

# Presidential Amnesty Programme and Youth Militancy in the Niger-Delta: A Study of Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria

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## Abstract

*This study investigates whether presidential amnesty programme initiated by the federal government of Nigeria has succeeded in reducing the high wave of youth militancy in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria. With the aid of the study objectives, two hypotheses were formulated in the study. A target population of 200 inhabitants of the study area was adopted for the study. The simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were variously applied in the study at different stages. The summation of all the responses was presented using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages, while the chi-square statistical tool was employed to test the hypothesis formulated in the study. The test statistics reveals among others that, presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. The study concludes and recommends among others that, Nigerian government in its magnanimity should uphold and continue to sustain its initiative on presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training to the militant youths in the Niger-Delta as this would accrue to limiting the chances of the youths in indulging in militant activities such as youth piracy.*

**Keywords:** Youth, Amnesty, Militancy, Programme, Presidential

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## Introduction

It is laudable to note that the calamity in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria arising from the actions of the diverse militant groups operating in the region has ushered in some depressing consequences, not only on oil production and other economic activities but also on governance in general (Ejibunu, 2007). Kidnapping and hostage taking of oil expatriate workers in the multinational oil corporations has been the primary target of the militant groups in the Niger-

Delta. The Nigerian economy has been affected due to the hostage taking of expatriate workers by the militants. In addition, security agencies cannot satisfactorily cover up the locations of different oil facilities due to the operations of the militants in the Niger-Delta (Wojuade, 2019). Similarly, Ugor (2013) maintained that the oil income of the multinational oil corporations and the Nigerian government have been impacted due to the armed conflict by the militants. In spite of

government's attempts by means of military options in handling the problem of youth militancy, it proved inadequate. Although a lot of ex-militants had surrendered their weapons in addition to government's investment of huge amount of money in the amnesty programme, situation of things remained the same for the militants.

Aaron (2010) maintained that, on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009, late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, announced an amnesty programme for the militants who were eager to submit their weapons. The amnesty programme was in three phases namely; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Ebo (2022) stressed that the armed struggle in the Niger-Delta resulting into bombing of oil pipelines and oil production facilities reduced drastically due to the introduction of the presidential amnesty programme. The programme assisted in putting to a stop, regular attacks and kidnapping of oil expatriate workers thereby improving oil productions and revenues. In their quest, Osah and Amakihe (2014) narrated that the presidential amnesty programme gave opportunity to those who have the interest of going back to school to do so. The amnesty programme has equally helped good number of ex-militants to be admitted into various disciplines in tertiary institutions around the world. While 2,922 beneficiaries graduated from offshore centres, 5,145 had previously concluded vocational training in Nigeria ranging from sea fairing, boat building, welding, electrical installation, information communication technology, oil drilling and marine related courses, safety management, carpentry and ocean diving etc. Aghedo (2013) argued that notwithstanding the absolute achievement actualized by the amnesty programme, crisis still persists in the region. In his own reaction, Atuloma (2018) maintained that, although the angry youths in the Niger-delta region have succumbed due to interventions from well meaning Nigerians and Nigerian government through the amnesty programme. However, the condition of things has not really changed for good for the teeming youths. There is increased rate of unemployment and poverty amongst the youths thereby prompting them in engaging into various antagonistic activities such as vandalizing oil pipelines for oil theft and kidnap of oil

expatriate workers in order to make fortune for survival. Ikelegbe and Umukoro (2014) criticized the amnesty programme and the implementation arrangement for neglecting the aspirations of decisive stakeholders, including civil society actors. This limits the programme's ability towards reducing youth piracy and restore sustainable peace in the region. Ikelegbe and Umukoro further argued that, the efforts put in place in actualizing the aims of the presidential amnesty programme have not translated into effective accomplishment plan. Rather, the programme was designed to mislead the militants and allow oil exploration without addressing the impoverished state of the region.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Since the emergence of militant groups in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria, the velocity of insecurity of lives and properties has escalated than before. The militant's activities which include kidnapping and oil bunkering, has kept the region at risk as well as a major peril to oil multinationals and source of revenue in Nigeria (Ajiye, 2015). Having introduced the presidential amnesty programme by the federal government of Nigeria for the militant youths in the form of educational training for the militant youths to acquire degrees in higher institutions, and vocational training on welding and fabrications as well as plumbing and woodworks for the militant youths to acquire relevant knowledge, skills and values however, it appears that youth militancy in the Niger-Delta in the form of youth piracy and oil pipeline vandalism are still on the increase. This study therefore, investigates whether presidential amnesty programme has succeeded in curbing down or reducing the high wave of youth militancy in the Niger-Delta using Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State as the study locale.

