

**YOUTH UPRISING AND ECONOMIC INSECURITY IN OIL PRODUCING
COMMUNITIES: A STUDY OF IDU-EKPEYE COMMUNITY, AHOADA WEST
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE**

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Abstract

This paper investigate youth uprising and economic insecurity in Idu-Ekpeye an Oil Producing Community in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State. Historically, Shell Petroleum Development Companies started in the Community in 1971 about five decades now, poverty and misery has been the lot of the Community, attempt by the Community to peacefully seek the attention of oil exploration company's were resisted by state security agents which drives the youth uprising. The data for the paper were generated from Primary Sources, the paper used descriptive analysis. The paper discovered that the youth uprising has economic implications, the paper recommended among other things programmes and policies that will economically empower the people of the area.

Keywords: *Youth, Youth Uprising, Economic Insecurity, Oil Producing Communities, Idu-Ekpeye.*

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1. Introduction

Historically, the activities of multinational oil firms started in Nigeria between 1908 and 1914 when the German-Nigeria Bitumen Corporation and the British Colonial petroleum Company initiated oil exploration processes in Abeokuta area. However, the holes were dry and the venture was abandoned mainly because of World War 1. From 1937 to 1940, Shell-D'Arcy Petroleum Development Company revived the interest in exploration, though it was suspended again in 1941 due to World War II. The Shell-D'Arcy Company was replaced by Shell B-P Development Company of Nigeria in 1946. This new company was jointly financed by the Royal Dutch Shell Group and British Company and it continued explorations in the Northern area of the Niger Delta. In 1955 Mobile Exploration Nigeria Incorporated obtained a concession over the whole Northern Nigeria, old was first found in commercial quantity by

Shell B-P in the Tertiary Agbada formation in Olobiri, Bayelsa State in late 1955, while further findings were made at Ughelli (now in Delta State). (Olaolu, 2008).

In 1961, the federal government granted ten (10) licenses to five companies (Shell B-P; Mobile exploration Nigeria Incorporated; Amosea; Texaco; and Nigerian Gulf, Shell B.P. started oil exploration in 1971. Discovered Ubie Oil field with many oil wells hooked up to the flow station in Idu-Ekpeye community. The oil wells in Ubie oil field are clustered around Idu-Ekpeye community, Ukpeliède, Oyigba and Ebrass Communities. Idu-Ekpeye remains the host community in present Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State ().

Oil exploration has brought economic insecurity, unemployment, illiteracy, and environmental abuses, in Idu-Ekpeye community. Though Idu-Ekpeye community is endowed with oil resources, yet there is evidence that economic insecurity in the community. Peaceful agitation by the community. For shell to honour memorandum of understanding (MOU) were suppressed by the federal government.

The resultant effect of the insensitivity of the oil producing companies and the Nigerian state to address genuine concern of the people of oil producing community have driven the youths of the area to rise up against the oil producing companies in the community Sokari (2015).

The Youth uprising has generated much concern among the citizenry; it has become very worrisome because it has impacted negatively on economy of Idu-Ekpeye oil producing communities.

This paper seeks to interrogate the effect of youth uprising in economic security of residence of Idu-Ekpeye community as our focus; the study is aim at promoting community development.

2. Conceptual Review and Theoretical Framework

Youth Uprising: Within the compass of a brief exposition uprising can be defined as act of opposition sometimes using violence by many people in one area of a country against those who are in power (freeonlinedictionary.com). Youth uprising is thus a systemize act of popular violence organized. Co-ordinated and championed by the youths in a localize setting in defiance of an act by an establish entity or government.

Economic Insecurity

Bissert & D' Ambrosio (2013) in Zack's (2019) describe economic insecurity as the anxiety produced by the possible exposure to adverse economic affects and by the anticipation of the difficulty to recover from them. To Osberg (2015) cited in Thom-Otuya (2016) economic insecurity is a high risk of losses, adverse shock and downside hazard, part simply economic insecurity is the inability of people to meet up with their financial needs.

King (2010) in Okpo (2018) provides three major indices of economic insecurity;

- Experiencing a major loss in income
- Incurring large out-of-pocket medical expenses
- Lacking adequate financial wealth to buffer the first two risks

Theoretical Framework

This paper is anchored on structural conflict theory, structural conflict theory was proposed by Collier (2002). The theory enables us to take into consideration how uneven distribution of resources and status between groups in society create tension/conflicts in the society Collier (2002) in Faleti (2007) summed up the thrust of structural conflict theory's argument in the following words:-

Conflict is built into the particular ways societies are structured and organized. The theory looks at social problems like political and economic exclusion, injustice, poverty, disease, exploitation, inequity etc as sources of conflict.

