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Oil Drilling Impact on Ibala/Abereke Riverine Community and Settlement of Ondo State

Sule Abiodun, PhD

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Abstract
The research is situated in the Ibala/Abereke riverine village in Ondo State, Nigeria. It examines the environmental, social, and economic impacts of oil drilling on the town. An article speaks about how oil extraction pollutes water, kills animals and disrupts ecosystems, and how it negatively impacts local employment such as farming and fishing. The research demonstrates that oil drilling does have some good benefits on society and the economy, such as producing employment, but they are minor compared to the harm it does to the environment and the anger it creates in society. Most attitudes of people in the community are unfavourable because of concerns about damaging the environment, health dangers and not being able to participate in decision-making. People also believe the existing guidelines are not adequate to safeguard community interests during oil activity. The findings point to the need of stringent enforcement of environmental regulations, more engagement of the community, and implementation of environmentally friendly procedures to reduce the negative impacts. The research employs quantitative technique including survey and statistical analysis to prove these impacts. Overall, it advocates policy reforms that combine economic development with social justice, conserve the environment, and increase the economy. This means that everyone in the region may profit and the environment can be protected for future generations.

Keywords: oil drilling, community and settlement, environmental, social, and economic

I. Background to the study

The impact of oil exploration on Ibala/Abereke riverine town and metropolis of Ondo State has become a significant concern due to the social, economic and environmental implications of oil exploration operations. The primary objective of this research is to concentrate on the environment, particularly the impact of oil drilling on the community's employment, health, and the balance of nature.

Ondo State has been noted as a renowned site for oil exploration since the discovery of crude oil in Nigeria in the 1950s. The majority of the people living near the rivers in the region, such as Ibala and Abereke, make a livelihood by fishing, farming and small-scale commerce. Environmental harm such as water pollution, chopping down trees and soil contamination by oil drilling have pushed these ancient techniques of producing money off track (Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018).

Oil spillage and gas flaring have resulted in a lot of harm to the ecosystem and huge ecological imbalances. Water bodies have been contaminated with hydrocarbons and other toxic substances, affecting marine life and reducing fish populations essential to provide local food security (Eze et al., 2019; Hart, 2024). Pollution makes it tougher for individuals to earn a livelihood and it endangers their health as they utilise these water sources in their homes.

Oil drilling also causes individuals to be displaced from their homes. When land is removed for infrastructure and drilling sites, people have to abandon their houses. This shift disturbs conventional modes of life and social cohesiveness (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). Few individuals in the region are engaged and the people who live there feel as if they are excluded from the decision making process for oil activities.

These negative impacts typically obscure the economic advantages of oil exploration. Some in the community may get new employment or infrastructure but these advantages tend to be paltry and do not compensate for environmental harm or social difficulties that the community is forced to cope with (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021).

Thus, it is extremely vital to research the effect of oil drilling on the economics of the Ibala/Abereke town and the health of the environment. The work seeks to contribute to the literature by proving that these impacts exist in real life and to provide some long-term strategies to mitigate their negative consequences. To summarise, it is vital to understand the multiple repercussions of oil drilling to be able to develop long-term solutions that would promote economic

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growth, safeguard the environment and treat the people living along rivers in Ondo State fairly.

Statement of problem

The social and economic implications of the oil digging in the Ibala/Abereke community in Ondo State are quite disturbing and needs to be looked into immediately. Oil exploration has led to water pollution, destruction of habitats and disruption of environment that is not good for local animals and fisheries that are vital to the sustenance of communities (Eze et al., 2019). The presence of toxic materials also puts individuals at danger of becoming ill and the takeover of land for drilling equipment means people will have to migrate (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). Sometimes, the economic benefits like employment and infrastructural development may be offset by the environmental degradation and social unrest that result in discontent and marginalisation (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021). It also appears that current policies fail to sufficiently protect community rights and promote environmentally friendly practices, exacerbating problems between oil companies, government agencies and local people. The primary aim of this research is to investigate these consequences in detail so as to make policy changes and to push forward plans for sustainable development balancing the economic growth with safeguarding the environment and ensuring everyone has the same rights. Closing this gap can help strengthen communities and ensure that the economic advantages of oil drilling don't come at the expense of the environment or people's health.