### **Research Questions**

- i. Does presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?
- ii. Has presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training helps in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

## Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to investigate the nexus between presidential amnesty programme and youth militancy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. While the specific objectives are:

- i. To ascertain whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?
- ii. To determine whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training helps in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

## Research Hypothesis

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training does not accrue to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

**H<sub>02</sub>:** Presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training does not help in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

## Conceptual Clarifications

### Conceptualizing Presidential Amnesty Programme

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, 2009, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua announced an amnesty for militant groups in the Niger-Delta. The presidential amnesty programme was an initiative of Federal Government of Nigeria with the intension of eliminating youth's restiveness in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria and refurbish revenue generation by means of oil exploration in the region (Ebiede, 2016). According to Ikelegbe and Umukoro (2014), the declaration of the amnesty was a chance given to the ex-militants in the Niger-Delta region to welcome amnesty and lay down their arms and ammunitions in switch over for presidential forgiveness. Likewise, the amnesty programme arouse due to different steps put in place by different bodies including the 'Legislative Retreat' put in place by the states in the South-South region of Nigeria. The communiqué was anchored on critical issues affecting the Southern part of the country which include granting amnesty for militants. Adebowole (2018) maintained that the amnesty programme taken to last for five years witnessed

large number of militants laying down their weaponry within the 60 days time frame.

Granting amnesty to the militants is subject to the lay down of weaponry and all documents related to militant actions and beneficial to militants who were sanctioned for actions related to confrontational activities.

The presidential amnesty programme was in phases: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) (Aaron, 2010). In their own reaction, Nwachukwu and Pepple (2011) buttressed that disarmament of militants brought about the physical deletion of the means of fighting by the ex-militants. Demobilization entails the official and restricted functions of lively militants from armed groups and the provision of support packages to individual militants in momentary centres. While, reintegration entails the practice of reintegrating the ex-militants into civil society making sure that they do not engage in crisis with arms. Kuku (2012) averred that, it is remarkable that the amnesty was not an imposition by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua rather, it was an initiative to be generously and personally selected by the militants within a time frame of barely two months. Also, the tendencies of full and unrestricted forgiveness were granted to the militants who welcomed the amnesty programme. Ebo (2022) narrated that the immediate outcome of the presidential amnesty programme was the stoppage of carrying weapons and youth restiveness in the Niger-Delta. Thousands of militants willingly welcomed the amnesty programme and put down their weapons. Also, the militant leaders in their entirety acknowledged the programme efficiently and discontinue youth restiveness in the Niger-Delta region.

### Conceptualizing Youth Militancy

Militancy can be understood as the act of individuals, groups, or parties displaying or engaging in violence usually for a cause, whether religious, political, ideological, economic, or social. Nowadays, the term militant is synonymously used in the term "terrorist" (Quamruzzaman, 2010). In their own reaction, Chindah and Braide (2000) averred that militancy is a state or condition of being combative or disposed to fight for a cause or belief. It has also been seen as a violent response by an individual,

group or sect in a region, community, state or nation due to claim of underdevelopment, political oppression, religious beliefs, and segregation. Youth militancy can be seen as an antagonistic and holistic activities by the youths mainly from the oil producing communities in order to showcase their grievances over issues of negligence at times by multinational oil corporations not performing their corporate social responsibilities to the host communities and inability of government to address tenaciously some of the challenges bedeviling the socio-economic development of the oil producing communities in Nigeria. The holistic activities from the youth militants can come in the form of oil pipeline vandalism for oil theft, destruction of oil equipment and installations, kidnap of oil expatriate workers etc.

