
IMPACT OF REHABILITATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE NIGER DELTA EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT;

This paper investigated impacts of rehabilitation program on socio-economic development of Niger Delta, Nigeria. Many youths were granted amnesty by the federal government given supportive rehabilitation. The paper anchored on “The Reformative Theory.” The paper is a survey design. Materials were sort through well-structured questionnaires, journals and internet. 150 samples were utilized from among youths that agitated for resource control in Niger Delta region. Data for this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics of tables, frequency, percentages and mean, bar charts and pie charts. Descriptive statistics and group arithmetic mean (GAM), and Mean weight Value (MWV) were used to analyze the data. Findings revealed that more of the youths were involved in the agitation for resource control and arms struggle in the Niger Delta region with greater number of males and had 12 months of rehabilitation program. The rehabilitation resulted to increased (high) access to education, income, employment and poverty level. However, the program still left negative (low) effect on poverty level, infrastructural provision, and sanitary environment of Niger Delta region. The study recommended that federal government or its agencies should ensure that projects started in the Niger Delta are completed at record time to stamp out youth restiveness in the region. The 13 per cent derivation formula requested by the region should be accepted to increase the level of developmental infrastructural request of the people of Niger Delta. Subsequent rehabilitation programs should be reviewed to include absorption of rehabilitated youths by oil companies in the region. Federal government should take seriously the issue of misappropriation of annual funds allocation to the region for projects, skills such as hair dressing, tailoring, welding works, aluminum fabrications, scholarships and others.

Keywords; Impact, Rehabilitation, Economic Development, Nigeria Niger Delta, Experience

Introduction

Not too long the Niger Delta region was neglected and her youths abandoned without recourse to the effects of oil exploration and exploitation activities of the multinational companies. The history of rehabilitation cannot be complete without amnesty for the agitation of better life for people of the Niger Delta region. Mostly, the issue of rehabilitation has been perceived to be the concern of people with physical and mental disabilities. Criminals against the state in the name of agitation against activities of the oil companies came to be included in federal government rehabilitation process as many were known to have been affected by drug abuse. The issue of rehabilitation transcends to both criminals and individuals with disability. Deviance in the society is more of persons with mental disorder. In the case of disorder or disability, rehabilitation takes effect after treatment or rehabilitation of the victim and possible counseling. Rehabilitation is usually followed simultaneously by reintegration back to the society. The endpoint of rehabilitation and possible reintegration is to remove stigma which is the society. It has been documented that stigmatization is not the individual that suffered the challenge rather, the society who does not want to let go the understanding that an individual was once a victim of drug abuse, mad man/woman, an armed robber, an outcast, a slave, raped and other crimes. The fact remains that once an individual is continuously called a mad man by members of the society, it becomes a sign of rejection, and that is the stigmatization we talk about. Stigmatization leads to depression. As the individual becomes depressed, Suicide may be eminent since depression is one of the suicide factors (Nwanyanwu, 2021). As essential health recovering and integration process, acceptability of the individual is necessary to cushion the trauma experienced by the victim. For certain group of person (criminals) amnesty is the first stage of rehabilitation process while for some, treatment and remediation of health condition is required. The fitness status is must not overlooked as qualification for rehabilitation (Akpomovie, 2011). In this case, both treatment, remediation, counseling, reintegration are all the rehabilitation process but essential amongst them is internship where the individual is enrolled into apprenticeship scheme to engage the victim in skills learning to be able to sustain him/herself and properly fit into the society and at the same time contribute in the economic development.

Rehabilitation is considered as a designed approach to optimize the utilization of an individual by putting him/her back to proper functioning state for proper interaction with the society and his environment by reducing the effect of disability (Ajugwo, 2013). The impact of rehabilitation can be viewed from the perspective of rehabilitated individual's economic contribution to the society. According to Ayuba and Adati (2012), rehabilitation is a total care of victims of mental or physical impairment to enable him/her perform better and live normal life again. Under abnormal conditions, rehabilitation minimizes/slow the impact of severe health conditions or disability. Giving these definitions rehabilitation can be said to be a process of intervention of a condition aimed at remediating a condition through a systematic treatment to achieve independency by reintegrating a victim back to the society. By rehabilitation, victim's pains and severe condition is ameliorated and participation in normal activities is guaranteed. Normal life participation and support to programs and activities exclude individual's as victims of blindness, mental, walking, hearing and communication loss and cognitive challenges.

