



# The Impact of Concentration of Oil Companies on Post-primary Schools in Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State

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## Abstract

The study is designed to examine the impact of the concentration of oil companies on post-primary schools in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni local government area (ONELGA) of Rivers State. The research took cognizance of factors such as the contributions of oil companies to educational development in the area, problems militating against the oil companies operation and development of the region. Teachers and senior secondary school (SSS) students constitute the sample of the study. Research questions were designed to find out the impact of the presence of oil companies on post-primary schools in ONELGA, especially to educational development. Specific projects that the oil companies have executed towards educational development in ONELGA were on focus. The study revealed that the multinational companies have awarded scholarships to students of post-primary schools in the area, and have built schools and equipped the schools with infrastructures. The study also revealed that the provision of facilities and equipment to the schools by the companies are not commensurate with the problems faced by the schools and students. Based on the findings, some recommendations were made, among them were: (1) Education is the key to all development. Thus, the companies should do more to encourage teaching and learning in their host communities. (2) The youths of the region should be well informed of the values of education through enlightenment programmes and conferences.

**Keywords:** Education, Oil Companies, Post-primary Schools, Rivers State.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Oil prospect in Nigeria started in 1937, but actual production began in about 1956. The Shell British petroleum Development exploration party was one of the first to be granted oil mining concession. By 1956, it became Shell British petroleum Development Company of Nigeria. This company was the sole operator in the federation. By 1960 oil had been found in commercial quantity in Nigeria.

The discovery of oil in a large quantity according to Akoloku (1981) attracted other multinational oil corporations to join between 1960 and 1962 in the hot search for crude oil. Onyige (1979) also confirmed the entry of other Trans National companies. He further added that the entry of the other companies made the federal government reduce the areas covered by Shell B.P. concession from 40,000 square miles to 15,000. Oil exploration in ONELGA started at Ebocha in the early 1960s. Newswatch (1988) confirmed that gas flaring started at Ebocha in 1964. During this period, Shell B. P. Nigeria Agip oil company (NAOC) Elf Nigeria Limited gained concession to operate in Ogba land and Egbema land in ONELGA.

Ellah (1992) outlined that Elf Nigeria Ltd had the oil mining lease (OMLS 58) to operate in the Egi area of Ogbaland which covers about 43% of the land area, while NAOC operate under the license, OMLS 61 in about 440 square kilometres, that is, about 48% of the land area. Shell also operated on the fringes of Egbema land.

Though there are other oil service companies such as SAIPEM Nigeria Ltd, Schlumberger and Dowell etc. However, the oil exploration in ONELGA is dominated by NAOC, ELF and Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria.

The NNPC 1986–1989 statistical release on crude oil production (ON-SHORE ONLY) within Rivers State shows that ONELGA produced about 178,010, 465 barrels within the period. The production sharing ratio of this quantity is 20.83%. This ranks ONELGA first in the list, followed closely by brass with 15.82%.

The concentration of these crude oil industries in ONELGA has a tremendous and un-quantified environment, economic and social impact on the people and institutions in the area.

## **BBACKGROUND**

Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area (ONELGA) constitute the hinterland of the Niger Delta. ONELGA is one of the LGAs carved out of Ahoada LGA in 1992 by President Ibrahim Babangida's administration.

ONELGA is in the lowland forest of Nigeria. It is bounded on the north by Imo State and on the south by Ahoada East Local Government Area. On the Eastern fringes, it is bounded by Awura and Ubumini in Ikwerre Local Government Area, and on the west by the Orashi River and also a strip of land bordering Ndoni and Aboh Towns.

ONELGA is made up of three ethnic groups: Ogba, Egbema and Ndoni. These three ethnic groups speak languages which are closely related.

ONELGA is richly endowed with a number of natural resources such as crude oil, natural gas, oil palm, fertile arable lands and navigable waterways. The presence of these natural resources attracted a lot of Multi-national corporations and even the colonial Administration at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Obowu (1972) confirmed that the colonial administrator's trading companies: Niger Company and Messers Thomas Welsh Company had in the first decade, of the 20<sup>th</sup> century set up a trading beach and warehouses at Kreigani in ONELGA. The early presence of these trading companies is sequel to large quantities of palm oil and kernel in the area. These were the major commodities of the legitimate trade.

In recent times, there had been a significant outcry of several oil producing communities including ONELGA, over the looming hazards of oil exploration and exploitation. As a result a number of personalities and organizations have made clarion calls on the oil companies to develop their areas of operation. This study therefore examines the activities of these companies with a view to highlighting their impacts so far on post-primary schools in ONELGA.