According to Ejibunu (2007), the history of militancy in Nigeria can be linked with Isaac Adaka Boro's led movement in 1966 for flaxen agreement with the Niger-Delta region through a revolution amid his Delta Volunteer Service (DVS) against the federal government. Despite the fact that government flattened the revolution however, the revolution rekindled the awareness in the mindset of the people on their prerogative to access their natural resources. Wojuade (2019) narrated that, later than ten years of Ken Sarowiwa's execution, the potential consequences of the Niger-Delta militancy and conflict have escalated in both human and economic terms. This gave rise to the emergence of various militant groups to undermine the activities of the oil companies using different strategies thereby daring the Nigerian State. Prominent among such groups are the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND), the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC), and the Niger-Delta People Volunteer Force (NDPVF). Wilson (2012) noted that the militant groups in the Niger-Delta region have been engaged in steady antagonism on the Nigerian state, multinational oil corporations, and

### **Methodology**

The survey research design was adopted in this study. The survey research design was adopted to investigate empirically, whether the presidential amnesty programme initiated by the federal government of Nigeria has helped in reducing the high wave of youth militancy prevalent in the

prominent personalities for fortune and not mounting pressure for the overall advancement of the region. In order to actualize their objectives, the militants indulge in abducting expatriate workers and all sorts of unenthusiastic actions thereby causing harm to the entire citizenry.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The human capital theory was adopted as the theory suitable to guide this work. The human capital theory emphasizes how manpower training and development programmes increment the efficiency and effectiveness of workers by expanding the level of cognitive stock of financial profitable human capacity, which could be an item of natural capacities and speculations in human creatures (Kessler & Lulfesmann, 2006). The implication and relevance of the human capital theory as it applies to this work is that, the theory accrues to developing the knowledge, skills, values, and behaviours of workers for the betterment of the workers and organizations at large. The human capital theory emphasizes the need for government, policy makers, civil society organizations, and philanthropists to initiate intervention programmes such as presidential amnesty programme and map out the necessary finance or resources needed for actualizing the benefits of the programmes as this would enable the militant youths in the Niger-Delta and Nigeria in general to be tenaciously empowered and acquire not only educational and vocational training but knowledge, skills, values, ideas, attitudes and aspirations. Also, the youths would be gainfully employed in different establishments as well as set up their own businesses which in turn uplifts their status and moral conducts and reduce or put to a stop the high wave of youth militancy such as youth piracy, oil pipeline vandalism, destruction of oil equipment and installations, and kidnap of oil expatriate workers that is prevalent in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria.

Niger-Delta region of Nigeria using Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. Southern Ijaw Local Government Area was created in 1991 in accordance with the 1976 Local Government Reform that was officially established in the nation. Southern Ijaw Local Government Area is made up

of seventeen wards namely: Ammasoma 1, Ammasoma 2, Ammasomma 3, Apoi, Central Boma 1, Central Boma 2, East Boma 1, East Boma 2, Foropa, Koluama, Oladiama 1, Oladiama 2, Oporoma 1, Oporoma 2, Otuan, Ukubie, and West Boma (Wikipedia, 2022). The study adopted both the qualitative and quantitative research methods. The target population of this study consists of 200 inhabitants of Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. They consist of 100 youths who have benefited from the presidential amnesty programme and 100 persons who are residents in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. The reason for the target population is to generate tactful and relevant information based on the phenomena under study. Due to the fact that the target population of the study was deemed convenient for the study the sample size was not determined. In order to ensure effective coverage for the study, the simple random sampling technique was applied in this study to select ten wards out of seventeen wards in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. Also, in order not to be bias the purposive sampling technique was adopted in this study in order to determine the number of respondents to be drawn from each of the selected wards because the population of all the

The formular for chi-square is shown below,

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

Where,

$X^2$  = Chi-square

$\Sigma$  = Summation Sign

O = Observed Frequencies

E = Expected Frequencies

Given the above formular, to calculate the expected frequency of a cell the formular runs thus;

$$\Sigma F = \frac{\text{Row Total} \times \text{Column Total}}{\text{Grand Total}}$$

Accommodating the unforeseen chance factors, the researcher sets the level of significance at 5%.

Also, the degree of freedom is determined in order to apply the chi-square ( $x^2$ ) text.

$$df = (r-1) (c-1)$$

r = Number of Rows

c = Number of Columns

### Decision Rule

1. If the calculated value of chi-square ( $x^2$ ) is greater than the critical value of chi-square ( $x^2$ ), reject the null hypothesis.
2. If the calculated value of chi-square ( $x^2$ ) is less than the critical value of chi-square ( $x^2$ ), accept the null hypothesis.

