



An investigation into root causes of sabotage and vandalism of pipes: A major environmental hazard in Niger Delta, Nigeria

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Abstract

Human activities are seen as the root causes of almost all environmental hazards due to the different actions currently affecting the ozone layer, unusual environmental changes and extreme weather conditions in recent times. Activities such as vandalism and sabotage have contributed significantly to the environmental issues within the Nigerian, Niger Delta context due to the presence of oil and gas activities, perceived marginalisation and neglect on the community aspect and the quest for sustainable livelihood support. This study explores the influencing causes associated with sabotage and vandalism through a desk-based research and primary data collection across communities and related oil spill agencies including oil and gas key personnel. Accordingly, the study has uncovered different influencing factors ranging from institutional to community factors, thereby, establishing some strategic recommendations for the reduction of such acts of sabotage and vandalism.

Keywords:

Environment; Sabotage; Vandalism; Oil Pipelines; Impacts; Oil Spill Hazards; Niger Delta; Nigeria

1. Introduction

Nigeria was previously the fifth largest oil producing nation in the world, but, currently is the 13th largest due to different technological disasters that keep disrupting its production output coupled with the global decline of oil and gas prices since the third quarter of 2014 (CIA, 2018). The decline in the output of Nigerian petroleum product due to sabotage and vandalization activities has posed major challenges to the external balance and federal finances in recent time. These two constructs (vandalism/sabotage) of oil facilities are considered a major problem that significantly affects the sources of revenue in Nigeria. Statistically, the Nigerian government is considered to be losing nearly 300,000 barrels of oil per day as a result of oil pipeline vandalism (Umar & Othman, 2017). Hence, this loss runs into billions of dollars, while negatively affecting the socio-economic development of the region.

This paper attempts to outline the causes of oil pipeline sabotage/vandalism acts in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The paper discusses different misconceptions associated with vandalism and sabotage within the context of environmental degradation and oil and gas production activities. Such dimensions are; Oil Terrorism (OT), Oil Bunkering (OB), Oil Scooping/ Vandalization (OS), and Environmental Terrorism (ET). However, the paper starts with a conceptual clarification of the connotation of oil vandalism (OV) and Oil Sabotage (OS) in relation to environmental degradations. The aspect and construct in this paper is discussed with the view of highlighting the players of the deliberate act of sabotage and vandalism and to symbolize the root influencing factors and causes of the act, while, ignoring the positive benefit of the outcomes on the community's livelihood structure.

2. Methods

This study adopts a desk-based approach, key community interviews and representatives of environmental expertise from the oil and gas sectors and representatives from an oil spill-related agency to answer the question; What are the root causes, influencing factors of sabotage, vandalism and oil theft in the Niger Delta, Nigeria? As it is established, a majority of environmental damages in South-South Nigeria are as a

result of third-party activities (i.e., approximately 60% of oil spills are resulting from third party-interference) (Shell, 2017). The key community members, the oil and gas and the oil spill-related agency representatives, were purposively selected for the interview discussions. The participants include; environmental expertise, engineers, community welfare officers, environmental activists, scientists, and community elders who possess relevant experience for the research question under investigation and deem appropriate. The next section presents the literature synthesis.

3. Literature Synthesis

3.1 Conceptual Clarification of Vandalism and Sabotage

The concept of oil pipeline vandalism and oil sabotage are vital to discourse in this piece of work and as such to highlight details of their meaning for proper understanding. First, oil pipelines are the medium through which crude oil, natural gas, and industrial chemicals are transported (Chibuzor, Chukwujekwu, & Ekene, 2014). Oil pipelines are vital and sensible facilities that could cause unconceivable catastrophes during operation, transportation of petroleum product or maintenance without a deliberate act of vandals or saboteur. The concept of vandalism according to Chibuzor et al. (2014), is an illegal or unauthorised activity carried out jointly with different entities in the destruction of gas, petroleum, and chemical pipelines. Umar and Othman (2017) describe vandalism as a thoughtful antagonistic behaviour of unsatisfied and corrupt individuals aimed directly to an environmental object with a destructive motive of damaging properties and causing harm. Also, Christensen, Johnson, and Brookes (1992) describe oil vandalism as a “productive force that fought against the exploration of a capacity system” across the world. Even though different people or nations may have a contrary opinion to the concept of vandalism and what ‘acts’ constitute vandalism, the concept could be applied to different scenarios such as; play vandalism, for example, breaking of window panels, cars, and other people’s facilities, tactical vandalism which includes, sabotage at the workplace or organisational facilities (Umar & Othman, 2017), vandalism as a source of revenge, where individuals feel cheated (vindictive behaviour) and vandalism out of frustration, anger and exasperation (malicious vandalism) (Umar

& Othman, 2017). Also, Aishatu, Chukwudi, and Hauwa'u (2016) describes vandalism from the civil realm as the wilful destruction of public or government property in keeping with criminal or political intent. While vandalism in the oil and gas industries implies the breaking of oil pipelines with the aim to scoop petroleum product for personal and or group use.

