadequate training (skilled) programmes, unequal socio-economic development in the areas. However, they disagreed that inadequate educational opportunities and resources, inadequate communication and information flow, lack of recreational facilities, using outsiders alone to execute community projects are the causes of youth restiveness in the area.

**Research questions 2:** *What are the implications of youth restiveness on community development in the study areas?*

**Table 4.3: Mean Responses of Male and Female Youths on the Implications of Youth Restiveness on Community Development in the Study Area**

S/N	Item	Male n=276		Decision	Female n=224		Decision
		$\bar{X}$	Std		$\bar{X}$	Std	
15.	Insecurity	3.08	0.87	Agreed	3.05	0.88	Agreed
16.	Abandoned community projects	2.89	0.89	Agreed	2.88	0.96	Agreed
17.	Rural-urban migration	3.08	0.81	Agreed	2.75	0.89	Agreed
18.	Distortion of economic activities	3.00	0.84	Agreed	3.04	0.87	Agreed
19.	Discouragement of investors to investing in the areas	3.08	0.80	Agreed	2.72	0.92	Agreed
20.	Poverty/Hunger	3.12	0.74	Agreed	3.16	0.81	Agreed
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>0.83</b>	Agreed	<b>2.93</b>	<b>0.89</b>	Agreed

The table above showed that the mean and standard deviation response of male youths are 3.04 and 0.83 respectively on the implications of youth restiveness on community development in the study area while the mean and standard deviation response of female youths are 2.93 and 0.89. The table further indicated that insecurity, abandoned community projects, rural–urban migration, discouragement of investors to invest in the area as well as poverty/hunger are the negative implications of youth restiveness on community development in the study area.

**Research questions 3:** *What are the strategies for curbing restive activities among youths in the area?*

**Table 4.4: Mean Responses of Male and Female Youths on the Strategies for Curbing to the Barest Minimum the Restive Activities of Youths in the Areas**

S/N	Item	Male n=276		Decision	Female n=224		Decision
		$\bar{X}$	Std		$\bar{X}$	Std	
21.	Establishment of skill acquisition programmes for youths	3.45	0.83	Agreed	3.54	0.75	Agreed
22.	Creation of educational opportunities for all	3.06	0.82	Agreed	3.14	0.76	Agreed
23.	Election should be free and fair	3.07	0.93	Agreed	3.00	0.89	Agreed
24.	There should be provision of basic infrastructure	2.99	0.89	Agreed	3.00	0.97	Agreed
25.	Provision of basic social amenities	3.22	0.82	Agreed	3.18	0.86	Agreed
26.	Good governance	2.99	0.83	Agreed	3.02	0.88	Agreed
27.	Religious tolerance	3.08	0.90	Agreed	3.01	0.96	Agreed
28.	Punishment of perpetrators	3.07	1.01	Agreed	3.02	0.95	Agreed
29.	No marginalization of any tribe	2.82	0.97	Agreed	2.98	0.87	Agreed
30.	Equal distribution of the dividends of democracy	2.79	1.06	Agreed	2.87	1.00	Agreed
31.	Creation of employment opportunities	2.90	1.02	Agreed	2.96	0.96	Agreed
32.	Giving stipends to unemployed youths	2.87	0.95	Agreed	2.97	0.90	Agreed
33.	Provision of institution for good parenting of children	2.97	0.92	Agreed	2.95	0.90	Agreed
34.	Implementation of school guidance and counseling	2.95	0.93	Agreed	2.86	0.99	Agreed
35.	Community members participation in all aspect of community development programmes/projects	3.07	0.90	Agreed	3.01	0.91	Agreed
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>0.92</b>		<b>3.03</b>	<b>0.90</b>	<b>Agreed</b>

The table above showed that the mean and standard deviation response of male youths are 3.02 and 0.92 respectively on the strategies to curb to the barest minimum the restive activities of youths in the area while the mean and standard deviation response of female youths are 3.03 and 0.90. The table further indicated that respondents (male and female youths) agreed that the establishment of skill acquisition programmes for youths, creation of educational opportunities for all, election should be free and fair, provision of basic infrastructures, social amenities, good governance, religious tolerance, punishment of perpetrators, no marginalization of any tribe, equal distribution of dividend of democracy, creation of employment, giving stipends to unemployed youths, provision of institution for good parenting of children, implementation of school guidance and counseling and participation of community members in community development programmes/projects are the strategies to curbing youth restiveness in the study area.

