



Research Paper

**Human Rights , Environment Degradation and corporate
irresponsibility (Health at Risk)
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I. INTRODUCTION :

We all want to reshape the planet but our desire is effecting the particular communities , even though the devastation is visible and the harm it is creating to humans is not addressed . corporate sector is achieving greatest success around the globe and are enjoying the economic prosperity and it could be said that environmental degradation has benefited the corporate sector but it has also resulted in vast devastation to the planet and to humans as well . It is estimated that the global average atmospheric carbon dioxide in 2017 was 405.0 per million higher than at any point in the last 8000,000 years .Pathetic is that weak and inconsistent environmental regulations across the globe have enabled multinational corporations to increase their profits but without economic benefits to local communities . Human and environmental well being are compromised and the corporate sector harm both the economy and environment . climate change , biodiversity loss and pollution pose a triple threat to human health and prosperity . Galloping economic growth has come at a devastating cost to the planet . For too long , we have been waging a suicidal war on nature , Global economy had grown nearly fivefold in the last 50 years by a tripling in extraction of natural resources and the energy . world need to halt and stop nature loss as one million species of plants and animals currently are threatened with extinction . oil extraction has serious consequences for our wildlife and the communities . Drilling projects disrupt wildlife , water sources and human health . Big oil spills are known as killers of wildlife .

CORPORATE IRRESPONSIBILITY :

Ogoniland [south eastern Nigeria] is an area which over the years have been devastated by toxic oil spills. However Nigeria is Africa's top oil producer and oil is the government's biggest source of revenue , but the economy has been struggling because poverty levels are on the rise , Nigeria is called African Giant because Nigeria was having a powerful agricultural export coco and palm oil . Nigeria also has a number of natural resources including minerals , gold and oil . It is called the second largest reservoirs of the African continent and yet many Nigerians have it hard , 90 million people not only just live in poverty but extreme poverty , that's 48% of the population . Nigerian government depends on oil as much as 75% of it's revenue , so when the global price of oil got down in 2014 , Nigeria went into a recession and it's struggling to get out but even when oil prices are good Nigerian experts says " not a huge slice of that revenue get's to the people " . Nigerian crude is found under the waterways of the Niger Delta , a few Nigerian companies operate there but one's doing the most of the exporting and extracting are the international companies " shell " is one of the big one's , it provides 40 % of the Nigerian's oil production but because Nigeria doesn't have the infrastructure to refine it's own crude oil , these foreign companies sell it abroad and in the end Nigeria has to import billions of dollars with refined oil back in , so what Nigeria does have is a central body called " Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation " . The NNPC is both an oil industry regulator and a massive commercial corporation . The companies signs contracts with all the international oil companies and the companies pay for all the initial costs like oil license and a tax on a profits of NNPC so the NNPC takes off all their money and pays it to the Nigeria's national treasury but the regulator is the part of the NNPC , it means there's a huge lack of transparency that has led to corruption in the oil sector . one of the most important case was back in 2016 where Nigeria's state company was missing \$ 16 Billion and this money was supposed to be given from NNPC and sent to the national treasury but the money was not sent over. There's another type of oil money missing and that's taxes

were not sent over and then there's a theft "oil theft", there are 100's of illegal refineries in the Nigerian delta where criminal gang's tap into pipelines . in early 2019 , 22 million Barrels of oil were stolen and sold on the black market . oil companies like "shell " cause massive oil spills and fires misleading and neglecting the health of local communities . Nigerian Delta for last 20 years has been in crisis with multinational companies holding oil companies and people are fighting for their own resources and land .

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS , ENVIRONMENT DESTRUCTION [HEALTH AT RISK]