Statement of Problem

The challenges of deviants in society, disabilities and mental disorders are enormous and not only require intervention but rehabilitation and reintegration back to the society. Three issues are raised in this discuss, the issue of militancy and mental challenges due to drug related cases; mental and physical disabilities. In the light of the above, both federal and state government have put up several measures to remediate the effect of these challenges on both

the society and the economy. Isidiho and Sabran, (2015) mentioned three rehabilitation goals to include restoration of victim to his/her functional state, ensure speedy recovery to normal state and comfortably too. The amnesty programme of the federal government has nipped to the mud most crisis rocking the Niger Delta and oil exploration and exploitation in the region. Measures such as skills acquisition programme free education and overseas training programme ware all part of the rehabilitation process in the Niger Delta region. The question raised is whether the rehabilitation process has been able to contribute to the socioeconomic development of Niger Delta, and whether the environment which is the heart of the economy has been impacted positively to quarantine sustainability of economy of the region. To answer this burning question, this paper strives to investigate the socioeconomic development impact of rehabilitation in Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

This paper investigates the impact of rehabilitation on socio-economic development in Niger Delta, Nigeria. Specifically, the paper seeks to address the following objectives; (i) to investigate the level of assessment to education by the people of Niger Delta region, (ii) to ascertain the level of income of people of Niger Delta region, (iii) to find out the level of people of Niger Delta Region, (iv) to identify the level of infrastructural provision to the people of Niger Delta region, (v) to ascertain the quality of environmental health of Niger Delta region and (vi) to identify the types of occupation of people of Niger Delta region.

The focus of this work is on the role played by federal government through NDDC in the development of infrastructure as aftermath of rehabilitation process carried out by federal government. It is on this premise this paper anchored her investigation on the socioeconomic development of Niger Delta.

Significant of this study is that the activities undertaken by federal government towards the development of Niger Delta through rehabilitation and reintegration was a frontier to recent economic development of the region. The rehabilitation programme provoked small and medium scale micro financial credit scheme to empower victims of the amnesty program. It adds to existing literature in this topic.

Literature Review

Conceptual underpinnings

Rehabilitation has been conceptualized as a help to an individual to achieve or independently perform a function or activity. It is not a programme intended to cause damage or create difficulty in performance. Its focus is for the wellbeing of the victim. Severity of a situation determines the need for rehabilitation as not all cases require rehabilitation in remediation process (Isidiho & Sabran, 2015). Rehabilitation is could be called restoration to normal condition.

The development of an environment, be it town, urban city or state etc, requires the provision of basic infrastructural facilities such as water, electricity, good road network, etc. the essence is to improve the living standard of the people within the environment. It is the sustained increase in leaving standard through innovative capabilities of the state to provide goods and services. Standard of living is usually measured through per capita income, lower transaction costs etc, as approved by World Bank (Rodney, 2018). The development of an environment, be it town, urban city or state etc, requires the provision of basic infrastructural facilities such as water, electricity, good road network, etc. the essence is to improve the living standard of the people within the environment. It is the sustained increase in leaving standard through innovative capabilities of the state to provide goods and services. Standard of living is usually measured through per capita income, lower transaction costs etc, as approved by World Bank (Easterly, 2001). Economic development is capabilities expansion

which adds to societal expansion through individual realization, community potential and firm. It measures sustainability of prosperity increase quality of life and cost of living, requiring institutional effectiveness based on norms, risk tolerance, confidence and diversity appreciation for societal gains. Economic development fosters economic growth.

Infrastructure pertains to the stock of social amenities or available physical facilities for development of the society and improvement of life and environmental conditions in the form of communications electricity, water system, transport, irrigation roads, including etc, education and health facilities (Yepes, Pierce & Foster, 2008). Infrastructure are in different types not limited to; economic infrastructure which represents the bulk of production and distribution processes such as transportation, communication, irrigation etc. and social infrastructure, while social infrastructure encompasses the aid to productivity of an individual through education, water supply health, sanitation etc (Wang, 2002). Socio-economy represents the stand point of an individual in terms of standard of living, accessibility to quality education and other enablers that enhances good life and not limited to electricity, water, good road network etc.

Niger Delta is found in the Southern per of Nigeria. Occupied by seven states; Abia, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross River, Ondo, Delta and Akwa Ibom States. This is a region with underground crude oil resources with water aquifer fit for agriculture, tourism, fishing, blessed with green for livestock and waterways transportations.