## **Purpose of the Study**

Crude oil is the life wire of Nigeria economy and ONELGA is one of the Geese that lay the golden egg because trans-national oil firms are concentrated in the area. The aim of this study is to determine the contribution of these companies towards the development of secondary education in the area. In course of this, the negative effects will also be pointed out. This research pays particular attention to the post-primary school, *vis-à-vis* the environmental, social and economic effects of these companies on post primary school education in the region.

Every now and then, the oil companies make series of claims of contributions made to their host communities. No sooner these claims are made than they are refuted by the oil bearing communities. A major significance of this study is that it will unveil the attitude of these oil companies towards their host communities and as well prove the claims of either party. Above all, this work remain a reminder to the industrialist that it is only a concerted effort of the organized private sector and the public sector that can bring to reality the lofty aims of education as stated in the National Policy on Education (FRN, 2004). It is also the researchers; hope that this work will, to a large extent, increase the knowledge of the Ogba, Egbema and Ndoni people on the operations of these companies. Such awareness shall no doubt engender a peaceful co-existence of these industries and the host communities.

Presently, there are, limited literature on the effect of oil exploration in the coastal communities of the Niger Delta. Apparently, little or nothing has been written on the impact of oil exploration and exploitation on the post primary schools in the area. The theme of this study is relatively new as a result what exist is of little importance to this academic work. Therefore, to guide and direct the focus of this study, four research questions were raised:

- What is the impact of the concentration of oil companies on the environment of the host communities in ONELGA?
- To what extent does the concentration of oil companies affected the economic activities of the host communities in ONELGA?
- To what extent does the activities of oil companies affected the social life of the post-primary school students in ONELGA?
- What are the contributions made by oil companies towards educational development of post-primary schools in ONELGA?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Environmental Impact**

Oil drilling is highly noted for environmental pollution. This is because of the concomitant gas flaring into the atmosphere and radio-active fallouts. Onuobia (1991) defined environmental pollution as “the unfavourable alteration of our surroundings wholly or partly as a result of man’s action, through direct effects of changes in energy patterns, radiation levels, chemical constitution and abundance of organisms”. He further stressed that pollution is a very pervasive phenomenon.

The oil companies have totally changed the landscape of ONELGA. Large hectares of land are used as drilling locations, burrow pits are dug here and there, and oil pipes lay-across every nook and crenies of the Local Government Area.

In ONELGA, environmental pollution mostly coursed by gas flaring is said to be largely responsible for incidents of premature and still births, blindness, high mortality rate, cancer, respiratory ailments, defacement of buildings, decimation of plant and animal life, deforestation, and depletion of fish from rivers in ONELGA.

### **Economic Impact**

The impact of oil exploration and exploitation in ONELGA is very prominent in the economic sphere.

Okwu (1987) has it that the presence of these oil companies has contributed to the growth of towns like Omoku, Akabuka, Okwuzi, Obrikom, Erema, Ogbogu and equally precipitated the sprouting out of small and medium scale industrial and commercial ventures.

The greatest effect is on land. Okirie (1981) while writing on the Economic History of Ogbaland described land as the mainstay of the economy of Ogbaland, and asserted that today the Ogba people lack arable land because of large expanse occupied by the oil companies.

Above all, land in the area is no longer fertile because of oil spillage and gas flaring. Louisa in newswatch (1988, July 18:12) pointed out that “farmers at Egbama in ONELGA are in great dilemma, that their crops do not survive long enough to make it to the vegetable market or dinner table. This depicts the degree of land devastation and degradation by oil company activities.

Having been aware of this adverse effect on land and crops, NAOC established an agricultural extension project, “the Green Rivers Project (also known as ENICHEM), according to NAOC news (1992), the latest contribution made by the NNPC/NAOC/PHILIPS Joint venture towards the economic development of Nigeria. The green rivers project assists rural farmers in growing and preserving, and also in procuring improved varieties of crops and fertilizers.

Before the coming of oil companies about 20% of the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni populations were engaged in fishing. Presently less than 5% of the entire population practice fishing on a subsistence level. This is because crude oil that spill into the rivers destroy marine lives in mass. Prof. T.J.T. Princewill as in newswatch, made it clear that crude oil contains heavy metals, which accumulates in fishes and other aquatic creatures, which may be poisonous on consumption.