Everywhere in Nigerian Delta are the fumes in the air , leading to the pollution and when it rains in the Delta , it comes up with another disaster for the local community . Acid rain destroys the flora and fauna of the delta . Fumes of oil spills is causing the respiratory problems like pneumonia , children between the age of five and twelve face a severe health risk . Asthmatic problems are very common in elderly people . Tensions between foreign oil corporations and a number of the Nigeria Delta's minority ethnic groups who feel they are being exploited , particularly the ogoni . Delta is home to 20 million people and 40 different ethnic groups , this incredibly well endowed ecosystem contains one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity on the planet , in addition to supporting abundant flora and fauna , arable terrain that can sustain a wide variety of crops , or agricultural trees and more species of freshwater fish than any ecosystem in west Africa . The advent of oil production has also negatively impacted the Niger Delta due to unprecedented oil spillage which has been ongoing for the past five decades making the region one of the most polluted in the world .As the proverb goes " Health is Wealth " so every child has a right to live a healthy life and good quality health is important for the physical and mental development of the child but the condition of the children in Nigerian delta is pathetic , local doctors complain of a high rate of cancers and skin diseases among children as well , what is alarming is that the situation is worsening . Every child deserves good health , The notion of the " Highest attainable standard of health " takes into account both the child's biological , social and economic preconditions " . Children are entitled to quality health services including proper health care services but the violations and injustice particularly in the Nigerian delta is affecting children on a large scale due to man made disasters .Thousands of spills have ruined fishing grounds , 91% of plastic is not recycled and the marine life is also under the big threat and that's ultimately affecting the people of local communities , ¼ th part of fish have plastic in their gut and are consumed by the people . 83 % of the tap water samples contain plastic . People are breathing plastic in Nigerian delta since microplastics are linked to air pollution . clean drinking water and sanitation are essential for the life and are the basic human rights . More than one oil spill happen everyday in Nigeria contaminating the vegetation and water is no longer drinkable , water and soil is poisoned as oil mining had eradicated the quality of the soil , spill comes out with full force that continue for one month , two or more than that and this act is criminal .before this fishing was the main source of income for fisher community but unfortunately oil companies and government gave a severe set back to this particular group and this is the reason why the Niger Delta is always in crisis , it's the crisis right from when oil was discovered in the 50s . water was used for cooking , cleaning is now mixed with the kerosene oil , people hardly catch any fish. with these oil slicks fisher community cannot feed their families anymore . Thousands of people are being ignored by the oil companies . oil explosions are life threatening and the explosions happen anytime ,few years back while wanted to cool down the pipe with water led to the massive oil explosion and the drops of boiling oil injured the locals of the Nigerian community . Number of people have died due to oil explosions and the human rights impacts of these explosions and the human rights impacts of these explosions is very serious , the affected community gets no compensation , regardless of the damage to their farms , health and fisheries , fish populations are declining as they are being depleted faster . oil explosions have impacted infant mortality in Nigeria , women's facing miscarriages and oil spills that occur before conception increase neonatal mortality by 38.3 deaths per 1,000 live births . Exposure to hydrocarbons can pose risks to fetal development .

II. CONCLUSION :

Shell is the oldest multinational energy company in Nigeria and is involved in joint ventures with the government in 2015 . shell company agreed a \$ 84 m settlement with residents of the ogoniland in 2008 and in 2009 . There is a unfair imbalance of the place that has been polluted and suffered a lot , they should be given justice in order to lift people out of poverty . over the last 15 years there is a growing recognition of these challenges , documenting the problems around the world and the business ,also corporate sectors have the responsibility of the human rights . In 2011 UN Human Rights ratified the UN guiding principles on businesses and human rights which clearly says that companies have human rights responsibility . Large multinational companies have serious problems since they are exposed and criticized , same has been the case of the shell company . These oil spills have devastating effects on humans through inhalation of the toxic chemical and oil spills leading to immune system suppression and reproductive failure . Although the health threats from oil extraction are very real ,the federal government continues to push for drilling oil near local communities . The

consequences are all around us in the form of larger wildfire season , stronger hurricanes and harsher heatwaves . Most dirty emissions originate from fossil fuels and the most abundant type of greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide primarily released into the air through the burning of the oil . The ogoni people are no stranger to run ins with this oil giant . At the same time Shell admitted liability in a court case for two major oil spills which occurred near the delta town of the Bodo ,and which have since destroyed the livelihood of many locals . The ogoni people have been opposed to the devastation which the oil industry has brought to their land and in 1993 shell was expelled from ogonilandfolloeing protests by ogoni communities over the disastrous impact which oil extraction had on their land .Although shell has not directly extracted oil from ogoniland since the expulsion , its infrastructure remains and continues to be used to transport oil across ogoniland , resulting in the continued suffering for the ogoni people is also synonymous with the situation faced by the various minority groups across the oil rich Niger Delta . Maternal motility and morbidity constitute grave violations of the human rights of women and also pose serious threats to their own and their children's right to health . Mortality and disabilities and the loss of livelihood is because the lack of political commitment and the corporate sectors have the responsibility to respect the rights of minorities and indigenou people around the world who are adversely affected by the extractive industries . oil companies are supposed to respect , protect and fulfill the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health .

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