However, vandalism in most developing countries is aimed to sabotage the government and or oil and gas operating companies (Aishatu et al. 2016), when felt neglected as the case may be. The concept of sabotage of product, workplace sabotage, government and or company's facilities sabotage are increasingly emphasised due to the consequences that come after the act. Thus, sabotage is a behaviour envisioned to "damage, disrupt, or subvert the organisations' operations from the personal purpose of the saboteur (sabotage) by creating unfavourable publicity, embarrassment, delays in production, damage to property, destruction of working relationship, or the harming of employees or customers" (Ambrose, Seabright, & Schminke, 2002). In a developing country such as Nigeria, oil (pipeline) or sabotage is prohibited under the law of the Petroleum Production and Distribution Act (Act 355 of 1990) section 1. However, the Act stipulates and describe a saboteur as "any person who does; aids another person; or incites, counsels or procures any other person, to do anything with intent to obstruct or prevent the production or distributions of petroleum products in any part of Nigeria. Or, any person who wilfully does anything with intent to obstruct or prevent the procurement of petroleum product for the distribution in any part of Nigeria or, wilfully does anything in respect of any vehicle or any public highway with the intent to obstruct or prevent the use of that vehicle or that public highway for the distribution of petroleum products" the person found to be guilty of sabotage will be convicted to be sentenced either to death or 21 years' imprisonment (Onuoha, 2008).

This unauthorised act of destruction of pipelines to disrupt the supply of petroleum product for self-purpose and or specific group intent for black-market sales in any dimension are prohibited under the Nigerian law. Hence, any person or company involved in such activities is considered to be guilty of economic sabotage (Onuoha, 2008). The

question is, has the existing laws worked positively on the intended aim? Notwithstanding, the incidents of oil pollutions related to sabotage increases on a daily basis in spite of the existing laws and agencies responsible for monitoring and checking the environmental performance of operating organizations in Nigeria (Shell, 2017). Thus, this amplifies why scholars and writers have frequently stressed on its global negative impact (nations reputation), socio-economic impacts and effects on the environment (Albert, Amaratunga & Haigh, 2018; Elum, Mopipi, & Henri-Ukoha, 2016; Ndimele et al., 2018). However, the environment remains a tangible and an aggregate of all external dimensions that affects both living and non-living things and therefore, draws attention to any adverse effects (Olujobi, Oyewunmi, & Oyewunmi, 2018). The effects of sabotage and vandalism activities affects but not limited to the soil; which is used for daily agricultural purposes in a country such as Nigeria, the air, water as significant sources of living for both animals, plants, fish production, human existence (Mogaji, Sotolu, Wilfred-Ekprikpo, & Green, 2018; Ndeh, Okafor, Akpan, & Olutoye, 2017; Olujobi et al., 2018), and other subsystems associated with the entire global system and our ecosystem. According to Chibuzor et al. (2014), 40% of the world's oil flows through pipelines which run thousands and or millions of kilometres across unstable areas of the globe. Hence, that influence the access to facilities and trait of damages (Aishatu et al., 2016). Vandalism and sabotage cases have tremendously and continuously impacted the Nigerian environment and other subsystems through the local refining process (oil bunkering) and its related waves.

3.2 Oil Bunkering and Illegal oil bunkering

The term 'bunker' is derived from a Scottish word, which means a 'reserved seat' and is widely used in a different sector to describe an area that safeguards or stores products which could be ammunition, fuel, diesel or lube oil. Thus, in the context of this paper, which focuses on the oil and gas petroleum product and the environmental effluence, linking to shipping companies or oil and gas industries, a fuel bunker is described as a means of storing fuel products on a ship and used for machinery operation, while the process of dealing with bunker fuel is known as bunkering, for example, the process of fuelling the ship with fuel or lube oil product. Thus, bunkering can be described as the