Consequently, fishing is no longer a lucrative venture in the area. Apart from this, there are some species of animals/fishes that are now extinct (no more in our bushes and rivers) as a result of oil company activities. Therefore hunting and fishing which was the occupation of about 30% of the population is no longer practiced.

Following the destruction of these occupations, ONELGA faced the problem of rural urban drift. As a result farming is now left in the hands of the aged.

From all indication the concentration of these companies has totally altered the economic activities which existed in the area prior to their inception.

## **Social Impact**

The social impact of the presence of these oil companies on ONELGA peoples and institutions are enormous. In order to alleviate the sufferings of the infrastructural facilities such as pipe-born water and electricity for some villages in the area, ELF News (1985, p. 11) stated that Elf Nig. Ltd embarked on the two million Naira (₦2,000,000,00) Obagi water scheme to provide pipe-born water for the communities around Obagi oil field and as well supported the Rivers State government rural development programme. Similar projects have also been embarked upon by NAOC in Omoku, Obrikom, Obie, Okwuzi and Agah.

On the provision of electricity, NAOC has made a lot of contributions. Electricity has been provided for Omoku, Obrikom, Egbema, Obor, Okpurukpuali and Obie etc.

On the negative side, Ellah (1992) noted that the concentration of oil companies in Obrikom, ONELGA, has had a great socio-cultural impact on the Ogba language, culture and marriage system. He further explained that prior to the inception of these companies it was a taboo to see a boy and a girl sit together to discuss sexual relationship in public. Today the opposite is the case. Girls of school age, even the married women, are usually found around the oil company’s base soliciting for men.

In addition to this social evil of prostitution, is the high wave of crime which characterized the area right from the inception of these companies. Social vices such as stealing, cultism, divorce, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, smoking and gross contravention of social norms by youths of school age have become the order of the day. Some of these vices were alien to the society.

## **Impact on Post-primary Schools**

The linking of the education sector particularly the secondary schools to these oil companies in the private sector may appear a bit controversial, but it’s really not out of place. Leeson (1982) stated that the

school has six major needs where it must liaise with industry. These are curriculum development, technological and information education, guidance, resources, moral support and career information. This implies that the concentration of these oil companies in ONELGA should be of a great advantage to the post primary schools in the area.

A major objective of secondary education as stated in the national policy on education (FRN, 2004) is the preparation of the citizens for useful living within the society. Based on this objective the schools should be able to produce people who are capable of taking up appointments in these oil companies.

Apparently, Magnus in Leeson (1982) agreed that industries could help schools achieve their goals, hence he opined that school/industry links have to be seen as an instrument for change across the curriculum as a whole. Again, to make education and the development of every individual pupil as meaningful as possible for life in modern industrial society, the oil companies can, to a large extent, help the secondary schools to achieve their goals.

Igwe in the Alvana (1979) described the school as a micro-society in a macro-society, this presupposes that the post primary schools have been suffering from aerial and economic side effects of oil exploration and exploitation. Consequently, we shall look at the impacts of these companies under some of the areas of liaison as pointed out by Leeson (1982).

### ***Curriculum Development***

Although the post primary schools curriculum is developed by the State and Federal Ministry of Education, the school in its implementation must put into consideration immediate environment in which it is sited. The need of the society in which a school is sited could influence changes in the curriculum. Gbamanja (1990) agreed that in developing a curriculum, provision must be made for modifications when the need arises, or even for total change as appropriate for society.

Since the oil companies are the dominant business organizations in ONELGA one would have expected them to introduce industrial courses in the post primary schools. Leeson (1982) believes that this could be done by the evaluation of parts of a school scientific or technical syllabus by a firm and as well help with the practical application of a particular course. Such courses may include computer education, mining and even the provision of technical facilities and expertise. Gbamanja (1990) also agreed with this view, hence he included, professional bodies such as NUT, STAN, SPE and several engineering and medical bodies are among factors that can influence curriculum changes.

The inability of the oil companies to influence the curriculum of post primary schools in ONELGA, even when they have devastated the lands and rivers which are the economic mainstay of the people, has made it difficult for these companies to employ the youths and the products of the secondary schools.

Adesina (1993) sum it up when he noted that “the products of education are needed to develop the industries. It is therefore necessary that favourable attitudes to industry and technology are fostered right from the secondary level”.

### ***Resources***

Leeson (1982) has it that industries could also be used by schools as a resource of knowledge about industrial relations, trade unions, industrial processes and production. He further added that teachers could be given opportunities to attend special trainings in the industries to up-date their knowledge.

