IMPACT OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT ON MILITANCY UPSURGE IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

URHIBO, B.O.¹

Abstract
This paper examined the impact of human capital development on militancy upsurge in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Expo-facto design was utilized and secondary data of expenditure on militancy and expenditure on human capital development were obtained from the statistical bulletins of Central Bank of Nigeria and World Bank Indicators during the period 1988-2017. The study revealed that human capital development has influenced militancy but negatively. This implies that human capital development has not properly served as an antidote in addressing militancy upsurge in the region. Thus, in order to address militancy upsurge in the region by means of human capital development, the human capital development programme should be tailored towards addressing the basic needs such as psychological, infrastructure and unemployment needs of the people. In addition, the amnesty/human capital development program should be redesigned to inculcate vocational training and participants of the training program should be engaged by means of employment in areas that fit their vocational skills in government ministries, parastatals and agencies.

Keywords: Militancy; Maritime Industry; Human Capital Development; Niger Delta

Introduction
In Nigeria, human capital development (HCD) is one of the seven points’ agenda for Vision 2020 premeditated by late President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua. The agenda as noted by Akinwale (2010) and Ademola (2017) comprised of infrastructure, security, food supply, housing, employment and wealth creation among others that should better the lots of citizens and the aggregate economy. Consequently, this vision has not seen the face of light, given the unrest in the region (Niger Delta). The Niger Delta region is abundantly endowed with hydrocarbon resources that place Nigeria as the seventh leading producer of oil in the world (Ushie, 2013; and Nwogwugwu, Alao & Egwuo-nwu, 2012). Over the years, regardless of the enormous contribution of the Niger Delta to the upkeep of the Nigerian state, the region has suffered mammoth neglect and lack in terms of infrastructure, security, employment among others (Odalonu, 2015).

¹ Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of the Social Sciences, Delta State University, Abraka

Sahel Analyst: ISSN 1117-4668
Perhaps, the mammoth neglect and lack of infrastructure, security and employment in the region may have caused the pervasive poverty, piercing hardship, plundered environment and soaring rate of unemployment in the region (Onosode, 2003; Amuwo, 2009). The neglect by oil companies and the Nigerian states have all led to the emergence of militancy in the region. Besides, some efforts have been made by the Nigerian state especially since 2009 in an attempt to curb militancy (Ademola, 2017). This has led to the amnesty programme initiated by the federal government as well as the human capital development programme launched at all states of the Nigeria federation in 2012.

In spite of these valiant programmes, militancy has not departed in the region. Moreover, where efforts are made by the Nigerian state to address militancy in the region, researches on how militancy can be remedied in the region via investment in human capital development has been undermined. Hence, this paper tries to investigate the connection between militancy and human capital development in Nigeria, given the fact that when the human capital is developed, individuals’ potentials, skills and opportunities for growth are stirred-up. The remaining part of the paper is sectioned as follows: review of related literature, materials/methods, results/discussion, conclusion and recommendations.

Conceptual Issues

Militancy and Niger Delta Communities: An Overview

There are two undeniable facts as regards the Niger Delta; first, the Niger Delta is a region of strategic value to both domestic and international economies; and second, it is a region of enormous and disturbing paradox (i.e. a region engrossed in substantial wealth and merciless poverty). On a national level, the region’s creeks/swamps which lie over one of the largest reserves of oil play a unique role in influencing the political economy. On the other hand, the health of the global political economy of one of the most powerful nations on earth - the United States of America (USA). The oil reserves in Niger Delta region of Nigeria houses about 34 billion barrels of black gold. This assertion supports how the region houses the largest expanse of oil reserves in the country. Currently, the hydrocarbon wealth of the region has made the country the most prevalent oil producer in Africa and the seventh largest in the world.