Types of Rehabilitation

Scholars have come up with different types of rehabilitation of individuals affected mental illness, excessively angered by the neglect of federal government and abandonment of the region, have therefore opined that rehabilitation of disorder or deviance in society not limited to; restorative Rehabilitation, preventative Rehabilitation, palliative Rehabilitation and supportive Rehabilitation. These rehabilitation types are discussed below;

All forms of rehabilitation aim at assisting for full recovery of individuals. The good quality of rehabilitation produces the same result of making the victim to be reintegrated back into the society.

Restorative Rehabilitation; In restorative rehabilitation, minimal care and attention is required to put back the victim to his/her normal state to be able to perform usual activities and functional normally and be productive again.

Preventative Rehabilitation; here, the victim goes through diagnostic tests as the dysfunctions are observed. The motive is to put the victim through the processes of education, trainings interventions, counseling, remediation and prevention of re-occurrence of the condition. It requires quick intervention (without delay).

Supportive rehabilitation; this requires the provision of supportive devices to aid normal activity performance of the individual. The devices could help for mobility, teaching, reading and other activities.

Palliative rehabilitation; this is a progressive use of advanced materials for curative purposes. It helps victim is limited to physiological treatment to regain his/her life social potential

Stages of Rehabilitation and Principles

- Phase 1 – treatment with both traditional and orthodox medicine for effect remediation.
- Phase 2 – acquisition of education knowledge

- Phase 3 – Skills training internship training/empowerment
- Phase 4 - One-on-one counseling
- Phase 5 – Provision of starter packs (working tools).
- Phase 6 – provision of small credit finance/empowerment

Rehabilitation principle is a set method for handling people gathered for behavioral corrections to remediate their character efficiencies (Isidiho, & Sabran, 2015), remove stigmatization, and make them fit for reintegration into the society. Reintegration ensures that they are fit to interact with members of the society, do business and make profits to be independent. This principle is not limited to the following stages/phases;

Principle 1 Victims are assessed to determine their level of character deterioration and the type of rehabilitation.

Principle 2 In rehabilitation, the victim is either arrested or gathered and granted amnesty by the government which qualifies them for enrollment into rehabilitation programme of the government.

Principle 3 Many are taken to psychiatric homes or government centres for behavioral control.

Principle 4 They are observed to ascertain individual level of character remediation.

Principle 5 They are individually counseled by experts.
Those with remediated conditions are set for either school or skill acquisition program.

Principle 6 Financial empowerment and working tools (starter packs).

Benefits of rehabilitation

Rehabilitation entails transformation of the environment and its occupants including human and animals. It involved development of infrastructure; water, road network, electricity, education, employments and other properties to enhance living standard of its occupants. Further gains are not limited to increase in workforce, income per capita, and value of property, efficiency of resources, job opportunities, productivity, and quality of life, and wealth creation, human and social capital and at a lower risk. Above all, the occupants gain independence and freedom of their collective wealth. It is a process that must be pursued to restore peace and sanity in the region given the level of agitation and insurgency brewing in the region.

Brief History of Cause of Niger Delta Conflict

The Niger Delta violent conflict can be attributed to mistakes of the larger society following crude oil exploitation and revenue without development of the oil rich region. Absence of articulated attention and sustained poverty of people of Niger Delta region triggered restiveness and insurgency. It was the demand for recognition of the plights of the Niger Delta that gave rise to agitations calling for the development of the region (Olawale & Alao, 2007). The effect of this restiveness were began with distortions in the operations of the oil firms in the region through shutting down of flow stations, kidnappings, killings, blowing up of oil facilities. As a consequence, expatriates had to leave for their countries and volume of crude oil production dropped drastically hence, a sharp reduction in oil revenue to the country (Ifeka, 2004). As a result, loss of jobs set in, and eventual deficit budgeting given the reduction in revenue accruing to both state and federal. The unemployment experienced in the region became excruciating and government began to look for how to resolve the lingering crisis.

Revenue from sale of gas was also affected. The oil revenue which stood at 98% in 1990 dropped to 58% in 2001. Crude production was left at 67% from 99% in 2000 and poverty

adversely set in. Niger Delta region was not comfortable with the level of attention she was receiving from federal government in terms of infrastructural development and decided to demand for 13% derivation from oil generated revenue which was dropped from 50% in 1966 to 3% in 1990 (Tonwe, Ojo, & Aghedo, 2012). In the order of revenue distribution, 53.68% goes to federal government, 20.60% for state governments, while 13% goes to the seven oil producing states that made up Niger Delta region. Niger Delta is the 12th in the world terms of hydrocarbon and oil production with about 34bn barrels and 93 trn Cubic feet of gas. Nigeria's major oil export trading partners are Asia and Europe while a Europe purchase N1.48trn and Asia has had N1.46trn annually (Olawale & Alao, 2007).