Conflict occurs whenever disagreement exists in a social situation over issues or substance and /or emotional antagonism. It deals with incompatible aspect of the society. According to Subedi, (2014). The theory of conflict to a large extent is relevant in the analysis of the impact of youth uprising on economic in security in Idu-Ekpeye. The theory explains that, as a result of the youth uprising the economic security of the people have been negatively affected. The theory avails us the analytical opportunity to critically examine how the unjust nature of human societies which encourages the domination of one class by another creates conflict.

Over the years, the Nigerian state in collusion with oil exploration companies have been using proceed from oil producing communities to run the affairs of governance and develop other

regions to the neglect of oil producing communities.

The people of oil producing communities having over time seen how their communities have generated enormous wealth for the nation without corresponding benefits began to demand for externalities arising from oil exploration activities which the Nigeria state and the oil exploration company's threats with contempt, this neglect, insensitivity, injustice meted to oil producing communities Idu-Ekpeye community in particular generates youth uprising. As a result of the youth uprising the economic security of the people have been negatively affected. The farmers and fishermen could no longer carry on their agricultural activities, it reduces economic activities as the situation threatens indigenous and non-indigenous enterprise. The conflicts affects the provision of social services as personnel providing social services such as education and health personnel abandoned their duty post. The uprising led to proliferation of arms and cultism with adverse impact on economic security of the people.

Study of Area

Idu-Ekpeye the area under study is located in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State. The area is bounded on the North by Ukpeliède Community; on the East by Ebrass Community; on the West and North-West by Oyigba Community; and on the South by Emeshi Community all in Rivers State. The area is economically active, with various economic activities, such as farming, fishing, palm-oil and palm wine processing, craft making and trading generally. The area also has a rich socio-cultural life and a viable trade-political structure.

Idu-Ekpeye community speaks Ekpeye language, has a total of four (4) families. These families are; Imaji family, Ediwulu family, Umushi and Agolo family. From the census figure of (2006). National Population Commission, the population of the area is approximately nine hundred and two (912) people. The area also play host to Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) an oil exploration company.

3. Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted descriptive survey design for the work. This is because survey design helps the researcher in gathering information with the use of a questionnaire and it also helped the researcher to cover a large population in course of the study.

Research Questions

- i. How has youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye community affected loss in income of Idu-Ekpeye people?
- ii. How has youth uprising affected medical expenses among the residence?
- iii. How has youth uprising affected the capacity of Idu. Ekpeye people in recovering from economic insecurity occasion by the income loss?

Population of the Study

According to the NPC (2006) population census, figures of Idu-Ekpeye in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State, is nine hundred and twelve (2,810). Therefore the population of the study comprises of all inhabitants of Idu-Ekpeye.

Sample determination

The sample utilized for this study is the total population, this was got by random sample from the population made up of selected farmers, civil servants, community elites, students, traders, artisans and personnel attached to the oil exploration company.

4. Data Presentation and Analysis

For the purpose of this study, the researcher administered 385 questionnaires to the respondents in Idu-Ekpeye community and all the 385 questionnaires disturbed were returned. The collected questionnaires are presented and converted to percentage for ease of interpretation.

Table 4.1.1:

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Male	279	72.47
Female	106	27.53
Total	385	100.00

Out of the number 385 respondents, 279 being 72% were male 106 being 29% were female.

Table 4.1.2: Age

	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
	200	51.95
	90	23.38
	59	15.32
	20	5.19
	10	2.60
	6	1.56
	385	100

Data in the table 4.1.2 shows that 51% representing 200 respondents participated in the study. An analysis of the above shows that youth between the ages of 18-27 years were more in the youth uprising. A combination of ages of 18-27, 28-37 and which falls within the bracket of youth gives 90% which is a high indicator involvement in the uprising.

Table 4.1.3: Marital Status

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Single	206	53.50
Married	119	30.91
Divorced	40	10.39
Separated	20	5.20
Total	385	100

This table shows that 53% of the respondents representing 206 respondent were single. This high percentage indicates a tendency for those set of citizens to engage in youth uprising from

Table 4.1.4: Education Qualification

<i>Education Qualification</i>	<i>Responses</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Non-formal education	190	49.35
O'level	30	7.80
OND/NCE	26	6.75
Islamic study	110	28.57
HND/B.Sc. and above	29	7.53
Total	385	100

the fact that since they owe little or no responsibility to families, wives/ husbands and children, they can easily be lured to risks.

