

**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT FOR PEACE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGER DELTA,
NIGERIA: ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
PERSPECTIVE**

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Abstract

Demands for more equitable and privileged treatment by the oil producing minorities of the Niger Delta region as well as struggle by them to redress power imbalances in the country which make them internally colonized people have created conflict and instability in the region. Despite government efforts through the NDDC, the land use Act 1978 (amended 1993), the petroleum Act 1969 (amended) 1991, land Titled vesting Decree 1993, National Inland water ways Authority Decree 1997 etc. and other initiatives engaged over the intractable problem of resource control in the Niger Delta have fail to harmonize existing isolated solutions into workable method for replication. This study therefore, designed a workable template that reflects the harmonization of isolated solution of institutionalized framework (NDDC, Ministry of Niger Delta) activities in physical/human capital development, legally enforced redistribution plan and the declaration of indigenous right for resource control into a conflict management model that will neutralized conflict and ensures regional development. To achieve the aforementioned, the researchers have

outlined four objective for the study which translates to four null hypotheses. The respondents constituted the sample for the study and were selected using stratified random sampling technique from each of the six states; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo, Delta and Rivers States which make up the Niger Delta region. In each State, a substratum was created based on seven social indexes which included: political class, civil servant, organized private sector (Entrepreneur. captains of industries). Non-governmental organizations, Religious Leaders, Traditional Rulers and Youths (Students and Unemployed). Each of the sub-stratum was represented by 50 respondents selected through simple random sampling technique, meaning that three hundred and fifty (350) respondents were selected from each of the six states; hence. Two Thousand one Hundred (2100) respondents constituted overall sample for the study. The instrument adopted for the study, was a Four Point Likert Scale questionnaire called (Conflict Management for peace and sustainable development in Niger Delta (CMPASDIND) Questionnaire. Data collected with the use of the instrument were subjected to inferential statistical analysis which included Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) and Regression Analysis. Findings reveals that all the three (3) independent variables taken together [activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) for special development, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and declaration of indigenes right for resource control] were significant in influencing the variance in the extent of peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.

Keywords: Conflict Management, Peace, Sustainable Development and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Introduction

Background to the Study

The perception of marginalization and balkanization of the peoples of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria and the despoliation of their environment with the resultant conflicts have their roots in the discovery of oil, exploitation, exploration and production activities by the oil multinationals since late 1950s. The Niger Delta, a lush of mangrove swamps, rainforests and swampland is the site of rich oil and natural gas reserves in Nigeria. Oil accounts for about 90 percent of Nigeria's exports and more than 80 percent of Government Revenue. Despite being the richest geographical region in terms of natural resources endowment, the Niger Delta's potential for sustainable development however remains unfulfilled, and is now increasingly threatened by environmental devastation and worsening economic conditions Particularly threatened, almost to extinction are the mangrove forest and the fresh water swamp forest of the

Region, which at 11700 km square are the most extensive in West and Central Africa and serves as the only source of sustenance for the local people.

Compounding this ecological devastation is the political marginalization and total oppression of the people and especially the derailment of their rights including land rights. As a result of gross neglect by both successive Federal Governments and trans-national conglomerates-shell, Gulf, Mobil, Agip, Texaco, Pan Ocean, Ashland, Philips, Tenneco and ELF operating in the region, the people in the region have continued to live with widespread poverty and deaths, complete lack of Socio-economic infrastructure, high rates of crime and unemployment. The Psychological effects of continued victimization and marginalization are underscored in aversions to political leadership and governmental authority, inter-ethnic strife, unmitigated actions of vandalism, aggression and social anomie.

The Niger Delta communities have been protesting the injustices peacefully for decades and have been in the vanguard focusing on the national question as a problem. Notwithstanding the Ogoni uprising from the early 1990s and the consequent execution of Kensingi in November 10, 1995 by the Federal Military Junta; the military invasion of Ijaw communities consequent upon Kiama Declaration and the Odi direct action of 1998 to 1999 marked a new interface of oil politics conflicts in the Niger Delta Region. The conflict has therefore been made complex and worse by the goal blocking behaviours practiced by the parties and the government continued to militarize the area, and suppressing intellectualism. The Locals have now opted for hostage taking, hijacking and kidnapping of oil expatriates and company workers and demanding for ransom, as well as repeated invasion and blockading of oil installations by the militant groups. Despite all these, the multinational companies continue to invest in oil exploration in Niger Delta and have at most times been linked with equipping the security forces for the suppression of Niger Deltans.