Theoretical Framework

The Reformatory Theory

Rustam Singh Thakur had earlier propounded for an eye for eye, proposed that punishment for and offender is the best way to instill corrections. The anchor of this paper is on Reformatory Theory propounded by Mahatma Gandhi on 31st October, 1517 and came up with the opinion that "an eye for an eye" will turn everybody blind. Therefore considers reexamination of the offenders through certain processes such as remediation of condition or disorder through treatment training, counseling etc. to Mahatma Gandhi, reformation is better than punishment as it converts prisons into reformed homes in which characters of criminals are re-molded by perceiving a criminality as a function of environmental influence. According to this theory, a crime is committed as a result of the conflict between the character of a man and the motive of the criminal. The theory is against the use of punishment as means of correction of offenders. The punishment of offenders theory "an eye for an eye" had in mind the objectives of quickly convince the offender that crime does no one good, allow for fair opportunity to start life afresh and make the offender accept the superiority of the state law. This was criticized by Salmond. He was of the idea that prison is capable of transforming offenders into being good citizens and make them develop intellectually, gain moral training through comfortable accommodation. However, non-deterrence of dare devil criminals opposes the need for reformatory approach or correctional measures.

Rehabilitation is also reformatory aimed at changing the offender or turning him into law abiding citizen with emphasis on personality. Rehabilitation is not to punish the offender but to or cause a deterrence but to reform which is opposed to capital punishment. Reason is that gentle treatment produces better result opposed to the product of capital punishment. While the principle of reformation recognizes individual treatment of offenders, punishment considers offenders being punished as a way of making offenders recognize their guilt to serve as deterrence (Domingo & Tonella, 2000).

Empirical Review

Recent studies have proven that rehabilitation impacts on socioeconomic development of countries (Domingo & Tonella, 2000; Heijnders, 2004; Isidiho & Sabran, 2015). Opening discussion on this study is the work of Isidiho & Sabran, (2015) investigated the impact of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on Infrastructural Projects in Selected Communities in Imo State Nigeria. The paper riled the gains of NDDC on development of the Niger Delta region. Qualitative approach was adopted for the analysis. Result revealed that infrastructural provision socioeconomically impacted on the communities. Construction of more projects for communities was recommended. Ebenso, et al, (2007) examined the rehabilitation of Leprosy stigma on socio-economy in Northern Nigeria using quantitative approach for the analysis, found significant effect of stigmatization of victims of leprosy

condition in the region. The paper suggested for Rehabilitation of victims of Leprosy to improve family support participation and reduction in stigmatization.

In a further study, community-Based Rehabilitation in Nigerian a scoping literature study was studied by Bashir, Hassan & Ibrahim, (2020). The paper utilized some literatures in providing answers to the question of impact of inclusiveness of people with health impairments in development. The paper revealed previous findings on the gains of inclusiveness of disabled individuals through rehabilitation in development. A cross-sectional study of the Perceptions of inmates in Enugu Prison on the effectiveness of Rehabilitation Programmes in the Nigerian was investigated by Ijeoma et al, (2015). Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and descriptive statistics were adopted for the analysis. It was found that not much have been gained from prison incarnation does not enable inmates participate rehabilitation programmes of the government. The paper suggested that individuals and organizations should contribute in the provision of adequate facilities for effective rehabilitation.

Challenges of process rehabilitation of convicts in central prison Kano state, Nigeria was investigated by Ali, (2011). The paper utilized descriptive statistics in the analysis and discovered that the use of facilities, programs and could not make prisons seem like a place for the rehabilitation of convicts. The paper advocated for fundamental issues and steps must be adopted in other to achieve effective rehabilitation and instill socio-economic benefits in the society. Challenges of transition rehabilitation in Niger Delta Amnesty programs for long-term peace achievement were studies by Okonofua, (2019). Using a systemic review, the paper took a swipe of the periods of militancy activities in the region down to the ceasefire demobilization and disarmament as broad policy prior to rehabilitation. It was discovered that rehabilitation program enshrined increasing operations of oil well and flow stations. This study is also necessary as it revealed perspectives of rehabilitation are paramount in bringing lasting peace in the region. The lopsidedness of the program by not involving women in the amnesty is a reflection of being holistic. Adoption of programs for long-term peace in the region was suggested.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

The study was carried out in Niger Delta region being southern part of Nigeria. It is within this region that rose the youths militants agitating for resource control. Random sampling technique was adopted in the selection of person that went rehabilitation in the course of agitation for Niger Delta resource control in the states that made up Niger Delta or oil producing states of the South-South Nigeria comprising states that made up the Niger Delta region; Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Edo, Delta, Cross Rivers, Rivers and Ondo State.

