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Resource Control in African States: The Implications for Economic Growth and Development of Niger Delta Region in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

It is a common phenomenon in African States that resources are managed and controlled by the central government to the neglect of the principle of resource control. The Nigerian experience was investigated with emphasis on its implication for economic growth and development of the resource producing region. In particular, the study was centred on the economic life in the oil producing area of Niger Delta Region referred to as South-South in Nigeria. Data extracted from works by other scholars were used for qualitative analysis while secondary data obtained from Ministry of Finance and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) was used for qualitative analysis. Simple regression was the inferential statistical tool adopted to examine the effect of neglect of resource control on economic life of the South-South people. Findings revealed that management and control of resources by the central government has negative effect on economic growth in the South-South. The major recommendation was that the principle of resource control should be adopted in totality and should be enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Key words: Derivation, Resource Control, Degradation, Militancy, Growth and Development.

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INTRODUCTION

The scramble for Africa decades ago was caused by discovery of Africa by Europe as a fertile ground for rich natural economic endowment and human resources though uncivilized. This precipitated creation of boundaries in Africa that resulted to tension-prone territories. Great Britain monopolised some parts of Africa and made a strong hold of an area of West Africa later called Nigeria. The colonial masters partitioned Nigeria into Northern protectorate, Southern and Eastern protectorates. This was the genesis of the regional arrangement till date in Nigeria. During amalgamation, the northern and southern protectorates were favoured by the colonial masters for administrative purposes of socio-economic cum political matters while neglecting the people of the eastern protectorates. The attitude of the masters was attributed to compatibility of the colonial masters' system of government (indirect rule) and the pre-colonial system in the two protectorates. They had challenges in the east as the hierarchical system in the east could not work with the British system of indirect rule. This scenario dampened the interest of colonial masters in developing the eastern protectorate and the people. The British colonial masters influenced the composition of the central government to be dominated by northerners and southerners (Yoruba's). Political and economic powers therefore rested in their hands to the neglect of the people in the east. This is reflected in resource control system and sharing formula in Nigeria (Rupley, 1981).

The issue of resource control system and the sharing formula of resources in Nigeria according to Achebe (2012) could be traced to the tension-prone creation of protectorates by the colonial masters and the biasness they created in ruling the protectorates (Achebe, 2012). This is visible in the resource control and sharing formula before and after discovering of oil in Nigeria. The sharing formula imposed by the political leaders at the centre was based on ownership of the resources when the main stay of the Nigerian economy was agriculture, particularly, the exported produce mainly groundnut in the north and cocoa in the west. The formula changed from the basis of ownership when oil was discovered and explored in the east (Ekpo, 1993). This state of affairs has raised the concern to examine the method of resource control and the effect on the owners of the resources. The specific objectives of the study are to: compare the sharing formula before the discovery of oil and after discovery of oil in Nigeria; identify the states that form the present Niger Delta Region otherwise referred to as South-South; examine the effect of exploration on the economic life of the people of Niger Delta and reactions to the present sharing formula as well as and resource control system in Nigeria.

MAJOR RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research study attempts to provide answers to questions such as:

(1) What is resource control?
(2) What is the practise in Nigeria?
(3) How were/are the proceeds of recourses shared in Nigeria from Independence till date?
(4) How progressive or retrogressive is the sharing formula to the owners of the natural economic resources explored?
(5) What are the effects of oil exploration on economic life of the people of Niger Delta Region?
(6) How do they react to the exploitation of the resources and the sharing formula of proceeds from their resources?

Hypothesis is formulated in this study to sharpen the focus of the investigation. It is stated in a null form.

$H_{0:}$ Derivation from oil as oil producing state has no significant effect on the economic life of the people of Akwa Ibom State. This paper is divided into sections. Section one is the introduction, section two presents the literature review while section three is the methodology. Section four is the presentation of data, analysis and findings. Section five is summary of the work, conclusion and recommendations.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

Resource control is a topical issue in Nigeria that needs urgent attention to demystify the circumstances that surrounds the rancour on the matter. This section attempts to study ideas, situations and theories that could influence the investigation to enhance valid logical conclusion. It is important to have a general knowledge of the principle of resource control, its practice in Nigeria, the sharing formula of proceeds made from natural resources belonging to Niger Delta people and the economic life of the people.