The oil companies have refused to vacate the region in spite of the several ultimatums given them by the civil society groups due to the huge profit they derive in the region at the detriment of the indigenes. In all, government wants to continuously maintain the region for revenue purposes hence, the Federal Government of Nigeria have resorted to adopting various conventional spectrum of conflict handling styles ranging from Domination, Avoidance, Accommodation, Collaboration, Compromise, Confrontation/fighting and problem solving approaches, yet these strategies have not yielded the result of providing the necessary peace for continual extraction of surplus value through oil exploration in the Niger Delta region.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to examine the extent to which various conflict management strategies encapsulated in the Equilateral Conflict Resolution (ECR), an Adapted Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model, will assist in bringing the peace required for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. Specifically, the study shall seek to:

1. Examine how institutional framework for special development in Niger Delta region can enhance peace for sustainable development.
2. Assess how legally enforced revenue sharing formulae will encourage peace for sustainable Development.
3. Determine how a declaration of indigenous right for resource control could engender peace for sustainable development.
4. Examine the Combined effect of harmonization of isolated solution of institutional framework, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and indigenous right for resource control (Equilateral Conflict Resolution Model) on neutralization of conflict for peace and sustainable development.

Research Questions

1. How can institutional framework for special development enhance peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delia region?
2. To what extent do legally enforced revenue sharing formulae encourage peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region?
3. How does the declaration of indigenous rights for resource control engender peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region?
4. What are the combine effect of harmonization of isolated solution of institutional framework, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and indigenous rights for resource control (Equilateral Conflict Resolution Model) on neutralization of conflict for peace and sustainable development in the Niger Delta region?

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between activities of institutional framework for special development and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.
2. There is no significant relationship between legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.
3. There is no significant relationship between declaration of indigenous rights for resource control and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.

4. There is no significant combined and relative effect of harmonization of isolated solution of institutional framework, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and indigenous rights for resource control (Equilateral Conflict Resolution Model) on neutralization of conflict for peace and sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.

Theoretical Framework

A professor of law rightly pointed out that the theoretical foundations and concepts that have been responsible for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) developments cannot be overlooked for the reason that the underlying knowledge base provides the essential framework for policy makers and practitioners alike to rely on, when deciding how or whether to use ADR processes or techniques in various dispute settlements (Mwenda, 2006). The authors in this study could not agree with the learned professor more and for that reason, does in the succeeding section, among other things, examine three basic theories that have contributed to shaping the way ADR is today. These are the social system theory, constructivism theory and the frustration-aggression theory.

Social System Theory

Social system theory as propounded by Parsons (1971) asserts that society is a close social system that produces itself and its environment. The theory maintains that observers recursively self-construct everything that is meaningful in the world, beginning with the difference between themselves and their environment.

Constructivism Theory

Constructivism as an approach is a useful theoretical lens in understanding the true essence of things such as collective violence, class, gender, and racial issues, among others, (Searle, 1995). Within this unit, emancipation (security) occurs when the accurate picture (view) of things is understood.

The Frustration-aggression Theory

The psychological theory is found in the works of John Dollard and his associates. This theory postulates that frustration, when it build up, leads to the rising up of suppressed emotions of anger which is often directed against the party considered to be the source of deprivation of satisfaction.

Concept of Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development was first given recognition by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, where it was defined in its report as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts; the concept of "needs", in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the "idea of limitations" imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. The millennium development goals of 2015 as it time frame can also be termed sustainable development goals which reflects the equilibrium between the economical, social, political and environmental sustainability and it include:

1. Poverty Eradication; trying to drastically reduce the number of people living in abject poverty by the year 2015 by reducing the population of those living on less than a dollar a day by half.
2. Universal Education: Achieving universal basic education for all by the year 2015.
3. Gender Equality: Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women by eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2015.
4. Reduced Mortality Rates: reducing infant and child mortality rates by two thirds and maternal mortality rates by three quarters by 2015.
5. Reproductive Health: providing access to reproductive health services to all individuals of appropriate age by 2015.
6. Environment: Implementing national strategies for sustainable development by 2005 to ensure the current loss of environmental resources is reversed globally by 2015. (Oni-Ojo and Roland-Otaru, 2013). Sustainable development strategy may therefore be seen as facilitator for balancing the conservation of nature's resources with the need for industrial and technological development and advancement. Put differently, it connotes the capacity to improve the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystem (Aaggu, 2008).