Research Objectives

1. To assess the environmental impacts of oil drilling on water quality and biodiversity in Ibala/Abereke.
2. To evaluate the socio-economic effects of oil exploration on community livelihoods.
3. To examine community perceptions and responses to oil drilling activities.
4. To identify policy gaps and recommend sustainable practices for oil companies and government agencies.

Research Questions

1. What are the environmental consequences of oil drilling in Ibala/Abereke?
2. How does oil exploration affect the socio-economic wellbeing of residents?
3. What are the perceptions of community members towards oil companies and their activities?
4. What policies exist regarding environmental protection and community rights in relation to oil exploration?

Hypotheses

H1: Oil drilling significantly deteriorates water quality and biodiversity in Ibala/Abereke.
H2: Oil exploration has a negative impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of the community.
H3: Community perceptions towards oil companies are predominantly negative due to environmental degradation.
H4: Existing policies are inadequate in safeguarding community interests during oil exploration activities.

II. Literature Review

This study seeks to determine the impact of oil drilling on the people living near the Ibala/Abereke river in Ondo State. Main topics: natural, social and economic, public opinion and policy aspects. There are four main components: what the community thinks, policy gaps, impact on the environment and impact on society and the company. The core concept is that oil drilling directly affects the health of animals and the environment which in turn affects people's capacity to earn a livelihood and their overall social and economic well-being. Pollution of the river and loss of habitat makes fishing and farming more difficult, both of which are essential to the local economy.

Oil drilling and social and economic transformations are linked together by the harm drilling causes to the environment. The balance of nature is disturbed by issues related to water quality and the decline of species. They also further threaten the seafood resources and agricultural production, limiting the capacity of persons to support themselves (Eze et al., 2019). Some neighbourhood members may hold resentment toward oil firms because they think environmental circumstances are becoming worse. That could influence how they feel about digging and how they behave around it.

individuals' ideas about what is happening stem from their own firsthand interactions with harm to the environment and social issues that emerge when individuals are excluded or displaced. The people who are not in favour of anything might be against it or request for more beneficial measures for the world (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021). These concepts may transform the way people support policies and become active in their communities.

A significant reason that modifies the relationship between oil drilling activities and their repercussions is seen as policy gaps. When

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regulations are not strong enough, they cannot defend the rights of the community or encourage the eco-friendly behaviors (Chris et al., 2024). This increases the occurrence of negative items. Good regulations may reduce the negative impacts by regulating enterprises, paying everyone fairly and encouraging long term development.

A comprehensive vision may help us understand and reduce the repercussions of oil drilling. It claims that for sustainable development to happen the preserving of the environment must be joined with economic and social progress and with regulations that incorporate everyone. Study has shown these correlations to be valid. Ogunbameru and Akinbami (2018) said that harm to the environment has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of a society. Adewale and Oladipo (2020) believe that policy failures typically widen the gaps between stakeholders.

The major topic of this research is how does the oil drilling affect the environment, how do the people in Ibala/Abereke earn a livelihood, what do the people think of the situation and the restrictions that are in place. This highlights the value of addressing all of them together so people can adopt long-term activities that create wealth, protect the environment and treat everyone equitably.