Although the oil companies in ONELGA have never served as resource centres for teachers, efforts have been made in recent times to provide resource services to schools with the establishment of the Green River Project by the Nigeria Agip oil company. The Green Rivers Project has been organizing inter-school agricultural science quiz to boost the students' knowledge and interest in the subject and as well encourage them to take it up as a career. These organizations also send out extension workers to schools in ONELGA, and more of these resource activities are required in other science and technical subjects.

## ***Morale and Financial Support***

The morale and financial support given to schools in ONEGLA have been in form of scholarship award, buildings and donations. Musa (1992) has it that Elf Nigeria Limited has a donation policy of which government secondary school, Akabuka has benefited from. He pointed out that a modern-day, twelve (12) classroom block, has been built and commissioned by Elf in May 14, 1992. Okwu (1987) added that some teacher's quarters were also built by the same company for the same school. Classroom blocks have also been built by Elf for community secondary school, Obagi, fencing of some secondary schools by AGIP in Omoku, Obrikom and Egbema has also been observed etc.

Scholarships are also awarded annually by NAOC and ELF to the indigenes of their areas of operation in Post Primary Schools. Nwaenyi (1986) pointed out that Elf scholarship award to Egi indigenes in Post Primary Schools were very few in the 1970s, but increased tremendously in the 1980s.

Although the donation package of these oil companies included books as in the Treasure (1992, p. 14), furniture; as in NAOC News (1992, p 8), science equipment, sports equipment and cash, such gestures have not been extended to schools in ONELGA, if done it should be in a very insignificant note.

## **Negative Impacts on Post-primary Schools**

Beside the above positive impacts, the negative effects abound in the post primary schools. The researcher was an eye witness to the collapse of one of the buildings of community secondary school, Obigwe, as a result of the detonations of seismograph Nigeria Ltd. (S.S.L) in 1992. The detonations have also caused several damages to school structures and equipment in some other schools in the area.

Some of the schools are very close to the oil fields these companies generate large decibels of noise. Bello (1981) advised that a school be built in a quiet place away from external noise, because it is difficult to think and learn in a very noisy condition. Since noise is incompatible with learning, one wonders what will be the fate of students in the post primary schools in ONELGA, where there are oil fields very close to them.

Besides the disruption of the school tranquility, the students are constantly exposed to excessive environmental noise and other pollutants. Owie, in Alvana (1979) confirms that such exposure is dangerous as he stated that though it is too early to say categorically what would happen to our people that are exposed to excessive environmental noise, such noise could lead to possible hearing impairment.

The concentration of these oil companies in ONELGA has also heightened immoral behaviours among students. The female students in these schools run after the staff of these companies at the expense of their study periods as a result, their performances in the school become very deplorable.

In ONELGA today, very few girls complete their secondary education successfully. This is because of moral decadence. A good number of these girls abandoned the schools, and pack their belongings to cohabit with the foreign company workers. These girls according to Ellah (1992), they indulge in assorted types of habit like stealing, smoking and drinking, and unwanted pregnancy which was foreign in Ogba land.

It will be quite anachronistic for the oil companies to claim ignorance of the negative environmental, Economic and social impact of their operations on the society and institutions in the area. Thus, to avert the doom there should be an effective radioactive waste management and disposal. Oil companies should pay heed to the clarion calls for the development of their areas of operation. Education, being the corner stone of development should be given priority. Only a concerted effort of the oil companies, government and individuals can help the post primary schools in the area to achieve their stated goals.

## **METHODS**

This study is basically concerned with the method used in carrying out this work. This research was carried out in two post primary schools in Ogba/Eghem/Ndoni Local Government area of Rivers State. The choice of the schools is based on proximity to the oil fields of Elf Nigeria Limited and Nigeria Agip

oil Company (NAOC). Although oil exploitation has a widespread effect in the local government area, the schools closer to the oil fields experience greater impact of the oil activities.

The schools chosen include:

- 1 Community Secondary School, Obrikom
- 2 Community Secondary School, Obagi

### Research Instrument and Data Collection

The instrument used for the collection of data was questionnaire. Question A-D are designed to find out the personal data of the respondent. The items are gender, marital status, age and the length of service of the teachers. Item 1-4 were designed to find out the impact of the presence of the oil companies on the society in general.

Item 5-20 were designed to find out the impact of the oil companies on post primary school in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni local government area. The items of the instrument were succinct, concise and precise. For confidence purposes, the names of the respondents were not requested. The questionnaire was administered on teachers and students on company scholarship in the above schools. The personal observation of the researcher on the activities of the oil companies' was of immense importance.