**Testing of Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the causes of youth restiveness in the study area.

**Table 4.6: Summary of Z-test on the Difference in the Mean Rating of Male and Female Youths on the Causes of Youth Restiveness in the Study Area**

Sex	N	$\bar{X}$	Std	df	z-cal	z-crit.	Remark
Male	276	2.67	0.96	498	0.453	0.300	Not Significant
Female	224	2.71	0.96				

The table showed that there is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the causes of youth restiveness in the study areas since the z-cal 0.453 is greater than z-crit 0.300. Hence, the null hypothesis two is retained at 0.05 level at 498 degree of freedom.

2. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the implications of youth restiveness on community development in the study area.

**Table 4.7: Summary of Z-test on the Difference in the Mean Rating of Male and Female Youths on the Implications of Youth Restiveness on Community Development in the Study Area**

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	Std	df	z-cal	z-crit.	Remark
Male	276	3.04	0.83	498	1.313	0.231	Not significant
Female	224	2.93	0.89				

The table showed that there is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the implications of youth restiveness on the community development in the study area since the z-cal 1.313 is greater than z-crit 0.231. Hence, the null hypothesis three is retained at 0.05 level at 498 degree of freedom.

3. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the strategies to reduce youth restiveness to the barest minimum in the study area.

**Table 4.8: Summary of Z-test on the Difference in the Mean Rating of Male and Female Youths on the Strategies for Curbing Youth Restiveness in the Study Area**

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	Std	df	z-cal	z-crit.	Remark
Male	276	3.02	0.92	498	0.116	0.404	Not Significant
Female	224	3.03	0.90				

The table showed that there is a significant difference in the opinion of male and female youths on the strategies to reduce youth restiveness to the barest minimum in the study area since the z-cal 0.116 is less than z-crit 0.404. Hence, the null hypothesis four is rejected at 0.05 level at 498 degree of freedom.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

The findings of this study were discussed and compared with empirical studies done previously by other researchers related to the present study. The discussions were carried out based on issues relevant to the research questions and hypotheses that guided are study.

Causes of youth restiveness with reference to research question two; it is the view of male and female (youth) respondents that the causes of youth restiveness in the study area are; poverty, unemployment, peer motivated excitement, economic exploitation; bad governance, lack of basic infrastructure inadequate communication and information flow, marginalization, role of politicians in employing youth against perceived enemies, inadequate training (skilled) programmes, unequal socio-economic development in the area and the use of outsiders to execute community development projects and

programmes. A thing happens because there is an expected end; in this light youths do not just exhibit an act that is detrimental to the growth and development of the community, that is to say, for youth restiveness to exist in an environment there is a cause. However, the identified causes of youth restiveness from the findings, is in agreement with Osalor (2012) who opined that youth restiveness can be caused by marginalization. According to him, the youth resort to restiveness because of their perceived marginalization by selfish elders with a bid to getting them fair share of benefits accruing to their community. This also corroborates the view of Ofeghe (2008) who opined that youth restiveness in Delta State is as a result of unemployment and suffering among the youths of the area which metamorphosed into various acts of restiveness. According, Ebeonuwa-Okoh, Akpochafo and Onoyase (2014) there seem to be many causes of youth restiveness such as gross marginalization by different Nigerian government, level of environmental degradation, unemployment, lack of education, lack of health facilities, lack of infrastructures and lack of social amenities. Also, Ogoni elders according to Shaibu in Enueme and Onyene (2010) attributed youth restiveness to lack of access to quality education due to collapse of facilities resulting from neglect and activities of multinational oil corporations. Previous and the current study have shown that there causes of youth restiveness. It should be noted that youth restiveness does not allow for peace, security and community development which makes it (youth restiveness) a bad omen for national development. There is therefore, urgent need to address the causes of youth restiveness in order to create an enabling environment for the development of the communities in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area of Rivers State.