Study Design

This study was a survey design. It is a primary data in the sense that the data originated from the people concerned or involved. From a total of 153 samples, 150 retrieved and correctly filled samples were used for the analysis.

Techniques and Instrument of data Collection

The main sources of data were primary source, which provided raw data from the respondents for analysis, secondary sources such as text books journal articles and internet, e-mail replies made it possible for the collection of data through questionnaires from distant places for analysis.

Data were gathered through the use of a well-structured 4 points open-ended questionnaire structure in a Likert's fashion to elucidate information from the respondents. In-depth

interviews were also adopted. Questionnaires distributed to areas where federal and state government sited rehabilitation centers. Many of the rehabilitated youths were found in correctional centres as they underwent different categories of correctional or rehabilitation processes such as prison yards government built centers in some local government areas while already sentenced ones were offered some forms of vocational skill trainings to enable them live normal life and be independent and self-sustain themselves.

Analytical Technique

The questionnaires were sorted, transcribed and the content analyzed using tables, percentages, bar graphs. Descriptive statistics of percentages, frequency tables were adopted to answer the study specific objectives, while group arithmetic mean (GAM), and Mean weight Value (MWV) were used to attend to questions pertaining to) socio-economic development indicators.

Sample Population

Population for this study is all those (youths) alive, involved in the arms struggle for Niger Delta resource control. Some were arrested and prosecuted and sentenced or jailed for offences/crime against the state, kidnapping, raping, oil bunkering, vandalization of oil facilities, obstruction of construction works and economic activities thereby slowing down assumed on-going socioeconomic activities of the region and general development.

Sample Size

Those on awaiting trails were excluded from the survey as it is assumed that they have questions to answer from either state or the federal government, hence were not available for interview during the study. The study made use of 150 rehabilitated youths of Niger Delta region. The essence is that they have either undergone skills or internship trainings, skills acquisition program or been returned to school to complete their program, apprentice scheme of federal government, corporate organizations or other agencies.

Measures for Assessing Socio-economic Development

As measures to capture the intended objectives of the study, certain indicators were conceived as necessary parameters in this work. It is the presence of those good things of life that would enable consumers or citizens enjoy the standard of living and be productive. These measures are categorized into three; demographic variables of respondents, nature of rehabilitation and what constitutes socio-economic indicators.

(A) Demographic Variables of Respondents

As measures of understanding our respondents, the paper analyzed the demographic variables of respondents through the following, not limited to; age of respondents, educational qualifications, gender of Respondents and duration of the training/rehabilitation

(B) Nature of the rehabilitation

The essence is to understand whether the rehabilitated youths hard experiences based on the following questions not limited to; incarceration, education at all levels, employment and skills training

(C) Socio-economic Development Indicators

Infrastructural provision as indicators of socio-economic development not limited to; access to education, income of the people, poverty level, and infrastructural provision (good road network, water, electricity, health etc.) employment and quality of environmental health (Sanitation)

Method of Data Analysis

Data for this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics of tables, frequency, percentages and mean, bar charts and pie charts. Descriptive statistics and group arithmetic mean (GAM), and Mean weight Value (MWV) were used to analyze the data.

Formula for arithmetic mean;

$$\text{Arithmetic Mean} = \sum f_i * x_i / f_i$$

Where;