The questionnaire was guided by the consideration of a good questionnaire as developed by Dillman, Smyth and Christain (2008), Fink (2008) and Fowler (2008). Assistance from expert (Ololube, Kpolovie, & Amaele, 2013) in the design of questionnaire made the development of the questionnaire for this study possible. Colleague feedback helped to assure that the measures replicated the intended concepts in the questions and so the face validity was determined to be intact.

### Data Analysis

The data extracted were analyzed using simple percentage. The findings were based on all the information gathered from teachers and students. The overall Cronbach alpha was .887; as a result, the research instrument was established as very reliable in that it allowed for the consistency or reliability of what the researchers set out to measure (Render, Stair & Hannan, 2005).

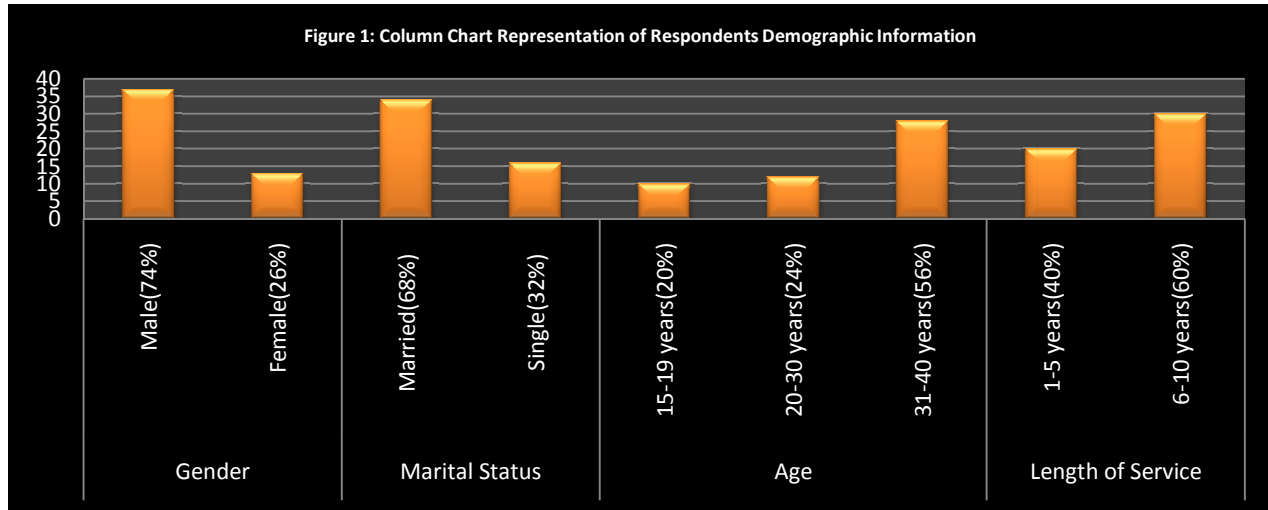
## RESULTS

### Descriptive statistics of Respondents Demographic Information

The first analysis conducted was a descriptive statistical procedure (see table 1 and figure 1) to determine the frequency and percentages distribution of respondents' demographic information. The majority of respondents, 37 (74%), were male while 13 (26%) were female. Ten (20%) of the respondents were 15-19 years old, 12 (24.0%) were 20-30 years and 28 (56%) were 31-40 years. Thirty four (68%) of respondents were married while sixteen (32%) were single. Based on their length of service, 20 (40%) have been in the teaching profession for 1-5 years, while 30 (60%) have served of 6-10 years.

Table 1: Respondents Demographic Information

Demographic Information		Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	37	74
	Female	13	26
Marital Status	Married	34	68
	Single	16	32
Age	15-19 years	10	20
	20-30 years	12	24
	31-40 years	28	56
Length of Service	1-5 years	20	40



The second analyses were conducted based on items and were tallied along agree and disagree. Item 1 was designed to find out if the presence of the oil companies in the area is blessing or bane. Out of 50 responses, 5(10%) responded strongly agreed, while 29(58%) agreed. On the contrary, 5(10%) strongly disagreed and 11(22%) disagreed. This implies that the people of ONELGA/schools recognized that the presence of these companies who help in tapping our natural resources is a blessing.

Item 2 aimed to find out how much the oil companies operating in ONELGA have contributed to the development of the area. Table 2 revealed that out of 50 responses 2(12%) strongly agreed while 6 (12%) agreed. On the other hand 16(32%) strongly disagreed and 26 (52%) disagreed that the oil companies have done a lot towards the development of ONELGA. This invariably shows that the oil companies have not made any substantial contribution towards the development of ONELGA.