### **Implications of Youth Restiveness on Community Development in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas**

With regard to the third research question, the youths (respondents) have agreed that the implication of youth restiveness include; insecurity, abandoned community projects, rural-urban migration, distortion of economic activities, discouragement of investors from investing poverty and hunger. The findings of the study are in agreement with Usoro and Essien (2017) who elucidated that youth restiveness in Nigeria revolves around unemployment, lack of access to education, poverty, environmental degradation, marginalization to mention but a few. According to Asaju, Arome, and Anyio, (2014) the Advocates for the Advancement of Youth Development Initiatives (AAYDI) has opined that anti-social activities of the youth affects negatively socioeconomic development through the following concerns; low production due to disruption of production activities, near break down of law and order (e.g Boko Haram and Militancy), increased crime rates, increased intra-ethnic hostilities, harassment of prospective developers (investors) and other criminal tendencies. Ajufo (2012) reiterated that, in recent times, there has been notable adverse social economic and political development in Nigeria a consequence of youth unemployment and underemployment, particularly exemplified by increasing militancy, violent crimes, kidnapping restiveness, and political instability. The Nigerian situation is further compounded by the recent global financial crisis that has crippled businesses and the prospect of securing jobs for young people. Youth unemployment and restiveness poses a risk to the Nigerian society. The consequence of this problem, if no major corrective initiatives are taken, could be disastrous for the nation. Youth unemployment and restiveness has national and global impacts, notably among which are increased violence, crime, drug abuse and political desperation can drive many people into living outside the law in order to survive and as means of expressing dissatisfaction at the apparent neglect of their existence. Furthermore, the negative consequences include poverty, psychological problems of frustration, depression, hostility, abduction, murder, armed robbery, and all manner of criminal behaviours causing general insecurity of life and property (Ajufo, 2012). This therefore, demands immediate responds to formulating proactive initiatives to tackle youth restiveness in Nigeria and especially in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State. Poverty is also associated with youth restiveness. Poverty directly affects youth restiveness and youth restiveness negatively affects human capital development and industrial productivity (Chukweize, 2009).

Strategies that will help reduce youth restiveness in the area to the barest minimum. The result of the

findings to research question four indicated that respondents agree that the establishment of skills acquisition programmes for youths, creation of educational opportunities for all, conduct of free and fair election, provision of basic infrastructure, social amenities, existence of good governance, religious tolerance, punishment of perpetrators, no marginalization of any tribe, practice of equal distribution of dividend, of democracy, creation of employment, giving stipends to unemployed youths, provision of institutions for good parenting, implementation of school guidance and counseling unit in every school and participation of community members, in all community development programmes/projects are the strategies to curbing youth restiveness in the area.

The finding agrees with the statement of Diepreye Solomon Peter Alamiyeseigha former governor of Bayelsa State while delivering a lecture on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2005, at the Ikeja Country Club hinged the solution to the recurring youth restiveness in the Niger Delta on the creation of a level playing field where the communities and state, would have real stake in oil matters beyond being merely recipients of derivation proceeds. Alamiyeseigha said a situation where laws governing the oil industry give no room for the affected communities to partake in the primary activity of protecting the environment guarantees disquiet in the region. To solve the problem, he called for the abrogation of the onshore/offshore oil dichotomy and the use of derivation principle as the major basis for revenue allocation as was practiced before oil was discovered (Eche, 2016). One of the sure ways of addressing this social vice is by giving youth a sense of belonging. This can be achieved through creation of more jobs for the teeming population of youths, provision of basic infrastructures needed to encourage small scale businesses. There is the need for the youth to be liberated psychologically and economically from the control of self seeking business and political elite who often use them to cause social disorderliness in the society. Above all, more awareness needs to be created for the youth to change their orientation towards positive contribution to the development of the society.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the finding of the study, the following conclusions were reached:

There are different types of youth restiveness in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro which include; kidnapping, raping, incessant killings, violent protest cultism and harassment of people by the cultists.

