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Implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility by Oil Companies in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: Myth or Reality

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Abstract

Niger Delta region of Nigeria is a home to many multinational oil companies with different packages of corporate social responsibility (CSR) because of its huge natural resource reserve especially of oil and gas. The CSR packages are designed to address social, economic and environmental concerns of the indigenes of the Niger Delta region, arising from the oil and gas operations of the multinational oil companies. The operational activities of the oil companies over the years have led to the degradation of the Niger Delta environment with consequent loss of livelihood sources, thereby triggering protests and other violent activities in the region. The paper identified and analysed the indices of the components of the CSR (social, economic and environmental components) packages using results-based management framework to determine the impacts of the CSR projects and programmes on the people. The analysis revealed that multinational oil companies release funds from a philanthropic perspective for the execution of some social development projects/programmes, but these projects/programmes do not address the welfare and livelihood needs of the people. This means that the multinational oil companies operating in the region create an illusion of compliance with social development and responsibility rules. The paper linked these unfortunate situations (environmental degradation, insecurity, poverty, unemployment, etc) found in the region today to failure of CSR implementation due to corruption, insincerity and philanthropic approach of the oil companies and regard it as injustice to the people of Niger Delta. It therefore concluded that CSR implementation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is a myth and as a result recommended that Multinational oil companies should therefore incorporate the people of the Niger Delta into the oil economy by enlisting household heads into the payroll system of the multinational oil companies as well as engage sincerely in projects that will lead to the development of the region, if protests and other violent activities in the region must stop.

Key Words: Implementation, Corporate social responsibility, Environmental Resources, Niger Delta, Multinational Oil Companies

Introduction

Niger Delta is situated in the south of Nigeria and centres on the natural delta of the River Niger. It is a low-lying region within the continental shelf of the Atlantic Ocean in the Southern part of Nigeria. Its ecology is characterised by a large area of floodplain which is built up as a result of deposition and accumulation of sediments washed down for over 100 million years from the Benue and Niger Rivers (Francis, Lapin & Rossiasco, 2011). According to Oghifo (2011), Niger Delta is Nigeria's largest wetland region and is the third largest wetland in the world covering over 70,000 square kilometers south of the Niger. Oghifo (2011) revealed that the region is characterized by extensive interconnectivity of creeks, deltaic tributaries, flood plains, mangrove swamps and other coastal features. He went further to reveal that the region has been declared a key zone for the conservation of the Western Coast of Africa on the basis of its highly rich oil and gas resources and extraordinary biodiversity. It harbours a large reserve of oil and gas, family and species of wildlife and fascinating variety of fishes and birds. To Tamuno (2011), Niger Delta officially stretches from the Benin River in the West to the Old Calabar River in the East.

Socially, Niger Delta is made up of over 40 ethnic groups and a population of about 32 million people. The ethnic groups in the region include Ijaw, Urhobo, Itsekiri, Igbo, Yoruba, Isoko, Ibibio, Efik, Annang, Oron, Efik, Okrika, Kalabari, Ikwerre, Bini, Ukwuanietc with Ijaw as the largest. Because of its economic viability, people from other ethnic groups and States of the country migrate into it in search of greener pastures. It is politically made up of all the six States of the South-South geopolitical region of Nigeria which are Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers; two States from the South-East geopolitical region of Nigeria which are Abia and Imo States and one State from South-West geopolitical region of Nigeria which is Ondo State. But, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States are referred to as "Core" Niger Delta States by some political leaders on the argument that issues of neglect and ecological pollution are most pronounced in these States than others. Niger Delta connotes South-South region of Nigeria to many involved in this debate of definition.

Economically, the region is the most sensitive nerve-centre of Nigeria's economy due to its boundary with the Atlantic Ocean from the south (Tamuno, 2011). It is economically viable because it houses many natural resources that are explored, exploited and exported out of the country. Such resources include palm produce (palm oil and kernel) and currently the crude oil and associated and non-associated gas. It is these characteristics of the region that made Alamieyeseigha in Tamuno (2011) referred to it as the 'Canaan' of Nigeria- 'a land flowing with milk and honey' and the 'California' of Nigeria- 'the keeper of the well-being of our dear country'. Nwaokugha (2015) also described it as the 'key' to Nigeria's economic

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prosperity. Presently, the revenue generated from the region through crude oil and natural gas exploration and production constitutes 95% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. These characteristics made it a centre of attraction, thereby attracting many industries and human beings, hence making it a beehive of activities ranging from industrial, manufacturing, construction, trading, agricultural activities, etc.