The Concept of Resource Control

Conceptually, resource control means the management of resources by government of the area from whose jurisdiction the resources are found and explored (Tanzi, 1995). In a federal state, it is the control and management of resources by states and local governments that own the resources. According to Adesopo and Asju (2004) resource control involves acquiring political power over resources, production, management and utilization in the area of location to ensure regeneration of the environment and over all sustainable development of the people. In true federalism, states and local governments should manage the resources from their territories under federal guidelines. Dafione (2001) defines resource control as the practice of true federalism and natural law which the federating units express their rights to primarily control the natural resources within their borders and make agreed contribution towards the maintenance of common services of the government at the centre.

In consonance with the idea of Dafione, Obafemi Owolowo disagreed with the dependence of federal government on resources from the regions as it could lead to disintegration (Olowononi, 1999).

He discussed federalism and vertical inter-governmental financial imbalance in Nigeria. Also, Adam Smith’s position is that: if the state can grab all the land and resources and control who and on what terms people get access to them, then this maximizes control, even if it sacrifices economic efficiency (www.adamsmith.org/blog/economics/on). Resource control is common within the context of federalism and fiscal federalism.

The respective tiers of government should be autonomous in their resources and the resources should be managed to carry out their functions.

The theory of federalism stipulates three major components of resource control: the power and right of a community to raise fund from natural resources within its territory; the exclusive right to the ownership and control of the resources both natural and created within the territory; and the right to custom duties and goods destined for its territory (Jinadu, 1979). Despite the importance of resource control as emphasized by Adam smith and others, Nigeria as a federal state violates this principles.

RESOURCE CONTROL IN NIGERIA

Resource control has become a topical issue in Nigeria since the discovery of oil in 1960s in Niger Delta region of the country. By political definition and by the constitution, Nigeria is a Federation of states (Onoh, 2013; Philips, 1975). In a federation, the principle of fiscal federalism should apply, but this is violated in Nigeria through the system whereby resources are managed and controlled at the centre to the detriment of the resource owners (Sagie, 1992). Natural resources found in Niger Delta region of the country is managed and controlled by leaders at the centre dominated by non owners of the resources who share the proceed of the resources in a formula that does not favour the owners (Attah, 2000). This system of resource control and the sharing formula have generated a lot of debates, quarrels, crisis and riots, differences between citizens from different regions, differences between tiers of government and differences amongst members of the houses of representatives (National Assembly) irrespective of the party background. For instance, governors of the 17 southern states the oil producing states otherwise known as Niger Delta states rose in their third summit in Benin City on the 27th March 2001 and proclaimed true fiscal federalism not minding their political affiliation. The conference urged the country to abide by the tenets of true federalism and fiscal autonomy for the federating states (Ekpo, 2004).

The struggle for resource control in Nigeria which is ongoing has gathered the greatest momentum in the concluded National conference in 2014. The people of the South-South were agitating for it because of the poor treatment accorded them in the distribution of the proceeds from oil explored in their territory (Arowolo, 2011). According to Ekpo (2004) for decades now, the people of Niger Delta (South-South) had lived with difficulty of having to feed on the crumbs of the claimed national cake baked in their territory. The oil-bearing communities have been more of curse than blessing as the people of Oguagba in the region lamented thus: *“Our joys have become sorrow because the oil production activities have completely destroyed the ecological systems of our clan. Aquatic life is almost completely destroyed, the soil completely eroded and flora and fauna badly affected almost to the level of extinction. In addition, oil exploration and production activities have subjected us to devastating erosion and permanent pollution, forcing us against our will to lie permanently in a toxic atmosphere, yet the proceed of oil exploration is not fairly distributed to reach us”*

