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The Impact of Prison Reforms on the Welfare of the Inmates: A Case Study of Afokang Prison, Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria

By Ayuk, Awunghe Achu, Dr. Emeka Josephat Owan & Omono Cletus Ekok

University of Calabar

Abstract - The living conditions in Nigeria's prisons are very terrible and incapable of guaranteeing expected reformation of inmates. The reason being that there is general paucity in infrastructures, policies, workshops and corrupt disposed system. Given this background the main thrust of this study was to examine the impact of prison reforms on the welfare of the inmates. To achieve the purpose of this study two research questions were raised, which preceded the hypotheses. The design was empirical inquiry (expost facto). The population of the study consisted of all staff and inmates in the study area. A simple random sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of two hundred. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient served as the statistical instrument. The result of the analysis shows that: poor remuneration and absence of reformatory facilities militate against reforms workability.

Keywords : Inmate, prison, reform awaiting trial, warder.

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Keywords : inmate, prison, reform awaiting trial, warder.

I. INTRODUCTION

Despite Nigeria's progress on democratic, economic and political reforms, Nigeria's prisons are yet to make appreciable impact on the welfare of the inmates. A recurring debate within contemporary academic circles, criminologists, social workers and prison experts, is to ensure an appropriate template for proper prison administration that will reflect its objectives. Even though crime and other vices need to be deterred, it should be to the extent that its application is reasonable to the inmates during and after imprisonment; it is therefore needful to be logical and rational in punishing. This position is further stressed by Baccaria (1764) that crime that produced pleasure must be counteracted by pain such as imprisonment but reasonably.

Nigeria prisons are "living hell" twenty to thirty inmates arrive at the prison every day, thus over-

crowding the reformatory structure which do not even exist in the true sense often times tripling the original carrying capacity (Ikoyi Prison in Lagos State, capacity 800) but now in excess of 1,200. This scene is reflected in all prisons structures in the country (The Nation, 2010). There are shortage of bed spaces only half of the inmates sleep on bed. Disease is widespread cells are unclean and offer little ventilation resulting in unhealthy and dangerous sanitary condition (Yelodu, 1991). Prison and detention conditions remain harsh and life threatening. Prison inmates are allowed outside their cells for recreation or exercise irregularly and many inmates provide their own food. Only those with money or whose relatives brought food regularly had sufficient food. Petty corruption among prisons officials makes it difficult for money provided for food to reach the prisoners and poor inmates often relied on "hand-out" from others to survive. Those unwholesome treatment have contributed to the death in detention of numerous prisoners, (Annual Prison Report, 1984).

The report by Human Right Practice Commission for prisoner's dignity 1999, estimated that at least one inmate dies per day in the Kiri-Kiri prison in Lagos alone. Dead inmates are promptly buried in graves on the compound usually without their families being notified. It is sad that claims like these are not investigated and the system is allowed to rot, leaving prison as charade of government propaganda.

There is more to imprisonment than opening and closing of prison gates. Modern penal management techniques emphasized reform of the inmates or the convicts. The current attitude in penal circles is to see improvement from the perspective of reform and rehabilitation rather than from the perspective of punishment. It is assumed that those who have committed crimes need help, and should be assisted to lead a good life. This view is predicated upon the understanding that those who have fallen foul of the collective norms and laws of the society expressed in criminal laws should be reformed; that is why the term correction is applied to reflect this thinking, argues (Ostreicher, 2003).

The question is how can inmates be reformed or corrected in Nigerian prisons with such systemic decay? Of the 227 prisons in the country, four out of five

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were built before 1950. The infrastructure is old and decrepit, lack of decent meal, medicines and denial of contact with families and friends which are reportedly damaging to the physical and mental well-being of inmates. Building in use as workshops are inadequate, and some prisons non-existent. Educational and vocational training programmes don't exist, even when they exist, they lack necessary materials and limited to "handful" of inmates. To that extent any singing and praying that keeps the inmates engaged. Even going to church and mosque is restricted inmates are allowed outside their cells for recreation or exercise only irregularly. This accounts for why most inmates released go back to commit crimes. This explains why there is high rate of recidivism because they were not properly reformed or rehabilitated. (Salaudeen, 2004).

Incontrovertibly the administration of inmates in the Nigeria prisons is very out dated. For example, each day, prison directors register inmate name on a blackboard positioned near the prison gate and report to the zonal office which in turn, report to the headquarters in Abuja more worrisome nothing is done as regards their accommodations and reformatory and rehabilitative imperatives shockingly. Successive governments in Nigeria have made recommendations and suggestions to better the operation of prisons, but little or nothing has been done in terms of implementation (Ayuk, 2003).

Recently, the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria gave its committee on interior a two week deadline to submit a report on a bill seeking to improve the appalling condition of the nation's prisons titled: A bill for an Act to repeal the Prison Act. This bill seeks to provide a legal framework for the comprehensive reform of the Nigerian prison system. Regrettably, this and similar efforts in the past so far, have been inconclusive. For instance, Obasanjo's government set up a National Working Group on Prison Reform and congestion to audit the state of the nation's prisons and make recommendations to the government. Successive Attorneys – General in the country have equally made recommendations to the government on prison reform following the extensive audit of the nation's prisons in 2005 - former Attorney General and Minister of Justice Bayo Ojo and the Federal Ministry of Justice recommended to the then Federal Executive Council to declare the issue of awaiting trial inmates (ATI) a matter of urgent national importance. Till date, nothing fruitful has resulted from the reform initiative (Nation, 2010).

It should be noted however, that security of lives and properties still remains the utmost concern of every government and since crime is functional – people must consciously or unconsciously "slapped" the law. The issue is, are there structures equipped enough to guarantee reformation of these defaulters? Would these offenders changed to be better citizens or more

"hardened" upon release? These issues raised pose serious challenge to our prison and criminal justice system. To guarantee or for prison reforms to be effective, the three instrumentalities of the criminal justice system (Police, Court and Prison) must be responsive.

II. THE PROBLEM

The unsavory nature of Nigeria's prisons leaves one in doubt, with too many questions and fewer answers; being that majority of persons become hardened and daring than when they never went behind bars and commit more heinous crimes. Officers and men of Nigeria prisons epitomize corruption and no will to discharge their duties and responsibilities – certainly not satisfied with their conditions of service.

Interestingly, prison still remains indispensable in correcting, reforming and rehabilitating "perceived convicts" in Nigeria. It is worrisome that recommendations and suggestions made to government for prison reforms are yet to be implemented. This study therefore, is an attempt to address this question: why can't Nigeria prisons reform an inmate to the extent that his or her welfare is appreciable?

III. HYPOTHESES

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between the availability of reformatory facilities and inmates skill acquisition to lead a life devoid of criminality.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between death of inmates and inadequate medical facilities and overcrowding.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of this study will be of immense benefit to prison administrators and bodies like non-governmental organizations (NGO's), Amnesty International, Human Rights Activists etc. Specifically it will help the government of Nigeria to plan, given that, the problems faced by inmates are exposed to that extent prison administrators will find better ways of reformatory process to avoid recidivism.

V. A BRIEF HISTORY OF AFOKANG PRISON (CALABAR – NIGERIA)

The Calabar camp was established in 1890 for the purpose of harbouring some inmates. The prison is headquarter in the city of Calabar, the capital of Cross River State – Nigeria. It is situated in the suburbs of in the city near the mangrove swamp annexing the Calabar – river.

The Calabar prison camp now known as Calabar prison has changed its status to a "convict prison" without adequate structural modification put in place for the ever increasing number of inmates. For example the original carrying capacity was one hundred

(100) inmates but it has a surplus of five hundred (500) inmates.

The prison has a kitchen and administrative block aside from the cell block. A dilapidated and unequipped clinic within the prison environment. The workshop is in applauding state and nothing to show in respect to training and equipping inmates to be self-sustaining on discharged.

The Calabar Prison banja a formal organization observes all forms of bureaucracy as espouse by Max Webber which includes; hierarchy of authority, division of work based on functional specialization, clear statement of right and duties of personnel, promotion and selection based on technical competence. Rules and procedures in were still adhere to as concern the day to day running of the prisons. The officer in charge of the prison is the Deputy Controller of the prison whose function amongst others is oversee the administration of the prison and delegate duties to his subordinates. He reports to the controller in – charge of Cross River State Command.

VI. THE NEED FOR PRISON REFORMS

According to Wikipedia online encyclopedia (2005), prison reforms are attempts to improve the overall conditions of prisons machines and it is aimed at a more effective penal system typically from one model to another essentially; to improve positively the operations of the prison. The 1990 Nigerian prison reform trust report sees prison reforms as doing honourably what ought to be done according to dignity to human existence.

Hobbes (1651) asserts that; “it is the nature of punishment to have for an end the disposition of men to obey the law, for the punishment fore known if not great enough to deter men from the action – is an investment to it; because when compared to the benefit of their injustice with the harm of their punishment if not reformed, by nature they choose that which appeareth best for themselves”.

The purpose of reforms is to train through appropriate conditions convicted prisoner to be better citizens on discharge. Reformation of prisons and prisoners in Nigeria still conjures punishment (Kalu, 2002). The Annual Prison Report 2004 construe reformation for prisoners as treatment and training of convict within the purview of:

- a) provision of work for the prisoner after discharge;
- b) special attention to education;
- c) the experiences of personal influence on the individual by members of the prison staff and
- d) the provision of all possible opportunities for the development of a series of personal responsibility.

The implication is that those who commit crimes do not have jobs and need to be exposed to education both for skills development and the training of the mind

for self development. Armed with these objectives, the prison is expected to “beef – up” its workshops for skills acquisition in such trade as carpentry, shoe making, tailoring, draughtmanship, joinery, printing, electrical and metal work etc. If acquired by the inmates, would assist them to earn a living on discharge without relapsing into crime (Ayuk, 2003).

Beside, skills acquisition programmes were expected to be contemplated by consistent psycho-remedial sessions which would help the inmate a great deal in understanding the reality and making sense out of it. This new orientation in the penal practice is believed to be informed by the fact that, improvement and the subsequent loss of freedom was punishment enough; and that while not trying to make life easier for prisoners in Nigeria, it was acknowledged that punitive improvement had deformative effects on the minds and out look of those subjected to it.

Prison service of Nigeria derives its power from Cap. 366 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, (1990) to perform the following functions amongst which include; take into custody all those legally intended and set in motion mechanisms for their training and reformation; preparatory to returning them back to the society as normal and law abiding citizens. The implication therefore is that, reformed prisoners do no longer be a security threat to national peace which is so vital for socio-economic and political development.

VII. METHODOLOGY

a) *Research Design*

It is empirical inquiry (expost facto). Reason being that the researcher does not have direct control of the independent variables because their manifestation have already occurred.

b) *Population of the Study*

The target population was all the prison staff and inmates of Afokang – Prison Calabar, Cross River State – Nigeria.

c) *Sample Population*

A total of 200 persons were used (160 are the inmates while 40 represented the prison officials). This number (200) was regarded as large enough to enable the research make generalization on the impact of prison reforms on the welfare of the inmates in Nigeria prisons. The supposition is that, the respondents are quite knowledgeable about their conditions as staff and as inmates.

d) *Instrumentation*

Two instruments used were primary source (questionnaire constructed by the researcher and use of oral interview). The secondary sources (information obtained from textbooks, magazines, journals and newspapers). The questionnaire method for data collection was preferred because it was found to be

more efficient – it allowed for collection of data within the time frame and financial resource available to the investigator.

The nature of each question was determined in relation to the purpose and significance of the investigation. The questionnaire were structured questions of the six (6) points likert scale and the items were set to reflect the impact of prison reforms on the welfare of the inmates.

e) Method of Data Analysis

The data collected was analysed using the pearson product moment correlation statistics.

VIII. RESULT

The results of data analyses is presented below.

a) Hypothesis 1

There is no significant relationship between the availability of reformatory facilities and inmate skills acquisition to lead a life devoid of criminality.

Table 1 : Pearson moment correlation co-efficient on availability of reformatory facilities and inmates skills acquisition to lead a life devoid of criminality

Variable	Σx	Σx^2	Calculated 'r' value	Critical 'r' value	Decision
Reformatory facilities	275 0	5028	.198	0.113	Rejected
Skills acquisition	203 1	2715 0			

P < 0.05

Table 1 shows that the calculated 'r' value, which is 0.191 is higher than the critical 'r' value which is 0.11. The null hypothesis is rejected which states that, there is no significant relationship between availability of reformatory facilities and inmates skills acquisition to lead a life devoid of criminality. Hence there is a relationship between availability of reformatory facilities and inmates skills acquisition.

b) Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between health of inmate and inadequate medical facilities and overcrowding.

Table 2 : Pearson moment correlation co-efficient between health of inmates and inadequate medical facilities and overcrowding

Variable	Σx	Σx^2	Calculated 'r'-value	Critical 'r'-value	Decision
Corrupt attitude of government /prison administrators	265 0	454 5	0.195	0.55	Rejected
Poor implementation of reforms	203 1	271 5			

P < 0.05

This table shows that, the calculated 'r' value, which is 0.195 is higher than the critical 'r' value which is 0.55. The null hypothesis which state that there is no significant relationship between death of inmates and inadequate medical facilities and overcrowding is rejected. Therefore there is a connection between death of inmates and inadequate medical facilities.

IX. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The major task here was to establish how reforms can impact positively on the welfare of inmates. The findings, however, confirm what already have been said during casual interaction and debates. That Nigerian prison is a dungeon and represents inhumanity to man. The analysis of hypothesis one reveals that there is a strong relationship between availability of reformatory facilities and inmates skills acquisition to lead a dignified and respectable life. Furthermore, it revealed that recidivism amongst ex-convict is high; because inmates were not trained in any particular trade hence on discharge they become frustrated and despondent. This confirms Osefo (1990) assertion, that planned reforms in Nigeria prison was always unrealistic and that the suppose reformation/rehabilitation was nothing less than deformation and a charade.

Equally significant from the findings in Afokang-Calabar Prison Nigeria, is the sorry state of the carpentry workshop, while the mechanic workshop does not exist. The art and craft workshop existed but not constructive and productive enough to give it a pass mark. The hair dressing saloon had only four (4) driers and eight (8) sowing machines, which obviously cannot serve the rehabilitative needs of 450 inmates.

Equally substantiated in terms of findings was that, there exist a significant relationship between death of inmates and inadequate medical facilities and over crowding. The findings reveal that health situations in Nigerian prisons are saddening and precarious as the

existing “so-called” prison medical center are just– but– a “resemblance” of a patent medicine store. No drugs, few medical personnel to attend to growing and incessant sick prison population. Skin rashes, tuberculosis and kwashiorkor are most prevalent amongst inmates leading to death of prisoners. This confirms Salaudeen’s (2004) position, that those inmates who die are quickly buried without the authorities informing their relatives.

The findings also revealed that the population of the inmates have exceeded the original (300) carrying capacity, with excess of 250, totalling 550 which has resulted in unhealthy sanitary conditions, with disease pervasive in cramped and poorly ventilated facilities (Yekodu, 1991). More appalling from the findings was that, because of excess population most inmates have no bed and mattresses, they are forced to sleep on concrete floor often without blankets. These unwholesome treatment have contributed to the death in detention of numerous prisoners.

