

## **THE EMERGING OIL INDUSTRY IN GHANA: SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF THE FISHING COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN REGION**

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**ABSTRACT:** *The oil find is believed to help Ghana with its institutional help on the life of its citizenry. It is in this view, that the study focused on the impact of the oil extraction and production on the livelihood of the people within the fishing communities of Western Region since there is a ban on fishing in the catchment area of the oil production. The study was therefore to identify the socioeconomic impact of the oil production on the livelihood of the people of the oil communities and how those effects could be minimized, to help improve the standard of living of these people in the oil communities. The results are the indications that the government through the districts assemblies and the oil companies are committed to better the lives of the people in the oil communities. The results also showed that the people had to sell their livelihood assets in order to make a living. It also revealed that most of the fishermen were in the age bracket between 18 to 40 years. It was again found that the income level of the fishermen fell as a result of the introduction of the ban. As a promise not to worse-off the life of the people the needed attention should be paid to them. The study recommended that education should be made accessible and affordable for the children in the oil communities in order not to follow the steps of the preceding generation. The fishing assets should be made more accessible and cheaper to fishermen. In a nut shell the oil companies together with the government are to ensure that the promises made to these oil communities are fulfilled for the country to continue enjoying her peace.*

**KEYWORDS:** Socioeconomic, Fishermen, Fishing, Communities, and Livelihood

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Every country would love to see development in positive direction as the day goes by. The introduction of technology has helped many countries to develop in faster pace. Development can be said to be a progress from current condition into more suitable or better condition. It is about the improvement of the lives of the citizens of a country.

Socioeconomic development is an aspect of development that helps in identifying the social and the economic needs of the citizens of a particular community or country. It is aimed at solving the social and economic needs by adopting practical approaches and measures that are people centered and of the best interest of the people (Gary, 2009).

In measuring the social and economic development of a country, one has to consider the following indicators, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Life span, the rate of literacy and levels of unemployment (Wikipedia, 2015). The social and economic indicators of development brings to light information that are comparative in areas like income, poverty, employment, employment security, education, health, crime and civic participation. Globally, oil extraction had had impact on the world economy than any other natural resources in the years past. The money countries reap from the exploration and the production of oil is unbelievable. The production of oil affects our daily lives. It is really the natural resources that have been keeping the whole world moving. Petrol for cars, industrial machines, big plants, generators, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking, gas oil are all obtained from the crude oil and bitumen for roads. It can be said that without crude oil the world will virtually come to stand still. According (Kjeldsen, 2010), Crude oil has become the concerns of governments as what really help and boost the politics of every country and fuel the systematic growth of every country when properly managed.

Ghana joined the group of oil producing nations in 2007. This became reality when oil companies such as Cosmos, Anadarko petroleum and Tullow Ghana limited announced the oil find in commercial quantities at the offshore of west of Cape three points in the Ahanta West District (AWD) of Western Region (Ghana News Agency, 2007). The news became popular and spread to every part of the country. The good people of Ghana were extremely happy that another natural resource is found in the territorial waters of Ghana. This led the discussion of the oil find on several platforms like televisions, radios and the internet on how the oil find could be used to solve the pertinent socioeconomic issues concerning the nation. Issues concerning the fishermen, and loss of livelihood, infrastructural development such as building of schools, hospitals and roads were discussed in both public and private media with the aim of ways of reducing poverty. Many Ghanaians, especially people living close to the place where oil had been found immediately put all their hopes in what the oil extraction can do for them as individuals and for the nation at large. They were hopeful that the discovery of the oil would help the country to better their lives and also help eradicate poverty in the country. Poverty reduction in Ghana will fast track the socio-economic development of the nation as well.

Niger Delta region of Nigeria where demand for development in the oil region has led to bigger than expected conflicts (Frynas, 2001). This has been a guide to the newly oil producing country like Ghana.

In an ensuing debated Attafuah (2010), warns that mismanagement of these high expectations can lead to disturbance of social and political order in the country.

The oil production per day was estimated to increase to 120,000 barrels by 2011. The revenue to be derived from the oil production from 2012 to 2030 was estimated to be US\$20 billion (Gary, 2009).

All things being equal, it is believed that countries into oil production will be better and richer in terms of development than those without oil when the extraction of oil is well managed to minimize oil challenges. It was with the same idea Ghanaians had that the oil discovered in the off shore of Ghana basically in the Western region (WR) of Ghana in commercial quantities was going to make the country better off and relieve the citizens from the hardship at the time and even beyond when drilling begins.

The then president indicated that oil brings money and Ghana needs money to do infrastructural development and with the oil find the revenue would expedite construction of schools, hospitals and roads (Gary, 2009). The discovery of oil gave hope to the people of Ghana with the view that the revenue could be used to develop the communities, build schools, hospitals and roads.

A World Development Report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD, 2007) stated that the oil extraction has both political and social impacts. The oil find could be positive to the nation if it could be managed well by creating job opportunity for the youth, promoting Small and Medium scale enterprises (SMEs), building schools, hospitals, electricity provision, and roads for rural or village communities.

The quantity of oil in the reserves of a country have been explained by many writers and authors, that it could lead to blessing or curse for the producing country depending on how the resource is managed (World Bank, 2006).

Ghana as a new born oil producing country have a lot to learn from the experiences the countries that have been in the business as far as oil production is concerned. These countries; Norway, Botswana, Thailand and Malaysia could be learnt from. It can be ascertain that when the country put strong institutions in place it can avoid the resource curse. There are a lot of benefit the country can derive from the oil discovery and production (Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, 2014).

According to Larsen (2006), the deliberate microeconomic policies, political and economic institutions empowerment, pragmatic judicial systems and instituted societal norms were factors that aided the success of Norway in oil production. Due to the good systems the Norwegian government put in place the country escaped the natural resource curse and the Dutch disease.

Putting in place strong institutions is the way forward for Ghana to escape the natural resource curse or minimize its intensity of occurring. It is very important that now that Ghana has gained middle income economy status, there should be more pragmatic measures to move forward to high income economy and not to fall back. In going forward competent leaders is a key to the success of the country as well as getting leaders who are selfless and incorruptible when it comes to management of the oil revenue and other revenues from the other resources. When the revenues are managed well, Ghana is likely to be the next after Norway in the World. In the case where the country fails to get competent leaders who have the political will to ensure that those who mismanage the revenue from the resources are brought to book the economy would slow down.