OIL EXPLORATION AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF NIGER DELTA

The Niger Delta area was a very densely populated region sometimes called the oil rivers because it was the major producer of palm oil. It was the British oil rivers protectorate from 1885 until 1893 when it was expanded and it became the Niger coast protectorate (Davidson et al., 1975). The region, as now defined officially by the Nigerian government, extends over about 70.000km^2 and makes up 75% of Nigeria’s land mass. Some 31 million people of more than 40 ethnic groups are among the present area known as Niger Delta. The Niger Delta includes; Akwa Ibom state, Bayelsa, Delta state, Edo state and rivers State en. Wikipedia.org/wk/ Niger Delta Niger Delta has made Nigeria biggest producer of petroleum in West Africa (Ekpo, 1993). Since 1975, the region was recognized for contributing more than 75% of Niger’s export earnings (Pearson, 1970). According to Ubogu (1979), the long list of oil companies involved in exploration today mostly foreign indicates that the search for oil in Nigeria has become internationalised. Oil and natural gas extracted from the area comprise 97% of Nigeria’s foreign exchange revenue, yet 13% is paid as derivation to the producing states; “The goose that lays the golden egg has been neglected.” Niger Delta has become mere economic spectators who can only fight over economic crumbs (Enwegbara, 2014).

This situation has a negative effect on economic development of the people and owners of the resources that is the main stay of that Nigerian economy (Amnesty International, 2009). Exploration of crude oil has caused exploitation of economic life of the people in Niger Delta. Experience of oil spillage, environmental degradation, sewage, waste water and other devastating ecological damages have affected the people (Feyide, 1991; Hogan, 2013). Despite this awful experiences, bias resource control by the centre has denied the people the right to gain from the proceed of the exploitation. This situation has generated crisis in the region such as riot; agitation by the Ogoni people to form Ogoni republic which led to the death of ken Sarowiwa; destruction of oil pipe lines and development of Niger Delta militancy. The Indigenous people have seen little if any improvement in their standard of living while suffering serious damages of their natural environment.

Sharing Formula and Oil Derivation in Nigeria

In the 1960 constitution that ushered in independence, extensive provisions were made in section 130 to 139 for revenue allocation. In section 134 (1) it was clearly stated that there shall be payment by federation to each region a sum equal to 50% of the federation in respect of any mineral extracted in that region; and any mining rents derived by the federation during that year from within that region. Also, 1963 constitution allowed for the revenue derived from mineral mining activities in the continental shelf to be paid to the region. These were the situation when discovery of oil in Nigeria was not popular. At this time resources were mainly from the North and Western part of the country. In the advent of exploration of oil at a high level such that proceed from the exploration became the source of foreign exchange earning in Nigeria and the mainstay of the economy, provisions earlier made in 1960 and 1963 were amended to favour the centre and not the owners of the resources. The 1979 constitution and the amendment in 1999 gave 74.5% reduction to the 1960 derivation formula by reducing it from 50 to 13%. This is the current formula known as derivation (Rupley, 1981).

METHODOLOGY

This study is descriptive and analytical in nature aimed at examining the effect of resource control system in Nigeria on the owners of the resources. Particularly, the effects of sharing formula of oil proceed in Nigeria on the owners. Akwa Ibom State with highest amount of derivation is used for the analysis Simple percentages, tables and averages are the tools for descriptive analysis while regression and correlation techniques are adopted for inferential statistical analysis to show the relationship between the system of resource control in Nigeria and the economic life of the owners of the resources.

Sources of Data

Since the work requires secondary data and Akwa Ibom State is the leading owner of oil wells in Nigeria, documented data is obtained from the Akwa Ibom State ministry of finance the budget unit. The data required are the amount received by the state as derivations from oil proceeds and the annual budgets. The period under review covers from 1999 to 2013. However, data from other sources such as internet and textbooks are also useful especially for descriptive analysis.