legitimate process whereby a duly licensed operator provides fuel, water and lubricants for marine services or request (Mogaji et al., 2018; Onuzuruike, 2008). Hence, making oil bunkering grip a constructive meaning in an over-all logic, even though, there is a misconception of the word used to describe oil theft, especially, in Nigeria. According to Vreÿ (2012), oil bunkering is misinterpreted within the Nigerian context due to political, economic and social controversies embedded in criminal practices. Notably, the practice of oil bunkering which is the process of transporting the filled ship with fuel/oil from one shore to another is categorically different from the process of vandalising equipment for the bunkering activities. Thus, oil bunkering becomes illegal when unlicensed individuals, groups or organisation scoop/vandalise the petroleum product in diesel forms, fuel, etc. for its personal gains.

Accordingly, Onuoha (2008) within the Nigerian context divulged that 'bunkering' is an ironic word used to describe oil theft. However, oil bunkering and oil theft is ingeniously the most lucrative private business in the Nigerian petroleum industries in recent times, even though, the activities previously started in the early 1980s (Igbinovia, 2014). Illegal oil bunkering, which is the act of drilling oil pipelines to scoop petroleum product for personal gain is a perpetrated act largely engaged by unlawful groups who are driven by the desire to loot oil product indirectly aiming to sabotage the oil and gas industries or the government (Aishatu et al., 2016). Notably, illegal oil bunkering activity is proven to account for several losses of revenue for both the oil and gas industries and the government since its boom in early 2000 (Igbinovia, 2014; Onuoha, 2008; Shell, 2017).

Nevertheless, Vreÿ (2012); Adishi and Hunga (2017), describes bunker activities in three major levels; small-scale operations that flourish at the local community levels, where the petroleum product is condensate for domestic use and further tapped off for distributions at local usable form. The second practice is where the crude oil product is destined for commercial delivery to barges and ocean traveling tankers for further foreign distribution and destinations (Boris, 2015), while, the third practice is where operating and or delivery companies exceed their legitimate allocations (Adishi & Hunga, 2017). Onuoha (2008) and Vreÿ (2012), stipulate that well-organised operations of oil bunkers

perpetrated by organisations are irreparable. In arguing about illegal oil bunkering activities, Adishi and Hunga (2017) stipulates: “there is a large scale of illegal international trading on crude oil, which is more sophisticated with the use of advanced technologies to tap crude oil and to navigate through the maze of hundreds of creeks, rivers, and streams. This practice has also graduated from ordinary boats and barges to ships and tanker in the high seas which has become extensive and on a large scale since the late 1990s”. Vreÿ (2012) in response to Onuoha (2008) and Adishi and Hunga (2017) connotation highlights that the corruption surrounding oil bunkering activities stretches deeply into the local society, government fabric, and the oil and gas industry and thereby threatens security actions of the citizens. Thus, these illegal activities are now on an industrial scale and involve international traders and or, which could be termed criminals, commodity traders and a different network of people within and outside the shores and boundaries of Nigeria (Adishi & Hunga, 2017; Olateju, 2013).

Chibuzor et al. (2014) calls for radical action to be taken by a none corrupt governmental regulatory agencies and international oil companies (IOC's) to provide a preventive mechanism for the reoccurrences of the act due to frequent occurrences, given that, in 1999 alone, there were a total of 497 vandalism cases for oil bunkering purposes (Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Further, between 2010 and 2012, a total of about 2,787 pipeline breaks were reported by the Nigerian National Petroleum Commission (NNPC). Thus, these incidents resulted in a loss of approximately 12.53 billion Naira for the nation. Likewise, in 2008 an estimated loss of about 250,000 barrels of oil was lost per day due to ‘theft’ activities, a loss amounting to \$22.5 million US Dollars (Vreÿ, 2012). Also, between 2009 and 2011, the Nigerian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) reported a loss of 10.9 billion US Dollars to oil theft (Aishatu et al., 2016). Also, Vreÿ (2012) stipulates that in 2012 there were drops in vandalism and sabotage/thief activities with the estimated loss of 3 million barrels per month compared to preceding years. The reduction, however was perceived and credited to a particular government security task force deployed against illegal oil bunkering activities (Vreÿ, 2012), even though it lasted for a short period. Likewise, Aishatu et al. (2016); Adishi and Hunga (2017) stipulates that the activities of oil pipeline vandals for

international and or local refining (oil bunkering) resulted in a massive cost of over 174.57 billion Naira in the product losses and repairs of pipelines within ten years, as it increasingly became popular and practiced within Nigeria. Thus, within ten years, a total of 16, 083 pipelines breaks were recorded, adding that while 398 pipelines break representing 2.4 percent were due to rupture, 15,685 breaks which interpreted to about 97.5 % were the activities of unpatriotic vandals (Okoli & Orinya, 2013). However, the growth of this hazardous business and the scramble for access to oil and gas related benefits are considered to underpin an environment conducive to the proliferation of an illegal conflict economy and one that operates extensively in the part of the country (Vreÿ, 2012). Also, activities have fuelled long-insurgency and have increased armed conflict groups providing militant groups with funds for its operations.