Peace and Sustainable development

If people can take care of their daily business and send their kids to school without fear of violence, resolve disputes through a functioning justice system when the need arises. express their views both in private discussions and in public processes, feel they can truly contribute to decisions that affect their lives,

and know that effective institutions are in place to deliver basic services to their families and communities without interruption or the need for bribes, chances are they will be broadly content with the way their society is managed (UN, 2016). But, if any one of these public goods is absent, or if their access to safety, health, education or livelihoods is threatened, concerns are likely to be expressed quickly and often very loudly (UN, 2016).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of these public goods as being at the heart of sustainable development. There is a strong focus on peaceful, just and inclusive societies in the 2030 Agenda - and explicit recognition that there can be no peace without sustainable development and no sustainable development without peace (UN, 2016).

Concept of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms

The concept of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is as old as time. Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1621) expressed this concept in the following words, "It is generally better to deal by speech than by letter and by the mediation of a third party than by a man's self. Informal dispute resolution has a long tradition in many parts of the world societies dating back to 12th Century in China, England and America (Roy, 2006). Early advocates of ADR include Abraham Lincoln, himself a gifted trial lawyer to whom is attributed the following exhortation to law students, "Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbours to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often the loser in fees, expenses and waste of time" (Reddy, 2007).

Alternative Dispute Resolution refers to those dispute resolution mechanisms that are used to resolve disputes without necessarily resorting to litigation. Furthermore, it refers to the process of settling disputes without going through legal procedures (Oni-Ojo and Roland-Otaru, 2013). Some forms of ADR like negotiation, mediation and even arbitration are not new, having been used in earlier societies.

Institutional framework for special development in Niger Delta region and Peace for sustainable Development

It would be erroneous to assume that the political demands that have been emanating from this part of the country over time are ignored (Babalola, 2014). Successive governments at the centre have since the country's independence in 1960, put in place certain institutional framework aimed at solving the problem of underdevelopment that has seemingly become a permanent feature of the region (Babalola, 2014). Some of these measures include the establishment of such agencies as the Niger Delta Development Board (NDDDB) in 1960, the Niger

Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA) in 1976, the Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) in 1992, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000, and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs in 2008 (Babalola, 2014).

Most notably, the federal military regime of Ibrahim Babangida (1985-93) increased the financial allocation to the oil-producing states from 1.5% to 3%, and the OMPADEC, which was established by the regime, was to utilize the extra funds to execute some development projects in the region, as well as solve those ecological problems that had arisen from oil exploration (Omotola, 2007). However, the Commission failed to achieve its objectives due to allegations of corruption, mismanagement and in-house squabbles (Omotola, 2007). Similarly, the NDDC, which was established by the first civilian administration in the post-military era headed by Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007), was also charged with the responsibility of facilitating the rapid, even and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically prosperous, socially stable, ecologically regenerative and politically peaceful' (www.nddc.gov.ng; Babalola, 2014).

It is important to note that the NDDC was established as a response to the failure of the OMPADEC, but just like the other agencies before it, it also became a conduit through which a few individuals within the oil-producing region enrich themselves (Babalola, 2014). Contracts were said to be awarded, and in most cases, at inflated prices to traditional rulers, retired military officers and other people close to the corridors of power. Additionally, the Commission was embroiled in leadership contest, animosities over which communities produced more oil than others and which communities should benefit more; where development projects were to be sited; appointments of board members, and spread of contract awards, to mention but a few (Osaghae, 2003). Without a doubt, these irregularities and distractions were enough to render the Commission impotent. The NDDC has also been criticized for what seems to be a misplacement of priority (Babalola, 2014).