Regression Model

In examining the effect of resource control system in Nigeria and the economic life of the owners of the resources, Derivation is used, as proxy for resource control system (sharing formula) of oil proceed by the federal government while budget of the state (Akwa Ibom) is used as proxy for economic life of the people. The result obtained from the study in Akwa Ibom is retained to be a true situation in other Niger Delta states as it is a leading state in this regards. The functional relationship between the dependent variable and the explanatory variable is expressed as:

$$AB = F\,(OD)$$

Where AB= Annual Budget

F= functional relationship

OD= Yearly Derivation

This simple regression analysis is used to particularly analyse the effect of the explanatory variable on the dependent variable. The functional relationship is specified thus:

$$AB = a_o + a_1\,OD + e$$

Where a_0 = The model intercept

a_1 = The parameter of the explanatory variable

e = Stochastic terms.

A Priori Expectation: It is theoretically expected that there should be a direct relationship between the explanatory variable and the dependent variable. If the resource control system (sharing formula) is improved, the economic life of the people (budget) is bound to be improved.

Test of Hypothesis

T-Statistics is used to test the statistical significance or reliability of the parameter estimate of the model. The test only proves statistically significant when the computed t-value is greater than the critical or table t-value using 5% level of significance at n-k (where n= number of observation and k = number of parameter estimate) degree of freedom. SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) Computer software is applied in conducting the analysis. Decision is based on the result as computed using the software SPSS.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Data are presented, analysed and findings are stated in this section. The presentation is done in tandem with the specific objectives as stated in section one.

Examination of the Sharing formula of Petroleum Proceeds in Nigeria

Shown in Table 1 is the percentage of oil proceeds between the state (owners of the oil) and the federal government. Between 1960 and 1969, the percentage was 50% for the state and 50% for the federal government. This was when oil was not yet popular in Nigeria. At this time, Groundnut, Cocoa and Cotton mainly from the North and western part of the country were the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. Between 1970 and 1975, Oil started gaining grounds and became the main source of foreign exchange in Nigeria, the percentage changed to 45% for the owners (state) and 55% for the federal government. Oil became very popular between 1979, and the sharing formula changed to only 20% for the owners and 80% for the government at the centre. The worst scenario was between 1980 to 1981

Table 1. Federal and state percentage share of petroleum proceeds.

Years	State Percentage	Federal Percentage
1960 – 1969	50	50
1970 – 1975	45	55
1976 – 1979	20	80
1980 – 1981	0	100
1982 – 1992	1.5	98.5
1993 – 1999	3	97
2000 – 2013	13	87

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 2013.

during the Second Republic led by Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Nothing was given to the owners. The federal government employed 100% of the proceeds from oil. Between 1982 and 1992, only 1.5% was given as compensation to the owners while federal government took 98.5%. Between 1993 and 1999 the compensation was raised to only 3% until the year 2000 when Obong Victor Attah, the then Governor of Akwa Ibom State fought for resource control and succeeded in achieving 13% derivation as the federal government could not accept the principle of resource control. This is the situation till date in Nigeria.

Identification of States in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

Niger Delta is synonymous to oil producing areas in Nigeria. It is defined for development and administrative purposes of the oil producing regions. Historically, the core Niger delta consists of Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states. In 2000 during the Civilian government led by Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, the region was extended to cover other oil producing areas such as Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Imo and Ondo states. These oil producing states are otherwise referred to as South-South region of Nigeria. Akwa Ibom state ranks the highest as oil producing state as at the time of this study.

Assessment of Oil exploration and Economic life of the people of Niger Delta

Oil has been more of a curse than a blessing as assessed above (Table 2). In communities where oil is explored and production carried out onshore, deforestation, erosion and destroyed farmlands are experienced. Oil exploration has become exploitation of the economic life of the local dwellers. The people are living in polluted creeks and destroyed aquatic life. When there are spillages, losses could not be quantifiable (Ekpo, 2004). There is also the problem of acid rain which destroys houses. The people of Oguagba in Edo state according to Ekpo, wept, thus: *Our joys have become sorrows because the oil production activities have completely destroyed the ecological systems of our clan. Aquatic life is almost completely destroyed, the soil completely eroded and flora and fauna badly affected almost to the level of extinction. In addition, oil exploration and production activities have subjected us to devastating erosion and permanent pollution, forcing us against our will to lie permanently in a toxic atmosphere.*

Regression and Correlation Analyses

Table 3 shows regression values.