More worrisome is the fact that the region’s security has become an essential issue to the country and the global community, given the enormous wealth of the region. Perhaps, the security issues or unrest in the region has sent global oil prices amplifying upwards. The wealth that stems from the region goes beyond the present-day. Aside the expanse of oil reserves in the region, the region has played a fundamental role in slave trade and subsequently, a major lubricant of the Industrial Revolution in England in 18th and 19th centuries.
Consequently, the state of unrest of oil exploration activities and militancy in the maritime industry in the region is even more influential on the socio-economic and political wellbeing of the Nigerian state. The region is one of the main source of life to the nation’s economy, given the oil and gas wealth exploited by multinational oil companies (MOCs), escalating to hundreds of billions of dollars.

At the moment, the nation earns more than US$3billion from oil in a month, resulting to about 95% export earnings and 40% of the aggregate gross domestic product (GDP). With the large expanse of oil wealth flow from the Niger Delta region, the country was able to build two capital cities of desirable standards – Lagos and Abuja. In spite of the bulk of wealth flowing from this region, inhabitants in the region still live in ruthless and discernible poverty. The quandary is that the enormous wealth flowing from this region has become a source of poverty, nastiness and curse to the people. No doubt, the region is currently a home to some Africa’s poorest people and some of its most horrible cases of environmental annihilation.

Rather than the people enjoying the wealth flowing from this region, they have suffered absolute neglect and rejection, political and economic denial, senseless raiding of revenue generated from the region, unemployment, pollution, cruel military battering and so on, thus leading to tremendous poverty in the region. It is this gloomy reality of lack of attention and refusal of the Nigerian states to the people of the region that have propelled the agitations of the oil communities in the Niger Delta region. Presently, this has soared into lasting and fickle restiveness, insurgency and the demand for resource control by the people of Niger Delta. Okaba (2005) believes that the agonizing and ruthless socio-economic reality of the region has forced some inhabitants of the region into militancy.

The spate of militancy in the region has made Nigerian oil fields among the most treacherous in the world and increasingly a source of threat to the nation’s revenue. Militancy in the region has made the Nigerian state to lose billions of dollars in oil revenues. Besides, militancy in the region has created a state of insecurity, anomie and deformation of the value system in the region. More worrisome is the fact the militancy in the region has spearhead hostage taking of expatriates, sporadic shut-down and booming of oil production facilities (like that of the Avengers). These and many others have made some multinational oil companies to withdraw from the region. It became obvious that the region deserves an imperative antidote to militancy, hence the creation of the human capital development or amnesty programme.
Human Capital Development Defined

Human capital development according to Abbas (2010) is a broader term used in describing knowledge and skills acquisition than training. Adeleye, Adegbite and Aderemi (2014) opine that human capital development is more concerned with individuals’ potentials than with immediate skills. Human capital development implies opportunities created to assist individuals grow. Dode and Bassey (2014) assert that human capital development is a long-term programme which should focus onremedying the current states of the people.

Developing human capital in the Niger Delta region should be tailored towards the current needs of the militants such as equipping them with the right skills and knowledge needed to make them competent to take onemployment or become entrepreneurs. Human capital development focuses on building the knowledge and skills of individuals such that they become prepared to take new responsibilities. Human capital development is therefore associated with training, education and career development of individuals aimed at improving the knowledge, skills and attitude to change (Brown, 2013; and Gratton & Ghoshal, 2015).

Addressing Militancy via Human Capital Development

One of the fundamental rationales why inhabitants in the Niger Delta engage in militancy may be connected with the fact that the Nigerian state have failed in meeting with the basic needs of the people with seriousness and honesty (Osaghae, Ikelegbe, Olarinmoye & Okhonmina, 2007). For instance, in the Niger Delta region free maternal and rural healthcare package of the human capital development program has been undermined as it cannot be said to have improve the quandary of people, especially women in this region. No doubt, this has resulted in the high rate of child and maternal death in the region. Besides, immunization programmes for children are close to zero in some communities in the region; the resultant effect is frustration, depression and anger leading to restiveness experienced in this region.