Finally, the findings reveals that government has not totally abandon the task of reforming and rehabilitating prisons and inmates. She has been planning and making funds available, though little to assuage the debilitating and unsavouring state of the prisons, but these funds are either misappropriated or swindled out-rightly by court official for purposes other than the original intensions.

X. CONCLUSION

The prison is a component of the criminal justice system like every other place in the world charged institutionally for/to, confine, reform, rehabilitate offenders and ensure that on discharge they abide by the dominant values of the polity. In here, convicts are expected to be trained, counsel, resocialised, re-scienticed etc to lead as better citizens. Unfortunately in Nigeria prison, inmates become more hardened and not reformed and rehabilitated afterall. This account for high rate of recidivism in Nigeria. This is because reforms endeavours in Nigeria are mere travesty and charade of government until reforms are disposed wholistically (presence of carpentary workshops, provision for schooling, train personnels, office accommodation, better wages and general working conditions) prisons objectives and goals will remain illusive.

Prison reforms as it were have been and still remain an important part of the Nigeria prison setting vis-à-vis social order. Because these reforms are action statement of governing pertaining to issues in the system describing the intended objectives of rehabilitating the inmates and the general working conditions of personnels.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and analysis there of, the following recommendations are made:

- a) Inmates should be realistically introduced to useful trades that are geared toward occupational reality of the world outside prison, so that they could better their lives on discharge from prison.
- b) The federal government should take concrete steps to rehabilitate the cells, barracks and offices occupied by the prison staff and inmates.
- c) Adequate and functional medical facilities should be provided to arrest the high rate of diseases and death incidence among the inmates.
- d) There should be a body established by law and charged with visiting prisons with a view to identifying and proffering solutions to the immediate problems of the Nigerian prison system.
- e) There should be law requiring the controller of prisons in various states to compile the names of convicted prisoners who have been of good behaviour within a specific period for the purpose of granting them amnesty, so that congestion problem can be eased.
- f) The government and related agencies should make sure that only persons who have been convicted for criminal offences by a competent court of law shall serve as their abode for the period.
- g) Officers and men of Nigeria prison should be properly trained – to best handle the nifty gritty of prison issues.
- h) Corrupt officials should be severely dealt with and probably dismissed if found wanting.
- i) The court and the judges should also be serious and attend to cases with dispatch to avoid congestion and death.
- j) Reforms should be backed with the needed political will to be implemented, because makings without implementation is a good as not making the reforms.

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Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Implemented by Students and Staff in Tertiary Institutions in Ekiti State, Nigeria

By Tolulope Monisola Ola, Adeyemi Olalekan & Oyinlola Oluwagbemiga

Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

Abstract - Issues - In many countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, large numbers of students, lecturers, administrators and other educational employees are becoming infected, with substantial impacts on the supply and quality of education providing access to HIV/AIDS prevention information and care is an important way of safeguarding Nigeria's investment in higher education.

Description - Since 2011, a Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (CHAPP) with funding from USAID is being implemented, including prevention activities, HIV/AIDS counseling and testing (HCT), antiretroviral (ARVs) and psychosocial support for students, lecturers and other educational employees in three tertiary institutions in Ekiti State Nigeria. The unique feature of this program is the recognition that tertiary institutions do not always represent safe environments particularly for women and girls.

Keywords : HIV/AIDS, education, tertiary institutions, prevention, Nigeria.

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Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Implemented by Students and Staff in Tertiary Institutions in Ekiti State, Nigeria

Tolulope Monisola Ola^α, Adeyemi Olalekan^σ & Oyinlola Oluwagbemiga^ρ

Abstract - Issues: In many countries with high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, large numbers of students, lecturers, administrators and other educational employees are becoming infected, with substantial impacts on the supply and quality of education providing access to HIV/AIDS prevention information and care is an important way of safeguarding Nigeria's investment in higher education.

Description: Since 2011, a Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (CHAPP) with funding from USAID is being implemented, including prevention activities, HIV/AIDS counseling and testing (HCT), antiretroviral (ARVs) and psychosocial support for students, lecturers and other educational employees in three tertiary institutions in Ekiti State Nigeria. The unique feature of this program is the recognition that tertiary institutions do not always represent safe environments particularly for women and girls. Hence, gender is a critical factor with female students/staff participating in all the program aspects. A baseline survey related to prevention and understanding Sexually Transmitted Diseases including HIV/AIDS and mobilization of stakeholders was carried out for better planning, implementation, institutional ownership, monitoring and evaluation.

Lessons Learned: Participation of staff and students is crucial in achieving the stated objectives of CHAPP as demonstrated during the Peer Education Training and a high turnout of staff during the mobilization of stakeholders. As a result of these, a partnership was formed between institutional structures which encourage periodic assessment.

Recommendation: Institutional leadership commitment, tertiary institutions HIV/AIDS policy, and developing a gender perspective that recognizes the greater vulnerability of women is highly recommend since they have crucial role to play in addressing the whole range of political, social, economic, legal and management implications of HIV/AIDS in higher education

Keywords : HIV/AIDS, education, tertiary institutions, prevention, Nigeria.

I. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the resultant disease, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), remain the foremost global health and development challenges. The rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in most of the Sub-Saharan Africa Countries over the past decade is no longer a health problem but

a major cause for the ongoing development crisis. The epidemic has cut life expectancy by more than ten years in several nations. Clearly, HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest threats to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals agreed by all UN member states in September 2000¹.

According to Kelly *et al* (2006), HIV and AIDS confront us with two challenges:

- The disease: This is the medical and epidemiological condition of HIV infection and/or AIDS in individuals and communities.
- The developmental problem: This arises from the social and developmental impacts of widespread HIV infection, when infected individuals are found across a country or region.

HIV and AIDS will continue to cause fundamental social and economic changes that will affect educational opportunities and the demand for labour (Carr-Hill *et al*, 2002). In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 2-Achieve universal primary education; 3-Promote gender equality & women empowerment; and 6-Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & other diseases in 2015, it is highly imperative to address the impact of HIV and AIDS in the educational sector in Nigeria. The impact of HIV and AIDS on educators and students in tertiary institutions is problematic. Students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria are usually youth aged between 15-25 years where more than 60% of new HIV infections occur. This takes place against a background in which one-third of the country's population of about 160 million are aged 10-24 years (National Population Commission, 2007).

The risk of and vulnerability to HIV infections among women are particularly striking. This according to Obono & Mohammed (2010) can be explained by the patriarchal nature of the Nigerian society where there are gender differences in women's and men's roles and responsibilities and gender inequities in access to resources, information and power as reflected in gender differences and inequalities in women's and men's vulnerability to illness, health status, access to preventive and curative measures, burdens of ill-health and quality of care.

¹ See for Millennium Development Goals (2001); EFA Goals (2000); and UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001).

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Corroborating the above, Glynn *et al* (2001) noted that in the middle of this HIV and AIDS debate is the growing evidence of the “feminization of the epidemic”, in which girls and women are becoming disproportionately infected with the virus. Although, there are a number of reasons why women might be more vulnerable to infection, many have suggested that the underlying gender inequality leaves women vulnerable to HIV. One of the pivotal responses to this claim has been to promote universal girls’ education in order to reduce HIV vulnerability.

AIDS has drastically changed the demands on educators, schools, and students, posing formidable challenges to education systems that are already overstretched and under-resourced. These new challenges-like the epidemic-are complex and require new ways of thinking and responding.

II. OVERVIEW OF HIV/AIDS IN NIGERIA AND EKITI STATE

The most populous country in Africa, Nigeria accounts for more than half of West Africa’s population, according to the U.S. Department of State. Nigeria’s first case of AIDS was diagnosed in 1986, and the national prevalence soon rose rapidly, from 1.8 percent in 1991 to a peak of 5.1 percent in 2001. (United Nations General Assembly Special Session [UNGASS], 2010). According to the report, 2,980,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS. After South Africa, Nigeria has the largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Women are disproportionately affected by the epidemic. Prevalence among young women ages 15 to 24 is higher than the prevalence among young men (2.3 percent versus 0.8 percent, respectively).

Figure 1 : Graphical Presentation of Trend in Nigeria

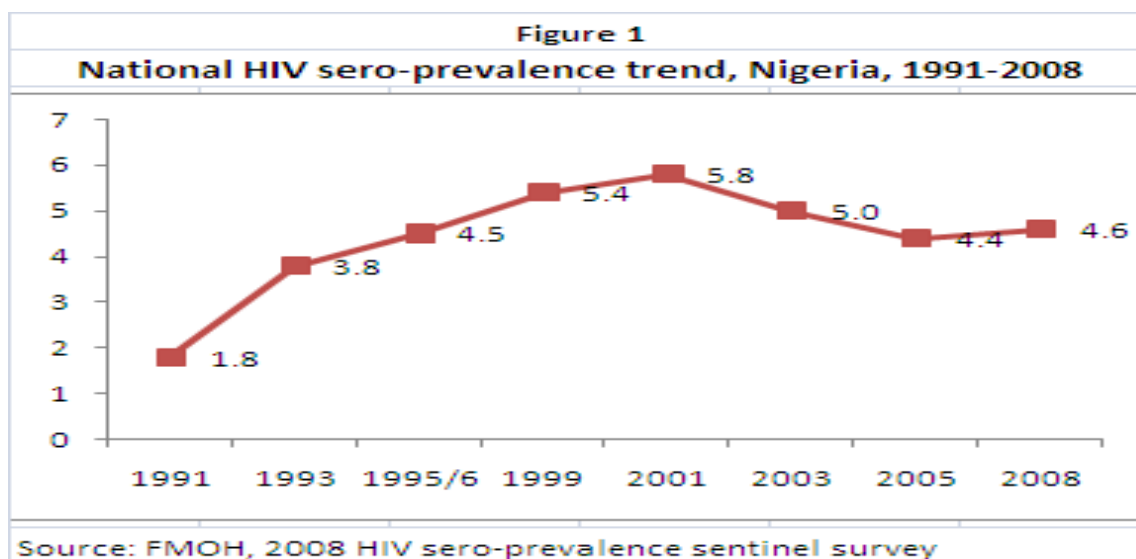
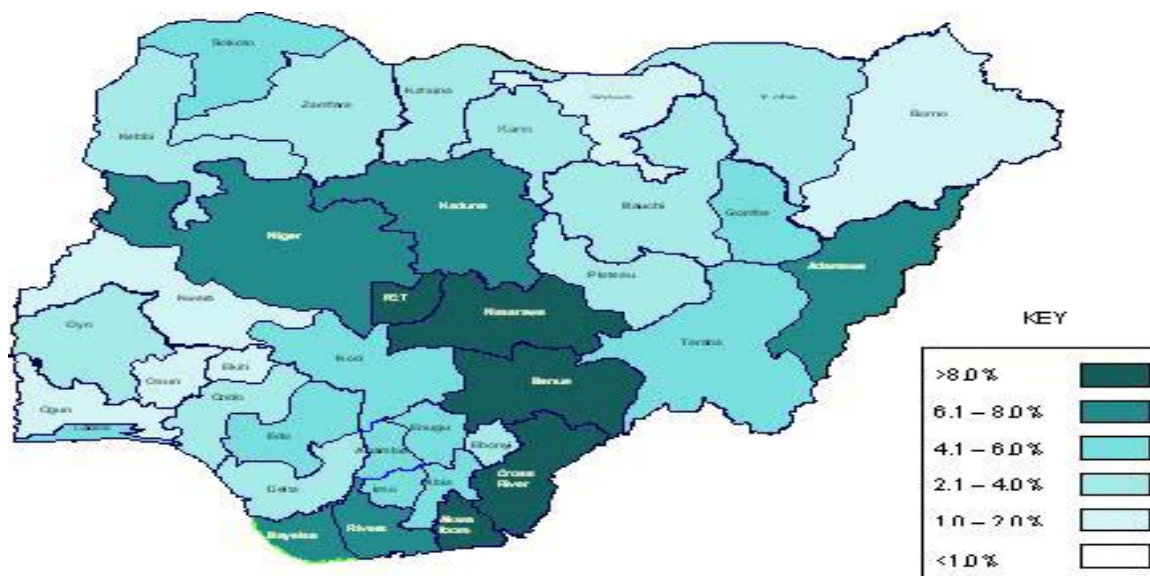


Figure 2 : Geographical distribution of HIV prevalence by States, 2008

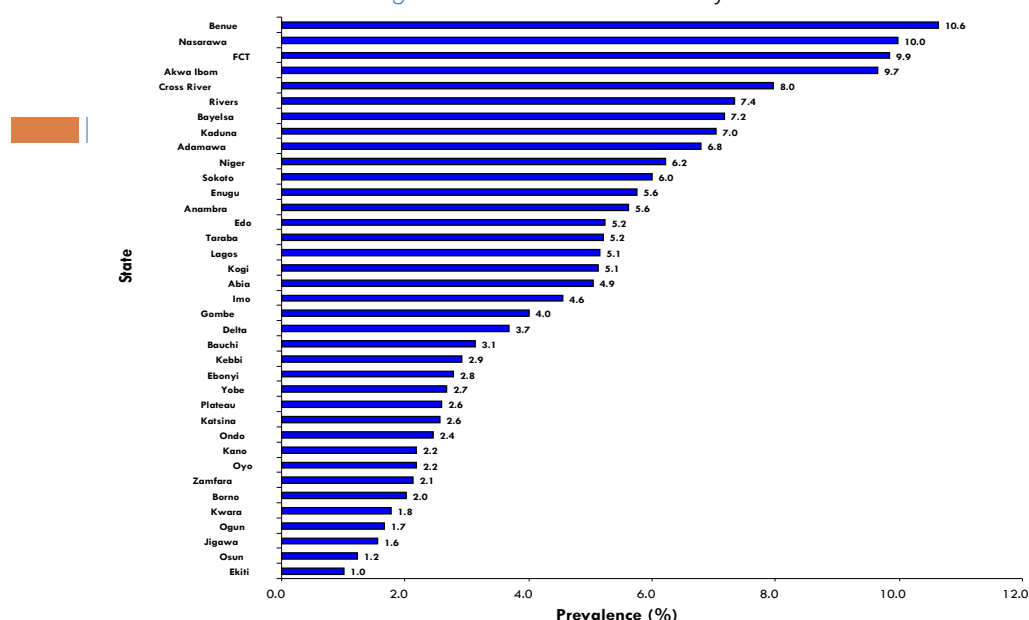


Source : 2008 National HIV sero-prevalence

Significant regional variation in the epidemic exists, with Ekiti State in the southwest geo-political zone of Nigeria having the lowest prevalence (1 percent), and

Benue State in the north-central zone having the highest (10.6 percent).

Figure 3 : Prevalence of HIV by Sates



Source : 2008 National HIV sero-prevalence

From the National Sentinel Surveys, since 2003, Ekiti State has witnessed decline in HIV prevalence rates (3.2% in 2001 to 2.3% in 2003, 1.6% in 2005 to 1% in 2008). According to Ekiti State HIV/AIDS Response Review (2004-2008), all the Local Government Areas and Communities in the State have records of HIV positive cases. Moreover, every community has seen at least a positive person, though most subjectively perceived. The age groups mostly affected are between 20-29 years and 30-39 years old. According to the 2002 estimated population of the State, these age groups constitute about 27% of the State's population. When put in numerical values, 827,856 persons are at risk of developing AIDS within the next few years without qualitative care and support.

The term 'drivers' of the epidemic in Nigeria refers to structural and social factors – poverty, gender inequality and human rights violations – that increase people's vulnerability to HIV infection. The following have been identified as the main drivers of HIV epidemic in Nigeria.

- ✚ Risky sexual behavior: this include
 - Early sexual exposure among young people
 - Unprotected sex among young people
 - Transactional sex
 - Low condom use in transactional/intergenerational and casual sex
 - Multiple sexual partnerships
- ✚ Poor perception of HIV risk
- ✚ Poverty

- ✚ Lack of effective STI programming
- ✚ Poor integration of HIV/AIDS and sexual & reproductive health services
- ✚ Gender inequality

The HIV situation in Nigeria is heterogeneous, with different parts of the country at different stages of the epidemic. One factor that is likely to be contributory is the variation in socio-cultural practices. Societal or community norm about sexual behavior substantially influences the risk of HIV transmission. However, Ekiti State is one of the most at risk States in Nigeria with heavy presence of higher institutions which earned her the name 'Fountain of knowledge', economic activities, and an influx of people. In contemporary times, western education had been the vogue throughout Ekiti. Ado-Ekiti took the lead with the number of educational institutions within a period of 50 years; much development in western education had taken place in Ekiti in general and in Ado- Ekiti in particular. Today, Ekiti sons and daughters are found in large numbers in every academic and professional position. Without doubt, education is the main industry of the Ekiti people.

III. HIV/AIDS AND EDUCATION

World Bank (2002) has reported that education is associated with the realization of six of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): reducing poverty, universal primary education, gender equality, reducing child mortality, improved maternal health and low HIV/AIDS prevalence. Education, therefore, has

profound potentials to integrate and scale up HIV/AIDS preventive efforts for female adolescents' reproductive and sexual health. For example, educated female adolescents are likely to delay marriage; have few healthy children; have good earning potential and personal skills, and so reduce sexual risks and exposure to HIV/AIDS (World Bank, 2002). Blum and Mmari (2005) identified education as one of the most integrative and effective HIV/AIDS protective factors.

Education is considered as a protection. The international community has made numerous commitments to women's literacy, getting more girls into school, and to ensuring that schools are providing empowering quality education. In the field of education and HIV and AIDS, there have been two opposing points of view in which some have argued that individuals with higher levels of education are more vulnerable to HIV (Kelly 2006), whereas others argue that more education (especially girls' education) protects against HIV infection (Global Campaign for Education 2004).

In highest prevalence countries, HIV and AIDS is affecting the supply of education, the demand for education, the quality of education and the way education is managed, and its capacity to respond to new and complex demands (Inter-Agency Working Group, 2001). It is a well known fact that education and training are critical for long term development of any country. Furthermore, the provision and growth of quality education is directly linked to positive economic development, emancipation and health dividends. However, HIV/AIDS is a real threat to the education sector and thus potentially to human resource-based development (Gachuhi, 1999). The effects of HIV/AIDS are multiple and have negative impacts on education.

However, one underlying assumption is that higher levels of education reduce HIV vulnerability for girls. Yet the evidence varies considerably from country to country, over time, and across regions. In the process of giving emphasis to the positive roles that schools can play in helping students and teachers to cope with the issue of HIV/AIDS, it is important to recognize that schools do not always represent safe environments, particularly for women and girls. A number of aspects of the school organization make them highly vulnerable.

IV. VULNERABILITY FACTORS OF STUDENTS TO HIV AND AIDS IN NIGERIA

According to Barnett & Whiteside (2002), the rationale of HIV infection growing faster is shaped by structural, social, socio-economic, sexual behavioral, individual contextual factors and biological vulnerability, which create inequalities in relations between groups of human beings. The existence of these factors creates imbalance and unequal exposure to HIV infection among various age groups and regions (UNAIDS/WHO, 2007).

HIV is a very serious threat to young people globally. It is important to tailor prevention strategies in the light of acknowledging the presence of factors that make young people vulnerable to HIV infection and to realize that HIV prevention will not be a reality if we fail to address the reality of the daily lives of young women (Ackermann & de Klerk, 2002). The lack of life skills and power imbalances that exist in the lives of young women are some of the heaviest obstacles to HIV prevention. The factors that make young female students vulnerable to HIV and AIDS are as follows:

a) *Structural Factors*

Access to health services is limited. Students can be reached fairly through HIV information, prevention, care and reproductive health promotion programs. Unequal access to health services, education, and the low status of women in society exacerbates vulnerability. Gender inequality and power relations limit girls' protection from HIV infection, and to seek care and support after being infected. Access to health care is important to improve quality of life. The ability to easily avail oneself to high quality care is likely to increase use of preventive services.

b) *Social Factors*

Poverty can be regarded as a threat to the wellbeing of women as it encourages behavior that increases the risk of HIV infection (Ackermann & de Klerk, 2002). Poverty is the major cause of HIV infection (Jackson, 2002). External environmental factors such as poverty and gender inequality are two significant factors in enhancing vulnerability to HIV infection (Msiska, 2003).

Gender inequality determines whether a person contracts HIV depending on the economic position, social class, or gender equality and equity. All these combine to create particular ways of making a living. Together these are the major influence on sexual networks (Barnett & Whiteside, 2002). HIV affects women and men differently in terms of vulnerability and risk impacts. Structural inequalities in the gender status of women make it harder for women to gain self protection. The women are kept in a subordinate position irrespective of age (Ackermann & de Klerk, 2002). Issues such as lack of respect, low status of women, sexual autonomy and gender autonomy prevent women from negotiating safer sexual practices (Ipinge et al., 2004).

c) *Cultural Factors*

The cultural norms that define men as superior to women make it difficult for women to protect themselves from HIV infection (Jackson, 2002). The disappearance of traditional values such as fidelity and abstinence are also contributing to the spread of HIV epidemic (Oguntibeju et al., 2003).

d) *Personal behavioral and sexual networking factors (Cohabitation, High Mobility, Peer Pressure, Concurrent and multiple sexual partnership, etc.)*

Multiple and concurrent partnerships contribute to the spread of HIV. A study conducted in Nigeria among college students revealed that a poor economy resulted in youth becoming involved in sexual networks, opting for multiple partners to earn a living (Chwee, Eke-Huber, Eaddy & Collins, 2007). According to Simbayi et al, (2005), several studies found that young females are at risk of sexual behavior that leads to increased opportunities for HIV infection. Cross-generational relationships increase the spread of HIV (Weissman et al., 2006). Some of the economic coping mechanisms used by young women include having a boyfriend to pay for basic necessities, but at the same time share sex with several partners in exchange for gifts (Ipinge et al. 2004).

e) *Biological Vulnerability*

Women are biologically more vulnerable to HIV infection (Ipinge et al., 2004; Oguntibeju et al., 2003). Physiologically, women appear to be at great risk of contracting HIV than men. Women are more susceptible to most sexually transmitted infections" including HIV infection because of the greater mucosal surface exposed to pathogens during sexual intercourse (Ipinge et al., 2004).

V. COMPREHENSIVE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMME (CHAPP): A DESCRIPTION

In line with the goals of the Nigeria National HIV Prevention Plan and Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in averting new HIV infections through comprehensive HIV prevention programming, the project Revolt Against AIDS (RAA), implemented by Sound Health Development Initiative (SHIN)² whose physical presence is in Ado-Ekiti, takes an holistic and results-based approach to HIV/AIDS prevention using the engaging role-play model, learning-based model, campaign-based model, and support-based model. The Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (CHAPP) is an off-shoot of RAA and it is a collection of linked community-based activities that promote individual and community understanding of risk, shifts in behaviors and norms, and the adoption of a range of protective behaviors. It includes effective programming and referral links to other HIV/AIDS services and programs, as well as to other relevant services such as treatment for sexually-transmitted infections, sexual and reproductive health education, among others. The intervention project is embedded in a multi-level, multichannel approach targeting the tertiary institution communities as a whole.

a) *Project Goals*

- To reduce incidences of HIV and STIs in tertiary institutions.

- To reduce the feminization of HIV/AIDS in tertiary institutions.

b) *Objectives*

- Increase awareness, knowledge and skills level in HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.
- Increasing female student's capacity to reduce risk behaviour and vulnerability related to HIV/AIDS and STIs.
- Increase the capacity of female students to make good choices and informed decisions.
- Reduce exposure and vulnerability to HIV and STIs amongst the female students.
- Reduce stigmatization and to promote gender equality in tertiary institutions.
- To promote tolerance and openness when dealing with reproductive health issues.
- To promote healthy and sustainable livelihoods.
- To lobby for the rejuvenation of health service delivery at campus clinics.

VI. BENEFICIARY COMMUNITY AND PROJECT LOCATIONS

The project which was implemented in Ekiti State, relishes on the realization that the State has the lowest HIV prevalence rate in Nigeria as reported in the 2008 National HIV Sero-prevalence with HIV prevalence rate of 1%. The beneficiaries of the project intervention were female Students & lecturers/other educational employees in three tertiary institutions in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The project was implemented in the following three tertiary institutions in Ekiti State: Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, and College of Education, Ikere Ekiti.

a) *Prevention Activities*

- Community Awareness Campaigns (Rallies)
- Specific population awareness campaign
- Community outreach
- Peer education model/peer education plus model
- Vulnerability issues
- Sporting events
- HIV/AIDs counselling and testing (HCT)
- Antiretroviral (ARVs)
- Provision of information centers
- Psychosocial support
- Anti-HIV Club

²Sound Health Development Initiative (SHIN) is a health and social well being non-governmental, non-profit making organization established in 2006 and registered in 2009 under the Corporate Affairs Commission, Nigeria.

The unique feature of CHAPP is the recognition that tertiary institutions do not always represent safe environments particularly for women and girls. Hence, gender was a critical factor with female students/staff participating in all the program aspects. In addition, all stakeholders were adequately mobilized to encourage networking, community ownership and personal relationships between the community representatives and the project implementers.

b) Lessons Learned

- Participation of staff and students is crucial in achieving the stated objectives of CHAPP as demonstrated during the Peer Education Training and a high turnout of staff during the mobilization of stakeholders. As a result of these, a partnership was formed between institutional structures which encourage periodic assessment.
- Involving women associations and religious groups (NAWACS, Daughters of Eve, FOMWAN, etc.) encouraged full participation and commitment.
- Situating program within the community context enabled community participation.

c) Challenges

- Lack of financial/Human resources: CHAPP was an off shoot of RAA project and as such the budget for it was limited.
- Lack of commitment from male lecturers

d) Way Forward

- Institutional leadership commitment, tertiary institutions HIV/AIDS policy, Anti-harassment policy and developing a gender perspective that recognises the greater vulnerability of women is highly recommended since they have crucial role to play in addressing the whole range of political, social, economic, legal and management implications of HIV/AIDs in higher education
- More organizations/Institutions may wish to replicate CHAPP.

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We acknowledge the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] for funding SHIN on RAA Project, The Association of Commonwealth Universities in collaboration with the Centre for Gender Studies-University of Kelaniya for organizing the Critical Women: Women as Agents of Change through Higher Education International Conference as well as funding my participation through the HIV/AIDS grant.

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Oil Exploration and Corporate Social Responsibility - a Case of SPDC Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMou)

By Dr. Eze Wosu

University of Port Harcourt

Abstract - Some scholars have argued that the activities of Oil companies (TNCs) have improved or destroyed the livelihood condition of host communities. In line with this debate, this paper examined the thrust of Corporate Social Responsibility as a core value for community engagement interface on oil exploration activity. We argued that lack of genuine community engagement interface by the TNCs in oil activities is the major problem of Niger Delta crisis. The CSR of SPDC value would be used to examine Oil companies'- community engagement interface. The study deployed the interview methods and secondary data for our analysis. The findings are that lack of genuine and transparent engagement strategy by SPDC in the oil exploration activity has resulted to the destruction of the ecosystem as well as livelihood strategy of the host communities. The host communities therefore, experience oil spill, hardship, famine, drought, unemployment, malnutrition, alienation from their land, inter and intra communal conflict and displacement of persons.

Keywords : corporate social responsibility, oil exploration, livelihood, ecosystem, big rules.

GJHSS-C Classification : FOR Code : 370199p, 960305



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Keywords : corporate social responsibility, oil exploration, livelihood, ecosystem, big rules.

I. THE PROBLEM

This paper examines SPDC strategy of stakeholder's engagement in oil exploration activity through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a value system of the company. The enabling environment pays attention to both corporate and stakeholder responsibility as a strategy to better understand the relationship between CSR and development. Idemudia (2010) advanced two reasons. The first is that the developmental outcome of CSR initiatives is not simply a function of business action or inaction. Rather, it is best understood as a function of stakeholder's relationships, because the action or inaction of other stakeholders directly or indirectly affects the impact of CSR on development. This position is largely consistent with the emerging consensus that if sustainable development (SD) is to be achieved, then there is need for a genuine, transparent engagement strategy of stakeholders. Secondly, CSR is at the heart of managing the socio-environmental costs and benefits

of business activities; setting the boundaries on the way these costs and benefits are managed is partly a question of business policy and partly a question of public governance (Fox et al. 2002; Ward 2004; culled from Idemudia 2010). The implication is that the possibility of CSR largely depends on both oil MNCs addressing their corporate responsibility and stakeholders like host community. Consequently, Eteng (1997) asserted that oil exploration and exploitation activities have over the last four decades impacted disastrously on the socio-physical environment of the Niger Delta oil bearing communities, hitherto, threatening the subsistence peasant economy and the environment and the entire livelihood strategies of the people.

Similarly, MNCs are not in Africa to serve or develop. Their business is seeking quick and high profits in order to maintain the overdevelopment of a very small class of people in their home base. The overwhelming financial power and geographical spread of MNCs are so great that nations individually are unable to oppose them. It is against this background that we consider the CSR tool of MNCs Corporation unclear, deceitful, and destructive to the environment. Farming and fishing are the major means of occupation of Niger Delta communities. The exploration activity of the Oil companies has resulted to oil spillage and other forms of pollution and degradation of the ecosystem, which invariably is the livelihood support system of the inhabitants. The oil companies do not genuinely engage the host community; rather they deceive and hide under the cloak of state government. The people therefore, experience hardship, poor/lack of engagement, kidnapping, poverty, famine, unemployment, malnutrition, which culminate into inter and intra communal conflicts and fervent agitation.

The paper argued that lack of genuine engagement or participation of host communities in oil exploration is the bane of Niger Delta crisis. In other words, the alienation, divide and rule strategy of the oil company becomes a major challenge. Therefore, host communities are resolute to agitate and demand for their rights from Oil companies. These agitations have gradually climaxed into diverse issues, challenges and problems with Oil companies exploration in Niger Delta region. Our contention is that lack of genuine engagement of SPDC through the concept of corporate social

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responsibility as a core value constitutes the major crisis in the Niger Delta. The concept or theory serves as our premise to examine oil exploration and community engagement as part of corporate business responsibility. We would demonstrate whether or not SPDC as TNCs have aligned to their core values in the engagement interface of host communities in oil exploration activities in the region.

II. INTRODUCTION

Scholars of modernisation and dependency theory have argued the nature of relationship between the Transnational or Multinational Corporation (TNCs) and development in the third World, especially Niger Delta. According to Idemudia (2010) asserts that some scholars believe that the debate is now moot, given that in a globalising world, no Third World country would consider de-linking from TNCs. But with the new face of globalisation which is dominate in TNCs and transformation of information technology, others like Bury (2001) opine that although the debate might have been moribund by the realities of globalisation, the concerns therefore are for the impact of TNCs on developing countries are yet to be fully exterminated. Heinecke (1986) posed a fundamental question, TNCs have they come as a blessing or cause. These scholars suggested that the debate and/or activities have moved on to new intellectual and conceptual level. Hence, the debate has re-emerged in the discourse of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and development, and therefore, reaffirms the argument that the field of development theory is characterised by evolutionary rather than revolutionary change (Idemudia 2008).

Global community engagement or relations as a plan strategy has taken a centre stage in corporate business organizations. The paradigm shift of development focus from economic growth to include social and environmental aspects manifested in such concepts as human development (HD) and sustainable development (SD). Fundamental to this shift in discourse is the idea that business was not just part of the problem, but was also now part and parcel of the solution to the problem. For instance, Visser et al (2006) noted that despite the polarising nature of the TNCs development nexus debate, there is now a general consensus that business is well placed to make significant positive contributions in Africa. In sharp reaction, MNCs have hinged on the concept of CSR as a framework for business and development enterprise. Most corporate bodies or institutions have realised the key importance of community engagement or relations interface with their various stakeholders as a method to explore the resources of the host communities.

It is for this reason, that most corporate bodies now establish community affairs department, sustainable community development, public affairs unit. The objective is to interface with relevant stakeholders to

manage company's corporate identity, core values with their stakeholders (stakeholder's engagement) for smooth operations. Otherwise, oil companies would have serious challenges or impediments without the buy-in of host communities. However, while there is consensus that government have an important role to play in CSR, effort have been directed towards exploring how the TNCs execute or foster corporate social development (CSD). Against this background, this paper critically attempts to examine the thrust of genuine community interface by MNCs in oil exploration activities. How, when and why they engage their stakeholders become a fundamental question of this paper.

Community engagement interface can be described as a deliberate plan and sustained effort to establish and maintain mutual understanding between organization and its community, (social coherence and geographical area). Any activity that establishes and maintains understanding between a business firm and its community falls within the orbit of community engagement or interface. A company has the following major stakeholders to deal with-immediate or host communities, suppliers, customers, government, labour unions, skilled and unskilled persons, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) etc. Each of these individual bodies or groups has common interest and channel of demands to the organisation. The ultimate goal of oil companies depends on profit motive. Achieving this driving motive vis-à-vis the interest of host communities snowballed into a serious challenge. By way of analysis, we shall examine the CSR as a tool of engagement situating it within the company policy of *G-MOU* for community engagement and the socio-economic impact of this practice.

III. CSR A TOOL OF ENGAGEMENT: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

According to Okodudu (2008), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the requirement placed on organisation to be accountable for its impact on all stakeholders. The concept of CSR reflects a broader shift in the re-conceptualisation of business-society relationship from business and society to business in society. Fundamental to this change therefore emphasis the understanding of business enterprises as sources of social improvement and a means to promote specific issues of social welfare. In other words, the concept represents a firm commitment by organisations to contribute to local economic development. Theoretically, how CSR can contribute to development in developing countries and Niger Delta in particular.

As an ethical strategy, Okodudu (2008) argued that CSR can be practised or can appear in various forms. The purest form is when CSR is practiced for its own sake. In this regard, the firms expect nothing back

from their CSR activities and they become socially responsible because that is the noble way for corporations to behave. While as a business strategy, firms engage in CSR with the aim of reaping benefits from those actions. CSR is solely with the intention of consolidating the business of the organisation – (see Lantos, 2001, Schwartz and Carrol 2003; Lewis, 2003; culled from Okodudu, 2008).

Thus, the theoretical framework that informs CSR practice by oil companies in Nigeria is the business strategy theory, which seeks to consolidate business interest and not those of the communities through CSR. Based on this, CSR practices by SPDC in Niger Delta are mere public relations gimmicks. According to Fox et al (2002), an enabling environment implies an environment that encourages and provides incentives for business activities that minimize environmental and social cost while at the same time maximising economic gains. Consequently, the presence or absence of an enabling environment significantly influences the chances that a CSR initiative will achieve its desired impact. Jones (2003), opined that if being socially responsible means giving back to society, then as soon as organisation starts to calculate the returns for being socially responsible, that firm is actually not committing the act of giving. This is because maximising profit is the sole aim of organisation.

Against this background, given the business motive of CSR practice by MNCs in Niger Delta, it raises questions on the credibility of their engagement strategy with stakeholders; and how it can contribute in dousing the tense hostile environment in the region. For instance, what implication has SPDCs corporate social responsibility as a core value engagement interface in contributing to contain the current conflict in Niger Delta? Can this CSR policy lead to sustainable development and improvement of company-community relationship in SPDC stake holder's forum? These questions constitute the hub of this paper. We shall try to provide answers to the above questions by looking at SPDC CSR relation tool of engagement by examining the G-MOU strategy of community engagement; and its oil exploration activities in Niger Delta.

a) *Global Memorandum of Understanding G-MOU) - A tool of community interface*

The failure or contradiction of the above model of engagement gave birth to another paradigm shift of SPDC community interface christened – G-MOU. The World Bank reviewed this concept, took many steps further and renamed it the Global Memorandum of Understanding (G-MOU). In this new engagement model, the G-MOU is no longer a mere agreement between two or more parties spelling out mutual objectives, obligations, time frame for accomplishing them; and an arbitration clause in the event of breach, but a practical working tool of clustering communities

together to foster development. To what extent did this tool foster development?

The G-MOU claimed principally to be driven by the need for objectivity, transparency, trust, vision and commitment towards a partnership between groups bound by mutual interests. This assumption is synonymous with the prepositions of the Modernization scholars on Third World underdevelopment debate. Under the G-MOU, one of the parties to the agreement must be spatially defined; sometimes, occurring in clusters due to sociological similarities. The partnership they seek must be operated within a given period in a manner that is acceptable to the parties involved.

According to Okodudu (2008), SPDC, has committed itself to the development of host communities on a sustainable basis by incorporating the issue of accountability in its community interface programmes. The question is how possible will this be using the G-MOU principle. An examination of this question is the SPDC corporate social responsibility agenda designed in such a manner to realise these goals of authentic self-reliant development. In particular, what potential has the current SPDC G-MOU policy as practice to make communities self reliant and less prone to incessant conflicts?

Conceptualising it, therefore, the G-MOU is a relation's document or tool of community engagement that stipulates agreement between parties with one of the parties (usually the benefiting communities) clustered in a geographically located area operating at a given period. It is assumed that G-MOU has a vision and mission to create sustainable development partnership that enhances development needs, creating conducive environment and atmosphere for industrial harmony. Also, its objective is towards empowering the primary stakeholders to effectively and efficiently drive the development process. This is a cardinal principle of capitalist economy. The arrangement is that communities are clustered together. Clusters are identified based on community's homogeneity and heterogeneity, common identity of culture and tradition, boundary location or local government basis as approved by the state government. Formations of Community Trust (CT), Community Development Board (CDB) are groups of community representatives. Appointment of representatives to form the CDBs and CTs are made at the cluster levels. These representatives run the day-to-day activities of the community in the clusters.

From the above brief explanation, we infer that the objective of G-MOU is for the communities to participate and drive their destiny of development in their hands. Interesting as it is, it reminds me of the then development debate in the 60s and 70s. The Nigerian government fashioned some rural development programmes like OFN, River Basin Authority, DFRRI, WAI, FEM, SFEM, OMAPADEC etc. The thrust of the

above development programmes were to develop the rural people and alleviate their suffering or standard of living. The dependency scholars perceived it as an external programme, foisted on the people and devoid of the rural people's participation and ingenuity. The indices are poor consultation and lack of inputs from stakeholders; another way of *cosmetic stake holder's* engagement in the urban city. The impediments of this relatively new concept are enormous. Yes, it is obvious that every new idea have its peculiar challenges. Shell G-MOU model was not properly conceived, analysed and communicated to the people for their inputs as co-stakeholders. Instead, it was quickly deployed into action without looking at the pros and cons and our peculiar socio-cultural background. Looking at its origin and conception, it is more of imperialist tendency of fostering underdevelopment in the Niger Delta.

The vision that G-MOU is part of the sustainable community development effort that specifies how Shell shall interact with communities to achieve the vision of a safe, healthy and self-reliant Niger Delta has failed; despite the cosmetic packaging of more than 80% G-MOU teams. A cross section of interviews of some community leaders revealed that communities were the G-MOU have fully been deployed are characterised with crisis. How and who authoritatively allocate and benefits from the pot of money to be provided snowballed into communal conflict. More so, the activities of the company have destroyed the people's means of livelihood. Average farmer and fishermen no longer eke out living from their natural means of livelihood. Oil spills have destroyed the ecosystem. Companies have acquired vast portion of community land without adequate compensation, nor employment of the local people in the company work force, except as drivers, cleaners, and tea girls respectively. The dispossession or alienation of the key stakeholders from their means of production gave rise to untold hardship, poverty,

malnutrition, communal conflicts etc. Therefore, G-MOU as a new tool of community interface may not stand the test of time given the peculiar contradiction underlining it.

IV. FINDINGS

a) *Socio-economic impact of oil activities on the Livelihood of the Niger Delta*

Sustainable development cannot be devoid of environmental protection. The environmental degradation resulting from oil and gas production in the Niger Delta has attracted the attention of environmentalists and other experts who examine the region within the context of globalisation. The implication or consequences of livelihoods in the region have been a major issue with great consequence. Many arguments revolve around who is responsible for most of the ills of oil exploration – the government, oil companies, youths who vandalize pipelines, or the global community? The world today recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability to development of nations. Goal seven of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – aka Maximum Distraction Gimmicks "Ensure environmental sustainability" Seek to reduce environmental degradation arising from natural and man-made causes as well as inefficient use of resources, and to improve environmental management through private sector participation and environmentally friendly technologies. The study focused on the lack of genuine community engagement interface of oil exploration and socio-economic impact by Shell Company. The Niger Delta has experienced among others two major oil spills- the Funiwa oil well blow-out in 1980 and the Jones Creek oil spillage in 1998. These resulted in the greatest mangrove forest devastation, depletion of aquatic fauna, ground water pollution etc. The table below shows the impacts on the livelihoods of the people.

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Oil & Gas Production	57.72	48.00	61.56	66.67	62.44
Emissions Gas flaring	7,909	5,222	6,385	6,611	5,247-6,260
Total emissions of carbon dioxide (Co ₂)	22,487	15,467	18,821	19,798	17,122
Total emissions of Methane (CH ₄)	111.6	72.8	87.0	90.7	77.5
Total hydro carbon emissions (VOC) ³	183.3	100.4	117.2	156.6	137
Total emissions of Sulphur Oxides (SO _x) ⁴	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0
Total emissions of Nitrogen Oxide (NO _x) ⁴	27.3	22.3	23.1	21.9	26.2
Oil Spills Total number of spills	302	262	221	236	224
Produced water- oil in effluent to surface environment	291	226	242.9	321	481.4
Total volume of produced water discharged	39,195	26,424	33,147	39,922	42,994
Average oil in produced water (to surface environment)	7.4	8.6	7.3	8.1	11.2

2005 HSE Performance Summary (People and the Environment annual Report-2005)

The consequences are enormous; land paucity, water pollutions, oil spillage, poverty, malnutrition, disease, hunger, untimely death, lack of amenities, unemployment; in other words the destruction of natural economy. The synthesis is

vehement agitation and revolt of diverse magnitude by the host communities in the Niger Delta. Companies, servicing firms face serious attack, hostage taking, vandalization of oil and gas pipelines, bunkering, destruction of companies properties – (burning of flow

stations, rigs, oil well heads), (unemployment in terms of youths without livelihood and severance of employed persons). This contradiction is not out of place. We will argue in another paper that the recent attack on oil facilities and hostage takings of multinational personnel in the Niger Delta would be traced to the subjugation and dehumanization of our black brothers during the colonial era (slave mode of production). History serves as a vehicle to predict the future.

Oil Spills: With the expansion of oil production, the incidence of oil spills has tremendously increased in

the area. However some spills occur accidentally and through the deliberate actions of the local people, who sabotage pipelines in protest against the operations of the oil companies. Records show that a total of 6,817 oil spills occurred between 1976 and 2001, with a loss of approximately three million barrels of oil. More than 70% was not recovered. Hence, about six percent spilled on land, 25% in swamps and 69% in offshore environments. Nowadays, oil spills appear to be caused more by wilful sabotage or damage to facilities than by accidents.

Date`	Episode	State	Quantity in Barrels
July, 1979	Forcados terminal oil spillage	Rivers	570,000
Jan 1980	Funiwa No. 5 well blowout	Rivers	400,00
May, 1980	Oyakama oil spill	Rivers	10,000
Nov 1982	System 2c pipeline rupture	Warri-Kaduna	18,000
August 1983	Oshika oil spill	Rivers	10,000
Jan 1998	Idoho oil spill	Akwa Ibom	40,000
Jan 1998	Jones Creek	Delta	21,548
Oct 1998	Jesse oil spill	Delta	10,000
May 2000	Etiamia oil spill	Bayelsa	11,000
Dec 2003	Aghada oil spill	Rivers	Unknown
August 2005	Ughelli oil spill	Delta	10,000
August 2004	Ewan oil spill	Ondo	Unknown

Source : Nwankwo & Ifeadi (1988) *Eka* and Udoyong (2003) *Culled Niger Delta Human Report – 2005*

The implication of these findings is frightening, given that human health is tied to the web of food. Some scholars reported that ingestion of hydrocarbon directly or indirectly through contaminated food leads to poisoning. Some researchers such as Kanoh et al, (1990 culled NDHDR-2006) and Snyder and Hedlim (1996 culled Aaron et al 2010), have reported the toxic and carcinogenic effects of exposure to high concentrations of hydrocarbons. For instance, from our table above, the spill at Ewan oil field affected the livelihood system of some communities, including the Igo, Awoye, Odun-Oyinbo, Ubale Kerere, Ogungbeje and Yoren were badly affected. Fishing grounds were devastated. Fishing is the main source of income, and the people were compelled to demonstrate in Akure, the state capital, to draw the attention of the public over their plight. The incessant oil spills and other negative impact with oil industry continue to be a source of public concern and agitation. This is due to poor engagement interface. Other grievances arise from the negative social and economic impacts of oil and industrial activities.

Rapid Uncontrolled Urbanisation: A major dramatic effects of oil exploration activities in the Niger Delta was the sudden upsurge to prominence of certain towns that became centres of oil production. Port Harcourt and Warri are the two most important examples. However, smaller but equally important towns include Ughelli, Bonny, Eket etc. The urban growth has significant social and environmental impacts.

The pace of construction activities in the oil and industrial cities created huge and unprecedented demands for land and construction materials such as sand, clay and wood. Local peoples were easily seduced by the lure of easy money in the growing urban centres. The large rubber plantations for which present day delta and Edo states were once noted were abandoned and cleared by local people. They sold the land to speculators in the urban city and to contractors for quarrying sand, clay and other materials for construction. Some local landowners turned into contractors themselves.

Loss of Fishing Grounds: activities of the Oil companies were not limited on land alone. The demand for high quality fine sand, booming the canals and swamps for pipe laying led to the mining of river channels. These activities destroy the aquatic habitat and disrupt the hydraulic capacity and relationships in the river channels. Communities whose source of income is fishing and other related activities suffer as a result on top of the destruction caused by the oil spill. Now fishing has become less productive and profitable in many areas, with reduced catches and lower incomes. The efforts of local fishermen to maintain or improve upon their income levels result in over fishing. Many swamps, rivers and creeks where fish spawn have been destroyed or polluted. The oil personnel do not unfold clearly in detail their activities to the communities during engagement. They hide the consequences of their activities; and where the communities discover and/or understand the implication of their activities

would resist the operation. For the communities crying out loud over the destruction of their livelihood would attract force by the oil company.

Land losses and Paucity: Access to land is a major issue in the Niger Delta region. Local people complain bitterly about having lost so much land to oil operations without adequate compensation. Oil facilities and installations directly took huge land and waterways away from the people and indirectly, alienating the people from land, (Wosu and Okodudu 2010). Also, people have lost land through pollution, erosion and land despoliation by quarrying activities. The paucity is compounded by the lack of dry land in the delta.

Now, the intense protest in Niger Delta is the paucity of land Use Act, which provides compensation for the appropriation of land – often for oil facilities. Most local participant or communities at one of the focus group discussions were vehemently opposed to the Act, saying it “has no redeeming feature or value.” The Act does not take into account the impacts and negative externalities that transferring land – say for oil purposes – may have on adjoining areas. Hence, people are now clamouring for restitution for all the damage that has been done by oil operations and associated activities. Even in cases where compensation is paid is little or nothing. In most cases it ends in court.

Case	Amount Claimed	Amount Paid	Percentage	Remarks
Chief Tuaghaye and others vs. SPDC - 1977	N61,126,500	N30,000,00	49.0	Case in favour of the company
Shell vs. Farah and others - 1995	N26,490,000	N4,621,307	17.5	Same
SPDC vs. Tiebo VII and others - 1996	N64,146,000	N6,000,000	9.4	Same
SPDC vs. Joel Amaro and others - 2000	N15,392,889	N30,288,861	196.8	Same
SPDC & NPDC vs. Stephanie Sele and Others - 2004	N20,000,000	N18,329,350	91.6	Same
ELF (Nig) Ltd. Vs. Sillo and others - 1994	N1,348,000	N288,000	21.4	Same

Source : Niger Delta Human Development Report - 2006

The above table shows that more often than not, the awards made by the courts are generally lower than the claims made by the victims. Some experts have argued that the absence of standards of liability for oil pollution and of rules for determining compensation to victims could have contributed to the way cases are delayed and/or decided in favour of the oil companies (Adewale 1998; Fajemirokun, 1999; Worika 2002; culled from Niger Delta Human Deve. Report-2006)

Even the compensation that is offered tends to bring only short-lived satisfaction. Those who sell their land, more often than not, quickly spend the money and then are left high and dry. Many in the face of these abandon their traditional occupations and move to other pursuits, usually in the urban cities, which swells the ranks of the urban poor and informal sector operators.

V. CONCLUSION

Contrary to what many people believe, the community engagement for oil companies' strategies has become more complex with the G-MOU strategy as a tool of partnership. We are not ruling out the fact that there may be some benefits, but how sustainable will it be. The communities are cut in the web of modernity or by extension globalisation. For which they do not understand the underlining logic behind the new advocacy for community engagement. Therefore, SPDC CSR rule of engagement is clouded with force, deceit, dishonesty, repression etc. **Until we say away with**

deceit, dishonesty, oppression, killing and welcome transparency, honesty, truth, genuine respect for people and participation, Shell - Community engagement interface will continue to be in shambles. The State cannot be exonerated from this problem. As a matter of fact, the company in deploying the new tool would claim engaging or partnering with the State government. However, the state as an apparatus of domination hardly violates the principles of the multinational corporation for their interest.

Finally, we cannot fold our hands and allow the giant Shell in the Niger Delta to harass, oppress, molest and deceive us the more. Destroy and alienate us from our natural means of livelihood said by one of the community Paramount Ruler. Thus, the multinational corporations should genuinely abide with the principle of CSR that must respect the rights or moral space of individuals; the boundaries which are set by the principle of its non – initiation of physical force. Though, no police monitoring the implementation of CSR, but it should be a thing of internal ideology for Oil firms to exhibit. Proper and transparent engagement strategy will serve as a synergy between the companies and host communities. Alienated from their natural resources, either by oil companies or governments or migrants, the people of the delta see total resource control as the only solution. Different ethnic nationalities have different strategies for achieving this. For instance, the Ogoni people see the right to control ownership and control of

their lives and resources as the only way to protect their environment from further degradation and promote decent livelihoods on Ogoni land.

The oil companies initially thought they could “buy off” people from complaining too loudly about the environmental and socio-economic challenges they face. The companies adopted the practice of paying aggrieved local people whenever complaints arose. But this simply encouraged more and more people to come forward and make claims. This practice undermined community spirit and cohesion, and some factions and divisions emerged within the different communities. Youths and other pressure groups formed with the sole purpose of seeking their own share of the oil money. Traditional rulers and elders lost face because of lack of transparency and accountability in the collection and disbursement of compensation for the loss of or damage to land, fishing grounds and other property. Today, the deplorable human development situation in the Niger Delta is further aggravated by growing violence and increasingly acute insecurity.

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Tracking the Changing Status of Nigerian Women in the Era of Trafficking and International Sex Trade: An Ethnographic Analysis

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Keywords : women status, trafficking, international transactional sex, bini people, Nigeria.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent times, trafficking women for the purpose of sexual exploitation is one of the risky sexual behaviour that has continued to attract global attention. An estimate showed that about 5-7 billion US Dollars is realized through women trafficking and transactional sex all over the world (International Organization for Migration, 2001). Globally, sub-Saharan Africa region including Nigeria accounts for over 20 per cent of those involved in illegal migration for transactional sex (UNESCO, 2005). In Nigeria, the phenomena of women trafficking and transactional sex have continued to generate much concern from the government due to the increased proportion of women and minors who are largely recruited clandestinely. A recent report by the United States yearbook described Nigeria as a leading source, transit and destination country for those involved in human trafficking for the purpose of labor and sexual

exploitation (US, Department of Homeland Security, 2010). Available data revealed that about 10,000 Nigerian girls are on the streets of Italy transacting sex (Germano, 2001), while another estimate disclosed that over 50,000 Nigerian girls are illegal migrants engaged in transactional sex on the streets of Europe and Asia (Loconto, 2002). The increase in trend of those deported from Europe as illegal migrants involved in transactional sex was documented by Ojomo (2001) when the author observed that in 1997, 10 women were deported. A geometric increase to 225 was recorded in 1999 and then suddenly to 1,092 in 2000. At the end of 2002, the number of these deportees had increased to 1,957 (UNICRI/UNDOC, 2003). Afterwards, the number of women deported from Europe over illegal migration, for the purpose of sexual transaction, has continued to soar even afterwards to the extent that the United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) labelled Nigeria as a leading country in human trafficking especially as regards trafficking of the under aged or minors (Skogeth, 2006).

Majority of the deportees are from a particular ethnic group in Nigeria, popularly known as 'Binis'. Benin City is the ancestral home of indigenous Binis and the capital of Edo State in the Southern part of Nigeria. It is currently regarded as a major market for cross border commercial sex work in Nigeria (Aghatise, 2002; UNICRI/UNDOC, 2003 Osezua, 2012). The magnitude and causes and consequences of women trafficking for the purpose of international sexual transaction on the Nigerian State has attracted the attention of several scholars who largely perceive it as social order problem justifying the combatant posture of the Nigerian government towards sex-trafficking and international sex trade. To buttress this stance, Nigeria is a signatory to some International Conventions, which are directly targeted at eliminating all forms of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, such as the Palermo Convention at the federal level. Furthermore, the 1999 Federal constitution has provisions which prohibit slavery and sexual exploitation especially in Section 34. In addition, the *Trafficking in persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act* was passed into law

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on the 14th of July 2003. The act which was signed into law by the immediate past President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo established a National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) which was saddled with the responsibility of enforcing laws against trafficking. Nigeria is also a signatory to many International Conventions. Some of these Conventions have been domesticated. Some of them include: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, 1979; Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Prostitution of Other, 1949 and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, 1981. Other include International Labour Organisation Convention on Minimum age on Forced Labour, 1999; Convention of Rights of Child, 1989 and United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.

Majority of the studies previously conducted in relation to women trafficking and international sex trade in Benin City identified the causes and social consequences of women trafficking on the Nigerian State (WHARC, 2000; UNICRI/UNDOC, 2003 Onyeonoru, 2003, while others have identified the reasons for which sex trafficking has become resistant to the government combatant posture identifying patriarchy (Aghatise, 2002; culture and globalization, Osezua, 2012) as factors that continue to reinforce its existence. Yet in the light of this endemic nature within a defined context, in this case among the Benin's of Southern Nigeria, ethnographic information that captures the situation is rare. Also, researches have established that the women's continuous involvement in international sex trade is perennial in the region, but literature on the current status of women of this extraction in view of their widespread involvement in sex trade is largely undocumented, hence this study.

This study therefore aims at exploring the changing status of Benin women within the Benin family structures and the changes that are currently being mediated as a result of the growing incidence of transactional sex in the region. Extant literature continue to suggest that women of this extraction were previously restricted with series of taboos and traditions regulations, within a prevailing patriarchal *Bini* culture, but have become major 'actresses' in trans-border sexual transactions. These women earn 'hard' currency for their families (UNICRI/UNIDOC, 2003). These will certainly have implications on their current status within Bini family structure.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL ORIENTATION.

Feminist Anthropologists have produced a corpus of research details about the gender roles in the

family. For a long time, the argument was that the subordination of women in the family and the society as a whole was universal. Consequently, Ortner (1974) in her groundbreaking research compares the subordinate position to the nature-nurture debate arguing that culture sought to control nature. Ortner (ibid) observed that women's social place in the domestic domain, brought her close to the role nurturance, and further accentuated her subordinate status of being close to nature. Hence, men are associated with 'up,' 'right,' 'high,' 'culture' and 'strength' while the women are associated with the opposites 'down' 'left,' 'low,' 'nature' and 'weakness' (Ortner, 1974; 72). Furthermore, the author concludes that these were not merely biological traits, but that they were cultural constructs, which underpinned expectations, rights, and roles values of being male or female.

Ortner's position about the universal subordination of women was criticized because it was considered a historical in its mode of analyses. Leacock (1978) observes that colonization and the emergence of capitalism had grievous implication on the status of women, which were not captured by Ortner's accounts. Ortner rejected the private/public dichotomy as a theoretical explanation for women's subordination maintaining that the development of private property as noted by Engels (1972) led to the devaluation of women in the family. Leacock (ibid) concludes by also taking a position in favour of the universal subordination of women.

On the contrary, Sacks (1974) queries the universal subordination of women as posited by the previous accounts. Rather, Sacks (ibid) posits that ethnographic and historical documents supported the variability of women status in the family. Sacks (ibid) observes that since the modes of production were not universal, consequently, in places where production was based on kinship systems, women and men were likely to have the same relationship to means of production. While emphasizing the variability of women's status in the family, stating that the status a woman occupied as a 'wife' usually differed significantly from her status as a 'sister', Sack's perspective became very influential in explaining gender relations within the context of most African families especially in pre-conquest Africa. However, Sack's analysis escaped the proclivity for universal gender asymmetry based on women and their position in the domestic domain.

Sudarkasa (1986) maintains that the status of women in indigenous African societies reveals that, except for the Islamized societies of sub-Saharan Africa, women were conspicuous in high places in pre-colonial times. She argues that women in pre-colonial Africa were queen-mothers, queen-sisters, princesses, chiefs, and holders of other offices in towns and villages. This position as expressed by Sudarkassa (ibid) further buttresses the arguments of the imperativeness of

taking a historical analysis of the status of women in African society.

Most third world scholars (Sudarkassa, 1981; Amadiume, 1987; Nzegwu, 2004) have dubbed these universal models of analysis 'western' or 'Eurocentric'. Nzegwu (2004) in her research revealed that Ibo women of the South-Eastern Nigeria enjoyed 'sexual autonomy' even within a marital union. Citing the case of *Nri* society, she opined that the Nigerian Ibo family sanctioned trans- marital relationships by women. Sudarkasa (ibid) further contests that family 'grafts' were outcomes of such relationships maintaining that the Ibo women were valued as 'daughters' and 'mothers'. Hence the desire for being a mother outweighed any notion of adultery among the *Nris*.

The examples of the Ibos of the South -Eastern Nigeria and others studies highlighted above describe the women position within the family. Despite the fact that there are studies, which have confirmed that most African women enjoyed a higher status in the family in relation to postcolonial era, it is evident that these scholars also have a proclivity of generalizing within the African context. They posed this same reaction against the 'western' scholars. There is a dire need, therefore, to take into cognizance the variability of these experiences and then attempt a context-based analysis within reasonable parameters.

a) *The Feminist Political Economy and Feminization of Survival*

The Feminist Political Economy, FPE deconstructs the traditional political economic theory that assumes social relations determined economic systems of production without giving a critical analysis to the existing inequality of social relations. Although the traditional political economic theory appeared more integrative than ordinary economic principles of demand and supply by attempting a description of the societies and the corresponding economic systems of production that stem from such social configuration, if failed capture the inherent inequality between the female and male gender in relation to economic resources in virtually all human societies. Intra Pares, (2004) defined FPE concerns as economics of groups, families, communities, neighborhoods, localities and regions as well as individuals. Its utility lies on its focus on people as social political and economic subjects or agents. The holistic integration of the social cultural and political conditions in which the subject operates constitutes the basis of such analysis.

Riley (2008) further posited that the macro, meso and microeconomics systems are highly gendered as there are evidently structural inequality within the social structure from which the subjects or social actors make economic decisions. In a bid to establish this shortcoming of traditional political economy, Luxton (2006) observed that social

reproduction, the work of nurturance and human family and community as part of unpaid work rendered by women in many societies. FPE identifies gender as a critical component of social relations which significantly influences political relationships and structures of power thereby culminating in differential access (Examine briefly the concept of feminization of poverty by Saskia Sassen (2000) Counter geographies and her recent discussion in *Animal Behavioural Science Journal* published in 2008)

Sassen (2002) consider the phenomena of trafficking and international prostitution as a gendered process of contemporary globalization. She argues that a crusade against international prostitution was indeed a refusal to appreciate the wider "social-moral" context in which these phenomena occur. She added that that the occurrence and pervasiveness of sex trafficking was an indicator of the "feminization for survival" of highly vulnerable migrant women (Sassen, 2002:274).

One of the strength of the political economy theory is its ability to explain global economic processes underlining social life of a society (Fajemilehin, 2000). It also captures the commitment to materialism and the institutionalization of corruption (Aluko, 2001). This has ultimately culminated in the shift of value system and a drastic change in traditional moral order. Hence, Oloruntimehin (1995) observed that there was an alteration in the value system unlike what obtained in the past. Hence values founded on honesty, hard work, trust and good name is now tilted towards dishonesty, huge profits for little work, distrust and the acquisition of wealth at the expense of good name, integrity and reputation.

The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) adopted by the government in order to restructure the economy was a major catalyst of sex trafficking and international sex trade in the region (Aghatise, 2002). The mass retrenchment, employment embargo, freezing of public service salary and the devaluation of the domestic currency, coupled with the rise in inflation, all had delirious effects on family structures and the women were usually the major recipient of the economic toll in Nigeria (Oyediran and Odusola, 2004). They argue that the poverty level in Nigeria rose with SAP and women and children were more affected due to the gendered orientation of poverty in Nigeria.

III. METHODOLOGY

This paper emanated from a larger study conducted by the author in 2009 in Edo State, South of Nigeia. It is an ethnographic research design which engaged techniques, including observation methods, Focus Group Discussions, (FGDs) using vignette stories and Key Informants Interviews (KII). The aim was to track the changes that have impacted significantly on the women status within the society, based on the very high migratory flow among the women in this society.

a) Study Area

The study site Edo State is one of the oil-producing areas of Nigeria. It has its capital as Benin City, which also doubles as the capital of Oredo Local Government, one of the selected local government areas. The inhabitants are predominantly the indigenous Edo – Speaking people also known as the Benin people of pre-colonial West Africa. Over the years, several people from neighbouring communities like the Esan, Afemai, Urhobo, Ibos and the Yoruba speaking people have migrated and settled in the study area. Benin City is a city with a very proud cultural heritage in the pre – colonial era within the West Africa Sub-region. The early contact that the Benin people had with the early Europeans in the early 15th century gave great impetus to the emergence of the monarch, known as the Oba, and the influence he wielded over the region. At the time of contact, the Benin Empire was highly organized under a strong influence of the Oba who was greatly revered by the subject as observed by Igbofe (1979) and Obiyan (1988). Three Local Government Areas which were purposively drawn from Edo Senatorial District constituted the specific sites of the study. These sites, Oredo, Egor and Uhumwode Local Government are described as one of the local government areas with the worse incidence of human trafficking for the purpose of international sex transaction. The population of the local government areas was placed at 3,742,671, 333, 899 and 120,813 respectively (Nigeria Official Gazette, 2006). Uhumwode, has a larger land mass but with a relatively smaller population. Major communities in the study area include Oko, Ugbague, Obagie Ogida, Useh, Igieduma and Obagie. Economic activities in both Oredo and Egor include furniture making, hotel management arts and crafts some level of agriculture which include the cultivating cassava, yam, cocoyam and plantain. Rubber plantation is also an important economic crop in the study area. Traditionally, in the study area, women assisted their husbands in the farms (Bradbury, 1957). They also played important roles in the house of *Iwebo*, the guild that was directly responsible for making special clothes and beads for the *Oba* (Agbontaen, 1990). Marriage to a 'white man' in pre-colonial era was considered abominable (Igbofe, 1979). Women could be inherited in much the same way as property (Bradbury, 1957). Divorce among Benin women is viewed as a colonial impact; however, it was granted to women of noble parentage (Usuanlele, 1999). Gender was a notable social descriptor. For instance, women's quarters were separate from the men. Women were also perceived as an inversion of the ideal; hence they were put under several ritual restrictions, *awaa* (Curnow, 1997). Curnow further explains that sexual contact was minimized with women, in order not to abate the potency of protective charms, which were commonly used by men in pre-colonial era. To avoid spiritual contamination, bathrooms, buckets

were gender segregated. After sexual contacts, a man must thoroughly cleanse himself in order to keep his spiritual powers intact. It was also contrary to Benin customs for a woman to live separately from the husband that is outside the same geographical location except in cases of illness or a disagreement.

Present day Benin City is a civil service town. This is due to the vast number of government *parastatals* in the city. Although Edo State is part of the oil producing areas in Nigeria, the benefits of oil revenue have not made any visible impact on its economy. Rather, in *Gelegele*, one of the oil producing communities in Edo state, gas flaring resulting in environmental pollution is a common feature (Omorodion, 2004). Describing the detrimental effects on the health of women, Omorodion (*ibid.*) argues that in the event of unskilled job opportunities presented by these multinational companies, men were usually the major beneficiaries. Thus, the author concluded that the socio-economic predicament of women has continually left them at the lower rung of the society.

b) Data Collection

A total of 18 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) using vignette stories were conducted among three categories of people: adult women, adult men, and youths. The vignettes stories were in two parts (a) the story of trafficked victim that ended on a "happy note" and (b) the story of a trafficked victim that ended on a "tragic note." In each local government, the three categories of participants were exposed to both the "happy" and the "tragic" stories. Each focus group discussion session comprised an average of eight participants and lasted for an average of one and half hours. Four (4) keyinformants interviews were held with a male and a female that were versed in Bini culture and the family institution, a representative of a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) who had done extensive work on trafficking among the Binis, an opinion leader, and a government official. With the assistance of key informants from the University of Benin and NGOs that have done extensive work on human trafficking in Metropolitan Benin City, twenty- five trained female and male field workers were recruited for this study. The rationale of inclusion was their familiarity with the geographical and social terrain of the locations selected for the study, fluency in Bini and English language, and previous experience in social research. The interviewers were trained for a week in order to be able to negotiate a successful interaction with the household heads. The field workers were trained with the interview schedules. Role-playing was conducted severally under the supervision of the lead author in order to test for accuracy of questioning and reporting. The field workers actively participated in conducting the household/family based interviews, while the authors handled the focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Majority

of the interviews were conducted in Pidgin English (the unofficial lingua franca in Nigeria), a few in Bini language and the rest were in English Language. Triangulation approach was adopted in the analysis of all the data generated.

c) Data Analysis

With the consent of the participants, all the interviews were audiotaped, interviews held in Pidgin English were translated into English, and transcribed. The approach used to analyze the interviews was content-based as suggested by DeVault (1990); Woods, Priest and Roberts (2002). All the recorded interviews were transcribed verbatim and checked for accuracy. The transcripts were rereads several times by the authors and thematic patterns that emerged from the participants perspectives were observed. To achieve this, all the transcribed data were reviewed line-by-line to analyze the main concepts, and these concepts were given codes. Second, the codes were compared for interrelationships and organized into thematic categories. However, this produced broader codes than the initial ones.

Common themes that emerged through this process reflected a shared understanding among participants of the phenomena of women trafficking and transactional sex. To provide an indication of the accuracy of theme generation and allocation, three well experienced social researchers in qualitative techniques were approached to participate in the data coding process as suggested by Woods, et al (2002). From the transcripts coded in this manner, a resulting level of agreement (70%) was achieved. Thereafter, all the thematic narratives were built into context.

d) Ethical Consideration

Due to the sensitive nature of the study, participation was voluntary. Attempts were made to explain the objectives of the research to the various categories of participants included in this study and their decision for anonymity was respected. All participants were duly informed of their right to withdraw at any time from the study.

IV. SOCIO DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS IN THE STUDY

Percentage Distribution of Family Structures /Household heads' Socio-economic and Demographic Characteristics by Local government areas

Family Composition	Local Government of Origin							
	Egor		Oredo		Uhumwode		Total	
	N=40	%	N= 40	%	N=40	%	N=120	%
Family Head Type								
Male headed households	34	85.0	31	90.0	28	82.5	93	77.5
Female headed households	6	15.0	9	10.0	12	17.5	27	22.5
Family Type								
Nuclear Family	15	37.5	17	42.5	20	60.0	52	43.3
Extended Family	25	62.5	23	57.5	20	40.0	68	56.7
Polygynous Households								
Two wives	14	60.9	13	46.9	12	52.9	39	52.7
Three wives	6	26.1	12	42.9	7	30.4	25	33.8
Four Wives	3	13.2	2	7.1	2	7.1	7	9.5
Seven wives	0	0	1	3.6	2	8.7	3	4.1
Marital Status of family heads								
Married	31	77.5	32	80.0	30	75.0	93	77.5
Separated/Divorce	5	12.5	4	10.0	2	5.0	11	9.2
Widower/Widow	4	10.8	4	10.8	8	20.0	16	13.2
Occupation of family heads								
Artisan	5	12.5	4	10.0	10	25.0	19	15.8
Civil Servant	10	25.0	9	22.5	10	25.0	29	24.2
Professionals	5	12.5	6	15.0	2	5.0	13	10.8
Retirees	10	25.5	12	30.0	12	30.0	34	28.3
Self employed	20	40.0	9	22.5	10	25.0	19	15.8
Religion of Family Heads								
Christianity	32	80.0	29	72.5	31	77.5	92	76.7
Muslim	2	5.0	-	-	-	-	2	1.6
Traditional Religious Beliefs	6	15.0	11	27.5	9	22.5	26	21.7
Family Head Monthly Income								

The household interviews conducted revealed the Benin family structure which constitutes the context in which the Benin woman is embedded. Majority of the families in the study area are male-headed households with a higher number of female-headed household in Uhumwode, a relatively rural community. This is attributable to by the rural –urban migration by males in search of better economic opportunities. Most of the family types are extended in all the three LGAs studied with polygynous marriages very pervasive in the three localities despite the predominance of Christianity. The highest no of professionals are found in the urbane LGA, Oredo.

Four key informants selected on the basis of their statuses and versatility in Benin history and culture. One of them was a renowned student of history under the legendary chronicler of Benin History Pa G. Egharvba, and another one a strategic traditional chief who wields a level of influence in the Benin Kingdom. The other informant, an octogenarian and a princess of the Kingdom and the last informant is a co-coordinator of prominent NGO in Benin and activists who has done extensive researches on gender issues in Benin. Interviewed key informants fell within the age range of 51-85 years of age. All except one (1) are Christians. The least qualification that key informants had was a Nursing and Midwifery certificate while the highest qualification obtained by the key informants is a doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree.

a) Gender and decision making in traditional Benin Society

Household heads interviewed were asked to present information on what they knew described the traditional Benin society based on cherished values and norms. One of the female-headed household heads stated

When decisions were made, women were not allowed. It was for the man's family and the male elders in that compound.

Member of a household in Oredo (Female)

A male household head further corroborated this:

Their (women) opinion was not important; they are relegated to the background when decisions are reached. Their role is just to implement.

Household head from Oredo (Male)

Drawing inference from this stance, a well trained Benin woman was expected to reflect these virtue of passivity and invisibility in public discourse. One house -hold head interviewed put this more succinctly.

When there is talk in the family a woman cannot talk, no the talk is for the man. Women cannot talk for the matter 'wey man dey' (where there are men)

Household Head in Uhumwode (Female)

A male key informant provided further description of the traditional status of women in Benin thus:

Traditionally, a wife was economically self sufficient in that she provided for her children from the piece of land given to her by her husband to cultivate. Also women were exposed to different informal schools like poultry, animal husbandry, music or even traditional medicine. Some of them understood human physiology. This is because a woman was said to be very close to nature in Benin philosophy. Hence, in Benin, a married woman could not shake hands with another man. She could not stretch her legs out for another man to cross over, if a man were to stare at her lecherously, then she was expected to report the incidence to her husband; otherwise she would incur the wrath of the ancestors. Adultery incurred the wrath of the gods which could ultimately lead to the death of the husband by the gods. The women were put under traditional oaths of allegiance since this was the only means to test fidelity of a woman for reproductive purposes.

b) Male Key Informant

Another female key informant further elaborated:

When a woman came into a family, whatever the family forbade is what she forbade. When the woman was menstruating, she could not reach the apartment of the husband. She must not cook or even touch anything that belonged to her husband. She could not even greet the husband. She would need an intermediary to do so. In the palace, as at today, all these practices are still in operation. The man and his wife cannot use the same bucket for bathing.

The above views expressed by these the key informants are suggestive of the status of women in traditional Benin society. The need to put women under some of these ritual restrictions is seen from the views expressed above in which the key informants revealed that the traditional conception of the Benin woman is that she is very close to nature. These conceptions are closely linked with the ideological base of the Benin society of which there are prevailing beliefs in ancestral worship and therefore made the need to tame women imperative. A male key informant described the sexual restrictions and ritual associated with a traditional Benin wife.

A married woman must be faithful to her husband; once she was suspected (to be unfaithful), she must swear to the gods if she must remain in that husband's house. If it was a man, nothing was done since men were quite at liberty. If a man talked to a married woman about sex, she must immediately spit out and also confess to her

husband what she was told otherwise her own children would be affected. That is, they will bear the consequence.

Male household head in Oredo

In those days, another man did not use his hands to cross another man's wife's neck. A married woman did not shake any man anyhow. A married woman could not go to the front of a house and urinate whether during the day or night time. The clothes of a married woman are properly kept in the home.

Male head of household in Uhumwode

If a woman had an evil intention to kill her husband or harm any member of the family, the "ehinwinowa" will react negatively against the woman.

Male household head in Egor

Male informants were overtly explicit in recalling the sexual culture which the Benin woman was made to adhered to. Spitting out refers to what is symbolic. It is a cultural response to an as abominable act and viewed as a crime against the gods. Spitting out implied that there was not consent from the woman to sexual overture from males. Based on the Benin traditional values, the family structure was a superstructure which reflected these values. Hirschson (1984) has observed that in classical patriarchy, older men controlled women and children but usually ensured that the honour of a family was significantly tied to the honour of the females in that society. This explains one of the reasons why several restrictions were usually targeted towards the women in order for that family to enjoy certain prestige within the society.

V. TRACKING THE CHANGES IN STATUS OF WOMEN

Key informants identified major sources of change in the Benin family structure which had corresponding effects on the status of women in this region. They include Benin early contact with the Portuguese, the colonial experience with attendant Christianization and westernization effect; Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), an economic policy adopted by the defunct Military head of State, Gen. I. Babagidda and the tempestuous trafficking and international sex trade which has become very predominant in the region.

a) Contact with the Portuguese

Findings revealed that the conception of overseas travels is significantly linked with a form of prestigious and avenue to move up the social and economic ladder as in many other Nigerian societies. However, what makes the case of Benin different lies in the early contact with the Portuguese, which resulted in high profile migration to Europe by the ruling class.

There are general impressions about the fact that the Portuguese coming into Benin may have also created some form of curiosity in the minds of the adventurous Benin man. The way you can know that this had some impact on the people's mind can be seen through the arts (some art works which tried to depict the white man) and the dominant language that is pidgin that is still spoken widely among the Benin's to date.

It is a predominant rites of passage required to become part of the elitist class in the Benin society. One of the key informants teased that the current involvement of women in international sex trade was characterized by high male migration changed because of the large financial returns inherent in sex trade.

The desire to travel abroad actually started with the men in Benin. Most of them did not go to school; you know the average Benin man is very proud so they did not pay much attention to Western education initially. They opted to travel overseas and many of them were involved in low paying job since they were not well educated. A significant number of them were into hard drugs and other bad businesses. Many of them were getting jailed over there and were therefore bringing stigma to their families back home. I think many of these families had to change their minds and felt that the female members who after all could not bear the family name for a long time could be used moreover, the girl child is seen as one whose membership in a family is short lived. The position of women has not changed despite her involvement in trafficking, which many of these women think is financially empowering. With all the money they have made, have they being acknowledge? They (trafficked women) are just being used by men again as it has always being the case.

b) Colonial Experiences

Key informant opined that colonialism played a significant role in eroding the values of Benin women in relation to marriage and chastity. Divorce is described as "a colonial legacy" by a male key informant in the study and is viewed as a negative impact of colonialism by respondents. A female key informant observed that colonial contact, which culminated in Christianizing Benin indigenes, also impacted significantly on the status of the woman positively. She opined:

Women were traditionally subject to their husbands until western education came. This led to the introduction of new concepts which started affecting the relationship at home (family). Women's roles were also affected with Christianity. Some men who went to church began to discard the idea of polygyny and they stuck with one wife. That woman became more secured since she did not have to fear other wives. Some men also started accepting

that female children are as valuable as male children.

c) Structural Adjustment Programme

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) was also an epochal period in the history of Nigeria which some scholar have agreed had a deleterious effect on the family structures in Nigeria. The economic restructuring distorted existing structures within many homes as most bread winners lost their jobs in the heat of mass retrenchment that accompanied the liberalization process. However there was a remarkable event which proceeded the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) era when the then military governor of the defunct Bendel State Brigadier S.O Ogbemudia (Edo state was carved out of Bendel State) arbitrarily awarded juicy contracts to women in the state without taking gender or marital status into consideration. One of the male key informants opined:

With the colonial rule, women could be said to have had some assets, became independent and owned property. This situation improved considerably during Ogbemudia (Governor when women had access to bidding for contracts) for the first time a sizeable number of women seized this opportunity, and they began to acquire landed properties. Due to the inheritance system, women cannot inherit from their father's property. This trend became superfluous and thus led to some changes in the female position. When the women owned their houses and earned their own money, they no longer deferred to their husbands and the trend continued.

This era gave way to the SAP era, which led to the event as chronicled by a key male informant.

Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) made women work outside the home which they were not used to and placed serious economic burden on them. The men became jobless and they did not want to go to farm.

Another female key informant disclosed:

SAP brought hardship to the families. Naturally, the Benin man is a proud man. The abriba" (a male tailor, usually from Ibo origin who hawks his trade around in Benin town) was laughed at by the Benin man for doing dirty jobs. So you can see that there were some things like menial jobs. So the women again bore the brunt and so they had to work.

d) Women Trafficking and International Sex Trade

The phenomena of trafficking and transactional sex have created multiple effects on the social perception of women status within the family structure and the society. There was a consensus by the categories of the FGD participants and some of the family heads as they expressed the view that the phenomena had ambivalent effects on the family structure.

On the contrary, the key informants proposed and cited instances of how trafficking and transactional

sex are engaged as liberating tool by women of low social economic class. In the same vein, many of the participants in the FGD participants in both males and female categories in all three LGAs agreed that less educated women were more likely to adopt trafficking as a form of economic empowerment than those who are well educated. Here are some of the responses by a male participant in an FGD with men (Egor) were they were exposed to vignette A (*the tragic story*):

You don't know how many homes this abroad thing and trafficking have broken in Benin. Many homes have scattered because the woman now gets money in dollars so the husband cannot control her again.

This observation is in line with the view that women trafficking in the area had granted women of this region, greater access to critical resources like economic resources, land and credit facilities, there is a commensurate improvement in her status in the family and society. This was an obvious departure from what obtained in traditional Bini society as expiated by scholars of Bini History (Egarevba, 1949, Bardbury, 1952) when they described the family structure as a co-operative unit. It is clear that there is a major alteration from an essentially co-operative kin unit to co-operation to an inherently competitive relationship where the father and mother do not plough on the same field any more. A key informant elaborated on the social implications of the phenomena on the social dynamics of the Bini family system:

'The phenomenon of trafficking which is an economic design to have people from another country and use them for their selfish purpose, have impacted negatively on the Bini family structure. It has destroyed the virginity of the female children which represented one of the core values of the Binis and made the girl child a money making venture. Secondly, it has broken down the structure of marriage in many homes. When a woman finds out that her daughter is the economic mainstay, she will raise her shoulder against her husband'.

(Male key informant)

The female key informant expressed further on the perceived functionality of the phenomena on the status of Bini women. She remarked thus:

'The Bini woman has some control over her family now. At 40, she already has her own house. Before now, the husband needed to be aware if she had to build a house, hence the husband could be involved in the foundation ceremony called 'Olu'. Nowadays some of these things have changed. A Bini wife does not inherit property in the event of the death of her husband, by custom, so she has to fend for herself. Now she is able to get those things, which the culture denied her of since some of them started getting involved in trafficking. Those women

who are properly educated are not usually involved in sex trafficking'

(A female key informant)

In the same vein, some of the household heads and the FGD participants argued insupport of trafficking and transactional sex, describing the phenomena as major catalyst of changing the status of Bini women. Hence, a female member of household in Oredo maintained:

'My husband is irresponsible. My daughter in Italy built this house and bought this small car. If not for her, I wonder what my fate could have been in this world. (She begins to pray for her)

(Female Member of household)

The excerpt above portrays that the phenomenon of trafficking is challenging the age long power wielded traditionally held by men over women for a long time which sustained the culture of deference by women. There was a consensus among the various categories of FGD participants that women who get proceeds from children abroad among the Binis become proud, thereby culminating what many considered as significant factor causing marital insubordination of the female folks to their husbands in the study area. FGD participants in Egor held with women cited instances of some married women who connived with their friends to travel abroad for the purpose of trans-border sexual transactions without their husband's knowledge. One of the FGD participants (female category) in Egor revealed how a trafficker helped a bosom friend to Europe whom she felt was suffering too much. She stated that the husband was not aware of the plans and that when her friend's husband confronted her; she lied and claimed total ignorance. She further revealed that it was after the woman had settled down there (Italy) that she contacted the husband. The FGD participant further added that the woman had built a house and bought a car for her husband now, that this woman comes home during Christmas period, and that she was still happily married to her husband. When asked whether this was not a taboo in Bini custom, she opined:

...any time my friend comes, she will kill a goat for sacrifice and resume her duty as a wife, since she has done the required cleansing rites.

In another FGD conducted among the women in Oredo, one of the participants observed that in certain instances, married women, chose to go to Europe for prostitution in agreement with their husbands. She cited a woman who happened to be her neighbour who refused to allow her daughter to be trafficked but insisted that she would rather go herself. She eventually made contacts with a syndicate group and travelled out for transactional sex.

'That was how that woman trained her six children, 4 are graduates now, and the last two are

in good schools here in Benin City. Whenever she comes home, she will kill a goat. They say that there is no taboo on the male organ of a white man anymore. The man is still married to her and has only one wife'.

Similarly, younger women who are involved in international sex transaction among the Binis appeared to be held in high esteem within their families of orientation. Their words were not contested since it is the case of "he who paid the piper dictates the tune". From the FGDs conducted on the adult men in Oredo and Uhumwode and youths in Oredo, participants that were exposed to vignette B expressed similar opinions. Here is an excerpt of the FGD held in Uhumwode illustrating the fact that successfully trafficked victims are highly revered in their families of orientation:

The truth is that when these girls don't succeed, they are ridiculed but when they do, they are actually worshipped. They are totally in charge and in control of that family. They decide what the immediate family should do with the money that they send; otherwise, they will threaten that they will not send any money. Therefore, everyone has to do her biddings.

The Youth FGD in Oredo also buttressed the opinion above:

If you see where these "Italo" girls are talking to their senior bothers, nobody can really control them, not even their parents, since they are the ones bringing the dollars and their siblings have to comply with whatever they say. They don't have the mouth to talk when she takes any decision in the family. Most times the parents have to comply because she is the one bringing the money for wedding or burial ceremonies; she is the one who builds the houses.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The paper examined the changing status of Bini women occasioned by the upsurge and endemic nature of the phenomenon of trafficking for the purpose of transactional sex. The findings showed that a number of women especially the uneducated women conceived trafficking as an empowering process and one that brings prestige to one. This was supported by success stories of women that have achieved success and social recognition, social relevance and prestige within their families and the larger society through cross-border transactional sex. With such achievements, it becomes an impetus for other women to get involved in the "business". Consequently, most of the stories that were told in the process of data gathering were usually success stories of those whose decision to travel outside the shores of Nigeria to transact sex were greatly rewarded. In cases where they ended tragically, victims were condemned as well as perpetrators.

Preference was often given to success stories. For instance, in the accounts of married women cited, the women were portrayed as fortunate despite the deception involved in the first case. In some cases when there was a joint agreement between couples on the wife's involvement in international transactional sex, consequently such marriages were not threatened by such women's involvement in transactional sex.

Access and control to scarce resources were not the same as one of the key female informants argued. She opined that it was not in all the cases that women who are trafficked have control over what to expend the money or the booty from such sexual trans-border transactions. There fore, she concludes that the phenomena of trafficking and international transactional sex have continued to enhance the men's statuses in the Bini family structure and in the society. It appears from the above submissions that women that are involved in transactional sex are enjoying more positive perception from their family of orientation than what was reported by Izugara (2007). In the study, Izugara reported how sexworkers playing their trade locally were disowned and avoided by their relatives or significant others. However, findings from this study, which focused on international transactional sex where foreign currencies are earned, a different picture emerged as family of orientation considered their females that are into transactional sex as their economic liberators.

The recruitment of female children from this extraction is greatly rewarding as a significant number of them are viewed as "successful" in sex work since large amount of foreign currencies are remitted to their families. This supports findings from similar studies (e.g. Longo & Telles, 2001; Naaneen, 1991; Khus, 1991). Earlier studies among Bini people have confirmed that the Western Union operated by the First bank PLC had its busiest office in Benin City, as a result of many illegal migrants, including trafficked victims who send monies to their parents in form of remittances (UNICRI/UNODC, 2003).

However, findings from this study showed an apparent change in this traditional structure was subtle from the Portuguese contact through colonial and economic restructuring to sex trafficking for the purpose of transactional sex. Many women who were hitherto impoverished longer culturally subservient especially when they are direct beneficiaries of transnational remittances realized from sex trafficking. In addition, there are increased incidences of family disorganization resulting from disagreement over resource control in many Bini families especially those which were hitherto referred to a poor households.

Furthermore, Bini women status occasioned by the phenomena of trafficking, show that uneducated women, viewed sex trafficking as a form of empowerment, through which liberty can be obtained from the conservative and oppressive culture. For them,

the advantages or benefits may well outweigh the risks of contacting sexually transmitted.

Diseases or being killed in the process. One of the government officials interviewed in the key informants disclosed that when they go out for anti-trafficking campaigns, they go with police escorts who are well armed. She added that strong resistance from Bini market women often accompany such outings. Some Bini market women will argue that it was "*Italo*" money or "*ashewo*" fortune that had provided money for them to live better lives. Although it will be erroneous to generalise such views among all the family members of transactional sex workers. Beliefs and other cultural values including religion could influence the disposition of family members towards relatives or associates that are involved in transactional sex. However, emerged evidence suggests that wealth creation among the Binis is undergoing a trajectory, as women are now key actors in the process, which was previously dominated by the males during the colonial and early postcolonial era. While this argument may not be over-emphasized due to dearth in literature and available data about those who constitute the trafficking syndicates, but sufficient account of data have revealed that sex trafficking is highly gendered trade with women constituting the bulk of the victims (Aghatise, 2002; Bamgbose, 2005). At least as observed during the slave trade, the male were principally involved in the sales of slaves to the Europeans (Igbofe, 1979).

In addition, there are clear changes in chastity rule with regard to young female children sexuality. However, there is less emphasis on sexual chastity in contemporary 23 Bini families. This is supported by the pressure on many Binis to acquire wealth and belong to the social class of those who have relatives abroad. A recent Bini proverb that tends to exacerbate the phenomenon of cross border sexual transaction is the saying "that the male organ of a white man cannot desecrate the woman's sexuality runs contrary to traditional precepts about the white men in Traditional Bini Society. Hitherto, marriage to white man was forbidden traditional Bini families. This has further strengthened these practices and weakened the girl-child's resistance to traffickers.

These changes observed in the status of several contemporary Benin women in the era of sex trafficking and transactional sex trade has brought to the fore the relevance of the feminist political economy that capture the structural gender inequality that pervades the political socio-economic landscape in Nigeria. Gender disparities in access to critical resources, income and political participation are clearly evident within the Nigerian State. A recent observation by the latest edition of the Gender Report by the British Council (2012) disclosed that the nature of gender inequality in apparently prosperous Southern Nigerian States was more obvious comparatively. This again affirms the

rationale for women in this extraction to adopt a survival strategy as posited by Sassens (2000), which she described as a feminization of survival.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

Majority of women from this extraction still perceive trafficking and prostitution from a positive side. With some imagining, that their neighbour will be the unfortunate sex-trafficked victim. Also, the hegemonic male dominance which has continued to serve as a catalyst for the present crops of uneducated women who are in the lower rung of the economic class of the society who have sought for a change through an unhealthy avenue-sex trafficking. Sex trafficking among the Binis can therefore not just the product of poverty, but a feminine protest in response to unhealthy oppressive culture that has sustained high forms of discrimination against women and which have continued to be perpetrated by traditional belief system.

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Standard Usage, Abbreviations, and Units: Spelling and hyphenation should be conventional to The Concise Oxford English Dictionary. Statistics and measurements should at all times be given in figures, e.g. 16 min, except for when the number begins a sentence. When the number does not refer to a unit of measurement it should be spelt in full unless, it is 160 or greater.

Abbreviations supposed to be used carefully. The abbreviated name or expression is supposed to be cited in full at first usage, followed by the conventional abbreviation in parentheses.

Metric SI units are supposed to generally be used excluding where they conflict with current practice or are confusing. For illustration, 1.4 l rather than $1.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$, or 4 mm somewhat than $4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$. Chemical formula and solutions must identify the form used, e.g. anhydrous or hydrated, and the concentration must be in clearly defined units. Common species names should be followed by underlines at the first mention. For following use the generic name should be constricted to a single letter, if it is clear.

Structure

All manuscripts submitted to Global Journals Inc. (US), ought to include:

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Abstract, used in Original Papers and Reviews:

Optimizing Abstract for Search Engines

Many researchers searching for information online will use search engines such as Google, Yahoo or similar. By optimizing your paper for search engines, you will amplify the chance of someone finding it. This in turn will make it more likely to be viewed and/or cited in a further work. Global Journals Inc. (US) have compiled these guidelines to facilitate you to maximize the web-friendliness of the most public part of your paper.

Key Words

A major linchpin in research work for the writing research paper is the keyword search, which one will employ to find both library and Internet resources.

One must be persistent and creative in using keywords. An effective keyword search requires a strategy and planning a list of possible keywords and phrases to try.

Search engines for most searches, use Boolean searching, which is somewhat different from Internet searches. The Boolean search uses "operators," words (and, or, not, and near) that enable you to expand or narrow your affords. Tips for research paper while preparing research paper are very helpful guideline of research paper.

Choice of key words is first tool of tips to write research paper. Research paper writing is an art. A few tips for deciding as strategically as possible about keyword search:



- One should start brainstorming lists of possible keywords before even begin searching. Think about the most important concepts related to research work. Ask, "What words would a source have to include to be truly valuable in research paper?" Then consider synonyms for the important words.
- It may take the discovery of only one relevant paper to let steer in the right keyword direction because in most databases, the keywords under which a research paper is abstracted are listed with the paper.
- One should avoid outdated words.

Keywords are the key that opens a door to research work sources. Keyword searching is an art in which researcher's skills are bound to improve with experience and time.

Numerical Methods: Numerical methods used should be clear and, where appropriate, supported by references.

Acknowledgements: Please make these as concise as possible.

References

References follow the Harvard scheme of referencing. References in the text should cite the authors' names followed by the time of their publication, unless there are three or more authors when simply the first author's name is quoted followed by et al. unpublished work has to only be cited where necessary, and only in the text. Copies of references in press in other journals have to be supplied with submitted typescripts. It is necessary that all citations and references be carefully checked before submission, as mistakes or omissions will cause delays.

References to information on the World Wide Web can be given, but only if the information is available without charge to readers on an official site. Wikipedia and Similar websites are not allowed where anyone can change the information. Authors will be asked to make available electronic copies of the cited information for inclusion on the Global Journals Inc. (US) homepage at the judgment of the Editorial Board.

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Tables: Tables should be few in number, cautiously designed, uncrowned, and include only essential data. Each must have an Arabic number, e.g. Table 4, a self-explanatory caption and be on a separate sheet. Vertical lines should not be used.

Figures: Figures are supposed to be submitted as separate files. Always take in a citation in the text for each figure using Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 4. Artwork must be submitted online in electronic form by e-mailing them.

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Even though low quality images are sufficient for review purposes, print publication requires high quality images to prevent the final product being blurred or fuzzy. Submit (or e-mail) EPS (line art) or TIFF (halftone/photographs) files only. MS PowerPoint and Word Graphics are unsuitable for printed pictures. Do not use pixel-oriented software. Scans (TIFF only) should have a resolution of at least 350 dpi (halftone) or 700 to 1100 dpi (line drawings) in relation to the imitation size. Please give the data for figures in black and white or submit a Color Work Agreement Form. EPS files must be saved with fonts embedded (and with a TIFF preview, if possible).

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TECHNIQUES FOR WRITING A GOOD QUALITY RESEARCH PAPER:

1. Choosing the topic: In most cases, the topic is searched by the interest of author but it can be also suggested by the guides. You can have several topics and then you can judge that in which topic or subject you are finding yourself most comfortable. This can be done by asking several questions to yourself, like Will I be able to carry our search in this area? Will I find all necessary recourses to accomplish the search? Will I be able to find all information in this field area? If the answer of these types of questions will be "Yes" then you can choose that topic. In most of the cases, you may have to conduct the surveys and have to visit several places because this field is related to Computer Science and Information Technology. Also, you may have to do a lot of work to find all rise and falls regarding the various data of that subject. Sometimes, detailed information plays a vital role, instead of short information.

2. Evaluators are human: First thing to remember that evaluators are also human being. They are not only meant for rejecting a paper. They are here to evaluate your paper. So, present your Best.

3. Think Like Evaluators: If you are in a confusion or getting demotivated that your paper will be accepted by evaluators or not, then think and try to evaluate your paper like an Evaluator. Try to understand that what an evaluator wants in your research paper and automatically you will have your answer.

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7. Use right software: Always use good quality software packages. If you are not capable to judge good software then you can lose quality of your paper unknowingly. There are various software programs available to help you, which you can get through Internet.

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11. Revise what you wrote: When you write anything, always read it, summarize it and then finalize it.



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21. Arrangement of information: Each section of the main body should start with an opening sentence and there should be a changeover at the end of the section. Give only valid and powerful arguments to your topic. You may also maintain your arguments with records.

22. Never start in last minute: Always start at right time and give enough time to research work. Leaving everything to the last minute will degrade your paper and spoil your work.

23. Multitasking in research is not good: Doing several things at the same time proves bad habit in case of research activity. Research is an area, where everything has a particular time slot. Divide your research work in parts and do particular part in particular time slot.

24. Never copy others' work: Never copy others' work and give it your name because if evaluator has seen it anywhere you will be in trouble.

25. Take proper rest and food: No matter how many hours you spend for your research activity, if you are not taking care of your health then all your efforts will be in vain. For a quality research, study is must, and this can be done by taking proper rest and food.

26. Go for seminars: Attend seminars if the topic is relevant to your research area. Utilize all your resources.



27. Refresh your mind after intervals: Try to give rest to your mind by listening to soft music or by sleeping in intervals. This will also improve your memory.

28. Make colleagues: Always try to make colleagues. No matter how sharper or intelligent you are, if you make colleagues you can have several ideas, which will be helpful for your research.

29. Think technically: Always think technically. If anything happens, then search its reasons, its benefits, and demerits.

30. Think and then print: When you will go to print your paper, notice that tables are not be split, headings are not detached from their descriptions, and page sequence is maintained.

31. Adding unnecessary information: Do not add unnecessary information, like, I have used MS Excel to draw graph. Do not add irrelevant and inappropriate material. These all will create superfluous. Foreign terminology and phrases are not apropos. One should NEVER take a broad view. Analogy in script is like feathers on a snake. Not at all use a large word when a very small one would be sufficient. Use words properly, regardless of how others use them. Remove quotations. Puns are for kids, not grunt readers. Amplification is a billion times of inferior quality than sarcasm.

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33. Report concluded results: Use concluded results. From raw data, filter the results and then conclude your studies based on measurements and observations taken. Significant figures and appropriate number of decimal places should be used. Parenthetical remarks are prohibitive. Proofread carefully at final stage. In the end give outline to your arguments. Spot out perspectives of further study of this subject. Justify your conclusion by at the bottom of them with sufficient justifications and examples.

34. After conclusion: Once you have concluded your research, the next most important step is to present your findings. Presentation is extremely important as it is the definite medium through which your research is going to be in print to the rest of the crowd. Care should be taken to categorize your thoughts well and present them in a logical and neat manner. A good quality research paper format is essential because it serves to highlight your research paper and bring to light all necessary aspects in your research.

INFORMAL GUIDELINES OF RESEARCH PAPER WRITING

Key points to remember:

- Submit all work in its final form.
- Write your paper in the form, which is presented in the guidelines using the template.
- Please note the criterion for grading the final paper by peer-reviewers.

Final Points:

A purpose of organizing a research paper is to let people to interpret your effort selectively. The journal requires the following sections, submitted in the order listed, each section to start on a new page.

The introduction will be compiled from reference matter and will reflect the design processes or outline of basis that direct you to make study. As you will carry out the process of study, the method and process section will be constructed as like that. The result segment will show related statistics in nearly sequential order and will direct the reviewers next to the similar intellectual paths throughout the data that you took to carry out your study. The discussion section will provide understanding of the data and projections as to the implication of the results. The use of good quality references all through the paper will give the effort trustworthiness by representing an alertness of prior workings.



Writing a research paper is not an easy job no matter how trouble-free the actual research or concept. Practice, excellent preparation, and controlled record keeping are the only means to make straightforward the progression.

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- Adhere to recommended page limits

Mistakes to evade

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- Separating a table/chart or figure - impound each figure/table to a single page
- Submitting a manuscript with pages out of sequence

In every sections of your document

- Use standard writing style including articles ("a", "the," etc.)
- Keep on paying attention on the research topic of the paper
- Use paragraphs to split each significant point (excluding for the abstract)
- Align the primary line of each section
- Present your points in sound order
- Use present tense to report well accepted
- Use past tense to describe specific results
- Shun familiar wording, don't address the reviewer directly, and don't use slang, slang language, or superlatives
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Title Page:

Choose a revealing title. It should be short. It should not have non-standard acronyms or abbreviations. It should not exceed two printed lines. It should include the name(s) and address (es) of all authors.



Abstract:

The summary should be two hundred words or less. It should briefly and clearly explain the key findings reported in the manuscript-- must have precise statistics. It should not have abnormal acronyms or abbreviations. It should be logical in itself. Shun citing references at this point.

An abstract is a brief distinct paragraph summary of finished work or work in development. In a minute or less a reviewer can be taught the foundation behind the study, common approach to the problem, relevant results, and significant conclusions or new questions.

Write your summary when your paper is completed because how can you write the summary of anything which is not yet written? Wealth of terminology is very essential in abstract. Yet, use comprehensive sentences and do not let go readability for briefness. You can maintain it succinct by phrasing sentences so that they provide more than lone rationale. The author can at this moment go straight to shortening the outcome. Sum up the study, with the subsequent elements in any summary. Try to maintain the initial two items to no more than one ruling each.

- Reason of the study - theory, overall issue, purpose
- Fundamental goal
- To the point depiction of the research
- Consequences, including definite statistics - if the consequences are quantitative in nature, account quantitative data; results of any numerical analysis should be reported
- Significant conclusions or questions that track from the research(es)

Approach:

- Single section, and succinct
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- A conceptual should situate on its own, and not submit to any other part of the paper such as a form or table
- Center on shortening results - bound background information to a verdict or two, if completely necessary
- What you account in an conceptual must be regular with what you reported in the manuscript
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The **Introduction** should "introduce" the manuscript. The reviewer should be presented with sufficient background information to be capable to comprehend and calculate the purpose of your study without having to submit to other works. The basis for the study should be offered. Give most important references but shun difficult to make a comprehensive appraisal of the topic. In the introduction, describe the problem visibly. If the problem is not acknowledged in a logical, reasonable way, the reviewer will have no attention in your result. Speak in common terms about techniques used to explain the problem, if needed, but do not present any particulars about the protocols here. Following approach can create a valuable beginning:

- Explain the value (significance) of the study
- Shield the model - why did you employ this particular system or method? What is its compensation? You strength remark on its appropriateness from a abstract point of vision as well as point out sensible reasons for using it.
- Present a justification. Status your particular theory (es) or aim(s), and describe the logic that led you to choose them.
- Very for a short time explain the tentative propose and how it skilled the declared objectives.

Approach:

- Use past tense except for when referring to recognized facts. After all, the manuscript will be submitted after the entire job is done.
- Sort out your thoughts; manufacture one key point with every section. If you make the four points listed above, you will need a least of four paragraphs.



- Present surroundings information only as desirable in order hold up a situation. The reviewer does not desire to read the whole thing you know about a topic.
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Materials:

- Explain materials individually only if the study is so complex that it saves liberty this way.
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- If use of a definite type of tools.
- Materials may be reported in a part section or else they may be recognized along with your measures.

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- Report the method (not particulars of each process that engaged the same methodology)
- Describe the method entirely
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- Simplify - details how procedures were completed not how they were exclusively performed on a particular day.
- If well known procedures were used, account the procedure by name, possibly with reference, and that's all.

Approach:

- It is embarrassed or not possible to use vigorous voice when documenting methods with no using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result when script up the methods most authors use third person passive voice.
- Use standard style in this and in every other part of the paper - avoid familiar lists, and use full sentences.

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- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
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- Leave out information that is immaterial to a third party.

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The principle of a results segment is to present and demonstrate your conclusion. Create this part a entirely objective details of the outcome, and save all understanding for the discussion.

The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Carry on to be to the point, by means of statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently. You must obviously differentiate material that would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matter should not be submitted at all except requested by the instructor.



Content

- Sum up your conclusion in text and demonstrate them, if suitable, with figures and tables.
- In manuscript, explain each of your consequences, point the reader to remarks that are most appropriate.
- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation an exacting study.
- Explain results of control experiments and comprise remarks that are not accessible in a prescribed figure or table, if appropriate.
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What to stay away from

- Do not discuss or infer your outcome, report surroundings information, or try to explain anything.
- Not at all, take in raw data or intermediate calculations in a research manuscript.
- Do not present the similar data more than once.
- Manuscript should complement any figures or tables, not duplicate the identical information.
- Never confuse figures with tables - there is a difference.

Approach

- As forever, use past tense when you submit to your results, and put the whole thing in a reasonable order.
- Put figures and tables, appropriately numbered, in order at the end of the report
- If you desire, you may place your figures and tables properly within the text of your results part.

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- If you put figures and tables at the end of the details, make certain that they are visibly distinguished from any attach appendix materials, such as raw facts
- Despite of position, each figure must be numbered one after the other and complete with subtitle
- In spite of position, each table must be titled, numbered one after the other and complete with heading
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- Make a decision if each premise is supported, discarded, or if you cannot make a conclusion with assurance. Do not just dismiss a study or part of a study as "uncertain."
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- Give details all of your remarks as much as possible, focus on mechanisms.
- Make a decision if the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory, and whether or not it was correctly restricted.
- Try to present substitute explanations if sensible alternatives be present.
- One research will not counter an overall question, so maintain the large picture in mind, where do you go next? The best studies unlock new avenues of study. What questions remain?
- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

- When you refer to information, differentiate data generated by your own studies from available information
- Submit to work done by specific persons (including you) in past tense.
- Submit to generally acknowledged facts and main beliefs in present tense.



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Grades			
	A-B	C-D	E-F
Abstract	Clear and concise with appropriate content, Correct format. 200 words or below	Unclear summary and no specific data, Incorrect form Above 200 words	No specific data with ambiguous information Above 250 words
Introduction	Containing all background details with clear goal and appropriate details, flow specification, no grammar and spelling mistake, well organized sentence and paragraph, reference cited	Unclear and confusing data, appropriate format, grammar and spelling errors with unorganized matter	Out of place depth and content, hazy format
Methods and Procedures	Clear and to the point with well arranged paragraph, precision and accuracy of facts and figures, well organized subheads	Difficult to comprehend with embarrassed text, too much explanation but completed	Incorrect and unorganized structure with hazy meaning
Result	Well organized, Clear and specific, Correct units with precision, correct data, well structuring of paragraph, no grammar and spelling mistake	Complete and embarrassed text, difficult to comprehend	Irregular format with wrong facts and figures
Discussion	Well organized, meaningful specification, sound conclusion, logical and concise explanation, highly structured paragraph reference cited	Wordy, unclear conclusion, spurious	Conclusion is not cited, unorganized, difficult to comprehend
References	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring



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