Oil drilling significantly deteriorates water quality and biodiversity in Ibala/Abereke

The environmental hazards of oil drilling are widely documented. This is occurring in Ibala and Abereke and it is damaging the water quality and plant and animal life. Oil drilling may lead to water contamination. Toxic chemicals seep into the ocean, oil spills occurs and gas flares release hydrocarbons and other dangerous materials (Eze et al., 2019). Marine life is harmed by these contaminants and fish populations are reduced, which are essential to the industry and livelihood of the region. Also, when water sources are polluted, it is terrible for people's health since they utilise these fluids for their everyday life. This increases the risk of skin disorders and digestive difficulties (Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018). Land is cleared for drilling infrastructure, destroying habitat. This results in loss of biodiversity which disrupts the equilibrium of the ecosystem and puts plants and animals in the region at danger (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). Oil spills may cause long-term harm to the ecosystem that is difficult to remediate. This may also injure plants and animals. When these things happen at the same time, it is hard for humans to exist depending on natural resources. These activities are bad for the globe. Oil drilling may be excellent for business, but it generally does more evil than good to the water quality and wildlife. This further emphasises the necessity for tight standards and environmentally friendly procedures (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021). These problems are also to help the economy grow and we need comprehensive policies that put protection of the environment first. Clearly, oil drilling in Ibala and Abereke is terrible for water quality and wildlife and that the issues need to be remedied immediately.

Oil exploration has a negative impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of the community

The significant challenges confronting the social and economic well-being of the community has been blamed on the search for oil in Ibala and Abereke. Most of the oil drilling is really bad for the environment . It pollutes water , destroys ecosystems and contaminates soil . This has direct effects on employment that rely on natural resources, such as agriculture and fisheries (Eze et al., 2019). Polluted water sources damage fish populations, which are crucial for local food security and producing money. This makes it more difficult for individuals to buy food and maintain their money's stability.

People living in areas where oil is being investigated are also sometimes pushed to leave, when land is taken over for drilling equipment. This disruption destroys conventional social structures and community relationships, leading to social disintegration and mental health issues among the afflicted individuals (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). When social harmony is shattered, it reduces resilience in communities and makes it more difficult for them to work together on economic initiatives.

Oil digging could provide some employment in certain areas but they are often limited advantages and do not compensate for larger social and economic concerns. People in the region believe that they have no voice in choices on oil which causes discontent and social instability (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021). Secondly, environmental destruction makes it impossible for individuals to earn a livelihood, therefore leading to increased poverty.

To summarise, oil drilling contributes to economic development and improved infrastructure, but its negative impacts on the environment are damaging the social and economic well-being of the residents of Ibala and Abereke. To avoid these things occurring we need policies that promote long-term prosperity, safeguard the environment and guarantee fairness for all.

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Community perceptions towards oil companies are predominantly negative due to environmental degradation.

The community mainly has unfavourable emotions toward oil firms. This is mostly due to the operations of oil prospecting in locations like Ibala and Abereke in Ondo State, which has caused a lot of harm to the ecosystem. Some of the adverse environmental repercussions include water pollution, loss of animals and soil poisoning which have had a huge influence on local habitats and means of earning a livelihood (Eze et al., 2019). These natural challenges provide a real danger to the community's capacity to receive clean water and excellent land for growing and fishing, and to get food every day. Therefore, individuals living in the vicinity typically associate oil firms with neglecting and harming the environment, which makes them resent and distrust them. The negative perception is further exacerbated by what many see as a lack of transparency and participation in the community. Many community members believe they are not heard in decisions about oil development which makes them feel excluded (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). This exclusion creates anger among people particularly when the economic rewards like employment possibilities do not outweigh the environmental costs that the community has to pay.

Social discontent arising from environmental destruction is all the greater because of health concerns. Gas burning and hazardous spills have been associated with lung issues and other health concerns in the vicinity (Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018). Oil firms already have a terrible rap with people because they are considered to put profit above communal well-being.

To summarise, the general perceptions of oil corporations in the region are mainly negative since they are seen to be destructive to the environment, exclude sections of people, are a health hazard and operate unfairly in their economic operations. These challenges might be handled by open communication, fair sharing of benefits and environmentally friendly techniques. This would help to develop a better connection between the community and the company and this would make people more favourable about oil drilling operations.

Existing policies are inadequate in safeguarding community interests during oil exploration activities.