### Data Presentation

**Research Question: Does presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training**

communities/wards in 2006 census population in Nigeria has not been officially released. The primary and secondary sources of data collection were applied in this study. The primary sources consist of questionnaire while the secondary sources consist of information gathered from published works. The indicators of the independent variable 'Presidential Amnesty Programme' are: educational training, and vocational training; while the indicators of the dependent variable 'Youths Militancy' are: youth piracy, and oil pipeline vandalism. The questionnaire was structured in Likert format with a four-point response scale. In the closed ended questionnaire, the respondents were given response options. These options served as the quantification of the respondent's agreement or disagreement on a particular scale. The designated quantifications that were used in the questionnaire are: Strongly Agree - 4, Agree -3, Disagree -2, and Strongly Disagree 1. Out of 200 copies of questionnaire distributed, 193 copies were successfully retrieved. Data generated from the field were presented using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages, while the chi-square ( $x^2$ ) statistical tool was used to test the hypothesis formulated in the study.

## accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

**Table 1: Respondents perception on whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?**

No	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Schooling in tertiary institutions as part of presidential amnesty programme has helped in reducing youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?	47 (24.3%)	84 (43.5%)	28 (14.5%)	34 (17.6%)	193 (100)
2.	Incidents of oil bunkering have reduced because youths acquire scholarships through presidential amnesty programme?	74 (38.3%)	57 (29.5%)	29 (15.0%)	33 (17.1%)	193 (100)
3.	No matter the introduction of presidential amnesty programme on education, youth piracy is highly experienced in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?	41 (21.2%)	34 (17.6%)	52 (26.9%)	66 (34.2%)	193 (100)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>579</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1 shows the respondents perception on whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. In question 1, out of 193 respondents, (24.3%) strongly agreed that schooling in tertiary institutions as part of presidential amnesty programme has helped in reducing youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, (43.5%) agreed, (14.5%) disagreed, while (17.6%) strongly disagreed. In question 2, out 193 respondents, (38.3%) strongly agreed that incidents of oil bunkering have reduced because youths acquire

scholarships through presidential amnesty programme, (29.5%) agreed, (15.0%) disagreed, while (17.1%) strongly disagreed. In question 3 out of 193 respondents, (21.2%) strongly agreed that no matter the introduction of presidential amnesty programme on education, youth piracy is highly experienced in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, (17.6%) agreed, (26.9%) disagreed while (34.2%) strongly disagreed. From table 1 above, it indicates that the respondents responded greatly that presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

**Research Question: Distribution of respondents on whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training accrues to limiting oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?**

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents on whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training accrues to limiting oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?**

No	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
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4.	Presidential amnesty programme on vocational training on welding and fabrication has helped in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?	52 (26.9%)	78 (40.4%)	34 (17.6%)	29 (15.0%)	193 (100)
5.	Vocational training on plumbing and woodworks as part of presidential amnesty programme empowers the youths and reduces their vulnerability in engaging in oil pipeline vandalism?	70 (36.3%)	61 (31.6%)	25 (12.9%)	37 (19.2%)	193 (100)
6.	No matter the relevance of presidential amnesty programme on vocational training, oil pipeline vandalism is highly experienced in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?	34 (17.6%)	31 (16.1%)	59 (30.6%)	69 (35.7%)	193 (100)
<b>Total</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>579</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 2 shows the respondents perception on whether presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training accrues to limiting oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. In question 4, out of 193 respondents, (26.9%) strongly agreed that presidential amnesty programme on vocational training on welding and fabrication has helped in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area (40.4%) agreed, (17.6 %) disagreed, while (15.0%) strongly disagreed. In question 5, out of 193 respondents, (36.3%) strongly agreed that vocational training on plumbing and woodworks as part of presidential amnesty programme empowers the youths and reduces their vulnerability in engaging in oil pipeline vandalism, (31.6%) agreed, (12.9%) disagreed, while (19.2%) strongly disagreed. In question 6, out of 193 respondents, (17.6%) strongly agreed that no matter the relevance of presidential amnesty programme on vocational training, oil pipeline vandalism is highly

experienced in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area (16.1%) agreed, (30.6%) disagreed, while (35.7%) strongly disagreed. From table 2 above, it indicates that the respondents responded greatly that presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training accrues to limiting oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

### Statistical Analysis and Test of Hypothesis

#### Test of Hypothesis One

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training does not accrue to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

**H<sub>i</sub>:** Presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area?

Hypothesis one was tested using the values of responses in questions 1, 2 and 3 respectively in table 1.