The production of oil has undoubtedly seen as a potential boost to economic development and could contribute to the reduction of unemployment and poverty but misunderstandings and strikes in these oil communities such as, Sekondi-Takoradi, Agona Ahanta, Cape Three Points, and Dixcove could impede the whole region and may obstruct the country and its chances of positive development. Owing to the production of the crude oil, fishermen were banned from fishing in the territorial waters, where production and drilling occur. It is clear that the fishermen have lost their main source of livelihood. It has not been clearly been stated how the affected fishermen in these oil communities would be catered for in order not to become worse. The ban affected the fishing and its related activities. This affected the entire fishing industry within the communities that have been affected.

Discovery of crude oil comes with many challenges if those in management fail to adopt proper measures to ensure effective use of the revenues from these resources to better the life of the ordinary Ghanaian, having in mind those who live nearer to the drilling sites. As a result of oil production across the globe, people and countries have been affected negatively by pollution and loss of main source of livelihood. Many of these people have become idle and frustrated. They are living without jobs and catering for their households is a challenge for them.

### **Research Problem**

Ghana is blessed with a lot of natural resources; among these resources are gold, cocoa, rubber, bauxite, manganese and now oil. The challenge is that countries blessed with crude oil face management problems and this affects developmental projects. For fear that Ghana does not follow the predecessors like Nigeria, Angola, and Sudan who are still battling natural resource curse, people are calling on government for a more pragmatic economic planning, anti-corruption rules, strong institutions and strong social policy to manage the inflows of revenue.

On the whole, the agreements that are signed between the multi-national oil companies and government should adequately take into consideration the livelihood of the affected oil-fishing communities. In the case of Ghana the fishermen are crying because of the ban on fishing and there are no adequate livelihood alternatives as a result of the oil production. The chiefs, opinion leaders and civil society organisations have called on political leaders and the oil companies to consider the views of the affected fishing communities when designing a policy. In these oil communities there has been an increase in payment of utilities, high payment of accommodation by local citizens, high traffic congestion, high pressure on social amenities, high unemployment rate, high poverty, poor health care facilities, and increase in transportation fare and, inequalities in distribution of interventions.

It is in this direction that the study sought to examine the impact of the oil production on fishing activities, livelihood of the fishermen and how they have been compensated by means of provision of alternative livelihood programmes.

### **Research Objective**

The research was set to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Examine the effects of oil extraction on fishing activities in the oil communities
- b. Assess the impact of oil production on livelihood assets on the people of the oil communities
- c. Determine how the impacts of oil extraction are being compensated in the oil producing communities
- d. Assess the effects of policies, institutions and processes in the oil communities

### **Research Questions**

In order to realise the achievement of the objectives, these questions were set to guide the study:

- a. What are the effects of oil extraction on fishing activities in the oil communities?

- b. What are the impacts of oil production on livelihood assets on the people of the oil communities?
- c. How are the impacts of oil extraction being compensated in the oil producing communities?
- d. What are the effects of policies, institutions and processes in the oil communities?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Review**

The oil discovery in commercial quantities gave hope to the citizens of Ghana in that there will be employment opportunities, construction of roads, schools and hospitals and other social amenities will be in abundance for the citizens of Ghana. In order to protect the local fishermen from the dangers associated with the oil extraction in the offshore Ghana, Government of Ghana passed a law to prohibit the fishermen from fishing around the oil jubilee field of Ghana. Because of the existence of this law the canoes, nets, and outboard motors of fishermen who ventured inside the no-go area of the jubilee field were seized.

In the 1992 constitution of Republic Ghana 276(6), it was clear that natural resources beneath or on the lands of Ghana including streams, rivers, lagoons, lakes within the four corners of the country and any part of the sea covered by the territorial waters of Republic of Ghana belong to Ghana and should be controlled by the sitting presidents on behalf of the Ghanaians. From the above it is clear to say that natural resources in the lands of Ghana belong to Ghana and not any particular community, District or Region. It is also important to note that, there are land demarcations in Ghana which makes it easier for one to differentiate one place from the others.

According to (Gary, 2009), the Late president John Evans Atta Mills said the population of the Western Region closest to the jubilee field would benefit first before the rest of the country, The Western Region of Ghana will benefit from the oil revenues in terms of infrastructural development. It is always necessary to see to it that, the communities in the confines of natural resources are first catered for in terms of socioeconomic development with the proceeds from these resources before others as a mitigation plan against any conflict of interest.

Again in the same 1992 constitution of Ghana, Article 20(1) mandate the government of the day to acquire a property for the benefit of the nation and in that direction the people involved will be compensated. Since the drilling of oil is in the waters of the western region of Ghana, it is prudent for the president to compensate the communities in which the oil is being drilled.

### **THE LIVELIHOOD AND THE RURAL AND URBAN POOR**

Chambers and Conway (1992), in their attempt to define livelihood, it was said that livelihood is made up of capabilities, capacities and assets and activities needed to help one make a living. They added that a sustainable livelihood should help people to overcome challenges and trauma they may face as a result of denial of livelihood sources and be able to provide livelihood opportunity for the next generation. A livelihood has to depict key elements of sustainability and possess the ability to cope and overcome stress and shocks.

According to Dugbazah (2012), the concept of livelihood is a people centred approach which, he sees the world constituted by individuals, household and social classes making all the necessary effort to make ends meet in the this tough situations with the insufficient assets in their hands. The impact and the importance of the externality of shocks could be linked with the available assets and the access the poor people have.

According to Solesbury (2003), it is the adaptation of Chambers and Conway's definition by international development organisations such as UNDP, Oxfam and CARE and Society for International Development (SID) that put the definition into operation.

Scoones modified the chambers and Conway definition.

Scoones (1998) asserted that a livelihood is made up of capabilities, assets and means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it is able to cope with and also help people to overcome stress and shocks without ignoring the natural resource base.

A livelihood concept tries to bring to bear the factors that consistently affect the strength of individual or family coping or survival strategies. The activities these people engage in to make a living and meet other specific goals of life.

Ellis (2000) stated the components of livelihood to include people's assets, actions or activities and access. These components determines standard of living by each individual or household.

Rural livelihood diversification is explained as a way by which household heads create diverse activities that help raise money to improve their living conditions (Ellis, 2000).