According to Igbinovia (2014), the activities of Nigerian illegal oil bunkering has increased the instability in the world energy markets and also position threat not only on the Nigerian States but to international and oil-bearing communities. Thus, the losses in both production output and financial loss have not been without death incidents of the actors in the process, environmental consequences, and human consequences (Aishatu, Chukwudi, & Hauwa'u; Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Thus, the section below discusses how oil terrorism and environmental terrorism further contributes to environmental devastations.

3.3 Oil terrorism and environmental terrorism

Terrorism is an “unlawful use of force or violence against property or persons to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives”(Chalecki, 2002). Hence, the word describes such persons who indulge in such activity a “terrorist.” The word terrorism began to have publicity in the 20th century, making terrorist groups wishing to avoid bad publicity who began calling themselves “freedom fighters” and “militias” or “militants.” The reform of the word and the concept have been perceived to exist even in the governance system where a government employed terrorist tactics against opponents by calling it “police action” (Chalecki, 2002). According to Section 2656 of Title 22

of the United State code, terrorism means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience” these definitions emphasised the connotation of the motive, means and the target imbibe terrorist believe. Undoubtedly, terrorism activities are extensively carried out across the globe either against the government for economic reasons, against cooperation’s, natural resources facilities terrorisation or oil terrorism and environmental terrorism in both developed and developing countries.

In a developing country such as Nigeria, different types of terrorism exist which is out of the scope of this paper, as such, not discussed here. The relevant types of terrorism to this paper include environmental terrorism and facility or oil terrorisms. The concept of environmental terrorism and oil or facilities terrorisms are described in a different context depending on the field, motive of discussions and the relevance. However, the two constructs are vital when the environmental and deliberate act of petroleum product destructions are involved. Oil terrorism and environmental terrorism are two terminologies introduced by security analysts, journalists and scholars to describe the deliberate act of pipeline system attacks in Iraq and Nigeria (Onuoha, 2008). This paper describes environmental terrorism as the “unlawful use of force against environmental or natural resources” to deprive public benefit (Chalecki, 2002). While, oil terrorism involves such acts of blowing up oil facilities such as; installations, pipelines and oil platforms with damaging explosive devices, and the act of capturing oil barges, flow stations, support vessels and oil wells to prevent distributions of petroleum product or refining of the product (Onuoha, 2008).

Notwithstanding, the act of oil terrorism and environmental terrorism in the Nigerian context became apparent in early 2005 when the Movement of the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) blew up a pipeline in Delta state after the arrest of the then leader of the group Alhaji Asari Dokubo (Onuoha, 2008). Since then, oil terrorism and environmental terrorism has increased and influenced environmental damages. The call for the Nigerian Nations natural resources (oil wealth) sharing formula has increased with the view to have a greater share for the Niger Delta communities. Also, Onuoha (2008) stipulates

that the activities of freedom fighters or militants are with the aim to call for preceding environmental, social, political and economic justices.

Hence, the approach has substantially and further damaged the environment (Aishatu et al., 2016), and the socio-political and economic activities of the local communities (Adishi & Hunga, 2017), even though, there are more significant losses on the national revenue. Thus, examples of some blew up by the freedom fighters that have in decades damaged the environment are; the 2005 January blow up of the Forcades export terminal which cut the supply of the petroleum product of about 100,000 barrels per day. The March 2005 oil pipeline blow up operated by the Italian company reducing the flow by 65, 000 barrels per day, the 2006 militant struck at an oil vessel at Cawthorowe Channel, killing five soldiers who were escorting the vessel, and later sank the vessels.

Thereafter, the 2007 dreaded attack of three oil pipelines by MEND at the territory of Akassa and Twon-Brass (Onuoha, 2008), where some significant attacks recorded. Even though, the people continuously quest for employment into the oil and gas business to reduce the desperate and frustrated act of destructions. Furthermore, unemployment amongst youth has also created a massive population of idle, frustrated and desperate young people who are easily manipulated to criminal activities.