These attractive characteristics, one would have assumed should have also made it a centre of attraction in terms of sustainable development strides, including human and infrastructural development and services. The amount of revenue generated in the region is not reflected in the region in terms of its development. This is confirmed by Human Rights Watch (1999) as they argued that changes in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria are not as profound as those among the previously uncontacted peoples of the Amazon rainforest living in areas where oil has been discovered. Oil and gas resources in the Niger Delta are explored and produced by oil companies which are mainly multinational in origin.

Socio-Economic Conditions in Niger Delta

Natives of Niger Delta are predominantly farmers and fisherfolks. A few of them engage in petty trading. This makes them to derive their livelihood from the water bodies (rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, etc) and forest vegetation. The water bodies provide water for drinking and seafoods such as fishes, shrimps, oysters, snails, crabs, periwinkles, etc which the natives harvest, process, eat and sell to earn a living. The forest vegetation provides the natives with wild fruits, games, snails, palm and raffia wine from which they also earn their living. They also cultivate some upland part of the vegetation to produce crops such as yams, cocoyam, cassava, corn, groundnut, plantain, sugarcane to earn a living. Human Rights Watch (1999 p88) highlights the relevance of forest to the native of Niger Delta thus:

> The forests of the Niger Delta of all types provide important sources of food and income to local communities. Mangrove has over seventy major uses: non-timber forest products collected from the mangrove forests include medicines, dyes, thatching, and food species as diverse as monkeys or periwinkles. In the freshwater swamp forests, raffia palm, mango, ogbono (bush mango; a common food ingredient in the local diet and sold across Nigeria), land snails, and other products are all significant. Destruction of "undeveloped" forest is thus as important to local communities as destruction of cultivated land.

The natives enjoyed the natural environment and all the resources and services it provided until the discovery of oil and gas and operational activities engaged by the multinational oil companies. Operational activities of the multinational oil companies are prospecting, exploration, drilling, production, storage, refining and transportation. These operational activities at one stage and the other involve vegetation clearing, dynamiting, gas flaring, and discharge of untreated effluents into the rivers or creeks. Sometimes, oil spills on swampy vegetation, land, creeks and rivers.

These activities have had devastating effects on both the environment and natives of the Niger Delta. Such effects include among others: degradation and depletion of water and coastal resources, land degradation or pollution, air, noise and light pollution, biodiversity depletion, lack of clean and drinking water, cracks on buildings, acid rain with its associated corrosion of roof sheets, poor agricultural output, poor fish catch and loss of other sea foods, loss of economic trees, deposit of black soot, health issues such as eye and respiratory problems etc. The summary effect is loss of livelihood sources with loss of local economy, unemployment

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and poverty as multiplier effects. These overwhelming effects of the devastation caused through these activities by the multinational oil companies made Ken Saro Wiwa to accuse multinational oil companies especially Shell of waging an ecological warfare against the region and its inhabitants while others see it as a rape of the Niger Delta environment and environmental holocaust (Awhefeada, 2017).

This declaration was made out of the conviction that oil generates a lot of wealth which does not trickle down to the natives who bear the burden of operational activities leading to its production. To buttress this view, Francis, Lapin and Sossiasco (2011) stated that “few regions in the world have been as unfortunate as Nigeria’s oil rich Niger Delta. The Delta’s abundant natural wealth stands in stark contrast to its palpable underdevelopment.” This conviction stimulated a sense of injustice which led to the emergence of some groups, such as Movement for the survival of Ogoni People led then by Ken Saro Wiwa which demanded for the development of the region especially the Ogoni with wealth generated from the region. Agitations for environmental justice championed by this group precipitated into violence which to the death of many people especially the well-publicised Ogoni nine (9) who were hanged by the then Late General Abacha’s Junta. The return of democracy in 1999 re-awakened the demand for environmental justice from a resource control perspective. Demand from this perspective was championed by the then governors of Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States. Resource control according to Udoidem (2006) “is a process by which host communities of resources and those with technological expertise in exploration and exploitation mutually contribute to the resource management process”. At the height of the controversy associated with resource control, Udoidem (2006, p.59) clarified thus:

> Resource control is not about being given all the money that has accrued from the oil and gas industry. It simply means being part of the process and being fully aware of, and informed about what happens to the resources from the immediate environment: the production and marketing procedures and how the money is accounted.