The youth empowerment program initiated by the Nigerian state to channel the redundant energies of youths into meaningful undertakings via amnesty, agriculture and farmers’ support programmes cannot be said to have positively influenced the lives of the youths in these regions. A critical assessment of the human capital development programme initiated by the Nigerian state (amnesty) has failed to address the yearnings of the people in the region. Thus, the human capital development program in this regards can be said to be a colossal failure.

Prior Studies

There is avalanche of empirical evidence as regards the nexus between militancy, foreign direct investment, sustainable development, social political development and oil theft in Nigeria (Afinotan & Ojakorotu, 2009;
Impact of Human Capital Development on Militancy Upsurge in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

Nwogwugwu, Alao & Egwuonwu, 2012; Olubayo & Olubisi, 2012; Ejovi & Ebie, 2013; Ushie, 2013; Odalonu, 2015; Hakeem & Abdul-Wasi, 2016; and Ademola, 2017) while there are scanty empirical evidences on the nexus between militancy and human capital development in Nigeria (Akinwale, 2010). Yet, these sets of studies *inter-alia* failed to assess if militancy in the maritime industry can be harnessed via human capital development in the Niger Delta region. Afinotan and Ojakorotu (2009) examined the issues, challenges and prospects of the Niger Delta crisis and found that ethnic militia and insurgent groups devoted to the socio-economic emancipation of the Niger Delta region have culminated to the crisis in the region.

A study by Akinwale (2010) assessed amnesty and human capital development agenda for the Niger Delta and drew insights from Habermasian social movement and Althusserian state apparatus paradigms. The study found that the paltry extrinsic motivations such as financial rewards given to ex-militants are unmatched with the enormous amount of money they realised illegally, thus a holistic approach to human capital development is essential.

Nwogwugwu, et al. (2012) investigated militancy, insecurity and foreign direct investment in the Niger Delta. The Marxian political economy paradigm was employed as the theoretical construct of the study and findings revealed that kidnapping, hostage taking, vandalizing of oil pipelines, setting-off of car bombs as well as illegal oil bunkering has negatively affected Nigeria’s economic development. Olubayo and Olubisi (2012) explored the conditions resulting to the crisis situation as well as its attendant consequences to the people of Niger Delta and the global community in Nigeria. The study shown that even though the Amnesty programme seems to have brought relative peace to the region, there is petite progress made to terminate the environmental degradation and human rights abuse in the region.

Ejovi and Ebie (2013) critically appraised the Amnesty programme and social political development in Nigeria and findings revealed that the crisis in the region has not been given adequate attention by the several non-governmental organizations, but were at intervals repulsed with crackdown and tyranny from successive governments in Nigeria, with a strong connivance of oil multinational companies. Ushie (2013) offered a critical account of the amnesty programme initiated by the Nigerian government in 2009 by examining the effect and limitations of the amnesty programme as a tool of peace-building. The study argued that the amnesty programme is a brave effort by the Nigerian government but is by no means a silver bullet. Rather, it is a specific response to a resource-driven conflict that demands a broader and widespread resolution.

Odalonu (2015) examined the rising cases of oil theft and illegal bunkering in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The study revealed that diverse individuals...
and groups were connected with the oil theft and illegal bunkering activities in the region. Besides, the persistence oil theft in the region has been attributed to numerous factors such as enthroned corruption by Nigerian influential, high level of youth unemployment, futile and corrupt law enforcement agencies as well as international crime collaborations. Hakeem and Abdul-Wasi (2016) study focused on how the Niger Delta has shifted significantly from large-scale violence affecting the region, to effects of the post-amnesty era which accompanied the initiation of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) in 2009. The study suggests that PAP has recorded some positive progress such that it has brought a lasting peace in the region.