Item 3 was premeditated to find out if the operations of the oil companies have had same adverse effect on the people, landscape and economy. Out of 50 responses, 32(64%) strongly agreed and 12(24%) agreed that oil companies operations have adverse effect on the society in all ramifications while 3(6%) disagreed. Based on this finding, it is clear that oil company operations and explorations affect adversely the socio-economic life of the people, and the environment.

Item 4 is designed to find out if the oil companies maintain an impressive, cordial and progressive relationship with the host communities and schools. Of the 50 responses none strongly agreed. 8(16%) agreed that there is a good company/host community relationship. On the contrary 20(40%) strongly disagreed and 22(44%) disagreed that a good relationship exists between the companies and host communities. The statistics above shows that the oil companies treat the issue of community relation with levity. The statistics also indicate that there is little or no school/industry link in the area. This contemptuous attitude towards community relations is the remote cause of frequent conflicts between oil companies and their host communities.

Item 5 aims to find out how much the post primary schools in ONELGA have benefited from the oil companies. The results revealed that out of the 50 responses, 1(2%) strongly agreed, 4(8%) agreed, 23(46%) strongly disagreed and 22(44%) disagreed that post primary schools in ONELGA have had a lot of benefit from oil companies operating in the area. The result shows that the post primary schools have not benefited much from the oil industries tapping black gold in ONELGA.

Item 6 was drawn to find out if a large number of students from ONELGA enjoy oil company scholarships. Here, of the 50 responses, there were only 1(2%) who strongly agreed and 9(18%) who agreed that a large number of students enjoy oil company scholarship. In reverse, 16(32%) strongly disagreed and 24(48%) disagreed. The findings demonstrated that only very few students are awarded oil company scholarship annually.



Item 7 revealed that 23(48%) respondents strongly agreed while 25(50%) respondents agreed that very few students enjoy oil company scholarships. Contrary to the former response, 2(4%) disagreed. Thus, the results confirms item six. It also revealed that the number of scholarship awarded by oil companies to ONELGA students are very few in spite of their excessive profit and the clarion calls on the private sector to encourage education.

Item 8 was designed to find out if the amount paid for each student on company scholarship per annum very well covers their tuition, books and lodging. The study revealed that 4(8%) strongly agreed that the amount paid very well covers the tuition, books and lodging of the recipients and 7(14%) agreed. While 18(36%) and 21(42%) strongly disagree and disagree respectively. From this result it could be adduced that the amount paid to student on company scholarship hardly satisfy their books and lodging demands. Since this is not reviewed in accordance with current economic trends, the amount may have been found inadequate because of the galloping inflations in the country.

Item 9 aimed to find out if oil companies have been able to contribute in the erection of structures in the schools. The result exposed to view that 1(2%) strongly agreed, 10(20%) agreed, while 18(36%) responses strongly disagreed and 21(42%) disagreed. This finding here shows that the oil companies have not done much in this direction. Though, they may have built structures in some schools, the contributions so far are very much insignificant.

Item 10 was designed to find out if the post primary schools in ONELGA do receive aids in form of donations in cash, forms, sports equipment and science equipment from oil companies operating in the area revealed that 2(4%) strongly agreed, 8(16%) agreed, and 18(36%) strongly disagreed, while 22(44%) disagreed. This statistics evidenced that there is little or no act of benefaction from the oil companies to post primary schools in ONELGA.

Item 11 confirms if companies use very sophisticated modern technology in drilling and science teachers ought to acquaint themselves of these developments. This item is therefore designed to find out if teachers in this oil producing communities do attend industrial courses in these companies. Of 50 responses, 2(4%) strongly agreed, 26(52%) strongly disagreed and 22(44%) disagreed. From this result, it could be said that teachers do not attend such industrial courses. There is no doubt that this will keep the students ignorant of recent developments in science and technology.

On item 12, the purpose of this item is to find out if the oil companies that dominate economic activities in ONELGA do encourage the study of special subjects such as computer science, geology, mining, physics, chemistry and other technical subjects in post primary schools in the area. The result depicts that 3(6%) of the respondents agreed, 27(54%) strongly disagreed, while 20 (40%) disagreed that such gestures exist in the schools. This result shows that the oil industries do not encourage the study of special subjects. This is a clear indication that there is no school/industry relationship in the area.