A = Arithmetic Mean

n = Number of values

x_i = data value set

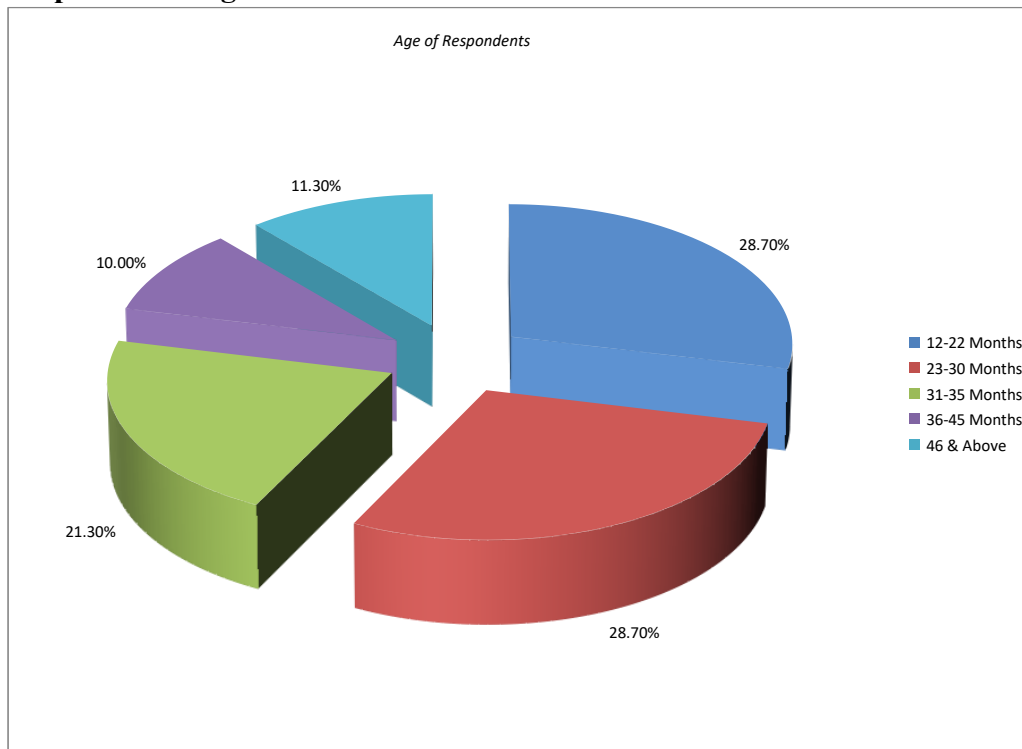
Analysis and Results

Table 1. Demographic Variables of Respondents (Age of respondents)

Age of Respondents	Freq.	Per cent age (%)
12 – 22	43	28.7
23 – 30	43	28.7
31 – 35	32	21.3
36 – 45	15	10.0
46 and Above	17	11.3
Total =	150	100

Source: Authors computation of Field Data, 2022.

Fig. 1 Respondents' Age



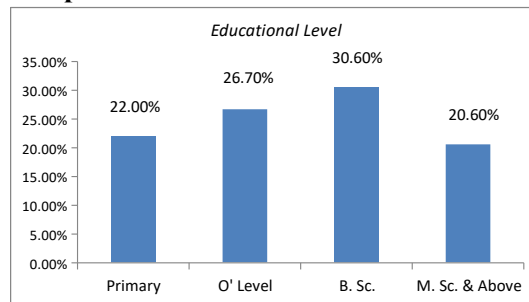
Result of the analysis on age of respondents revealed that majority of the youths were rehabilitated and were more involved in the agitation for federal government's attention to Niger Delta showing 28.7 and 28.7 respectively. They were found within the age bracket of as young as 12 to 30 years. This was followed by those within the age of 31 to 35 years of age indicating 21.3%. The least of category of persons or youths found among those

rehabilitated were within 45, 46 years and above representing 10 and 11 % per cents respectively (also see fig 1 above).

Table 2. Respondents by Educational (Educational qualification)

Educational Level of Respondents	Freq.	Per cent age (%)
Primary	33	22.0
O' level/GCE	40	26.7
B. Sc.	46	30.6
(M.Sc. & Above	31	20.6
Total =	150	100

Fig. 2 Educational Level of Respondents



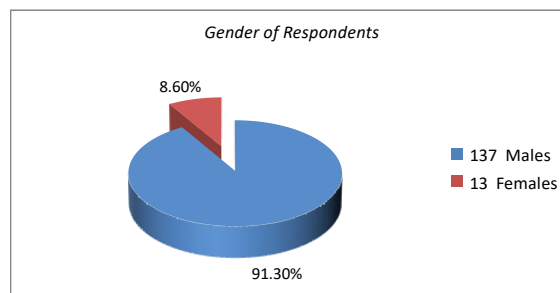
Analysis of educational level of respondents result found that majority of the militants in the creek and Niger Delta region had among other certificates, primary six, O' level, B.Sc., M. Sc. and above. Those with primary school certificate were 33 showing 22% while respondents with GCE were 40 and indicating 26.7%. The category of youths with degree certificates had B. Sc. And M. Sc. And above revealing 46 and 31 and stood at 30.6 and 20.6% respectively as shown in table 2 and figure 2 above.

