



OIL SPILLAGE ON THE NIGER DELTA ENVIRONMENT AND ITS ECONOMIC IMPACT



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Abstract:

Many years ago before the discovery of the oil in the Niger Delta areas the environment has been economically, ecologically, physically and biologically friendly. Until their foreign multinational companies invaded the land for economic relations and investments although the government of federal Republic of Nigeria with those multinational companies seize the opportunity to invest in the oil rich region since then the environment and the aquatic habitat of the state have not been the same. Companies and the nation becomes entangled in a huge financial lost when rock oil spillage takes place it destroys things that have economic values such as farm product, palm trees, rubber, cassava which are source of income within and outside of the region. The unconventional spill of oil within this region environs necessitated this study for the study a set of structured and partially agreed options of the questionnaire were distributed from ten communities of the Niger Delta region. The data obtained were analysed using simple percentage. The result of the finding shows that oil spillage has a negative impact on the economically, biological properties of the environment which result to the economic effect leading to food shortages, reduces nutrient available for plant growth, which increases global warming and cause of environmental degradation.

Key words:

The effect of oil spillage, Environmental Disseas, Economic Impact.

Introduction

Many years ago before the discovery of oil in Oloibiri in old Rivers state the environment has been ecologically, biologically friendly until their foreign multinational companies invaded the Niger Delta Region for economic relations and investment of federal Republic of Nigeria with those multinational companies to seize the opportunity to invest in the oil rich region, since then, the environment and the aquatic habitat of the state have not been the same.

Their policies ideals and perception of all oil pollution/spillage amazingly remain unchanged. International analysts and local reporters have ignored large portions of information that might exonerate the usual pipeline damage or culprits as though normal theory to oil spillage. The local oil spillage that continues where the production of oil is derive and their assumption of risk criticize the unfairly effort toward achieving environmental justice for the interest of those communities in a real life setting of oil spillage causes petroleum shortages encourage shortage of petroleum product to local and multipurpose users usually, it is known when rock oil spillage occurs supply of petroleum products is usually cut off. Note in September 17, 1999 when SPOC(shell petroleum deposit companies) oil spillage occurred at Ekakpamre in rivers state about 100,000 barrels from most of the land field were spilled, there was a substantial economic loss to the nation. Companies and the nation became entangled in a huge financial lost when rock oil spillage took place ,it destroyed things that had economic values such as farm products palm trees rubbers cassava etc. which are sources of income within and outside of the region . As a result of the fire many lives and properties were destroyed by the fires parents were left without children and wives without husbands as the case maybe, victims of the fire burns suffers damages. There were also damages due to the inhalations of the fumes and carbon-dioxide. Citizens become liabilities because they are unable to feed themselves. Large areas of lands becomes

infertile due to fire outbreak by the oils spills which effected all living organism.it also create a hazardous lives for all aquatic products living in the rivers and ocean.

Nigeria environment, especially Niger delta region has been under serious challenge raging from the commencement of oil exploration up to date, the best way to cope with the economy remains impossible human and animals health due to the effect of oil spillage and hazardous attack of acid rains have resulted to a serious health problem. The environmental effect of oil spillage as a resulted to a serious health problems. The environmental effect of oil spillage for some decades now ecosystem of Nigeria especially the Niger Delta Region has been under serious threat due to oil spillage more if the government pays no attention to it would be more degraded. More when the atmosphere surrounding the earth has been polluted with carbon-monoxide and other toxic substance. Air pollution is a major environmental effect of oil spillage within the country and the world at large making the polluted atmosphere unsaved and could cause poor health condition to plant therefore reducing it insulting ability.

Nigeria is one of the major countries in the world where air pollution has been other of the day, hewing constant gas flaming by industries an oil companies. Burning coal, explosion of oil tanker due to poor road network. Aquatic lines emerge as soon as oil spilled comes in contact with water, erosion washed spilled into the environment leading to biohazard. Horrific sights and rearing wise pollution couple with explosive oil spillage. Such sight and disturbing noise could cause hypertension of health disaster on the environment.

Acid Rain: When oil spillage occur that lead to fire outbreak or other factors, chemical reaction will be form (combustion) which is the combination of oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, sulphur and other elements in the substance being burned the reaction leads to the formation of acid.