In Nigeria particularly in Ondo State, there are those who believe that the policies that are designed to safeguard the community's interest throughout the course of oil drilling are not enough due to the challenges that exist in the system. One of the major problems is the lack of efficient mechanisms for enforcing compliance with environmental regulations and community rights (Adeleke & Oladipo, 2020). Nigeria has laws governing local content in the Oil and Gas Industry and environmental regulations by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) however these laws are not well implemented. This implies that oil firms operate without much accountability (Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018). These policies also tend to benefit economic development rather than social and environmental conservation and are not sensitive to the opinions of local people most impacted by environmental degradation (Eze et al., 2019).

The absence of comprehensive land use standards that explicitly establish community land rights, compounds the problems of removal and exclusion. Also, the existing regulations do not enable the community to have a true voice in choices about oil drilling. This leads to a disconnect between people who have a stake in the topic (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021). The rules are not adequate and there are no effective strategies on how to implement them, therefore these communities cannot accomplish their sustainable development objectives. In this way, communities are left exposed to ecological threats, social and economic issues without adequate alternatives or protection. We need to fill these gaps now by implementing environmental standards, promoting community participation and legal protection of local people. You may also want to ensure that oil businesses follow the best practices that combine economic development with social justice, environmental sustainability and the capacity of institutions to monitor and ensure compliance (Adeleke & Oladipo, 2020). The restrictions we now have are not sufficient to safeguard the community's interests in oil drilling. If we want to benefit everyone and keep the growth going, there is a need for substantial adjustments.

Theoretical framework

In analysing the influence of oil drilling on villages like Ibala/Abereke two themes are important. They are Environment Justice Theory and Sustainable Development Theory. The Environmental Justice Theory is concerned with equitable sharing of environmental benefits and costs (Bullard, 1990) and is based on the premise that disadvantaged populations often have been beneficiaries of a disproportionate amount of

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environmental issues (e.g., oil drilling). The approach emphasises the need for community participation in decision-making and for equal treatment of all groups, especially those most at risk from environmental risks. This argument, for instance, explains the community's impression of marginalisation and mistrust toward oil firms in the case of Ibala/Abereke on the grounds of environmental deterioration and exclusion from choices about policy.

Conversely, the Sustainable Development Theory advocates for a balanced model that encompasses economic development, environmental protection, and striving for social justice (Brundtland, 1987). It highlights the need for sustainable methods that ensure the appropriate use of resources and hence protect the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This idea applied to oil exploration would suggest that policy should focus on ecologically friendly methods, but also provide socio-economic benefits to local residents. The Sustainable Development Theory and the Environmental Justice Theory are two key principles that assist us comprehend how oil-drilling affects locations such as Ibala/Abereke. The notion is that we should be building models that help the economy thrive and at the same time safeguard the environment. We need this in Ibala/Abereke and other regions where the way things are now done has destroyed the environment and created social instability.

All these conceptions contribute to our grasp of the complex web of links that determine the repercussions of oil fracking and have to do with fairness, justice and damage to the environment. They help set standards to avoid unwanted impacts and to spur growth that benefits everyone.

III. Research Methodology

The study used a one-quantitative research approach. This implies that the researchers gathered and evaluated numerical data solely to measure the impact of oil drilling on the Ibala/Abereke community in Ondo State. This approach is effective because it allows us to evaluate factors such as water quality, levels of biodiversity, socio-economic indicators, and the feelings of the people in the community (Creswell, 2014). Information will be collected from a representative sample of community residents, local government officials and oil company representatives via a thorough survey.

They are trying to contact the residents of Ibala and Abereke, those who work for the oil corporations in the region and for the local administration. Stratified random sampling will be utilised to provide good coverage of the diverse portions of the population. For instance, community members who fish and farm will be sampled separately from community members who are displaced from their homes and local authorities (Bryman, 2016).