In the midst of the resource control controversy, more violent and militant groups emerged. They in addition to resource control, demanded for right to self-determination in the region. The militant groups adopted violence as a strategy towards the expression of their grievances due to decades of development neglect and injustice of not benefiting from their own resources while they bear the brunt of negative consequences of the operational activities of multinational oil companies. As a result, they indulge in oil bunkering and refining which they sell to the local people. In some cases, they sell to international buyers and helped to escorts the oil tankers out of Nigeria’s waterways having acquired sophisticated weapons with which they do so. When confronted, a leader of one of the militant groups (Niger Delta Peoples’ Volunteer Force), Alhaji Mujihad Asari Dokubo defended his activities and frowned at being regarded as an illegal oil bunkerer. According to Tamuno in Mbalisi and Okorie (2016, p.35), Asari Dokubo declared thus:

> I am not an illegal oil bunkerer. I am taking what belongs to my people and giving it back to them. How can petrol sell at N45 per litre in Abuja and Lagos and today in Buguma and Nembe, it is sold at N200 per litre? This same oil I am refining and selling it at N15 per litre in the riverine areas.

The amount of wealth amassed by these militant groups especially their leaders led to the proliferation of more militant groups and recently cult groups who have succeeded in

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establishing different bunkering territories, routes and points in the creeks and along the pipelines from where they sell to their buyers (Naanen & Tolani, 2014). The militants and cult groups also indulge in other crimes such as pipeline vandalism, sea piracy, kidnapping for ransom, killings, etc.

One would sincerely say that the activities of the militant and cult groups have not provided any solution to the neglect and injustice they accused multinational oil companies of. Their activities instead worsened off the situation in the Niger Delta because more devastations have taken place, more people have been made poor, lack of safe drinking water and the people have suffered more injustice because they do not also enjoy the proceeds of the wealth got through illegal oil bunkering by the militant and cult groups while their environment is further degraded and are plunged further into misery and penury. The scenario as it plays out in the Niger Delta region is an example of Hardin's 1968 "tragedy of the commons" which Adeyemo (2008) agreed with while citing overwhelming environmental degradation by way of air, water and land pollution; ecological destruction and massive loss of biodiversity resulting from uncontrolled and unregulated use of common resources. This scenario has plunged the region into Theis and Tomkin's (2012) new "Dark Age" of resource scarcity and chronic conflict. These scenarios are attributed to failure of governance and corporate social responsibility by government and multinational oil companies.

The Concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Corporate social responsibility is a world view which holds that companies in a locality should become part of locality where they operate and contribute towards the development of that locality. The status of their contribution has remained controversial, whether it will be obligatory owing to the fact that they make profit and generate burden that negatively impact on the inhabitants of that locality or it will be voluntary. Following this line of argument Idama (2017) posited that social responsibility rests upon the idea that business should be conducted with concern for the effects of business operations upon the attainment of valued social goals and companies have an obligation to consider society's long-run needs and wants, and that they should engage in activities which promote benefits for society and minimize the negative effects of their actions.

Corporate social responsibility is also seen as a process to integrate social, environmental, ethical, human rights and consumer concerns into business operations in close corporation with the stakeholders (European Commission, 2011). Melanie (2009) identified features of corporate social responsibility to include:

1. CSR is voluntary. That is companies are not mandated by any law to undertake any responsibility. It therefore goes beyond legal compliance.
2. CSR focuses on the triple bottom line, which means that economic, social and environmental impacts are integrated.
3. CSR is applied to core business activities, not only as an add-on to business activities.