Data in table 4.1.4 shows that respondents with non-formal education were made up of 49.35% which is the highest in the table. This data was adopted as an indicator that the respondents' level of education made them vulnerable to participate in the youth uprising.

Table 4.1.5 Religion

Religion	Responses	Percentages
Christianity	320	83.12
Islamic	29	7.53
Traditional	36	10
Total	385	100

Table 4.1.6 shows that 59.74% representing 230 respondents were unemployed youth with high vulnerability to elite manipulation into youth uprising.

Table 4.1.7

Did oil Exploration Company's failure to implement memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Idu- Ekpeye community.

	Strongly	Agree	Disagree	Strongly	Undecided	Result
Respondents	184	181			20	385
%	47.8	47			5.2	100

Table 4.1.7 shows that out of 385 respondents, 184 representing 47% strongly agree, 181 representing 47% agree while 20 representing 5.2% are undecided.

Table 4.1.8

Did oil Exploration Company's failure to pay prompt and adequate compensation for damage resulting from their operations precipitated youth uprising in Idu Ekpeye

	Strongly	Agree	Disagree	Strongly	Undecided	Total
Respondents	200	185				385
%	51.9	48.1				100

Table 4.1.8 evince that out of 385 respondents, 200 representing 51.9% strongly and 185 representing 48.1 % agree to the item statement.

Table 4.1.9

Pocketing resources earmark for development-^ oil exploration company by community elites in Idu-Ekpeye drives the youth uprising.

	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Result</i>
Respondents	170	206			9	385
%	44.2	53.5			2.3	100

Table 4.1.9 evince that out of 385 respondents, 170 representing 44.2 strongly agree, 206 representing 53.5% agree while 9 presenting 2.3% are undecided.

Table 4.1.10

Is Suppression by state security agents attached to oil Exploration Company during agitation by Idu- Ekpeye people fails youth uprising?

	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respondents	150	130	64	30	11	385
	38.96	33.77	16.62	7.79	2.86	100

Table 4.1.10 show-case that out of 385 respondents, 150 representing 38.96% strongly agree, 130 representing 33.77% agree, 64 representing 16.62% disagree, 30 representing 7.79 strongly disagree while 11 representing 2.86 are undecided.

Table 4.1.11

Oil exploration company’s exclusive and divisive policies generates conflicts in Idu-Ekpeye community

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respondents	250	135				385
	64.9	35.1				100

Table 4.1.11 shows that out of 385 respondents, 250 representing 64.9% strongly agree while 135 representing 35.1% agree to the item statement.

Table 4.1.12

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has led to the creation of community development board by the oil exploration company in the community.

	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>undecided</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respondent	190	121	12		62	385
%	49.4	31.4	3.1		16.1	100

Table 4.1.9 evince that out of 385 respondents, 170 representing 44.2 strongly agree, 206 representing 53.5% agree while 9 presenting 2.3% are undecided.

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Respondent	190	121	12		62	385
%	49.4	31.4	3.1		16.1	100

In the above, 179 representing 46% and 206 representing 53.5% strongly agree and agree

Table 4.1.12 shows that out of 385 respondents. *190 representing 49% strongly agree 121* representing 31.4% agree, 12 representing 3.1% disagree *while 62 representing 16.1% are* undecided on the item statement.

. Table 4.1.13

/W Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has led to the proliferation of arms in the community.

	Strongly	Agree	Strongly	Disagree	undecided	Total
Respondent	240	121		24		385
%	62.34	31.43		6.23		100

respectively to the questionnaire.

Table 4.1.13

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has led to loss income of people in Idu-Ekpeye.

	Strongly	agree	Strongly	disagree	Undecided	Total
Respondent	240	121			24	385
%	62.34	31.43			6.23	100

Source: fieldworks

The data in the table shows that 240 representing 62.34% strongly agree, 121 of the respondents representing 31.43% agree while 24 representing 6.23% remain undecided with the questionnaire.

Table 4.1.13 show case that out of 385 respondents, 240 representing 62.34% strongly agree, 121 representing 31.43% agree while 24 representing 6.23% disagreed on the item statement.

Table 4.1.14

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has heightened crime in the community.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	disagree	undecided	Total
Respondent	240	121			24	385
%	62.34	31.43			6.23	100

The data in the table shows that 240 representing 62.34% strongly agree, 121 of the respondents representing 31.43% agree while 24 representing 6.23% remain undecided with the questionnaire.