Ellis (2000) used social relation to explain access. He explained that access is made up of rules and norms which determine different abilities of the local residents to own and make good use of land and other common property. He went further by saying that access includes not only having the right to but also the capacity to participate and benefits gained from your relations and general goods and services delivered by public. If there is an alternative method of livelihood that permits higher means of access to the poor people who in one way or the other may be negatively affected should be encouraged. It could be seen that majority of the workforce engaged in both fishing and farming. Putting a lot of resources to create livelihood opportunity would be laudable idea.

## DFID SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK

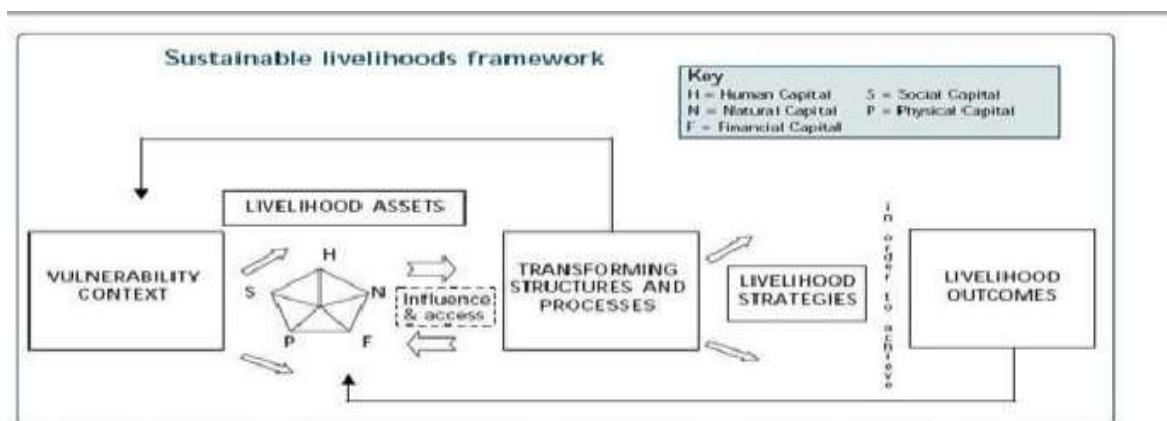


Figure 1 DFID Livelihood Framework



*Source: (DFID sustainable livelihood framework, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2015)*

The Department for International Development (DFID) framework is people-centred and holistic, and focuses on accessibility to assets. It also makes use of livelihood analysis, including institutional and political issues.

DFID (1999), The DFID model group's assets into five types of core capitals, namely human capital, natural capital, financial capital, social capital and physical capital.

According to ELDIS (2013) the goal the people aspire such as increased income or well-being are termed as livelihood outcomes. But the steps or the methods or approaches they use to achieve these outcomes are called livelihood strategies. Getting employment is a strategy but the income an employee receives is an outcome.

Rakodi (2002), Access to and the availability of assets is the central part of the livelihood framework approach. It is crucial to mention that those assets are not limited to cash, savings or other material means but rather considers non-material aspects such as health, their labour, their knowledge and skills, their friends and family.

The explanations of human, natural, financial, physical and social capitals are adapted from DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework, 1999.

### **Human Capital**

It refers to the skills, knowledge and ability a person possess that help him or her to adopt new livelihood strategies to achieve their livelihood objectives.

### **Natural Capital**

It refers to the natural resources such as wildlife, land, water, and environment. In the study area land for farming, sea and rivers are most important natural resources. Most of the rural folks derive their livelihood source from the sea and the farm lands.

### **Financial Capital**

It refers to financial resources made available for them to help the people identify alternative livelihood. These resources include loan facilities or credit, pensions and savings. The earnings of employees in the form of compensations and wages form part of the financial assets.

### **Physical capital**

They are the tangible infrastructures such as affordable transportation, shelter and building, adequate water supply, clean energy and access to information, and the production materials and tools that help people search for livelihood alternatives.

### **Social capital**

It refers to networks and connections of formal group and relationship that build trust and aid people pursue their livelihood objectives.

In order for the citizens in WR, specifically in the STMA and AWDA to overcome the challenges of livelihood, the aspects of capital should be made accessible to them. The most

important capitals in this study are the human, financial and natural capitals. The human capital can be measured with human development index (HDI) at the national level.

It helps people to become self-reliance and avoid depending on one means of livelihood to survive. The fishermen in these oil communities were trained only on how to fish and this has become the only source of livelihood. This has led to majority of the fisher folks over depending on fishing as the only means to survive.

## **VULNERABILITY CONTEXT**

The vulnerability context looks on the external environment within which people operate or live. Changes in trends and season of which people have minimal control affect their livelihood and assets. Examples include resource trends, trend in governance, national and international economic trends, technology trends, human health shocks, natural shocks, economic shocks, conflict, crops and livestock shocks, changes in prices, production and employment opportunities, (DFID 1999).

The poor in the society suffers more than the rich when it comes to external shocks, crises and stresses. When the poor are hit with external event recovering is always a problem. Chamber and Conway (1992), vulnerability has two divisions. These are external and internal vulnerability. The external include stresses and shocks and the internal, the ability and the capacity to withstand or cope.

External (stresses and shocks) can be unfolds as a result changes in demographic or resources available; repetitive changes in time for instance constant price increases and finally short term shocks such as conflicts or natural disasters (Rakodi 2002). Rakodi makes it explicit when he reasoned that policies, ‘the interactions of processes and institutions are factors that affect the vulnerability of individuals, households and communities’. The state’s decisions to build Gas Processing Plant in the western region by acquiring land that belong to the farmers are very necessary to note.

According to (Scoones, 1998), Compulsory land acquisition certainly falls into infrequent, unpredictable disturbance with the immediate impact. The individuals, households and communities are able to cope with vulnerability, when they have the assets that deal with those situations. People with social network as capital are able to fall on them to obtain land and other help when faced with shocks. The study also considers to what extent compensation regime and alternative livelihood programmes have provided solutions against internal and external shocks are explored in the context of vulnerability in the oil communities to secure their livelihood assets.