Fiel, Haidvogl and Melanie in Melanie (2009) saw CSR as corporate governance contributions, which is defined as sustained corporate policies and activities that work towards the development or implementation of collectively binding norms and rules or the provision of collective goods. This view suggests that companies can take up governance responsibilities in their host communities where government actors have failed as communities would demand compensation, health services, educational opportunities, infrastructure, and socio-economic development directly from companies as surrogates for an absent or neglectful government (Melanie, 2009). This practice serves as a means through which companies acquire a local social license to operate, hence an investment in their future operation (Francis, Lapin & Sossiasco, 2011). Following this position, they described corporate social responsibility as an obligation and one of the costs of doing business and not a philanthropy. Newell and Raynard in Idama (2017) advised multinational oil companies to act responsibly by way of giving back to the society especially in their areas of operation if they must succeed as corporate organisations.

Corporate Social Responsibilities of Multinational Oil Companies in the Niger Delta Region

Nigeria's oil company, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), does not have capacity and indigenous expertise to develop Nigeria's oil reserve. The federal government contracts oil production with international oil companies, and takes a percentage of the revenue accrued from oil production. This is done through joint ventures with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). The distribution of shares in a joint venture determines the division of investment in all capital projects carried out by the operating company, including exploration, drilling, construction, or environmental improvements; the participating shareholders also jointly own the reserves still in the ground. The multinational companies operate these joint ventures, and take all day-to-day decisions in their management (Human Rights Watch, 1999). Human Rights Watch (1999) identifies six major multinational oil companies, which operate the joint ventures in accordance to their joint venture shares to include:

1. Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC): The joint venture is composed of NNPC (55 percent), Shell (30 percent), Elf (10 percent) and Agip (5 percent) and operates largely onshore on dry land or in the mangrove swamp;
2. Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL): A joint venture between NNPC (60 percent) and Chevron (40 percent) has in the past been the second largest);
3. Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPNU): A joint venture between NNPC (60 percent) and Mobil (40 percent).
4. Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited (NAOC): A joint venture operated by Agip and owned by NNPC (60 percent), Agip (20 percent) and Phillips Petroleum (20 percent);
5. Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited (EPNL): A joint venture between NNPC (60 percent) and Elf (40 percent); and
6. Texaco Overseas Petroleum Company of Nigeria Unlimited (TOPCON): A joint venture operated by Texaco and owned by NNPC (60 percent), Texaco (20 percent) and Chevron (20 percent).

Other foreign oil companies involved in oil exploration and production in Nigeria include B.P, Statoil, Total, Pan Ocean, British Gas, Tenneco, Deminex, and Sun Oil.

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) is used here as a representative of other multinational oil companies operating in the Niger Delta region in the discussion of corporate social responsibilities of the multinationals. The choice of Shell was informed by the following attributes according to Human Rights Watch (1999); Anshaj (2018) and Melanie (2009):

1. Shell is the biggest oil producer in Nigeria with the longest history, dominating the industry for as long as oil has been produced and in the early days enjoying a monopoly and a privileged relationship with government;
2. Shell's facilities are largely in or near inhabited areas and thus exposed to community protests;
3. All the oil companies undertake similar projects as their corporate social responsibilities. Their areas of coverage include health care, education, infrastructure, agricultural development; youth development, economic empowerment and business development; and
4. Shell comes to the mind of everybody first when issues concerning multinational oil companies arises due to its current and historical dominant position in Nigeria.

Shell was given an exclusive right for oil exploration and production in Nigeria in 1937. In 1956, Shell discovered crude oil at Oloibiri in Bayelsa State and began commercial production of oil in 1958 (Human Rights Watch, 1999; Burger, 2011; Anochie & Mgbemena, 2015). Shell has 90 oil fields, 1000 producing wells, 72 flow stations, 10 gas plants and two major oil export terminals in Nigeria. Its networks of flowlines and pipelines extend more than 6,000 kilometers (Burger, 2011). The discovery of oil changed the prosperity narratives of Nigeria as it becomes the major source of Nigeria's wealth, foreign exchange earnings and determines the annual budget of the nation. These advantages are not without a cost. The cost is expressed by Burger (2011 p4) in the following words:

> Exploring and producing oil and gas is a risky business. The benefits of plentiful fuel and power, and the jobs and incomes it provides are substantial. They also come with costs, ones that are not necessarily seen or felt immediately or even during one person's lifetime. They are ultimately economic in nature, but are more completely viewed and appreciated in terms of costs to human and environmental health and safety, and their sustainability.