Table 3. Respondents by Gender (Gender of Respondents)

Age of Respondents	Freq.	Per cent age (%)
Male	137	91.3
Female	13	8.6
Total =	150	100

Source: Author's Computation of Field Data, 2022

Fig. 3 Gender of Respondents



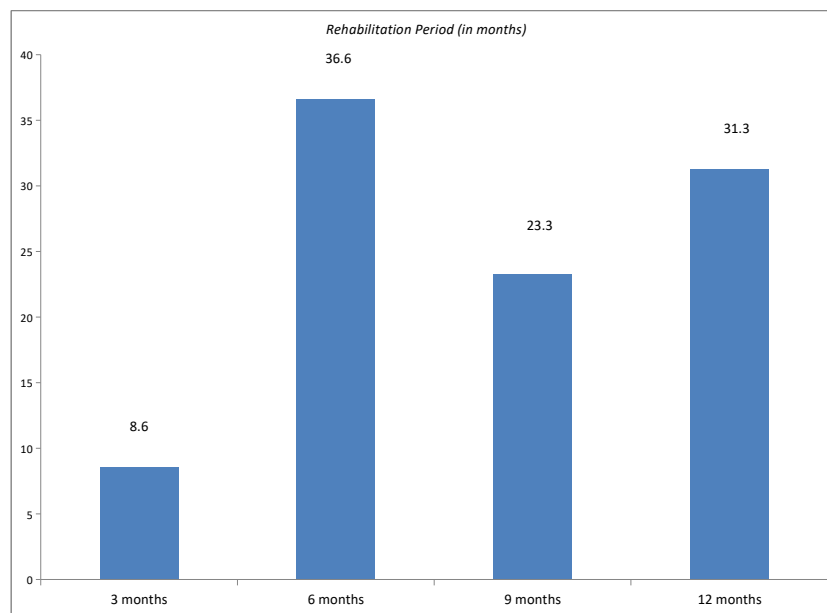
On gender of respondents, it was found that more of the male were involved in the arms struggle against oil exploitation and neglect of Niger Delta, hence were rehabilitated

reflecting 137 and 91.3 %. Also for the female, only 13 were captured, showing 8.6 % as revealed in both table 3 and figure 3 respectively.

Table 4. Period of rehabilitation/training

Training Period	Freq.	Per cent age (%)
3 months	13	8.6
6 months	55	36.6
9 months	35	23.3
12 months (1 year)	47	31.3
Total =	150	100

Fig. 4 Rehabilitation period



Source: Author’s Desk Research, 2022

Looking at the results on period of rehabilitation, 13 of the militants respondents went through 3 months rehabilitation program representing 8.6%. this is followed by those that went through 9 months rehabilitation which showed 35 and 23.3 %. However, in terms of respondents, those that went through 6 months and 9 months were more representing 36.6 and 31.3 % respectively.

On socio-economic Development Indicators

On Socio-economic development, economic development and economic growth are not the same thing as there could be economic growth without development and there could also be economic growth without economic development. Whichever form, it is pertinent to have both growth and development in an economy. The following analysis were performed to determine the impact of rehabilitation on Niger Delta region as a result of federal government’s amnesty and program in the region after the periods of youth agitation still counting on Niger Delta region.

Table 5. Distribution of Respondents according to their socio-economic gains (N = 150).

Responses

Points Scale	1 Effective	2 Non-effective	(%)	(%)	MWV	GAM	D	Rank	Decisions
Questions	113	37	75.33	24.66	25.4	23.1	2.3	2 nd	High
6. Access to education	98	52	65.33	34.66	23.9	23.1	0.8	4 th	High
5. Increased income	109	41	72.66	27.33	25.0	23.1	1.9	1 st	High
4. Poverty level	107	43	71.33	28.66	24.4	23.1	1.3	5 th	Low
3. Infrastructural provision	127	23	84.66	15.33	19.9	23.1	-	7 th	Low
2. Employment	100	50	66.66	33.33	25.9	23.1	2.8	3 th	High
1. Sanitation	130	20	86.66	13.33	20.6	23.1	-	6 th	Low
Σ					165.1	138.6	3.4		

Source: Computed from field data, 2022.

MWV = Mean Weight Value

GAM = Group Arithmetic Mean

D = Difference

Decision Rule: High if MWV is greater than GAM and the difference is positive but low if MWV is less than GAM and the difference is negative.