Table 3: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies

Table	SA	A	D	SD	Table
1	47 <sub>a</sub>	84 <sub>b</sub>	28 <sub>c</sub>	34 <sub>d</sub>	193 <sub>B1</sub>
2	74 <sub>e</sub>	57 <sub>f</sub>	29 <sub>g</sub>	33 <sub>h</sub>	193 <sub>B2</sub>
3	41 <sub>i</sub>	34 <sub>j</sub>	52 <sub>k</sub>	66 <sub>l</sub>	193 <sub>B3</sub>
<b>Total</b>	<b>162<sub>A1</sub></b>	<b>175<sub>A2</sub></b>	<b>109<sub>A3</sub></b>	<b>133<sub>A4</sub></b>	<b>579<sub>N</sub></b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

**Table 4: Calculation of Expected Frequencies**

Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{162 \times 193}{579}$ = 54	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{162 \times 193}{579}$ = 54	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{162 \times 193}{579}$ = 54
Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{175 \times 193}{579}$ = 58	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{175 \times 193}{579}$ = 58	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{175 \times 193}{579}$ = 58
Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{109 \times 193}{579}$ = 36	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{109 \times 193}{579}$ = 36	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{109 \times 193}{579}$ = 36
Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{133 \times 316}{579}$ = 44	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{133 \times 316}{579}$ = 44	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{133 \times 316}{579}$ = 44

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

**Table 5: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis One**

O	E	O-E	(O-E) <sup>2</sup>	(O-E) <sup>2</sup> /E
47	54	-7	49	0.907
84	58	26	676	11.655
28	36	-8	64	1.778
34	44	-10	100	2.273
74	54	20	400	7.407
57	58	-1	1	0.017
29	36	-7	49	1.361
33	44	-11	121	2.75
41	54	-13	169	3.130
34	58	-24	576	9.931
52	36	16	256	7.111
66	44	22	484	11
<b>Total</b>				<b>59.32</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

From the contingency table,

$$\begin{aligned}
 DF &= (r-1)(c-1) \\
 &= (3-1)(4-1) \\
 &= 2 \times 3 \\
 &= 6
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, DF = 6

**Decision Rule:** At 0.5 level of significance with 6 degree of freedom, the table value of chi-square is **12.592** while the calculated value of chi-square is **59.32**. Since the calculated value of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{cal}$ ) is greater than the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{table}$ ), we accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) which states that,

presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

**Test of Hypothesis Two**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Presidential amnesty programme in the



form of vocational training does not help in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training helps in

reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

The hypothesis two was tested using the values of the response derived from questions 4, 5 and 6 respectively in table 2.

**Table 6: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies**

Table	SA	A	D	SD	Total
4	52 <sub>a</sub>	78 <sub>b</sub>	34 <sub>c</sub>	29 <sub>d</sub>	193 <sub>B1</sub>
5	70 <sub>e</sub>	61 <sub>f</sub>	25 <sub>g</sub>	37 <sub>h</sub>	193 <sub>B2</sub>
6	34 <sub>i</sub>	31 <sub>j</sub>	59 <sub>k</sub>	69 <sub>l</sub>	193 <sub>B3</sub>
<b>Total</b>	<b>156<sub>A1</sub></b>	<b>170<sub>A2</sub></b>	<b>118<sub>A3</sub></b>	<b>135<sub>A4</sub></b>	<b>579<sub>N</sub></b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