The prosperity narratives according to Idama (2017) turned into nightmare as socio-economic development expected to be achieved through the oil wealth was exchanged for environmental degradation and consequently, loss of livelihood sources of the oil-bearing communities. This triggered crisis between the oil-bearing communities and multinational oil companies, especially Shell in the Niger Delta region. Attempts towards addressing the problems led to the development of corporate social responsibility initiatives by the multinational oil companies.

Shell developed General Business Principles in 1976 with the current edition revised in 2014, which determines standards for its operations and relationships with its host countries and communities. As part of the Business Principles, Shell claims that it balances short- and long-term interests, integrating economic, environmental and social considerations into business decision-making. To this effect, Shell says that it is her responsibility to give proper regard to health, safety, security and quality environment to society where it operates. Shell went further to declare that "we continually look for ways to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, products and services" and "we manage the social impacts of our business activities carefully and work with others to enhance the benefits to local communities, and to mitigate any negative impacts from our activities."In fulfilling these obligations as enshrined in its General Business Principles, Shell pays all taxes and royalties to Nigeria's Federation Account, contributes 3% of its annual budget to Niger Delta Development Commission

(NDDC), an interventionist agency saddled with the responsibility of ensuring sustainable development of the region.

In addition to this, Shell developed a Social Investment Scheme through which it intervenes in the provision of infrastructure and services to uplift and better the lives of people in the region. The scheme focuses on enterprise development (Shell LiveWIRE which is Shell's flagship youth enterprise development programme that provides training and finance to young people between the ages of 18-35 to start or expand their own businesses); education (cradle-to-career scholarships, university scholarships, school infrastructural development, centres of excellence, professorial share programme, and sabbatical and internship programme); health (health-in-motion community care programme, community health insurance scheme, health care infrastructural development); access to energy (community lighting, power generation, and small-scale grid infrastructure projects); and provision of social infrastructure (water and power supply improvement, construction of market stalls, roads, sanitation and community centres) (Shell, 2018; 2019). Shell in its various reports states that it spent $60.2 million on social investment projects in 2017 and $239 on social investment funds since its inception in 2006.Shell's 2017 Sustainability Report reveals that Shell contributed $109.9 million to Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2017.

These amounts may be huge as quoted, but the question remains if the investments were able to cater for the welfare and livelihood needs of the people of Niger Delta. It is against this background that this study was designed to focus on the extent to which Shell is committed towards the implementation of its social investment scheme as an effort geared towards the achievement of the CSR components of its General Business Principles. This will go a long way in examining and establishing the sincerity of Shell towards the development of the Niger Delta communities and resolving oil-instigated crisis in the region.

Critique of Shell's corporate Social Responsibility Implementation in the Niger Delta Region

This critique is based on data got from rich literature available on the Niger Delta region. Data was got from Shell General Business Principles and other official reports. The authors also depended on their personal engagements, observations and experiences as residents in the region. The authors looked at Shell's expenditure on its social investment scheme through the lens of result-based management (RBM) framework in order to establish the extent to which the social investment scheme is able to cater for the welfare and livelihood needs of the people of Niger Delta.

Results-Based Management (RBM) is used to describe a philosophy that focuses on achieving results. That is, tangible changes. Results-Based Management (RBM) is a management strategy that focuses on performance and the achievement of results (outputs, outcomes and impacts).The aim of RBM is to manage an intervention while trying to ensure its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and other quality criteria.RBM provides a structured, logical model for identifying expected results and the inputs and activities needed to accomplish them (International Council of Red Cross (ICRC), 2008). Basic terminologies in RBM according to UNDP (2000) and International Council of Red Cross (2008) include the following:

1. Inputs are resources required to achieve expected results, e.g experts, equipment, funds, etc;

2. Outputs are the specific products and services which emerge from processing inputs through programme or non-programme activities. Outputs, therefore, relate to the completion (rather than the conduct) of activities (UNDP, 2000) e.g people trained, studies completed, etc;
3. Outcomes are the likely or achieved medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs. Outcomes are the second level of results. You have less control over outcomes than over outputs, but they are essential because they represent the tangible changes you are trying to bring about in your work; and
4. Impacts are the primary and secondary long-term effects of an intervention, be they positive or negative, direct or indirect, intended or unintended. Impacts are the third level of results. They make up the "big picture" of the changes that you are working towards but that your activities alone may not achieve. Impacts represent the underlying goal of your work and justify the intervention.
5. Results are the effects of an intervention. Such effects can be intended or unintended, positive or negative.