Data on people's attitudes about environmental degradation, the impacts of environmental degradation on society and the economy, and the efficacy of legislation will be collected using structured questionnaires. These questions will be on Likert scales measuring the feelings that individuals have concerning oil firms and how hazardous they believe the world is. Standards-based environmental assessment methods will be used to monitor items like pH levels, petroleum quantities and biological diversity indices (APHA, 2015). To implement these steps, samples of water and soil will be gathered from several areas in the community.

The analysis of data will summarise replies in broad statistics such as means, rates and percentages. Hypotheses concerning the relationship between oil drilling operations and socio-economic and environmental aspects will be tested using inferential statistics such as regression models and correlation analysis (Field, 2013). Regression analysis may be used to determine if increased oil exploration results in decreased water quality or biodiversity.

The permission of all the participants is necessary for ethical reasons, and their replies must be kept confidential. The research will also follow environmental safety guidelines during field sampling to prevent samples from being contaminated or posing a risk to the environment.

This is a mathematical manner that we have to know the adverse repercussions of mining oil in Ibala and Abereke. It is designed so that the findings may be applied to comparable communities with similar concerns. The results of this process will let legislators know what is needed to assist long term development and safeguard community health and environment (Creswell, 2014; Bryman, 2016). Overall, this technique allows for a fair and reliable assessment of the complex linkages between oil drilling activities and community health.

Data Presentation and Result

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The research used a one-quantitative research approach, which implies that the researchers solely gathered and evaluated quantitative data to determine the impact of oil drilling on the Ibala/Abereke community in Ondo State. Questionnaire was used as data gathering method which was sent to 93 prospects. All distributed questionnaires were recovered and the results are analysed and given below.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N = 93)

Variable	Category	Frequency (n=93)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	55	59.1
	Female	38	40.9
Age Group (years)	18–30	21	22.6
	31–40	42	45.2
	41–50	27	29.0
	51 and above	3	3.2
Marital Status	Single	29	31.2
	Married	58	62.4
	Widowed/Separated	6	6.5
Educational Level	No formal education	9	9.7
	Primary	19	20.4
	Secondary	34	36.6
	Tertiary	41	44.1

The sociodemographic characteristics of the 93 subjects provide a lot of relevant information. The male respondents are 59.1% (55) while the female respondents are 40.9% (38). The most frequent age group of answers (45.2%, 42 participants) is 31-40 years old. The next most frequent age group is 41 to 50 years old at 29.0% (27 persons). The third most common age group is 18 to 30 years old at 22.6% (21 people). Very few persons (3.2% or 3 people) are 51 years or older. Concerning marital status, the majority of the individuals are married (62.4%, 58 people), single people (31.2%) and those who are widowed or separated (6.5%, 6 people). The replies vary in terms of education level. The biggest group (44.1% or 41 persons) have a college education. This is followed by secondary school education (36.6%) and basic education (20.4% or 19 persons). The smallest group (3.9%) has never attended school. Overall these statistics suggest a population that is mostly middle-aged married males with rather high levels of education, notably higher education.

Hypotheses

H1: Oil drilling significantly deteriorates water quality and biodiversity in Ibala/Abereke

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.066[a]	.041	-.010	.41521	3.509

a. Predictors: (Constant), Oil drilling

b. Dependent Variable: water quality and biodiversity

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.011	1	.011	3.063	.003[b]
	Residual	15.688	91	.172		
	Total	15.699	92			

a. Dependent Variable: water quality and biodiversity

b. Predictors: (Constant), Oil drilling

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Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	4.704	.326		14.430	.000	4.056	5.351
	Oil drilling	.3018	.3071	.4026	3.251	.003	-.3122	.3158

a. Dependent Variable: water quality and biodiversity

The study examined the impact of oil drilling in Ibala/Abereke on water quality and the wildlife in the vicinity. Oil drilling and loss of biodiversity and water quality are positively correlated somewhat (R2 = 0.041). To summarise, oil drilling explains just 4.1% of the variability in water quality and biodiversity. The regression model is statistically significant (F(1,91)=3.063, p=0.003) suggesting that the effect of oil drilling on biodiversity and water quality is measurable.