Results and Interpretation of Results

AB = 1.7799E10 + 1.575OD

R = (0.960)

R^2 = (0.922)

Adjusted R^2 = (0.916)

T = 12.398

P – Value = 0.000

Where AB=Annual budget as proxy for economic life of the people
OD=Yearly oil derivation in Akwa Ibom State. The result of the estimated equation shows positive relationship between the Annual budget of Akwa Ibom State (AB) (Table 4) and oil derivation of 13% received by the state (OD). It supports the theoretical expectation that if oil derivation is increased, the budget of the state could be expanded to improve the economic life of the people.
The regression parameter a_1 = 1.575OD means that one unit variation in annual budget of Akwa Ibom State could be explained by 1.575 variation in oil derivation paid to the state. In other words, 100% variation in annual budget could be explained by 157.5% variation in oil derivation paid to the state. The correlation coefficient (R) is 0.960 or 96% (Table 5). This shows significant relationship between the dependent variable annual

Table 2. Environmental problems, socio-economic issues, and development related problems.

Problem Type	Problems	Ranking
Natural Environment	River bank/Erosion	High
	Flooding	High
	Sedimentation/Siltation	Low
	Exotics (Water Hyacinth)	High
	Coastal	Moderate
Development Related	Land Degradation/ Soil Fertility loss	High
	Agricultural decline	High
	Delta forest loss	High
	Biodiversity depletion	High
	Fisheries decline	High
	Oil spillage	High
	Gas flaring	Moderate
	Sewage and Waste water	High
	Other chemicals	High
Socio-economic Problems	Unemployment	High
	Community – Oil Company Conflict	High
	Inter-Community Conflict	High
	Conflict over land	High
	Inadequate Compensation	High
	Displacement	Moderate
	Decay in Societal values	High
	Poor transportation/High cost of fuel	High
	Housing pressure and Infrastructure decay	High

Source: Niger Delta Environmental Survey, 2000.

Table 3. Regression variables – yearly 13% oil derivation and annual budget of Akwa Ibom State.

Year	13% Oil Derivation	Annual Budget
1999	257,250,000	3,420,830,020
2000	999,455,700	5,912,913,480
2001	15,975,860,010	31,225,186,280
2002	22,000,000	70,528,516,760
2003	14,400,000	58,714,454,220
2004	15,101,678,790	42,529,462,140
2005	19,600,000,000	47,420,525,510
2006	50,857,559,800	87,172,408,090
2007	55,733,500,000	118,675,085,690
2008	89,753,500,000	148,258,768,760
2009	89,753,500,000	148,001,887,462.99
2010	98,527,438,053.14	184,199,180,759.23
2011	140,392,403,320.99	176,371,930,886.69
2012	129,060,001,331.45	181,918,191,092.76
2013	249,005,000,000	470,080,166,710

Source: approved recurrent and capital estimates 1999 to 2013, Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria.

Table 4.Descriptive Statistics.

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
AB	1.1830E11	1.15964E11	15
OD	6.3670E10	7.06813E10	15

Table 5.Correlations.

	AB	OD
Pearson Correlation AB	1.000 0.960	0.960 1.000
Sig. (1-tailed) AB		0.000
OD	0.000	0.
N AB	15	15
OD	15	15

Table 6.Model Summary.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.960[a]	0.922	0.916	3.36274E10

a Predictors: (Constant), OD.