Youth restiveness in the study area came to be as a result of some obvious factors such as poverty, unemployment, peer motivation, economic exploitation, bad governance, lack of basic infrastructures, inadequate communication and information flow, marginalization, role of politicians in employing youths against perceived enemies, inadequate training (skilled) programmes, unequal socio-economic development in the area and using outside/strangers alone to execute community projects.

An environment such as the Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas of Rivers State is evident based on the study, that the implications of youth restiveness on community development is a negative one, in that it results to security challenges, and where there is insecurity, no meaningful community development project can be carried out. Even if there are ongoing projects prior to the existence of insecurity, such projects are abandoned. People migrate from the rural areas to urban settlement because there is no peaceful environment to carry out their economic activities, investors are discouraged and poverty and hunger have stricken the people in an epidemic proportion.

Based on the findings the study concluded that the grievances of youths perpetrating restive activities are against the Rivers State Government Oil Companies in the area and political leaders.

The study established that the following strategies can help reduce to the barest minimum the rate of youth restiveness in the area: Establishment of skill acquisition programmes for youths, creation of equal educational opportunities for all, elections in the area should be free and fair, provision of basic infrastructures, provision of basic social amenities, there should be practice of good governance, there should be religious tolerance, punishment of perpetrators of restive activities, no marginalization of minority group/tribe, equal distribution of the dividends of democracy, creation of employment opportunities, provision of monthly stipends for unemployed youths, provision of institution where parents can learn the acts of good parenting, implementation of school guidance and counseling and



participation of members in all aspect of community development projects/programmes.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the finding of the study, the researcher made the following recommendations:

1. Youths living in the area should denounce and decrease from all forms of restive activities, seek for peace, human capital development, social and economic development through peaceful and coherent processes in order not to destroy lives and properties in the quest for positive change and community development.
2. Government at all levels (Federal, State and Local) should provide a favourable environment for youths to develop themselves through the provision of employment opportunities, easy access to education, basic infrastructures, social amenities skills acquisition training programmes and provision of necessary information as a way of eliminating the causes of youth restiveness in Andoin and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas and the entire country Nigeria.
3. Youths should not just fold their hands and wait for government to do everything for them. They should rather take their lives and future in their hands through entrepreneurial skills, agricultural practice and other businesses.
4. All stakeholders (government, companies, political leaders, traditional rulers and youths) should strive and contribute meaningfully and proactively to achieving a security challenged free environment so that there can be meaningful community development.
5. The government should give the youth a sense of belonging. This can be achieved through government's abilities to monitor and make sure oil companies follow due process to honour the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU). To eradicate youth restiveness oil companies should stop using key opinion leaders in their host communities against the rest of the community members.
6. Government should create professional skills acquisition programmes at a very subsidized rate or free for youths to develop innate talents and grow their entrepreneurial skills in order to fend for themselves and be self reliant and independent.
7. Government should provide basic infrastructures and social amenities to give youths enabling environment for personal businesses.
8. Government should provide employment opportunities and give equal opportunity to every youth to be tested and give the job to qualified candidates.
9. Government, donor agencies and well-meaning individuals in Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Areas should involve the youth in every aspect of community development programmes/projects to give them a sense of belonging.
10. Government at all levels should adopt a proactive strategy of curbing youth restiveness through a well thought out youth empowerment policy in order to uproot the main causes of social discontentment, suspicion, misunderstanding, biases and poverty in the country.
11. There is the need for the government to review the curriculum content of citizenship education or political education as the case may be. It should be made more functional, relevant and responsive to the changing needs of Nigeria. Besides, the government should make the teaching of citizenship education compulsory at all levels of our educational system.
12. The creation of employment opportunities by the government will go a long way in reducing the number of idle unemployed youth roaming the streets of our major cities. An idle mind, they say is the devil's workshop. Efforts of some of our states like Lagos, Bayelsa, Rivers and Edo States, are worthy of note. These states have engaged the youths in various ways just to arrest restiveness. The government must go beyond lip services and condemnation each time the issue of cultism was reported in our campuses. The Colleges or University authorities should be

13. empowered to deal with the issue squarely. Parents should also be alive to their responsibilities of good upbringing of their children.
14. Finally, the government must be more forthright in its drive for anti-corruption crusade so that we can at least have some sanity in the polity.

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