Analysis of the socio-economic development indicators/variables revealed that through rehabilitation, access to education became high as companies oil companies increased their social corporate responsibilities to communities where they operate. And most of the rehabilitated youths went through education in their programs. Income of the people became high. This was as a result of conducive business environment which made businesses strive hence increased income generation by both companies and private business operators.

Poverty level became high. This is attributed to government policies that failed to attract foreign investors. Usually when there is partnership in businesses, foreign currencies are either bought or sold. Businesses involving import and export partnership are always lucrative. But in this case, many foreigners left and businesses closed shops due to militancy activities. This brought poverty. It is believed that with time, businesses will begin to pick up in the region as a result of the rehabilitation and reintegration program.

The level of provision of infrastructure was found to have remained low as a result of negligence of companies still not stepped up in their social corporate responsibilities. There were still poor electricity supplies, portable water boreholes to communities and are still lacking including road network and bridges. Sanitary conditions of Niger Delta Region remained unimproved and unhealthy for human safety. Hospitals are not equipped and not renovated. Other environmental hazards became low due to reduction in pipeline vandalization. Less youths are involving in serious oil bunkering and pollution of the atmosphere (Nwanyanwu, Fred-Nwagwu & Yousuo, 2015):

Summary of results in table 2 on socioeconomic development strategies

Extracts of questions	Decision
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Extract 6:	access to education during or after rehabilitation period.	High
Extract 5:	personal income Level increased	High
Extract 4:	poverty level remained unabated in unresolved after rehabilitation	low
Extract 3:	Extent of infrastructural provision (water, schools, town halls, roads).	High
Extract 2:	increased self-employment opportunities by the company	High
Extract 1:	increased sanitation (less air and land pollutions and bunkering	Low

Source: Author's Desk Research, 2022

From the summary of the socioeconomic development strategies, it is revealed that access to education after rehabilitation is high while personal incomes levels were high as youths were engaged in high income generating ventures. This further reduced the poverty level in due to self-sustaining economic activities. Infrastructural facilities provision was on the increase as federal government through her agencies; NDDC, Ministry of Niger Delta, Ministry of works stepped up the issues of provision of infrastructure to Niger Delta. Self-employment was high following rehabilitations and skills acquisition and empowerment. Sanitation was found to be low as clean up of oil spillages are yet to be effected within the Niger Delta region. This is heightened by environmental pollutions from still sketches of oil bunkering activities.

Discussion of Results

From the analysis and results, it could be understood that the plight of inhabitants of Niger Delta region is reduced to barest minimum when compared to past experiences due to militancy agitations in the region. This could be traced to rehabilitation benefits. Infrastructural provisions in the region were found to be low compared to the past. This result did not conform to the findings of Isidiho & Sabran, (2015) which found that infrastructural provision socioeconomically impacted on the communities in the Niger Delta region. The benefits of rehabilitation were found to be enormous as it helps in reintegration of victims back to the society and attracts self-employment through skilled trainings and infrastructural provisions to communities. This result disagrees with the findings of Ijeoma et al, (2015) which found that not much have been gained from prison incarnation does not enable inmates participate in the rehabilitation program of the government.

Rehabilitation is an effective strategy for bringing peace and conducive environment for businesses to thrive and socioeconomic activities back on track. Employment was found to be high with more of the trained youths engaged in one economic activity or the other. This finding disagrees with the results of Bashir, Hassan & Ibrahim, (2020) which found that not much have been gained from prison incarceration does not enable inmates participate rehabilitation programmes of the government. Result of increased sanitation was found to be low in Niger Delta amidst rehabilitation program, showing increasing environmental pollution of the region. With pocket of bunkering activities still found and pollutions not ameliorating as expected. This result agrees with the findings of Okonofua (2019) that rehabilitation program rather increased operations of oil bunkering activities and flow stations in Niger Delta Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In this study, was able to establish that more of the youths were involved in the agitation for resource control and arms struggle in the Niger Delta region with greater number of males and had 12 months of rehabilitation program. The rehabilitation resulted to increased (high) access to education, income, employment and poverty level. However, the program still left negative (low) effect on poverty level, infrastructural provision, and sanitary environment of Niger Delta region.

The study therefore, makes the following recommendations; Federal government or its agencies should ensure that projects started in the Niger Delta are completed at record time to stamp out youth restiveness in the region. The 13 per cent derivation formula requested by the region should be accepted to increase the level of developmental infrastructural request of the people of Niger Delta. Subsequent rehabilitation programs should be reviewed to include absorption of rehabilitated youths by oil companies in the region. Federal government should take seriously the issue of misappropriation of annual funds allocation to the region for projects.

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