Item 13 aims to uncover if students in post primary schools in ONELGA do attend seminars, workshops quiz and excursions organized by the companies. To this effect, 2(4%) strongly agreed, 30(60%) agreed, and 8(16%) strongly disagreed, while 8(16%) disagreed. The result shows that actually students in post primary schools in ONELGA do attend seminars, workshops, Quiz and excursions in the operational base of the companies or organized by the companies.

Item 14 is designed to find out if the oil companies do employ the graduates of the post primary schools in ONELGA. Of the 50 responses, 7(14%) agreed, 20(40%) strongly disagreed and 23(46%) disagreed that they do employ the products of secondary schools. This result shows that the oil companies do not employ the graduates of secondary schools and/or the indigenes into the lower cadre offices. The inability of these companies to keep to the Federal Government Policy on employment of officers of grades level 01 to 06 has been a major cause of host communities' hostility.

Item15 aims to find out if the oil companies in the course of exploration and exploitation generate a large decibel of noise. The results make public that 15(30%) strongly agreed, 20(40%) agreed, while 4(8%) strongly disagreed and 11(22%) disagreed that the noises generated by these companies do affect learning in schools. Based on this result, the noise generated by oil operations disturbs and inhibits learning. The students who are constantly exposed to this noise may suffer hearing impairment at a later age.

Item 16 is designed to find out whether the presence of these oil companies in ONELGA has increased juvenile delinquency among students or youths in the area. Statistical analysis shows that

32(64%) strongly agreed, 11(22%) agreed; 4(8%) strongly disagreed; 3(6%) disagreed respectively. This data shows that there has been an increasing wave of juvenile delinquency among students/youths in ONELGA as a result of the presence of the oil companies. Crimes such as drug abuse, smoking, prostitution, unwanted and early pregnancy, truancy in school, stealing etc, are very much common among students in the area. The multi-national and multi-tribal nature of the companies has ushered in different cultures, social behaviours and crimes which are alien in the areas.

Item 17, this item has to do with the health of students. It is to find out if students suffer illness that can be attributed to environmental pollution. Out of the 50 responses, 12(24%) strongly agreed; 20(40%) agreed, 4(8%) strongly disagreed, while 14(28%) disagreed. The result shows that students do suffer illness attributed to environmental pollution.

Item 18 is presented to find out if school building experience cases of leakage as a result of gas flaring. The out-come of the data revealed that 27(54%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 15(30%) agreed, that gas flaring cause leakage of school building' roofs. Against this view were 3(6%) who strongly disagreed and 5(10%) who disagreed. This findings shows that gases flared by oil companies causes the corrosion of corrugated iron sheets used in roofing the buildings and eventually bring about leakages.

Item 19 offers to find out if there are measures taken by the oil companies to minimize the effects of their operations on the people/students within their areas of operation. Data showed that 1(2%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 7(14%) agreed, 28(56%) disagreed, while 14(28%) strongly disagreed that measures have been taken to minimize the hazards of oil exploration and exploitation on the people. This result asserts that little or nothing has been done by the oil companies to minimize the effects of their operations on the people/students of ONELGA.

Item 20 aims to establish if oil companies have never done anything to improve the lot of the people. Therefore, this item has been drawn to find out if the oil companies' contributions are commensurate to the oil they explore from the area. The results depicts that 6(12%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 30(60%) strongly disagreed; while 14(28%) disagreed. The result shows that, the contributions of the oil companies, are insignificant compared to the oil exploration and exploitation in the areas.

Table 2: Respondents Answers to the dependent variables

	Variables	SA	A	D	SD
1	The presence of oil companies in ONELGA is a blessing.	5 (10%)	29 (58%)	5 (10%)	11 (22%)
2	The companies have done a lot in the development of ONELGA.	2 (4%)	6 (12%)	16 (32%)	26 (52%)
3	The companies' operations have had some adverse effect on the people landscape and economy of ONELGA.	32 (64%)	12 (24%)	3 (6%)	3 (6%)
4	The oil companies maintain an impressive cordial and progressive relationship with the communities/ schools.	-	8 (16%)	20 (40%)	22 (40%)
5	The secondary schools in ONELGA have had a lot of benefits from the oil companies.	1 (2%)	4 (4%)	23 (46%)	22 (44%)
6	A large number of students from ONELGA enjoy oil company scholarships.	1 (2%)	9 (18%)	16 (32%)	24 (48%)
7	Very few students enjoy oil company scholarships.	23 (46%)	25 (50%)	-	2 (4%)
8	The account paid very well covers tuition, books and lodging of the recipient.	4 (8%)	7 (14%)	18 (36%)	21 (42%)
9	The oil companies have built some structures in your school.	1 (2%)	10 (20%)	18 (36%)	21 (42%)
10	The companies do make donations in cash, forms, sports equipment and science equipment.	2 (4%)	8 (16%)	18 (38%)	22 (44%)
11	Science teachers in your school do attend industrial courses in these oil companies.	2 (4%)	-	26 (52%)	22 (44%)
12	The oil companies do encourage the students to study special	-	3	27	20