4. Result and Discussions

The incidents of vandals, sabotage, and oil theft have fundamentally damaged the environment, local economy and the socio-cultural dimension of the people across Nigerian communities. Hence, the question was to identify the major and or the root and influencing causes of the high increase of such acts of sabotage, oil theft, and vandalism. Thus, upon the transcription of the interviews conducted amongst the community members and key environmental expertise, empirical evidence shows that abject poverty and lack of employment; shallow laying of pipeline and insecurity; sense of marginalisation and neglect; corruption and bad governance are some infusing and influencing factors across communities. Thus, the below section

presents the preliminary results with quoted statements from the interviewees.

4.1 Corruption, weak and bad governance

The corrupt practice in the oil gas distribution sectors, the government sectors, and the security agencies are alarming, making it difficult to curtail the act of oil sabotage and the destruction of oil facilities. This theme, when discussed with the oil spill-related agency, reinforced that, *“though there is corruption in the oil and gas sector as it is elsewhere, weak institutional structures are factors to the corrupt practice. Corruption is everywhere depending on how its defined, presented and managed (oil spill agency participants)”*. Accordingly, a majority of the respondents opined that the foundation of the government is wrong due to different impunity (culture of criminal impunity) as such will influence every other sector. On the other hand, communities responding to corrupt practices and bad governance described the act as *“Governance terrorism”*. Reasons were that the Nigerian government in both past and present administrations had done things specifically for their interest, hence not contributing positively to oil and gas producing communities. Also, some respondents stated that, *“most corrupt security agents are hugely involved in the sabotage, vandalism, and oil theft business and as such making things further difficult for curtailment (communities respondents).”* Categorically, a majority of the community participants reinforced that sabotage/vandalism will progressively increase, considering that communities are relatively into local oil bunkering within the local capacities. This view is contrary to Vreÿ (2012) study which established that the Nigerian security operates either independently or working along private contractors in conjunction with different arrangements between the oil multinationals and the private security contractors to combat illegal activities. Arguably, Adishi and Hunga (2017) stipulate that there has been alleged involvement of the security force in illegal businesses thereby making difficult in curtailing of activities. This finding is in line with Umar and Othman (2017); Albert, Amaratunga, and Haigh's (2018) study, which found that legal factors influence vandalism, that the weak institutions and inadequate compensation to victims of oil spills can encourage crime, vandalism, oil theft or sabotage. This finding also supports Umar and Othman (2017) in their confirmatory study of

relationships between different constructs and vandalism, which they found that poor governances have a significant contribution to crude oil pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta, Nigeria.

4.2 *Abject poverty and unemployment*

The poverty and unemployment rate within and amongst Nigerian youth is alarming. Thus, when discussing the issues of vandalism and oil sabotage relating to environmental degradation. Majority of the participants attributed the causes to poverty and unemployment, given that some actors of such acts are committed by unemployed youth. Accordingly, participants pointed that the poverty level of these communities are damaging and the fact that some of the community households find it difficult to afford one square meal per day is “worth” doing anything for survivals. Accordingly, participants stressed, *“Now, the issues of oil bunkering exists, most communities were never into such business but when you discovered that, that is an alternative livelihood support, you tend to engage to survive (Community Respondents).”*

The researcher in the process of making meaning from the data rigorously selected graduate respondents and cross-checked their response to the unemployment issues. It was evident that almost all the graduate participants are into oil bunkering businesses, affirming that there were no employment opportunities, as such, oil bunkering becomes an alternative. According to a majority of the participants, *“employment comes with whom you know and not because your community produces petroleum product, employment in this part of the world is not by merit, capabilities, and potentials but most likely godfatherism (Community Respondents).”* On the contrary, majority of the experts from the oil and gas participants disagree with the concept that “poverty and unemployment” were the root causes of sabotage and vandalism. Thus, implying that most vandals/ actors are wealthy and educated persons and that the acts are deliberately carried out to sabotage oil multinationals and the government, and not necessarily acts of poverty. The oil and gas participants added, *“Communities are never satisfied with any provision offered by the oil multinationals and as such, will want to blame the oil operating companies and the government by indulging in the act of vandalism (oil and gas respondents).”*