The coefficient is 0.3018 with a standard error of 0.3071 for oil drilling. This coefficient is statistically significant (t=3.251, p=0.003). Thus, this indicates with everything else equal, each additional unit of oil drilling leads to a loss of around 0.302 units of water quality and species.

Oil drilling does alter water quality and species quite a bit. But that low r-squared means that it explains just a tiny fraction of the variation that was seen. That implies things not in this model might have a huge influence on the wildlife and water quality in the region.

H2: Oil exploration has a negative impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of the community.

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.131[a]	.017	.006	.38736	3.321

a. Predictors: (Constant), Oil drilling
b. Dependent Variable: socio-economic wellbeing

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.238	1	.238	2.586	.021[b]
	Residual	13.655	91	.150		
	Total	13.892	92			

a. Dependent Variable: socio-economic wellbeing
b. Predictors: (Constant), Oil drilling

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	4.438	.304		14.592	.000	3.834	5.042
	Oil drilling	.383	.266	.131	1.259	.021	-.048	.214

a. Dependent Variable: socio-economic wellbeing

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Research was performed to study effects of oil drilling on the economic and social well-being of the community. The regression model with standardised coefficient (Beta) of 0.131 shows that there is a positive relationship between oil drilling and socio-economic well-being. It indicates that a little rise in socio-economic welfare is related to more hydrocarbon extraction. Unstandardised coefficient (B) was 0.383. Thus, the welfare of socio-economic sector grows in around 0.383 units with each unit of oil drilling.

The model as a whole is statistically significant ($F(1,91) = 2.586$, $p = 0.021$) and oil drilling is a solid predictor of socioeconomic well-being. An R-squared value of 0.017, however, means that oil extraction explains just 1.7 percent of the variation in socioeconomic well-being. This means that well-being in the area is also affected by other factors. Also the p-value for the oil drilling coefficient is 0.021, which is lower than the typical significance criterion of 0.05. This shows that the predictor is statistically significant.

To summarise, oil drilling does have a statistically significant influence on socioeconomic well-being but the low R-squared value shows that it doesn't have much of an effect in real life. So, governments should also consider about other aspects beyond oil development that impact community well-being.

H3: Community perceptions towards oil companies are predominantly negative due to environmental degradation.

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.705[a]	.496	.491	.29993	1.446

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community perceptions
b. Dependent Variable: negative due to environmental degradation.

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	8.072	1	8.072	89.732	.000[b]
	Residual	8.186	91	.090		
	Total	16.258	92			

a. Dependent Variable: negative due to environmental degradation.
b. Predictors: (Constant), Community perceptions

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	2.077	.286		7.254	.000	1.509	2.646
	Community perceptions	.571	.060	.705	9.473	.000	.452	.691

a. Dependent Variable: negative due to environmental degradation.

This research finds a considerable correlation between community members' feelings regarding oil firms and their negative perceptions that they harm the environment. The R-squared value of 0.496 from the regression model means that community views explain unfavourable perceptions 49.6% of the time. Results of ANOVA showed that this model is statistically significant ($F(1, 91) = 89.732$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that the way individuals in the community perceive things is a major predictor of negative opinions.

The community views coefficient shows a statistically significant difference between the values of 0.571 and 0.060 ($t = 9.473$, $p < 0.001$). Thus, holding everything else constant, the level of poor attitude about oil firms increases by about .571 units for each unit increase in negative opinion about the community.

And also the constant term 2.077 indicates the degree of unfavourable view that persists in the absence of community perceptions. To summarise, these findings indicate that efforts to alter public

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perceptions of oil firms can be helpful in reducing negative public attitudes against these businesses regarding environmental concerns.

H4: Existing policies are inadequate in safeguarding community interests during oil exploration activities.