Another way the Nigerian central government responded to the plight of the people of Niger Delta region was through the creation of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. The ministry was created in September 2008 during the late Yar Adua's administration (2007- 2010) ostensibly to support the developmental efforts of the central government and that of the multinational oil corporation in the region. According to the presidency, the effort was the latest attempt by the Government to find an answer to the myriad of problems ranging from

environmental degradation to poverty and unemployment, facing the people of the area.

Legally Enforced Revenue Sharing Formulae/Resource Control and Peace for Sustainable Development

One area of conflict remains the inequity attendant on the dynamics between oil production and revenue sharing (Tonwe, Ojo and Aghedo, 2012). The Nigerian state has, at one time or another, unleashed maximum brutality on the campaigners of resource control and a favourable revenue allocation formula in the Niger Delta (Babalola, 2014). How to ensure equity and justice in the distribution of oil rents has been highly controversial and conflictual (Babalola, 2014). Some revenue-sharing commissions established to address the issue included the Phillipson Commission of 1946, Hicks Commission of 1951, Chicks Commission of 1953, Raisman Commission of 1958, Binns Commission of 1964, Okigbo Commission of 1979, Aboyade Technical Committee of 1977, and in 1988 the Babangida administration set up the National Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission which since then has been performing the responsibility of revenue mobilization and sharing in Nigeria (Sagay 2004).

The formula for revenue sharing remains problematic. However, agitation for equitable revenue allocation by Niger Delta groups is producing positive results (Babalola, 2014). They claimed as success the increased revenue from three percent revenue sharing formula to 13 percent in 1999 that became operational in 2000. Between 1999 and 2007, the Niger Delta states of Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom and Rivers ranked first, third, fourth and fifth respectively as the largest recipients of federal government revenue allocations.

However, it is noteworthy to say that the massive increase in the revenue of these states has not transformed the socio-economic well-being of the ordinary people who have continued to wallow in poverty, and the region has continued to remain underdeveloped (Babalola, 2014). Therefore, it seems reasonable to suggest that the main factor responsible for the gross underdevelopment of the Niger Delta area is not about the proportion of the centrally generated oil revenue going to the area or a lack of ability to control resources, but about how the funds allocated have been utilized (Babalola, 2014).

The Equilateral Conflict Resolution (ECR) Model

The Equilateral Conflict Resolution (ECR), an alternative dispute resolution model, involves a unanimous tripartite pattern of checks and balances aimed at settling regional resource control conflicts with distinct, yet interdependent

structural constants. It provides an umbrella for interest definition between the stakeholders. It is anticipated that the model shall become useful and amenable in adaptability for resolving many regional resource conflicts as conflict variables apply. The ECR will provide the plan for the type of data to be collected, instrument to use and research questions to address.

Methodology

Design of the Study

The study adopted a survey research design. It involved the use of questionnaire to obtain opinion from the respondents on the variables investigated.

Sample/Sample Size

Stratified random sampling technique was adopted for the selection of sample for the study. Each of the six states constituted a stratum and within each state, a substratum was created based on social indexes which included political class, civil servants, organized private sector (entrepreneur, captains of industries), non-governmental organization, Religious leaders, traditional rulers and youths (students and unemployed), Each of the social indexes was represented by 50 respondents selected through simple random sampling technique. This means that each state was represented by three hundred and fifty(350) respondents and the six (6) states in the Niger Delta were represented by two thousand one hundred (2100) respondents as sample.

Setting/Study Location

The study was conducted in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Niger Delta Region comprises of the present Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers States. The region has been the foremost economic resource generator for the Nigeria State since 1956 when Crude Oil was first struck at Oloibiri in Bayelsa State. It is estimated that over 900 billion USD has accrued to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from sales of Crude Oil for over 50 years of exploration.

Protocol

The instrument for data collection in the study was a four point Likert scale questionnaire, code named "Conflict Management for Peace and Sustainable Development in NigerDelta (CMPASDIND)" questionnaire. This instrument was subdivided into two sections. Section A sought information on respondents bio data while section B was subdivided into four parts. These four parts consisted of

*Conflict Management for Peace and Sustainable Development in Niger Delta, Nigeria:
Alternative Dispute Resolution Perspective*

information that assisted the researchers to accept and/or reject the four null hypotheses raised to guide the study. The instruments were administered through face to face contact.

Analysis Plan

Data collected through the use of CMPASDIND Questionnaire was subjected to inferential statistical analysis which included, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) and Regression analysis.