A study by Ademola (2017) dealt with oil and gas production and militancy in the Niger Delta as a way of preventing oil reliance for sustainable development in Nigeria. Findings of the study indicated that communal conflicts, pipeline vandalization, kidnapping, sabotage, crude oil theft among others are all hindrance to the growth of the Nigerian economy. Besides, these militant behaviors have posed severe problem to oil and gas production and inversely affected the upstream and downstream oil production sector in Nigeria. On the basis of the review, prior studies suggest that there is still much research that needs to be conducted in the area of establishing if human capital development impacts on militancy upsurge in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

**Theoretical Framework**

There are several theoretical paradigms that can be employed to explicate the nexus between militancy and human capital development. Foremost among these arrays of theoretical paradigms are the Basic Needs, Frustration-Aggression, Relative Deprivation, Habermasian Social Movement, Althusserian State Apparatus, Marxist Political Economy theories among others. Nevertheless, the theoretical anchorage of this paper is on the Basic Needs Theory (BNT) as advocated by Abraham Maslow.

Iyoha (1999) believes that the BNT can be unraveled in four dimensions: first, basic needs imply the provision of citizen’s prime desires in the aspect of provision of potable water, shelter, clothing and food; second, it could mean permitting citizens to delineate their own desires rather than what is affirmed by expert groups; third, relegating government interference in the provision of education, water, sanitation and guidance in consumption; and fourth, the liberty of citizens to express themselves via personal and group participation in planning and implementation of projects.

The choice of the BNT pertinently depicts the condition of communities in the Niger Delta region where the basic needs of inhabitants are undermined. Perhaps, the lack of the basic needs of citizens in this region may have propelled diverse forms of hostilities such as militancy, kidnapping, oil-bunkering etc.
Consequent upon this, the basic needs of inhabitants in the region have been tainted with no alternative in place by the government who are supposed to respond to needs of the region. Thus, the Niger Delta crisis is a natural response to survival. The quest for resource control according to Ako (2012); and Emeseh (2011) has taken the centre stage to remedy the Nigerian state neglect ensuing in the lack of basic needs, outright marginalization, augmented poverty and unemployment, corruption, misery, infrastructural decay as well as poor governance.

Materials and Methods
This paper in actual fact focused on the impact of human capital development on militancy upsurge in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. The ex-post facto design was adopted and in order to establish if human capital development impacts on militancy upsurge, secondary data formed the basis of data collection, interpretation and analysis. Data was obtained from the database of the Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin and World Bank Indicators (various issues). Consequently, data of expenditure on militancy and expenditure on human capital development (economic and social community expenditure) were obtained during the period 1988-2017. On the basis of the above, a regression model was formulated:

\[ MILT = f(HCD) \]

Equation 1 expressed militancy (MILT) as a function of human capital development (HCD). Besides, equation 1 can be expressed mathematically as:

\[ MILT_t = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 HCD_t + \mu_t \]

Variables Description
MILT = Militancy (measured as expenditure on militancy)
HCD = Human capital development (measured as expenditure on economic and social community)
\( \mu_t \) = Error Term
\( \alpha_0, \beta_1 \) = Regression Coefficients

The regression technique was employed in the analysis of data and analysis was done via STATA 13.0 statistical software.

Results and Discussion
The results of the paper are presented and discussed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>milt</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>146.8707</td>
<td>184.2654</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>660.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hcd</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>337.3032</td>
<td>346.8962</td>
<td>2.0153</td>
<td>1108.298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Researcher’s Computation via STATA 13.0
Table 1 reports the descriptive statistics of the dependent variable (milt: expenditure on militancy) and independent variable (hcd: human capital development measured as expenditure on economic and social community). The result shows a mean milt and hcd of 146.8707 and 337.3032 respectively with standard deviations of 184.2654 and 346.8962 respectively. The mean values can deviate from mean to both sides by 14.7% and 33.7% respectively. Besides, the minimum values for milt and hcd are 1.4 and 2.0153 respectively with maximum values of 660.61 and 1108.298 respectively. This variation in the mean values implies that the expenditures on militancy and human capital development are not constant over time, hence are fit for conducting a statistical test.