In addition to the urgent need facing the alternatives petroleum and other fuels are the problem of global warming petroleum. Combustion releases carbon-dioxide a green substance gas into the atmosphere and most atmospheric scientists all over the world behaved that rising levels of green substance gases are derived into climate change. Many environmental problem include disrupted weather patterns and ice cap melting.

Details on the issues

We consider here to review literature pertaining to the research subject s matter effect of oil spillage on the Niger Delta environment pertaining their health and Nigeria economy.

Before the exploration of the first oil well in Germany, the world was using wood as a source of energy. The demand and utilization of energy was very small until the industrial evaluation in 1900 AD. When new and more sophisticated technologies were developed for energy and manufactured good arose. The demand for energy greatly increased because of the new developed technologies. The effect of rock oil is ongoing due to environmental hazard, health, air and water pollution and increasing global warming Caria (2000).

According to Wikipedia (2007) when crude oil spill on land it affects the soil organisms and other soil properties. It also makes soil acidic produce disease in the soil causing environmental hazard, health, air, and water pollution increases. In Nigeria, the first oil well was discovered in Olobiri in commercial quantity for export in the year 1956.

According to Encarta Encyclopaedia, pollution is another important course of extinction. Toxic chemicals specially chlorinated hydrocarbons such dichlorodipheny and polychlorinated biphenyis (PCBC) have become concentrated in food webs, the interconnected food chains that circulate energy through an ecosystem. Oil spills destroy birds, fish, thus have been recorded by the events of many years acid rain, the tonic result of extreme air pollution has been known to kill organisms in fresh water, destroy large tracts of forested land.

According to Dr John Howard Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in America (2002) told the congress of America that oil spill could be irritating to the skin, to the lungs an could cause vomiting if swallowed, more likely to have long lasting health effects at the institute of medicine conference Prof. Walini Sathiakumu of the university of Alabama noted that over (400) four hundred oil tankers spills that have occurred since the 1960, only seven have been studied and provides reasons for caution. Oil spillage also contains volatile organic compounds like the carcinogen benzene.

The first export started in the year 1958, the first offshore oil well was discovered on December 24th 1963 in Okan field and offshore export in the year 1965 simultaneously. All these catalogue of crude oil records have been traced with jots of oil spillage.

The process that led to acid rain begins with the burning of fossil fuels through oil spillage. Combustion is a chemical reaction in which oxygen from the air combines with carbon, Nitrogen, Sulphur and Cotton element in the substance.

Related matters

According to Wikimedia 2002 report in major spillage record. Nigeria is one of the major countries that spilled oil across the globe with past decades. The following

ones are the chronological list of oil spill across the world. It is difficult to know the exact measure of tones of rock oil with one tone roughly equal to 7.33 barrels, or 1165 litres. Mindoro Island is the world's best drives sites. Residents of Barangay Siblyary in accidental Mindoro, a nearby coastal town said that the MN Island explorer has started to leak bunker fuel, endangering the life which serve as a fish Nursery and the major source of livelihood of the surrounding communities.

January 20th, 1989 Norway A large oil spill has started spreading from the capsized Cargo vessel Rockiness that spilled several thousand litres of city of Bergen close to a thousand seabirds have already been found dead or drying up.

The pipeline leakage. This is the process by which a pipeline carry product (pipeline Network) spilled due to corrosive factor or other factor. According to Encarta Encyclopaedia, an oil pipeline fire that began on October 18th, 1998 near the south-western Nigeria city of Warri killed more than two people and injured dozens of people. Other witness said that the fire began when an errant spark in knitted oil that had spilled from a ruptured pipeline. Many of those people consumed by the blaze were reportedly trying to collect the fuel and many were burned beyond recognition Cargo tanker spilled. This is the process whereby a cargo tank spilled or burst on the sea, ocean, lake, rivers. It pollutes the water by releasing toxic chemical compounds that hamper aquatic lives by poisoning them and then making the water to be unfit for drinking causing diseases and divers' health problems to the resident of the environment.

Methodology of studies

Here we targeted to explain the procedure method and system adopted in carrying out the studies we also defined the fundamental aspect of the research design employed in conducting our studies.

The area of study adopted is an experimental approach, as research survey is employed in the studies, because it covers all the states in Niger Delta Region.

We also adopted the simple technique in the study particularly the simple random method, respondents from each states are included more on the communities that is affected by the oil spillage which are the right persons to respond to the research questions.