## **POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES AND ORGANISATIONAL INFLUENCE ON OIL PRODUCTION**

How institutions, individuals and organisations communicate and interact with each other, are greatly influenced by political processes in place at the time including policies, institutions and processes, out of which the individual households make a living. The Policies, institutions and processes affect the following public service delivery, social relations, participation and



involvement, policies, the governing body and authority. The peoples access to various assets, the good thing the poor gets from the capitals they have, the environmental condition for private investment and how the people, especially the poor are involved in decision making and implementations. (Adapted from DFID 1999).

According to (Rakodi, 2002) “The decision made by government officials or political appointees are very crucial for the urban livelihood and has a great impact on their income and on their life in general”.

The people who have access to the political arena such as the chiefs, and others who are in authority are to make the needs of the people known to government. If the state institutions are stronger, these institutions will be able to perform as they are expected without that there will be no meaning in the existence of state institutions and public services.

### **Institutions**

According to (Scoones, 1998), institutions are ways by which practices are regularized with proper structures in place such as rules and norms that are used widely and continuously by the people involved”. He recognizes the dynamic, varied and contentious nature of institutions when he states that “institutions could be formal or informal, usually ambiguous which require interpretations by different actors in politics.

The chieftaincy institution has persisted even though it has often been predicted to wither (Boafo-Arthur, 2003). Boafo-Arthur notes that, post-colonial governments have attempted to truncate the powers of the institution. In the 1992 constitution, (article 271 and 274) the chieftaincy institution was given a higher recognition leading to the creation of regional and national house of chiefs. The constitution has actually strengthened the institution. According to Amanor (2008), the constitution also provides for the customary rights of chiefs and their right to royalties.

### **Policies**

According to (DFID, 1999) ‘the local livelihood had to be taken into consideration in drawing policies in other help improve their living standard. The institutions or the policies should be supportive of the local resident’s livelihood so that they would not be worse off.

According to (Scholderman and Lowe, 2002), in order to make fair assessment of a policy, “the measurement had to consider the content, the process of policy formulation, and the methods used in implementations”.

### **Processes**

It is important to find out how the citizens especially the poor have access and opportunities to political platforms to make their intentions known to the government just as the rich. Applying the comparison that institutions are the hardware of the PIP, the processes would be the software that have influence on how legislation is delivered and is concerned with a complex play of power between all the institutional stakeholders concerned (Scholderman and Lowe 2002).

## **Organizations**

Organizations, he contends, are groups of individuals, bound by certain aims and objectives and may include government agencies, association, private entities and non-governmental organizations (Ellis 2002).

It is believed that when there is strong collaboration between the institutions that matter in the oil production there is the likelihood of achieving positive result in terms of development.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study is mainly based on case study to investigate the communities in the region on how the oil extraction activities had impacted on their lives. The researcher used case study to gain deeper understanding of knowledge of the result of the interaction between the groups that matters in decision making in the selected fishing communities. The study also chose case study because the method is good for studying rear phenomena. The research used the following techniques; interviews in the form of questionnaire, informal conversations, field note taking, observation and radio and television discussions to collect data.

### **Qualitative Methodology**

The positivism (quantitative) and interpretivism (qualitative) are the two methodological approaches within the social sciences from which the researcher selected the qualitative methodology to collect data for the study. According to Bryman (2012) Social Sciences researches have largely been informed mainly by positivism and interpretivism.

According to Bryman, positivism is an epistemological position, they are of the view that the people (social world) or world can be studied through the use of the natural sciences.

Here one can assume that the study of the people (social world) is equal to the natural science in quantification and generalization context.

In Epistemology, the researcher and what to be researched are independent objects. The researcher is able to study events without manipulating it or being manipulated by it. Epistemology takes place through one way mirror (Guba and Lincoln, 1994).

According to (Bryman, 2004), Interpretivism argues in qualitative perspective. It has three key characteristics, and these are subjectivity, particularity, and flexibility.

The study adopts qualitative methodology in collecting data in answering the research questions. Though the qualitative methodology has its own shortcomings like not being transparent, researcher's biases as a result of the interviews and observations which are seen to be normally informal and uncontrolled yet it has been seen as a way of bringing out scientific knowledge which need no statistical interpretations, representations and explanations. Findings are generalized base on the number of respondents used in the study. The information needed to address the research questions were collected through interviews, observations, and radio and television discussions.

## Population of the Study

The population of the study consists of all the residents who are fishermen and above eighteen (18) years in the oil-fishing communities. In this context population could be defined as the total number of people above eighteen (18) years out of which the sample was drawn as a representation for the total population. The assumption here is that the researcher chose some units from the population in order to generalize information about the whole population. The total population of the two districts STMA and AWD was about 654,688 (Ghana Statistical Services 2010) but the total population of the people who are eighteen (18) years and above in the areas selected for the study could not be determined except the total population. In view of this the study considered a population of five thousand (5,000) household from these three fishing communities (Sekondi-Takoradi, Cape Three Points and Dixcove). Here, household could be defined as a group of people related by blood living in the same house and under the care of a family head. For example a household could be made up of parents and their children and other blood relatives, a parent and the children or parents and their brother's or sister's children.

## Sampling Methods

Nachmias and Nachmias (1987), purposive sampling is the subjective selection or ideas of selection of sampling units by the researcher, who attempts to obtain a sample that represents the entire population. The researcher adopted purposive sampling to collect data to address the research questions to limit the study to residents who have been affected by the oil production within these oil communities in the WR. Out of the population ninety-eight (98) household were sampled for the study. Here a household comprises of the man, his wife and the immediate family members who are blood-related.

Yamane (1967) provided simplified formula for calculating sample size. Below is the formula  $n = N / \{1 + N(e)^2\}$

n=sample size, N=Population (5,000), and e=margin of error (0.10) or 90% confidence level.

$$n = 5000 / (1 + 5000(0.10)^2)$$

$$n = 98.03921568627451$$

$$n = 98.04$$

$$n = 98$$

The sample size for the study was ninety-eight (98). The breakdown of the sample size has been tabulated below.

**Table 1: Breakdown of Sample size**

Fishing Communities	Number of People selected from communities	Percentage ( %)
Sekondi-Takoradi	55	56.1
Dixcove	30	30.6
Cape three Points	13	13.3
Total	98	100

*Source: field work, 2015*

A total number of 98 household heads were interviewed in the three communities to solicit information on the impact of the oil production. The men who are fishermen and household heads were targeted.