In application of this framework to evaluate the impact of Shell's social investment Scheme, we will have the following representations:

1. **Inputs** represent funds released in various years by Shell for social investment schemes, partnering NGOs and international organisations, experts and consultants hired by Shell for trainings in various components of the social investment scheme;
2. **Expected Outputs should include:**
   i. development of water treatment facilities, sinking of boreholes, for regular supply of portable water etc;
   ii. construction of gas and hydro power plants for electricity generation;
   iii. construction of clinics and other health facilities as well as supply of health care materials and equipment;
   iv. construction and renovation of classroom blocks, hostels, libraries and supply of other educational materials such books, pens, desks, tables, as well as award of scholarships etc;
   v. training of indigenes especially youths in various life skills;
   vi. provision of transport facilities and services
3. **Expected Outcomes should include:**
   i. regular supply of portable water;
   ii. regular supply of electricity;
   iii. access to healthcare services;
   iv. access to educational opportunities;
   v. employment generation;

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4. Expected Impacts should include:

i. increased productivity and earnings;

ii. increase family income and nutrition;

iii. improved standard of living;

iv. improved health conditions;

v. improved education and increased literacy rate;

vi. reduction in child mortality;

vii. increase in life expectancy rate;

viii. end of extreme hunger and poverty;

ix. end of oil-related protests and occupation of oil facilities and installations;

x. end of militancy and cultism and their associated criminal activities such as pipeline vandalism, killings, kidnappings, illegal oil bunkering and refining, etc;

xi. improved peace, cohesion and security.

All the funds released by Shell for social investment scheme and other community development programmes should translate into the above expected results. It is disheartening to know that despite the huge amounts released by Shell, these impacts are not felt in the region rather the region is characterised with people in penury, degraded environment, insecurity, illegal oil bunkering and refining, unemployment, high illiteracy rate, poor healthcare services, poor sanitary conditions, lack of drinkable water, etc. This made the region to be seen as a clear definition of the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty. This paradox generates allegations of various degrees against Shell and other multinational oil companies over the implementation of their various socially responsible development initiatives. Shell and other multinational oil companies have been alleged for the following:

i. injustice;

ii. corruption;and

iii. philanthropy.

Allegation of Injustice

Shell and other multinational oil companies are alleged of exploring the oil resources and generating so much wealth from it and as a result destroying the environment thereby destroying the sources of livelihood of the people of the delta without giving them any opportunity of benefiting from the oil wealth. Oil Change International (2017) cited a protester during the first eleven days of Belema Oil Field occupation as saying "we are not benefiting from the region's oil wealth and we want an end to the oil pollution that has ruined much of our land." Another protester was cited as saying "I am a graduate for about eight years without a job. Shell won't employ me despite us having so much wealth in our backyard."Awhefeada (2017) discredited the content of Shell corporate social responsibilities as published in one of the national newspapers. According to him,

> What Shell published as its corporate social responsibility deserves to be pooh-poohed for it is a mere sham to hoodwink the public. Shell has raked in

> uncountable trillions in dollars since it struck oil in the Niger Delta six decades ago. Shell should lead the remediation of the Niger Delta environment, build schools and hospitals and roads and provide electricity and give the people all the things that make life worth living as oil producing people as Shell has done in the western World.

In corroboration of Awhefeada's claims, Ebegbulem and Ekpe in Albert, Amaratunga and Haigh (2018) reveal that oil spillages in the unique Niger Delta states cause extensive social underdevelopment which engrosses lack of social amenities, physical infrastructure, piped water, schools, hospitals, and employment opportunities, despite the huge benefit of crude oil product with or without oil spills on the Nigerian national economy. Albert, Amaratunga and Haigh (2018) exclaim that "instead of an increase in social and economic conditions through contributions from the by-products of crude oil, the reverse is the case, as loss of sources of livelihood from the disaster has caused great unemployment."