Results and Discussions

Analysis on Relationship between Activities of Institutional Framework for Special Development and Peace for Sustainable Development in Niger Delta Region.

Table 1: Summary of Correlation Analysis on the Relationship between Activities of Institutional Framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) put in place by Government for Special Development and peace for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	r-critical	P.value
Remark						
Institutional Framework	2100	35.21	2.92	0.291	0.194	0.05
Peace	2100	23.69	2.97			

Source: Computed from Field Survey, 2018

Table 1 above shows the result of correlation analysis that was adopted to determine if there is any significant relationship between activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) put in place by government for special development and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. The table reveals that there is a positive relationship between activities of institutional framework put in place by government for special development and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. This means that as activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) is going up (Mean = 35.21), peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region is increasing (M = 23.69). The table also showed that the relationship is statistically significant $r = 0.291$, $P < 0.05$, $R^2 =$

0.0846, explaining that only 8.46% of the variation in the peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region can be attributed to activities of institutional framework.

Discussion

Findings on table 1 above reveals that there is a positive relationship between activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) put in place by government for special development and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. This means that if the institutions increase the rate at which they sincerely and effectively implement their programmes and projects, it will go a long way to engender peace and sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. Greater number of the people of the Niger Delta region, sampled for the study, have agreed that, for there to be peace and sustainable development in the region; All stakeholders including religious leaders, private sector practitioners, students and unemployed youths should always be involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and supervision of NDDC sponsored projects and programmes, that NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta should ensure significant improvement in education (through the provision of scholarship), health and skills acquisition programmes for youth employment in the Region; NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta should build people's confidence in them and attract other stakeholders by being more transparent and more accountable in all their activities, that NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta should set up an independent monitoring team comprising all stakeholders as well as Chief Security Officers (CSOs) and development partners which will serve as an oversight mechanism on their activities, NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta should initiate and implement capacity building for specific groups such as women and youth to facilitate their role in peace- building in the Region, NDDC and Ministry of Niger Delta should ensure effective implementation of the amnesty initiative to mention but a few.

Analysis on Relationship between Legally Enforced Revenue Sharing Formulae and Peace for Sustainable Development in Niger Delta Region

Table 2: Summary of Correlation Analysis on the Relationship between Legally Enforced Revenue Sharing Formulae and Peace for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	r-critical	P.value
Remark						

*Conflict Management for Peace and Sustainable Development in Niger Delta, Nigeria:
Alternative Dispute Resolution Perspective*

Sharing	2100	23.82	2.63	0.342	0.194	0.05
significant Formulae						
Peace	2100	23.69	2.97			

Source: Computed from Field Survey, 2018

Table 2 above shows the result of correlation analysis that was adopted to determine if there is any significant relationship between legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. The table reveals that there is a positive relationship between legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. This means that as legally enforced revenue sharing formulae is going up (Mean = 23.82), peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region is going up (M = 23.69). The table also showed that the relationship is statistically significant $r = 0.342$, $P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.1169$; explaining that only 11.69% of the variation in the peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region can be attributed to legally enforced revenue sharing formulae.

Discussion

The analysis that was done to determine if there is any significant relationship between legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region reveals that there is a positive relationship between legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. The respondents were of the opinion that peace and sustainable development can only thrive in the Niger Delta if, oil derivation issue is given greater prominence than how it is presently. They claimed that for there to be peace in the region, there should be an increment of the derivation from 13% to 25% in the interim, with gradual increment to 50% over a five-year period; that the derivation principle should be applicable to all accruable revenues except VAT; that legal proceeding that are affordable and more interested in enforcing legal rights in revenue allocation in the interest of the parties involved should ensue; that stringent measures should be taken to ensure that oil companies carry out stipulated corporate social responsibilities to their host communities/compensate adequately the host communities for oil spillage and properties acquired among other things.