Table 4.1.15

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has given rise to cultism in the community.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	disagree	undecided	Total
Respondent	179	206			385	
%	46.5	53.5			100	

Table 4.1.16

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has led to loss income of people in Idu-Ekpeye

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	disagree	Undecided	Total
Respondent	240	121			24	385
%	62.34	31.43			6.23	100

The data in the table shows that 240 representing 62.34% strongly agree, 121 of the respondents representing 31.43% agree while 24 representing 6.23% remain undecided with the questionnaire.

Table 4.1.17

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has precipitated large out of Pocket medical expenses of Idu-Ekpeye people.

	Strongly	Agree	Strongly	disagree	undecided	Total
Respondent	170	206			24	385
%	46.5	53.5			6.23	100

In the table above, 179 representing 46% and 206 representing 53.5% strongly agree and agree respectively to questionnaire.

Table 4.1.18

The youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye has retards Idu-Ekpeye people capacity to generate income to buffer lose in income

	Strongly	Agree	Strongly	disagree	undecided	Total
Respondent	168	105			24	385
%	64.45	27.25			6.23	100

A glance at the above indicates that 168 representing 64.45%, 105 presenting 27.25% strongly agree and agree to the question that the 2015 and 2017 youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye frustrate the process effort in generating income to buffer in income in he community.

5. Discussion of Results

On the basis of the data collected and collated, this section discusses and/or interprets the resultants findings for apt understanding.

- Table 4:16 - Examine question 1 which seeks to find out the major loss income in Idu-Ekpeye during the youth uprising.
- The Idu-Ekpeye people whom are currently faced with more of environmental challenges, arising from oil exploration activities have had their traditional means of economic livelihood (fishing, farming and palm oil processing) destroyed and truncated because of environmental damage.

- The findings shows that the youth uprising led to destruction and burning of the buildings and economic trees of the people.
- Table 4:17 - Was used to test research question 2 which seek to find out the economic implication of out-of-pocket medical expenses on Idu-Ekpeye residence.
- It was find out, during the youth uprising a lot of people were wounded, economic resources ear mark for sustainable economic growth were used to pay medical bills of people who sustain serious injuries of the Idu-Ekpeye residence.
- Table 4:18 - Was used to test research question 3 which seek to examine the inability of Idu-Ekpeye residence to muster adequate financial resources as to recovered from the loss income and out-of-pocket medical expenses finds that because the people are already poor, as a result of ecological war on their environment,
- they lack saving, lack capital formation and access to credit facilities which affect the inability of the residence to buffer the two risks above.
- A synthesis of these eligible research question signifies that youth uprising has significant negative effect on economic security in Idu Ekpeye.
- As it reduce food production, scares away indigenious and non-indigenious investors out of the community, inhibits community security, endanger personal security, drives resource persons for health services as well as gave rise to environmental insecurity in the community.
- This result confirms the findings of Bozimo (2006) regarding the effect of youth disturbance on oil producing communities in the Niger Delta.

Summary of Findings

Youth uprising in Idu-Ekpeye oil producing community has significant negative effect on economic security by implication poses challenge to sustainable economic development in oil producing communities Idu-Ekpeye in particular,

It has led to lose of income, it sabotages concerted efforts aimed at boosting economic growth it equally causes medical expenses as a result of injuries sustained by Idu- Ekpeye people

during the uprising.

Owing to vandalization to oil facilities, the environment became polluted with adverse impact on food and environmental security.

6. Conclusions

In this paper's effort has been made to examine the effect of youth uprising on economic security in oil exploration communities using Idu-Ekpeye as our study.

The study having identified the factors that drives the uprising recommends that: the federal government and oil firms should identify and address the issues that drives the uprising as well as initiate policies and programmes that will revolutionize the economy of the people as to quickened the residence ability to financially recover from the economic insecurity occasioned by the youth uprising.

Recommendations

The federal government and oil exploration company in Idu-Ekpeye community should worked out modalities on how to economically empower Idu-Ekpeye residence through the provision of soft loan for the people.

The oil exploration company should carry out an evaluation of those who incur out-of-pocket medical expenses during the uprising with a view of providing them economic palliatives.

Both the federal government and oil exploration company operating in Idu-Ekpeye community should initiate and implement programmes and projects that will economically revolutionized the community which will create the enabling environment for the people to economically recover from the uprising.

There is an urgent need for the federal government and oil Exploration Company operating in Idu-Ekpeye to identify and address the issues that generate the youth uprising as to forestall further occurrence.

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