The Sample was randomly made. The institutions such as (District assemblies, traditional leaders) and oil companies were also contacted through interview.

### **Primary Data**

The researcher used interview to collect primary data. The views of the respondents were collected on the area of the research to help address the research questions. The researcher administered the questionnaires together with two field assistant to ensure validity of the information collected. The questionnaires were geared towards measuring what the research work seeks to find. The respondents who can read, understand and write the English language were given the questionnaires to fill but for those who do not understand the English language were made to answer the questionnaires through their local language with the help of field assistant who understand their local dialect. The interviews were conducted out of the issues in the research questions and literature reviews. The researcher first did pre-testing to check the suitability of the questionnaires. Some few changes were made in order to make the results consistent.

The questionnaires for the interviews were grouped into three, A, B, and C. In (A) there were three sections, I, II, and III. Apart from section (I) which deals with the demographical data of the respondents, the other sections (II and III) collected data on livelihood activities and opportunities, and coping and livelihood strategies. The B, and C collected data from the District Assemblies, NGO's, traditional leaders and the oil companies that were related to the research questions of the study. See appendices for the details.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

Responses from the questionnaires were presented in tables and percentages and interpretations and analysis were adequately made. It is to say that tables and percentages were used to analyze the data collected. The method the study used to produce data for the work was mainly qualitative. It is necessary to select appropriate tools and technique for interpretation and analysis of data collected. Qualitative methods usually generate large amount of data, (Bryman, 2012).

The study analyzed and interpreted interviews conducted through words, expressions and phrases. To make it more meaningful and understandable tables, figures, percentages and numbers were used.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****Demographics****Table 4.1: Ages of respondents**

Age (years)	Respondents	Percentage (%)
18-30	30	30.6
31-40	45	45.9
41-50	15	15.3
50 and above	8	8.2
Total	98	100

Source: Field work, 2015.

The Table 4.1 represents the age bracket of the respondents, thirty (30) respondents representing 30.6% ranges from eighteen to thirty (18-30) years. Forty-five respondents representing 45.9% ranging from age thirty-one to forty (31-40) years, fifteen (15) respondents representing 15.3% and eight (8) respondents representing 8.2% were aged ranging from (41-50) years and (50 and above) respectively. The age group (31-40) had the highest frequency of 45 followed by the age group (18-30) with 30 respondents as the frequency.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of educational level of respondents**

Educational qualification	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
No formal education	45	45.92
Primary	30	30.61
JHS/MSLC/O'level	22	22.45
SHS/vocational	-	-
Polytechnic/training College	1	1.02
university	-	-
Total	98	100

Source: field work, 2015

The educational level of the respondents was solicited to help the study identify other skills they may have in case they lose their main source of livelihood.

The Table 4.2 shows that 45.92% of the respondents had no formal education at all. 30.61% and 22.45% had primary and junior secondary education respectively. One respondent, representing 1.02% was able to attend polytechnic.

**Table 4.3: Number of residents interviewed**

Fishing Communities	Number of People Interviewed	Percentage of Respondents %
Sekondi-Takoradi	55	56.1
Dixcove	30	30.6
Cape three Points	13	13.3
Total	98	100

Source: field work, 2015

Table 4.3 provides information on the three communities selected for the study; fifty-five (55) respondents representing (56.1%), thirty respondents representing (30.6%) and thirteen (13) respondents representing (13.3%) were interviewed in Sekondi-Takoradi, Dixcove and Cape Three Points respectively. Sekondi-Takoradi being the centre where most of the offices of the oil companies are located had the largest share of the respondents. The respondents were fishermen who have been affected by the oil activities. The selection of these communities was made because the researcher lives close to the communities.

### Number of Dependents

**Table 4.4: family size by respondents**

Family Size	Respondents	Percentage (%)
2-5	50	51.0
6-9	30	30.6
10 and above	18	18.4
Total	98	100

*Source: field work, 2015*

The study sorts to find out the number of dependents in each household, as a result the following information were obtained. The Table 4.4 indicates that the household heads have responsibility to perform in other to make their dependents live. Fifty (50) respondents representing (51%) had a family size from two (2) to five (5). Thirty (30) respondents representing (30.6%) and eighteen (18) respondents representing (18.4%) had a family size from six (6) to nine (9) and above ten (10) respectively.

### Livelihood Activities and Opportunities

#### Net average income per annum

**Table 4.5 Net Average Income Before and after the ban on fishing**

Average Income GH¢	Before the ban on fishing	Percentage (%)	After the ban on fishing	Percentage (%)	Percentage Difference
Below 1,000	-	0	30	30.6	30.6
2,000-4,000	20	20.4	24	24.5	4.1
5,000-8,000	4	4.1	20	20.4	16.3
9,000-12,000	14	14.3	8	8.2	(6.1)
13,000-16,000	15	15.3	10	10.2	(5.1)
17,000-20,000	20	20.4	5	5.1	(15.3)
Above 30,000	25	25.5	1	1.0	(24.5)
Total	98	100	98	100	

*Source: field work, 2015*

The numbers in brackets in percentage column are negative percentages. From Table 4.5 none of the fishermen was earning a net income below GH¢1,000.00 in a year before the ban but during the ban of access of some part of the sea, thirty (30) fishermen representing 30.6% earned net income below GH¢1,000.00 in a year. From 2,000-4,000 Ghana Cedis twenty



respondents, representing 20.4% received net annual income within that before the ban and twenty-four respondents representing 24.5% received net annual income within that after the ban. Four respondents representing 4.1% and twenty respondents representing 20.4% earned net annual income ranging from 5,000-8,000 before and after the ban on fishing within the catchment area of the oil extraction activities. Fourteen (14) respondents representing 14.3% and eight (8) respondents representing 8.2% earned a net income from 9,000-12,000 Ghana Cedis respectively in a year. Fifteen (15) respondents representing 15.3% and ten (10) respondents representing 10.2% earned a net income from 13,000 to 16,000 Ghana Cedis annually. A net annual income ranging from 17,000 to 20,000 Ghana Cedis were earned by twenty respondents (20.4%) and five respondents (5.1%) before and after the ban respectively. Twenty-five respondents (25.5%) and one respondent (1%) earned annual net income above 30,000 Ghana Cedis before and after the ban of fishing in some part of the sea. The net income of seventy-four (74) respondents representing (75.5%) was above 9,000 Ghana Cedis before the ban on fishing, this fell to twenty-four (24) respondents representing (24.5%) after the ban on fishing. The percentage difference as it is depicted in table 4.4 means the purchasing power of the fishermen was weakened.