**Table 7: Calculation of Expected Frequencies**

Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{156 \times 193}{579}$ = 52	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{156 \times 193}{579}$ = 52	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{156 \times 193}{579}$ = 52
Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{170 \times 193}{579}$ = 57	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{170 \times 193}{579}$ = 57	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{170 \times 193}{579}$ = 57
Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{118 \times 193}{579}$ = 39	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{118 \times 193}{579}$ = 39	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{118 \times 193}{579}$ = 39
Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	$\frac{135 \times 193}{579}$ = 45	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	$\frac{135 \times 193}{579}$ = 45	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	$\frac{135 \times 193}{579}$ = 45

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

**Table 8: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis Two**

O	E	O-E	(O-E) <sup>2</sup>	(O-E) <sup>2</sup> /E
52	52	0	0	0
78	57	21	441	7.737
34	39	-5	25	0.641
29	45	-16	256	5.689
70	52	18	324	6.231
61	57	4	16	0.281
25	39	-14	196	5.026
37	45	-8	64	1.422
34	52	-18	324	6.231
31	57	-26	676	11.860
59	39	20	400	10.256
69	45	24	576	12.8
<b>Total</b>				<b>68.174</b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

From the contingency table, the Degree of Freedom (DF) is

$$\begin{aligned}
 DF &= (r-1)(c-1) \\
 &= (3-1)(4-1) \\
 &= 2 \times 3 \\
 &= 6
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus DF = 6

**Decision Rule:** At 0.05 level of significance with 6 degree of freedom, the table value of chi-square

is **12.592** while the calculated value of chi-square is **68.174**. Since the calculated value of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{cal}$ ) is greater than the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{table}$ ), we accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) which states that presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training helps in reducing oil pipe vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The result of the first hypothesis reveals that, presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training accrues to limiting youth piracy in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. This is not in line with the views of Ikelegbe and Umukoro (2014) which criticized the amnesty programme and the implementation arrangement for neglecting the aspirations of decisive stakeholders, including civil society actors. This limits the programme's ability towards reducing youth piracy and restore sustainable peace in the region. They argued further that, the efforts put in place in actualizing the aims of the presidential amnesty programme have not translated into effective accomplishment plan. Rather, the programme was designed to mislead the militants and allow oil exploration without addressing the impoverished state of the region.

The result of the second hypothesis of this study reveals that, presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training has helped in reducing oil pipeline vandalism in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. This is not in consonance with the views of Atuloma (2018) which states that, although the angry youths in the Niger-delta region have succumbed due to interventions from well meaning Nigerians and Nigerian government through the amnesty programme. However, the condition of things has not really changed for good for the teeming youths. There is increased rate of unemployment and poverty amongst the youths thereby prompting them in engaging into various antagonistic activities such as vandalizing oil pipelines for oil theft and kidnap of oil expatriate workers in order to make fortune for survival.

### **Conclusion**

Youth militancy is a social problem affecting the growth and socio-economic development of

Nigeria as a nation. Many youths most especially in the Niger-Delta cannot meet the basic needs of life such as food, clothing, shelter, and education because they do not have the sources and finance needed to cater for their needs. As a result, they are faced with frustration, low self-esteem and poverty which consequently can make them to engage in militant activities in the form of youth piracy, oil pipeline vandalism, kidnap of oil expatriate workers, armed robbery and other restive behaviours. However, in order to reduce youth militancy in the Niger-Delta and give rise to national socio-economic development, Nigerian government should sustain and encourage the presidential amnesty programme as well as formulate and implement good policies that would help to improve the economic and social well being of the youths in the Niger-Delta and Nigeria in general..

### **Recommendations**

The study proffers the following recommendations apposite:

1. Nigerian government in its magnanimity should uphold and continue to sustain its initiative on presidential amnesty programme in the form of educational training to the militant youths in the Niger-Delta as this would accrue to limiting the chances of the youths in indulging in militant activities such as youth piracy.
2. Presidential amnesty programme in the form of vocational training by the Nigerian government should be sustained and encouraged in the sense that it would enable the militants youths in the Niger-Delta to acquire relevant knowledge, skills and values on different works and stay away from engaging in militant activities such as oil pipeline vandalism.
3. Nigerian government, civil society organizations, and philanthropists should as a matter of necessity, map out other thoughtful and eloquent strategies on how to eradicate entirely the prevalence of youth militancy in the Niger-Delta as this would help to create a cordial relationship between multinational oil corporations and the host communities in the Niger-Delta as well as increase the revenue generation of Nigeria as a nation.

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