Analysis on Relationship between Declaration of Indigenous Rights for Resource Control and Peace for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta Region

Table 3: Summary of Correlation Analysis on the Relationship between Declaration of Indigenous Rights for Resource Control and Peace for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r-value	r-critical	P.value
Remark						
Resource Control	2100	30.16	3.43	0.534	0.194	0.05
Peace	2100	23.69	2.97			

Source: Computed from Field Survey, 2018

Table 3 above shows the result of correlation analysis that was adopted to determine if there is any significant relationship between declaration of indigenous rights for resource control and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. The table reveals that there is a positive relationship between declaration of indigenous rights for resource control and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. This means that as indigenous rights for resource control increases (Mean = 30.16), peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region is going up (M=23.69). The table also showed that the relationship is statistically significant $r = 0.534$, $P < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.2851$, explaining that 28.52% of the variation in the peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region can be attributed to declaration of indigenous rights for resource control.

Discussion

In the same vein, finding reveals that there is a positive relationship between declaration of indigenous rights for resource control and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. This also indicates that the more rights the indigenes of the region have over their resources, the more there will be peace in the region. The respondents unanimously affirmed that for there to be peace and sustainable development in the region, Section 251(1) of the 1999 Constitution should be amended so as to give powers to the states to legislate on matters relating to mines and minerals including oil fields, oil mining, geological

*Conflict Management for Peace and Sustainable Development in Niger Delta, Nigeria:
Alternative Dispute Resolution Perspective*

surveys/ natural gas; they said that the land use decree as entrenched in the 1979 constitution which ceded all the land in the federation to the Federal government should be reverse to indigenous right; they also agreed that there should be a clear affirmation of the rights of the people of oil-producing communities to actively participate in the management, control marketing of the resources in their communities. This finding corroborates the report of Charles (2015) who reported that the agitation for resource control started in the 1990s and was spear-headed by the later environmentalist, Ken Saro-Wiwa under the umbrella of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). He further noted that environment and social Justice for the people of the Niger Delta remains a central issue, for achieving peace in the region. It is now believed that the survival of the large number of Niger Delta communities is now depended on the ability to establish their entitlement in local resources.

Analysis on Combined and Relative Effect of Harmonization of Isolated Solution of Institutional Framework, Legally Enforced Revenue Sharing Formulae and Indigenous Rights for Resource Control (Equilateral Conflict Resolution Model) on Neutralization of Conflict for Peace and Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta Region.

Table 4: Determinants of Peace for Sustainable Development in the Niger Delta

S/N	Variables (Linear)	Coefficients
1.	Activities of institutional Framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta for Special Development (X_1))	0.1108*** 5.521 0.020
2.	Legally Enforced Revenue Sharing Formulae (X_2)	0.088*** 4.134 0.024
3.	Declaration of Indigenous Rights For Resource Control (X_3)	0.457*** 21.898 0.018

Constant	5.445
R	0.553
R ²	0.306
Standard error of Estimate	2.476
F-value	308.573
Significant	0.000

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Note: Values in the middle represents t-values while values in the last parenthesis represent Standard error. * Significant at 1% level of significant**

Table 4 showed that all the three (3) independent variables taken together activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) for special development, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and declaration of indigenous right for resource control were significant in influencing the variance in the extent of peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region, $R = 0.553$. The table also indicated that 30.6% variance constitute the extent of contributing to peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region was accounted for by the three (3) independent variables/determinants. The joint influence of these independent variables/determinants on peace for sustainable development was also statistically and highly significant at $F = 308.573$; $P < 0.01$. A critical examination of the Beta coefficients for relative effects showed on the table reveals that coefficient of X_1 [Activities of Institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) for Special Development] is 0.1108. This means that a unit increase in activities of institutional framework increases peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region by 0.1108 units. The coefficient of X_2 (legally enforced revenue sharing formulae) is 0.088. This means that a unit increase in legally enforced revenue sharing formulae will raise the extent of peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region by 0.088 units. The coefficient of X_3 (declaration of indigenous right for resource control) is 0.457. This means that a unit increase in indigenous right for resource control will raise the extent of peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region by 0.457 units.