### Other means of Income

**Table 4.6 Fishing related activities**

Activities	Relationship	Number	Net Yearly Income GH¢
fish mongering	Wife	60	120,000
fish slaughtering	sons	11	13,200
carrying fish	daughter	8	4,800
Mending of fishing net	sons	19	15,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>98</b>	<b>153,200</b>

*Source: field work, 2015*

According to the respondents, other members in the family earned from fish mongering, fish slaughtering, carrying fish, and mending of fishing net, from Table 4.6 These people earned 2,000; 1,200; 600, and 800 each respectively in a year. The loss of fishing opportunity not only affected the fishermen but also all other fishing related activities. According to the respondents, previously these relatives could earn more than GH¢4,000 in a year before the start of the oil production but now things are different.

### Source of Finance for Fishing

**Table 4.7 source of Finance**

Source of Finance	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Financial institutions	56	57.1
individuals	22	22.5
Own/Self-financing	12	12.2
Credit Union	8	8.2
Total	98	100

*Source: field work, 2015*

From the Table 4.7 the fishermen interviewed had different sources of financing their fishing activities. Here are the details, fifty-six respondents (57.1%) were getting financial assistance from the banks (financial institutions) they had saved with but now because of the low catch of fish this has affected them, and cannot save now to get financial support these days. Twenty-two respondents (22.5%) were receiving financial support from individuals. Currently, getting financial support from individuals has not been easy. Twelve (12) respondents (12.2%) were financing their own fishing activities. Taken loan from the banks comes along with a whole lot of frustrations and since the system is currently hard going to someone for financial support you may be adding more troubles to their problems. Eight (8) respondents (8.2%) received financial assistance from the credit union for their fishing activities from the “susu” they had saved with them.

Rakodi (2002), Access to and the availability of assets is the central part of the livelihood framework approach. The study found out that the fishermen in oil communities are not able to get enough catch of fish due to the ban, it has resulted in the failure of the parents not being able to pay their wards fees at various levels of education which has increased school drop-out in these communities especially in the Dixcove and Cape Three Points. Chambers and Conway (1992), in their attempt to define livelihood, it was said that livelihood is made up of capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities needed for the means of living. They added that a livelihood is sustainable when it can help people to cope with and recover from stress and shocks and able to provide livelihood opportunity for the next generation. It shows that fishermen do not have sustainable livelihood now and livelihood that is sustainable should be provided for them.

### Value of Fishing assets before and after the ban

**Table 4.8 Value of fishing assets**

Total Value of Assets GH¢	Before the ban on fishing	Percentage (%)	After the ban on fishing	Percentage (%)	Percentage Difference (%)
Below 1,000	-	-	-	-	-
2,000-4,000	10	10.2	21	21.4	11.2
5,000-8,000	-	-	42	42.9	-
9,000-12,000	14	14.3	10	10.2	(4.1)
13,000-16,000	15	15.3	7	7.1	(8.2)
17,000-20,000	19	19.4	8	8.2	(11.2)
Above 30,000	40	40.8	10	10.2	(30.6)
Total	98	100	98	100	-

*Source: field work, 2015*

As the table 4.8 shows the concerns of the fishermen were not fabrications but rather an issue of concern to all. The Table shows clearly that before the oil production and the ban on fishing eighty-eight (88) fishermen representing (89.8%) of them had a total asset that worth more than nine thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 9,000) before the ban on fishing in the catchment zone of the oil production. The remaining ten (10) fishermen representing (10.2%) had a total asset between (GH¢ 2,000-4,000) before the ban on fishing. But after the ban only thirty-five (35) respondents representing (35.7%) interviewed out of ninety-eight (98) had a total asset a little bit above GH¢ 9,000. The remaining sixty-three (63) representing (64.3%) had a total asset

ranging from (GH¢1,000 to 8,000) after the ban on fishing within the catchment area of the oil drilling activities. This was as result of the hardship in the life of the fishermen and the need to sell their assets at a lower price after the ban on fishing to make a living. It could be seen that before the ban only ten (10) respondents had a total asset ranging from (GH¢2,000-4,000) but after the ban more respondents had a total asset below GH¢ 8,000. The people or the fishermen who had a total asset worth more than GH¢ 9,000, the number decreased from 88 representing 89.8% to 35 representing 35.7%, it means that the fishermen were finding it very tough to ends meet. This resulted in the percentage differences as it can be seen in table 4.8. It did not take depreciation into consideration before and after the ban when assets were sold. It was because the old assets that could be sold for more than GH¢ 2000.00 before the ban, these same assets could not be sold for more than GH¢ 2000.00 after the ban because the purchasing power of the fishermen has been weakened. This called for selling their assets that could be sold for a higher price at a very least price to get money to make a living.

### Other Livelihood Activities

**Table 4.9 Other means of livelihood**

Other livelihood	Respondents	Percentages (%)
Farming	1	1.02
Drinking spot	1	1.02
None	96	97.96
Total	98	100

As a result of the difficulty the fishermen had to sell their fishing assets and other non-fishing related assets in order to make a living. The research sought for other means of livelihood and the respondents shared the following view. From the table 4.9 out of the ninety-eight (98) respondents, only two (2) representing (1.02%) each engaged in farming activities and drinking bar operations respectively during the lean season of fishing, the ninety-six (96) representing (97.96%) had no other livelihood activities. According to the respondents the only work they do is fishing and so if they are prevented from fishing then their life would be worse off, catering for their household would be a very herculean task to do.

### Livelihood Strategies

**Table 4.10 Livelihood Strategies adopted by the fishermen**

Livelihood Strategy	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Assets sold	25	25.5
Used savings	30	30.6
Borrowed from relatives	43	43.9
Total	98	100

*Source: Field work, 2015.*

Due to the increasing loss of livelihood opportunity people adapted to coping strategies in other to survive. Most of the fishermen are now into farming (rubber production as another source of livelihood and others into peasant farming).