Table 7.Cooeficients[a]

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standard Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.7799E10	1.187E10		1.516	.153
OD	1.575	.127	.960	12.389	.000

a. Dependent variable: AB.

budget and the independent variable yearly oil derivation. The R-square R^2 is 0.922 or 92%. This means that approximately 92% of the variation in Annual budget could be explained by yearly oil derivation in Akwa Ibom State. R^2 Adjusted is 0.916 or 91.6% (Table 6). This affirms the strength of the independent variable yearly oil derivation in explaining variation of the dependent variable annual budget in Akwa Ibom State. The t-test statistic computed is 12.389 while the p-value is 0.000 (Table 7). This implies that coefficient of the independent variable is statistically significant at 5% level. Following the rule, the null hypothesis that derivation from oil has no significant effect on the economic life of the people is rejected. The meaning of this is that yearly oil derivation in Akwa Ibom State has a significant effect on the economic life of the people. Invariably, the alternative hypothesis is accepted.

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

(1) It is revealed in this study that most countries of the sub-Saharan regions, Nigeria in particular, violets the principle of fiscal federalism by denying the states the right to manage their resources.

(2) It is also found that, the denial has affected the economic life of the people. The standard of living is low because only 13% of the proceed from their natural resources is paid. If the 13% impacts so much as 92% on the economic life of the people, it implies that if they control their resources, the economic life of the people would be better and standard of living would be high.

(3) It is further revealed in the study, that the cheat to the people of Niger delta by government at the centre has caused a lot of casualty, riots and strikes that have affected the economic life of the people and the nation at large. Some owners of the resources adopted violence in struggling for resource control.

(4) Still more, it is revealed that the exploration of oil has turned to exploitation of the region, yet the people do not benefit enough to compensate the destruction caused by the oil exploration.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary

The study of the effect of resource control in African states on the economic life of the owners of the resources, particularly in Nigeria is traced to the scramble for Africa decades ago. The colonial masters partitioned Nigeria into protectorates which resulted to the present regional arrangement and the federal system of government. The government at the centre ignores the principle of resource control and takes over control of resources from the owners (states) to the detriment of the economic life of the people; mainly Niger Delta people. Comparative analysis of resources control and sharing formula of proceeds before development of oil and when oil became the main stay of the Nigerian economy has been carried out in this work. Development of oil in Nigeria is traced to the core Niger delta region as identified in the study. The crux of the study is the exploration of oil in Niger Delta while the resource is controlled by the federal government. The suffering of the people of Niger delta is traced to the cheat by federal government over their resources. The exploitation in the area has negative effects on the economic life of the people as discussed in the work. Regression and correlation analysis for inferential statistical study have shown that the people of Niger delta would have been very rich with high standard of living if they were allowed to control their resources. Based on the findings, the ways forward are suggested such as gearing towards central government respecting the principle of resource control.

Conclusion

It is affirmed in this paper that Niger Delta people are cheated in the distribution of proceed from their natural resources. This has resulted to crisis in the region such as militancy, kidnapping and riots. It is certain that the economic life of the people in Niger Delta is poor because their resources have been robbed by the Federal Government.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Nigeria and other African states practising federal system of government should respect the principle of resource control as a condition for fiscal federalism. This could impact positively on the economic life of owners of the resources. While contributing to the development of the centre.
2. The sharing formula in Nigeria like other sub Saharan states is regressive in nature. It is recommended that it should be progressive. This could be the case if and only if owners of the resources are allowed to take at least 75% of proceed of their resources and contribute 25% to the centre.
3. The struggle for resource control in Nigeria is done with violence by some groups. Violence is not a good measure. It is recommended that the struggle for resource control should be done through negotiation in town-hall conferences as attempted in the national Conference introduced in 2014.
4. The exploitation caused by exploration of oil should be adequately compensated. It is recommended that government and the oil companies exploring the land should compensate the owners of the resources in various ways such as provision of schools, electricity, hospital and good roads. Also, compensation of cash should be made directly to the affected people and not through chiefs, elite and representatives. In this way, the compensation will impact directly on economic life of the people concerned.

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