4.3 Shallow laying of pipeline and insecurity

The oil-related agency opines that most of the pipelines are above the ground and as such attracts criminal motive even though the vandals from the communities carry out the activities in conjunction with other higher officials and international bodies. The community members have conceived some sense of neglect and marginalisation and as such will use every opportunity to destroy the government and or multinationals facilities, even though, some basic necessities are occasionally provided. Contrarily, a majority of the participants from the oil and gas opposes the view of shallow pipeline structures, while, maintaining that communities act of sabotage and vandalism are a deliberate act. Accordingly, the oil and gas sectors respondents opine that pipelines be buried below, above or beneath the water and as such should not create an avenue for any vandals. While, on the contrary, a majority of the community participants maintained that oil bunkering will ever increase given that it contributes to livelihood support for the communities. The participants believe that shallow laying of a pipeline is not an influencing factor for sabotage while community respondents and agency respondents revealed that shallow laying of some pipes across and within communities without maximum security influences vandalism/sabotage. However, the community perspective supports the literature of (Akinleye, 2018), who revealed that most communities have felt marginalised and neglected for decades and as such, oil bunkering becomes a 'share' for the communities irrespective of any form of a treatment to health and environment.

4.4 Sense of Marginalisation and Neglect

Marginalisation and neglect issues in South-South Nigeria are bitterly and glamorously pronounced and emphasised. The bitterness and the glamour of neglect and marginalisation are with the fact that 90% of the revenue derived from the region and yet have received little or nothing in comparison to the living standard, other than environmental damages and pollution of different kinds from the exploration and production of the petroleum product. The participants opined that the two constructs (marginalisation and neglect) are a deliberate act from the Nigerian government and oil and gas multinationals. Emphasising on neglect, a majority of the participants reinforced that, "*the act of*

vandalism, oil theft or bunkering will never stop until the Nigerian Government takes appropriate steps to compensate the natives or communities across the region (Community respondents).” The incidents will continue as far as the natives of the region still feel marginalised and neglected, as added by participants. Likewise, when the communities or natives of the region feel some sense of belonging through the action of the Nigerian government or the oil cooperation, then oil sabotage, oil terrorism, and vandalism will stop, otherwise not in recent time. This result conforms Umar and Othman (2017); Adishi and Hunga (2017); Boris (2015) where they mention that denial, and exclusion from societal and or natural resources utilisation by primary owners may influence the formulation of groups among aggrieved persons and as such increase the frequency of stress and emotional outburst. Also, increasing the activities of oil bunkering and theft. The table below summarises other influencing factors of sobatage/vandalism.

Table 1. Other Influencing factors of sabotage, vandalism

Community Factors	Institutional / Legal Factors
Widespread poverty, Ignorance/ illiteracy, Poor Protection of oil pipelines, inordinate ambition for wealth	Political sabotage (Niger Delta Militancy), Poor policing oil pipelines, Scarcity/ high cost of petroleum product within communities, corruption, and sabotage in the oil and gas sector
Culture of criminal impunity, corruption and greed, unemployment, neglect of the region by the government and the oil and gas, frustration,	Poor/ bad governance, incompetency, Weak institutional structures, Ineffective law enforcement, marginalization, Neglect,
A Sense of neglect and marginalization	Oil derivation sharing principle, Shallow laying of pipelines
A Quest for resources control, community industry mismatch, political deprivation	Evolving culture of impunity

Sources: Primary Data

5. Conclusion and recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concludes that corruption, weak and bad governance are major causes influencing sabotage, vandalism and oil theft, from an institutional perspectives. While, abject poverty and unemployment, neglect and some sense of marginalisation are factors influencing the act of sabotage, vandalism and oil bunkering and oil theft. Even though, majority of the community

participants justified the act by implying that its an alternative means for livelihood support due to the damages to original livelihood structures, the study concludes that easy access to pipelines is a major factor influencing sabotage, vandalism and oil theft. As such, this needs more of the community involvement in the security aspects for pipelines, given that most pipes are layed crisscrossed between and within community topography. The study recommends the following critical strategies to reduce the act of sabotage, vandalism, oil bunkering, and oil theft. Such recommendations are; To provide profound security initiatives which include 24 hour monitoring devices entrusted in community security agents in collaboration with the oil and gas and oil spill-related agencies concerned. Establish a profound inclusion mechanism for oil producing communities in security plans. A good governance and fair distribution of oil wealth and political prioritisation across communities of the region in such a way that includes the natives of oil-bearing communities. Likewise, a good philosophy where a worthy and appropriate infrastructural development are put in place to enhance societal needs, irrespective of the present situations.

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