Allegation of Corruption

Shell has been accused of some practices which was buttressed in the revelation in the Sunday London Times in 1995 of a European Shell Executive who was quoted anonymously by Human Rights watch (1999) as saying "we spent more money on bribes and corruption than on community development projects. Local contractors, often traditional leaders, in turn take their own percentages before passing a share of the benefit of the oil money to their own supporters and so down the chain. A small elite in each oil producing community thus becomes rich and is prepared to tolerate the inconveniences of oil company presence such as environmental pollution for the sake of continued financial gain" (Human Right Watch, 1999). This is the reason Shell is accused of "divide and rule," paying perceived "trouble-makers," and creating elite groups in their host communities in order to have their way and not effectively execute their corporate social responsibilities. This leads to either executing projects which do not conform to the approved specification or abandonment of projects. Christian Aid in Melanie (2009 p19) supports this claim as they reveal that "corporate development work has had some good results but failed, incomplete and unsustainable projects have become Delta landmarks. White elephants-empty clinics and schools lacking staff are visible throughout the region."Naanem and Tolani (2014) revealed in their study that development projects in the oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta region have either been diverted or abandoned, often as a result of corruption. They maintain that this practice is the source of grouse in the region against Shell and often used to substantiate claims of neglect and justifying hacking of pipelines for self-help. They went further to reveal that581 CSR projects undertaken by Shell between 1992 and 2006 which represent more than 22 percent of the projects they surveyed either failed or were not completed.

Accusation of Philanthropy

Idama (2017) sees Shell's activities in social investment scheme as a philanthropic gesture and not corporate social responsibility since Shell in their various reports posits that they are licensed to operate by the federal government of Nigeria and have complied with all relevant tax laws and other financial obligations to government and their voluntary actions should be seen from the philanthropic consideration. This is further explained by Shell's International Relations Officer as contained in Shell Dialogue Series cited by Burger (2011). The officer says "Shell contributes to the Nigerian economy by generating revenues for government as well as paying taxes and royalties. Shell companies in Nigeria pay a statutory contribution to a regional developmental agency- the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to develop the Niger Delta." This statement is a defense Shell always put forth for not engaging in corporate social responsibilities in the Niger Delta region and it appears in almost every Shell's official document indicating social development activities of Shell. Melanie (2009) concludes his study by stating that "by taking local laws as a point of reference, companies do not voluntarily contribute to governance in the region, though Shell, Staoil and Exxon Mobil have all environmental policies in place but the implementation remains unclear and disputed." This is the reason Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Kogi, Anambra states are among the states that benefitted from Shell's social investment programme as contained in Shell's Social Investment Report of 2019. This justifies the allegation of philanthropism being levelled against Shell and other multinational oil companies operating in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

Conclusion

Protests which started since 1990's and demand for incorporation into the oil economy in lieu of their destroyed sources of local economy are glaring facts that development programmes and projects under social investment scheme of Shell are not accepted by communities as a sufficient compensation for the oil taken from their land and for degradation due to oil exploration and production. OML 25 (Belema) Oil Field is still being occupied by the indigenes of Belema community in Kula Kingdom in Asari Toru L.G.A of Rivers State till today since 2017. The people have demanded that Shell should hand it over to Belema Oil Producing Nigeria Limited, an indigenous company owned by an indigene of that community whom they believed would take care of development of the community through the proceed of oil explored and produced from the community. Niger Delta people believe that multinational oil companies operating in the region have no intention of engaging in the development of the region rather they created elite groups which benefit substantially from the oil wealth while a great mass of the people languish in penury occasioned by the destruction of their livelihood sources through the activities of multinational oil companies. Multinational oil companies should therefore incorporate the people of the Niger Delta into the oil economy by enlisting household heads into the payroll system of the multinational oil companies as well as engage sincerely in projects that will lead to the development of the region. This is the core reason for protests which have become endemic in the region. All the arguments in this paper with their revealing evidences show that Shell and other multinational oil companies engage in philanthropic gestures where they donate money to good causes at the end of their financial years in the name of corporate social responsibility. Therefore, implementation of corporate social responsibility by the multinational oil companies in the Niger Delta Region is a myth and not a reality.

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