In Table 4.10 twenty-five (25) respondents (25.5%) sold their asset in other to pay their wards school fees and cater for household expenditure. Thirty (30) respondents representing (30.6%)

used their saving from the bank. The remaining forty-three (43) of the respondents representing (43.9%) borrowed from friends and relatives to survive. The loss of the livelihood opportunity affected them entirely. According to ELDIS (2013) the goal the people aspire such as increased income or well-being are termed as livelihood outcomes. But the steps or the methods or approaches they use to achieve these outcomes are called livelihood strategies. Getting employment is a strategy but the income an employee receives is an outcome. The study identified that the income level of the respondents decreased as a result of the ban on fishing and that brought hardship in the life of the fishermen and the need to sell their assets at a lower price after the ban on fishing to make a living.

**Table 4.11 The impact of the oil production on fishermen**

The Impact of the Oil	Respondents	Percentages (%)
Very Positive	-	-
Positive	20	20.4
Negative	45	45.9
Very Negative	20	20.4
No Idea	13	13.3
T0tal	98	100

*Source: researcher's field work, 2015.*

When oil was discovered in the west coast of Ghana, it was a joy that Ghana would move forward in terms of social and economic development. When oil drilling was started and even now people are of different views on the impact of the oil on their respective household.

From the Table 4.11 the respondents shared the following views: twenty (20) representing (20.4%) were of the view that though they may not see the benefit now but believe strongly that when their children get good education, they may benefit in some days to come. The extraction of the oil had put Ghana in a different level and Ghana is globally known as an oil producing country and that is attracting more investors. They were positive about the impact of the oil. Forty-five (45) respondents representing (45.9%) were of the view that the oil drilling had impacted negatively on their household. They mentioned that they had faced so many challenges as a result of the oil operations, one the algal bloom has affected their fishing and catch of fish in a year had gone down, two the Naval Officers are frustrating them on the sea even when they are not within the catchment area of the jubilee field they chase them and do not know what to do again.

Twenty (20) respondents representing (20.4%) were of the view that the oil drilling and its activities had impacted very negatively on their household. To them the oil production had done more harm than good. The respondents mentioned even when the nation was not into oil production they were getting more premix fuel for their fishing than today. Today that Ghana is into oil production access to premix fuel had not been easy, has it not done harm than good? They queried. Fishing had been very difficult these days and that has affected their income, and therefore cannot pay their wards fees and take care of the house. Thirteen (13) respondents representing (13.3%) had no idea, they were indifferent, and were not sure whether to say the production of oil is positive or negative on their household livelihood.

As an alternative way to survive, some of the fishermen sold their land and other properties. They responded that government and the oil companies have to compensate them. Again they mentioned that since the start of the oil drilling activities they had not received any

compensation from government. At Cape Three Points the fishermen responded that since the start of the oil their road from Sankor Junction had not been tarred and they do not even know when this would be done and are tired of interviews and questions concerning the oil production. From the discussion the local residents have not yet adequately benefited from the oil production.

### **Compensation and management of land impacts**

**Table 4.12 The impact on Land management**

<b>Land management</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>
Land sold to investors	5	5.1
Land acquired by Government	58	59.2
Land maintained	1	1.02
No land	34	34.7
Total	98	100

*Source: Field work 2015*

The respondents especially at Cape Three Points stated that the lands they have were not bought as indigenes but rather requested from the Chief to build and farm on it. What was collected from them was one bottle of Schnapps and a token fee. As a result of the oil production and the loss of fishing opportunities some of the fishermen sold their land in order to cope with the shocks and stress for the time being while others maintained theirs.

From the Table 4.12, five (5) respondents representing 5.1% had sold their land to investors in hotels, beach and restaurants. 58 respondents representing 59.2% indicated government had acquired their land including the sea for the oil activities with the intention of paying compensation to them. The payment of compensation may enable the government pay attention in developing the living standard of the people in the oil communities. One (1) of the respondents representing 1.02% had not lost land for the purposes of the oil activities but rather uses his land for farming activities. The remaining thirty-four (34) respondents representing 34.7% had no land.

So from this discussion the respondents have not yet received compensation from the oil companies or the Government.

### **The Jubilee Partners and their CSRs to minimize the impact of the oil production on the oil communities**

The jubilee partner contacted especially Tullow Oil Company was of the view that they have scholarship packages for the people in Ghana and that the qualified people within the oil communities have greater percentage or chance of getting it provided they meet the criteria. The company is in good relationship with the people of the communities. Some of the people within the oil communities have been selected for training recently to help them acquire skills that will help the companies engage their services. The people would not be worse off because of the oil operations. Tullow Ghana Limited, as part of its corporate social responsibility, refurbished the Science laboratory of Half-Assini Senior High School. The company has also constructed twenty-six (26) bore holes and wells for the communities within WR (Tullow Ghana, 2010). The company is doing this to raise the living standard of the people within the oil communities.

### **The District Assembly interventions to make life better for the people in the fishing communities**

In discussion and interview with the Coordinating Director, the planning officer and other key officers of the assembly it became clear that the jubilee partners execute their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes through their liaison officers or community relation officers which are independent offices at various District Assemblies. In this case the assemblies play a facilitating role. The jubilee partners prefer using Social Investment programmes (SIP) rather than the CSR. This does not prevent the Assemblies from providing alternative livelihood programmes for the residents. It was mentioned that Rural Enterprise Projects are currently underway to help the local residents develop new skills in making soap, making pastries, leather works, fish farming, animal rearing and Batik tie and dye. National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) and Business Advisory Centre (BAC) are in-charge of the implementation of REP's in various DA.

**Table 4.13 The number of people who have received training in development of new skills**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Number Trained</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Making Soap	30	30.6
Making Pastries	15	15.3
Leather Works	17	17.3
Batik tie and die	28	28.6
Scholarships	8	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Field work, 2015.*

From table 4.13 the interview with the district assembly revealed that at least the assembly is in position to help its members not to be worse off by providing them the necessary skills to find alternative livelihood from losing their main source of livelihood so that they would be able to take care of their household. From the table thirty (30) people representing (30.6%) have received training on soap making, fifteen (15) respondents representing (15.3%) have been trained on how to make pastries and seventeen people (17) representing (17.3%), twenty-eight people (28) representing (28.6%) , received training on Leather works, and batik tie and die respectively while the remaining eight people (8) representing (8.2%) received scholarship for further studies. It was found that since the start of the oil drilling activities the people had not received any compensation from government or the oil companies.