**Table 2: Shapiro-Wilk W Test for Normal Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Obs</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>z</th>
<th>Prob &gt; z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>milt</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.79254</td>
<td>6.594</td>
<td>3.900</td>
<td>0.00005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hcd</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.85968</td>
<td>4.460</td>
<td>3.092</td>
<td>0.00100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Researchers’ Computation via STATA 13.0*

The Shapiro-Wilk test for normal data in Table 2 reveals that the errors are normally distributed. The p-probability showed that the errors are homoskedastic while the result of the Shapiro-Wilk W test showed no evidence of serial correlation in the residuals.

**Table 3: Variance Inflator Factor and Heteroskedascity Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>VIF</th>
<th>1/VIF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hcd</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.000000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean VIF</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Researchers’ Computation via STATA 13.0*

Breusch-Pagan / Cook-Weisberg test for heteroskedasticity

Ho: Constant variance

Variables: fitted values of milt

\[ \text{chi}^2(1) = 13.69 \]

Prob > chi2 = 0.0002

From Table 3, the mean VIF for the independent variable (hcd) did not exceed the standardized VIF level (1.00 <10.0), suggesting that there is the absence of multi-collinearity among the variables. Besides, result of the Breusch-Pagan/Cook-Weisberg test for heteroskedasticity indicates a probability of...
0.0002 which is less than the critical value of 0.05, showing that there is no heteroskedasticity problem in the model.

### Table 4: Unit Root Result (ADF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Statistic</th>
<th>1% Critical Value</th>
<th>5% Critical Value</th>
<th>10% Critical Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z(t)</td>
<td>3.184</td>
<td>-3.723</td>
<td>-2.989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MacKinnon approximate p-value for Z(t) = 0.9910
MacKinnon approximate p-value for Z(t) = 1.0000

The Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) test at first difference I(1) for milt is 3.184 > 2.960 at 0.05 level of significance, this shows that the series is stationary except for hcd (0.764) that show unit root.

### Table 5: Regression Result

Regression with Newey-West standard errors
maximum lag: 0
Number of obs = 30
F(1, 28) = 140.03
Prob > F = 0.0000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Newey-West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coef.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hcd</td>
<td>.503907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_cons</td>
<td>-23.09876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Researchers’ Computation via STATA 13.0

From Table 5 above, we found that the evaluation of the slope coefficients of the explanatory variable revealed the existence of negative connection between milt (t=-2.29). This implies that hcd has negatively influenced milt. Besides, the relationship is statistically significant at 5% level (p=0.0000<0.05) with computed F-ratio (1, 28 =140.03), indicating that human capital development has influenced militancy but negatively. The implication is that human capital development does not impact on militancy upsurge in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**
This paper examined whether human capital development impacts on militancy upsurge in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Ex-post facto design was utilized
and secondary data of expenditure on militancy and expenditure on human capital development were obtained from the statistical bulletins of CBN and World Bank Indicators (various issues) during the period 1988-2017. Findings of the study revealed that human capital development has influenced militancy but negatively. This implies that human capital development has not served as an antidote in addressing militancy upsurge in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. Perhaps, the negative connection between militancy and human capital development may be as a result of lack of the human capital development program that fails to meet the basic needs of the inhabitants in the Niger Delta region. Thus, in order to address militancy upsurge in the region by means of human capital development, the human capital development programme should be tailored towards addressing the basic needs of the people. The basic needs are those involving psychological, infrastructure and unemployment in the region. Consequently, there is the need for a paradigm drift in the way the government engages the region inhabitants’ vice-a-vice human capital development.

In addition, the amnesty/human capital development program should be redesigned to inculcate vocational training. Subsequent to the vocational training, participants of the program should be engage by means of employment in areas that fit their vocational skills in government ministries, parastatals and agencies. The vocational training programme should be complemented with innovative measures like widespread consultation with diverse stakeholders in the region as well as inclusion of all youths in the programme so as to carter for the basic needs of majority in the region.

References


Impact of Human Capital Development on Militancy Upsurge in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria


