

ISSUES IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT  
IN THE NIGER DELTA

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ABSTRACT

Crises in the Niger Delta is a human tragedy no nation can afford to ignore. Deaths and destructions have taken their tolls in hundreds of families in the Niger Delta. The federal government has been frantic in searching for a solution. What exactly is the problem? why are the oil companies and their installations targets of the militant youths in Niger Delta.

This study, primarily exploratory in character was set out to find whether all the different parties involved in the crises agree on the basic causes of the crises in Niger Delta and to determine the communication methods employed by all the concerned parties and the effectiveness of the methods in the management and resolution of the crises.

The study found that whereas the host community members feel their grievances were as a result of the following:-

- (1) Oil companies/government refusal to pay adequately for the damages on their land, water, air etc. due to oil and gas spillage, the oil companies/government believe that

the problem is that the oil communities want to control a greater percentage of the oil revenue:

- (2) The host communities also feel that the adoption of force and unfulfilled promises by the government as a resolution strategy fuel the crises rather than resolving them. Government on its part claims that they use force only when all other communication methods fail.

The researcher therefore, recommends that the government and the oil companies should use more of dialogue than any other communication method in the resolution of crises. The host communities where the nations wealth is drawn should be developed and that the community development strategies must be those that involve the host community from the planning stage to the completion of such project. This method will bridge whatever communication gap that had existed and bring about a greater commitment to community development.

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