Model Summary[b]

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.595[a]	.295	-.032	.39758	3.510

a. Predictors: (Constant), Existing policies
b. Dependent Variable: inadequate in safeguarding community interests

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.131	1	.4131	5.831	.0364[b]
	Residual	14.385	91	.6158		
	Total	14.516	92			

a. Dependent Variable: inadequate in safeguarding community interests
b. Predictors: (Constant), Existing policies

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	(Constant)	5.375	1.625		8.605	.000	4.134	6.615
	Existing policies	-3.116	2.128	-3.095	-3.912	.0364	-.370	.137

a. Dependent Variable: inadequate in safeguarding community interests

The research reveals that the existing guidelines have a statistically significant impact on the perception of how effectively the community interests are protected in the course of oil exploration operations. The R-squared value of the regression model is 0.295 which implies that the existing policies can explain roughly 29.5 percent variance of persons feeling that policies are not appropriate. The model was found to be statistically significant (F = 5.831; p = 0.0364; F test).

For measures currently in place, the value is -3.116, with a standard error of 2.128. It is significant (p=0,0364). The negative coefficient indicates that the less individuals believe policies to be effective, the less successful do they believe the policies are in preserving the community's interests. The perceived weakness increases by about 3.116 units for every unit the approach is seen to fail.

"The overall results show that the current rules are not doing enough to protect the community's interests in oil drilling." This implies the regulations need to be looked at again and updated so they better match the demands of the community.

IV. Discussion of findings

This research examines the diverse impacts of oil-drilling on the Ibala/Abereke riverine community in Ondo State, Nigeria. It speaks about huge concerns local people have with the environment, society, economics, how they view things and policies due of oil drilling. The data show that oil drilling has contaminated the water and destroyed many flora and animals. It jeopardises community employment dependent on fishing and farming (Eze et al., 2019). Regression study indicates that oil development has a statistically significant detrimental influence on biodiversity and water quality (R-squared value: 0.041). The oil drilling is not the only factor that affects the ecological health, other things do (Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018). The research reveals a paradox in socioeconomics as oil operations marginally enhance community welfare but the gains are overpowered by issues of environmental destruction and relocation which leads to social unrest and increased poverty (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020).

The community feels horrible about Oil Companies in general because they destroy the environment and individuals feel like they have no

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voice in choices. The close relationship between negative attitudes and environmental degradation makes policies and information all the more relevant and available to everyone (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). The report also identifies significant policy gaps; existing policies are insufficient to safeguard community rights or to ensure practices are profitable. The low R2 value of 0.295 for the policy success indicates that the current arrangements are not enough responsive to the complex nature of social and environmental issues (Obi & Omoniyi, 2021).

The frameworks of applied theory include Environmental Justice Theory and Sustainable Development Theory which assist us to comprehend these developments properly. They promote equitable sharing of resources and integrated development approaches, which maintain environmental protection and economic progress in balance (Brundtland, 1987). The approach was sound, with quantitative surveys and environmental evaluations used, therefore the conclusions are more likely to be genuine. The findings indicate that individual perceptions are mostly shaped by personal experiences of environmental degradation and social exclusion (Bryman, 2016). This research emphasises the need for effective legislation that promotes eco-friendly practices, supports community participation in decision making, and guarantees appropriate compensation to those forcibly displaced. By addressing these issues from a holistic human perspective, we can foster long-term development that safeguards our environment and our community's health.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

This research reveals that oil drilling has a lot of negative consequences on Ibala/Abereke village in Ondo State. These impacts are particularly detrimental to the ecology, economy and community spirit. The research found that oil drilling causes pollution of water and destruction of wildlife, which negatively impacts local farming and fishing, crucial for the survival of communities (Eze et al., 2019; Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018). There are certain economic advantages like as employment opportunities but they are not worth the harm done to nature and society. The community's feeling toward oil firms is mostly unfavourable, since they are seen to be damaging the environment and are not included in the decision making process (Adewale & Oladipo, 2020). Moreover, the poor explanatory power of the regression studies and the fact that many individuals in the community are dissatisfied (Ogunbameru & Akinbami, 2018) demonstrate that the existing regulations are not adequately protecting the community interests. To reduce these adverse impacts, governments need to strengthen environmental regulations and ensure their rigorous implementation.