	subjects such as computer, science, Geology, physics, chemistry and other technical subjects in your school.		(6%)	(54%)	(40%)
13	Your students do attend seminars, workshops quiz and excursions to the operational haze of the companies or organizes by them.	2 (4%)	30 (60%)	8 (16%)	8 (16%)
14	The oil companies do employ some of the students who passed out from your school.	-	7 (14%)	20 (40%)	23 (46%)
15	The noise generated by these oil companies do affect learning in your school.	15 (30%)	20 (40%)	4 (8%)	11 (22%)
16	The presence of these companies has increased juvenile delinquency among students.	32 (64%)	11 (22%)	4 (8%)	3 (6%)
17	Students suffer illness attributed to environmental pollution by medical officers.	12 (24%)	20 (40%)	4 (8%)	14 (28%)
18	Your school building experience cases of leakages as a result of gas flaring.	27 (54%)	15 (30%)	3 (6%)	5 (10%)
19	Measures have been taken by the oil companies to minimize the effects of their operations on the people/students areas of operations.	1 (2%)	7 (14%)	28 (56%)	14 (28%)
20	The contributions are commensurate to the oil they remove from the area.	6 (12%)	-	30 (60%)	14 (28%)

## CONCLUSION

The theme of this study is the impact of the concentration of oil companies on post primary schools in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni local government area. The impacts were viewed from the environmental, economic and social perspectives in general. The school as a microcosm of society has shared these general impacts. But as an institution, the impacts were viewed in relation to its objectives. So the impacts of the concentration of oil companies on the schools were viewed from the curriculum, resources, moral and financial perspectives, and finally the negative effects.

From the available data the findings revealed that:

- Though the presence of these companies in ONELGA is a blessing, their activities have had a tremendous devastating effect on the people, landscape and economy;
- That the oil companies have given very little or no structural, financial and morale support to schools in the area; and
- That their contributions are so infinitesimal compared to their exploits.

It is hoped that if Elf can implement their resolutions the oil companies should have made a remarkable impact on the development of post primary schools in ONELGA.

In closing, this study wishes to reiterate that no meaningful development can be achieved in the atmosphere of rancor. The oil companies and host communities should see themselves as partners in progress and appreciate each other's problems. Above all, the seminars organized by TOTAL FINA-ELF will create good industry/school relationship in Egi/Ogbaland.

## Recommendations

Education can only be meaningful if it is geared towards developing the individual to enable him/her to face the challenges of his/her environment. It is only when the people from the oil producing areas are giving trainings that can enable them take up appointment with the oil companies that they can fit in very well into the economic activities that dominate their environment (Akoloku, 1981). On this note, this study makes the following suggestions:

- Oil companies should establish school/industry relationship as prevalent in the developed countries. This will enable them influence the schools to get abreast of recent technological development;
- They should equip the science laboratory and workshops of schools in the area;

- They should donate trophies for science competitions;
- The office of the environmental protection Agency should be established in ONELGA;
- The oil companies should ensure efficient radio-active waste management and disposal;
- All the oil companies in the area should build a gas reinjection plant to minimize flaring;
- The oil companies should help in building a standard hospital in Ogbaland since there is none present;
- Compensations should be paid annually for the roofs of buildings to enable the owners to replace them from time to time;
- The oil companies should take stringent measure to check indiscriminate sex and promiscuity among their workers;
- Oil companies should place premium on community relations;
- Noise absorbers or silencers should be used in their plants/generators to minimize noise pollution; and
- The people of Egi/Ogbaland should realize that violence is not the best method to press home their demands. Dialogue, negotiations and other non-violent approaches are appreciable.

It is the optimism of the researcher that if these suggestions are taken seriously, it will in no small measure minimize industry/host community conflicts. However, there is hardly any success without impediments. In course of this work the greatest problems the researcher faced was that of finance and the difficulty in reaching some of the respondents. This revealing study was a wonderful experience.

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