Discussion

A combined activities of harmonization of isolated solution of institutional framework, legally enforced revenue, enforced sharing formulae and indigenous rights for resource control which constitute Equilateral Conflict Resolution Model and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) can be an effective tool for conflict resolution in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. It was Oni-Ojo and Roland-Otaru, (2013) that observed that through ADR, settlement of disputes can be done in many formal and informal ways. He maintained that dispute resolution can be initiated in two ways either by peaceful means or by use of force. The peaceful means implies using alternative ways such as dialogue, negotiation or third party intervention instead of using force or aggressive measures to resolve a dispute. This study has proven that the application of ECR is a sure peaceful approach to resolving the Niger Delta crises as well as ensuring that developments activities in the region are sustainable. It has shown that activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) for special development, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and declaration of indigenous right for resource control put together and properly implemented can be very effective in enthroning and sustaining peace and development in the region.

With the implementation of ECR, it is expected that the institutions will embark upon physical and human capital development while compensating communities and States for environmental and ecological deprivations resulting from the processes of crude oil exploration and decades of systemic deprivation, it is expected that Legally Enforced Revenue Sharing Formulae (LERSF) shall consider an equitable standard revenue distribution formula to indigenous states (e.g., 33% Derivation principle that is subject to periodic review upon prevailing economic and social indicators), also the DIRRC (Declaration of Indigenous Rights for Resource Control) when implemented is expected in the ECR model to optimally include all pro-active indigenous groups in the region within its Standing Committee. Participation in the declaration should be consensus as opposed to election or appointments sponsored by the Federal government. The ECR model recommends that drafting of principles of the declaration should be based upon utilization of non- governmental organizations (NGO's) and individuals.

Summary of the Findings

The major findings in this study are summarized as follows:

- Finding reveals that there is a positive relationship between activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) put in place by government for special development and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.
- Results also reveal that there is a position relationship between legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.
- Findings further reveals that there is a positive relationship between declaration of indigenous rights for resource control and peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region.
- It was also found in the study that all the three (3) independent variables taken together [activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) for special development; legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and declaration of indigenous rights for resource control] were significant in influencing the variance in the extent of peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. That a unit increase in activities of institutional framework increases peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region by 0.1108 units; a unit increase in legally enforced revenue sharing formulae will raise the extent of peace for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region by 0.088 units and that a unit increase in indigenous right for resource control will raise the extent of peace for sustainable development in Niger Delta region by 0.457 units.

Conclusion

The study examined the extent to which various conflict management strategies encapsulated in Equilateral Conflict Resolution (ECR), an Adapted Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model, will assist in bringing the peace required for sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. Specifically, the study examined the combined and relative effect of harmonization of isolated solution of institutional framework, legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and indigenous rights for resource control (Equilateral Conflict Resolution Model) on neutralization of conflict for peace and sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. The study has proven that the application of ECR is a sure peaceful approach to resolving the Niger Delta crises as well as ensuring that developments activities in the region are sustainable. It is therefore logical to conclude in this study that the activities of institutional framework (NDDC, PTDF and Ministry of Niger Delta) for special development legally enforced revenue sharing formulae and declaration of indigenous rights for resource

control if put together and properly implemented can be very effective in enthrone and sustaining peace and development in the Niger Delta region.

Recommendations

- The provision of basic infrastructure in the Niger Delta is a sine-qua-non for sustainable development in the region. Government should see to that.
- In order to stem the tide of agitation for absolute and total resource control, the principle of derivation should be reviewed from the current 13 to 50% and the on-shore off-shore dichotomy eliminated. The off-shore waters and continental shelf are the legitimate farmlands of the littoral communities and this fact should be acknowledged and respected.
- The multinational companies in the region should be encouraged to assist government in the technical training of those granted amnesty and other youths in the region in order to enhance their employability. These in our belief are the panacea in resolving the Niger Delta conflict through the instrumentality of the amnesty programme.
- Resource control in the form of a concerted effort to replace lost means of livelihood with other sources of livelihood such as establishment of industries (cottage, agro allied or manufacturing), encouragement of entrepreneurship development through provision of easy access to loan are better policy option for government and other agencies in the region to pursue, rather than the increase in petroleum revenue allocation which ends up in the pockets of politicians.
- From this study, the researches commonly believe that there is a yawning communication gap between the government and the people; therefore government needs to bridge this gap and thereby ensure receipt of early warning signals from flashpoints before they degenerate into full blown conflicts. Government should be proactive to conflict issues.

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*Conflict Management for Peace and Sustainable Development in Niger Delta, Nigeria:
Alternative Dispute Resolution Perspective*

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