In the 1992 constitution of Ghana, Article 20(1) mandate the government of the day to acquire a property for the benefit of the nation and in that direction the people involve will be compensated. Since the drilling of oil is in the waters of the western region of Ghana, it is prudent for the president to compensate the communities in which the oil is being drilled.

At Cape Three Points the fishermen responded that since the start of the oil their road from Sankor Junction had not been tarred and they do not even know when this would be done and are tired of interviews and questions concerning the oil production.



**Table 4.14 Involvement in processes of law making and its implementation**

<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>
Yes	20	20.4
no	78	79.6
Total	98	100

*Source: field work, 2015.*

From table 4.14 twenty (20) respondents representing (20.4%) were of the view that some announcement were made on the ban through the chiefs and the elders of the towns. Seventy-eight (78) representing (79.6%) were of the view that they were not involved enough on how the ban would be carried and its effects on their fishing activities, so it has really hit them. The institutions at the local level where the fishermen can lodge complain are the district assemblies. In the analysis the majority of the fishermen responded that they were not involved. It clearly shows that from the beginning of the policy processes (formulation and implementation), there were some lapses which might be as a result of lack of proper communication and interpretation on the effects of the oil production both positive and negative.

Though the district assembly and the oil company representatives are there were the people can talk to about the challenges but the access to these places and their functions to help them are not clearly defined.

### **Policy formulation**

Government's policies are implemented by the permanent executives and are to ensure that they spend accordingly to help develop the nation economically and socially. According to the table the seventy-eight respondents representing (79.6%) are not happy because they were not involved in the policy formulation and implementation. The fishermen have not seen any developmental projects as far as the oil production is concerned in their various communities.

Before a law is passed several consultations are made especially people of concerned are involved. From the table the majority of the people responded 'no' because they were not involved. It means that the local residents' involvement in policy making processes on the oil related activities were not broadly discussed by the public (local fishermen). When oil was discovered in commercial quantity, the government of Ghana secured the place in the sea where oil is found for the operation of these oil companies in the interest of the public. So the fishermen were restricted from fishing in the catchment zone of the oil drilling activities for the fear that they may be collided as a result of the oil activities and lose their lives. The public interest in the exploration and the production of oil is without questions considering the role the oil found is expected to play in the lives of Ghanaians.

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter presents the summary of the research findings, conclusions and recommendations based on the research results. The aim of the study is to find out the socioeconomic impact of the emerging oil industry in Ghana on the people of the fishing communities in the Western Region.

## Summary

- The study identified that the majority of the fishermen were between the age group (18-40) years. It shows that majority of the fishermen interviewed were in the youthful age.
- The study again found that only one (1) of the respondents (1.02%) attained polytechnic education and the highest education some of the ninety-seven (97) respondents (98.98%) was the JHS/MSLC.
- In a nut shell the study found that the educational level of the respondents does not permit them to find employment in these oil companies because they lack ready employable skills.
- The study found out that the fishermen in oil communities are not able to get enough catch of fish due to the ban. It shows that fishermen do not have sustainable livelihood now and livelihood that is sustainable should be provided for them.
- It was found that the fishermen were of high hope that the oil production was going to make premix fuel more available to make fishing more accessible but it had rather worsen situation.
- The study identified that the income level of the respondents decreased as a result of the ban on fishing and that brought hardship in the life of the fishermen and the need to sell their assets at a lower price after the ban on fishing to make a living. The study also found that these fishermen contacted had no other means of livelihood apart from fishing.
- It was found that since the start of the oil drilling activities the people had not received any compensation from government or the oil companies.
- The work unveiled that the lands obtained by government as a result of the oil production, the people involve had not received any compensation from the government or the oil companies.
- The long and short of the findings indicates that much has not been done with respect to the provision of alternative livelihood sources for the local residents.
- When oil was discovered in commercial quantity the government of Ghana secured the place in the sea where oil is found for the operation of these oil companies in the interest of the public. So the fishermen were restricted from fishing in the catchment zone of the oil drilling activities for the fear that they may be collided as a result of the oil activities and lose their lives.

## Conclusions

The following conclusions were made based on the analysis of the data. The contact with the oil companies and the discussion with district assembly officials showed that the oil companies are committed to improving the living standard as of the oil communities through their SVI's or CSR's. Though the DA's attested to the fact that their involvement in the implementation of these SVI's are highly restricted notwithstanding that they are represented at all meetings concerning the livelihood of the fisher-folks and the people in general.

From the responses of the fishermen, they have been affected negatively as a result of the introduction of the ban on fishing on their livelihood opportunities. They had to adapt to the situation because it has come to stay. Believe it or not until something is done to improve the living standard of the people in these areas their life will continue to depreciate and the promises made by government and the oil companies will be 'a word in a document kept for

future use and references only. It is fair to say that, Ghana has all it takes to overcome the natural resource curse that other oil producing countries have suffered from.

Ghana with vibrant democratic governance and having learnt from the mistakes and failures of other oil producing countries, seems to be the second emerging model and first African country after success chalked by Norway in natural resource management. Looking at the current economic growth rate of Ghana and its performance on MDGs, there are clear indications that the country has a brighter future and that what the local residents need is quality and better life.

### Recommendations

- The study recommended that education should be made accessible and affordable for the children in the oil communities in order not to follow the steps of the preceding generation.
- The alternative means of livelihood programme that could help the future generation not to follow the steps of their preceding generation should be provided. Training them to acquire skills that will make them readily employable.
- It worth mentioning that floating objects be put on the sea to draw the demarcation for the fishermen since they knew nothing about nautical miles. The provision of more premix fuel filling stations in the oil communities would make fishing more accessible.
- As a compensational strategy the government together with the oil companies should help communities by constructing roads, rehabilitating roads and putting up other infrastructures for them to realize the benefits of the oil.
- Policy should be made to guide the control of the alga broom and leaves so that the fishermen would not be disturbed as they go on fishing.
- It was found that the jubilee partners have constructed bore holes for the communities but these things are not enough. Government is being requested to help develop the oil communities because usually communities where natural resources are located are left undeveloped. Proper road networks should be constructed for these oil communities.
- Fishermen should be properly informed about the consequences of fishing within the oil zone through sensitization.
- The fishing assets should be made more accessible and cheaper to fishermen

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