In the study the instrument used was a self-designed questionnaire titled to what extent spillage has damaged our economy forest atmosphere, health and environment at large.

Analysis and discussion

In terms of reliability of the instrumentation of the method, data conducted to the internal consistency of the item in the questionnaire is used. Below shows the percentage formula implemented:

$$\% = \frac{n}{N} \times 100$$

Where:

n = number of respondents

N = Total number of respondent (population size)

% = percentage

$$\% = \frac{\text{no of respondent} \times 100}{\text{population size}}$$

The hypothesis related to the effects of oil spillage and the devastative consequence due to constant pollution of oil spillage and the environment in Niger Delta. Specially, this study will give an empirically to the day

occurring problems as it related to testing the validity of the stated hypothesis, consequently the analysis aid to presentation data which will be based on the collection given among the specified sample.

The Distribution of sample Questionnaire from Respondents of Different States in Niger Delta.

States	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Return
R/S Rivers state	18	18
B/S state	18	18
Delt/s. Delta state	18	18
Edo/s. Edo state	18	18
Akwa/s. Akwa Ibom state	18	18
Cross River	18	18
Total	116	116

This table shows that the number of the entire questionnaires sent out to various states in the region the respondent filled and return the entire questionnaire by hundred percentage 100%.

The questionnaire contain eight good research questionnaires with only one segment for easy analysis of oil spillage in the Niger Delta. Here we formulate below eight (8) good research questionnaires with only one segment for easy analysis of oil spillage in Niger Delta.

S/N	Research question	TA	FA	PT	PF	TOTAL
1	There has been economic loses to oil spill	8	1	4	5	18
2	Most companies operate under classical responsibility and this has also lead to spillage in the region.	10	-	5	-	15
3	Oil spillage has greatly affected the agricultural sector and food security within the nation.	5	4	7	-	16
4	Government policies that is unfair to the people has also make an individual to vandalize.	7	2	4	-	13
5	Through oil spillage in Rivers state has lost quantity of oil meant for sustainable development in the nation.	10	2	4	2	18
6	Oil spills has change the biological chemistry of both plant and animals in Rivers state.	1	10	3	2	16
7	Oil spillage has greatly degrade our environment specially in Rivers State.	10	-	2	-	12
8	Through oil spillage, some individuals have benefited from Rivers state resources	3	3	1	1	8
	Total	54	22	80	10	116

T.A = Truly Agree

F.A = Falsely Agree

P.T = Partially Agree

P.F = Partially False

$$T.A = \frac{54}{116} \times \frac{100}{1} = 47\%$$

$$F.A = \frac{22}{116} \times \frac{100}{1} = 19\%$$

$$P.A = \frac{30}{116} \times \frac{100}{1} = 25\%$$

$$P.F = \frac{10}{116} \times \frac{100}{1} = 19\%$$

With my finding the total of 54 respondent. Truly agreed having 47% of segment analysis of the great damage of the spillage in Niger Delta.

Findings

By the research conducted in the effect of oil spillage in Niger Delta on human health, economic failure and its consequence and solution I finally discovered good fact and information about the oil spillage on the environment and its effect.

- (a) Oil spillage has great biohazard both aquatic, terrestrial lives and human health especially in Rivers state. The coastal region that produced the crude oil.
- (b) Oil spillage has also affected food production.
- (c) Oil spillage has also affected the atmospheric condition of the area.
- (d) It has cause loss of lives and properties.

Finally according to my finding the effects of oil spillage have negative effect and contributed to the sundry health problem. If the devastating consequences are taken into consideration early before now, I believe the effect of oil spill would have been controlled. I know that government revenue is sufficiency enough to tackle the effect of oil spill if bribery and corruption is not in the system.

Suggestion for further study

This work can be useful to whoever that want to make reference to it for vital information while carrying out academic investigation on any other investigation. Among I suggest for the

quantification of pollutant arising for oil spillage in the Nigeria death.

Recommendations

I therefore, recommend that the following steps should be taken into considerations:

- (a) The petroleum companies and the federal government should implement a good logistical organization and inspection agency to monitor the movement of any petroleum vessel and pipeline.
- (b) The government and the relevant petroleum companies should make sure a good insulation materials are used to caution the cargo carries and product tankers
- (c) Government should learn to do without foreign agencies in terms of management and clean up skill.
- (d) Every Cargo ship must following the international maritime organizational code for ship operations (Imo code).

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