Community engagement should be the first focus in an effort to build trust and transparency in the decision-making process (Bullard, 1990). Companies of oil producing should use eco-friendly means that inflict the least damage and promote corporate social responsibility. Channels for the displaced to get payments and investments in programs that assist individuals discover other ways to earn a livelihood may also help minimise social dissatisfaction. According to the notion of sustainable development (Brundtland, 1987), long-term strategies should be formulated to achieve a balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and equitable treatment of all people. To conclude, finding equitable solutions that preserve people's health and the environment, while also promoting long-term economic development in Ibala/Abereke, demands a combined effort from government agencies, oil firms, and local communities.

Based on the study's results, here are five ideas to help the Ibala/Abereke neighbourhood deal with the bad effects of oil digging and promote long-term growth:

1. Make rules better: make laws stronger and put stricter rules on the environment to make sure oil companies act in a way that is good for the environment and protects community interests enough.

2. Involve the Community: Make sure that the rights and concerns of the community are taken into account and dealt with by giving them ways to say what they think about decisions about oil drilling.

Third, keep an eye on things and fix them when you see problems. For example, set up regular checks to see the quality of the water, the number of animals, and the amount of trash. If you see problems that are hurting the ecosystem, act quickly to fix them.

4. Encourage Openness and Corporate Social Responsibility: Tell oil companies they need to be honest and open with the public and take part in CSR projects that help the areas where they work, like building schools, hospitals, and roads.

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5. Think long-term: bring together plans for environmental protection with plans for economic and social development geared to renewable resources and various methods to earn a livelihood. It will lessen dependence on oil exploration and harm to environment.

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Appendix
QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 1: Tick against the option that best defines you.

1. Gender
   - Male
   - Female

2. Age Group (years)
   - 18–30
   - 31–40
   - 41–50
   - 51 and above

3.Marital Status
   - Single
   - Married
   - Widowed/Separated

4.Educational Level
   - No formal education
   - Primary
   - Secondary
   - Tertiary

Section B

The items of the questionnaire are structured around the research questions, using a 5-point Likert scale format (1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree):

Section A: Environmental Consequences of Oil Drilling

1. Oil drilling activities have led to water pollution in Ibala/Abereke.
2. The biodiversity in Ibala/Abereke has declined due to oil exploration.
3. Oil spills have contaminated local water sources.
4. Gas flaring releases harmful pollutants into the environment.
5. The environmental damage caused by oil drilling is severe.

Section B: Socio-Economic Effects of Oil Exploration

6. Oil exploration has created new employment opportunities for residents.
7. The local economy has benefited significantly from oil activities.

8. Oil drilling has negatively impacted traditional farming practices.
9. Fishing activities have been adversely affected by oil exploration.
10. Displacement due to oil infrastructure development has disrupted community life.

Section C: Community Perceptions and Responses
11. I believe oil companies do not adequately consider community concerns.
12. The community feels excluded from decision-making processes related to oil exploration.
13. Environmental degradation caused by oil drilling has worsened health conditions.
14. I distrust the intentions of oil companies operating in our area.
15. The community supports environmentally friendly oil exploration practices.

Section D: Policy Gaps and Recommendations
16. Existing policies sufficiently protect community rights during oil exploration.
17. There is a need for stricter enforcement of environmental regulations.
18. Policies should promote community participation in decision-making processes.
19. Compensation mechanisms for displaced persons are inadequate.
20. Implementing sustainable practices can mitigate environmental harm caused by oil drilling.

General Perceptions and Attitudes
21. I am concerned about the long-term environmental impacts of oil exploration.
22. The benefits of oil drilling do not outweigh the environmental costs.
23. I believe that more transparency is needed from oil companies and government agencies.
24. Community health issues related to oil activities are often overlooked.
25. Overall, I am dissatisfied with how oil exploration is managed in Ibala/Abereke.